

Connecticut Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

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Rain Gardens: Reining in the Rain

by Lelaneia Dubay

Water is one of the most precious resources on Earth, and every gardener has an opportunity to manage that resource. Consider some of the choices we face. We can reuse water that falls on our property or let it flow away. We can influence the speed at which it passes through our property. We can change the quality of the water on our property, infusing it with fertilizers and pesticides or cleansing it of toxins.

Gardeners who want to show their awareness of and responsibility for the water that lands in their yards are turning to a special kind of water-management tool—the rain garden.

Rain gardens are shallow planted depressions that keep storm water on property for as long as possible, first by watering the plants and then by soaking the ground to replenish aquifers. As natural areas of water management, they add “green infrastructure” to properties and are an excellent way for gardeners to participate more directly in the hydrologic cycle on our planet.

During rainstorms, rainwater washes over impermeable surfaces such as roofs, asphalt driveways and solid-surface patios and picks up toxins and chemicals as it rolls toward storm water drains in the streets. Ultimately, this water finds its way into rivers and is considered one of the main sources of water pollution. In urban areas, where impermeable surfaces are more prevalent, the problem is even greater.

A rain garden can absorb between 25 percent and 40 percent more storm



Build a rain garden across a slope or at the edge of an impermeable surface, like a driveway or patio, to catch surface water runoff. Photo: Courtesy of Lelaneia Dubay

water runoff than an area of similar size planted with grass, and it reduces or eliminates the need for pesticides and chemical fertilizers.

In addition, by turning a garden into a mini-filtration site, gardeners are helping to purify water before its release into aquifers and rivers. Plants are a great natural filter for water because they, and the microorganisms in soil, slow the water, increasing its ability to soak into the ground. Plants also transform toxic chemicals into nutrients they can use, and release less harmful toxins. They stabilize the soil, reducing erosion and preventing fine particulate matter from entering the rivers. The planted areas also become habitat for birds and animals.

Rain gardens help the environment by retaining water on the property, thereby improving water quality for everyone, near and far. But they are not the only way to garden with an eye toward conser-

vation. We can choose permeable pavers for our next hardscape projects. Make sure our properties are well-planted, with no exposed soil. Add trees. Fix leaky cars and clean up spills. Recycle water using rain barrels. These actions, while perhaps small on their own, contribute to saving the resources of the planet, one property at a time. 🌿

Please turn to page 6 to learn from Hartford landscape designer and CHS member Lelaneia Dubay how to create a rain garden. Dubay owns Dubay Design in Hartford (dubaydesign.com).

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Membership Dues:

Individual.....	\$40
Individual Senior (65+).....	\$35
Family.....	\$50
Senior Family (65+).....	\$45
Sustaining	\$100
Business & Organization	\$60
Student (full time with valid ID).....	free

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Letter from the President

Dear Gardening Friends,

After Jerry Fritz spoke to us at our February program meeting, he donated a signed copy of his book “Lessons of Linden Hill” to our library. Perusing its pages, I see no fewer than 25 plants I should look for, as many combinations and more “lessons” I could easily execute in my garden. He also tells how to achieve “estate garden dreams on a home garden budget.” He says, “Divide and conquer—get to the plant swaps, share with other gardeners.” I love that this popular guru gave us new plant ideas, sources and practical advice.



I'll add to Jerry's advice: Get thee to the auction on April 19! There is simply no better way than our CHS auction to acquire the rare, the unusual and the great garden stalwarts at good prices. And we'd love for you to “divide and share” to supply the auction with plants for the sale portion of this event that benefits our scholarship fund. While I'm on the subject of scholarships, it is a pleasure to announce a recent decision by the Board of Directors to honor longtime CHS member and revered nurseryman, Dick Jaynes of Broken Arrow Nursery in Hamden. Starting this year, a scholarship awarded by CHS at Naugatuck Valley Community College will bear his name: the Dick Jaynes Scholarship. Plans are underway for an appropriate launch of this honor. Stay tuned.

An update on “opting electronic”: at our March program meeting we launched a formal effort to move more members to our electronic newsletter. Members who “opt-ed electronic” got the chance to win a springtime basket of cheer. We'll continue through June to persuade you to make the switch. Not only is electronic delivery better for our environment, it also will allow us to channel resources into strengthening our website, including creating sections with members-only access and linking to great garden information.

See you at the auction. In the meantime—I'm not kidding—don't forget your sunscreen!

Nancy B.

Help wanted: CHS is looking to hire a director of newsletter and Web content (contract position) and for volunteers willing to serve as assistant treasurer and as chairs for the following committees: symposium, planned giving, education, library. Visit cthort.org for details.

Directions to the Connecticut Horticultural Society Office & Library

From the south: take I-91 North to Exit 23 West Street, Rocky Hill. Take a right at the end of the exit. At the fourth traffic light, take a left onto Route 99 (Main Street). The office is located at 2433 Main Street in the Prestige Office building, a short distance on your left.

From the north: take I-91 South, take Exit 23. At the end of the ramp, go left onto West Street. Follow the previous directions.

From I-84: take Route 9 to Exit 20 and I-91 North. Follow the directions above.

Yesterday's Herbs for Today's Gardens

April 18—Speaker Ruth Rogers Clausen,
Westchester County, N.Y.

Lungwort, bloodroot, snakeroot. Flax, digitalis, ornamental onions. You may not think “herbs” as you read the names of these plants, but Ruth Rogers Clausen does.

Her definition of an herb is broader than the commonly held one: a seed-producing annual, biennial or perennial plant that dies down each year and has culinary, medicinal or aromatic qualities.

Clausen views herbs through a simpler, more expansive lens, one informed by a medieval sensibility: an herb is any plant that is useful to people, she says. Herbs include dye plants (indigo) and plants whose fibers can be made into clothing (New Zealand flax) or yarn (some yuccas). They include plants that lure butterflies into gardens and those that lure moths out of clothes closets.

It is precisely because of their usefulness that these plants have endured over the centuries, she says. “They have survived because they were valuable to people.”

Clausen has been familiar with the practical aspects of plants ever since she started gardening, and she’s been gardening for as long as she can remember. Gardening “was not anything I thought about consciously. I did it by osmosis,” she says. “I didn’t have a choice. That’s what we did; that’s what my mother (and my grandmother did.”

Born in Wales, she moved to England when she was a year old. After World War II started and her father joined the army, the women redoubled their vegetable- and fruit-growing efforts. “What you didn’t raise, you didn’t eat,” she says.

Clausen was trained in horticulture at the former Studley College in England, a women’s school where the students did everything, from planting, to lugging coal and tending the hand-fired boilers to keep the greenhouses warm, to digging drainage ditches. She received her master’s degree in botany from Kent



State University in Ohio. Since 1976, she has freelanced as a teacher, lecturer and author in the United States and Canada.

Her prolific writings demonstrate the vastness of her horticultural knowledge. Her first book, “Perennials for American Gardens” (Random House, 1989), co-authored with the late Nicolas Ekstrom, was awarded the Quill & Trowel award from the Garden Writers of America Association in 1990. Her most recent book, “50 Beautiful Deer-Resistant Plants,” was published by Timber Press in 2011. She was horticultural editor for Country Living Gardener magazine for more than seven years and has written or consulted for many other periodicals and books.

Clausen has been a judge at flower

CHS Program Meeting

Our meetings are open to members and nonmembers alike, with a \$10 donation requested from nonmembers. We look forward to seeing you!

Date: Thursday, April 18

Time: 7:30 p.m. (6:45 p.m. for socializing, browsing CHS library books, raffle items and travel fliers, and asking plant questions)

Location: Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Dr., West Hartford

Directions: From I-84, take exit 43 (West Hartford Center, Park Road). Turn right at exit and go half a block to the next light. Turn left at light onto Trout Brook Drive. Proceed for six lights to Albany Avenue. Turn right on Albany Avenue and continue to the next light, Mohegan Drive. Turn left on Mohegan Drive. Pass two stop signs. Synagogue is on the right.

shows, including the Cincinnati Flower Show, the Capetown, South Africa Flower Show and the Ellerslie New Zealand Flower Show.

She serves on the advisory committee for the School of Professional Horticulture at The New York Botanical Garden and is a member of the Corporation for The New York Botanical Garden. 🗳️

Notice of Proposed Dues Increase

Pursuant to Article I, Section 1.5, of the CHS Bylaws, notice is given that the CHS Board of Directors will recommend at the May 2013 annual meeting an increase in dues in six of seven categories of membership beginning in September, the start of the 2013-2014 year. The increase is needed to cover increases in operating expenses.

With the proposed increase, the dues would be as follows:

Individual	\$45 (\$5 increase)
Senior Individual.....	\$40 (\$5 increase)
Family	\$65 (\$15 increase)
Senior Family.....	\$60 (\$15 increase)
Student with ID	Free (no change)
Business/Organization	\$70 (\$10 increase)
Sustaining.....	\$125 (\$25 increase)

All members present at the annual meeting on May 9, 2013, will be eligible to vote on the proposal. The last time dues were raised was in September 2010.

Hosting At the CHS Flower Show Exhibit

by Lorraine Ballato

What's the most fun you can have at the Connecticut Flower and Garden show? For me as a CHS host, it was spending a few hours mingling with people as they enjoyed our CHS exhibit.

Our theme was "Break up With Your Lawn," and the exhibit demonstrated alternative plantings and uses for that hallowed space. Designed by Sarah Bailey, with David Smith as a horticultural adviser and Joan Stubenrauch waving her magic wand over our plants, our committee worked hard to create an exhibit that delighted all who had a chance to experience it.

Some attention grabbers were a pussy willow with rich pink catkins (*Salix chaenomeloides* 'Mt. Aso') instead of the usual gray variety, and scented geraniums strategically placed at the perimeters. People simply had to touch them—and needed to know names, which is part of what CHS is all about.

Then there were the rocks. Our designers gave new meaning to the term *footpath* in a unique display that tickled virtually everyone who came through the exhibit during my shift. Imprints of feet,

created from rocks (toes and all), filled the path.

For gardeners seeking an alternative to a footpath, a planting of hens and chicks (*Sempervivum*) around a rock formation resembling a face was displayed for a sunny site.

CHS March program speaker Roger Doiron and the many proponents of edible landscaping tell us it's important to make such gardens aesthetically pleasing. Our display did just that, starting with a straw-mulched circular strawberry patch. Like rays from the sun, it radiated neat rows of edibles leading to a cerulean blue tuteur. Root crops were planted among rows of greens designed for integrated pest management, weed control and just plain good eating. More lessons to share with show attendees who appreciated the form and function of that display.

Even a mundane shed drew lots of comments, since ours sported a rain chain. Designed as functional alternatives to traditional, closed-gutter downspouts, artistic rain chains become a pleasing



water feature as they add the soft tinkling of individual droplets or the rush of heavier water to the experience of a garden. They are a treat to hear, and many visitors to our booth hadn't seen them before.

The last bit of fun is how we got to tell people what it's like to be a part of CHS and sign up new members. Can't wait 'til 2014 to do it all again! 🌱

Lorraine Ballato is a CHS member who gardens in Brookfield.

"Breaking Up" Wins Five Awards

After 1,100 greenhouse-growing hours, 28 hours of planting 150 varieties of plants and bulbs, 14 hours of building and nine hours of painting, we got the message across: Break up with your lawn! The message was so clear that the CHS exhibit won five show awards: Most Educational, Most Environmentally Sensitive, Best Urban Garden, Most Creative Design and WFSB Favorite Landscape.

In frugal CHS gardener fashion, we made 95 percent of the display from recycled materials from previous exhibits of ours. We used bulb crates to build the display to a height of 4 feet so as not to waste wood-chip base material. We bor-



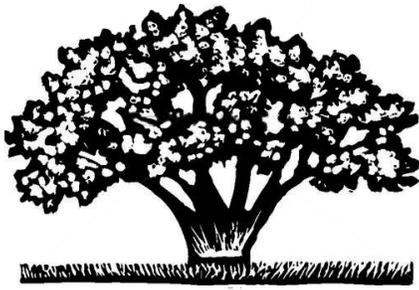
CHS member Linda Lareau presents the 2013 CHS flower show award to John Wilcox of Hillside Landscaping Company of Berlin.

rowed fencing and props. We enlisted the artistic talents of Leslie Shields for key visual elements of the rock cat, spirals

and echeveria sun face. These efforts helped us come in at 25 percent below our budget.

On behalf of the board and members, I would like to thank all of our volunteers—more than 80 members and friends—who trucked, toled, planted, painted, planned, hoisted, hosted, watered and made our educational message clear. (Find a list of volunteers and photos at cthort.org.) The display gave us the opportunity to tell 30,000 show visitors about CHS and enroll 28 new members. 🌱

—Nancy Brennick, CHS president, flower show committee chairman



FROM THE FIELD

We love hearing about what our talented members are up to. Please share recent or upcoming gardening-related activities or accolades by emailing a note to Colleen Fitzpatrick Michelson at news@cthort.org.

Colleen Plimpton of Bethel is opening her garden at 16 Starr Lane to visitors one Sunday afternoon a month through the fall, starting April 14. Visiting hours are 1-5 p.m. Husband “Jerry and I love to have visitors to the garden,” she says. “Come see us on any of the Sunday afternoon open days.” The rest of the schedule: May 19, June 16, July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 15 and Oct. 13.

Faith Geist of Newington talks about gardening for butterflies and birds in a program offered by the Lucy Robbins Welles Library, 95 Cedar St., in Newington on May 1 at 7 p.m. “The focus is on the reasons for using native plants and I use ideas from (Doug) Tallamy,” she says. Visit newingtonct.gov/library or call 860-665-8700.

It requires some fast feet to keep up with New Hartford’s **Robert Herman**, chairman of the horticulture program at Naugatuck Valley Community College. He organized an international symposium of European speakers for the Northwest Horticultural Society in Seattle on March 23 and also was a symposium translator for at least one German landscape architect. In March, *Pacific Horticulture* magazine published an online article of Robert in a beautifully landscaped park in Frankfurt, Germany. In January, the *New Hartford Independent* newspaper featured him in a front-page article, “A Plantsman in Our Midst—Robert Herman, Educa-



Stroll among peonies or conifers, make a mini garden—spring fun has begun! Register early for programs (download a form from cthort.org)—some workshops fill quickly. Be sure to provide your email address and telephone number when you register. Without that information, there is no way to contact you in the event of last-minute program changes.

Waxman Conifer Tour

Saturday, April 27, 10 a.m.-noon

*University of Connecticut, Storrs campus
Corner of East Road and Route 195*

The legendary University of Connecticut plantsman Sid Waxman introduced some of the best dwarf conifers known to grace American landscapes. Most of these plants found their origin in genetic mutations known as “witches’ brooms.” UConn is assembling a collection of Waxman’s introductions on the Storrs campus, and Sarah Bailey, of CHS and the UConn Master Gardeners program, leads the tour. Bring a picnic lunch. Fee: CHS members, \$5; nonmembers, \$10

Peony Tour, Cricket Hill Garden

TENTATIVE: Monday, May 13

*10 a.m.-noon (Call the CHS office to confirm.)
Cricket Hill Garden, Thomaston*

Visit Cricket Hill Garden at peak bloom time of one of the world’s most elegant, mystical plants, the peony. Immerse yourself in the beauty and fragrance of peonies as you stroll with CHS friends through seven acres of terraced woodland gardens. Our guide is Dan Furman, who tantalized us at our October

program meeting with beautiful photographs of the three kinds of peonies grown at Cricket Hill: tree, herbaceous and intersectional. Participants receive a 10 percent plant discount on tour day. Fee: CHS members, \$5; nonmembers, \$10. Limit: 25. Date of tour is subject to change, based on bloom time.

Workshop: Open-bowl Garden

Thursday, May 16, 7-8:30 p.m.

CHS office, 2433 Main St., Rocky Hill

Plant a delightful garden in a glass bowl and liven up a lonely indoor spot near a window (the glass container means you don’t have to worry about water damage to a surface). CHS member Fran Schoell guides participants as they create their own bowl-garden of succulents and other plants potted in the proper medium. Bring personal touches to add: found items, such as shells, stones and acorns, or manufactured items such as buttons or tiny spools of thread. The miniature garden, which measures about eight inches round and three and one-half inches tall, also makes a lovely gift. Fee, including supplies: \$25 for CHS members; \$30, nonmembers. Limit: 10



tor,” which highlighted his experience as a horticulturist and educator.

Sculptor **David Hayes** of Coventry was featured in the *Hartford Courant* on Feb. 17 (keeping fine company with Mikhail Baryshnikov as stories about

the two men and their most recent work claimed the Sunday Arts section front). The paper reported that David was back at work after a diagnosis of leukemia in October and a subsequent bout of pneumonia he contracted in the hospital while undergoing chemotherapy.

How to Build a Rain Garden

by *Lelaneia Dubai*

Rain gardens are shallow planted depressions, 6 inches to 9 inches deep, and sized to capture maximum runoff from impermeable surfaces on a property. They are easy to install and have an immediate, big effect on water runoff.

They usually are fed by a downspout from a roof, but they can also be fed by unwanted water flowing onto a property. The best place for a rain garden is downhill from where the water enters or washes over the property and at least 8 feet from a house foundation. When it rains, the depression will fill and the water will seep into the ground slowly, watering the plants as it soaks in.

Before you begin

To ensure that you do not disrupt underground power and water lines, call the free service, Call Before You Dig, 800-922-4455, to mark the locations of any buried utility lines.

Next, a percolation test will reveal how well the soil will absorb water in the spot you have chosen for your rain garden. Dig a hole about 6 inches deep and fill it with water. The water should be gone in six hours. If some remains, try another site or be prepared to undertake major soil remediation.

Calculating size

To determine the size of your rain garden, some math is in order. Calculate the square footage of the roof that will contribute water to the garden. To do this, multiply the length of the house footprint by the width to get the total square footage. Let's say the house footprint is 40 feet by 40 feet. The total square footage would be 1,600.

Divide this number, 1,600, by the number of drain spouts (let's say there are four) to get the square footage that will feed directly into the rain garden. So, 1,600 divided by 4 is 400 square feet. Divide this number by the depth of the rain garden, which is usually 6 inches, to get the square footage of the rain garden

needed. So, 400 divided by 6 is 66.6 square feet. Round that number up, and a garden that is 10 feet wide by 7 feet long (70 square feet) could accommodate the gutter flow from the roof used in the example.

When water floods onto your property during a storm, it is harder to determine the size of the rain garden and requires some guesswork and fine tuning. Observe the source in a heavy rainstorm and see how much area the flood covers. The area covered will approximate the size of the rain garden needed.

Siting your garden

Do not place your rain garden at the lowest point of your property. The goal is to alleviate standing water, so catching the water before the lowest point is best. Also, do not place rain gardens over septic fields or wells.

Place a rain garden across a slope or, to catch more surface water runoff, at the edge of an impermeable surface such as a driveway or patio. Add a bioswale, a drainage course with gently sloped sides, to direct water to the garden and, for even greater water retention, a dry well for overflow.

Designing and building

After you have determined the size and location of your rain garden, dig the depression to a depth of 9 inches or, if you are amending the soil, 18 inches. The addition of a good, sandy, nutrient-rich soil mix in the depression is essential for clay and compacted soils. A 9-inch depth will allow for 3 inches of mulch and maintain the 6-inch desired depth for water retention.

If you incorporate rain gardens into your landscape design, they will seem at home on the property. Do not make them ditches unto themselves. Remember that irregular, varied shapes are better than rectangles. Use the excavated dirt to undulate the land around the depression to make it look

natural, but always maintain the bowl rim, since water will leak from the lowest point. The bottom of a rain garden must be somewhat level so that water can be distributed evenly to all the plants. Slope the sides of the depression gently and plant to prevent erosion. Add rocks.

Planting

Plant your rain garden with native perennials, shrubs and trees. They make the best filters and can handle the drought-flood cycle that is present in rain gardens. Such plants also add to the biodiversity of your property and neighborhood. Choose plants with a full, four-season array of color and texture in mind. To further enhance the natural look, group together several of the same plant into drifts. Provide shrubs for winter structure and habitat. Native trees, such as river birch (*Betula nigra*) and shadblow (*Amelanchier* spp.), have large root systems and will absorb more water than shrubs and perennials.

Rain gardens are less expensive and require less care than other types of landscaping. Once established, they require almost no maintenance. As with any garden, general weeding and mulching are necessary, but that's the extent of the work you will need to do in your rain garden. 🌿

Lelaneia Dubai recommends the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System's guide to installing a rain garden: nemo.uconn.edu/publications/rain_garden_broch.pdf.

Honor Your Volunteers

Please nominate a fellow CHS member for the CHS Service Award and a Connecticut plantsman or-woman for the Gustav A.L. Mehlquist Award. Nominations are due to the office by April 30. For guidelines, visit cthort.org/awards_and_recognition.



CHS SpringTravel

- *Cherry Blossoms at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, April 25
- *Private and Public Gardens of the Brandywine Valley, April 30-May 3
- * 12th Annual Nursery Crawl, North Attleboro, Mass., May 21

Three delightful getaways, including one overnight, usher gardeners into spring. Visit chhort.org to download detailed registration fliers for all trips. Contact Friendship Tours, 533 Cottage Grove Rd., Bloomfield, CT 06002, 860-243-1630, friendshiptours.net.

Brooklyn Botanic Garden & Brooklyn Museum Thursday, April 25

Highlights: More than 200 cherry trees bloom, along with bluebells and daffodils, and the Japanese hill-and-pond garden stars. At the Brooklyn Museum, enjoy a guided tour of the John Singer Sargent Watercolors exhibit, which features 93 works. **Depart:** 7 a.m., West Hartford; 7:30 a.m., East Hartford. **Return:** 7 p.m., East Hartford. **Cost:** \$74, members; \$77, nonmembers

Brandywine Valley & New Castle

Tuesday, April 30-Friday, May 3

Highlights: After stopping in New Jersey to view the Robert Taplin exhibit at the Grounds for Sculpture park, we continue to West Chester, Pa., where the Hotel Warner and a welcome dinner await us. Day 2: We explore New Castle, Del., enjoying a walking tour and visits to three historic houses and gardens. Day 3: We meet up with Longwood Gardens' Tomasz Anisko (a 2012 CHS symposium speaker at the Mark Twain House), who gives us a behind-the-scenes tour of Longwood. A tour of the Chester Valley Historical Society follows, and our farewell dinner ends the day. Day 4: After visits to Chanticleer garden and the private garden of David Culp of Sunny

Border Nurseries, we head home.

Cost: Members, \$625 per person, twin; \$789 per person, single. Nonmembers add \$50. Payment due in full. Escorted by Brett Isaacson.

12th Annual Nursery Crawl Tuesday, Tuesday, May 21

Highlights: Grab your planting list as we head to two North Attleboro, Mass., nurseries—Briggs Nursery and Attleboro Farms—for some great garden shopping, with a lunch break in between at Luciano's Restaurant in Wrentham. Bring Popsicle sticks or other markers for your purchases.

Depart: 7:30 a.m., West Hartford; 8 a.m., East Hartford. **Return:** 5:30 p.m., East Hartford. **Cost:** \$72, members; \$74, nonmembers



Glorious Gardens of the United Kingdom

- *Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew * Wisley * Hever Castle * Sissinghurst
 - * Blenheim Palace * London city tour * Gardens of the Cotswolds * High tea
- Monday, Sept. 16 – Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2013

Journey begins Monday, Sept. 16, with a motorcoach ride to Newark Airport for an overnight flight to London. Upon arrival at London Heathrow Airport the following day, we enjoy a tour of London. Lunch is at Covent Garden, the site of the ancient fruit and vegetable market transformed into a vibrant pedestrian-friendly area. Then we check into our hotel and share a welcome dinner. Here are more trip highlights:

Day 3: Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, a World Heritage site and home to the world's largest collection of living plants (over 30,000 types) and assorted buildings; Syon Park, home to the Dukes of Northumberland for more than 400 years.

Day 4: Hampton Court Palace, set amid 60 acres of manicured gardens on the upper reaches of the River Thames, and Tudor Palace and the Baroque Palace; Wisley, the flagship gardens of the Royal Horticultural Society, where the Wisley steward escorts us on a 90-minute tour of the many formal and informal gardens.

Day 5: Hever Castle, childhood home of King Henry VIII's second wife, Anne Boleyn; Sissinghurst, the famous garden created in the 1930s by Vita Sackville-West and her husband Harold Nicholson.

Day 6: Blenheim Palace, home to the eleventh Duke and Duchess of Marlborough and birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill; Christ Church College at Oxford.

Day 7: The Cotswolds, an area of tiny stone-housed villages and lovely countryside; Hidcote Manor Gardens; Kiftsgate Court Gardens; an English high tea in the Cotswolds.

Days 8 & 9: Returning to London, we stop to see Olympic Park and then celebrate our holiday with our farewell dinner. We return home the next day, Sept. 24, savoring memories of a great trip.

Cost: Members, \$3,895 per person, twin; \$4,695, per person, single. Nonmembers add \$100. **Deposit:** \$500 per person, due by April 19. **Final payment:** due May 1. Includes round-trip flights to London, motorcoach, guide while in U.K., 7 nights hotel, tax, baggage, 7 full English breakfasts, 4 dinners, sightseeing per itinerary, \$50 per person donation to CHS, escorted by Brett Isaacson.



Businesses Offering 10 Percent Discount To CHS Members

The following nurseries and garden centers offer a 10 percent discount to CHS members. Please assume your discount applies only to plants and only to nonsale plants, unless otherwise stated. Please show your membership card before transactions begin. The list, along with full addresses, is posted at cthort.org, click on Join Us.

Better Stones, East Hartford
860-289-1414, betterstones.com

Bidwell's Yard, Garden & Pet
Simsbury, 860-651-8555

Bosco's Garden Center & Landscaping
Simsbury, boscosgardencenter.com.

Botticello Farms, Manchester
860-649-2462

Broken Arrow Nursery
Hamden, 203-288-1026
brokenarrownursery.com

Butler's Florist & Garden Center
West Hartford, 860-561-2148

Cricket Hill Garden, Thomaston
860-283-1042, treepeony.com

Cropley's Garden Center & Landscaping
Bolton, 860-649-6364

Edmondson's Farm Gift Shop & Florist
Coventry, 860-742-6124 (discount excludes sale items and mums)

Gazebo Gardens, Columbia
860-228-0244

Gotta's Farm, Portland
860-342-1844

Harken's Garden Center
East Windsor, 860-528-6806

Larson's Garden Center
Burlington, 860-693-8316
larsonsgardencenter.com

Maple Meadows Greenhouse
Terryville, 860-582-7778

Moscarillo's, West Hartford
860-236-5487

Natureworks, Northford
203-484-2748, naturework.com

NE Seed, Hartford, neseed.com

O'Brien Nurserymen
Granby, 860-653-0163

Paula's Perennials
West Hartford, 860-461-1187

Riverside Nursery & Garden Center
Collinsville, 860-693-2285
riversidenursery-ct.com

Salem Country Gardens, Salem
860-859-2508, discount on all products

Scott's Orchard & Nursery
Glastonbury, 860-633-8681

Stone Post Gardens, Middletown
860-343-0360

Twombly Nursery, Monroe
203-261-2133

The Variegated Foliage Nursery
Eastford, 860-974-3951

Warner Nursery & Garden Center
Simsbury, 860-651-0204

Whitham Nursery, Bolton
860-643-7802

Woodland Gardens, Manchester
860-643-8474, woodlandgardensct.com

Woodland Trails Wildflower Nursery
Ashford, 860-974-2300

33rd ANNUAL CONNECTICUT

Flower & Garden Show[®]

The Connecticut Convention Center

HARTFORD

February 20–23, 2014

Thurs. 10 am – 7 pm; Fri. 10 am – 8 pm
Sat. 10 am – 8 pm; Sun. 10 am – 5 pm

860-844-8461
www.ctflowershow.com



BROKEN ARROW NURSERY

Growers of Rare and Unusual Plants

Events for Early 2013

Gardening in Deer Country – April 27
Celebrate Mountain Laurel – June 1-9
Dinosaur Plants – June 26
Cutting Propagation – July 1 and 2
Perennial Division – Aug. 11

View our catalog and event details at:

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Hartford County Cooperative Extension Council



Join us as we support our local Cooperative Extension educational programs, including **Healthy Environments for Children, Urban and Community Forestry, Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP), Sustainable Landscaping, Master Gardener Programs, Children, Youth, Family and Community Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), 4-H Youth Development, and 4-H Center at Auerfarm.**

The primary function of the Council is to support the Cooperative Extension educators in their outreach work by means of fund raising and advocacy. The Board meets from 5:30 to 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of every other month, except for July and August. Each year, one or two Board members are sent to Washington, D.C., to meet with representatives of the Connecticut congressional delegation.

If you are interested in finding out more about joining our Council, contact Council president Laurel Hoskins, at lchoskins@aol.com or at 860-523-5533.



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Horticultural Happenings & Announcements

Note: Happenings are listed on a space-available basis. Please email the listing, formatted to resemble the entries below, to news@chhort.org. Deadline for the May issue is April 10. Costs listed below are for people who are not members of the hosting organization.

Floral Designing

On Thursday, April 4, noon, floral designer Loretta Stagen talks to the West Hartford Garden Club about creative arrangements. Location: Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2080 Boulevard, \$10, 860-521-2439.

Cactus & Succulent Show

The Connecticut Cactus and Succulent Society hosts its annual cactus and succulent show and sale April 6, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and April 7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at Naugatuck Valley Community College, Waterbury. Free admission, ctcactusclub.com, 860-489-8356.

Michael Dirr in Greenwich

Tree and shrub expert Michael Dirr makes two Connecticut appearances on April 8, in Cos Cob at the Garden Education Center, 10 a.m. (viburnums and hydrangeas), and in Greenwich at the Greenwich Country Day School, 7 p.m. (noble trees). Cost: \$40 per lecture, \$75 for both, gegreenwich.org.

Pressed Flower Art

The Cherry Brook Garden Club of

Canton presents a lecture on pressed flower art by Lisabeth Billingsley April 9, 11 a.m., Canton Community Center, 40 Dyer Ave. Contact Linda Lareau, Islareau@comcast.net; cherrybrookgardclubcanton.org.

Environmental Ethics

The Sierra Club's John Calendrelli speaks to the Wallingford Garden Club April 9, 11:30 a.m., First Congregational Church, 23 South Main St., \$5. Contact Fran Pellegrino, 203-269-0549.

Landscape Concepts

The Stamford Garden Club presents a lecture and lunch with landscape designer Miranda Brooks April 9, Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens, 131 Brookdale Rd., Stamford, \$85. Contact Miriam Shaw, buzzshaw@optonline.net; stamfordgardclub.org.

Annuals Talk

The North Haven Garden Club hears about annuals April 11, 7 p.m. North Haven Congregational Church, 28 Church St., \$5. Contact Carmen Sealy, 203-239-0374.

Gladiolus Corm Auction

The Connecticut Gladiolus Society hosts its free annual corm auction and sale April 13, Canton Public Library, 40 Dyer Ave., Canton. The event starts at 11 a.m.; the auction starts at 1 p.m. in conference room B. Contact Sue Gebo, 860-930-9022; cgsociety@sbcglobal.net.

Wadsworth Fine Art & Flowers

Floral displays match works of art at Hartford's Wadsworth Athenaeum April 19-21, thewadsworth.org, 860-278-2670.

Conifers in Borders

Kevin Wilcox of Silver Spring Nursery in Bloomfield, lectures to the Hardy Plant Society on conifers April 24, 7:30 p.m., Solomon Welles House, 220 Hartford Ave., Wethersfield, \$5 donation. Contact Leslie Shields, selchie@comcast.net; chardyplantsociety.org.

Lockwood Farm Plant Sale

The Southwest Conservation District holds its annual plant sale April 26, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and April 27, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Lockwood Farm, 890 Evergreen Ave., Hamden. Pre-orders: Ellie Tessmer, 203-287-8179; conservect.org.

CHS Calendar at a Glance

April 4 – Board meeting, CHS office,
Rocky Hill, 7 p.m.

April 10 – May CHS Newsletter
deadline

April 18 – Program meeting, Ruth
Rogers Clausen, “Yesterday’s Herbs
for Today’s Gardens,” West Hartford
(see page 3)

April 19 – Spring plant auction,
Vernon (see below)

April 27 – Tour of the Waxman
Conifer Collection, University of
Connecticut, Storrs (see page 5)

April 30 – Awards nominations
deadline (see page 6)

The CHS Newsletter is printed
on recycled paper with soya ink.



Dated Material  *Please Rush*

The Auction is Coming! The Auction is Coming!

Mark your calendars for April 19 at the Tolland County Agricultural Center (TAC) in Vernon. The spring auction begins at 7 p.m., but feel free to come early and pitch in. Admission is free, as usual, and auctioneers will be Nancy DuBrule-Clemente of Natureworks in Northford, Adam Wheeler and Chris Koppel of Broken Arrow Nursery in Hamden and Maryanne Gryboski, with special appearances by CHS members Judy King and David Smith.

Please pot up donations early so that the plants can adjust to life in their pots. Notice the word “pots.” When plants arrive in paper cups, yogurt containers, plastic bags and the like, there can be problems. The plant does not look as if it is worth much, and there is a greater chance that dirt will be spilled. If your garden has many

babies of a type of plant, you likely are not alone and such a plant may not easily find a home. Please resist the urge to make small divisions. A couple of substantial plants sell better than several tiny ones.

Put on your marketing cap. The auction is the Friday before Mother’s Day. We can turn our donations into something special. Consider potting up a plant in a pretty container or basket so it can become an instant gift.

Ask your local nurseries and garden centers for plant donations. Donations are tax deductible for nurseries and a good way to advertise to CHS members. Most nurseries are receptive to the request. A form letter is posted to the website. Please bring to the auction a list of the donated plants with the nursery’s

name and address so that the nursery can receive proper credit.

Volunteer! We always need volunteers to help with plant management and room set up and break down. Fran Schoell and Leslie Shields will be at the TAC at 5 p.m. Volunteers may arrive anytime after that. Please drop off donations by 6:30 p.m., with a plant list and your name and address.

Most important, come and have a great time while supporting the CHS scholarship fund that provides three scholarships to horticulture and plant science students at the University of Connecticut and two at Naugatuck Valley Community College. Find directions and details at cthort.org.

—Leslie Shields,
Auction Committee co-chairman