

# Connecticut Horticultural Society

# NEWSLETTER

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Serving Horticulturists Since 1887

February 2013

## The Green Industry: Gardeners as Consumers

by Jane Nadel-Klein

**H**ow often do you think about where your plants come from? When you go to a nursery or garden center, are you drawn to a plant with a brand name? Are you more likely to choose a perennial that is set in a purple pot over one whose roots are housed in dark green plastic? And do you find yourself overwhelmed by the extraordinary number of hosta, heuchera or daylily cultivars now on the market?

These are among the questions I find myself asking lately about gardeners as consumers. As an anthropologist working on a book about the social side of gardening, I wonder about how market forces and tactics drive our choices. In short, I am now taking a close look at the so-called green industry.

When I began my project, I had not yet begun to think about the “industrial” side of the process by which plants go from pot to soil. In talking to gardeners, I learned how gardening connected them to family and friends and enmeshed people in wide circles of communication. I learned, among other things, that gardening was quite a class-biased enterprise. And I heard a great deal about gardening as therapy and the importance of getting connected to “nature.”

Then it dawned on me that just because we often see ourselves to be engaged in some kind of contemplative, Edenic endeavor, we are still forced to shell out money, lots of it, for the raw materials of our craft. Our version of nature is not free. And if we are buying, then who is selling? From whom do the sell-

ers themselves get their wares? In short, what are the supply chains that bind us to a global horticultural market?

With these questions in mind, I began listening to a whole new set of people, including growers, wholesalers, vendors at plant sales, company reps at trade shows, nursery owners and others involved in bringing us the products we need, as well as the ones we crave. I find that a horticultural trade show, rather than a flower show, is one of the best places to pursue my questions.

At a flower show, the focus is on seducing the gardener—or, judging by the amount of superfluous stuff that seems to have nothing at all to do with gardening, the casual passerby. At the flower show, as at a good nursery, a gardener is likely to feel besieged by choice and possibility. At the trade show, a lot of decisions get made that actually constrain these choices. In other words, the contents of our gardens are partly dictated by the economics of the green industry. We would do well to learn more about it.

### The trade shows

The task for me is to make the connection between what goes on in these big industrial fairs and what we plant at home. So, as of this writing, I am headed to Baltimore’s Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show (MANTS) and Chicago’s Mid-America Horticultural Trade Show. These fairs are big. MANTS 2013, which advertises itself as “the Masterpiece of Trade Shows,” is held at the Baltimore Convention Center, with about 1,000

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## Isaacson Gift: CHS Speaker Endowment



Herb and Lois Isaacson during a CHS trip to Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming.

**T**he Connecticut Horticultural Society is celebrating the start of 2013 by forming the annual Lois and Herbert Isaacson Endowed Lecture, named for two of the society’s most committed, influential members.

The Isaacsons, who have been members for more than 30 years, presented CHS with a \$20,000 endowment gift at the holiday dinner in December to ensure that outstanding speakers continue to be featured at monthly program meetings, which are open to the public.

“Lois and Herb Isaacson have embraced the society’s educational mission

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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 Horticultural Friends,

It's February, Valentine's month. We're apt to hear and read all sorts of stories about what people do for love. So here's my version: When it comes to the people in my life, I have traveled tens of thousands of miles to relieve mummies in distress. I have gotten out of bed and jumped in a taxi in New York City after 11 p.m. to set mouse traps crosstown for a near-hysterical niece. I have packed, unpacked, packed and unpacked for more than 17 house moves, given up tickets to the The Rolling Stones' "Final Tour," let the kids move back home—a second, third and fourth time. ...That's *love*.

From where I sit today, it occurs to me when it comes to plant love, we gardeners do some apparently cuckoo things. For example, my shower is regularly occupied by guests—the green kind. Human interlopers/intruders frequently have to wait in line for the odd six-foot tree to vacate the premises. I heat a three-season porch to make it a four-season one so my cacti will bloom. Every spring and fall dozens of pots migrate out and in—in crates, on dollies and hand trucks (can't I find things that can stay in one place?). My tiny furnace room turns into a crammed incubator in March as I get my cannas going.

My husband thought I was strange until he heard about Chrissie D'Esopo "umbrella-ing" her hundreds of petunias. All he could say was "wow" when I showed him the tropicals Steve Silk buries in his basement each fall. Now that's *plant love*.

The best story yet is about a couple I know who for 30-plus years have volunteered and served CHS in extraordinary ways. They bested that glorious track record by endowing a lecture for us. Thank you, Lois and Herb Issacson, for your *CHS love* (see page 1).

Don't forget the flower show, which is around the corner. We still need hosts for our display and speaker facilitators who will introduce the wonderful horticultural experts in the seminar rooms. Check [cthort.org](http://cthort.org) for set-up and breakdown details.

Especially now that the days are longer and sunnier, don't forget your sunscreen!

Sincerely yours,

Nancy B.

#### 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.

## Cutting-edge Plants for New England Landscapes

Feb. 21—Speaker Jerry Fritz, Ottsville, Pa.

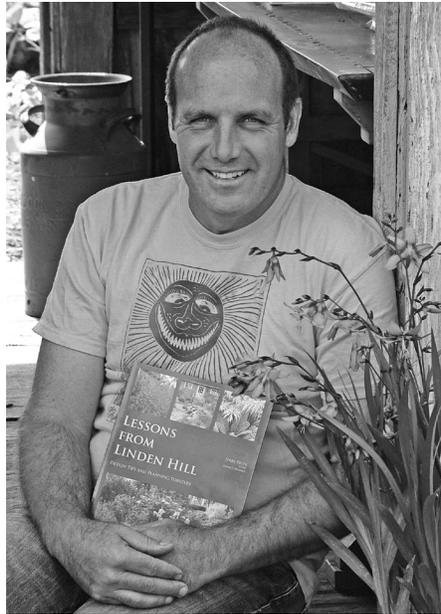
When Jerry Fritz was little, his grandmother would admonish, “Make your bed or else you’ll be out there turning the compost.” It wasn’t much of a threat; he liked turning the compost.

Thankfully for gardeners, the use of gardening chores as discipline did not dissuade Fritz from pursuing his love of horticulture. Nor did it diminish his love for his grandmother, who, he says, was the biggest influence on his becoming a plantsman, one of the best in the country, as it turns out.

Fritz grew up mainly on Long Beach Island, N.J. His first job, at age 12, was at a nursery center in Ship Bottom. He earned a bachelor’s degree in ornamental horticulture from Delaware Valley College of Science and Agriculture in Doylestown, Pa., and then began work with Gale Nurseries near Philadelphia.

In 1989 he founded Jerry Fritz Garden Design Inc. and has focused on providing clients with original and innovative concepts and plants. He and his wife Amy founded Linden Hill Gardens in the northern Bucks County, Pa., town of Ottsville about 10 years ago to show clients possibilities for their landscapes, learn from the plant trials he conducts and offer plants for sale. The farmstead encompasses more than 20 acres and has greenhouses, barns, display gardens and a pond ([www.lindenhillgardens.com](http://www.lindenhillgardens.com)).

Five years ago at Linden Hill, he started a Friday afternoon farmer’s market that features produce and products from local farms and food artisans. There are seafood, poultry and meat vendors, and Fritz’s staff will grill up purchases, which people can savor while listening to live music. The market has become “the social



hangout of upper Buck’s County” and was voted the best farmer’s market in the region, he says.

Fritz belongs to several organizations, including the Perennial Plant Association, the Hardy Plant Society, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, The New York Botanical Garden, the Royal Horticultural Society and the American Nursery and Landscape Association. He has been a guest on the “Martha Stewart Living” show.

In his talk to CHS, he will describe some plants that are “coming down the pipeline.” Fritz travels the world in search of plant rarities for his clients and nursery, collecting stock from breeders and conducting trials. He offers unusual, exceptional new plants for sale a year or two before they hit the tables of most nurseries, he says.

Asked for a glimpse at his list of cutting-edge plants, Fritz says it includes cultivars that come in alluring new colors and offer longer bloom periods in the hardy geranium (*Geranium*) and red hot poker (*Kniphofia*) genera. 🌿

### 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, Feb. 21

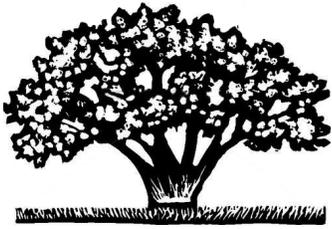
**Time:** 7:30 p.m. (6:45 p.m. for socializing, browsing CHS library books, raffle items and travel fliers, and asking plant questions)

**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.

**Bad weather:** Visit [www.cthort.org](http://www.cthort.org), call the CHS office at 860-529-8713 for a recorded message, or tune in to WTIC radio, 1080 AM, or WFSB TV, Channel 3, to check the status of the meeting.

**Attention Advertisers:** A “Spring Marketplace” advertising section is planned for the April issue of CHS Newsletter. Horticulture-related businesses may advertise their products and services, as space permits and with preference given to businesses that are Connecticut Horticultural Society members. About 900 garden-loving homes and businesses statewide receive the newsletter. Ad prices range from \$25 to \$100. Deadline for receiving digital copy is March 1. Please email Colleen Fitzpatrick, [news@cthort.org](mailto:news@cthort.org).



## FROM THE FIELD

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

Avon resident **Chrissie D'Esopo** received the town's natural resources award in January for raising \$175,000 for non-profit groups through tours of her house and garden. "Chrissie herself is a true natural resource for the town of Avon," said Robert Breckinridge, chairman of the town's natural resources commission. More than 40,000 visitors are estimated to have passed through the gardens in the last 20 years. Chrissie stopped the tours in July after a garden visitor filed an insurance claim against her, prompting concerns about future liability.

**Karen Ellsworth** of West Hartford apparently doesn't limit her generous volunteering activities to CHS. The 2012 recipient of the CHS Service Award was one of five hospital volunteers featured in the January issue of Hartford magazine for her work at the University of Connecticut Health Center in Farmington.

For a wide-ranging, rich horticultural discussion, tune in to the podcasts of a conversation among CHS members and P. Allen Smith, taped at the Mark Twain House in advance of his talk at the Nov. 17 symposium hosted by CHS and the Mark Twain House. The conversation aired on Smith's weekly radio show in his home state of Arkansas. Highlights of the Dec. 22 show include **Chrissie D'Esopo** of Avon requesting alternatives to impatiens; **Barry Avery** of North Granby touting the qualities of Bowman's root (*Gillenia trifoliata*, syn. *Porteranthus trifoliatus*); **Sharon Mann** of

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Isaacson, from page 1

by helping to sustain a CHS hallmark, our speaker program," CHS President Nancy Brennick said. "Their gift allows us to continue providing world-class speakers at meetings, which is a key component of achieving our mission of educating gardeners and the public on topics of mutual interest."

Brennick expressed deep appreciation for the gift, saying, "At a time when increasing costs challenge us to maintain member benefits while affording the highest quality speakers, we are incredibly grateful for the Isaacsons' generosity."

CHS has budgeted \$8,600 this year to pay for nine program speakers, including stipends and travel expenses. Booked by the vice president, the speakers hail from the gardens of Connecticut and across the country. Regardless of their roots, they are renowned in their area of expertise, whether it be plants, landscape design or other horticultural topic.

The gift is intended to support one lecture annually in the amount of \$700 or the income derived from the endowed gift, whichever is greater, according to the West Hartford couple.

Lois Isaacson, longtime CHS travel chairwoman who has led members and friends to the nearest and farthest reaches of the globe through her Bloomfield operation, Friendship Tours & the Ship Shop, said the gift is an extension of a rewarding relationship.

"We felt that CHS has been wonderful for us and our family and given us the opportunity to meet the most fabulous people—gentle, kind, thoughtful," she said. "And they always tell me how much they like the trips. I feel like I brought the world to people, and they made me

more of a person, too."

Herb Isaacson echoed that sentiment. "The horticultural society has been a big part of both Lois' and my life for many years," he said. CHS vice president and then president from 2002-2004, he also has served on the Finance Committee, including as its chairman, a position he currently holds.

The Isaacsons have been formidable behind-the-scenes advocates for the society, as well. As Herb Isaacson noted of his wife, "She was never an officer in the society but frequently acted as the informal chair of the Nominating Committee. Almost everyone who went on the board (of directors) was someone Lois knew and often convinced to go on the board."

"CHS has always been a tremendous part of my parents' lives," said Ben Isaacson, who works at the family-run Friendship Tours with brother Brett and sister Amy. "It has brought them to beautiful gardens around the world, educated them and brought fun and friends."

Honoring these opportunities and preserving them for others is what prompted the gift, Lois Isaacson said. "We want the society to be brave and lasting. I have gotten so much from tour-directing at the society—I wouldn't have gone to Australia with, as Brett says, 110 fine friends were it not for CHS."

"Over the years, the Isaacsons have contributed to CHS in myriad ways, including acting as officers and chairpersons," Brennick said. "Their gift emboldens the already indelible mark they have made on the organization and enables continuation of our commitment to providing world-class speakers." 🐦

*We can complain because rosebushes have thorns  
or rejoice because thornbushes have roses.*

—Abraham Lincoln  
16th U.S. president, 1809-65



## Learn With CHS

*Dust off your pruning shears, channel your creative side, don your walking shoes! The CHS Education Committee has organized some awesome spring programs, to be held in various locations. Register early (download a form from [cthort.org](http://cthort.org))—many of the workshops have participation limits and fill quickly*

### Apple Tree Grafting Workshop at the Noah Webster House

*Saturday, March 23, 2-4 p.m.*

*The Noah Webster House*

*227 South Main St., West Hartford*

Tired of bland supermarket apples? We'll help you custom graft your own tree for fruit with old-fashioned flavor. The Noah Webster House & West Hartford Historical Society and the Connecticut Horticultural Society are combining forces to offer a one-day apple tree workshop. Led by author and accomplished gardener Tom Christopher, the two-hour workshop will cover a brief history of heritage apple trees and their important role in early American history; an introduction to the different methods

of grafting apple trees (the only way to ensure that you get the desired apple), and a hands-on experience making your own grafts. Each participant will come away with two grafted heritage apple trees (dwarf or semi-dwarf). We will provide the materials, but if you want to replicate your favorite apple tree, please feel free bring to the class cuttings from last year's growth. (These can be cut a couple of weeks in advance. Be sure to keep the cut ends moist with damp paper towels or newspaper and place in the refrigerator in a plastic bag.) The workshop will close with a taste of fine apple cider next to the warmth of the Noah Webster House's hearth.



All-inclusive costs for the program are \$30 for museum and CHS members and \$40 for nonmembers. Reservations are required by Friday,

March 8, and seating is limited. Make reservations through [NoahWebsterHouse.org](http://NoahWebsterHouse.org) or by calling the museum at 860-521-5362, ext. 12. Please note that tickets are not being sold through CHS.

### Spring Pruning, Part I

*Wednesday, March 6, 7 p.m.*

*CHS office, 2433 Main St.*

*Rocky Hill*

In this first session, Kevin Wilcox of Silver Spring Nursery in Bloomfield demonstrates proper pruning methods, discusses correct time of the year for pruning various shrubs, and shows participants the right tools to use for specific pruning problems. Bring questions. Fee: CHS members, \$5; nonmembers, \$10. Limit: 20

### Spring Pruning, Part II

*Saturday, March 30, 10 a.m.-noon*

*(Rain date Saturday, April 6)*

*Location: Call the CHS office or visit [cthort.org](http://cthort.org)*

In this follow-up to the March 6 pruning session, participants will be on-site with Kevin Wilcox as he demonstrates

the correct methods of pruning various shrubs—overgrown lilacs, buddleia, caryopteris, abelia, rhododendrons that are threatening to engulf the house, trees and shrubs that suffered winter damage, and plants that simply need to be shaped. Fee: CHS members, \$10; nonmembers, \$15. Limit: 20

### Flower-arranging: Take-home Table Centerpiece for Easter

*Wednesday, March 27, 7 p.m.*

*TK & Brown's Flowers, 1761 Silas Deane Highway, Rocky Hill*

Join us as we reprise the popular floral-arranging workshop in which participants make and take home a lovely spring centerpiece—in time for Easter tables. Our expert instructor again is Terri Krisavage, owner of TK & Brown's Flowers. Terri has spent nearly 40 years in the wedding, parade and daily flower business, and

her talents have taken her nationwide. The \$30 fee includes all supplies. Each participant will walk away with a stunning floral creation. Limit: 20

### Waxman Collection Tour

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

*University of Connecticut, Storrs*

Many gardeners know of the legendary University of Connecticut plantsman Sid Waxman, who introduced some of the best dwarf conifers that now 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 CHS board member Sarah Bailey, of the UConn Master Gardeners program, leads our tour. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy on the grounds afterward. Fee: CHS members, \$5; nonmembers, \$10

## The Green Industry, from page 1

companies exhibiting and more than 10,000 people attending. Most of the people milling about on the show floor are key decision-makers in their companies' purchasing plans.

At these fairs, I will look for a broader understanding of what goes on behind the scenes, focusing on two main issues: plant branding and offshore production. A high percentage of the plants we get in retail nurseries, large and small, start their lives in labs in places like Israel or as vegetative clones on farms in Central America. The world of gardening is far more globalized than I had realized, quite apart from the discoveries of plant explorers.

I have already been to our own regional show. In 2011, I attended New England Grows and quickly found that I would have to master a new vocabulary, a trade lingo that I am still working on. Before I went to the show, for example, I naively thought that a liner was something I put in my compost pail or litter box. Now I know that for growers, a liner is a flat of infant plants, either started the old-fashioned way—by seed—or by the plant world's equivalent of assisted reproduction, known as tissue culture. These days, wholesale growers rely heavily upon science and laboratories to produce these by the millions: by the time we see them in the retail outlets, they are at least one or two years old and ready to find homes in our gardens.

In Boston, I saw that representatives from every conceivable branch of the industry were there, from the small garden centers to massive conglomerates like Syngenta and Ball Horticultural. A trade show really is a big tent, with something for everyone; suppliers of mulch, gravel and hardscape set up booths next to the greenhouse growers, the Perennial Plant Association suppliers, seed companies and turf specialists, and even horticultural insurers (who knew?).

Connecticut was well-represented: Prides Corner (Lebanon), The Plant Group (Franklin) and Millane Nurseries (Cromwell) were there, to name only a few. But companies from California, Virginia, Minnesota and Maryland were there as well.

### Petunias vs. porteranthus

The reps spend a fair bit of time schmoozing and cultivating good working relationships with old customers and potential new ones. But the trade show is not only about sales, at least not directly. It provides vital new information, particularly for small-business owners. Seminars offer them guidance on how to use social media effectively or market the hottest new plant. For garden centers and nurseries struggling to compete with the big box stores, such guidance is crucial.

I now have a much better sense of the pressures that our local nurseries and garden centers have to contend with. Of course, small business owners are always tense. In order to compete with the Walmart and Home Depot garden "departments," which make their profit on the sheer volume of plants they sell, small vendors have to carve out a distinctive niche.

Some do this by specializing in customers like the people who read this newsletter, that is, gardeners who don't shy away from Latin names, who know

that gardening is one part work and 10 parts patience. Such gardeners seek out unusual plants and demand a lot of personal attention. But very few retailers can survive just by serving a small market. In addition to what is distinctive, they have to sell petunias and chrysanthemums. And now that the ordinary plant palette has expanded exponentially from our parents' day, they must try to get the best deal they can on a pretty diverse inventory.

When April rolls around and you start to think about venturing out to fill the "holes" in your garden beds, you might spare a thought for the men and women who work such long hours not only to satisfy our plant lust, but also to make a living by doing so. 🌱

*Jane Nadel-Klein is a professor of anthropology at Trinity College. Her most recent book is "Fishing for Heritage: Modernity and Loss Along the Scottish Coast" (Berg Publishers, 2003). She is a member of CHS and the Dunlandwoods Garden Club in Bloomfield and is a master gardener.*

## From the Field, from page 4

Bloomfield wondering how to improve the aesthetics of vegetable gardens in borders; **Leslie Shields** of Plainville and **Steve Silk** of Farmington discussing roses in winter; **Karla Dalley** of Farmington offering tips for keeping *Sambucus nigra* 'Black Lace' healthy; **Kevin Wilcox** of Bloomfield asking about stalwart, older varieties of plants.

On the Dec. 8 show, Steve introduces CHS, Leslie touts the CHS plant auctions and **Colleen Plimpton** of Bethel asks about heritage poultry breeds. Listen to the podcasts to pick up great gardening information and to hear Smith call CHS members "some of (his) favorite plant-geek friends": [www.pallensmith.com/radio](http://www.pallensmith.com/radio).

**Steve Silk** of Farmington is one of three speakers at the Mad Gardeners' daylong March 9 symposium at Housatonic Valley Regional High School in

Falls Village. The theme is entranceways, and Steve presents plant combinations for entrance areas. Other speakers are David Buchanan of Maine and Danilo Maffei, a Pennsylvania-based landscape designer. The cost is \$80. Visit [www.madgardeners.com](http://www.madgardeners.com).

**Nancy DuBrule-Clemente** of Natureworks in Northford helps people select, site and prune flowering shrubs at a workshop offered during the Connecticut Master Gardener Association's March 23 symposium. Speaking on the symposium theme of "Visual Lessons in Landscape Diversity" are Andrew Bunting, curator of Swarthmore College's Scott Arboretum, and Chanticleer horticulturist Dan Benarick. The cost is \$85. For details of the event at Manchester Community College in Manchester visit [www.ctmga.org](http://www.ctmga.org).



## Flower-show Travel

- \*Rhode Island Spring Flower & Garden Show, Feb. 22
- \*Philadelphia International Flower Show, March 3 & 4
- \*Boston Flower & Garden Show, March 14

What better way to prepare for a new gardening season than to take in a flower show or two? Visit [cthort.org](http://cthort.org) for trip details and to download registration fliers. Skipping ahead a few seasons, plans are in the works for travel to England Sept. 16-24, so save the dates if you're interested. Details will be announced as they become available. For all trips, contact Friendship Tours, 533 Cottage Grove Rd., Bloomfield, CT 06002, 860-243-1630, [www.friendshiptours.net](http://www.friendshiptours.net).

Please note that the East Hartford gathering location for day trips has changed. It is now the Commuter Lot, 510 Main St., East Hartford.

### 2013 Rhode Island Spring Flower & Garden Show

Friday, Feb. 22

Theme: Celebrating 20 Years

Other highlight: Roger Williams Park Botanical Garden

**Departs:** 7:30 a.m., Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford; 7:50 a.m., Commuter Lot, 510 Main St., East Hartford. **Returns:** 6:15 p.m., East Hartford. **Cost:** \$69 per member, \$72 per nonmember, based on 40-52 travelers.

### 2013 Philadelphia International Flower Show

March 3-4, Sunday-Monday

Theme: Brilliant! British Invasion

Other highlight: Tour of the British Revolutionary War experience

A few seats may remain for this overnight trip. Call Friendship Tours at 860-243-1630.

### 2013 Boston Flower & Garden Show

Thursday, March 14

Theme: Seeds of Change

Other highlight: Docent tour of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

**Departs:** 7:15 a.m., Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford; 7:40 a.m., Commuter Lot, 510 Main St., East Hartford. **Returns:** 7 p.m., East Hartford. **Cost:** \$76 per member, \$78 per nonmember, based on 40-52 travelers.

## Horticultural Happenings & Announcements

*Note: Happenings are listed on a space-available basis with priority given to CHS notices. Please include a contact person's name and phone number or email address. Email your submission to [news@cthort.org](mailto:news@cthort.org). Deadline for the March issue is Feb. 8. Costs given below are for people who are not members of the sponsoring organization.*

### UConn Garden Master Classes

Fee-based gardening courses are offered through June by the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System's Master Gardener program. Topics are wide ranging and classes are open to the public. CHS member-instructors include Kevin Wilcox of Bloomfield and Sarah Bailey of West Hartford. Visit [www.ladybug.uconn.edu](http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu).

### Hardscape in the Landscape

On Thursday, Feb. 7, noon, landscape architect George Trecina describes hardscape possibilities beyond the patio. The West Hartford Garden Club hosts the talk. Location: Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2080 Boulevard. Donation, \$10. Reservations required: 860-521-2439.

### For the Birds

Margery Winters discusses gardening for birds Tuesday, Feb. 12, 11 a.m., at the Cherry Brook Garden Club of Canton. The meeting is at the Canton Community Center, 40 Dyer Ave. Visit [cherrybrookgardenclubcantonct.org](http://cherrybrookgardenclubcantonct.org).

### HPS Spring Symposium

Register by Friday, Feb. 15, for the Hardy Plant Society's annual spring symposium on Saturday, March 2, and save \$5. Lectures are by Katherine Tracey of Avant Gardens in Dartmouth, Mass., and Joan Vieira of Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston, Mass. The event starts at 10 a.m. and includes a hearty soup luncheon. Location: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 371 Wolcott Hill Rd., Wethersfield. Cost before Feb. 15 is \$35; after that date, \$40. Send check payable to the Hardy Plant Society and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Leslie Shields, 25 Johnson Ave., Plainville, CT 06062. Contact Shields at 860-747-8175 or [selchie1@comcast.net](mailto:selchie1@comcast.net). Visit [www.cthardyplantsociety.org](http://www.cthardyplantsociety.org).

### Organic Land Care

The Connecticut Chapter of the Northeast Organic Farming Association (CT NOFA) offers a daylong course in organic land care Tuesday, Feb. 26, at Three Rivers Community College, 574 New London Turnpike, Norwich. Contact

Kristiane Huber at [Kristiane@ctnofa.org](mailto:Kristiane@ctnofa.org) or 203-888-5146, or visit [www.organiclandcare.net/education](http://www.organiclandcare.net/education).

### Mad Gardeners

On Friday, March 1, Charles Paley leads a tour of his greenhouse operations in Sharon. The event hosted by the Mad Gardeners includes talks by perennial-grower Roberta Scott of Falls Village Flower Farm and Mitchell Rand of Ball Seed Co. Cost: \$40, which includes lunch. Hours are 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Registration required; email Andy Durbridge, [andydurb@optonline.net](mailto:andydurb@optonline.net).

### CT NOFA's Winter Conference

CT NOFA's 2013 Winter Conference on Saturday, March 2, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., at Wilton High School in Wilton features keynote speaker David W. Wolfe, chairman of the Climate Change Focus Group and a professor of plant and soil ecology at Cornell University. The event includes workshops, vendors and a silent auction. Visit [www.ctnofa.org](http://www.ctnofa.org).

Connecticut Horticultural Society  
2433 Main Street  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

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### CHS Calendar at a Glance

- Feb. 7** – Board meeting, CHS office, Rocky Hill
- Feb. 8** – March CHS Newsletter deadline
- Feb. 21** – Program meeting, Jerry Fritz, “Cutting Edge Plants for New England Landscapes,” West Hartford (see page 3)
- Feb. 21-24** – Connecticut Flower and Garden Show, Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford (see below)

*Dated Material*  *Please Rush*

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



## 2013 Connecticut Flower and Garden Show

Thursday, Feb. 21-Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013  
10 a.m.-8 p.m., except Thursday (7 p.m. close)  
and Sunday (5 p.m. close)

Connecticut Convention Center  
100 Columbus Blvd., Hartford  
[www.ctflowershow.com](http://www.ctflowershow.com)



### CHS Exhibit

CHS twists the show theme of “Love in Bloom” by asking visitors not to fall in love with their lawn but to break up with it. The relationship has gone south! Find out why by visiting or volunteering at the show. To be a host or speaker facilitator, call the CHS office during office hours, 860-529-8713. To join the distribution list, email [chs.flowershow@gmail.com](mailto:chs.flowershow@gmail.com).