

Connecticut Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

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Perennials in Pots Bring the Garden Indoors

By Tovah Martin

We all get separation anxiety, am I right? Maybe winter is thrilling when it's fresh out of the gate, but by the tenth round of blustery wind shivering the shrubs, I'm beginning to seriously miss my heuchera. I look out the window and try to imagine traces of the carex beneath that blob of a snow-drift sitting on the far side of the window, but it's pretty much obliterated. It would be awfully lonely in here if it weren't for the tiarella sitting right by my side.

Granted, I have houseplants galore in my home. I tried counting heads once and my eyes started glossing over after about 200. Mostly, the in-home team is composed of tropicals that cannot tolerate freezing temperatures. I couldn't live without every single one of them. But garden perennials also have a special place in my heart and a featured position on the windowsill.

What indoor perennials do is keep the garden growing in my mind's eye. They perform that function in fall when the garden is slipping away. Other gardeners get all sniffly and sentimental in autumn. I just focus my attention on how great the helleborus is looking and on cutting back the *Euphorbia amygdaloides*.

And the role that perennials play just gets more critical as winter gathers fuel and cabin fever sets in. Eventually, the euphorbia bursts into blossom, and it pretty much makes my life. Meanwhile, my collection of *Primula x pubescens* blithely performing in the spare bedroom has me transfixed. I'm not saying that they render winter any shorter, but they do punctuate an otherwise tedious time of year.

Perennials in your windowsill bring the garden close to your elbow. I might not sample the fragrance of my prim-



This showier-than-a-supermarket primrose makes a great houseplant. Photo courtesy Kindra Clineff/The Unexpected Houseplant

roses on a daily (and occasionally hourly) basis if it were not so readily accessible. Hellebores will be blossoming outside in a matter of weeks and ditto for the violas, but getting up close and personal with their flowers is a different sort of thrill. And it's not only about flowers. The heuchera sometimes sends up a few wispy wands, but their colorful leaves are really the big show, jogging my memory that there's a garden sleeping out in the Wild White Yonder.

Admittedly, I might be skeptical if someone suggested bringing the garden indoors. But when I began to research horticultural history, I realized that the first houseplants were perennials. That was back in the 19th Century—before central heating systems spread warmth wall-to-wall. In houses that became quite chilly on a regular basis, perennials were the only plants that could survive. And

originally, before tropicals were prevalent commercially, they were the only plants readily available. So, historically, perennials filled the gap—because there's nothing new about separation anxiety.

It's surprisingly simple to host perennials indoors. I find it easiest to host low-light plants because my house lacks bright, south-facing windows. Not only that, but shade-lovers seem to adapt most readily to indoor growing. As far as temperatures go, my home is in the coolish 50s, which is ideal for this application. Perennials indoors might not work if your thermostat is set at 80° F. But it's worth a try.

Another trick that keeps perennial houseplants (and houseplants of any description, in fact) happy and healthy is to water when their soil is lightly dry and pot them in containers that give the roots ample room. You don't want to be overly generous so that the root system is swimming in excess potting medium, but provide a pot that is at least the same size as the original container. And it's no secret that I'm a major advocate for giving any growing thing in your life the handsomest presentation you can possibly muster—it does make a difference.

Beyond those basic needs, I use an organic potting soil with compost included (I am a fan of McEnroe Potting
(continued on page 4)

In This Issue

Speaker Program	Page 3
Education	Page 5
Horticultural Happenings	Page 6
Traveling with CHS	Page 7

Letter from the President

Dear Gardening Friends:

Only a few more ‘minutes’ till spring! Well, maybe more than a few...still, there are so many signs: my stacks of catalogs grow by the day (my eyes are bigger than both my garden and my budget); I’ve started collecting anything waterproof that might be used as a seed starter); fiction is “off,” and edible gardening is “on” my reading list.

The canister of seeds in the bottom of my veggie drawer is looking fresh. I keep inspecting it as if today is the day to get started.

Confession: finally I learned that no matter how well I think I will remember a plant based on the shape, size, and quantity of seeds I collected last year, I must label them!

For sure, the Connecticut Flower & Garden Show (February 20-23) is a harbinger of the growing season to come. Make sure you join us in the seminar rooms. There’s still time to volunteer to help introduce speakers or spend time at our membership desk and so secure your free entry.

The only thing left to take advantage of is all the learning we have in store for you with CHS this season: programs on insects, stone walls and heirloom veggies (that’s just through April!); travel to the Philly Flower Show, Arkansas and the Brandywine Valley; workshops with Tovah Martin, Kim Kelley and more.

Let us know what else should be on our agenda. I’ve been reading a lot about GMO seeds and think maybe a workshop would be of interest to you, too? We’re working on our long range plan and welcome all member input. Big idea or small—drop me a line or grab my elbow, I’d love to hear from you.



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.



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& DIRECT GENERAL QUESTIONS TO:
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Membership Dues:

Individual.....	\$45
Individual Senior (65+).....	\$40
Family.....	\$65
Senior Family (65+).....	\$60
Sustaining	\$125-500
Business & Organization	\$70
Student (full time with valid ID).....	free

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Insect Drama in Your Garden

February 20—Speaker Michael Singer
Associate Professor of Biology, Wesleyan University

Something's been bugging Michael Singer for a long time; since he was a kid, in fact. Insects. He still remembers the day a mourning cloak butterfly fluttered onto the fig tree in the backyard of his parent's house in Los Angeles. He snuck up on the creature, and got close enough to gaze on its burgundy brown wings with their creamy margins and blue spots. He found the vibrancy and pattern of its colors captivating.

"It was a strikingly beautiful creature," Singer says. "I just wanted to keep staring at it, but it flew away."

The butterfly's escape led to a decision. "I decided I had to go after these things so I can see them more."

He started observing, collecting, reading field guides and planting in his childhood garden plants that would attract specific kinds of insects. Years later Singer had earned a doctorate in insect science at the University of Arizona. A decade ago he started teaching at Wesleyan University in Middletown, where he is an associate professor in biology. The guy knows his bugs, inside and out you might say. He's even eaten some: mealworm chocolate chip cookies, he says, taste just like a nutty chocolate chip cookie. But, in general, he says, "I don't tend to eat my study subjects."

His years of observing insects has opened a window on a world filled with action enough for a Hollywood blockbuster. So when he presents his talk entitled "Insect Drama in your Garden," he's going to deliver.

"The most dramatic stuff," he says, "as in human drama, is sex and violence."

There's plenty of both in the insect world.

Take violence. Cicada killer wasps, for example, have earned that name for a reason. Dragonflies are elegant, airborne predators that pick off their prey on the fly.



And how about parasitism? "A lot of insects are parasitic and the ones that aren't, are probably hosts. They're all attacking each other," he says. "A bunch of parasites are like the 'Alien' movies. They get inside a host, feed from the inside, and then they burst out, killing the host."

Then there are all the primordial struggles surrounding mating. Dung beetles pry, jab and duel with their horns to fend off other males. Carpenter bees are territorial, and fight to defend their turf against other males. Mate guarding is another behavior common to insects and, come to think of it, lots of mammals as well. The idea is for males to keep other males away from their mates.

"They want paternity," Singer says of the vigilant males. "There's a lot of that going on in the insect world."

In its quest for fatherhood, you might get a glimpse of a jumping spider doing its courtship dance. "Males dance around and wave their legs and expose colorful parts of their body," Singer says. Butterflies also exhibit courtship behavior as do many other insects.

Then there's the sex. "It's pretty common to see beetles mating," Singer says. "They're kind of shameless."

All these events might be seen in a Connecticut garden. "I want to show pictures of all these different things you can see, describe where you can find them, and how you can look for them," Singer says.

The insect calendar kicks off with the first warm days of spring, then ramps up with a big pulse of activity in May and

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, February 20

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, 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.

June. By summer the drama is in full force, with predator insects coming into their own. Things start to wind down in September and October.

Singer knows these cycles well. The northeast, he says, is perhaps the world's most studied and best known biome. With so much natural history already known, it offers researchers a chance to jump straight to more sophisticated ecological inquiries, such as Singer's own investigation into the ecology of plant and insect interactions. He studies at several sites in the state, his favorite being Cockaponset State Forest in Killingworth, which he says has great plant and animal diversity.

You might pass Singer on his way to the CHS meeting this month; he lives in Hartford near Elizabeth Park. He often goes looking for wild things like the kingfishers that usually live near the pond there. He'll tell you where to find them as well. 🦉

Perennials, from page 1

Soil, which is readily available in local nurseries in western Connecticut). Being an organic gardener indoors and out, I don't use chemical sprays for pests. However, I find that by keeping my plants stress free (i.e. offering sufficient light and watering when needed), they aren't pestered by pests.

I dig some of my indoor perennials from the garden in autumn—especially the heucheras. You know how it goes—ground-hugging perennials tend to get swallowed up as taller shrubs expand. So I dig the fellows that are about to be engulfed, enjoy them indoors for winter, and then transplant them the following spring. In other cases, I pick up perennials at end-of-season sales and keep them indoors until spring. Another scheme is to raid nurseries pre-season when they are receiving their plugs in late winter. The merchants are usually delighted to skip the repotting sequence and sell a few plants early in the game.

Here's a quick rundown of the perennials that thrive in my home. By no means is it a complete list—it's just the tip of the iceberg. But it is tried and true, and will get you started in the right direction. Give it a try. What have you got to lose? And you might gain a raving victory over that separation anxiety.

Carex—sedge

Not everyone goes hand-clapping crazy about hosting a sedge, but I do. And Einstein, my kitten, also gets a lot of paw action in. Fortunately, sedge doesn't shred easily because it certainly gets its fair share of swatting. Actually, Einstein is into fescue as well and urges me to adopt one every winter so he can crush it beneath his incredible hulk (okay, he's not really a kitten anymore). You know how a sedge gives you that wonderful bun-shaped little waterfall in a garden? Well, it performs similar antics inside. Just about any carex that remains small will work—I've worked with *C. morronii* 'Ice Ballet', *C. caryophylla* 'Beatlemania', *C. phyllocephala* 'Sparkler', and *C. flagellifera* 'Toffee Twist' (which is actually only hardy to USDA Hardiness Zone 7, so it

isn't hardy in most of CT). Just remember to provide an ample container and water frequently because all ornamental grasses are thirsty plants.

Euphorbia amygdaloides—spurge

Hosting a spurge was one of those happy accidents that results from pure greed. I saw a wonderful *E. amygdaloides* 'Purpurea' under a bench while Christmas shopping at a nursery and couldn't pass it by. I bought it for a song, but then couldn't get it in the ground. So into my house it came. When it blossomed bravely a few months later, it was a wonderful surprise. You can't imagine how welcome a few green spurge blossoms can be in February. And this plant is absolutely carefree—aside from some pruning early in the game to get a nice tight display of flowers. Since then, I've worked with several euphorbias with equally boast-worthy results.

Helleborus—Christmas rose

For the most part, growing perennials indoors has gone under the radar of the horticultural trade. But not hellebores. Nowadays you can find hellebores at every supermarket (well, almost every supermarket) hawked as Easter plants—even if Easter is way early. I've occasionally seen them sold for Christmas, but that tradition is usually confined to specialty nurseries. And really, the beauty of this midwinter bloomer is that it has such large, luscious flowers in incredible colors over a long period of time. Isn't that the sort of roommate you crave? Give hellebores a container with sufficient room to cradle the entire expansive network of roots and the plant will do just fine.

Heuchera—coral bells

You can never have enough heucheras in the garden—and who doesn't miss them when snow covers the ground? Need to divide yours up? Bring a clump indoors. That was my first brush with coral bells—I divided a cluster that didn't have sufficient roots for transplanting in autumn, so I potted it up and brought it inside. Not only did it take hold, but it grew into an eye-catcher. Go with any

variety that strikes your fancy. But rather than trying to host a larger version, take a smaller division that won't make constant demands for watering.

Primulas—primroses

Believe me, I've tried to adopt the *Primula* \times *polyantha* hybrids that you see in the supermarket and never could get them to thrive more than a few weeks in my house. They wilt constantly, get spider mites, and croak. On the other hand, I've had such raving success with *Primula denticulata* that it's become a tradition. Rather than try to keep them over the winter, I pick up primrose plugs in late winter or early spring and pop them into containers. From there, they send up a series of flower spikes that are so colorful and downright cheerful that they've become a seasonal ritual that I wouldn't miss for the world. I also have a collection of *P. x pubescens* that turns late winter into heaven, with their bands of jewel-tone colors and wonderful, candy-like fragrances. Plus, I find them to be a cinch as long as I remember to water regularly and protect them from wilt-causing, bright light.

Tiarella cordifolia cvs.—foamflower

Foamflowers go along the same lines as heucheras—they have wonderful foliage and their love of shady locations works hand-in-hand with most windowsills. Mine send up only sparse blossoms unless I pick up a plant in spring with the buds already set. But still, the deeply cut foliage with bronze markings is a sufficient perk to keep me addicted. I plant mine in the garden after the winter fling is over and then start again with a new plant come autumn. As a result, my garden is peppered with a continual supply of novel foamflowers. When you consider all the introductions coming on the market, it's one way to keep current and enjoy the plant close up for a few precious months.

The same could be said for all perennials. Grow a garden indoors and your winter will seem shorter and certainly brighter. 🌱



An Educational Evening with Tovah Martin

Okay, so back in the day a spider plant spilling out of macrame hanger was the pinnacle of houseplant perfection. But no more. Now, houseplants have panache. Think fuzzy kangaroo paws, kaleidoscopic heucheras, beguiling begonias, and sci-fi succulents. For the indoor gardener, it's a whole new world.

Today, we can choose from a whole slew of intriguing houseplants and if there's anyone who's familiar with these new indoor denizens, it's Tovah Martin, the endlessly enthusiastic household horticulturist who has literally written the book on the subject. The Connecticut gardener and prolific writer's "The Unexpected Houseplant: 220 Extraordinary Choices for Every Spot in Your Home (Timber Press, \$22.95) was published in 2012. Its title tells you all you need to know about Tovah's dedication to giving the indoors a botanical boost. Anyone who has to limit their top houseplants to 220 likely has chlorophyll flowing in their veins.

Tovah will be sharing her enthusiasm, her plant lust, and her hard won experience at a CHS educational workshop Tuesday April 8 from 7:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m. at the Glastonbury Riverfront Community Center in Glastonbury. She'll discuss the best plants to grow indoors at home and how to determine which of those exotic specimens will thrive in the conditions you are able to provide them, how to plant them, where to keep them and how to display them artistically. She'll also share ideas on maintaining plants, with tips and tricks about watering feeding grooming pruning and trouble shooting.

Some people, say, the most dedicated of dirt gardeners, may be unable to fathom why on earth anyone would want to grow plants indoors. Well, there's the notion that gardening indoors in winter continues the gardening dialog and encourages one to be keen on green all year round. The right plants in the right

places, indoors as well as out, can bring fragrance and drama into your home. The more relaxed pace of winter allows you to become better acquainted with your plants. For those who have downsized, indoors may provide the best option for gardening, no matter what the season. Oh, and did I mention the plants can improve indoor air quality? NASA actually studied houseplants as a way to clean the air in space facilities and found several that filter out volatile organic compounds.

Then of course there is the best reason of all to grow plants indoors. Your garden does double duty! All those tropicals and tender perennials and even hardy perennials that brought such magical shapes, textures, and colors to the garden can do the same indoors. Over the winter, you can grow tropical plants into ever more prodigious specimens, or have plenty of material for propagation. You can easily overwinter that exotic, perfectly colored coleus, that must-have salvia, or those wacky, Dr. Seuss-like succulents. That way, the show goes on, and not only that, when spring rolls around it's ready to head back outside for an even grander display.

But then Tovah is perfectly capable of giving plenty of reasons to bring the garden indoors. She has come by her expertise for houseplants the hard way, emerging from 25 years in the greenhouses at Logee's in Danielson, with a passion for plants that verges on obsession. She writes about them for magazines such as *Horticulture*, *Garden Design* and *Country Gardens* and has penned a number of other books about houseplants, including "The New Terrarium: Creating Beautiful Displays for Plants and Nature", "The Essence of Paradise: Fragrant Plants for Indoor Gardens", and "Well-Clad Windowsills: Houseplants for Four Exposures."

In addition, she lectures nationally and has appeared on television on the CBS Sunday Early Show, Victory Garden, The



Tovah Martin

Way to Grow Show, B. Smith with Style as well as the PBS television gardening series "Cultivating Life," where she served as editorial producer. The Garden Club of America awarded her an Honorary Membership and their Sarah Chapman Francis Medal for "outstanding literary achievement." She was named one of the 50 Most Influential People and one of the top 10 garden educators by *People, Places, Plants* magazine. In addition, the Massachusetts Horticultural Society honored her with their Gold Medal. Her contributions to horticulture in Connecticut and beyond garnered Tovah the Connecticut Horticultural Society's most prestigious form of recognition, the Gustav A. Melhquist Award, last year.

Tovah's unexpected houseplant lecture will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 8 at the Glastonbury Riverfront Community Room in Glastonbury. Books will be available for purchase; Tovah will sign them after the program. Cost is \$25 for CHS members; \$35 for nonmembers. To register or for more information, call the CHS office at 860-529-8713 or email connhort@gmail.com. Send check payable to CHS with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Connecticut Horticultural Society, 2433 Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067. Confirmation and directions to the event will follow your registration. 📧

Horticultural Happenings & Announcements

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

Louis Raymond Lectures

The inimitable horticulture virtuoso Louis Raymond will speak on “Hedging the American Dream: Privacy & Horticulture in the U.S.,” Monday, February 10 at noon at the Farmington Main Library, 6 Monteith Street in Farmington. Louis is a garden designer, plantsman, popular blogger and nationally recognized lecturer. His appearance marks the Farmington Garden Club’s annual Founders’ Fund Presentation and is free and open to the public.

Learn about Grafting at Broken Arrow Nursery

Grafting will be the subject of two workshops conducted by Adam Wheeler at Broken Arrow Nursery. Explore the world of heirloom apples and graft a few of your own at “Heirloom Apple Grafting for the Home Gardener,” Sunday, February 23, 1-3 p.m. and the same time the next day February 24 at “Conifer Grafting for the Home Gardener.” The grafting guru will demonstrate the techniques used to graft conifers; participants will take home several plants. Each workshop will cost \$35; registration is required. Visit www.brokenarrownursery.com; or call Broken Arrow Nursery at (203) 288-1026.

Propagation Workshops at Logee’s

Logee’s Greenhouses is conducting a three-part instructional workshop in plant propagation. Propagation by stem and leaf cutting will be the subject of the first class Saturday, February 22. On Saturday March 29, the focus will shift to growing new plants from seed; the Saturday April 26 class will be devoted to air layering, division, and grafting. Classes will be held each day from 1-3 p.m. and will be taught by Byron Martin, Logee’s 3rd generation horticulturist and owner at Logee’s Greenhouses in Danielson, Conn. At the end, participants will take home more than 20 plants ranging from succulents to tropicals, including those

they successfully propagated. The cost for the series is \$219.95. Attendance will be limited to 20. To register visit www.logees.com or call Logee’s at (888) 330-8038.

Master Gardener Symposium

The Connecticut Master Gardener Association hosts its 21st Annual Gardening Symposium “Lessons in Horticultural Diversity” Saturday, March 15 at Manchester Community College, Manchester. Speakers include Carole Savilla Brown, a conservation biologist who believes conservation begins in your own back yard, and Ed Bowen, whose R.I. nano-nursery, Opus, focuses on under-cultivated and unusual perennials. Additional workshop speakers include Nancy DuBrule-Clemente, Ellen Hoverkamp and Lee Reich. Admission is \$65 for CMGA members; \$85 for nonmembers, including a light breakfast, lunch, two workshops, speakers, vendors, and a silent auction. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.ctmga.org or contact Diana Ringelheim at (203) 372-8498, or diana@ringelheim.com

Natureworks App

Nancy DuBrule-Clemente and the gang at Natureworks have an app for that. Their very own! The new Natureworks app makes it easy to get in touch with the garden center by phone or email—with plant questions. It also helps you keep up with the goings on there, and it offers a rewards program, so every time you buy something you will earn points toward horticultural-type rewards. The Natureworks mobile app is available for iPhone, iPad, iPad mini as well as Android and Android-based tablet devices. Look for the free app at the App Store or wherever you get your apps.

Orchid Show and Sale

It’s all about orchids at the Nutmeg State Orchid Society’s “Come See Our Bloomers” orchid show and sale Saturday, March 15 noon – 5 p.m. and Sunday, March 16, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the West Hartford Meeting and Conference Center, 50 South Main St., West Hartford. Admission is \$5, children 12 and under are free. For more information, call (860) 677-5381 or email NSOScontact@comcast.net

meeting moments

Dave Daly –

Tips and Tricks for Getting Kids into the Garden

When kids garden they learn skills such as patience, empathy, sorting and organizing, and communication.

It can be an empowering experience to start a seed indoors and see it grow through the season.

Let youngsters pick the veggies and flowers they are interested in growing.

The more often you’re in the garden with children, the more likely they are to take to it.

- Wider pathways, smaller plots.
- Don’t forget to eat what you grow.
- To introduce a new food to a child, they need to try it 18 times.
- Most important: have fun!!!

Gardens of the Brandywine Valley



Private garden of Jack Staub * Jerry Fritz's Linden Hill * Winterthur
* Brandywine River Museum * Meet and Greet with the Curator of
Plants at Longwood Gardens and Behind the Scenes Tour
Wednesday – Friday, June 18-20, 2014

Day 1: Aboard our deluxe motor coach to Longwood Gardens, we will tour the renowned former du Pont estate with more than 40 indoor and outdoor gardens, a conservatory, dancing fountains and a lovely gift shop. We will meet Tomasz Anisko, the Curator of Plants and recent speaker at CHS, who will guide us on a behind the scenes tour of these spectacular gardens. We then continue to our home for the next two nights in the heart of downtown West Chester, the brand new Hotel Warner with comfortable guest rooms, indoor pool and fitness center and within walking distance to many shops and restaurants. Dinner that night will be at the fabulous Brandywine Prime Restaurant. Our delicious meal starts with either a spinach salad or French onion soup, followed by a choice of pan seared salmon or Chianti braised short ribs, beverage and dessert choice of crème brulee or molten chocolate lava cake.

Day 2: Morning visit to Winterthur to see the exquisite home in which Henry Francis du Pont entertained family and friends in grand style. The 175 rooms,

many of them with historical architecture, are furnished with a collection of antiques. See the new “Costumes of the Downton Abbey” exhibit, with 40 historically inspired costumes from the TV show on display. Then visit the gardens! Winterthur's 1,000 acres encompass rolling hills, streams, meadows, and forests. Mr. du Pont developed an appreciation of nature as a boy that served as the basis for his life's work in the garden. He selected the choicest plants from around the world to enhance the natural setting, arranging them in lyrical color combinations and carefully orchestrating a succession of bloom from late January to November. The afternoon finds us at the Brandywine River Museum with an in depth guided tour highlighting one of the largest collections of three generations of Wyeth artists: N.C., Andrew, Jamie. Also, a guided tour of the wildflower and native plant gardens that surround this renovated 19th century Grist Mill on the banks of the Brandywine River.

Day 3: Morning visit to Hortulus Farm, the private garden of Jack Staub and Renny Reynolds. This 100 acre home

and farm tries to respect the integrity of the farm's historical significance and natural landscape, with the occasional whimsical or formal statement thrown in. We will also have time to visit the specialty ‘connoisseur's nursery’ which offers the rare and unusual. After a stop for lunch on your own, we make our way to the exquisite Linden Hill Gardens designed by landscape craftsman Jerry Fritz (presented at our February 2013 CHS program meeting). Jerry and his staff will guide us through their display gardens. Their retail nursery specializes in rare and cutting edge plants. Happy plant shopping with a special CHS discount!

Cost: Members \$439 per person, twin; \$549 per person, single. Nonmembers add \$50. **Deposit:** \$100 per person due with reservation by March 14. **Final payment:** due by April 28. Includes deluxe motor coach, two nights lodging, tax, baggage, three continental breakfasts, one dinner, sightseeing per itinerary, driver gratuity, \$25 per person donation to CHS, escorted by Brett Isaacson. Make checks payable to: CHS. Mail to: Friendship Tours, 705 Bloomfield Ave. (note new address), Bloomfield, CT 06002. Questions? Barbara, Friendship Tours (860) 243-1630 or (800) 243-1630.



Broadway, Here We Come! “Beautiful” Orchestra Seats!

Stephen Sondheim Theatre * Pre-Show Lunch
Wednesday, April 16, 2014 Matinee

In the summer of 1960, a teenage girl from Brooklyn walked into a Manhattan recording studio and started writing the songs that would shape a generation. Her name was Carole King. “Beautiful” tells King's story from her early days as a Brooklyn teenager struggling to enter the record business to her years spent as a chart-topping music legend. This powerful show gives Broadway lovers everything they love. Classic songs,

dancing, and performances you won't soon forget. It's like going to a musical, play and concert all rolled into one!

Delicious pre-show lunch at DaRosina Ristorante in the Theater District. Choose an appetizer, main course and dessert that day from a scrumptious Italian menu.

Depart ETD: 7:30 a.m. Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford; 7:50 a.m. Commuter Lot, 500 Main St., East Hartford (note new

location). **Return ETA:** 7:30 p.m. East Hartford; 8:00 p.m. West Hartford. **Cost:** Members \$202 per person; nonmembers \$208 per person based on 40-50 passengers; payment due with registration. No refunds on day trips. Please provide a substitute. Please make checks payable to CHS & mail to: Friendship Tours, ATTN: CHS Day Trips, 705 Bloomfield Ave. (note new address), Bloomfield, CT 06002. Or call to reserve your seat (860) 243-1630 or (800) 243-1630.

CHS Calendar at a Glance

- Feb. 6** – Board of Directors meeting, Rocky Hill
- Feb. 10** – Deadline for March newsletter
- Feb. 20** – Program meeting, Michael Singer, “Insect Drama in Your Garden”
- March 6** – Board of Directors Meeting Rocky Hill
- April 8** – CHS Educational program: “The Unexpected Houseplant,” Tovah Martin, Glastonbury Riverfront Community Center, Glastonbury

Dated Material  *Please Rush*

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on recycled paper with soya ink.



Connecticut Flower and Garden Show Seminars Boast a Full Slate of CHS Members and Friends

Connecticut Horticultural Society members and friends are among the many garden professionals who will share their expertise by presenting a wide range of lectures at the Connecticut Flower and Garden Show February 20-23 at the Connecticut Convention Center.

On Thursday, February 20 at 11 a.m., Nancy DuBrule-Clemente will speak about “Blended Gardens”; at 3:30 p.m., Tovah Martin, will address the topic “The Unexpected Houseplant.” Both are members who have lectured at our monthly meetings and who have been past winners of The Mehlquist Award, CHS’s highest honor.

Friday, Rich Pomerantz, a past speaker at our monthly meetings, will present “Relax, It’s Only Garden Photography” at 12:30 p.m. and “Art in the Garden” at 3:30 p.m. At 2 p.m.

that afternoon, Nancy DuBrule-Clemente will be back with a cutting edge talk entitled “Overcome Your Fears of Pruning.”

Saturday CHS vice president Tom Christopher will discuss “Low Maintenance Lawns” at 12:30 p.m. and again at 3:30 p.m. Longtime member Lorraine Ballato will reveal how to grow “Foolproof Hydrangeas” at 11 a.m. and show how to grow edibles from tomatoes to blueberries in a pot with “Vegetables Contained” at 2:00 p.m.

On Sunday, Kerry Mendez, who has spoken at our monthly meeting and at our 2012 symposium, will share how to get “Three Seasons of Outrageous Color from Perennials” at 11 a.m. and the singular art of “Simplifying Gardens” at 2 p.m.”

CHS will be introducing these and all of the other speakers at the

flower show seminars. We’re seeking volunteers to make the introductions and to man the membership tables we will set up outside the venue for each speaker. Sign up for a spot at our February meeting or call the office, (860) 529-8713. We’ll post on our website’s flower show section those volunteer slots that are still open. Check there before you call. As a volunteer, you get into the show for free.

Discount tickets (\$11) to the Flower Show are available for purchase at the CHS office until February 18. Or one can send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the CHS office – this must be received by February 13 to allow time for processing. Discount tickets will not be sold at the CHS February program meeting, however, full priced tickets (\$16) will be available February 20 - 23 at the Convention Center. 