

Connecticut Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

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June 2014

Awesome Alliums

by Steve Silk

This is the season when the sweet spheroid flowers of the biggest of alliums, *Allium giganteum*, strut their stuff on the garden stage. Their wacky globe-shaped flowers and singularly strange textures make them a good partner for virtually any other plant, in the garden or in the vase. And these easy-to-grow, undemanding bulbs come in every color, as long as it's some variation of blue, pink or white.

And they boast one other especially worthwhile attribute: many species of allium bloom when little else is flowering in the garden. Thus they excel at filling an aching gap in the sequence of bloom, which makes them very welcome indeed in beds and borders of all types. And they've got cousins, a host of other alliums who make their own unique contributions to the garden scene.

So What's Not to Like?

Well, their common name for one thing. Ornamental onion? You've got to be kidding me. I mean, really, how ornamental could an onion be? Talk about an oxymoron! So for that reason alone, I shall henceforth refer to these garden worthy specimens by their proper Latinate name, allium, which meant, back in the day, garlic.

The word allium is derived from an ancient Greek word meaning "to avoid," which one does, presumably, because of the bulbs' distinctive scent. The genus includes leeks, onions, chives, garlic and even that foodie favorite, ramps. So yes, it's true the bulbs do have a garlicky odor, but that's not a bad thing, and it helps keep deer and other pests from browsing showy allium blooms.

Near as I can tell, the only problem with alliums is their foliage. While the initial green blades thrusting from the earth in early spring display an appealing sense of purpose (and in some cases make for good eating), they soon start slacking, and by the time the plants come into flower the foliage is commonly brown at the tips, or worse.

Alliums are sun lovers, and the more they get the happier they are, though I do grow some in part shade that seem just fine. Any soil is fine, as long as it's well-drained. These pollinator pleasing plants are drought tolerant too. Though most sources will tell you that alliums can be planted only in fall, I've had great success transplanting seedlings shortly after their foliage emerges in spring. But planting them as bulbs

(continued on page 4)



With its wild mop, *Allium* 'Hair' is the Phyllis Diller of the plant world. Photo by Steve Silk

How to Help Our Landscapes Cope With Fickle Weather Patterns

by Karla A. Dalley

As gardeners, we are some of the luckiest people on the planet: we have very short memories. If we didn't, we might never garden again! Because surely the memories of last summer's weather might be enough to make us give up altogether.

If you are thinking that last summer wasn't a challenge, that just shows what I mean! It wasn't particularly hot—there were no 100 degree days. But rainfall patterns made the growing season challenging.

As last year's season began, we were already in moderate drought. In fact, since 2010, three of the last four years have been abnormally dry—or worse. That dry pattern didn't change until June of 2013 when we had ten inches of rain. That was followed by two weeks of temperatures alternating between very warm 90s and abnormally cool 60s, but with near record level dew points the entire two weeks. It was difficult for plants and for people. Three 'normal' weeks followed, and then, on August 9, we had 3.79 inches of rain in a single day.

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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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Letter from the President

Dear Gardening Friends,

Nature and the garden are so resilient that it hardly seems possible that the effects of storms Irene, Alfred, Sandy and Nemo are still showing up. A favorite viburnum that I 'rescued' 22 years ago from the woods cannot, in the end, be rescued. It's a favorite not because of its scent or color, but because of its pagoda form, its creamy umbels buzzing with nine different pollinators, its leathery leaves, and its red berries which are stripped bare by mixed flocks of thrashers, cardinals, and cedar waxwings. A (not) strong (enough) leader parted ways, putting an end to the viburnum's perfect balance of outstretched limbs. I made that first big cut, and prayed for healing.



This week the fried ferns below its branches tell the tale. It's not just late leafing out.

The arborday.org site tells me this is a 'tree tragedy'. I bet you know exactly what I mean and you simply have to tell me your own story. We have a place for you on our new website under 'groups' to do just this, a place to share your questions, answers, tree tragedies and the like with other CHS members. There are many features still being honed—too many to list. Soon though, you'll be able to take a cruise through the new CHS site to see its new look and get the whole story.

It is June, so that means we'll be closing out the speaker season with our **Ice Cream Social** at 6:30 p.m. and one last speaker: Rob Cardillo. He'll be presenting: **The Well-Designed Photograph**. He is a pro and I know you'll leave with a new perspective of your garden.

Remember this June meeting is meant to be shared with family. Please bring them—then you can go out and take better pictures together!

Till then, don't forget your sunscreen. Or your bug repellent!

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.

The Well-Designed Photograph

June 19—Speaker Rob Cardillo,
Freelance Garden Photographer

Not every garden photographer learned some of the tricks of their trade as a paleontologist. But as a budding paleontologist prospecting for fossils in New Mexico, Rob Cardillo made an unexpected discovery. Having given up the day's hunt in frustration, he sat in the only shade around and found himself in a rich bed of Permian era fossils that subsequently became known as Cardillo Quarry.

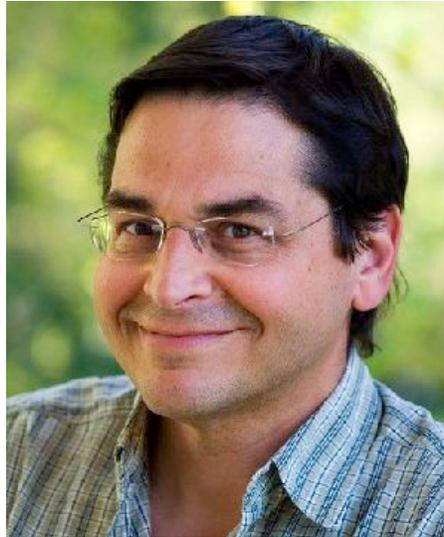
"There's a lot of similarity between prospecting for fossils and looking for a good photograph," Rob says. "You don't just get out of the car and click; you spend time walking the garden and seeing all the views, the intended views and the unintended views."

It's a process of discovery. And if you're lucky, you get to see a place through new eyes, whether it's a bed of fossils or an expanse of garden. Of photography, he says, "It's a wonderful opportunity to be in nature and to try to communicate the beauty of that place and enhance it through the lens of a camera."

That's precisely what Rob does these days. Rising to the top of his craft of garden photography, he now photographs primarily for books and magazines. At the moment, he's juggling shooting for three book projects. For those who remember our September speaker David Culp, it was Rob who took the exquisite photographs shown that evening.

When Rob addresses the Connecticut Horticultural Society, he'll share some of the secrets of his craft. Very few involve esoteric photographic technique. "It's going to be something for everyone," Rob says. "There's a lot of humor and stories. I've got some funny things up my sleeve."

You might wonder why seeing a garden through a photographer's eye would be useful or informative, but as Rob points out, "The principles of design transcend the disciplines. Whether it's a garden photo or the design of an interior space, it's how you arrange your objects... you can take a lot of simple things and



Rob Cardillo

just arrange them in ways that make them wonderfully complex and interesting." Thus are aligned the aims of both gardener and photographer.

And in this day when nearly everyone has a camera in their pocket, thanks to the ubiquitous cell phone, he'll also talk about iPhone-ography. Those who have yet to explore the often astounding world of photo apps and cellphones will find that smart phones can take some amazing pictures.

The gist of what he has to offer are what he calls simple things, "Things that can make everybody's photos stand up and sing."

As one who worked hard to make photos that sing, Rob's own path to his present day perch in garden photography proceeded through all kinds of fits and starts. His grandparents lived near a huge Italian community garden; it was his childhood playground, a place to crawl around, steal the occasional tomato and get chased out. Even as a kid, it was the shapes, colors, and textures of the plants that Rob found entrancing. He graduated to working in the paleontology department of several museums, building an archive of bird photographs (becoming, in the process, what he calls a "decent" bird photographer), and a

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, June 19

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.

stint in a herbarium. Photography was always an aspect of his museum career, and Rob's growing interest led to night classes, programs at the renowned Maine Photo Workshop and an intensive class with photographic superstar Jay Maisel.

An ad seeking a photo editor for Organic Gardening magazine caught his eye back in 1988, and he got the job. At first he worked mostly with other professional photographers, but was soon taking more of his own photos for the magazine. Next, he graduated to full time freelancer and is today one of a handful of garden photographers able to earn a living exclusively from that pursuit.

One of his favorite projects to date has been working on a book for Chanticleer, the inventive public garden in Wayne, Penn. Rob lives just a few minutes away in Ambler, Penn., and can get to the gardens for the most ephemeral atmospheric events, such as a softening fog, or a magical play of light. That is the essence of what he loves about his profession. "You go to some of the most beautiful places in the world and get to make them more beautiful, if you can."

Join Rob and CHS Thursday, June 19, and learn about ways to make your own part of the world more beautiful. 🌿

Alliums, from page 1



Orbs of *Allium* 'Globemaster' bloom alongside foxtail lilies, creating a shapely contrast. Photo by Steve Silk

is certainly easiest. Just use the old rule of thumb and plant the bulbs deeply enough to cover them with soil three times the height of the bulbs; an inch tall bulb would be planted four inches deep, so there was room for three inches of soil on top.

Herewith are a few favorites.

Garden Goliaths

The *Allium giganteum* clan are the big boys of the allium world. Silvery purple 'Globemaster', purple-blue 'Gladiator', and 'White Giant' boast bigger than softball-sized, globe-shaped flowers blooming atop scapes that can reach up to four feet in height. A drift of these brings drama to any garden, and their bloom, in early to mid-June, is timed perfectly to fill the slight interval in flowering fury that demarcates the passing splendors of late spring from the onset of early summer flowers. The idea of a drift or, better yet, several drifts of these brightening the garden with their bold architectural presence might be quashed by a look at their price tags, but purchasing a half dozen or so is a good start and soon there will be lots of seedlings to move about. Their epic size and distinc-

tive shape assures these Brobdingnagian blooms look great wherever they arise.

An Allium with an Alias

Another must-have member of the allium tribe is *Allium bulgaricum*, or at least it would be if those darn taxonomists had not recently reassigned this stunner as *Nectaroscordum siculum* var. *bulgaricum*, a new name which is even harder to say than it is to remember. Great common name too: Sicilian honey garlic. Whatever you call it, I want more of it. In late spring this three- to four-foot tall species bears dazzling umbels of creamy white flowers flushed with bits of burgundy and green. The structure of these blooms is much looser and more refined looking than the typical tightly packed orb of flowers that characterizes most alliums. The flowers' burgundy tints make spectacular color echoes when planted near small trees or shrubs with dark foliage, such as reddest of Japanese maples, or a purple smoke bush.

Surpassingly Strange 'Hair'

As an unrepentant aficionado of botanical curiosities and all things strange in the plant kingdom, I suppose it might

go without saying that I love alliums. These are plants Dr. Seuss would have grown with pride. But when it comes to the downright freakish, look no further than *Allium* 'Hair,' a kooky fright wig of wild-looking green hair atop a scape that can reach two feet or more in height. Plant a drift of these, and it will look as if your garden is hosting a crew of heavy metal rock stars, but these full sun to part shade players make beautiful music in the garden and will be welcome wherever they appear.

An Autumnal Allium

Not all alliums bloom in spring or summer, and one of the best of the late season bunch is *Allium thunbergii* 'Ozawa', which bursts onto the stage in October for me. Its reddish violet blooms look like a burst of one- to two inch balls of floral fireworks erupting over a grassy tuft of chive-like foliage. Kind of diminutive, this allium tops off at eight to 12 inches. After a few years, its vigor starts to diminish, and plants are best revived by taking a few divisions and replanting them. This is one of the few alliums more commonly sold in pots than as bare bulbs. 🌱

meeting moments

With Michael Ruggiero on
"All About Containers: From Design to Installation"

On containers: "If it's ugly, hide it; if it's very expensive, don't hide it. The better the pot, the less you hide it."

"I add a quarter by volume of good organic compost to a high quality potting mix." He recommends purchasing potting mix without fertilizer.

For fertilizing container plantings, Michael recommends mixing Espoma organic fertilizer into the potting mix before planting, along with Osmocote or other time release fertilizer at half the recommended amount. After planting, fertilize every two weeks with liquid soluble fertilizer at half the recommended strength.

"Get houseplants out of the house and into your displays."

Use lots of plants: "I love packing things."

Take care of the plants: "Dead is not a good landscape option."

On design: "Do what you want."

Weather, from page 1

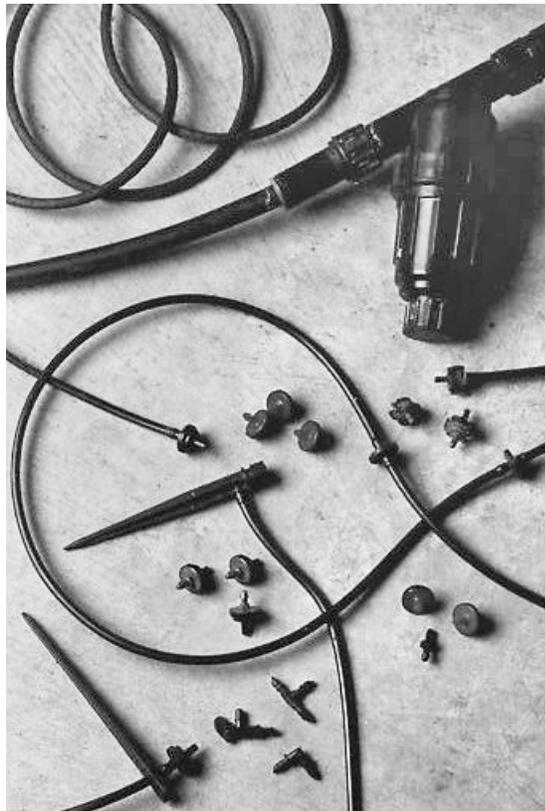
Drought and deluge continued this past winter. Despite all of the snow, this spring parts of Connecticut and New England have already bounced between abnormally dry and abnormally wet. So, fellow gardeners, let's plan ahead and take some action now to help us deal with this upcoming summer—and the many seasons of changeable weather that may follow. As a bonus, strategies we employ to deal with these weather challenges—whether it is unusual dryness or occasional cloudbursts—will make gardening easier, no matter what type of gardening we are doing.

Start with the Soil

First, consider the soil. Whether your soil is sandy, hard-packed clay, or something in between, adding compost is a benefit in times of drought summers and when the weather is both too wet and too dry. Compost is the great equalizer, aerating clay soils and helping sandy soils retain moisture. Unlike peat moss, it is renewable, non acidic, and it does not have a re-wetting issue if it dries out. If you make one change in the garden, adding compost to the soil is the one to make.

The more we learn about soil, the more we know that it is best to disturb it as little as possible (think of books like “Weedless Gardening” by Lee Reich which advocates no tilling at all), so the best way to add compost is to simply top dress the soil.

But beyond that, some reasonable degree of cover is wise. Some garden writers advise that if a 2-3" cover of mulch is good, then a 4-6" cover of mulch is even better! Absolutely not! The garden is not the place to “compost in place” with wood chips. Moisture may not even be able to penetrate such a deep cover, particularly if it's only a gentle rain. And, mulching with wood chips invites disease and rot into my garden. So I try to avoid using a wood chip mulch. Instead, I plant as closely as I can. And I sow either very early blooming perennial groundcovers like forget-me nots (*myosotis*) or spring



Drip irrigation is the most efficient way to water plants in the ground or in containers and its component parts snap together as easily as Tinkertoys.

Photo by Steve Silk

blooming bulbs that are done blooming by the time my perennials and shrubs fill in. It's not foolproof, but it's surely better than losing plants to disease and rot.

What about watering?

No matter how much you improve the soil with compost and how expertly you mulch, when the weather turns dry, you'll still need to water. And watering is still an issue. While we do not yet have watering bans or proscribed watering days like gardeners in the western United States, as good stewards of the earth—and as smart gardeners—it makes sense for us to use water wisely.

One of the best ways to do this is drip irrigation, which can range from something as simple as a soaker hose (buried under mulch for even better effectiveness) to a specialized kit that can be purchased, either online or from a home improvement store or garden

center. These are in-ground watering systems for your gardens, just as many folks have had for the lawn for years.

There are some misunderstandings surrounding drip irrigation. Many folks do not realize that it takes hours, not minutes, for a drip irrigation system to thoroughly saturate the soil. How much time depends on the soil type, how dry it is, your water pressure, and the type of irrigation used, among other things. To determine how long to run an irrigation system, turn it on early in the morning, and every two hours go out with a trowel to see how deeply the water has penetrated the soil. When moisture reaches the desired depth, that's how long the system will have to have to run.

Timers are available to turn the systems on and off, but keep in mind that watering longer and more deeply is preferable to watering, say, three times a week for twenty minutes, as you might do with your lawn. Should you automate the irrigation system, add a rain sensor so that the system will not turn on should it actually rain.

Finally, for even less impact on the environment, use rain barrels. When properly installed and fitted, they do not breed mosquitoes. And though the water is not safe for drinking and should not be used on edibles, it can be used on ornamental gardens and trees, which are so difficult to keep watered in drought situations. With proper fittings, the water could also be directed right to drip irrigation systems. As the cost of our municipal water rises, “free” water is always a bonus.

Gardening can be challenging in weather extremes. These are a few steps you can take to minimize the effects weather has on your garden to ensure that gardening will continue to be a joy. 🌧️

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 summer issue is June 23. Costs given below are for people who are not members of the hosting organization.

Making a Place for Birds

CTNOFA is hosting a workshop: Creating Bird Friendly Communities in Connecticut at Massaro Community Farm in Woodbridge. It will offer guidance for landowners and farmers on strategies to create habitat for birds and a healthier environment for all. Includes a walk-about of Massaro Community Farm to view examples of bird habitats on their property. Saturday, June 21, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. \$30. For more information, visit their website, http://ctnofa.org/events/OnFarmWorkshops/2014_OnFarm_Workshops.html

White Flower Farm Open House

Just in time for the beginning of summer, White Flower Farm will hold its annual Open House day, when we welcome old friends and new for iced tea and cucumber sandwiches on the lawn by our house. The date this year is Saturday, June 21 and we will start serving around 2:30 p.m. The display gardens should be close to peak and the Begonia House full of renowned Blackmore & Langdon varieties will be hitting their stride. Before the refreshments are served, visitors can join WFF staff for a guided tour of the display gardens at 1:30 p.m. There is no charge for the tour, but visitors are encouraged to register on the website at www.whiteflowerfarm.com. Saturday, June 21, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. White Flower Farm, 167 Litchfield Road, Morris.

Hartford Blooms

Hartford Blooms Garden Tour. A nine-day showcase of Hartford's gardens and historic architecture. Self-guided walking tours of Hartford neighborhoods. Includes speakers at the Hartford Public Library, visits to historic sites and the opportunity to sample the menus at area restaurants and cafes. June 21-29, \$10. For more information, visit www.hartfordblooms.org

Naturalistic Landscaping Workshop

Many gardeners and land managers find themselves constantly fighting nature to maintain the aesthetic appeal they de-

sire. Another approach is to work with naturally occurring events and plants to achieve a landscape that is sensually, intellectually and emotionally satisfying. This naturalistic landscaping workshop with Larry Weaner will focus on the discussion and demonstration of ecologically-based naturalistic landscaping and its benefits. There will be information presented for both those familiar with this form of wild landscaping and those new to it. With an understanding of natural processes you will learn how to work with the land to develop an attractive and healthy landscape. Weather permitting, most of the time will be spent walking the woods and fields of Aton Forest observing managed and natural habitats. There will also be time to talk about participants' land management issues. Lunch and refreshments provided. Saturday, June 14, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. cost \$35. Aton Forest, 270 North Colebrook Road, Norfolk. For more info, email contact@atonforest.org or call (860) 542-5125. <http://afworkshops.blogspot.com>

Better Plant Choices

Why Grow That When You Can Grow This? Andrew Keys talks about why we go to such lengths to grow problem plants, and counters with new favorites that are sure to please and are more sustainable. Sunday, June 22, 1 to 3 p.m. \$25. To register or for more information, call (203) 288-1026, email info@brokenarrownursery.com or abrand@brokenarrownursery.com, or visit www.brokenarrownursery.com. Broken Arrow Nursery, 13 Broken Arrow Road, Hamden.

Container Planting Party

Natureworks hosts a variety of workshops, walks and classes. Saturday, June 7, from 1 to 3 p.m., is a container garden planting party, including iced tea, wine, and light refreshments. Bring friends, plant your annual containers with our help. Bring or purchase containers; on Sunday, June 8, 1 to 2 p.m., Edible Flowers with Kassie; and on Thursday June 12, from 5 to 6 p.m., The June Prune, Saturday, June 14 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Call (203) 484-2748, email [\[iconn.net\]\(http://iconn.net\) or visit \[www.naturework.com\]\(http://www.naturework.com\). Natureworks, 518 Forest Road \(Route 22\), Northford.](mailto:nature@</p>
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Acorn Herbs, Storrs
Linda Akerman & Sean Shoemaker, Colchester
Sandra Anderson, Pomfret Center
Anne Dzjalo & Doug Atkins, Guilford
Elizabeth Barton, Glastonbury
David Bantz & Winnie Suraci, Clinton
Michelle Blackburn, Darien
Jacqueline Bullock, Bridgeport
Amy Bush, Mystic
Mary Canty, Durham
Nancy Cebik, Waterbury
Erik Christensen, Winsted
CT Historic Gardens, Hartford
Robin Dressler, West Hartford
Mary Drens, Haddam Neck
Rosemarie Englert, Bristol
English Gardens & Landscaping, Killingworth
Liz Flores, Milford
Pat & Cindy Franzis, Naugatuck
Shirley Girouard, Branford
Kathryn Hanlon, Plantsville
Kathleen Harris, Cheshire
Julie & Lincoln Harvey, Cromwell
Irene Hendrickson, Wethersfield
Dolores Iannini, West Hartford
Frances Iunnu, Hartford
Gayle Kellas, Middletown
Ed & Linda Kozloski, Suffield
Paula Leibovitz, Southington
Kathleen Longo, Glastonbury
Duane & Alice Luster, Glastonbury
Anne Macleod, East Haddam
Verne Maboney, West Hartford
Myron Marsbaus, Enfield
Elaine Mastalerz, Tolland
Debra McAlenney, Simsbury
Caryn Oresky, Gales Ferry
Plant Parentage, Inc., Waterford
Pondering Creations, Terryville
Dolores Reiff, Waterford
Harold & Suzanne Sanden, Manchester
Nancy Santos, Hartford
Kathy Scott, South Glastonbury
Anne Sheffield, Wethersfield
Jill Strawn, New Haven
Terri Trenbohn, Meriden
David Veinotte, Nova Scotia
Frances Violante, Waterford
David Witkins, Enfield



The Fells Historic Estate and Gardens

Thursday, July 17, 2014

Join CHS on Thursday, July 17 for a luncheon cruise and historic estate and garden tour of The Fells!

Luncheon Cruise on Lake Sunapee: We'll relax aboard the MV Kearsarge for a private 1½-hour cruise on the crystal clear Lake Sunapee. Enjoy a refreshing summer menu including salad bar, rolls & butter, homemade chicken salad with grapes, sliced turkey, roast beef & cheese, Caprese salad, potato salad seasonal fruit and assorted gourmet cakes. As we cruise, our captain will provide a narration of the history and lore of this exceptionally pure glacial lake.

Private Garden Tour with the landscape director at The Fells Historic Estate and Gardens. The Fells is one of New England's finest examples of an early 20th-century summer estate. Come and discover 83.5 conserved acres of beauty and tranquility and learn the legacy of its founder, John Milton Hay. Best known as President Lincoln's private secretary, John Milton Hay also served as Secretary of State under Presidents McKinley and Roosevelt. We will enjoy a historic guided tour of this 22-room Colonial Revival home; including a special private tour of the gardens with the

landscape director. The gardens include a blend of formal and naturalistic gardens which complement the stunning beauty of the surrounding hills, lake, and forest.

Depart: 7:30 a.m., commuter lot, 500 Main Street, East. Hartford; 8 a.m., Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford. **Return:** West Hartford 8:00 p.m.; East Hartford 8:30 p.m. **Cost:** \$109 per person CHS members; \$113 per person non members. No refunds on daytrips. Please provide a substitute. Please make checks payable to CHS & mail to: Friendship Tours, 705 Bloomfield Ave., Bloomfield, CT 06002. ATTN: CHS Daytrips. Payment due with reservation. Questions? Barbara, Friendship Tours (860) 243-1630 or (800) 243-1630.



Rough Point – The Doris Duke Estate

Wednesday, August 20, 2014

The Connecticut Horticultural Society presents Rough Point – The Doris Duke Estate!

Welcome to the Newport home of Doris Duke—heiress, philanthropist and art collector.

Enjoy her magnificent oceanfront estate, still decorated as she left it, where you will see French furniture, European art, Chinese porcelains, and Turkish carpets collected from exotic locations around the world. Located on Newport's exclusive Bellevue Avenue.

The trip includes a 75-minute guided tour of the home, including the entire first floor of the house and an upstairs visit to Doris Duke's bedroom and the

special exhibition galleries. This year's exhibit, "No Rules: the Personal Style of Doris Duke," explores Doris Duke's personality and creativity through her fashion statements. Outdoors, we'll take a 45-minute landscape history and garden tour. Learn about the distinguished design history of this landscape, first created in the 1890's by Frederick Law Olmsted, the father of landscape architecture, while enjoying exquisite gardens and breathtaking views.

Afternoon time for lunch on your own in Newport Wharf area.

As a special treat, we'll visit the private garden of Arijta Retsema in Stonington on our way home! Full of beautiful

shrubs, trees, and perennials for sun and shade, including a large variety of hostas.

Depart: 7:30 a.m., Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford; 7:50 a.m., Commuter Lot, 500 Main St. East Hartford; 9:00 a.m., Olde Mistick Village, Clare Drive & 27 Coogan Blvd. **Return:** 5:30 p.m. Olde Mistick Village; 7:00 p.m. East Hartford; 7:20 p.m. West Hartford.

Cost: \$82 per person CHS Members; \$84 per person non members. No refunds on daytrips. Please provide a substitute. Please make checks payable to CHS & mail to: Friendship Tours, 705 Bloomfield Ave., Bloomfield, CT 06002. ATTN: CHS Daytrips. Payment due with reservation. Questions? Barbara, Friendship Tours (860) 243-1630 or (800) 243-1630.



Bullets over Broadway, The Musical.

Wednesday, November 5, 2014

Welcome to the 1920s! Join CHS for orchestra seats for this matinee performance of *Bullets Over Broadway* at the St. James Theatre, including a pre-show lunch.

A playwright who needs someone to back his next show; A mobster who needs some way to please his showgirl girlfriend. This could be the start of a beautiful friendship—or a brand new musical comedy! *Bullets Over Broadway* tells the story of an aspiring young play-

wright who is forced to cast a mobster's talentless girlfriend in his latest drama in order to get it produced. Woody Allen and Susan Stroman join forces for the first time with *BULLETS OVER BROADWAY*, the new Broadway show about the making of a Broadway show.

This tour includes a delicious pre-show lunch at DaRosina Ristorante in the Theater District. Choose an appetizer, main course and dessert that day from a wonderful Italian menu.

Depart: 7:30 a.m. Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford; 8:00 a.m., Commuter Lot, 500 Main St., East Hartford. **Return:** 7:30 p.m. East Hartford; 8:00 p.m. West Hartford. **Cost:** \$212 per person CHS members; \$218 per person non members. No refunds on daytrips. Please provide a substitute. Please make checks payable to CHS & mail to: Friendship Tours, 705 Bloomfield Ave., Bloomfield, CT 06002. ATTN: CHS Daytrips. Payment due with reservation. Questions? Barbara, Friendship Tours (860) 243-1630 or (800) 243-1630.

CHS Calendar at a Glance

June 5 – Board meeting, potluck supper

June 23 – Deadline for summer newsletter

June 19 – Program meeting, Rob Cardillo, “The Well -Designed Photograph”

Dated Material 🌸 *Please Rush*

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



Our June meeting is family night and begins with an ice cream social at 6:30.



Three Bloomfield Gardens Open for The Garden Conservancy

Since 1989, The Garden Conservancy has helped preserve more than 100 exceptional gardens across the United States. One way they raise funds is through their Open Days Program, which offers participants the opportunity to explore hundreds of magnificent spaces not normally open to the public. The 2014 season has already begun and some members of CHS have opened their gardens for you to wander through. In Bloomfield, my hometown, three gardens will be open to the public to check out.

Ridge View Garden, the home of Catherine Lyons, a garden designer, and Chip Caton at 59 Duncaster Road, will be open Saturday, June 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Their all-organic garden provides a welcoming environment and habitat for birds, butterflies and humans alike. You will find native plantings mixed with

edibles and ornamentals. Ash trees hauled to their local lumber mill were made into timbers to build their barn and unearthed brownstone boulders were used to create berms and retaining walls to enhance the gardens that Catherine and Chip have planted. Admission is \$5.00

Saturday, July 12th is the perfect day to take a ride to Bloomfield again and visit two distinct gardens less than a mile apart. Both are open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; admission is \$5.00 for each garden.

Terrace Hill Farm, the gardens of Cheryl Fox and Phillip Douville at 27 Duncaster Road, surrounds an 1870 farmhouse and outbuildings with a view of Talcott Ridge. Cheryl is the secretary and Phillip the treasurer of The Connecticut Daylily Society. Their extensive daylily collection of over 400 cultivars will be in flower

with a cacophony of color. Meander through the gardens to also view the dwarf conifers, unusual hostas, and their sedum collection.

Another Roadside Attraction, at 1 Adams Road, beckons. These are the gardens of Sharon and David Mann, resourceful artists and professional horticulturalists. Lighthearted and whimsical touches grace an 1880 Painted Lady Victorian abutting the northeast corner of Penwood State Park. Cascading waterfall sounds usher you into outdoor garden rooms featuring a dynamic landscape of unusual specimen trees, shrubs, perennials and tropical plants.

For more information and directions on how to get to these gardens, visit The Garden Conservancy Website <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/opendays>.

—Sharon Mann