

Celebrating 130 Years

# Connecticut Horticultural Society NEWSLETTER

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Serving Horticulturists Since 1887

April 2017

## Bergenias: Multi-seasonal, Reliable, All Purpose Perennials

by Robert Herman, retired manager of White Flower Farm and CHS member since 2011

First "discovered" by European breeders and later by English nurserymen decades ago, there are now over 75 Bergenia cultivars available to the gardening public. When I managed the Countess von Zeppelin Nursery in Germany, we carried 35 species and cultivars. Beth Chatto's nursery in England currently offers 29. In fact, Bergenias are so widely appreciated in Europe that they were named the 2017 Perennial of the Year by the Association of Perennial Plant Nurserymen in Germany.

Aside from the fact that the common names selected for these plants, Elephant Ears and Pigsqueak, were less than flattering, why haven't these uncomplicated, dependable and adaptable plants become more popular in the United States? The primary reason is the result of an extremely unfortunate misunderstanding regarding the culture of Bergenias. Most of the species selected for breeding are native to Siberia and the mountains of eastern China where they grow in the open, among rocks and scree. Only *Bergenia ciliata*, popular for its enormous, ornamental deep green foliage, prefers shade most of the day. Most of the Bergenia cultivars we grow today will only develop to their fullest potential in sunny locations, depending on the area of the country. Most American gardeners have

probably planted inferior seedlings instead of superior modern cultivars, leading to further disappointment.

Due to adaptation to their native climate, Bergenias are extremely hardy and robust perennials. All Bergenias have clusters of bell-shaped flowers, white or light to deep pink in color, that appear in April or May. Bergenia flowers are often surpassed, however, by their round to elongated lustrous, abundant foliage that, except in the case of *B. ciliata*, is attractive throughout the year. A worthy Bergenia cultivar is relatively compact, 12-18" tall, with leathery leaves that come into their own in autumn and winter, turning to shades of red or deep purple. In Europe, Bergenia leaves are incorporated into flower arrangements any time of the year and they make wonderful additions to Thanksgiving centerpieces and Advent wreaths. The ideal location would have evenly moist soil improved with organic matter but Bergenias tolerate a wide range of soils, including dryness and alkaline conditions. There are regional differences when it comes to growing Bergenias, however. In the mild and cool Pacific Northwest, they have been used in sidewalk plantings where there is no irrigation. Panayoti Kelaidis of the Denver Botanic garden says, (continued on page 4)



*Bergenia Eroica* fall color

## Snapshots in Time:

### Horticultural and Historic Moments that occurred during the 130-Year History of the Connecticut Horticultural Society

*This is the last in a series on the 130-year history of the Connecticut Horticultural Society (CHS). Here's a look at the 55 years from 1963 to today. See what went on within CHS and in the world over.*

**1963** ~ CHS President Walls Bunnell of Farmington donates quarters to house the 1000+ books and pamphlets that have been in scattered storage around Hartford. Many books had been lost in the flood of August 1955 when a Trinity College basement was inundated. Finally, the important collection would be in one place: the W.W. Bunnell Library in Farmington.

**1965** ~ Nancy & Bob Shipman, of Glastonbury's Shipman Nursery, join CHS and use the Thursday evening meetings as a date night... for the next 52 years. (continued on page 8)

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**SEE YOU THERE!**  
**CHS Spring Plant Sale & Auction**  
Bethany Covenant Church, Route 372, Berlin  
**Friday, April 28th**  
Details on back page...



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## Horticultural Happenings & Announcements

Note: Happenings are listed on a space-available basis. Please include the title, location, time, date and any fee associated with the activity. Kindly format the announcement to resemble the entries below and email it to [news@cthort.org](mailto:news@cthort.org). Deadline for April issue is April 17.

*Throughout April* – Revay's Garden and Gift Shop offers seminars and classes on garden design, fairy gardens, herbs, perennials, Easter baskets, and more. New seminars and classes are regularly added so visit [revaysgardens.com](http://revaysgardens.com) for the latest offerings and to register.

*Thurs., April 6, noon* – West Hartford Garden Club presents Bill Cusano, owner of De Vars-Phillips Florist and Antiques who will create five Spring floral arrangements that will be raffled off at the end of the demonstration. Meet at St. John's Episcopal Church, 679 Farmington Ave., West Hartford. Fee: Guest donation: \$10 for light lunch and speaker. Reservations required. Call (860) 561-0724 or visit [www.westhartfordgardenclub.org](http://www.westhartfordgardenclub.org) for more info.

*Tues., April 11, noon to 2 p.m.* – Martha Stewart will be the keynote speaker at Elizabeth Park Conservancy's annual Garden Lecture Series. The luncheon, lecture and book signing featuring Stewart will be held from noon to 2 p.m. at the Hartford Golf Club; tickets are \$150, and copies of her new book, Vegetables, will be available for \$25. Stewart's talk will focus on Two Very Different Gardens: A Mountain Landscape and a Rural Farm – a discussion of works in progress. Tickets are available through the Elizabeth Park website, [elizabethparkct.org](http://elizabethparkct.org).

*Mon., Apr. 17, 11:30 a.m.* – Simsbury Garden Club welcomes Susan Pelton of UConn Home & Garden Education Center who will discuss Container Gardening. Learn tips and tricks of design and how to maintain a beautiful container through the season. Guests are welcome (fee \$10). **Location:** Apple Barn, 60 Old Farms Road, West Simsbury. For more information, please visit [simsburygardenclub.org](http://simsburygardenclub.org).

*Thurs., April 20, 6:30 p.m.* - Windsor Conservation Commission and The Windsor Garden Club jointly are planning a forum on Invasive Vines and Plants. The FREE event will be held in the Ludlow Room at Windsor Town Hall. Contact Maureen Vagnini at (860) 688-6753 for more information.

*Thurs., April 20, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.* – Broken Arrow Nursery will celebrate Earth Day with a FREE Magonolia Festival to showcase one of the greatest and oldest flowering plants. For details visit: [www.brokenarrownursery.com/events.html](http://www.brokenarrownursery.com/events.html).

*Weds., Apr. 26, 7 p.m.* – Hardy Plant Society presents Urban & Backyard Foraging — Plant Lore & How To by Master Gardener, Terri Cusson. Terri will introduce us to some common and some not-so-well-known ways to use your backyard as a food & herbary source. Meet at the Solomon Welles House, 220 Hartford Ave, Wethersfield. Fee: Free to members. Suggested donation of \$10 for non-members. \*\*\*Special opportunity\*\*\* to meet at McCue's Wholesale Nursery before the meeting, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., for a tour & shopping. Visit [www.cthardyplantsociety.org](http://www.cthardyplantsociety.org) for more info.

*Thurs., April 27, 2 p.m.* - Jaw-Dropping Flowering Shrubs - the New No-Fuss Glamour Plants! Online lecture by Kerri Mendez of Perennially Yours, includes a detailed handout, opportunity to ask questions during the webinar, door prizes and a CEU form. Registrants do not have to attend the live broadcast - a link and password will be sent to all registrants after the lecture to view at your leisure. For more information visit [www.pyours.com/webinar-jaw-dropping-shrubs](http://www.pyours.com/webinar-jaw-dropping-shrubs).



# Straight Up or On the Rocks: Phlox

## Thursday, April 20

With James Locklear, Director of Conservation, Lauritzen Gardens, Nebraska



**P**hlox is a genus of 60 species that includes many of America's most beloved wildflowers and has yielded plants that are cultivated by gardeners around the world.

On Thursday evening, April 20, Jim Locklear, will explore the ecology of phlox species in their natural haunts across the U.S. and the history of their use in the garden. As Jim spent fifteen years researching and writing a book on this important group of plants that was published by Timber Press in 2011, he is certainly well-versed. His illustrated presentation to the Society is part botanical travelogue and part personal narrative.



James Locklear

Jim Locklear has had a love of plants since childhood and has been fortunate to work in public gardens most of

his career. He is currently Director of Conservation at Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha, Nebraska. He has worked in the field of public horticulture for 30 years, previously at the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains in Kansas, the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum and the Morton Arboretum in Illinois. Jim has introduced several Great Plains native wildflowers into the nursery trade. He is the author *Phlox: A Natural History and Gardener's Guide*, (2011) and editor of the revised edition of Claude Barr's wildflower classic, *Jewels of the Plains* (2015). Jim received the Edgar T. Wherry Award from the North American Rock Garden Society for "outstanding contribution in the dissemination of botanical and horticultural information about native North American plants." 🌸

**German nurseryman Karl Foerster once declared that “a garden without phlox is an error!”**

## Why I'm looking forward to James Locklear's presentation...

By Fairlee Latawic, member Education Committee and CHS Historian

I've always had a fondness for the many species of Phlox because of their diversity in the garden – there are the tall Phlox paniculatas that have been the backbones of the perennial border, the shade-loving woodland divaricatas and stoloniferas, the creeping subulatas that will thrive in the worst soil and conditions and for the rock gardener, there are the alpines for rocky outcrops and scree. While doing some research on possible program topics and speakers, I discovered that James Locklear had written an entire book devoted to phlox and that he gave talks on the subject. I was intrigued right from the start. But it is the Preface of his book that has had me enthralled and wanting to know more – both about the man and his topic. In his Preface he tells the story of a remote mountain in Wyoming – deep in the interior of the Wind River Indian Reservation. Today the mountain is unnamed – but in 1873 Captain William A. Jones, who led a scientific mission to that locale, had christened it Phlox Mountain. Upon reading a reference to this mountain Mr. Locklear felt compelled to make a pilgrimage there – but he had to find it first, which took research as well as permission from the Shoshone and Arapaho tribes. I want to meet the man who would go to such lengths to see Phlox multiflora on a remote mountain top and hear more of his story and the phlox he writes about.



### CHS Program Meeting

Meetings are open to everyone with a drop-in fee of \$10 collected at the door from non-members.

For more information, visit [www.cthort.org](http://www.cthort.org).

**Date:** Thursday, April 20

**Time:** Program starts at 7:30 p.m. but come early – 6:45 p.m. – to socialize, browse CHS library books, participate in raffle items, look at travel fliers or get your plant questions answered by our resident horticulturalist, Kevin Wilcox.

**Location:** Emanuel Synagogue,  
160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford



### Speaker Feedback

After you attend a speaker meeting, please take a moment to tell us what you thought of the presenter. Your candid feedback helps us to arrange for speakers that will hold your interest. Take the four-question survey on our website – [cthort.org](http://cthort.org). Click on the survey icon found on any page then chose the speaker you want to rate. Thank you for your feedback.

## "Bergenias: All Purpose Perennials", from page 1

"they're good garden plants throughout the Rocky Mountain region great plains north of zone 8," while Annette Sherill of Plant Delights and Sarah Roberts of Goizueta Gardens in Atlanta told me that Bergenias suffer in the warm humidity of the southeast.

**Name:** Bergenia species and cultivars  
**Common name:** elephant ears; pigsqueak  
**Hardiness:** Zones 3-8 in sun to part shade  
**Mature height:** 1 to 1.5 feet  
**Mature spread:** 1 to 1.5 feet  
**Classification:** herbaceous perennial  
**Landscape use:** borders, beds, rock gardens, ground cover, naturalizing, containers  
**Ornamental characteristics:** white, pink or red flowers in spring; evergreen foliage with red to purple fall/winter color

When it comes to maintenance, Bergenias demand little of a gardener's time. It basically comes down to cutting off spent flower stalks and removing withered leaves in the spring. They are long-lived and seldom need dividing but if a plant gets straggly after a few years, one can cut it back severely to rejuvenate it. Although Bergenias are exceptionally hardy, in zone 5 and northwards it makes good sense to protect the foliage from winter winds. The one pest that can cause damage is the black vine weevil, which seems to have an affinity for all plants in the Saxifrage family, including Astilbes and Heucheras. Prevent incursion by avoiding plants with the tell-tale notches in leaves but

control of the weevil can be achieved with nematode treatments in the spring and fall. I'm told that slugs can be a problem but I've never seen slug damage on the foliage. Bergenias are rabbit and deer resistant.

Homeowners can propagate plants by simple division but nurseries will want to cut off longer rhizomes from stock plants in late fall, remove the leaves, slice them into 1.5 inch pieces, lay them horizontally in trays and cover them with sand. The rooted cutting pieces can be potted up in the spring. Bergenias also lend themselves to tissue culture, for those who want to build up their inventory quickly.

Recommended new cultivars for first-time Bergenia growers:

- 'Cabernet': deep, lustrous pink flowers with wine-purple fall/winter foliage
- 'Dragonfly': semi-double pink flowers, red autumn foliage
- 'Eroica': violet-pink flowers; red fall color; late bloomer

Bergenias are truly versatile plants that make a striking show on their own, especially as groundcovers, or in combination with other perennials such as Astrantia, Geranium and Carex species and cultivars. Use them to border a path, as specimens in rock gardens, on the shores of ponds and as an underplanting around shrubs. The contrast of fine-textured



Bergenia Cabernet

perennials and most grasses makes a spectacular mix and Daffodils and species Tulips planted along with Bergenias will light up a spring garden. Finally, these plants are ideally suited for containers, providing three seasons of interest with their distinctive spring flowers and glossy, often vibrant, foliage.

No matter what time of the year you take a walk through your gardens, Bergenias will always be there to greet you.

*Robert Herman managed White Flower Farm in Connecticut and the Countess von Zeppelin Perennial Plant Nursery in Germany before becoming a professor of horticulture at Radcliffe College, the University of Massachusetts and Naugatuck Valley Community College. His articles have appeared in English, European and American publications and he has lectured throughout the United States.*

## Visit Colorblends Spring Garden in Bridgeport

Spring explodes in flowers as 40,000 snowdrops, crocus, daffodils, tulips, alliums and other bulbs bloom in sequence at the Colorblends House & Spring Garden at 893 Clinton Avenue in Bridgeport. The public is welcome to visit the garden from early-April through mid-May. Street parking is plentiful. To learn what's blooming, visitors can follow garden updates on [www.facebook.com/colorblendshouseandspringgarden](http://www.facebook.com/colorblendshouseandspringgarden). All bulb flowers and blends in the garden are labeled. Design ideas abound. During the six-week bloom season, visitors are also welcome to tour Colorblends House where a pop-up art gallery showcases the work of invited local artists and artisans. There is no admission fee to enjoy the garden. A donation of \$3 (\$10 for four or more) is requested to visit the house and art gallery. Visit [www.gardennewsbreak.com](http://www.gardennewsbreak.com) for details.



Images: Colorblends.com



## Anniversaries to be Celebrated in April

Invitations were recently sent to those members who will reach a significant milestone in their membership with CHS. During our April 20 meeting we will recognize members with 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and up to 65 years of belonging to CHS. Don't miss this fun event!

Check your mail. Are you one of our milestone members?

If so, please RSVP at [connhort@gmail.com](mailto:connhort@gmail.com) or call Mary Anna at (860) 529-8713.



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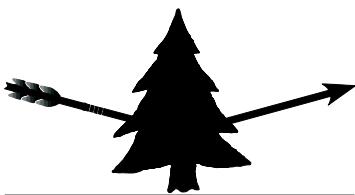
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Japanese Maples May 17<sup>th</sup>

Mountain Laurel Festival June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>

Cuttings Propagation v2.0 June 28<sup>th</sup>

View our catalog and event details at:

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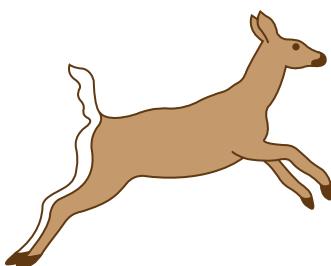
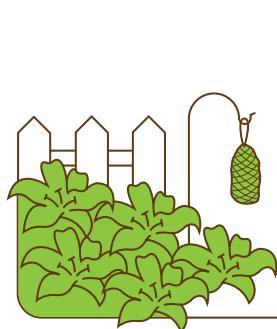
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**GO ORGANIC LLC** 1244 Thompson Road, Thompson 06277, (860) 935-5235, <http://goorganicllc.com/>

**GOTTA'S FARM**, 661 Glastonbury Tpke., Portland 06480, (860) 342-1844, [gottasfarm.com](http://gottasfarm.com)

**HARKEN'S GARDEN CENTER**, 287 Route 5, East Windsor 06088, (860) 528-6806, discount applies to plant material only, [harkenslandscapesupply.com](http://harkenslandscapesupply.com)

**LARSON'S GARDEN CENTER**, 26 Covey Road, Burlington 06013, (860) 404-5747, [larsonsgardencenter.com](http://larsonsgardencenter.com)

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**WARNER NURSERY AND GARDEN CENTER**, 76 Riverside R0ad, Simsbury 06070, (860) 651-0204, [warnernursery.com](http://warnernursery.com)

**WOODLAND GARDENS**, 168 Woodland St., Manchester 06040, (860) 643-8474, [woodlandgardens-ct.com](http://woodlandgardens-ct.com)

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860 529-8713  
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(Updated March 2017)

## Last Call for 2017 Mehlquist Award Deadline is April 30th



In 1987, on its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the CT Horticultural Society established the Gustav Mehlquist Award to honor Dr. Mehlquist for his extraordinary contribution to horticulture in the State of Connecticut. Dr. Mehlquist, who had been long recognized as one of the leading horticulturists in the United States, was a member of CHS. Every year CHS seeks nominations for this prestigious award named in his honor.

If you know a Connecticut resident who deserves to be honored and recognized for their significant and extraordinary contributions in horticulture or the art of gardening, please submit a nomination letter describing the background and qualifications of your nominee to Mary Anna Martell, CHS Office, 2433 Main St, Rocky Hill, CT 06067 or via email to [Connhort@gmail.com](mailto:Connhort@gmail.com) by April 30th, 2017.

## CHS Receives Generous Gift

Last month, the Connecticut Horticultural Society (CHS) received a generous bequest from the estate of the late Mr. Phillip Keating. This large gift will bring the Society's assets to nearly \$1 million and greatly helps to solidify our financial stability into the future.

When asked how this gift affects CHS, Herb Isaacson, Chairman of Planned Giving, noted that "gifts from members and friends to endow speakerships and education programs will strengthen CHS and permit it to maintain reasonable dues levels. I encourage both members and others to make either lifetime or estate gifts for which they will be recognized. Gifts can also be designated to be used at the discretion of the Society Board of Directors. And remember, since CHS is a charitable organization, there are currently tax benefits for gifts."

Since this donation is specified as a 'bequest' there is no requirement attached to how the money must be used. As a guide, we will use the conversations that Mr. Keating had with friend, past president Nancy Brennick. For many years Nancy delivered weekly flowers from her garden and regaled Phil with the goings on of CHS. He counseled that spending on technology would be smart. (Indeed, he always had the latest version of audio & Apple electronics for his beloved opera listening.) He also agreed that an endowed speaker program would ensure the future of CHS as a leader in gardener education. Investing and living frugally off the interest (just as we currently do with our endowment) was a concept he subscribed to his entire life.

In light of this guidance, our board will consider the following suggestion from Nancy Brennick:

- \$60,000 Louise D. and Philip G. Keating Endowed Speaker; one time per year at a \$2,500 level; preference to food growing /related topic. Louise was Phil's mom and instilled in him a love of gardening.
- \$15,000 directed to technology
- Balance of approximately \$90,000 to be added to the CHS endowment in honor of its frugal member habits that prolong its longevity

Suggestions from our membership are welcome and should be addressed to the Board of Directors for consideration at their April 6 meeting.

## Welcome New Members

### BUSINESSES:

Torrison Stone & Garden (Colleen Kinyon),  
Durham  
Revay's Gardens & Gifts (Kathy Hart),  
Broad Brook  
Miskovsky Landscaping (Paul Miskovsky),  
Falmouth Mass.

### INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES:

Mary Beattie, Wallingford  
Lynn Skokan, Torrington  
Marilyn Jezek, Tolland  
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Bess Amamod, West Hartford  
Suzanne Rinaldi, Goshen

Julia Green, Norfolk

John & Sandi O'Connor, Suffield

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Steve & Marilynn Klepfer, Brookfield

Robyn Voshardt, Lakeville

Agnes Dzenutis, Norfolk

Kevin Shen, Storrs

Michael & Denise Richardson, Manchester

Diane Planken, Higganum

Joanne Saalfrank, Wolcott

Christine Sullivan, Portland

Denise Rock, Woodbridge

Jill King, Hamden

Kathy Kinane, New Hartford

Debra Hultgren, Storrs

Karen Stevens, Bristol

Sarah Pawlowski, Enfield

Betty Jones, Farmington

Barbara Corbett, Killingworth

Deborah Moyer, West Hartford

Piper Sleight, West Hartford

Dean Powers, Scituate Mass.

Larry Gruber, West Hartford

Guy & Darlene Simonian, West Hartford

Ana Figueroa-Commella, Bloomfield

Deborah Hoponick, Waterbury

Margaret Welsh, Middletown

## Snapshots from the Past, from page 1

**1972** ~ In September, Walter Cronkite reports the coming of the “*New Ice Age*,” and warns that temperatures will decrease continually for the next 10,000 years, according to scientists.

**1975** ~ *John C. Willard*, (CHS President, 1924) explains in retrospect, “Books without number have been written and are available to even the rankest amateur, but nothing takes the place of talking with the kind of down to earth gardeners that [attend our] meetings.”

**1977** ~ *Friendship Tours* launches a premier garden-related travel program with CHS. Guided by beloved Lois Isaacson, it takes us around the world visiting exquisite private and public gardens along the way.

**1987** ~ In our 100th year of educating gardeners, the **Mehlquist Award** is established to recognize a Connecticut plantsman or woman who has had an impact on the art of gardening or has made an extraordinary contribution to the world of horticulture. The honor is named for CHS member **Gustav A.L. Mehlquist** (1906-1999), a world-renowned plant breeder and treasured UConn professor.

**1998** ~ *The Giving Tree*: a FUNdraising campaign brings in \$30,000 for CHS to move its office & library to Rocky Hill.

**2004** ~ “*Like the 17th century gardeners who knew they could never recapture Eden, I know that, by gardening, I can never recapture the earth as it was before man tampered with it. But it is the closest I can get.*” Rea Lubar Duncan, (1920-2004) New York Times writer, CHS member and columnist.

**2010** ~ Plant Explorer & horticulturist **Dan Hinckley** is our keynote speaker for the biennial Spring Symposium. “*Stop following the rules... none exist for your own garden- (it) is a personal odyssey. I would no sooner hire someone to design my garden than raise my children. ...All the entertainment you will ever need is right outside your back door.*”

**2012** ~ CHS Board of Directors adds scholarships for the horticulture program at Naugatuck Valley Community College. The USDA adds Zone 7a to Conn..

**2013** ~ Nurseryman **Dick Jaynes** of Broken Arrow Nursery, Hamden is honored by CHS with a scholarship in his name to be given to a NVCC horticulture student each year.

**2014** ~ *Celebrating 55 years of scholarship giving* CHS invites scholars back. Members hear about scholars’ successes in horticulture and the impact of their CHS scholarship. At UConn, three namesake scholarships are awarded annually: Ludwig Hoffman, David J.A. Smith and Pat Carpenter.

**2017** ~ As we celebrate 130 years of educating gardeners, *Friendship Tours* celebrates 40 years of fabulous garden adventures with CHS. Membership has grown to nearly 600. We have participated in more than 40 commercial flower shows across the years communicating our Mission. Thousands have attended our hands-on workshops, symposiums and monthly program meetings. And we plan for the next 130!.

*Nancy Brennick compiled this CHS historic timeline for display at the recent CT Flower & Garden Show. Her complete 130-year timeline can be viewed on the CHS website at cthort.org.*

## CHS Travel

### The Hudson Valley: Four Grand Gardens in Two Days!

Sunday & Monday, August 13-14, 2017



A mid-summer getaway to Rhinebeck, New York will have you staying at the historic Beekman Arms/Delamater Inn. The two-day excursion includes dinner at the Inn and visits to four grand gardens in the picturesque Hudson Valley:



Beatrix Ferrand Garden



Vanderbilt Gardens



Innisfree Gardens



Stonecrop Gardens

Fee: \$449 per person (twin) or \$549 per person (single), \$50 discount for CHS members.

# CHS Travel

## Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens Boothbay Harbor, Maine

Sunday - Tuesday, September 10-12, 2017



Early September is an ideal time of year to enjoy gardens along the Maine shoreline. This two-night excursion takes you to Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens where Executive Director Bill Cullina will meet exclusively with our group and also arrange special tours of private gardens in the area. In addition, tours of Fuller Gardens and Hamilton House & Garden are also scheduled. Stay at the scenic Boothbay Harbor Inn. And, of course, no trip to Maine would be complete without a Lobsterbake!

**Fee:** \$639 per person (twin) or \$719 per person (single), \$50 discount for CHS members.

## SAVE the DATES! 2017 Annual Holiday Trip

Saturday & Sunday, December 2-3, 2017



You may feel that the 2017 holidays are far off but we are already making plans for the CHS 2017 Annual Holiday Tour. Mark your calendar for the weekend of December 2-3. This year's festive excursion will take us to the elegant Mt. Washington Hotel. Stay tuned for details to come!

**To reserve your spot or for more information, please call Friendship Tours at (860) 243-1630 / toll-free (800) 243-1630 or visit [www.friendshiptours.net](http://www.friendshiptours.net) and select CHS Tours.**

## CHS 17th Annual Nursery Crawl to Merrimack Valley, Mass.

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Join in on the traditional CHS Nursery Crawl – a gardener's start to a successful growing season! This year's crawl will be focused in and around the Merrimack Valley in the northeast corner of Massachusetts.

- The day begins at Wilson Farm in Lexington where it has been operating since 1884. Four generations of Wilson's still work on the farm today, producing over 125 different varieties of fruit, vegetables, herbs & flowers. Their open air nursery has been described as "paradise in New England."
- Next stop is Framingham where we'll savor lunch at the famous, family-owned Ken's Steak House. Lots of delicious choices here! Menu: Ken's House Salad topped with your choice of grilled chicken, sirloin tips or salmon; OR French Dip sandwich with a side salad ; OR Fish & Chips.



- Final stop will be in Wayland at Russell's Garden Center. Established in 1876 as a farm market, it remains a family owned and operated business. Inside, you'll find many shops including garden, plant, gift & toy, flower, candle, bird, water gardening and seasonal Christmas. Russell's prides itself as socially responsible and has been a leader in creating partnerships with people and organizations of all social and economic backgrounds.



**Fee:** \$89 per person, \$85 for CHS members. **From West Hartford:** depart Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, at 7:30 a.m., return at 7:00 p.m. **From East Hartford:** depart commuter lot at 500 Main Street at 8:00 a.m., return at 6:30 p.m.

Connecticut Horticultural Society  
2433 Main Street  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

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## Dated Material Please Rush

### CHS Calendar at a Glance

- Thurs., April 6** – CHS Board of Directors meeting, 7:00 p.m., Rocky Hill office
- Mon., April 17** – May Newsletter content deadline
- Thurs., April 20** – CHS Speaker Meeting, West Hartford
- Friday, April 28** – CHS Plant Sale & Auction, 6:30 p.m., Bethany Covenant Church, Berlin

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



Celebrating 130 Years

## Friday, April 28 – Come to the CHS Spring Plant Sale & Auction!

by Trish Lyons, Plant Sale & Auction Committee Chairperson

Be a part of this exciting tradition that has become a sure sign of spring. Admission is FREE! Take advantage of bargain prices in our Plant Sale, participate in our Silent Auction and bid during the Live Auction on collectible new introductions from our nursery supporters and rare plant divisions from our members' gardens. You'll find trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, assorted garden treasures and books. The evening's proceeds fund scholarships for deserving horticulture students at UConn and Naugatuck Valley Community College.

**Location:** Bethany Covenant Church, 785 Mill Street (Rt 372), Berlin



### Auction schedule – Friday, April 28:

- 4:30 p.m. Volunteers arrive for setup  
5:00 p.m. Doors open for donations  
6:30 p.m. Preview & Silent Auction  
7:00 p.m. Plant Sale  
7:15 p.m. Plant Auction

### How you can help:

Volunteers are needed for all sorts of things from donations and pricing, to set up and break down. Send a note to [cthortauction@gmail.com](mailto:cthortauction@gmail.com) if you're willing to lend a hand. Or, hang a few flyers where you work or shop. Printable flyer is available on our website – cthort.org – or at the Rocky Hill office. And, of course, we are always in need of enthusiastic plant buyers!

Donation details (*donor letter and tax receipt form available on cthort.org*):

- ▶ **Pot donations** early to allow them to recover and adjust to potted life. Please use pots so that your plant displays well and holds its soil (no paper cups, plastic bags, etc.). Resist making several small divisions; larger plants sell better.
- ▶ **Label plants** with common and botanical names (if possible) and cultural preferences. A picture really helps sell your donation.
- ▶ **Drop donations** – along with your name, address and list of plants donated – on auction day from 5 to 6 p.m. Plant list and donor info is required to receive a record of donation.
- ▶ **Ask nurseries and garden centers for donations.** Most nurseries are receptive to the request. Donations are tax deductible for nurseries and a good way to advertise to CHS members. Please bring a list of the plants donated and the name and address of the nursery when you drop-off so that CHS can properly acknowledge the donation.
- ▶ **Donations accepted from 5 to 6 p.m. on the day of the auction.**