

Connecticut Horticultural Society NEWSLETTER

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Serving Horticulturists Since 1887

June 2017

Bats: Imperiled Allies

by Gerri Griswold, White Memorial Conservation Center Director of Administration and Development

Within seconds of speaking with Gerri, you know her mission is to spread the good word about bats. For too long, they have been misunderstood and it is her charge to set the record straight... before it's too late.

Since 2006, the number of bats in the Northeastern U.S. has plummeted by more than 80% from white-nose syndrome (WNS), a fungus that attacks them during hibernation. In some areas of the Northeast and Canada, the death tolls have reached 90-100%. Here in Connecticut, we have lost 80-90% of our bat population. This sudden and widespread mortality associated with WNS is unprecedented in hibernating bats, among which disease outbreaks have not been previously documented. It is unlikely that species of bats affected by WNS will recover quickly because most are long-lived and have only a single pup per year. Consequently, even in the absence of disease, bat populations do not fluctuate widely in numbers over time.

The white-nose fungus was discovered in New York's Howe Caverns in 2006 where it was likely introduced by a biologist or explorer who carried it in on shoes or gear after visiting caves in Europe, where white-nose fungus originates. Today, the



Gerri Griswold holds a rare beauty – an Eastern Red Bat – that lives exclusively in Maple trees and is migratory.

fungus has been confirmed in 28 states and 5 Canadian provinces and has spread from New York all the way to Alabama and Washington State. Keep in mind, however, that some states have not allocated resources to study their bat populations so it is likely that white-nose fungus has spread even further.

The cold-loving fungus thrives in caves where bats hibernate en masse. The fungus attacks their faces and wings while in hibernation and the discomfort causes them to awaken to scratch. Many use up too much of their reserves battling the fungus and, as a result, cannot survive hibernation. Those that live can end up with brittle wings that develop holes and become less effective in catching prey.

The drop in the bat population is cause for great concern since bats are beneficial to man in several ways. Their survival is essential for a sustainable natural environment. They consume many destructive agricultural pests such as cutworm and corn borer moths, potato beetles, and grasshoppers, saving U.S. farmers billions in crop damage each year. In Connecticut, bats are the single largest predator of night-flying insects, providing a tremendous ecological service. Mosquitoes and similar "people" pests are eliminated much more efficiently by bats than by birds or bug zappers. Consider the mosquito-borne illnesses found just in the U.S.: zika, yellow fever, various forms of encephalitis, dengue, and even our beloved dogs can be stricken with heartworm from a mosquito. In tropical

(continued on page 4)

SEE YOU THERE!
CHS ICE CREAM SOCIAL
 Thursday, June 15
 6:30 p.m. (note earlier time)

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Membership Dues:	
Individual.....	\$49
Family.....	\$69
Senior Individual (65+).....	\$44
Senior Family (65+).....	\$64
\$30 under 30 years.....	\$30
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Horticultural Business Member.....	\$100 or \$250
Organizations.....	\$80

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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. Deadline for Summer issue is June 15.

Saturday, June 3, 11 a.m. – Van Wilgen’s is hosting Perennial Rose Rally featuring special guest Dr. Allan Armitage. Dr. Armitage has an unrivaled passion for horticulture and teaching those who love to learn. The event is FREE, open to the public and will be held at Van Wilgen’s Garden Center, 51 Valley Road, North Branford. To learn more about Perennial Rose Rally and Dr Armitage’s visit, call Gina Amoroso at 203-488-2110 x 115.

Sunday, June 11, noon to 4 p.m. & Monday, June 12, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens Garden Tour expands to include venues in Stamford, New Canaan and Chappaqua New York as well as the Bartlett Arboretum home grounds. Admission to all gardens is \$50 for members, \$65 for non-members. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit: <http://www.bartlettarboretum.org/events-concerts/2017/6/4/garden-tour>

Saturday, June 17, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. – Perennial Planters of Manchester Garden Tour, “Through the Garden Gate.” On the day of the tour, tickets will be available at 36 Kingswood Drive, Manchester for \$25. There will also be a plant sale and garden boutique at that address. Advanced tickets

are \$20 and are available at several Manchester and Glastonbury retailers. For a complete list, visit www.manchestergardenclubs.org and click on Perennial Planters. Monies raised help to fund The Munro Garden in Manchester, Friends of Elizabeth Park, The Manchester Land Trust, Wickham Park, and many other foundations and public gardens.

Sunday, June 18, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine – Elizabeth Park Conservancy hosts Rose Sunday with 15,000 roses on display in the historic Rose Garden. There will be garden tours and scavenger hunts. Free!

Saturday, June 24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – As part of The Garden Conservancy’s Open Days Program, The Stubenrauch Gardens in Glastonbury will be open for viewing. Admission is \$7. Visit <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/open-days/garden-directory/the-stubenrauch-gardens> for more information. Three other gardens in Glastonbury are open as well.

Wednesday, August 2, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. – The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station hosts its 107th Annual Plant Science Day at Lockwood Farm in Hamden. Free!

Della Winans makes the Top Ten on the “60 Over 60” List



Duncaster launched the state’s first 60 Over 60 awards in January 2017 looking for people ages 60 or better who are living lives to be admired, lives that inspire. The results of their statewide search were published in the May 12 issue of the “Hartford Courant.” Our very own Della Winans made it to the Top 10 of the list.

Della and her husband, Roger, have been longtime members, recently celebrating their 35th anniversary with CHS.

Della served as President from 1995 to 1997 and received the respected CHS Service award in 2006. It is no surprise that she has been recognized as a “Gardener Extraordinaire” for using her love of the land to strengthen her community.

Link to read the entire article about Della in the 5-12-17 issue of the Hartford Courant: <http://digitaledition.courant.com/launch.aspx?eid=c684685e-9aa0-439f-8b11-8f614baf22e4&pnum=61>



Landscape Design Bloopers

Thursday, June 15

with C.L. Fornari, Author, Speaker, Radio Host and blogger



This final presenter of the 2016-2017 season is financed by the *Lois and Herbert Isaacson Endowed Lecture* fund and this year's speaker is C.L. Fornari. In her talk, C.L. looks at design mistakes that are commonly made by landscapers and home-gardeners alike. By analyzing where things have gone wrong, and sometimes seeing a corrected version through the magic of Photoshop, C.L. clearly demonstrates why some garden designs look better than others.

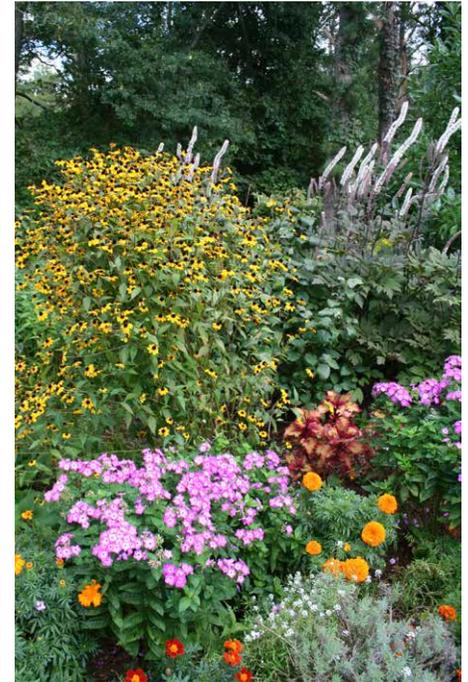
Join fellow CHS members for an exclusive and intimate workshop with C.L. earlier in the day at CHS member Lynn Cavo's garden in Farmington. See page 6 for details.

C.L. is a former artist who fell into garden communications in 1995. She is the author of many articles and seven books. Her latest, "The Cocktail Hour Garden," was published by St. Lynn's Press in 2016. She also hosts two radio programs on Saturdays, heard on WXTK and WRKO Boston. She speaks to a wide range of audiences, from horticultural professionals to non-gardeners. In addition to speaking, radio, and

writing, C.L. blogs and runs a consultation service for Hyannis Country Garden, an independent garden center.

In 2012, C.L. was awarded the Garden Communicator award from the Perennial Plant Association and in 2013 won three awards from the Garden Writers Association. In 2015 C.L. launched the first annual Cape Cod Hydrangea Festival, a ten-day regional celebration of gardens that in the first two years has raised over \$70,000 for local non-profits.

Her not-so-secret mission is to cultivate a gardening revival...in the meantime, her greatest pleasure comes from walking into her front yard veggie garden in the evening and asking, "What's for dinner?" C.L. grows multitudes of plants at Poison Ivy Acres on Cape Cod, Mass. and blogs at GardenLady.com.



Photos of C.L. Fornari's gardens in Cape Cod, Mass. Taken by Fairlee Latawic



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.

Date: Thursday, June 15

Time: Speaker will begin at 7:30 p.m. but **meeting starts early at 6:30 p.m.** for the Ice Cream Social. If you'll like, bring a centerpiece from your garden for your table.

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. Click on the survey icon found on any page then chose the speaker you want to rate. Thank you for your feedback.

“Bats: Imperiled Allies”, from page 1

regions, bats pollinate flowers and disperse seeds for many commercially available plants, like almonds, avocados, bananas, figs, and allspice. Bats also have contributed to advances in navigation, vaccine and antibiotic production, birth control and fertility studies, and the development of alternative fuels like gasohol.

What can you do to help bats? Most importantly, share your knowledge with others of just how important bats are to humans. Because bats have long been incorrectly viewed as scary-looking animals with a tendency to carry rabies, their plight has received little support. You can serve as a catalyst to set the record straight through education.

As landowners and gardeners, eliminate the use of pesticides on your property and in your gardens. Although our Connecticut bats eat night flying insects, those insects have been buzzing around your lawn, yard and plants. If you are using harmful chemicals, they will ultimately make their way to the wild life in your community. In addition, minimize the disturbance to natural bat habitats around your home (e.g., reduce outdoor lighting, minimize tree clearing, protect streams and wetlands).

Having appropriate lodgings for bat colonies, which can eat up to 1.5 million insects a year, is important to maintaining ecological balance. Bat houses have been widely used in Europe for nearly 75 years. Like bird houses, they provide an artificial roost site for bats. Much has been learned in recent years about bat roosting preferences. The following factors are critical to the success of bat houses: maintaining suitable temperature ranges, the distance to food and water, the size and shape of inner roosting spaces and the roughness of clinging surfaces. Patterns for a small- and large-sized bat house can be found on the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection at: <http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2723&q=325964>.

Install boxes where bats currently reside to greatly enhance the likelihood the bats will take to them. Bat houses attached to the sides of buildings have had the greatest reported success. Free-standing poles in open areas also work, but tree-mounted houses generally remain unused. Bat houses placed near water

or wetland areas often are most successful. Installing a bat house before April improves the chance of occupancy but don't be discouraged if bats do not immediately move into their new home. It is not unusual for a house to stand empty for at least a year before it is used.

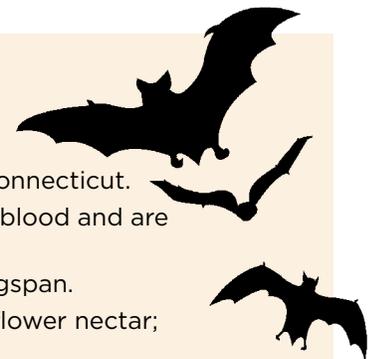
CONNECTICUT BATS

- Eight species of bats can be found in Connecticut:
 1. Little Brown Bat (*Myotis lucifugus*)
 2. Big Brown Bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*)
 3. Eastern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)
 4. Tricolored Bat (*Pipistrellus subflavus*)
 5. Silver-haired Bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*)
 6. Hoary Bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*)
 7. Red Bat (*Lasiurus borealis*)
 8. Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*)
- The two most common bats in Connecticut are the little brown and big brown bats. The 6 remaining species are less common and seldom seen.
- Silver-haired, hoary and red bats are tree-roosting bats and are listed as Connecticut species of special concern.
- The state and federally endangered Indiana Bat was recently found hibernating in Connecticut.
- No confirmed sightings of the eastern small-footed bat (*Myotis leibii*) have been recorded here in several decades. It is a Connecticut species of special concern.

The White Memorial Conservation Center provides year-round environmental education programs for children and adults that inspire understanding, appreciation and respect for the natural world. Gerri Griswold is available to speak about the importance of bats to groups of all ages. For more information, please visit www.whitememorialcc.org, or contact Gerri at gerri@whitememorialcc.org. 🦇

Interesting Bat Facts

- Bats are the only mammals capable of actual flight.
- A single little brown bat can eat 1,200 mosquitoes in an hour.
- There are almost 1,000 different species of bats in the world, but only 8 are found in Connecticut.
- Only 3 species of bats feed on animal blood. These vampire bats prefer to drink cattle blood and are only found in Latin America.
- The smallest bat is the size of a small mouse; the largest, a fruit eater, has a 6-foot wingspan.
- Bats have varied diets: 70 percent eat insects; many tropical species eat fruit or drink flower nectar; some bats even catch frogs and fish.
- A June, 2015 Boston Globe article estimated that 1,455,051 to 2,910,102 estimated pounds of insects in the Northeast now go uneaten by bats annually because of white-nose syndrome.
- In general, bats are not dangerous. Like any other mammal, they can carry rabies, although less than 1% of all bats are infected with the virus. More people die annually from dog attacks, bee stings, lightning and household accidents than from bat-transmitted rabies.
- Bats do not get caught in people's hair. Bats that swoop near people are usually after insects such as mosquitoes.



Society Personality: Trish Lyons, Plant Sale & Auction Chairperson



Trish found her way to the Connecticut Horticultural Society (CHS) through the Master Gardener Program in Brooklyn, Conn. that she completed after retiring. She received a brochure about CHS in her class that sparked her interest. Trish became interested in working on the Plant Sale & Auction after hearing Leslie Shields plead for someone to come forward to chair the committee at a Speaker Meeting. Leslie had been at the helm for 7 years and was ready to step down. Trish began to consider the role. After all, she had managed a team of program developers at CIGNA for more than a decade, so she thought she had the skill set to keep a large-scale project organized. And, Leslie agreed to work closely with Trish until she felt comfortable stepping out on her own – an ideal way to switch a committee from one person to another. The switch began with the 2016 Spring Plant Sale & Auction. And today, one year later, Trish is comfortable in her new role and Leslie continues to support the event as a dedicated volunteer. I spoke with Trish to learn more about her and her gardening preferences.

Describe your gardening style. When I first started to garden, I grew vegetables. Then my work prevented me from devoting a lot of time to gardening and I took a hiatus to focus on my career. When I began again, my gardening focus changed to ornamentals.

What do you like best about your own garden? I have about 2 ½ acres of land around my home. More than half of that is natural, wooded property. The remainder I've transformed into lawn and gardens. When choosing the location for my gardens, I kept in mind the view I get of the garden from inside my home and made sure to position them where I could also enjoy seeing them from inside. My "lawn" is mostly wildflowers and moss.



Trish Lyons (far right) staffs the Plant Sale & Auction with past-chair Leslie Shields (center), and Communications Director, Barb Skomorowski, (left)

Which plant(s) do you wish you could grow but can't? Columbine. I find them to be such a pretty flower but critters always ate them and I eventually gave up trying to grow them.

Did someone in your life inspire you to become interested in gardening? Not really. Guess you could say I'm a first-generation gardener in my family. Ever since I was a kid, I always enjoyed being outdoors and being active; two natural traits that are a big part of gardening.

What gardens do you like to visit? Of all the gardens I've visited, I'd have to say that Innisfree in Millbrook New York is my favorite.

What is your biggest gardening success? There is a shade garden outside my kitchen window that I have reclaimed from the clutches of invasive bittersweet and multiflora rose. It was quite an effort to turn it into a garden. It is filling in nicely now and I can see it from my kitchen window.

What is your biggest gardening mistake? Location. Location. Location. Over the years, I've learned how important it is to settle a plant in the correct spot that favors its soil and light preferences. That makes a remarkable difference to how well the plant grows.

Do you have a favorite plant? Why is it your favorite? This year, my favorite plant is Prairie Smoke. It has a whimsical Dr. Suess look which I love to include in my gardens.

What are you working on now in the garden? I'm focusing on cleaning up a butterfly garden that needs some attention.

Care to share a fact about yourself that others may find surprising? I have practiced Tai Chi for more than 20 years!

Protect Yourself Against Ticks

by Kathy Niver, Awards Committee Chairperson

Two years ago we had an unprecedented acorn fall – also known as a 'mast year' for acorns. You may recall it was like walking on marbles wherever an oak tree lived.

I'm an avid listener of Margaret Roach's podcast and her guest at the time, Dr. Rick Ostfeld, a disease ecologist from Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, New York discussed how a robust acorn drop initiates a complex series of ecological chain reactions. And not just in the obvious ways, like feeding turkeys, chipmunks or deer, but in influencing Gypsy moth outbreaks and tick-borne disease risk, and even the reproductive success of ground-nesting songbirds.

One thing I learned is that rodents store these nutritious nuggets for

winter food. Because food was plentiful the winter of 2015-16, more litters than usual were born and survived. That seemed evident by the number of chipmunks I encountered in 2016 on the many properties I maintain. Chipmunks weren't the only beneficiaries of the acorns; white-footed mice (carriers of deer ticks with Lyme disease) also procreated at a high rate. This means last year we had lots of mice delivering ticks resulting in a higher than average incident of Lyme disease for this season. It would be wise for gardeners, and all who enjoy the outdoors, to take extra precautions this year to prevent from contracting Lyme disease.



Tips on how to safeguard against tick bites can be found at cthort.org.

To hear Margaret Roach's entire conversation with Dr. Rick Ostfeld, visit:

<http://awaytogarden.com/the-acorn-connections-with-dr-rick-ostfeld-ticks-gypsy-moths-songbirds-and-more/>.


UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:

**Entertaining People,
Pollinators and Birds
in the Garden**

*With Guest Speaker: C.L. Fornari,
Gardening Expert, Author, Speaker, Radio Host
and Blogger*

Thursday, June 15, 1-3 p.m.

Tour member Lynn Cavo's Farmington garden that welcomes people as well as wild life. Enjoy creative, plant-based cuisine and drinks while acquiring some ideas and specifics to help you attract and nourish birds, bees and butterflies through the seasons. Meet garden designer and author, C.L. Fornari, our featured CHS June speaker, as she leads a tour and shares her thoughts for entertaining in the garden and signs her books that will be offered for sale. This member-only event is \$25. Garden address and parking instructions will be provided when you register.


Planting the 2nd Crop

*Featuring Nancy Ballek Mackinnon of Ballek's Garden Center and Nancy DuBrule-Clemente of Natureworks
Wednesday, July 19, 6-8 p.m.*

Get expert advice on what you can plant to make the most of your fall harvest. Come early and shop the East Haddam Farmers Market, located at Ballek's Garden Center every Wednesday from 4-7 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

Looking ahead -

there will be a Monarch Butterfly Workshop sometime in August.
- details to come...



**Contact Mary Anna at the CHS office -
(860) 529-8713 to register for a workshop**

CHS Travel

Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens Boothbay Harbor, Maine

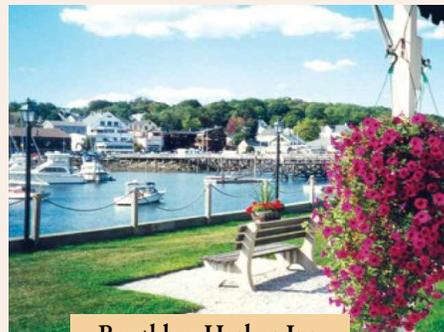
Sunday - Tuesday, September 10-12, 2017



This two-night excursion takes you up the charming coast of Maine. The first stop is Fuller Gardens for a docent-led tour of this seaside gem. We'll stop for lunch and continue on to Boothbay Harbor Inn located right on the harbor, near the footbridge, where we'll dine while enjoying fabulous views.

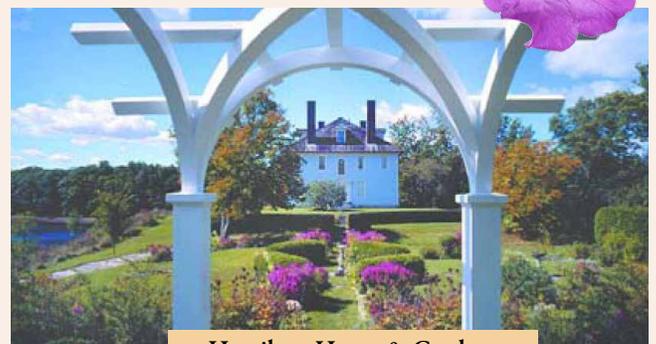
After a buffet breakfast the following morning, we are off to visit the amazing Coastal Maine Botanical Garden where Executive Director Bill Cullina (past CHS speaker) will meet exclusively with our group. A 'Conversation & Lunch' has been arranged with a local docent/horticulturalist who will speak on 'The Past, Present & Future of the Gardens'. Then it's off for a private garden visit arranged by Bill Cullina and the Boothbay Harbor Garden Club to enjoy a local garden experience. Return to the hotel to freshen up before enjoying an evening on your own in town or at the Inn.

Our last day starts with a buffet breakfast at the Inn and then we begin our journey home. First stop brings us to a docent-led tour of the Hamilton House and Gardens in South Berwick. This National Historic Landmark overlooks the Salmon Falls River and was the home of Emily Tyson and her stepdaughter Elise. Then, it's off to a delicious lobster bake at Foster's - a time-honored Maine tradition. Head home with a full belly and great memories of Maine.



Boothbay Harbor Inn

Fee: \$589 per member (double) or \$669 per member (single). Add \$50 per person if not a CHS member.



Hamilton House & Gardens

CHS Travel



The Hudson Valley: Four Grand Gardens in Two Days!

Sunday & Monday, August 13-14, 2017

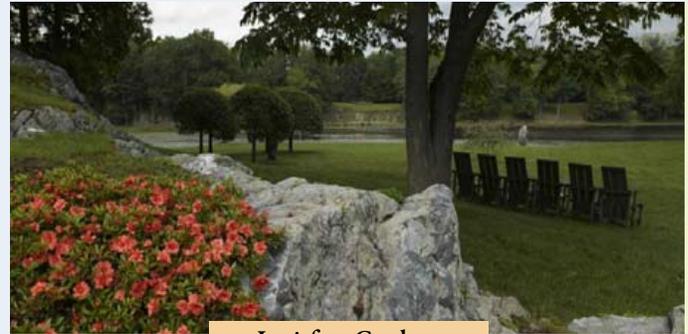
This midsummer overnight to Rhinebeck, New York begins with a docent-led tour of a garden created by one of America's celebrated landscape designers – the Beatrix Ferrand Garden at Bellefield in Hyde Park New York. Following our lunch at the Eveready Diner, you'll time travel to the Gilded Age during your visit to Vanderbilt Gardens, located on the banks of the Hudson River. The day will end with dinner and overnight accommodations at The Beekman Arms/Delamater Inn – the oldest inn in America. After a continental breakfast the following morning, it's off to Innisfree Garden for a private, guided tour of this distinctive stroll garden. After lunching in the Village of Millbrook, the trip is concluded in Cold Spring, New York at Stonecrop Gardens, the original estate of Frank and Anne Cabot, founders of the Garden Conservancy and gifted gardeners in their own right.



Fee: \$399 per member (double) or \$499 per member (single). Add \$50 per person if not a CHS member.



Vanderbilt Gardens



Innisfree Gardens

2017 Holidays at The Mount Washington Resort • Saturday & Sunday, December 2-3, 2017

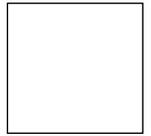


This year's CHS annual holiday getaway takes us to The Mount Washington Resort. This National Historic Landmark opened in 1902 and has been attracting generations of families ever since. This could be the year for you and your family to spend a memorable weekend in this classic resort.

The weekend begins with lunch in the barn at the Christmas Farm Inn, magically decorated for the holidays with their giant tree as the focal point. When we arrive at The Mount Washington Resort, we'll be taken on a behind-the-scenes tour of the historic hotel before getting ready for dinner. Day two begins with an elaborate Sunday Buffet Brunch at the resort, followed by a holiday sleigh ride. Our return trip includes stops for one-of-a-kind gifts at Rocks Estate, celebrated for their Balsam items and New Hampshire original gifts. Enjoy lunch on your own at the Weathervane before our last stop at Hidden Springs Maple Farm for a tour and maple tasting.

Fee: \$579 per member (double) or \$759 per member (single). Add \$50 per person if not a CHS member.

**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 and select CHS Tours.**



Dated Material 🌸 *Please Rush*

CHS Calendar at a Glance

- Thurs., June 1** – CHS Board and
Committee Chairs
Potluck Dinner, 6:00 p.m.,
Glastonbury
- Thurs., June 15** – Summer Newsletter
content deadline
- Thurs., June 15** – Members-only Garden
Party Workshop,
Farmington
- Thurs., June 15** – Ice Cream Social
@ CHS Speaker Meeting,
West Hartford
Note: 6:30 p.m. meeting time
- Weds., July 19** – 2nd Crop Workshop
6:00 p.m.
Ballek's in E. Haddam

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



Celebrating 130 Years



Spring Plant Sale and Auction Recap

by Trish Lyons, Plant Sale & Auction Committee Chairperson

Many thanks to everyone who helped make the Spring Plant Sale & Auction a success. It takes many people to pull this event together from getting publicity out, collecting donations from nurseries and garden centers, bringing food and beverages, helping with setup and break down, helping with pricing, recording auction prices, collecting the money, running credit cards, etc. Your help and hard work is greatly appreciated. We raised nearly \$4,400 for the CHS Scholarship Fund!

The following nursery/garden centers generously donated to our auction. Please consider patronizing them when doing your garden shopping.

Baggot Farms, East Windsor
Bosco's Garden Center, Simsbury
Broken Arrow Nursery, Hamden
Butler's Florist & Garden Center,
West Hartford
Cheshire Nursery Garden Center,
Cheshire
Cricket Hill Garden, Thomaston

E. Draghi & Sons Farm,
South Glastonbury
Garden Barn Nursery, Vernon
Garden Sales, Manchester
Gotta's Farm, Portland
Lemek Farm Greenhouse, Tolland
Moscarillo's, West Hartford
Natureworks, Northford
Plant Group, North Franklin

Prides Corner Farms, Lebanon
Revay's Garden Center, Broad Brook
Sam Bridge Nursery & Greenhouses,
Greenwich
Stonehedge Landscape & Garden Center,
Newington
Tower Farms, Cheshire
Winterberry Gardens, Southington
Woodland Gardens, Manchester

These wonderful wholesalers also contributed plants to our auction.

Plant Group, North Franklin
Summer Hill Nursery, Madison



Many thanks to Broken Arrow Nursery, Cricket Hill Garden and Natureworks for their very generous plant donations and for providing four of our terrific auctioneers: Chris Koppel, Dan Furman, Nancy DuBrule-Clemente and Kassie Moss. Rounding out the auctioneering crew were the educational and entertaining Maryanne Gryboski, Judy King and Kevin Wilcox.