EXTRA! EXTRA!
Read all about it!!!

It's Time to Renew Your Membership in the Connecticut Horticultural Society

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

As we approach the end of summer, some of you are already thinking about next year's expansion to your garden and perhaps refreshing it with new plants to replace those damaged by this very hot and dry summer. This season's Connecticut Horticultural Society (CHS) programs, described on the next page, are designed to help with your garden planning and are some of the great reasons to renew your membership. And please, don't forget the September 30th Plant Sale & Auction to find special plants to refresh your garden this fall. You'll find additional reasons to join and a membership form for Individuals included in this membership supplement. Membership forms and benefits for Businesses and Garden Clubs will be individually mailed and also appear online at cthort.org/join.

We are embarking upon our 130th year of commitment to encourage the art and science of horticulture in our state. We have an outstanding reputation and balanced finances. Moreover, we have kept our promise to the future through more than 55 years of providing scholarships to worthy students of horticultural at the University of Connecticut and Naugatuck Valley Community College.

Our membership base includes all manner of gardeners: professional, novice, nurserymen, accomplished specialists, certified masters, designers, keepers, travelers and armchair garden lovers! This diversity keeps us vital and able to connect with the first rate speakers who highlight our monthly programs. This mix also gives us access to specialty plants for our fundraising auctions that support our scholarship program. Volunteers from in and outside of horticulture, who serve as directors on our board and as chairs of our committees, have consistently cared for the well-being of the Society. We are a frugal, hardworking, can-do group who shares our time and money for CHS' educational mission. Thank you for being a part of it. Whether you are a "first-year" or a "more-than-30-year" member, the Society benefits from the fellowship and efforts of all its members over these past 130 years.

In addition to this membership renewal package, you will also receive an email reminder from our new Treasurer, Heidi Wheeler-Isaacson, with a direct link to the CHS website for online payment of your dues and completion of the membership form. As an alternative, you may bring your form to the September meeting and pay by cash, check or credit card; or you may mail your form and check to the CHS office in Rocky Hill.

Please consider joining at the Sustaining Member level, which provides additional funding for CHS activities and additional benefits for you. Also, many of you are employed by or retired from a matching gift company. If so, please remember to submit the appropriate forms to further help CHS.

As important as your dues dollars are to the Society, your contribution of time serving on a committee or other CHS activity is just as significant. Please offer to help as much as you are able to. The satisfaction that comes from volunteering cannot be overstated. Contact a committee chair or board member to learn more and sign up.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you at the September 15th meeting.

Ken Stubenrauch
President

Membership includes:

- **Nine monthly meetings with national, regional and local gardening specialists**
- **Member discount on education workshops, symposiums and special CHS events**
- **Ten newsletters full of the latest gardening news and tips**
- **Email notification of CHS events, if you supply your email address**
- **Reduced travel pricing for local, national and international tours**
- **10% discount at select nurseries**
- **Opportunities to meet, socialize and network with other horticultural enthusiasts**
- **Free access to CHS library**
- **Special bonus-with-membership, one-year subscription to 'Organic Life' magazine**
- **67% savings on 'Horticulture' magazine – just $12 for 8 issues**
- **$25 gift certificate from White Flower Farm and $10 in Auction Bucks for NEW members**

CHS Calendar of Speakers for 2016-17 Programs

Gifted gardeners, designers, horticulturalists and educators highlight our monthly meetings by delivering enlightening and entertaining slide-illustrated lectures. Speakers include outstanding expertise in some aspect of horticulture and all have special insights to impart. This year's roster:

Thursday, Sept. 15
After 130 Years, What's Next in Horticulture? with Dr. Mark Brand, UConn Professor of Horticulture and winner of the 2016-17 CHS Mehlquist Award

Thursday, Oct. 20
Perennial Spring-Flowering Bulbs in the Landscape with Karen Bussolini, Garden Coach and Educator

Thursday Nov. 17
Berried Treasure: Special Fruits for Connecticut Landscapes with Andy Brand, Nursery Manager, Broken Arrow Nursery, Hamden

Thursday, Jan. 19
Expanding the Seasons of Interest in the Garden with Wayne Mezitt, Chairman Board of Trustees, Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Owner Weston Nurseries

Thursday, Feb. 23 (4th Thursday)
Organic and 21st Century Vegetable Gardening with Roger Swain, Writer, Editor, Horticulturalist, Victory Garden Host
Note Special Location: CT Flower and Garden Show, Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford

Thursday, March 16
Adventures With Oddities: Strange And Noteworthy Natives with Dan Jaffe, Propagator, New England Wildflower Society

Thursday, April 20 – *CHS Anniversary Night Straight Up or On The Rocks: Phlox* with James Locklear, Director of Conservation, Lauritzen Gardens, Neb.

Thursday, May 18
Why Grow That, When You Can Grow This? with Andrew Keys, Writer, Plantsman and Lifelong Gardener

Thursday, June 15 – *The Lois and Herbert Isaacson Endowed Lecture*
Landscape Design Bloopers with C.L. Fornari, Writer, Speaker and Consultant

CHS Nursery 10% Discounts

Show your membership card *before transaction. Please assume discount applies to non-sale items.*

Al's Landscaping & Garden Center
204 Kelsey St., Newington 06111
(860) 667-1822, alslandscaping.com

Better Stones
200 Tolland St., East Hartford 06108
(860) 289-1414, betterstones.com

Bidwell's Yard, Garden & Pet
133 Hopmeadow St., (Rte. 10)
Weatogue 06089, (860) 651-8555
simsburygarden.com

Bosco's Garden Center & Landscaping
1376 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury 06070
(860) 658-2428, boscosgardencenter.com

Botticello Farms
209 Hillstown Road, Manchester 06040
(860) 649-2462, botticellofarms.net

Broken Arrow Nursery
13 Broken Arrow Road, Hamden 06518
(203) 288-1026, brokenarrownursery.com

Butler's Florist & Garden Center
416 Park Road, West Hartford 06110
(860) 561-2148, butlerflorestandgarden.com

Cricket Hill Garden / Peony Heaven
670 Walnut Hill Road, Thomaston 06787
(860) 283-1042, treepeony.com

Cropley's Garden Center & Landscaping
1262 Boston Tpke., Bolton 06043
(860) 649-6364, cropleysgardencenter.com

Edmondson's Farm Gift Shop & Florist
Route 44, Coventry 06238, (860) 742-6124
edmundsonsfarm.com

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

Harken's Garden Center
287 Route 5, East Windsor 06088
(860) 528-6806, discount on plants only
harkenslandscapesupply.com

Hop River Nursery
251 Hop River Road (Rte. 6)
Bolton 06043, (860) 645-9999
hoprivernursery.com

Larson's Garden Center
26 Covey Road, Burlington 06013
(860) 404-5747, larsonsgardencenter.com

Moscarillo's
2600 Albany Ave., West Hartford 06117
(860) 236-5487, 10% on plant material only, moscarillos.com

Natureworks
518 Forest Road, Northford 06472
(203) 484-2748, naturework.com

NE Seed
10% CHS members:
Mail order neseed.com

O'Brien Nurserymen
40 Wells Road, Granby 06035
(860) 653-0163, obrienhosta.com

Riverside Nursery & Garden Center
56 River Road (Rte. 179), Collinsville 06022, (860) 693-2285, discount applies to plant material only, riversidenursery-ct.com

Scott's Orchard & Nursery
1838 New London Tpke., Glastonbury 06033, (860) 633-8681
scottsorchardandnursery.com

Stone Post Gardens
1185 Randolph Road, Middletown 06457
(860) 343-0360, stonepostgardens.com

The Garden Barn Nursery & Landscaping
228 West St., Vernon 06066
(860) 872-7291, discount on non-sale plant materials only, gardenbarn.com

The Variegated Foliage Nursery
245 Westford Road, Eastford 06242
(860) 974-3951, variegatedfoliage.com

Twombly Nursery
163 Barn Hill Road, Monroe 06468
(203) 261-2133, twomblynursery.com

Warner Nursery & Garden Center
76 Riverside R0ad, Simsbury 06070
(860) 651-0204, warnernursery.com

Woodland Gardens
168 Woodland St., Manchester 06040,
(860) 643-8474, woodlandgardens-ct.com

Woodland Trails Wildflower Nursery
32 Ashford Road, Ashford 06278
(860) 974-2300
woodlandtrailsnativeplants.com

Celebrating 130 Years

Connecticut Horticultural Society NEWSLETTER

Volume 59, Number 1 | Serving Horticulturists Since 1887 | September 2016

Natureworks Helps to Save Monarch Butterflies

By Nancy DuBrule-Clemente, CHS member, CHS scholarship winner and owner of Natureworks

There is magic happening at Natureworks Organic Garden Center in Northford. At the time of the printing of this Newsletter, **we are caring for for a grand total of 312 monarchs in various life stages - 29 eggs, 224 caterpillars and 59 chyrsalises!** Their magical life cycle is on display for all to see this summer and fall. This generation will migrate to Mexico so we will be placing tiny tags on them for Monarch Watch.

Did you know that only two out of every 100 monarch eggs survive in the wild to become a butterfly? They are eaten by other insects at all stages of their metamorphosis. The monarch butterfly population has plummeted in the past decade due to loss of habitat and the use of poisonous insecticides. Natureworks is doing all that it can to reverse this trend.

All butterflies need two types of plants. The first is the larval plant food. This is the plant that the female butterfly lays its eggs on. The caterpillars can only eat the larval food plant. For monarchs, it's milkweed and other species/varieties of the genus Asclepias. Without the larval food plants, the butterfly cannot reproduce. Milkweed is unfortunately considered a weed and has been systematically eliminated from farm fields and meadows. Natureworks not only has hundreds of milkweed plants growing in their gardens, they also sell organic milkweed seedlings.

Why organic? Monarch caterpillars are extremely sensitive to environmental toxins. While raising the caterpillars, Natureworks employees must handle them in all life stages. Their rearing boxes must be cleaned of grass and new milkweed leaves added once or twice a day. Hands must be washed clean of sunscreen and any other substances that may contain chemicals. Caterpillars will die from even the smallest contact with these artificial substances. Even cleaning a rearing box after petting a dog who is wearing flea/tick repellant will poison the caterpillars. They are so sensitive that even organic sprays can harm them. Raising monarchs demands a commitment to clean, safe gardening practices.

Courtesy of National Geographic Kids-kids.nationalgeographic.com

Flowers are the second type of plant that all butterflies require for nectar. That is the easiest part of butterfly gardening, as so many of our summer perennials and flowering shrubs are beloved by monarch butterflies. A few of their favorite native perennials to nectar on are coneflowers, Joe Pye weed, asters, bee balm and goldenrod.

In 2015, Natureworks began their obsession with raising monarchs. In the course of 3 months, they successfully raised and released 214 monarch butterflies and became a certified Monarch Waystation. They offered many workshops on monarch butterflies and visitors were fascinated by the butterflies in all life stages on display each day at the store. Many lessons were learned about the process and this year the Natureworks staff hit the ground running.

Monarch season in Connecticut can vary. In 2015, eggs and caterpillars were found

(continued on page 5)

Hope for the Monarch Butterfly

By Barbara Skomorowski, CHS Director of Communications

The annual migration of North America's monarch butterfly (Danaus plexippus) is a unique and amazing phenomenon. The monarch is the only butterfly known to make a two-way migration as birds do. Unlike other butterflies that are able to overwinter as larvae, pupae, or even as adults, monarchs cannot survive the cold winters of northern climates. Using environmental cues, they know when it is time to travel south for the winter. Monarchs in Eastern North America have a second home in the Sierra Madre Mountains of Mexico. Monarchs in Western North America overwinter in California. Using a combination of air currents and thermals to travel long distances, some monarchs fly as far as 3,000 miles to reach their winter home where they stay from October through March.

During the summer breeding season, Eastern North American monarchs live from 2-5 weeks during which they mate and lay the eggs that become the next generation. In contrast, butterflies from the generation that migrates south in the fall may live as long as nine months. The offspring of these monarchs are 'generation one' of the northward journey that ultimately takes 3-4 successive generations to reach their northernmost territories in the United States and Canada by summer's end.

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Connecticut Horticultural Society
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(860) 529-8713

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website: www.cthort.org

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Tuesday & Thursday
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Barbara Skomorowski
CHS Director of Communications
news@cthort.org

All announcements, advertising news and articles for publication should be sent to: news@cthort.org.

Send Membership Information & Direct General Questions To:
Bonnie Penders
Office Administrator
2433 Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Membership Dues:

Individual	$49
Family	$69
Senior Individual (65+)	$44
Senior Family (65+)	$64
$30 under 30 years	$30
Student (full time with valid ID)	FREE
Horticultural Business Member	$70
Organizations	$80

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CHS Fall Plant Sale & Auction is Here!

by CHS Plant Sale & Auction Chair, Trish Lyons

Fall is the perfect time of year to plant and there's no better spot to find unusual new additions for your garden, while supporting a wonderful cause, than the **Connecticut Horticultural Society (CHS) Fall Plant Sale & Auction**. Proceeds go to the CHS Scholarship Fund which provides scholarships to deserving horticulture and plant science students at the University of Connecticut and the Naugatuck Valley Community College. Take advantage of bargain prices at our sale tables or bid to win collectible new introductions from our nursery supporters and rare plant divisions from our members' gardens.

The evening's auctioneers promise to entertain and educate and will include Nancy DuBrule-Clemente from Natureworks in Northford.

CHS Fall Plant Sale & Auction

Friday, September 30, 2016

***** Free Admission*****

Tolland County Agricultural Center
24 Hyde Avenue (Route 30)
Vernon

4:30 p.m. – Volunteers arrive
5:00 p.m. – Doors open for donations
6:30 p.m. – Plant viewing begins
7:00 p.m. – Plant sale followed by live auction

To donate plants or for more information, contact the Plant Sale & Auction Committee at cthortauction@gmail.com or call the CHS office at (860) 529-8713.

Remember to:

Pot: Resist the urge to make small divisions, include a label with the plant's common and botanical names (if possible) and its cultural preferences. Write up a plant list that includes your name and address to leave with your plant donation so we can provide a receipt for tax purposes.

Ask: Call on local nurseries, fellow gardeners and garden centers for their tax deductible plant donations. Bring along the **donation letter** and auction flyer located on our website – cthort.org. Please provide us with a list of the donated plants and the nursery's name and address so we can thank them for their generosity.

Help: As always, we need volunteers for all sorts of things. Please help to get the word out by posting our auction flyer at nurseries, grocery stores, libraries, etc. Flyers are available at the CHS office in Rocky Hill.

Enjoy: Have fun and support a great cause!

After 130 Years, What's Next in Horticulture?

September 15 Speaker – Dr. Mark Brand

The Connecticut Horticultural Society (CHS) begins its 130th season with Dr. Mark Brand, Professor of Horticulture in the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture at the University of Connecticut (UConn). Did you know that UConn has been a force when it comes to new plant development and introductions? Noteworthy plant breeders and horticulturists have put UConn on the map as a place where outstanding plants are developed right in your own backyard. The lecture will begin in the 1970s and highlight the plant introduction accomplishments of horticultural icons such as Gustav Mehlquist, Ron Parker and Sid Waxman. Dr. Brand will also show off the plants he has created and give some sneak peeks at what new plants are on the horizon from him and other UConn plant breeders. The golden age of plant breeding is upon us with enhanced access to germplasm, a good understanding of plant genetics and modern tools like tissue culture, molecular markers and gene editing technologies. The only question you'll leave asking is, "Will my gardens be large enough to accommodate all of the great new plants to come?!"

The evening will also include the presentation of the prestigious CHS Mehlquist Award. Each year, CHS identifies a resident who has significantly impacted the art of gardening or who has made an extraordinary contribution to horticulture in Connecticut to be publicly recognized and presented with the Mehlquist Award. The award is named for its first recipient, Dr. Gustav Mehlquist, a longtime professor in the Plant Science Department at UConn and a highly regarded horticulturalist. This award was established in 1987 on the 100th anniversary of CHS.

There is no time more fitting than this 130th CHS anniversary season to present the 2016 Mehlquist Award to Dr. Mark Brand. Mark grew up next to the UConn campus and worked summers for Dr. Gustav Mehlquist, who first introduced him to the art and science of plant breeding. It seems very appropriate and fitting that the Mehlquist Award be given to Dr. Mark Brand during its milestone anniversary year.

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, September 15

Time: Program starts at 7:30 p.m. Come early – 6:45 p.m. – to socialize, browse CHS library books, participate in the raffle, review travel fliers and ask questions.

Location: Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Dr., West Hartford

Speaker Feedback

Please tell us how the speakers are doing. Your candid feedback will help assure that future speakers will discuss topics of interest. It takes only a minute to answer four questions to let us know what you think. Here's how:

- Visit our website – cthort.org
- Click on 'Speakers'
- Click on the link at the end of each speaker's posting to evaluate

Thank you for providing feedback.

...And This Year's Mehlquist Award Winner Is!

Each year, the Connecticut Horticultural Society (CHS) identifies a resident who has significantly impacted the art of gardening or who has made an extraordinary contribution to horticulture in Connecticut to be publicly recognized and presented with the Mehlquist Award. The award is named for its first recipient, Dr. Gustav Mehlquist, a longtime professor in the Plant Science Department at the University of Connecticut (UConn) and a highly regarded horticulturalist. This award was established in 1987 on the 100th anniversary of CHS.

There is no time more fitting than this 130th CHS anniversary season to present the 2016 Mehlquist Award to Dr. Mark Brand, Professor of Horticulture in the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture at UConn. Dr. Brand teaches Plant Propagation, Woody Landscape Plants and Plant Tissue Culture and conducts research and extension activities for the nursery industry. Dr. Brand is also a plant breeder, who worked summers alongside Dr. Mehlquist when he was in high school and college. Dr. Mehlquist would hire local youth as summer labor to tend to the plants that were the centerpiece of his work developing cold-hardy rhododendrons and since Mark grew up next to the UConn campus, the summer job was ideal. As a result, Dr. Mehlquist introduced a young Mark Brand to the art and science of plant breeding which ultimately grew into one of his two professional passions – plant breeding and plant genetics.

After earning his B.S. in Horticulture from Cornell University and an M.S. and Ph.D. from The Ohio State University, Dr. Brand became a professor at UConn. By then, Dr. Mehlquist had retired but the head of the department at the time encouraged Dr. Brand to continue the rhododendron breeding work that Dr. Mehlquist had begun – and the rest, as they say, is history.

From the remaining stock of cold-hardy hybrids initially developed by Dr. Mehlquist, Dr. Brand further selected, refined and developed a whole collection, some of which were named by Dr. Mehlquist. Then, in 1999, Dr. Brand released a batch of cold-hardy rhododendrons that he titled the "Raise the Roof" series with

(continued on page 5)

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 October issue is September 15.

Tuesday – Thursday, Sept.13-15, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., the **Federated Garden Clubs of CT, Inc.** presents Gardening Study School, Course 3, Series 7 Topics covered are: Pruning Techniques, Microenvironments in the Garden Teaching Tour of Yale's Marsh Botanical Garden, Classifying Plants, Techniques for Growing Outdoor Flowers and Factors that Influence Plant Growth. Instructors are from CT Agriculture Experiment Station, UConn Extension System, and Yale University. For more information, please contact: Ellie Tessmer at (203) 269-2653 or swcd43emt@sbcglobal.net. Brochure is available online: www.ctgardenclubs.org

Saturday, Sept.17, noon to 12:30 p.m., the **CT Daylily Society** (CDS) welcomes **Karol Emmerich** of Springwood Gardens, Jordan, Minn. Karol's program. **'Life Lessons from the Daylily Garden'** is a topic any gardener can relate to and slides of Karol's vibrant daylilies will have you planning for next spring! There will be an auction for numerous Emmerich 2014-2016 introductions following the program, with all proceeds benefiting CDS. For more CDS info, check out our blog https://ctdaylilysociety.wordpress.com.

Sunday, Sept. 18 (rain or shine), 1-3 p.m. – L**andscaping with Unusual Edibles at Broken Arrow Nursery**, Hamden. **Dan Furman**, co-owner of Cricket Hill Garden in Thomaston, has expanded the peony production program at the nursery, and diversified the stock grown to include unusual landscape and forest edibles. Dan will provide an in-depth look at a few unusual edibles, concentrating on trees and shrubs that are particularly well suited for our state. Pawpaws and persimmons, two underappreciated and underutilized native fruit trees, will be highlighted. A tasting will follow the lecture. **Fee: $20**. For details and to register visit: www.brokenarrownursery.com/events.html.

Wednesday, Sept. 28, 7 p.m. – The **Hardy Plant Society** begins their season with an **Update on Insect Problems in Connecticut** presented by **Katherine Dugas** who is the **State Survey Coordinator** for the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) at the CT Agricultural Extension Service. This talk will discuss the gypsy moth, emerald ash borer, winter moth and other pests, as well as survey methods and possible control. Fee: Free to members. Suggested donation of $10 for non-members.

Wednesday – Friday, September 28-30, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., the **Federated Garden Clubs of CT, Inc.** offers **Course II of Environmental Studies School (ESS) – Land and Related Issues** – at Kellogg Environmental Center in Derby. The school consists of four courses, each with its own emphasis. The topics are designated by National Garden Clubs, Inc., which accredits the schools. Each course consists of eight, hour-long presentations and includes a field trip of a minimum of two hours. For more information, contact Registrar Meredith Penfield at mrdthp@sbcglobal.net.

Sunday, Oct. 2 (rain or shine), 1-3 p.m. – **Plethora of Perennials for the Late Season Garden** at **Broken Arrow Nursery**, Hamden. Join Perennial Plant Manager, **Carl Galanter**, and discover the multitude of plants that brighten the late season garden with flowers, fruit or foliage. **Fee:** $15. For details and to register visit: www.brokenarrownursery.com/events.html.

Tuesday, Oct. 11, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. – The **Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG)** will present a symposium at the Student Union, University of Connecticut in Storrs. The symposium theme is Invasive Plants in Our Changing World: Learn from the Past, Prepare for the Future. People with all levels of interest and experience are invited to attend. This 8th biennial conference features national, regional and local experts as well as citizen volunteers sharing practical solutions for invasive plant management and actions needed to promote native species and improve wildlife habitat. Symposium agenda and online registration are available at www.cipwg.uconn.edu. Fee: Early registration - $50 (pre-Sept. 12); walk-in and post-Sept. 12 registration – $60. Student fee (with valid student ID) is $25. Fee includes parking and lunch. Pesticide Recertification and other Continuing Education Credits will be available. **Attendees are advised to register early** – last symposium had record attendance and sold out. On-line registration is preferred but if you'd rather pay by check, please visit the CIPWG website at www.cipwg.uconn.edu to download the registration form and mail it in with your payment. For additional information, contact Donna Ellis at (860) 486-6448; donna.ellisuconn.edu.

Thursday, Oct. 20, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (with optional Luncheon from 12:45-2:00 p.m.) – Perennially Yours is pleased to announce an exciting fall gardening colloquium at the historic Red Lion Inn in Stockbridge, Mass. Nationally renowned speakers and authors **Karen Bussolini**, **Jan Johnsen** and **Kerry Ann Mendez** will share time-tested pointers for gorgeous flower gardens that provide non-stop color plus are plant- and eco-friendly. Fee: $56 per person (limited to 100 people). The luncheon with speakers is $32 per person (limited to 40 people). To learn more about the speakers, lectures, agenda, luncheon and to register, visit Kerry Ann's web site (Perennially Yours) www.pyours.com/events.

Helps to Save, from page 1

at Natureworks in early June. This year, it wasn't until July 12th that Diane St. John, the manager of Natureworks was in her Durham home where a female monarch caught her eye. She watched as it began laying eggs on a flat of common milkweed seedlings on her potting bench. It then proceeded to lay eggs on butterfly weed (Asclepias tuberosa) and other Asclepias varieties in her yard. Between July 12th and July 13th, Diane and her 11-year- old son collected 86 eggs and 2 tiny caterpillars. Then, when Diane recently returned from a two-week August vacation, she and her son collected an equal amount in one day.

Diane St. John has been bringing the eggs to Natureworks where they are raised by the staff – it takes a village! – in bug boxes. As they change from egg to tiny caterpillar to larger caterpillar, their boxes are cleaned and fresh milkweed leaves and clean, unscented paper towels are placed in the boxes once or twice a day. The caterpillars eventually crawl up to the top of the box, hang upside down, and form a chrysalis. The chrysalis eventually becomes a butterfly. At that point, there is a "release ceremony" and anyone who happens to be visiting the garden center on that day joins the celebration.

Become part of the growing movement to protect the monarch butterfly! Track the daily rearing of the Natureworks monarchs on Facebook. If you have questions about monarchs, plants and organic gardening, visit Natureworks, located at 518 Forest Road (Rte. 22) in Northford. For more information, call 203-484-2748 or visit www.naturework.com.

Got talent?

By Joan Stubenrauch, Chairperson Symposium Committee

Although the next CHS Symposium doesn't take place until 2018, the planning for this event has already begun. Popular speakers can be booked years in advance so locking in our talent soon is a must. Have a favorite speaker you'd like to see? Is there a workshop you've heard of that you're dying to try? Please let Joan Stubenrauch know so that the Symposium committee can quickly explore the possibility of reserving this talent. Call Joan at (860) 633-6076.

Mehlquist Winner, from page 3

such names as "Huskymania," "Hoopla," "Slam Dunk" and "Buzzer Beater." In addition to the Raise the Roof series, his other cold-hardy rhododendrons include "Connecticut Yankee," "White Peter" and "Wojnar's Purple." Dr. Brand has also patented and trademarked the ornamental grass "Ruby Ribbons switchgrass."

Two of Connecticut's invasive plants, *Berberis thunbergii* and *Euonymus alata,* are being altered for the better by Dr. Mark Brand. Yes, they have great fall color, yes they provide food for birds, yes they look "good" in landscapes but their high seed count have caused many problems. Dr. Brand is working to develop dwarf or compact varieties that are sterile so they can be used in landscapes with no future complications. For the last 15+ years, he has studied the invasive potency of these cultivars and his research has provided guidance on how low seed production must be for a plant to be non-invasive.

In addition, with the increased demand in recent years to use native plants for landscapes, Dr. Brand is currently working to develop superior genotypes of several natives. Brand is also working on the native landscape and nutraceutical plant *Aronia.* He holds the world's largest germplasm collection of *Aronia* comprised of over 115 wild accessions collected from 21 states.

Dr. Brand has also developed a robust UConn Plant Database where UConn students and the general public can get pictures and information of over 500 trees, shrubs and vines. There is a plant selector that allows you to choose plants based on characteristics that are appropriate for your landscaping needs. This application is a tremendous asset to the horticultural community and can be found at hort.uconn.edu/.

His love of plants comes through in all his work. Dr. Mark Brand impacts the art of gardening with his new cultivars AND makes extraordinary contributions to the world of Horticulture. He is a Professor who imparts his love for plants every day and develops new cultivars for other plant lovers. It was in 1987 that the Mehlquist award was named for and presented to Dr. Mehlquist and now, nearly 30 years later, his legacy still lives on in the work done by his protégé, Dr. Mark Brand. It seems most appropriate that the Mehlquist Award be presented to Dr. Mark Brand during this milestone 130th season.

Education Committee

July Outings are Winners!

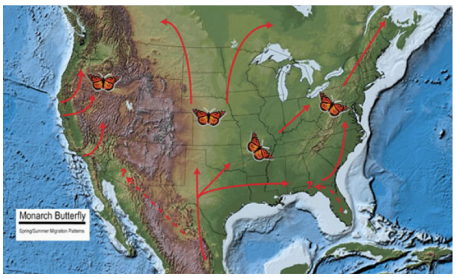
Cheryl Whalen and one of her many breathtakingly beautiful begonias

There were two educational outings in July that were big hits. In early-July, folks met at White Flower Farm for an exclusive tour of the magnificent Begonia House with Horticulturalist Cheryl Whalen. At the end of July, Nancy Ballek Mackinnon and matriarch Anita Ballek spent an afternoon sharing some of their favorite summer plant varieties and gardening knowledge. Visitors to both outings were glad they attended!

Nancy Ballek Mackinnon points out some of her favorite allium, lavender and monarda that attract pollinators. Photo courtesy of Bonnie Hoskins.

Hope for, from page 1

The spring journey northward of the Eastern North American monarch begins in Mexico as temperatures warm and days lengthen. At that

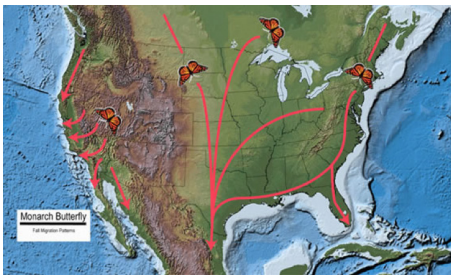


Eastern and Western Monarch Butterfly Spring and Summer Migration Patterns Base map source: USGS National Atlas

time, the generation that voyaged south in the fall completes their development that halted prior to migration. They start reproducing in February and March as they begin to journey back to North America, laying their eggs on milkweed plants as they progress northward into the United States.

Monarchs can travel between 50-100 miles a day; it can take up to two months to complete their journey. The farthest distance recorded for a monarch's one-day journey is 265 miles.

Eastern North American monarchs fly south using several flyways that merge into a single flyway in Central Texas. It is truly amazing that these monarchs know the way to their overwintering sites even though this generation has never been to Mexico. Researchers are still investigating what directional aids monarchs use to find their overwintering location. It appears to be a combination of the magnetic pull of the



Eastern and Western Monarch Butterfly Fall Migration Patterns Base map source: USGS National Atlas

earth and the position of the sun among others, not one force in particular.

Unfortunately, this iconic insect may disappear from the skies of Eastern North American in the next 20 years. According to the study published at the end of March in the journal of 'Scientific Reports,' this remarkable creature has declined dramatically in numbers and is in danger of becoming quasi-extinct. Quasi-extinction occurs when a species numbers dwindle so low that it is unable to rebound. Researchers say there is an 11 to 57 percent chance that this could happen to the species over the next 20 years.

It's difficult to count individual butterflies so population is measured by the size of the area they blanket while wintering in Mexico. In the winter of 1996, monarchs covered nearly 45 acres. The recorded population hit an all-time low in the winter of 2013-14, covering only 1.7 acres of land while wintering in Mexico. This past winter, conservation efforts led to an increase in population with the butterflies covering 10 acres but the improvements aren't enough to offset their long-term decline. Regrettably, strong spring storms took a heavy toll on the increased numbers.

What is the primary cause of the precipitous drop in the Eastern North American monarch population? Loss of breeding habitat – meaning a loss of milkweed plants – is believed to be the primary cause of their decline. The butterflies lay eggs on milkweed and it's the sole food source for monarch caterpillars. Ecologist John Pleasants, an ecologist at Iowa State University, estimates the U.S. has lost more than 1 billion milkweed plants since the 1990s and continues to lose around 2 million a year due to factors like widespread use of herbicides and farmers converting grassland to cropland.

Monarchs reproduce up to four generations each summer with each generation traveling farther north. The last generation of the year migrates south.

There are several possible solutions being considered. Keep in mind the monarch's multi-generational migration between overwintering grounds in central Mexico and the summer breeding grounds in the northern U.S. and southern Canada is experienced in three countries, requiring shared management responsibilities across North America. In 1986, the Mexican Government recognized the importance of oyamel forests, where monarchs overwinter and created the *Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve*, to protect their habitat. In 2014, due to concern over the lowest overwintering population size since recordkeeping began in 1994, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was petitioned to list the Eastern North American monarch as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act and has subsequently initiated a status review to determine whether listing is warranted. This federal process can be lengthy and impose strict restrictions on those who live in the paths of the monarch. Consequently, some alternative efforts are being considered while waiting for the Endangered Species status review, including a proposed Environmental Defense Fund nicknamed 'airbnb for butterflies.' This program would allow investors to pay farms and other landowners to set aside substantial protected spaces filled with milkweed.

Another multi-stakeholder effort is also underway to build a *Monarch Butterfly Habitat Exchange*, which would enable efficient and effective restoration and conservation of vital milkweed habitat, which monarchs need for breeding and feed. In May of 2015, the Obama administration set a goal to increase the Eastern population of the monarch as part of a broader strategy to help the nation's pollinators. The White House's goal is to see 225 million butterflies covering an area of 15 acres (six hectares) by 2020. Fifteen acres represents the average winter population level from 1994-2014.

In addition, every backyard can become an oasis for monarchs and other pollinators, even in cities. Schools, youth and community groups, businesses, and state and local governments can engage in planting native milkweed and protecting monarch habitat along roadsides, rights of way, and other public and private lands. In our neck of the woods, see what the folks at Natureworks have accomplished with their commitment to being a monarch safe house.

Article sources include:

- U.S. Dept of Ag site: http://fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/Monarch_Butterfly/migration/index.shtml
- Scientific Reports 6, Article number: 23265 (2016), http://www.nature.com/articles/srep23265
- Florida Museum of Natural History in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service (www.fs.fed.us)
- Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation (www.xerces.org)
- Butterfly Conservation Initiative (www.butterflyrecovery.com)

CHS Travel

Philadelphia Flower Show

Sunday – Monday
March 12-13, 2017

This fun-filled two-day trip begins with a visit to the PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF ART showcasing more than 2,000 years of human creativity, collections and masterpieces of painting, sculpture, decorative arts, and architectural settings from Europe, Asia and the Americas. Keeping with the theme of the Flower Show, docents have prepared a guided tour of 'FLOWERS IN ART & DUTCH MASTERS.'

The next morning, you're off to the fabulous PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW for a jam-packed day at America's largest flower show, which attracts 250,000 guests each year. From windmills, wooden shoes and cheese, to bicycles, canals and vibrant tulip and flower fields, the show will present diverse stories of horticulture, innovative eco-design, and modern urban greening and sustainability efforts of the Netherlands at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

Sunday: Your visit to the City of Brotherly Love will kick off at the Philadelphia Museum of Art where you'll be taken on a docent-led tour focused on 'FLOWERS IN ART & DUTCH MASTERS.' There will be additional time to tour the museum before we head over to our hotel, located in the heart of downtown to prepare for a welcoming dinner at Positano Coast, a local favorite. After our meal, we'll experience Philly's newest attraction – ONE LIBERTY OBSERVATION DECK – where you'll be at the center of it all to appreciate remarkable views of the city. Be sure to enjoy the interactive environment that will tell you about the spectacular views.

Monday: Following a hot, deluxe continental breakfast we're off to the fabulous PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW - 'TULIPS, WINDMILLS & DUTCH MASTERS.' Experience garden and floral designs that will show that horticultural design is itself a form of art. Enjoy acres of gardens, thousands of displays, over 180 shops in the Marketplace, interactive exhibits and more.

Fee: $399 per person for double occupancy; $489 for single. CHS members receive a $50 discount. A deposit of $100/person, secures your spot with full payment due by January 12, 2017. Depart: from Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford where cars can be parked for the duration of the trip.

Broadway Show: Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812

Wednesday, November 2, 2016

Singer Josh Groban will finally make his long-awaited Broadway debut this fall in 'Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812.' Inspired by a 70-page slice of War and Peace, this vibrant original new musical brings us just inches from Tolstoy's brash young lovers as they light up Moscow in a heaven-sent fireball of romance and passion. Here's what they're saying about 'Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812:'

- One of the decade's best musicals (Time Out New York)
- The Great Comet has "rousing music and ravishing performances." (the Daily News)

The show has a groundbreaking score that mixes rock, pop, soul, folk and electronic dance music with Broadway. Your day will also include a pre-show luncheon in the heart of Times Square at Buca di Beppo. Their family-style menu includes: Mixed Green and Caesar Salads, Spaghetti Marinara, Fettucini Alfredo, Chicken Parmigiana, dessert and coffee. Vegetarian and gluten-free options are also available. Fee: $229 / $219 for CHS members. Depart: from Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford where cars can be parked for the duration of the trip.

Spots still available!!!

Christmas in Vermont

Saturday – Sunday
December 3-4, 2016

Join in on the traditional CHS holiday outing and reserve your spot for a quintessential Vermont weekend. First stop on Saturday is for lunch at the Waybury Inn – home of the 'Newhart' show. Then, get 'in the spirit' while viewing the holiday tree display at the Shelburne Museum. Next we settle in at The Essex – Vermont's Culinary Resort & Spa, tucked in the scenic Lake Champlain valley. Known for its culinary delights, you'll enjoy a cooking demo from the Chef's Cook Academy followed by a mouth-watering meal. Before setting off on Sunday for a day of shopping at Gardener's Supply and Simon Pearce Glassblowing & Factory Outlet, be sure to fuel up at the fabulous Sunday Brunch at The Essex, that leaves you wanting for nothing. Please call for detailed itinerary and cost.

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.

Connecticut Horticultural Society
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Rocky Hill, CT 06067

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CHS Calendar at a Glance

Thurs., Sept. 8 -	CHS Board of Directors meeting, 7:00 p.m., Rocky Hill office
Thurs., Sept. 15 -	Oct. Newsletter content deadline
Thurs., Sept. 15 -	CHS Program meeting, 7:30 p.m.; Dr. Mark Brand, UConn Professor of Horticulture, *After 130 Years, What's Next in Horticulture?* (pg.3)
Fri., Sept. 30 -	CHS Annual Fall Plant Sale & Auction, Tolland County Ag. Ctr., Vernon (pg. 2)

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

Milkweed Plants

Help to increase the monarch population by planting native milkweed that serves as a larval host plant and as a source of nectar for adults.

Asclepias tuberosa, Butterfly Milkweed – Habitat well-drained soils: prairies, fields, roadsides, waste areas

Asclepias syriaca, Common Milkweed – Habitat well-drained soils: fields, roadsides, prairies, pastures, waste areas

Asclepias exaltata, Poke Milkweed – Habitat rich soils: woodlands, woodland margins

Asclepias incarnate, Swamp Milkweed – Habitat moist to wet soils: swamps, marshes, wet prairies, pond margins, roadside ditches

Asclepias purpurascens, Purple Milkweed – Habitat dry to moist, well-drained soils: roadsides, thickets, open woods, woodland margins, prairie openings

Asclepias verticillata, Whorled Milkweed – Habitat dry to moist soils: prairies, pastures, roadsides, fields, open woods

Individual Membership Form

September 2016-August 2017

The Connecticut Horticultural Society

2433 Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067-2569
Phone: (860) 529-8713
Email: connhort@gmail.com • Website: www.cthort.org

Est. 1887

Member Name(s):		☐ New Member (complete all fields below) ☐ Renewal (complete any new/changed information below)	
Street Address:	City:	State:	Zip Code:
Unit or Apartment Number:	Phone:	Cell:	

The CHS Newsletter is Emailed to new members. Please note the email address to which it should be sent:

Please select your membership level:

- ☐ Individual $49
- ☐ Family $69
- ☐ Sr. Individual (65+) $44
- ☐ Sr. Family (65+) $64
- ☐ Age 30 or Under $30
- ☐ Student (full time with valid ID) Free

Contributing Member:

- ☐ Garden Builder $125
- ☐ Plant Expert $250
- ☐ Dream Designer $500

☐ Matching Gift Form Included. My Employer's Name:

Membership Benefits	Indiv. (all ages) / Family /Student	Garden Builder	Plant Expert	Dream Designer
Monthly Newsletter	✓	✓	✓	✓
Speaker Programs	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nursery and Travel Discount	✓	✓	✓	✓
Special Workshops	✓	✓	✓	✓
Opportunity to meet/socialize/network with other horticultural enthusiasts	✓	✓	✓	✓
Free access to CHS library	✓	✓	✓	✓
67% Discount on Horticulture Magazine	✓	✓	✓	✓
Free subscription to Organic Life Magazine	✓	✓	✓	✓
$10 discount tickets to Education Workshops		**2**	**2**	**2**
CHS monthly pre-meeting dinner with speaker (at own expense)			**1**	**1**
Free Symposium Ticket (alternate years)				**1**
New Members receive a $25 gift certificate to White Flower Farm and $10 Auction Bucks.				

I am interested in helping with: (select all that apply)

- ☐ Auctions
- ☐ Awards
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Finance
- ☐ Flower Show
- ☐ Newsletter / Publicity
- ☐ Hospitality / Meetings
- ☐ Library
- ☐ Membership
- ☐ Office
- ☐ Planned Giving
- ☐ Programs
- ☐ Scholarships
- ☐ Symposium
- ☐ Travel
- ☐ Welcome

- ☐ Am willing to have CHS members visit my garden
- ☐ Am willing to submit articles / photos to newsletter / website.

Please return your membership form and check to the CHS office or pay online at www.cthort.org.

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Celebrating 130 Years

Three Ways to Renew Your Membership

You can count on the September '16 to August '17 season to be a memorable one. It is the 130th Anniversary of CHS and, indeed, cause for celebration. There are exceptional speakers and events scheduled to celebrate the longevity and impact that CHS has made on the local horticultural community. Don't miss a single moment! Renew by the end of September to take advantage of membership benefits for the full season. Also, please go online and login to cthort.org to update your membership preferences by the end of October.

For uninterrupted membership:

1. Renew and pay online at cthort.org/join
2. Pay at the September 15th meeting with cash, check or credit card. Please bring your completed membership form (on the back of this page) with you.
3. Pay by mail with a check and your completed membership form (on the back of this page).

Sustain and Enhance Your Support of CHS

A donation beyond basic dues strengthens our educational offerings by affording the ability to attract superior talent to speak at our meetings. Thank you for considering a higher level of support. Those who join as either a Garden Builder ($125), Plant Expert ($250), or Dream Designer ($500) will receive:

- All basic membership benefits plus two $10 member discount tickets to CHS Education Workshops
- Plant Experts and Dream Designers receive a dinner ticket to a CHS pre-meeting supper with one of our speakers
- Dream Designers also receive a free ticket to the CHS Symposium that is held every two years