

# Connecticut Horticultural Society

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 59, Number 10

Serving Horticulturists Since 1887

Summer 2017

## Giving ecological purpose to your landscape

by Douglas W. Tallamy, Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, University of Delaware

At our current population levels, a culture that segregates humans from nature is not a sustainable option and by whittling away at functional ecosystems, such a culture has led to a reduction in the earth's ability to produce essential renewable resources (aka ecosystem services) by more than 60% (2005 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment). To believe there will always be sufficient oxygen, clean air and water, carbon sequestration, pollinators, and the biodiversity that produces these resources, regardless of how we treat local landscapes - or to suggest that technology can effectively replace them - is folly in its most misguided form.

Fortunately, we already have the knowledge required to integrate human habitats with the natural world. Indeed, the concept itself is ironic because humans are products of the natural world - - one of millions of life forms that natural systems sustain every day - - and we have never been even partially independent of earth's bounty. What types of landscapes are capable of sustaining humans and nature simultaneously? Ones that feature plants that interact with the species around them. Such plants are the key; every ecosystem service required by humans (and most other animals as well) is created either directly or indirectly by plants. We have degraded ecosystem function by removing plants from local ecosystems, or

by assuming that all plants function equally well in every environment. It follows that we can quickly repair the damage we have inflicted on the typical built landscape simply by putting the right plants back. And who better to lead the way in this most noble endeavor than gardeners who know and love plants.



Pileated woodpeckers

### NATURE EQUALS SPECIALIZED RELATIONSHIPS

A pattern is emerging from conservation efforts around the world: if you want to save a particular species, you have to save the specialized relationships that support that species. If, for example, you want to save the resplendent quetzal (a gorgeous but endangered bird in Central America), you have to restore populations of wild avocado trees, because the fruits

of that species are an essential component of the quetzal diet. If you want to save jaguars, you need to protect large populations of palm species that make small palm nuts (as opposed to coconuts). Why these palms? Because palm nuts sustain peccaries, the wild pigs that are jaguar prey. If you want great green macaws in the future, you need to restore populations of wild almond trees because they are the only trees those birds will nest in. Such specialized relationships are so common in the tropics that they are the rule rather than the exception.

What surprises many people, however, is that specialized relationships, particularly involving food webs, are also the rule in the temperate zone, and we cannot create living landscapes if we exclude them. If you want your may apples to spread by seed, you need a population of box turtles. May apple seeds germinate best after passing through the gut of a box turtle that has eaten the may apple fruit. If you want pileated woodpeckers in your neighborhood, you need trees that harbor large colonies of carpenter ants, because carpenter ants are what these birds feed their young. If you want your *Phlox divaricata* to produce viable seed, you need the plants that support the larval development of day-flying sphinx moths, for these moths are the primary pollinators of *Phlox*.

(continued on page 3)



## Can you believe...?!

... another year has passed and the 2017-18 CHS season begins in September.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS ON BACK PAGE ►►►

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Connecticut  
Horticultural Society  
2433 Main Street  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067  
(860) 529-8713

email: [connhort@gmail.com](mailto:connhort@gmail.com)  
website: [www.cthort.org](http://www.cthort.org)

Office & Library Hours  
Tuesday & Thursday  
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Barbara Skomorowski  
CHS Director of Communications  
[news@cthort.org](mailto:news@cthort.org)

*All announcements, advertising news  
and articles for publication should be  
sent to: [news@cthort.org](mailto:news@cthort.org).*

Send Membership Information  
& Direct General Questions To:  
Mary Anna Martell  
Office Administrator  
2433 Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Membership Dues:	
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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](mailto:news@cthort.org).*

*Deadline for September issue is August 15.*

*Saturday, July 15, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Windsor Garden Club Garden Tour “80 Years Down Memory Lane... and Still Growing” features self-guided tours of eight lovely garden escapes. Advance sale ticket are \$10, available at several Windsor locations. Day-of-tour tickets are \$15, available on the Windsor town green from 9:30 a.m. to noon. For more information, visit [www.WindsorGardenClubCT.org](http://www.WindsorGardenClubCT.org) or contact Cindy Daniels at (860) 219-9489 or (860) 836-0280.*

*Thursday, July 20, 8:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. – The Connecticut Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) presents Tough Plants, Tough Places at the Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury. This continuing education program will focus on planting plans that accommodate difficult sites, with associated horticulture research for meeting challenging conditions. Day includes walk to campus gardens. Fee: \$95 for members of ASLA, \$125 non-members, \$35 for full-time students (with ID). Register at <https://ctasla.wufoo.com/forms/tough-plants-tough-places/>. Contact Jeff Mills at [executivedirector@ctasla.org](mailto:executivedirector@ctasla.org) or (860) 454-8922 with any questions.*

*Tuesday, July 25, noon to 7:30 p.m. – Bressingham Garden Symposium: Inspiration in the Landscape will be held at Elm Bank (hosted by Massachusetts Horticultural Society) in Wellesley, Mass. Anniversary Reception follows from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Speakers: Garden designer and creator, Adrian Bloom; Michael Dirr, America’s top expert on woody plants; Kerry Ann Mendez, garden design, speaker, and author; and Mal Condon, hydrangea expert. Info at: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07edrykujw71126f7b&llr=kzajorcab>*

*Thursday, July 27 – Live broadcast @ 2:00 p.m. – Kerry Ann Mendez of Perennially Yours presents a Webinar entitled: Captivating Flowering Vines. Registrants do NOT have to attend the live broadcast. All registrants will receive an email with a link and password following the Webinar to view it at their convenience. Discover gorgeous flowering vines – annual, woody and perennial. Learn the different ways that vines climb and the best supports to use. Get inspiring ideas to screen eyesores, enhance privacy, create shade, and establish low-maintenance groundcovers. Info at <https://pyours.com/webinar-captivating-flowering-vines/>*

*Thursday-Sunday, July 27–30 – Community garden enthusiasts from across the country will be meeting at Capital Community College in Hartford, for the 38th Annual Conference of the American Community Gardening Association (ACGA). The conference will offer 55 workshops conducted by experts; 8 different tours to interesting community gardens in Conn. and Mass.; a garden film fest on Friday night; and a gala event on Saturday. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information and to register, visit: <https://communitygarden.org/conference/>*

*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. This kid-friendly event is FREE and includes barn displays, field plots and exhibits, insect identification, plant disease diagnosis and plant identification, and much more! For information visit <http://www.ct.gov/caes/cwp/view.asp?Q=593588&A=2824> or call (877) 866-2237.*

## “Giving Ecological Purpose to Your Landscape”, from page 1



Carolina Chickadee with caterpillar. Photo by Doug Tallamy.

Even species that do not seem to depend on specialized relationships often do, especially during reproduction. The Carolina chickadee is an excellent example. As anyone with a bird feeder knows, chickadees are seed eaters during the fall, winter and early spring. When it comes time to feed young, however, chickadees join 96% of the terrestrial birds in North America that rear their young on insects (Dickinson 1999). And not just any insect: chickadees feed their nestlings caterpillars. Chickadee parents could feed their young other insects, but the overwhelming

majority of their prey during reproduction is caterpillars. And not just any caterpillar, but those that are not covered in hairs or spines. Because chickadees rear their young on caterpillars, there will be no chickadees where there are not enough caterpillars to bring a clutch of eggs to independence from parental care.

How many caterpillars is that? Carolina chickadees bring somewhere

option. If our goal, however, is to create landscapes that contribute to, rather than detract from, local ecosystem function, then we must include “the little things that run the world” (Wilson 1987). Decades of research have shown that insects are essential for pollination, nutrient recycling, pest control, and especially for feeding other animals. A world without insects is a world without biological diversity; and a world without biological diversity is – eventually - a world without humans. If insects were to disappear, humans would not last more than a few months (Wilson 1987). Seen in this light, waging war against insects where we live, work, farm, and play seems counterproductive at best.

How, then, can we design landscapes that support lots of insects but also stay in a balanced equilibrium with the natural enemies that control them? Before we answer this question, we have to consider the most important and abundant specialized relationship on the planet: the relationship between the insects that eat plants and the plants they eat. Most insect herbivores, some 90 percent in fact, are diet specialists restricted to eating just a few lineages of plants. But plants don’t want to be eaten, so they manufacture nasty chemicals including cyanide, nicotine, pyrethrins and tannins to deter plant-eaters.

If plants are so well defended, how can insects eat them without dying? Because insects like caterpillars necessarily ingest chemical deterrents with every bite, there is enormous selection pressure to restrict feeding to plant

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between 390 and 570 caterpillars to their nest each day, depending on the number of chicks in the nest (Brewer 1961). Parents feed nestlings in the nest for 16 to 18 days before the young fledge and then for 30 more days after fledging. If we focus only on the caterpillars required to reach fledging, it takes 6,240 to 10,260 caterpillars to fledge a single clutch of chickadees: an astounding number, even to those who study bird behavior. No one knows how many more caterpillars are required during the 30 days after fledging. What’s more, chickadees are tiny birds; a Carolina chickadee weighs 1/3 oz, the equivalent of four pennies. In comparison, a red-bellied woodpecker, which also rears its young on insect larvae, weighs eight times more than a chickadee. How many larvae are required to create a red-bellied woodpecker? How many insects are required to sustain an entire population of chickadees and woodpeckers ... and titmice, and orioles, bluebirds, wood thrushes, catbirds, cardinals, buntings, flycatchers and all of the other birds that signal healthy temperate zone ecosystems? The numbers are mind-boggling.

### CONSEQUENCES OF SPECIALIZATION

Suggesting that designed landscapes should produce rather than destroy insects would have been ludicrous, if not heretical, in the past. After all, if plants are simply decorations, we would want them to be forever flawless and untouched by natural processes. In fact, if flawless plantings are really the goal, using silk or plastic plants seems like the more logical

species they can eat without serious ill effects. Thus, a female moth will lay eggs only on plants with chemical defenses their hatchling caterpillars are able to disarm. There are many physiological means by which caterpillars can temper plant defenses, and they typically come by these adaptations through thousands of generations of exposure to the plant lineage in question. In short, by becoming host plant specialists, caterpillars can circumvent the chemical defenses of a few plant species well enough to make a living, while ignoring the rest of the plants in their ecosystem.

Monarch butterflies provide a perfect example. They are specialists on toxic milkweeds, which they can readily neutralize. The advantage of this relationship is obvious for the monarch, especially when milkweeds are plentiful; but there are also risks to specializing, especially in today’s world. Unfortunately for the monarch, the ability to detoxify the cardiac glycosides that defend milkweeds does not confer the ability to disarm the chemical defenses found in other plant lineages. This means that of the 2137 native plant genera in the U.S., the monarch can develop on only one, the genus *Asclepias*. The evolutionary history of this butterfly has locked it into a dependent relationship with milkweeds and if milkweeds disappear from a landscape, so does the monarch. This is exactly what has happened across the U.S. in recent years.

(continued next page)



## “Giving Ecological Purpose to Your Landscape”, from page 3

A growing culture that favors neat, manicured agricultural fields, combined with an unwillingness to share designed landscapes with milkweeds, has reduced monarch populations 96% from their numbers in the 1970s. Can monarchs adapt to other plant species? In theory, yes, but - in reality - no. Monarchs have been genetically locked into a relationship with milkweeds for millions of years. Adaptation could conceivably modify this relationship very slowly over enormously long periods, but asking monarchs to suddenly (within 30 years!) switch their dependence to an entirely different plant lineage such as, for example, the euphorbias or candytufts in our rock gardens, is like asking humans to develop wings. The number of genetic changes required to make such a switch reduces the probability of its happening before monarchs disappear to near zero.

Please note that monarchs are not exceptions, either in their specialized relationship with milkweeds, or in their current plight. They are typical of 90% of the insects that eat plants: their evolutionary history has restricted their development and reproduction to only the plant lineage on which they have specialized. And as we have homogenized plant diversity around the world by replacing diverse native plant communities with a small palate of ornamental favorites from other lands, the insects that depend on native species have declined. Data from Europe paint an alarming picture: insects in Germany have declined in abundance and diversity more than five-fold since 1989. This includes the extinction of 46 species of butterflies and moths. Globally, invertebrate abundance has been reduced 45% since 1974 (Schwageral 2016). We have caused these declines by the way we have designed landscapes in the past. But we can reverse the declines by landscaping differently in the future.

### MAKING INSECTS

What type of landscape is capable of producing insects in the numbers required to support viable food webs? A landscape created from the plants that have each developed specialized relationships with a diversity of insect species. A landscape occupied by organisms that have interacted with each other over evolutionary, rather than ecological, time spans. A landscape that showcases specialized relationships rather than ignores them. As we have seen, diet specialization is the rule among insect herbivores, not the exception. Without the plant lineages that support insect herbivores, there would be no insect herbivores. If there were no insect herbivores, all of the creatures that depend on insect herbivores for their nutrition - that is, the insectivores of the world - would also disappear. A world without insectivores would be a world without spiders, insect predators and parasitoids, frogs, toads, and other amphibians, lizards, bats, rodents, skunks, opossums, raccoons, and mammals we don't think of as insect eaters, such as foxes and black bears, both of which get a quarter of their nutrition from insects. And let's not forget that a world without insect herbivores would also be a world without most terrestrial bird species; with the exception of doves, finches, crossbills, and our largest birds of prey, terrestrial birds rear their young on insects (and the spiders that ate insects to become spiders). To reiterate, a world without all of these creatures would not only be a world without biological diversity, it would be a world in ecological collapse that is incapable of supporting humans.

### WHICH PLANTS SHOULD WE USE?

If non-native ornamentals do not support the relationships required to restore ecosystem function to our landscapes, which plants do? Simple logic tells us that using a palate biased toward native species should be sufficient to support robust food webs in our landscapes. However, comparisons among plant genera of host records for moths and butterflies, the backbone of most terrestrial food webs, reveal two striking patterns that suggest this conclusion needs to be refined (Tallamy and Shropshire 2009). First, there are huge differences among plant genera in their ability to make caterpillars and thus support other creatures. Oaks (*Quercus*) in the Mid-Atlantic



states, for example, serve as host plants for 557 species of caterpillars, tulip poplars (*Lireodendron*) only feed 21 species, and yellowwood (*Cladrastis*) is not used by any caterpillars at all. These are order-of-magnitude differences among plant genera that are all native to eastern North America. Second, a mere 5% of the native plant genera in any North American ecosystem support 73-75% of the caterpillar species. Stated in reverse, 95% of the native plant genera support only 25-27% of the caterpillars that drive local food webs (Tallamy and Shropshire in prep.). We cannot build ecologically rich landscapes if we do not include the core genera - those top 5% - that create the majority of food-driving local food webs.

We don't yet understand why some plant genera are responsible for so much of the life around us, while most pass on minimal energy, and some none at all, to local wildlife. But we do not need to understand the basis of the relationship to use it effectively in landscape design. This pattern is consistent across all bioregions of North America and is not changed by latitude, longitude, or plant diversity levels. Wherever we are in the U.S., we can create plantings that sustain birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals by generating tens of thousands of insects. Landscape designers and architects, land managers, restoration biologists, and above all home gardeners can learn which native plant genera contain core species at the National Wildlife Federation website under “Native Plant Finder” (<http://www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/>).

Enter your zip code, and a list of plant genera found in your county, ranked from most to least productive, will appear.



To read the rest of the article which includes a list of references cited, please visit [calthort.org](http://calthort.org).

*This article originally appeared in the Spring 2017 edition of 'Rock Garden Quarterly,' published by the North American Rock Garden Society. It has been reprinted with permission from Doug Tallamy.*

## Society Personality: Karen Bachand, CHS Secretary



**K**aren was born, raised and educated in Connecticut. She is now retired but spent her career working as an Executive Secretary. In 1980, Karen received her Certified Professional Secretary (CPS) designation. She recently retired after spending the last 22 years in the Finance Department at the Town of Glastonbury. It was in anticipation of retirement that Karen decided to join the Connecticut Horticultural Society (CHS) in 2016. To get involved in the workings of the Society, she also agreed to accept the position of Secretary to the CHS Board of Directors. As Secretary, Karen covers all the CHS Board meetings to document the topics covered.

**Tell us about yourself, what are your hobbies and interests?** Well of course I love to garden and I am also interested in cooking, traveling and decorating.

**Describe your gardening style.** I prefer to garden with perennials. That way, I don't have to replace plants each year. Then I fill in with impatiens for color, as needed. My goal is to maintain a yard that accommodates easy mowing.

**What do you like best about your own garden?** I like the joy that I have created with my garden. It looks especially pretty in the spring, at a time when I can't wait to see it return to life.

**Which plant(s) do you wish you could grow but can't?** Plants that require full sun. My garden is shaded so there are many plants that aren't suitable for it. I wish my hill garden was totally in the sun so I could plant and have flowers all year long.

**Did someone in your life inspire you to become interested in gardening?** My mother enjoys gardening and working outside so I must have picked up the gardening bug from her. My parents are in their 90s and live nearby. I'm hoping they passed their longevity along to me and my two brothers.

**What gardens do you like to visit?** I'm up to visit any style of garden, anywhere, at any time. They are all beautiful to me and I can learn or see something new in each garden I visit.

**What is your biggest gardening success?** That would be the hill garden in my backyard that runs the width of my property. In the spring, it is filled with color from daffodils and many spring flowers. Then a succession of other shade-loving flowers proceeds to bloom until the 4th of July.

**What is your biggest gardening mistake?** I keep trying to grow sun-loving plants on my shady hill.

**Do you have a favorite plant? Why is it your favorite?** I really love azaleas. I remember seeing the bright pink azaleas during a trip I took to Washington D.C. back in high school. I've never forgotten how beautiful they looked.

**What are you working on now in the garden?** I'm still attempting to grow some sun-loving plants in my shady garden on the hill. I strategically position them in the sunniest spots and cross my fingers.

**Care to share a fact about yourself that others may find surprising?** I consider myself to be a shy person. 🌱



Elaine Widmer and Justine Leeper

*"Every organization needs new people to get involved because it's their new ideas that strengthen the organization and provide the momentum to keep it growing and moving forward."*

—Elaine Widmer

## 2017 CHS Service Award Recipient – Elaine Widmer

*By Justine Leeper, Awards Committee*

The CHS Service Award recognizes a member who volunteers their time on committees and at events and engages others to do the same. It honors someone whose name is repeatedly on the sign-up sheet and whose name most people know. Elaine Widmer is definitely that kind of member.

Elaine has been involved with CHS for about fifteen years. During this time, she has been on several committees, including the Education and Membership Committees. I was lucky enough to work side-by-side with her on the Awards and Scholarship Committee. I remember her talking positively about CHS and the great events they hold. She is very passionate about the Society and constantly encourages others to get more involved. And if that's not enough, Elaine has been an active member on the CHS Board of Directors for seven years where her main role has included chairing the Awards Committee.

Elaine loves horticulture. You will find her at every meeting, event and auction. The plant auctions have become a tradition for Elaine and her husband, Tom Gruber. "We enjoy learning more about the plants offered and it's another way for us to 'give back' since all the proceeds help to fund scholarships for five Horticulture students."

Her favorite parts of CHS are the people, the speakers and the volunteer opportunities. Elaine has absolutely enhanced my CHS experience and I know she's done the same for many others. She gives so much of herself to the Society and is well-deserving of the 2017 Service Award.

Gratitude is the heart's way of celebrating kindness.

May 31, 2017

Dear Connecticut Horticulture Society:

Thank you for the Connecticut Horticulture Society Scholarship that was awarded to me. It was so nice to be recognized for my academic achievement within the NVCC Horticulture Department. This scholarship means so much to my wife and I as it provides confidence moving forward while demonstrating my commitment to a horticulture career, especially Zoological Horticulture. Lastly, I look forward to sharing my experiences with your organization.

Sincerely,

*Brian Schock*

Brian Schock



#### UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:



#### 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.

at Ballek's Garden Center in East Haddam

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.



#### Monarch Butterfly Workshop



*Featuring Diane St. John of Natureworks*

Saturday, August 26, 10 a.m. to noon

at Natureworks in Northford

Natureworks raised and released over 700 monarch butterflies from eggs and caterpillars collected in their organic gardens in 2016. Their work continues in 2017. Join Diane St. John to learn how this is accomplished. The life cycle of the monarch butterfly will be discussed as will the various forms of Asclepias (milkweed) that can be grown for their food and shelter. You'll learn how to spot the eggs, protocol for raising them indoors, important nectar flowers to plant in your garden as food, and finally, how to release and tag them for monarch watch. This kid-friendly workshop is suggested for both adults and children who like bugs and science.

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



*Nancy DuBrule-Clemente (left), Lynn Cavo (center) & C.L. Fornari at the recent garden workshop. Photo taken by CHS member Steve Gryc.*

### ***C.L. Fornari's Entertaining People, Pollinators and Birds Workshop is a Hit!***

Members were treated to a spectacular day at the June 15th workshop with C.L. Fornari, that evening's speaker. Lynn Cavo's meticulous Farmington garden was the setting and you couldn't have asked for better weather. Huge thanks to Lynn and her family for preparing her garden for this event. The sold-out, members-only workshop included garden tours led by C.L. Fornari, Nancy DuBrule-Clemente and Lynn Cavo. Garden-based cocktails, appetizers and desserts, prepared by members of the Education Committee, were enjoyed by attendees as they wandered through the gardens on their own. It was a special treat for guests to be able to spend time with C.L., Nancy and Lynn in a casual, intimate setting. C.L. even signed copies of her book, 'Cocktails in the Garden.'

# CHS Travel

## CHS is going to Broadway! **COME FROM AWAY**

Wednesday, November 1 Matinee



On 9/11, the world stopped. On 9/12, their stories moved us all. COME FROM AWAY takes you into the heart of the remarkable true story of 7,000 stranded passengers and the small town in Newfoundland that welcomed them. Cultures clashed and nerves ran high, but uneasiness turned into trust, music soared into the night and gratitude grew into enduring friendships.

Don't miss this breathtaking show, written by Tony® nominees Irene San-koff and David Hein and directed by two-time Tony® nominee Christopher Ashley (Memphis), that Newsweek cheers, "It does what the best musicals do: takes you to a place you never want to leave."

Before the show, enjoy lunch at Mont Blanc 52 in their new location on 52nd Street. The well-known, Swiss-European restaurant is offering a

choice of: Chicken Marsala, Filet of Salmon with Capers, Lemon & Scallion OR Cheese Ravioli. Entrées served with Potato Pancakes & Vegetable (except for pasta entrée). Apple Strudel a la mode & coffee are included.

Fee: \$224 per member. Add \$10 per person if not a CHS member.

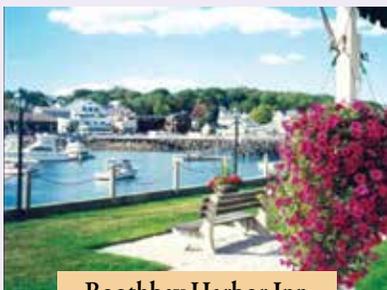
Call for availability on the Hudson Valley trip, August 13-14.

### 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



Boothbay Harbor Inn

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: \$589 per member (double) or \$669 per member (single).

Add \$50 per person if not a CHS member.



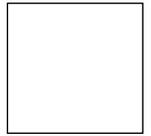
### 2017 Holidays at The Mount Washington Resort

Saturday & Sunday,  
December 2-3, 2017



This year's CHS annual holiday getaway takes us to The Mount Washington Resort in scenic New Hampshire. Call to learn more and to reserve your spot today!

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 Calendar at a Glance

- Weds., July 19** – 2nd Crop Workshop  
6:00 p.m.  
Ballek's in East Haddam
- Tues., Aug. 15** – September Newsletter  
content deadline
- Sat., Aug. 26** – Monarch Butterfly  
Workshop, 10:00 a.m.  
Natureworks in Northford
- Thurs., Sept. 7** – CHS Board &  
Committee Meeting  
Rocky Hill
- Thurs., Sept. 14** – CHS Speaker Meeting  
Emanuel Synagogue  
NOTE: Meeting falls on  
2nd Thursday due to  
Rosh Hashana

*Dated Material* 🌿 *Please Rush*

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



Celebrating 130 Years

## Important Membership Renewal Information

*by Cheryl Marino, Membership Committee*

Great news! We're holding down the cost of membership and it will remain unchanged for the 2017–2018 CHS Season that begins on September 1, 2017:

### 2017–2018 MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| • Individual                                 | \$49  |
| • Family                                     | \$69  |
| • Sr. Individual 65+                         | \$44  |
| • Sr. Family 65+                             | \$64  |
| • Age 30 or Under                            | \$30  |
| • Student ( <i>full time with valid ID</i> ) | Free  |
| • Garden Builder                             | \$125 |
| • Plant Expert                               | \$250 |
| • Dream Designer                             | \$500 |

The MEMBERSHIP section of [chort.org](http://chort.org) will be ready to accept renewals on August 1.

In addition, CHS has upgraded the renewal process and we can now accommodate rolling memberships. Simply put, your membership is up for renewal one year after you last paid. For example, if you renewed or joined in Septem-

ber or October or November 2016, you'll be contacted to renew in that same month in 2017; similar to a magazine subscription.

To save on paper and hold down costs, your renewal can be handled online with ease. We will email you a reminder a month before your renewal is due. A link will be provided in that email to renew online at any time. Your option to renew at a meeting or through the mail is still valid but we encourage you to give this a try!

Emails will begin to go out in August. I look forward to seeing all of you in the 2017–2018 Season.

