

Connecticut Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 62, Number 5

Serving Horticulturists Since 1887

February 2020

Things to watch out for in your 2020 Garden

By Sarah Bailey, State Coordinator, UConn Extension Master Gardener Program and CT Hort member

Winter is a good time to plan for the upcoming growing season; taking stock of last season's disappointments and delights and mapping out this year's garden plans. Catalogs tempt with descriptions of new plant varieties and must-have tools, and that promise to *not buy any more plants* is seriously challenged.

Along with the fun new stuff, now is also a good time to familiarize yourself with the dark side of the garden world. Each year, new invasive flora and fauna make their debut in the northeast US. As gardeners, we are up close in the great outdoors and in an excellent position to catch sight of these unwelcome visitors early. Diligent scouting not only protects your own garden, but also may help slow down the spread of these pests throughout the state.

There are, unfortunately, plenty of invasive plants and insects to contend with but here we'll look at three recent arrivals in Connecticut. Early detection is key to minimizing the damage from these unwelcome visitors, so take some time to learn to recognize them and how to manage them.

SPOTTED LANTERN FLY (*Lycorma delicatula*)

Only two have been found in the state in the last two years and luckily one was dead. They both were most likely hitchhikers, as the vehicles they were found on had come from what is essentially ground zero for Spotted Lanternfly (SLF).

These startlingly beautiful insects are in the Hemiptera, or planthopper order, the same as aphids, cicadas and leafhoppers. Originally from Southeast Asia, they were first sighted in southeastern Pennsylvania in 2014. Since then, they have spread to New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, New York and, now, our state. A dead SLF was found in



Farmington in October 2018 and one live one was found in Southbury in October of last year.

Spotted Lanternfly feed on an extensive variety of plants. Their favorite source is the invasive Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) which is the only positive attribute. They use their piercing/sucking mouthparts to feed on many common shade trees, including red and sugar maples, chestnut oaks, tulip trees, and American sycamore. They are a particular problem for growers of grapes and hops, with some affected vineyards reporting losses of 75-90 percent.

In addition to the feeding damage, SLF also secretes honeydew, which encourages the development of sooty mold. Overall, plant damage includes oozing sap, leaf curling and loss of photosynthesis due to excessive sooty mold. They also tend to congregate in very large masses and can cover entire plants.

What to do? Right now SLF is a reportable insect in Connecticut. If you find one, dead or alive, report it immediately through ReportSLF@ct.gov. For more information, go to <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/.../spotted-lan.../spotted-lanternfly>.

CRAZY WORMS

(*Amyntas agrestis* and two other species)

These are not the newest arrival, as they have been here for several years. They are, however, reaching a population size that is becoming problematic for many locations.

Almost all earthworms in New England are not truly native, but these jumping or crazy worms are destructive invaders who damage or destroy the organic matter in our soil. These worms grow bigger (1.5 to 8 inches long), faster, reproduce more quickly and consume the organic matter at

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CT Flower & Garden Show
Thursday thru Sunday
February 20-23

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and articles for publication should be
sent to: news@cthort.org.*

Send Membership Information
& Direct General Questions To:
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Membership Dues:	
Individual.....	\$55
Family.....	\$75
Senior Individual (65+).....	\$50
Senior Family (65+).....	\$70
\$30 under 30 years.....	\$30
Student (full time with valid ID).....	FREE
Horticultural Business Member.....	\$100 or \$250
Organizations.....	\$80

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Horticultural Happenings & Announcements

Note: Happenings are listed on a space-available basis. To submit an event, send details to news@cthort.org. Please format the announcement to resemble the entries below. Deadline for March issue is February 14.

Thurs. Feb. 6, noon – West Hartford Garden Club welcomes Carol Quish, Horticulturist and Program Aide at UConn Home and Garden Education Center. Carol presents, “Animals and Pests in the Yard.” She will offer solutions for woodchucks, chipmunks, voles, mice and more. Brief business meeting followed by speaker. **Location:** St. John’s Episcopal Church, 679 Farmington Ave, West Hartford. Enter at RAMP DOOR at rear of building. **Fee:** \$10 guest donation includes light lunch at noon. Reservations preferred – contact Susan at 860-305-6370 or reserve online at www.WestHartfordGardenClub.org. **Meeting is automatically cancelled when West Hartford Schools are closed due to bad weather.

Tues. Feb 25, 7 p.m. – The Gardeners of Simsbury will host Trade Secrets: Plant Selection and Organic Lawn Care with Karla Dalley. **Location:** Simsbury Public Library, Large Meeting Room, 725 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury. *Free to the public.*

Mon. Feb. 24, 11:30 a.m. – Simsbury Garden Club presents Invasive Species of the Area and Their Containment

presented by a representative from the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group at UConn. **Location:** Apple Barn, 60 Old Farms Road, West Simsbury. **Guests welcome - \$10 fee.**

Sat. Mar. 7 – CT NOFA’s 38th Winter Conference OrganiConn 2020. **Location:** Wesleyan University in Middletown. Keynote speaker is Niaz Dorry of the National Family Farm Coalition & Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance. Details and registration at ctnofa.org.

Sat. Mar 21, 2020, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – 26th Annual Connecticut Master Gardener Association (CMGA) Symposium. Guest speakers include: Margaret Roach, Dan Benarcik, Tovah Martin, Lorraine Ballato, Irene Brady Barber, Gregory Bugbee and Nancy DuBrule-Clemente. **Registration starts January 2020. Admission:** \$65 for CMGA members and guests; \$95 for non-members and walk-ins. **Location:** Connecticut College, New London, Conn. For more information, go to <https://ctmga.org/2020-symposium-information>.



Visit cthort.org for the MOST CURRENT listings and links.

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Bartlett Arboretum
Earth Tones Native Plant Nursery
Go Organic LLC
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The Garden Barn Nursery
Trout Lily Farm
Wild Rose Landscape Design

Cannabis on campus: not what you think!

with Gerald Berkowitz, Professor, University of Connecticut

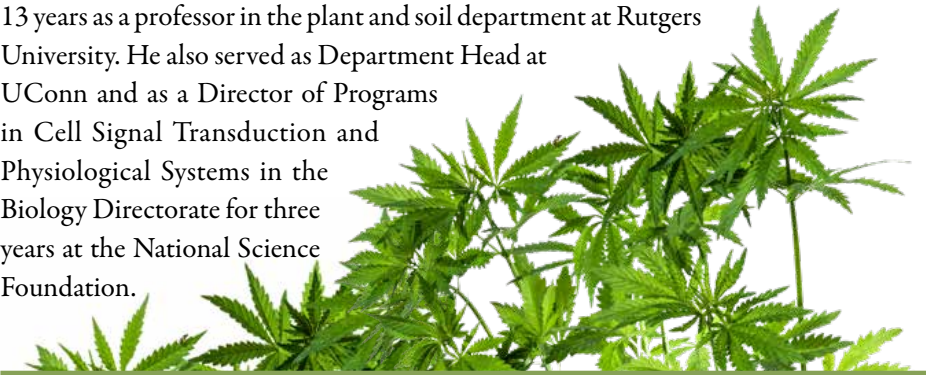
Thursday, February 20, 2020



Prof. Gerald Berkowitz

For the past few years, Prof. Berkowitz has been researching cannabis and has seen a spike in demand from students who want to learn about the drug and industry. As more states legalize cannabis use for medical /recreational purposes, interest in his class has grown. Connecticut has a medical-marijuana program but has yet to legalize recreational use of the drug. At our February Speaker Meeting on Thursday February 20, Gerry will discuss the research advances that have been made in CBD Hemp.

His UConn lecture course, entitled "Horticulture of Cannabis: from seed to harvest," attracts nearly 400 students. Prior to his appointment at UConn, Berkowitz spent 13 years as a professor in the plant and soil department at Rutgers University. He also served as Department Head at UConn and as a Director of Programs in Cell Signal Transduction and Physiological Systems in the Biology Directorate for three years at the National Science Foundation.



CT Hort 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, February 20, 2020

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

Location: Emanuel Synagogue Auditorium-please park and enter at rear of building. 160 Mohegan Dr., West Hartford



STORM ALERT!

In the event of inclement weather on the night of a Program Meeting, tune into WFSB TV Channel 3, or call the CT Hort office at 860-529-8713 for a recorded message.

Save the date! Spring Plant Sale & Auction

Friday, April 24
6:30 p.m.

Bethany Covenant Church
Berlin

Mark your calendar for the CT Hort Spring Plant Sale & Auction on Friday, April 24. Same great spring location - Bethany Covenant Church in Berlin.

More details to come
as the date draws near.

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

Emanuel Synagogue requires that we institute formal sign-in procedures for added safety and security at their facility. Please bear this in mind, and we appreciate your patience as we carry out their request. Thank you.



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 five-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.

“Things to watch out for in your 2020 Garden” from page 1

a rate that is not sustainable. In heavily infested areas native plants, amphibians and birds have started to decline.

Their best-known characteristic is the thrashing, jumping and gyrating they do when handled. These movements are more similar to a snake's defensive response than that of other worms.



Crazy snake worm with its distinctive white clitellum.

The best way to identify them is by collar, or clitellum, near the head. This smooth, light-colored band completely encircles the worm, whereas the more familiar “common” worms have a pink, raised clitellum that doesn't generally go completely around.

What to do? Again, there are no widespread control methods, so it's up to the individual gardener to respond. In my case, I have taken to carrying a bucket of water along as I garden, and any I find are unceremoniously drowned. The carcasses then go in the trash, just to be thorough. Some folks use them to make a worm tea.

Prevention is the real key here. Any plant I get from a plant sale, a neighbor, or an unknown source are removed from their soil and washed to bare-root status before planting. This not only eliminates any mature worms but reduces the chances of eggs getting established in my garden.

For more information, go to <http://cctompkins.org/resources/jumping-worm-fact-sheet>.

PALMER AMARANTH (*Amaranthus palmeri*)

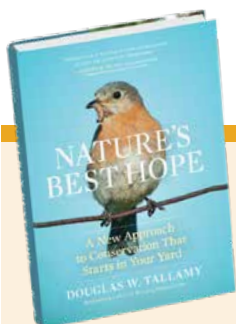
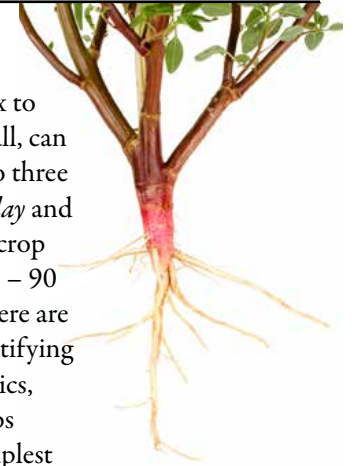
This is really a problem for farmers, but it is such a problem that it's valuable for home gardeners to keep a sharp eye out for it. This highly aggressive species of pigweed outcompetes many different crops and is toxic to livestock. It was found in two pumpkin fields in East Windsor last fall. This annual broadleaf weed is native to the southwestern US and Mexico, but considered invasive in our region.

There are other pigweeds the New England gardener is more familiar with, the most common being redroot and smooth pigweeds. Palmer amaranth grows faster, produces more than 100,000 seeds per plant and is developing herbicide resistance. It

can grow six to eight feet tall, can grow two to three inches *per day* and can reduce crop yields by 70 – 90 percent. There are several identifying characteristics, with perhaps the two simplest being that the stems of our common pigweeds are hairy while Palmer is smooth. Palmer foliage often has red or white marks on the upper surface.

If you believe you've found Palmer amaranth, contact the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in Windsor. For more information: <http://portal.ct.gov>

Invasive species are an unfortunate fact of the gardening world. In an age of almost instant communications, we now have the ability to learn about the threats more quickly and learn what to look for before it's a huge problem. It's an uphill battle but if we all act as sentinels we may be able to slow the invasions down. Who knows? One of these days we may actually stop a new incursion in its tracks. That's a winter daydream to work towards.



35% off Timber Press Gardening Books!

CT Master Gardeners are holding a can't-miss book sale of recently published Timber Press horticulture books. Titles include Doug Tallamy's latest, *Nature's Best Hope*, and Michael Dirr's *Tree Book*. Order form can be downloaded [here](#) or from our website cthort.org.





CT Hort Scholar Receives National Recognition



One of our CT Hort 2019-2020 Scholarship winners, Jacklyn Stupienski, was presented with a national scholarship by Spring Meadow Nursery, of Grand Haven Mich., and the Horticultural Research Institute (HRI). Jacklyn was one of four recipients of the 2019-2020 Spring Meadow – Proven Winners® Endowment Fund scholarships.



Spring Meadow Nursery owners Dale & Liz Deppe established the scholarship fund with HRI in 1999 with the belief that bright, well-trained, qualified people are essential to the green industry. All parties involved firmly believe that backing motivated students plays a vital role in protecting and growing the industry. Through HRI, the AmericanHort Foundation acts as the administrator of endowments that help students to obtain the education necessary to successfully pursue horticultural careers.



The AmericanHort Foundation

“Our team has been blessed by this industry and the mentors who’ve helped us along the way. These scholarships represent our commitment to continue the encouragement of emerging professionals,” said Dale Deppe. “We are pleased to be able to support these students in such a direct way.”



Horticulture students Mary Tuski, Noah Brown, Amber Lancaster and **Jacklyn Stupienski** were each awarded \$2500 scholarships for the 2019-2020 granting period, bringing the total amount of awards distributed through the fund to \$83,750. The students were chosen from a competitive national applicant pool for their academic achievements, exemplary leadership abilities, and commitment to pursuing careers in horticulture.

Click here to read the entire article on Perishablenews.com.

2020 Service Award

By Justine Ramsey, Awards Committee

Our much loved Connecticut Horticultural Society (CT Hort) exists largely due to the help of many volunteers. They are a source of inspiration, knowledge and encouragement which is valued and enjoyed by all of us. If you’ve attended lectures, bought a cool plant at the auction, traveled to amazing gardens, participated in workshops, or benefited from any of the offerings CT Hort provides, it was possible because of our amazing volunteers. Think back and try to remember a face you consistently see or a voice you love to hear at our monthly meetings or other various events, they could be our next service award winner. Please take a moment to recognize an individual who has enhanced your experience with CT Hort by nominating them as the 2020 Service Award recipient. Nominations should include a brief explanation of why you feel they should be considered and as much background about them as you can. Send nominations to:

Mary Anna Martell, CT Hort Office
2433 Main Street – Suite 1
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

OR

Email: office@cthort.org
Subject line: Service Award

**It only takes a few minutes to thank someone who gives so much of themselves.
Nominations must be received by March 30, 2020.**



Newly planted Elm at Holcomb Farm.

Gordon DeWolfe's initial response to three Granby residents looking to start an arboretum was "The first thing I'll say is you're crazy. Next is that you'll need \$10 million!"

Gordon was with the Arnold Arboretum in Boston for decades, and he just happened to be the first person that Peggy Lareau, Eric Lukingbeal and I contacted. Ultimately, Gordon went on to say he thought it was a great idea and offered plenty of useful advice.

There were numerous positive and encouraging visits with other Arboreta, public and private, and their Directors in Connecticut, New York, and as far away as San Francisco. Glen Dreyer and Maggie Redfern at Connecticut College Arboretum were and still are especially encouraging and helpful. Solid advice and ideas came from a number of other people, including the Director of the Bartlett Arboretum; John Kehoe, once the Chief Forester for Hartford; Dr. Robert Richard of UConn; and three local Arborists, John O'Brien of O'Brien Nursery in Granby, Don Ford of Granby's Stonegate Nursery, and Shawn Bosco of Bosco's Nursery in Simsbury.

The next step taken for the Tree Trail was to 'hire' John Alexopoulos' Junior Landscape Design Class at UConn to perform a Study and give us design criteria. Taking this step strengthened our resolve and helped convince us we could succeed. We then went full speed ahead.

Well, not quite full speed because we didn't have any funding, but what we did have is Holcomb Farm. This 330-acre farm was gifted to the town of Granby from the Holcomb family. Interestingly, it was the first 'electrified' Dairy Farm

Granby Tree Trail

By Barry Avery, CT Hort Member and community activist

in Connecticut, dates back to 1750, and had remained in the possession of the Holcomb Family. The property has spectacular views, mature forests, a thriving CSA Farm and beautiful open fields just waiting for trees.

Holcomb Farm is overseen by Friends of Holcomb Farm, a volunteer Board. The Tree Trail concept was presented to the Board whose response was to "Go for it." The Granby Board of Selectmen and Town Manager gave the go ahead after one false start and 16 trees were ordered from Rare Earth Nursery in Cazenovia, New York. The Nursery uses a Missouri Gravel Bed system of

this past autumn; three each of Japanese Tree Lilac, Cornelian Cherry, Kousa Dogwood, and Sargent Cherry. More trees have been ordered for planting this year. Friends of Holcomb Farm recently received a very generous donation from a long-time Granby resident and it is to be used 'for Trees only.'

A group of native shrubs and flowers and some interpretive signs will go in this spring. Permanent name tags have been installed on some 60 trees along several of the marked trails on the Farm. Other efforts include an ongoing program to clear unwanted brush and invasive plants that have grown since active farming stopped over two decades ago, and a dedicated parking area is also in the plans. We are actively working to bring Educational Programs to the Tree Trail, coordinating with the Granby School System, and other organizations such as 4H, Scouts and maybe McLean Game refuge. McLean's is a 4000+ acre property located primarily in Granby with some property in Simsbury and Canton, and has trails that connect with Holcomb Farm and that opens many possibilities.

Come and visit anytime. Holcomb Farm is on Simsbury Road in Granby and is open to the public for free. The Tree Trail is across the street from the parking area near the house and barns.

The Tree Trail is looking to expand its volunteer roster. The Trail is approved as volunteer hours for UConn Master Gardeners. If you would like to be involved in the exciting future of this property you can email me, Barry Avery, barryavry@cox.net. That will also work if you have a couple million dollars you would like to donate; or even a few dollars. We are a 501(c)(3) organization so all monetary donations are tax deductible. We would love to tell Gordon DeWolf we are getting close to his advice to obtain 10 million dollars.



Holcomb Tree Trail crew - left-to-right - Barry Avery, Jack Lareau, Walt Zultowski, Peggy Lareau and Eric Lukingbeal

growing and the trees are all six to ten feet tall, with a mature root system. The first trees planted in 2018 – three each of Kentucky Coffee Tree, American Linden, American Elm, Swamp White Oak, Shingle Oak, and one Black Tupelo – are thriving in their new home.

A grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving paid for the trees planted in 2018. The hope is that the Foundation will contribute again in the future. It also helps that a significant sum of money was left to the HFFPG when there were no remaining Holcomb heirs.

Fourteen more trees were planted

CT Hort Travel



Say G'day to the WONDERS DOWN UNDER

Saturday Feb. 22 – Friday, Mar. 13, 2020

This once-in-a-lifetime exploration of Australia and New Zealand includes an amazing itinerary. Begin your adventure with two nights in Sydney, Australia. There will be sightseeing trips planned and an elegant dinner cruise. Then board the luxurious Holland America's Noordam to begin your cruise. Stops in Australia will include: Melbourne, Port Arthur and Tasmania. Cruise through Milford Sound and Fjordland National Park before the first stop of your week stay in New Zealand (NZ). Ports of call include: Port Chalmers, Christchurch, Wellington, Gisborne and Tauranga. Cruise the Bay of Plenty and Cormandel Peninsula before disembarking in Auckland for an overnight with sightseeing.



Cost: Prices range from \$5,899 per person to \$7,099 per person for twin; based on type of cabin chosen. An additional \$330 per person must be added for taxes. Call to learn more and to receive a 4-page flyer detailing this exceptional excursion.



2020 Philadelphia Flower Show *Riviera Holiday*

Sunday-Monday, March 1-2, 2020

This will be the 191st show organized by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS). The Philadelphia Flower Show is America's largest horticultural event, which attracts 250,000 guests each year. Enjoy acres of gardens, thousands of displays, more than 180 shops in the Marketplace, interactive exhibits and more.



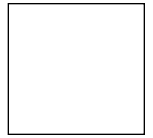
Overnight accommodations have been secured at the Holiday Inn Express Midtown, which is located in the heart of downtown Philadelphia. Sunday's Welcome Dinner guest will be Ron Mulray, of Philadelphia Flower Co. Ron is a long-time supporter, exhibitor and friend of PHS.


He will give us his intimate, behind-the-scenes take on the show!

Cost: \$399 per person double occupancy | \$479 per person single. Non-members please add \$50.



**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.**



Dated Material  *Please Rush*

CT Hort Calendar at a Glance

- Sat., Feb. 1** – *CT Hort 2020 Symposium;*
8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mark Twain
House, Hartford.
SOLD OUT!!!
- Thurs., Feb. 6** – Board of Directors Meeting,
7 p.m. at Friendship Tours
- Fri., Feb. 14** – Deadline for March
Newsletter
- Thurs., Feb. 20** – CT Hort Program Meeting,
7:30 p.m. UConn Prof.
Gerald Berkowitz presents
Cannibis on Campus:
Not what you Think!
Emanuel Synagogue
Auditorium, W. Htfd.

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Help Wanted: Membership Committee Chairperson

There are a number of ways to help the Connecticut Horticultural Society (CT Hort) continue moving forward from its start in 1897. Your annual membership is one form of support. Another is to contribute your time and expertise.

CT Hort is currently looking to fill the position of Membership Committee Chairperson. The Membership committee is tasked with acquainting the general public with the Society and its benefits by attending events where our literature can be placed in the hands of interested people. In addition, committee members staff the membership table at monthly meetings and various events to facilitate discussion with potential members, sign up new members and process renewals.

As head of the committee, the chairperson is responsible for coordinating the following activities:

- Have a membership table staffed at each CT Hort event and a handful of public events.
- Work with the Communications Director and Office Administrator to update membership and renewal information at the start of each season. Any changes are decided by the Board and members by June and must be implemented by September 1.
- Acquaint nurseries, florist, Garden Clubs or any horticultural business with CT Hort. Leave behind a Program Calendar, membership brochures, Newsletters, etc.
- Invite recent Master Gardener graduates to our January Speaker Meeting. Coordinate this with UConn Master Gardener Coordinator in October.
- Coordinate Member Anniversary Celebration that occurs at our April Speaker meeting.
- Work with the Communications Director to extend invitations to outside groups who may find our speakers of interest, e.g., photography groups, garden clubs, Audobon, etc.

We would love to meet the outgoing individual who would enjoy spreading the word of our interesting, plant-loving organization. Please come forward to help us build our membership base and secure the future of CT Hort.

**To learn more, please call Cheryl Marino at 860.989.6149 or
Brett Isaacson at 860.243.1630.**