

# Connecticut Horticultural Society

# NEWSLETTER

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Serving Horticulturists Since 1887

January 2020

## 2020 Garden Media's Garden Trends Report: Seeing 20/20

*Editor's note: The annual Garden Trends Report is one of the most published garden studies in trade and consumer news. It is compiled by the Garden Media Group, a PR and marketing firm out of Philadelphia. A summary of their findings for 2020 is presented here. To read the report in its entirety, visit: [grow.gardenmediagroup.com](http://grow.gardenmediagroup.com)*



**Garden Media Group projects eight trends that will gather momentum in 2020:**

### 1. Cities of the Future

Currently, more than half the world's people live in cities. By 2050, it is expected that 70% of the world's population will be city dwellers. Urbanization improves life, from better education to more employment opportunities. In spite of the trend toward urbanization, people still long for nature. As a result, tranquil, plant-filled environments for business and pleasure are in demand.

Central Recreational Districts (CRD) are the new Central Business Districts (CBD). These are urban areas designed to escape the hustle of the city with parks, historic places, landmarks and tourist destinations. A vibrant CRD attracts younger, educated inhabitants and results in 16% higher housing prices and a 10% growth in population and jobs.

Trees are viewed as especially important within the green

infrastructure of future cities. They are a best practice for controlling stormwater runoff, urban heat mitigation and reduction in air pollution. Well-placed and managed trees sequester carbon and reduce energy consumption by shading buildings in the summer and reducing wind in the winter.



Regulations will frame changes to highway buffer zones, urban forestry, green roofs, pollinator habitat, community gardens, new parks and green stormwater. Architects, designers, urban planners and politicians are being forced

to reimagine cities' natural spaces. Green businesses are the ambassadors of change by educating people and decision makers about doing their part.

### 2. Circular Economy

Many can remember a time when things were made to last; when items were mended and fashions lasted longer than a season. Our current society is consumptive with just 9% of materials consumed globally being re-used. Global consumption has tripled since 1970. These days, 67% of greenhouse gas emissions are related to material management.

Conversely, a circular economy minimizes waste and makes the most of resources. It replaces the end-of-life concept with restoration. The circular economy does more with less. It's about ensuring products, where possible, have a second life. When that's not possible, they're taken apart and the components are re-used. The goal is to deliver customer value with minimal waste.

continued on page 4

### Look inside for:

- 2020 Symposium registration form
- CT Flower & Garden Show preparations - page 6

#### IN THIS ISSUE:

Horticultural Happenings	2
Speaker Program	3
Welcome New Members	5
Trips with CT Hort	7



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Membership Dues:

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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](mailto:news@cthort.org). Please format the announcement to resemble the entries below. Deadline for February issue is January 15.

Jan. 9 to Feb. 6, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Kick start your 2020 garden project(s) by taking the **Fundamentals of Garden Design** offered by the New York Botanical Garden at **The New Canaan Nature Center**. Sheri Forster, Principal of The Scottish Gardener (and January 2019 speaker at CT Hort) is the instructor for this class. Register at [www.nybg.org/adulted](http://www.nybg.org/adulted) or call 718-817-8747.

Sat., Jan 25, noon – **Connecticut Daylily Society** welcomes **Rich Howard**, who will present “**Explosion at the Paint Factory and Beyond.**” Potluck lunch and social hour begins at noon. Presentation at 1 p.m. **Location:** Avon Senior Center, Avon. **Free!**

Mon. Jan 27, 11:30 a.m. – **Simsbury Garden Club** welcomes **Kevin Wilcox** who will speak on the **Varied World of Hydrangeas**. **Location:** The Apple Barn, 60 Old Farms Rd, West Simsbury. Guests are welcome for a fee of \$10.

Tues. Jan. 28, 7 p.m. – **The Gardeners of Simsbury** will host **Barbara Austin** who will present **Stone Walls and their Stories**. **Location:** Simsbury Public Library, Large Meeting Room, 725 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury. *Free to the public.*

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](http://www.WestHartfordGardenClub.org). \*\*Meeting is automatically cancelled when West Hartford Schools are closed due to bad weather.

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](http://ctnofa.org).

Sat. Mar. 21, 2020, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – **27th 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](http://cthort.org) for the MOST CURRENT listings and links.

Thank you to our generous business members and contributors!

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# The New Zen Garden: Japanese Design Styles for Home Gardens

with Christopher Tuccio,  
Professor of Horticulture,  
Naugatuck Valley Community College

Thursday, January 16, 2020



Prof. Christopher Tuccio

Chris's interest in design emerged as a young teenager. He received his first portable drafting table for Christmas when he was just fourteen. It remains an unforgettable treasure that has traveled the world with him as he built on his design knowledge - earning a BS in Landscape Architecture at Cornell University and a Masters in Landscape Architecture in Urban Design at Harvard University - and remains with him to this day in his home studio.

Prof. Tuccio's January 16 talk will focus on the key elements of creating a Japanese Zen Garden for the residential landscape. Chris will review the history, cultural significance and design elements of traditional Japanese Zen gardens and provide practical ways in which garden enthusiasts can adapt these strategies in their yards.

Chris shares much more information about Landscape Design on his website: [draftscapes.com](http://draftscapes.com).

## Newly Minted Master Gardeners are Guests at January Meeting

By Cheryl Marino, Vice President and Membership Committee Chairperson

We are excited to welcome the October 2019 graduating class of Master Gardeners as our guests at the January meeting. This gives us the opportunity to showcase what we do and who we are. Please join me in a friendly welcome to all of those guests on January 16th. Look for visitors with name tags labeled "Master Gardener" and please introduce yourself and let our guests know about your favorite CT Hort event.

## 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.

## 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](http://www.cthort.org).

**Date:** Thursday, January 16, 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.



## 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](http://cthort.org). Click on the survey icon found on any page then chose the speaker you want to rate. Thank you for your feedback.

## “2020 Garden Media’s Garden Trends Report” from page 1



### 3. Green Collar Jobs

From horticultural therapy to plant blogger, new green-collar jobs range from full-on careers to seasonal opportunities. Booming hydroponic and aquaponics industries create demand for new, cleaner data-driven jobs. Boomers are looking for even more services in the garden, from vacation watering to plant whispering.

Educational diversity is key. While jobs exist that require much academic study, there is demand for green jobs that require less college education. There are double the jobs available than students to fill them. Jobs in horticulture outnumber graduates 2 to 1. With the rising cost of college, enrollment is expected to dip 15% by 2025. Careers in urban agriculture, environmental sustainability or garden installation, for example, may only need an associate degree or vocational program to launch a fruitful career. And that can include on-the-job training.

### 4. Endangered Soil

Prior to the 20th century, soil was healthy and organically dense. Food was rich in vitamins and minerals. Unfortunately, erosion and deforestation have washed away 1/3 of the world’s topsoil. And soil has been stripped of nutrients. Today’s crops are developed for increased yield, not nutritional value. If current trends continue, soil as we know it – or more importantly, as we need it – will be gone by 2060, according to The United Nations Food & Agricultural Organization.

Changes in farming, forestry and gardening could not only mitigate carbon, but actually reverse it. Regenerative practices aim to rebuild soil organic matter, restore degraded soil, sequester carbon and reduce runoff. Practices such as composting, no-tilling and pasture cropping enable us to return to native soil, conserve wildlife and more.

These days, organic is not enough. That’s the thinking behind the *Regenerative Organic Certification* (ROC) launched at the Natural Products Expo in June. The ROC adds soil health, fair trade and animal welfare to organic

#### Soil-Friendly Habits

- Garden organically
- Compost
- Test soil and replenish with organic fertilizers
- Till with worms and biochar
- Grow green manures, cover and pulse crops to enrich gardens while controlling weeds

practices. This comes as consumers care about sustainability more than ever. According to Nielsen, half of U.S. consumers will spend up to \$150 billion on sustainable products by 2021. Pilots include: Patagonia, Dr. Bronner’s and General Mills. The latter committed to regenerate 1 million acres by 2030 and fund farm trainings.

### 5. Thinking Outside the House

The obsession with houseplants continues to grow. As younger generations find themselves with less space, time and money, they are turning to indoor plants for the benefits. Stores are selling out of Millennials’ favorite houseplants as they experience greater percentage growth in sales than shrubs, trees and perennials. The largest proportion of plants sold are succulents. They



are easy to grow and personalize. Tall indoor plants are also popular. GrowIt!, with 50% of users under 35, says echeveria was the most popular plant with users in March 2019. Indoor aloe came in second. Instagram’s most popular plants include monstera, string of dolphins, pilea and echeveria. Businesses that create opportunities for Plant Parents to attend educational events on plant care and soil products will attract and retain new customers.



### 6. Frog Whisperer

A garden filled with amphibians indicates balance and a healthy ecosystem. Their absence may indicate problems. Silence in nature is not a good sign. Amphibians, such as frogs and toads are going extinct at an alarming rate. The International Union for Conservation of Nature indicates that 1 in 3 of all amphibians are endangered. FrogWatch USA and the National Wildlife Federation say habitat destruction is a contributor to wildlife decline; so are pesticide use, pollution, invasive species, increased UV radiation, climate change and over collection of food by humans.

Frogs and toads play an important role in ecosystems as well as in our backyards. They are an effective, natural form of pest control. Mosquitoes, slugs and plant-damaging beetles fall victim to these amphibian predators.

Water is the best frog attractor. This should be a fishless body of water this is shallow and sloping. Frogs and toads prefer still-water, as opposed to pumps and waterfalls. The water should be left alone; don’t clean it or add chemicals. Let debris fall in as that will allow frog food sources – i.e. bugs – to breed. Toad houses protect and encourage them to



move in. Keep an eye on pets that may be destructive to wildlife and may eat amphibians.

Plant native ferns, swamp milkweed, Joe pye weed and veronica for cover on land when young are exiting water. Take the “if you build it, they will come” approach. Provide the above and over time, local amphibians will find you.

### 7. Not Just Some Fungi

Mushrooms are one of the most health-promoting superfoods that exist and there not just good for us, they're also good for the planet. World-renowned mycologist Paul Stamets believes mushrooms can potentially solve some of our most-pressing world problems. From helping to clean up oil spills and absorbing pollution to fighting off smallpox and flue viruses, mushrooms are nature's recycling system. Without them plants couldn't exist because mushrooms break down organic matter to create rich soil.

Decomposition of plastic is a great challenge we face. In 2012, Yale students discovered *Pestalotiopsis* microspore – a mushroom from the Amazon that



loves to eat plastic. It also lives without oxygen, meaning it could clean landfills from the bottom up. Katharina Unger at Utrecht University in the Netherlands found other mushrooms that also ate plastic and even tasted good afterwards. If the natural rate of decomposition can be reduced from 400 years to a few months, these fungi could be part of a solution in a world filled with plastic yet scarce on food. In addition, edible mushrooms have a positive effect on health beyond basic nutrition. They are useful in preventing and treating 200+ conditions and have 100+ different beneficial effects on the body.

### 8. Indigo

For thousands of years, natural indigo was used to dye clothes. Clothes today are dyed using petroleum or coal with less than 1% of clothes on the market dyed with indigo. New initiatives now have people asking how their jeans are made, pushing some manufacturers to innovate and produce denim fabric sustainably.

In the world of plants, blue is the most sought after hue in the garden. Look for salvia, *Baptisia australis*, hydrangea and the real indigo, *Indigofera tinctoria*. Remember to accessorize with indigo pots, pillows and other décor.



Photos provided by Garden Media Group

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

*We'd like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members.*

Ellen Banks, Suffield  
 Elizabeth Bateson, Bloomfield  
 Michalah Bracken, Branford  
 Gail Coolidge, Simsbury  
 Ct Valley Garden Club, Hartford,  
 Joanna Woodin  
 Marjorie Dauster, North Haven  
 Susan Demuth, Avon  
 Ginni Donovan, Cheshire  
 Gail Eisenhauer, Hamden  
 Anne Farnum, Bloomfield  
 Thiemba Ferguson, Windsor  
 Betsy Fertman, Bethany  
 Deborah Flower, Manchester  
 Brigid Frost, West Hartford  
 Cass Garrett, Hamden

Joanna Giddings, Cheshire  
 Alice Gold, Wethersfield  
 Gloria Graham, Glastonbury  
 Craig Hannah, Simsbury  
 Shelley Hedberg, Watertown  
 Judy Konopka, Middletown  
 Amanda Lebel, Ashford  
 Janet Leonberger, Sarasota, FL  
 Beth Ann Loveland Sennett, West Hartford  
 Candice Mark, Glastonbury  
 Margaret MCGovern, Middlebury  
 Lawrence Millhofer, Norwich  
 Sarah Mockalis, Marlborough  
 Judith Nelson, West Hartford  
 Chris & Clayton Penniman, Old Lyme  
 Joyce Pogers, Danbury

Deborah Prior, Windsor  
 Annemarie Riemer, West Hartford  
 Robert Roggeveen, West Hartford  
 Zellene Sandler, Bloomfield  
 Liz Santamaria, Wallingford  
 Jillian Shea, Middletown  
 Barbara Stauder, Danbury  
 Jacklyn Stupienski, Winsted  
 Sarah Torff, Guilford  
 Malaine Trecoske, Branford  
 Anita Vailonis, Middletown  
 Ben Weidner, Manchester  
 Carol Weston, Colchester  
 Nancy White, West Hartford  
 West Hartford Garden Club,  
 West Hartford, Madeleine Hexter

## 2020 CT Flower & Garden Show: Connecticut Springs into Earth Day

### Here's Your Checklist for this Year's Show:

- **SAVE the Dates:** Thursday thru Sunday, February 20-23, 2020. This year's theme is "Connecticut Springs Into Earth Day"
- **GET Discount Tickets:** Available at our January 16th Speaker Meeting and February 1st CT Hort Symposium at the Mark Twain House & Museum. You save \$4: Regular admission is \$18; CT Hort member price is \$14!
- **HOST with Us: WE NEED YOU as a Seminar Ambassador!**

Once again we will be introducing seminar speakers adding a much-complemented polish to their presentations. Seminar Ambassador training will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 16 – before our regular Speaker Meeting.

- Seminar Ambassadors receive admission to the show on the day they volunteer. \*You can also sign up at the January 16 Program Meeting in West Hartford
- To sign-up as an Ambassador online, follow the link from our website: [CTHort.org](http://CTHort.org)
- You can also sign up at the January 16 Program Meeting in West Hartford
- Write to us with any questions: [chs.flowershow@gmail.com](mailto:chs.flowershow@gmail.com).

**DON'T FORGET:** A Q&A for all volunteers will be held at 6:30 p.m. before the January 16, 2020 Program Meeting in the back of the Emanuel Synagogue Auditorium. Apps and beverages will be on hand in case you're missing dinner!

### Thanks to WHITE FLOWER FARM & VAN ENGLENS-SCHEEPERS

You're the BEST! By donating and discounting bulbs for our October Bulb Sale we have proceeds that offset Flower Show expenses.

We are also most grateful to CT Hort members Alison Rabinko and White Flower Farm Head Gardener, Cheryl Whalen for taking care of our BULB SALE logistics: selection, purchasing, donations, bagging and organizing. Cheryl's and Alison's volunteer efforts continue through to the show since they force any bulbs that are left over from the sale. These are the flowers we will use to bring the hope of Spring alive at our Membership tables at the Flower Show.

AND A FINAL THANK YOU – to all who chose to buy bulbs from us. With Eric Breed's advice fresh in our minds we can look forward to a more beautiful spring bloom time.

~ Nancy Brennick



## Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens Announces Plans for Accessible Sensory Garden

The Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens has announced plans to build a new Sensory Garden on its 93-acre property. This Sensory Garden is unique from traditional gardens, as it is designed specifically to stimulate the Five Senses: Seeing, Hearing, Smelling, Touching and Tasting. The Garden will provide each guest with an interactive journey through the senses, by having plants and materials of different textures, colors, scents, sounds and heights. The Bartlett's design plans go even further to permit wheelchair access and other accessibility concerns.

Studies have shown that Sensory Gardens have therapeutic benefits, particularly for children with special needs. Children who have sensory processing disorders, for example, can use a Sensory Garden as a calming and gentle way to explore their senses without feeling overwhelmed by them. Adults suffering from the effects of dementia can also benefit from a Sensory Garden, because it helps elicit positive emotions in a safe environment.

"We all know the benefits of being outside and in nature. It can improve your mood, cognitive function, and your overall physical health," said Jane Von Trapp, CEO of the Bartlett. "However, not everyone can encounter nature in the same way. Our goal at the Bartlett Arboretum is to be a barrier-free oasis for visitors of all ages, abilities, and needs. And that's what this Garden will help provide."

For more information about the Bartlett and its Sensory Garden, visit [www.bartlettarboretum.org](http://www.bartlettarboretum.org).



# 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.



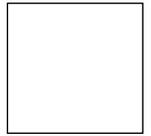
Overnight accommodations have been secured at the Holiday Inn Express Midtown, which is located in the heart of downtown Philadelphia. Sunday's Welcome Dinner guest will be Ron Mulray, of Philadelphia Flower Co. Ron is a long-time supporter, exhibitor and friend of PHS.

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](http://www.friendshiptours.net).**



*Dated Material* 🌿 *Please Rush*

**CT Hort Calendar at a Glance**

**Thurs., Jan. 2** – Board of Directors Meeting,  
7 p.m. at Friendship Tours

**Weds., Jan. 15** – Deadline for January  
*Newsletter*

**Thurs., Jan. 16** – CT Hort Program Meeting,  
6:30 p.m. Flower Show  
Ambassador Training;  
7:30 p.m. Prof. Christopher  
Tuccio presents *The New Zen  
Garden*; Emanuel Synagogue  
Auditorium, W. Htfd.

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## Help Wanted: Finance Committee Chairperson

There are a number of ways to help the Connecticut Horticultural Society (CT Hort) continue moving forward from its start in 1887. Your annual membership is one form of support. Another is to contribute your time and expertise.

At this time, CT Hort is looking to fill the position of **Finance Committee Chairperson**. This important role oversees the general financial operation and well-being of the Society. The chairperson is supported by the Finance Committee which includes the President, Treasurer and two additional members to be selected by the President.

### The Finance Committee:

- Prepares and presents the annual budget (*fiscal year runs from Sept. 1 to Aug. 31*) to the Executive Board.
- Ensures the Treasurer's books are audited and the IRS form for tax-exempt organizations is filed annually by Jan. 15.
- Oversees the Society's trust fund and provides status reports to the Board quarterly.
- Reviews the dues structure each January. Any changes must be voted on by the membership, as set forth in the bylaws.

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If you have the organizational skills and strength with numbers to fill these shoes then please come forward. We could truly use your leadership and guidance. To learn more, please call Cheryl Marino at 860.989.6149 or Brett Isaacson at 860.243.1630.

