

Connecticut Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

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May 2018

Botanical Nomenclature: A Tangled Web of Made-Up Words

By Jody Morgan, Master Gardener, Writer and CT Hort member

What's in a name? In Shakespeare's day any rose in an English garden was just as fragrant as the next. Not burdened by the need to know proper botanical nomenclature, Shakespeare's contemporary John Gerard describes the qualities of 6 categories of domesticated roses in his *Herball*, noting that the rose should be prized "being not only esteemed for his beauty, vertues, and his fragrant and odiferous smell; but also because it is the honor and ornament of our English Scepter ..." Spelling was no more standardized in Gerard's day than scientific names.

By the time the first hybrid tea rose was introduced in 1867, ushering in the era when breeders sacrificed scent for size of blossom, taxonomists were taxing the tongues of gardeners with official botanical appellations formed by combining loosely Latinized references with cleverly corrupted Greek. Just to keep things interesting, they occasionally sprinkled in names based on other languages.

Not wanting to make it all Greek to anyone, taxonomists chose to label flowering quince *Chaenomeles* from two Greek words meaning gaping apple because the fruit looks about to split and *speciosa* an actual Latin adjective meaning showy. Seventeenth century botanist and cleric Adam Buddle

never met nineteenth century missionary and plant collector Armand David, but their surnames are forever linked in *Buddleia davidii*, the botanical title for butterfly bush.



Confronted with the plant whose root Native Americans fed in bread to Lewis and Clark in 1805, taxonomists put two transliterations of the Nez Perce name for it together giving *camas* or *quamash* the scientific designation *Camassia quamash*.

The system originally proposed by Carl Linnaeus in 1735 is elegant and simple. Scientists around the world can all recognize universally agreed upon proper botanical names in print no matter what language they speak at the dinner table. But don't expect them to agree on pronunciation. They are often just as confused as the average home gardener.

In "How to Pronounce Botanical
(continued on page 4)



Historical References in Botanical Names

By Jody Morgan

Naming newly described species in honor of a monarch was a popular practice in Victorian England. Plants as diverse as a modestly sized, variegated agave and a gargantuan water lily bear the species designation *Victoria Regina*. The naming of the Bird of Paradise plant for Queen Charlotte in 1773 is a less obviously recognizable reference. King George III who ruled during the American Revolution married a lady born to the house of Mecklenburg-Strelitzia. Sir Joseph Banks named the South African beauty discovered by Francis Masson, the first official plant collector dispatched by the Royal Gardens at Kew, *Strelitzia reginae*.

The tree commonly known as Douglas fir is named for a different explorer. Douglas's fellow Scotsman Achibald Menzies, who served as both ship's surgeon and naturalist on several voyages, documented sighting of the fast-growing evergreen in 1792. Although Menzies sent no sample home, the botanical name *Pseudotsuga*
(continued on page 4)

See you at the
CT Hort Spring Plant Sale & Auction
May 4 at 6:30 pm (details on page 8)

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Mary Anna Martell
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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.....	\$100 or \$250
Organizations.....	\$80

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Go native with Dan Jaffe at Earth Tones

Wednesday, June 13 from 4-7 p.m.

Earth Tones Native Plant Nursery | Woodbury, Conn.

Learn about native plants from the source, when Dan Jaffe discusses his new book *Native Plants for New England Gardens*, co-authored with Mark Richardson.

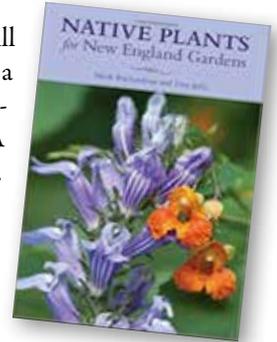
Dan was our speaker at the March 2017 CT Hort Speaker Meeting and his exuberance for wildflowers was palpable. His books will be for sale (\$20) and can help you select your favorites from the wide variety of native plants that are available at Earth Tones.

You may recall that Earth Tones was CT Hort's choice for Best in Show at February's CT Flower & Garden Show. Owner Lisa and Kyle Turoczi are delighted to be hosting. Lisa is a Landscape Designer and Kyle has a degree in Envi-

ronmental Science, is a Wetlands Ecologist and a Certified Soil Scientist. Visit www.earthtonesnatives.com to learn more about them.

The afternoon will include refreshments, a nursery tour, a presentation by Dan with Q&A and book signing. Cost for the evening is: \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members, \$10 for students with valid ID.

Please register online at cthort.org for this special event or call Mary Anna at the CT Hort office at (860) 529-8713. Attendance is limited to 50. 🌿



Cactus and Succulent Garden Visit

Saturday, June 23 from 10:00 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Elliman Private Residence | Danbury, Conn.

Enjoy an exclusive tour of an unusual cacti and succulent garden, hosted by owner Cindy Elliman, Master Gardener. This open garden invitation is extended to members and friends of CT Hort, Master Gardeners and the CT Cactus & Succulent Society.

No pre-registration is required. As we draw closer to the day, we will announce Cindy Elliman's exact address. A fee of \$5 per person will be collected at the garden.

If you have any questions about this special tour, contact Mary Anna at CT Hort - office@cthort.org or call (860) 529-8713. Office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Thank you to our generous business members and supporters!

Visit cthort.org for the latest listings and links.



FRIENDSHIP TOURS
THE SHIP SHOP



Al's Landscaping & Nursery
Ballek's Garden Center
Bartlett Arboretum
Cricket Hill Garden



MH Landscape Design
The Garden Barn
Torrison Stone & Garden
Wild Rose Landscape Design



Louis Raymond

At Play, with Nature: Snoozes & Celebrations on your Terrace

Thursday, May 17

with Louis Raymond, Garden & Landscape Designer

www.louistheplantgeek.com

Don't we all love to be outside on a terrace, enjoying the warm-season weather? Well, if there's shade, a cool drink, and comfy seating. Being comfortable outdoors is only simple for the first ten minutes, when the chair, the shade, and the patch of pavement are all you need. But to really enjoy being outdoors? That's where planning and nuance come in.

On Thursday evening, May 17, Louis will explore the many ways that a terrace can be shaped into your property's must-use focus during his presentation, *"At Play, with Nature."* The more thought and possibility we bring to our outdoor space, the more inviting it becomes, the more we and our friends will want to get together in the one space that unites the best of our house with the best of our garden: our terrace.

Landscape designer Louis Raymond has been creating terraces for over fifty years—since setting second-hand bricks into the dirt at the back of his family's first real house, near Washington, DC. He was ten. His terraces have gotten much better.

Raymond has been gardening for over sixty years. As a pre-schooler, he "borrowed" geraniums from public gardens across the street from the family home. By first grade, he demonstrated to classmates how to sprout an avocado pit in a glass of water.

So it may be a bit of a surprise that Raymond took the scenic route to his current vocations as designer, board president, lecturer, writer & occasional auctioneer:

At twenty-five, he had already earned baccalaureate degrees in chemistry, piano and voice — and still found time for a couple of years of medical school along the way — before launching a successful career as an opera singer. By thirty, he had retired from the stage to take up the trowel full-time. His exuberant designs have been widely published, including in *Good Housekeeping*, *USA Today*, *House & Garden Magazine* (on the cover), *Design New England*, *The Boston Globe*, and *Metropolitan Home*.

You will surely be entertained and educated when Louis Raymond visits. See you there! 🌿



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.chhort.org.

Date: Thursday, May 17

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

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

Speaker Feedback

After you attend a speaker meeting, please take a moment to tell us what you thought of the presenter. Your candid feedback helps us to arrange for speakers that will hold your interest. Take the five-question survey on our website – chhort.org. Click on the survey icon found on any page then chose the speaker you want to rate. Thank you for your feedback.



“Botanical Nomenclature”, from page 1

Names” posted online by J.L. Hudson, Seedsman, the writer claims to have heard at least eight different pronunciations of *Thymus*, the scientific name for the herb thyme: “TEE-mus, TYE-mus, TEE-moose, TYE-moose, THEE-mus, THYE-mus, THEE-moose, THYE-moose.” The author advises gardeners not to be afraid to mispronounce a botanical name because there is no correct pronunciation. One of my instructors at Longwood Gardens insisted your pronunciation should not be faulted as long as you enunciate every syllable.

However, there are some regional conventions as arbitrary as whether you say poe-TAY-toe or poe-TAH-toe. English botanists don't call a pine tree a “peen” tree, but they do pronounce the generic name *Pinus* as PEE-nus. Since you wouldn't have encountered Johann Friedrich Eschscholtz strolling through the Roman Forum, it's better form when saying *Eschscholzia californica* to pronounce the California poppy's botanical name as the Baltic German naturalist's compatriots would have spoken his surname. And no matter how you've most often heard a scientific name pronounced, when in the company of an expert speaking on the subject, best form is to follow his or her lead.

Although his Nonsense Books have kept his name alive, Edward Lear used a pseudonym when he began publishing witty verses and comical drawings in 1846. A respected zoological illustrator, Lear meticulously researched every aspect of his compositions. Correspondence in the archives at Kew Gardens between Lear and Sir Joseph Hooker concerns Lear's insistence on having the correct botanical identification for ten Indian trees he had been commissioned to paint. Nevertheless, Lear heard absurdity in the strained cacophony of spoken botanical nomenclature and he saw humor in his fellow Victorians' passion for possessing every exotic flower, no matter how bizarrely fashioned, as soon as it was introduced in England.

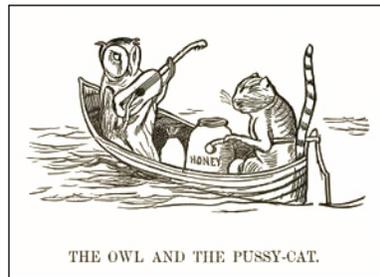


Illustration from one of Lear's nonsense poems.

A few years after the first hybrid tea rose made its debut, Lear released *Nonsense Botany*. *Arthbroomia Rigida*



Crabbia Horrida

looks remarkably like a blooming agave. A towering rigid stalk rises from the rosette of sharply pointed leaves. But the crown is a flat-topped broom. Reminiscent of the strange tropical hanging heliconia flowers commonly called lobster claw, *Crabbia Horrida* has a dangling anatomically accurate crab as its inflorescence.

Thanks to Sarah Gage for including a bit of Berton Braley's “Botany” in “The Poetry of Botanical Foolishness” (*Botanical Rambles*, March 2016). “There should be no monotony, In studying your botany, It helps to train, And spur the brain – Unless you haven't got any.”

What's in a botanical name? Despite how silly some may sound, many contain interesting bits of information about the origin of the genus or species or the explorer who first identified the plant. Others honor botanists who had nothing to do with the particular plant and some simply memorialize a friend. Occasionally like Lear's nonsense names, botanical monikers are cleverly descriptive. 🐞

“Historical References”, from page 1

menziesii recognizes his finding, while common parlance gives the credit to Douglas.

Thankfully, some botanical names are easy to pronounce. Commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson to document their findings as they traveled through the previously uncharted wilderness west of the Mississippi River, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark led the Corps of Discovery from 1804-1806. Taxonomists chose to name the bitterroot plant *Lewisia rediviva* for Lewis despite his dislike for its taste. Concerning his introduction by native Americans to the boiled roots in August 1805, Lewis wrote: “I made the experiment, found that they became perfectly soft by boiling, but had a very bitter taste, which was naucious to my palate, and I transferred them to the Indians who had eat them heartily.” The genus *Clarkia* honors William Clark. Commonly known as ragged robin, *Clarkia pulchella* received extensive coverage in Lewis's journal.

Some botanical names are carry-overs from long before Linnaeus devised his system of scientific nomenclature. All

euphorbias, including poinsettias properly known as *Euphorbia pulcherrima*, contain a milky sap that varies from mildly irritating to toxic. King Juba II of Numidia (50 BC-AD 23) named one member of the family for his Greek physician Euphorbus who reputedly made use of it medicinally.



Robert Brown's early 19th century exploration of Australia yielded some 1,700 species previously unknown to Europeans. However, when the Linnaean Society of London decided to honor his contributions by naming one of the 140 genera he was credited with documenting for Brown, his surname posed a problem. *Brownea* already existed as a genus named for Irish botanist Patrick Browne. Although many species such as the Norfolk Island tree fern *Cyathea brownii* memorialize Robert Brown's contributions, *Brunonia* is the closest taxonomists could come to “Brown” as a genetic label. 🐞

Welcome New Members

BUSINESSES:

Bartlet Arboretum
(S. Jane von Trapp), Stamford
Wild Rose Landscape Design
(Candace Kearney), Rocky Hill

INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES:

Elizabeth Adams, Haddam
Delores Allen, West Hartford
Victoria Ambrosey, Milford
Eileen Beaulieu, Wethersfield
Sandi Blaze, Wilton
Ruthann Brazdova, Hamden
Theresa Budlowski, Shelton
Laura Caperino Crean, Farmington
Susan Carrozza, New Haven
Louise Carvalho, Waterbury
Carla Chagas, New Milford
Elizabeth Craig, Wilton
Laurie D'Aquila, East Haddam

Deborah Dodds, Stonington
Kara Donahue, Riverside
Irmgard Dumschott, Watertown
Geraldine Genovese, Brookfield
Roberta Gowing, South Windsor
Joyce Greenberg, Windsor Locks
Katherine Hersey, Newington
Julie Jirikowic, Woodbridge
Katherine Kamen & Kevin Huelster,
Westport
Richard Kaminski, Oxford
Rose Lachapelle, East Hartford
Joey Laflamme, Granby
Caitlyn Lam, Branford
Heather Lesan, Plainville
Kathleen Lindroth, Farmington
Doreen Linton, West Hartford
Pauline Manville, Oxford
Marsha Reid Marsted, Canton
Diana Matsuzaki, Colchester

Margaret McElroy, Salem
Stephanie McMurray, Middletown
Donna Miller, Avon
Catherine Morgan, Glastonbury
Karin Ohr Pyskaty, Wallingford
Lynn Olson, Glastonbury
Deborah Petro, Milford
Linda Pinckney, Danbury
Katherine Platt, Enfield
George & Margaret Pohorilak,
Southington
Stacy Roney, Trumbull
Maggie Ryan, Amston
Mark Seddon & Cari Delude,
Stafford Springs
Susanne Shrader, West Harford
Jim Sirch, Hamden
Shirley Smith, Marlborough
Carson Strout, Enfield

Meeting Moments

Anniversaries Celebrated

It has become a tradition to take a moment at our April meeting to acknowledge and appreciate the strength of our membership. This year there were 70 individuals celebrating a milestone year (from 5 to 50+!) as a CT Hort member. Below is a photo of some of the members who attended the celebration. To view more photos from the evening, visit chort.org.



At the April Speaker Meeting, Eugenia Bone signs her latest book, "Microbia: A Journey into the Unseen World Around You" for Past-President Nancy Brennick.

Ice Cream Social and Volunteer Fair!

Thursday, June 21, 2018



The CT Hort season always ends on a bright note. First there's the tradition of welcoming the coming of summer by enjoying ice cream at our last Speaker Meeting. And the speaker is someone extra-special, funded by the Isaacson Endowment. And this year, there's a new twist – the addition of a fair.

Committees in need of manpower will host tables to compete for the potential interest of volunteers looking for a cause.

As you've heard, helpers are needed in all areas... from auction to symposium... from just a couple of hours to a year-long commitment.

If you've got the time and desire, then we could use your help! See you at the Social!

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 June issue is May 15.

Weds, May 2, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. – Third and final keynote speaker in the **Elizabeth Park Conservancy's Garden Lecture Series** is internationally renowned interior designer **Charlotte Moss**. Her newly published book, *Charlotte Moss Entertains*, embraces gracious hospitality. Come hear how Moss celebrates the day-to-day by bringing her enthusiasm, impeccable style, and Southern roots to every domestic activity. Tickets are available at elizabethparkct.org.

Sat., May 5, 9:30- 11 a.m. – **'Barn Talks' at Hollister House Garden - How to Create a Small & Productive Cutting Garden** - Cutting gardens are lovely to view, provide fresh-cut flowers and keep your perennial borders from being raided for indoor display. Learn how to grow a small, highly productive cutting garden as an addition to the vegetable patch or as a stand-alone garden. **Location:** Hollister House Garden, Washington. Visit www.hollisterhousegarden.org/events for more information.

Sat., May 12, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. – **Suffield Garden Club 41st Annual May Market** - Free admission to this annual community event which is held rain or shine. You'll find specialty plants, geraniums, flowers grown by FFA students who attend the Regional Agriscience Program at Suffield High School, plants donated by Garden Club members, food, raffle, crafts, AND MORE! **Location:** Phelps-Hatheway House, 55 Main St., Suffield.

Sat., May 12, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. – **Spring Plant Fair at Hollister House Garden**. Favorite "plants

people" will set up shop in the barn. They include: Broken Arrow Nursery, Battle Hills Forge, Galls Village Flower Farm, McCue Gardens and Something to Crow About Dahlias. Fair opens at 9 a.m. for HHG members; 10 a.m. to the general public. **Location:** Hollister House Garden, Washington. Visit www.hollisterhousegarden.org/events for more information.

Sat., May 12, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. – **The Gardeners of Simsbury Annual Plant Sale**. Plants dug from member gardens, hanging baskets and annuals are all available for Mother's Day gifting or for your garden. **Location:** Boy Scout Hall, 695 Hopmeadow St, Simsbury. Follow them on Facebook.

Mon., May 14, 11:30 a.m. - **Farmington Garden Club** will host Sarah Bailey, UConn Extension State and Hartford County Master Garden Coordinator, at the Stanley-Whitman House, 37 High St. Farmington. Her talk entitled "The Good, the Bad and the Natural IPM for the Home Garden" manages plant health in an environmentally friendly and economic manner. She shows us how to adapt this practice to our own gardens, to learn to see cues in the landscape, and prevent problems instead of reacting to them. Light refreshments. Free.

Sat., May 19, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. – **Connecticut Daylily Society Annual Daylily and Perennial Sale**. Rain or shine, there is sure to be a huge assortment of flowers for sale. Bonus daylilies given with every purchase - the more you buy, the more bonus plants you get! **Location:** Avon Senior Center located at the Sycamore Hills

Recreation Center, 635 West Avon Rd (Rt 167). For more info, visit www.ctdaylilyclub.com.

Sat., May 26, 9:30 to 11 a.m. – **'Barn Talks' at Hollister House Garden-Decorative Kitchen Garden Containers** – Learn how to create fabulous, decorative outdoor containers combining vegetables, herbs, flowers and vines. Designer Chris Zaima will begin the program with a selection of images of finished plantings. He will then demonstrate the art of mixing plant material to create beautiful and useful kitchen garden containers. **Location:** Hollister House Garden, Washington. HHG Members \$30 | Non-Members \$35. Visit www.hollisterhousegarden.org/events for more information.

Fri., June 8, 6:30 to 9 p.m. – **Elizabeth Park Conservancy Wine & Roses 11th Annual Signature Fundraiser, Wine & Roses**, is a great opportunity to support Elizabeth Park Conservancy and benefit the gardens of Elizabeth Park. [Tickets & Registration](#)

Weds. to Sat., July 11 to 14 – the **American Horticultural Society (AHS)** will hold its **National Children and Youth Garden Symposium in Ithaca, New York**. There is a discounted rate for AHS members so if anyone wants to attend, this is a great opportunity to join now for some further savings. This event is for formal and informal educators and designers who work with kids in the garden. Find more information at: www.ahsgardening.org/ncygs. 🌱

Visit cthort.org for the latest listings and links.

CHS Travel

Save
the Date!

Longwood Gardens and Mt Cuba Center

Wednesday through Friday,
August 22-24

This impressive 2-night summer tour is taking shape and will include visits to two spectacular gardens!

An entire day will be devoted to Longwood, including a return in the evening for one of their breathtaking Illuminated Fountain Performances.

Another day will be spent at Mt. Cuba Center where beauty and purpose intersect. The Center was founded on an



understanding of the importance of native plants, natural lands and conservation. The Mt. Cuba mission is to inspire an appreciation for the beauty and value of native plants and a commitment to support the habitats that sustain them.

A visit to a private garden is also in the works. Dinner reservations have been made at Buca di Beppo and both nights will be spent at the boutique Hotel Warner in

West Chester Penn. Once a grand movie house, built in 1930, the Hotel Warner is listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Call Barbara at Friendship Tours to be placed on the list to receive the flyer once all details have been ironed out.

New Date
and Exhibits

The Cloisters & Metropolitan Museum of Art

Wednesday, May 16

This day trip by deluxe motorcoach to two of the premier museums in the country has been rescheduled to Wednesday, May 16 to be able to view The Costume Institute's spring 2018 exhibition that will be taking place at both museum locations. The exhibition will feature a dialogue between fashion and medieval art as well as examine fashion's ongoing engagement with the devotional practices and traditions of Catholicism. Serving as the cornerstone of the exhibition, papal robes and accessories from the Sistine Chapel sacristy, many of which have never been seen outside The Vatican, will be on view.

The Cloisters Museum and Gardens is located in Fort Tryon Park overlooking the Hudson River. It is a branch of the Met devoted to the art, architecture and gardens of medieval Europe. The Cloisters provide an evocative setting for more than 2,000 exceptional artworks from the 12th through the 15th century.

The Cloisters is also known for its three unique gardens whose design and plantings are based on documents and works of art from the Middle Ages. Enjoy a guided tour of the Cloisters museum with special focus on the gardens.



The Metropolitan Museum of Art on Fifth Avenue in New York City is one of the world's largest and most important art museums. Housing an enormous permanent collection "The Met" with its tall columns and windows, immense stairways and fountains, looks like it could be an emperor's palace. Your time at the museum will be on our own with time for lunch at the café. Psssssst! Be sure to visit the Cantor Roof Garden for a drink and a view of Central Park.

Cost: \$99 per member or \$105 if not a CHS member.



**To reserve your spot or for more information, please call
Friendship Tours at (860) 243-1630 / toll-free (800) 243-1630
or visit www.friendshiptours.net and select CHS Tours.**

Dated Material 🌿 *Please Rush*

CHS Calendar at a Glance

- Thurs., May 3** – CHS Board of Directors meeting, 7:00 p.m., Rocky Hill office
- Fri., May 4** – CHS Spring Plant Sale & Auction, 6:30 p.m., Bethany Covenant Church, Berlin
- Thurs., May 17** – CHS Program meeting, 7:30 p.m., Louis Raymond presents *At Play, with Nature: Snoozes & Celebrations on your Terrace*
- Weds., June 13** – Workshop - Dan Jaffe at Earth Tones Nursery, Woodbury
- Sat., June 23** – Workshop - Cactus & Succulent Garden Visit, Danbury

Printed on recycled paper.



CT Hort Plant Sale & Auction - Friday, May 4

Enthusiastic plant buyers needed!

by Trish Lyons, Plant Sale & Auction Committee Chairperson

Please come this Friday and join in this fun and worthwhile CT Hort tradition that marks the start of spring. You'll find trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, assorted garden treasures and books. Admission is FREE and the evening's proceeds fund scholarships for deserving horticulture students at UConn and Naugatuck Valley Community College. To volunteer, email auction@cthort.org.

Auction schedule - Friday, May 4:

- 4:30 p.m.** Volunteers arrive for setup
- 5:00 p.m.** Doors open for donations
- 6:30 p.m.** Preview & Silent Auction
- 7:00 p.m.** Plant Sale
- 7:15 p.m.** Plant Auction



Location: Bethany Covenant Church, 785 Mill Street (Route 372), Berlin

The **Plant Sale** offers interesting plants from member gardens. The **Silent Auction** includes gift options for Mother's Day. During the **LIVE auction**, bid on collectible new introductions from nursery supporters and rare plant divisions from members' gardens.

Please come join the fun!



Plant Donation Details

- Donor letter and tax receipt is available on cthort.org
- Label plants with common and botanical names (if possible) and cultural preferences. A picture really helps sell your donation.
- Deliver donations – along with your name, address and list of items donated – on auction day from 5 to 6 p.m. Plant list and donor info is required to receive a record of donation.