

# Connecticut Horticultural Society

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 61, Number 3

Serving Horticulturists Since 1887

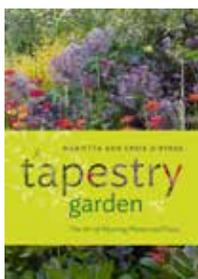
Winter 2018

## Holiday Book Reviews

by Karla Dalley and Barbara Skomorowski

This season's book choices should have something for everyone. So many enjoyed *The World of Laura Ingalls Wilder* last year that this year we have reviewed *The Landscape of Anne of Green Gables* (very timely also if you have watched the Netflix series *Anne with an E*). To help our pollinators, we have two "bee" books, one about native bees and another about plants to encourage bees in general. Our sustainable choices are a little more unconventional: we review books about the western United States, but they do contain lessons for all ecosystems. In general landscaping, we have vegetable gardening, garden design and flower arranging choices. Whether you are looking for a book for yourself or a book to give as a gift to a gardening friend at the holidays, you are sure to find something to like in our choices.

If you would like to review a book in the future, kindly send an email indicating your interest to [news@cthort.org](mailto:news@cthort.org). Thank you!



### The Tapestry Garden

by Marietta and Ernie O'Byrne

Hardcover: 263 pages

Publisher: Timber Press, 2018

Reviewer: Prof. Rudy Favretti

The garden tapestries as created by Marietta and Ernie O'Byrne, are best described by the subtitle of their book: "The Art of Weaving Plants and Place." Nature constantly creates garden tapestries, but the process is less intricate, more natural, so to speak. A weaver makes a tapestry using fibers of different colors, woven into various forms, to tell a story. Nature uses plants of various species that will grow under certain conditions to tell an ecological story.

Using 299 illustrations of varying size, accompanied by ample text in this 261 page book, Marietta and Ernie O'Byrne have explained how they use a combination of plants to achieve a certain mood, scene, or effect for the eighteen garden tapestries they display in this book. In one of the gardens entitled *From the Kitchen Window*, they have used two prominent trees as the focal point, and

to achieve a peaceful mood have featured horizontal branching on those trees and others. Succession of bloom and variation of plant texture, among the shrubs and perennials, offers interest throughout the year. Bird feeders, strategically placed, act as sculptural elements within the space. As we analyze the various features used extensively in all of the tapestry gardens discussed and pictured, the major elements seem to be plant form and texture, succession of bloom, focal elements such as sculpture or by the use of certain plants with colored twigs, or by plant form such as a contorted nut tree in one of the gardens, or an actual sculptural piece in another. Variegated plants with bold as well as finite variegation are used extensively in the O'Byrne's gardens as when impressionistic qualities are desired.

Each of the eighteen garden tapestries presented has a lengthy, illustrated explanation of how the mood implied was created. Certain of the garden examples, such as *For the Love of Hellebores*, led to their changing their nursery from retail to wholesale, specializing in the genus *Helleborus*, with its many species and varieties.

A plan of the farm with its various elements, from greenhouses for plant production to the eighteen tapestry gardens, appears

(continued on page 4)

**We wish you the best of holidays  
and a safe & healthy New Year!**

The CT Hort Office will be closed:  
Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 22  
December 12 through January 2  
Reopening Thursday, January 3

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Find all the latest **Horticultural Happenings** at [CTHort.org](http://CTHort.org)



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Send Membership Information  
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Membership Dues:

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## Board of Directors Nearly Complete! Search for Vice President Continues...

by Brett Isaacson, CT Hort President

With the recent addition of Carol Quish from the UConn Home & Garden Education Center, the Connecticut Horticultural Society's (CT Hort) Board of Directors is nearly complete. **One more Director is needed to fill the Board.**

We are delighted to have Carol join the Board as she brings a wealth of experience with her. Carol is part of the Home & Garden Education Center team that brings a multitude of resources to gardeners within Connecticut, as well as solicitations from out-of-state, and occasionally, international clients. She is also a Master Gardener. You may have heard of Carol or read here material in the UConn Ladybug Newsletter. Thank you Carol, for accepting this role and for keeping us connected with all the exciting advances made through UConn Extension.

There is still an open opportunity for a special someone to accept the role of Vice President. Please consider accepting this position which, after two years, morphs into becoming President. There is a lot of support you'll receive from your colleagues on the Board so you won't be alone in your commitment. Please call me at 860-930-3480 to let me know of your interest in joining the Board or in becoming VP. Thank you.

## Reminder!

With the holidays just around the corner, we ask that you consider Connecticut Horticultural Society (CT Hort) when making your list:

1. **Give the gift of membership!** Do you have a friend or relative who you have been trying to get to join you at the monthly Speaker Meetings? Need a gift for a gardener friend who has everything? Or maybe you're looking to thank someone who is already a member of CT Hort. Why not gift them a membership—or pick up their renewal for the upcoming year? It's a thoughtful present that the gardener in your life will enjoy for a full year.
2. **Place your Amazon gift order on [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and CT Hort gets something too!** You can request that a fraction of your order be donated to CT Hort! What you pay for your order is NOT affected by this choice but Amazon will direct .5% (that's one-half of one percent) of your purchase to CT Hort.



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Wild Rose Landscape Design



Leslie Duthie

## Fronds with Benefits; Ferns from the Wild to the Garden

Thursday, November 15

with Leslie Duthie, Horticulturalist

A life-long gardener, Leslie Duthie's devotion to ferns began the first time she grew a fern from spore. She has dedicated her career to learning about, gardening with, and propagating native plants.

Learn how ferns grow from fiddlehead to frond and how to incorporate these plants into your landscape. Ferns can be used anywhere from specimens to mass plantings and in locations from the rock garden to the deep shade of the woodlands.

Leslie is a horticulturalist at Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary in Wales, Mass. The gardens of Norcross are full of plants that she has raised and her knowledge of the ferns is extensive. She works with the local Land Trust and Conservation Commission to preserve land for both our native plants and wildlife as well as for people to enjoy. Leslie has a BS in Plant Science and has experience in greenhouse growing of both landscape plants and native plants.



### 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, November 15, 2018

**Time:** Program starts at 7:30 p.m. but come early – 7:00 p.m. – to socialize, 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 – [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.



## 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.

“Holiday Book Reviews”, from page 1

on the inside front and rear covers of the book, to help us understand the set-up, and some of this may also be seen on [www.northwestgardennursery.com](http://www.northwestgardennursery.com). The gardens and nursery are in Eugene, Oregon, on a seventy acre farm that the O’Byrnes purchased in the early 1970s.

In conclusion, a promo statement on the book jacket says: “The book is a visual feast of luscious combinations [of] extraordinary plants....” Agreed!



**The Landscapes of Anne of Green Gables**

by Catherine Reid

Hardcover: 281 pages

Publisher: Timber Press, 2018

Reviewer: Clare Meade

L. M. Montgomery’s deep connection to the landscape of Prince Edward Island inspired the writing of the beloved *Anne of Green Gables* series. Catherine Reid, in *The Landscapes of Anne of Green Gables*, introduces the real places and people that set the stage for L. M. Montgomery’s work.

Reid traces the similarities between Maud Montgomery and her iconic character, Anne. With many similar circumstances between their lives, it is when imagination and landscape merge that Anne and Maud’s shared sensibility are most evident. Anne and Maud both look to the natural world when needing to transcend a difficult or uncertain situation. Maud struggled with depression. Her journals suggest that turning to the beauty around her—and wrestling to find the right words to capture it—were an antidote that saved her again and again.

It’s no wonder, then, that the landscape exerts such a pull on Montgomery’s readers. Using Montgomery’s journals, scrapbooks, and many archival and current photographs, Catherine Reid transports readers to the idyllic countryside of the book. Prince Edward Island in all its lush beauty gives Green Gables lovers a visual setting for Anne’s adventures.



**Our Native Bees: North America’s Endangered Pollinators and the Fight to Save Them**

by Paige Embry

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: Timber Press, 2018

Reviewer: Jody Morgan

Did you know honey bees are incapable of pollinating tomatoes? After learning that the “buzz” technique essential to the production of tomatoes requires the expertise of certain native bees, Paige Embry decided to discover what else bees indigenous to North America could do. Embry takes readers along on her quest as she follows in the footsteps of dedicated scientists and professional beekeepers across the continent. One research project measuring the amount

of pollen collected on sunflowers by individual bees recorded 1,178 grains carried by a honey bee compared to 104,542 borne by our native *Melissodes agilis*. The scientific nomenclature loosely translates as “agile honey bee-like.”

Exquisite close-up photographs illustrate the amazing diversity of the approximately 4,000 species of bees native to North America. Despite being dense with data describing their distinct lifestyles and skills, the text remains entertaining throughout thanks to Embry’s humorous conversational style. After studying the problems facing bumble bees, tickle bees, robber bees, miner bees and carpenter bees, she concludes: “If we just stop kicking the bees quite so hard, we can help them – and see the results almost immediately.”

Clover, originally used in lawn grass seed mixes back in the 1950s is gaining new respect as a nitrogen-fixer and bee-friendly food source. Don’t mow those flowers down. Among native plants, *Prunella vulgaris* is most tolerant of withstanding repeated mowing while still serving as a grocery store for bees. Renounce pesticides, plant flowers that feed bees, and as Embry suggests, “Be a little slovenly in the garden; leave some old broken stems and let a little bare dirt show. The bees will come.”



**Land on Fire: The New Reality of Wildfire in the West**

by Gary Ferguson

Hardcover – 212 pages

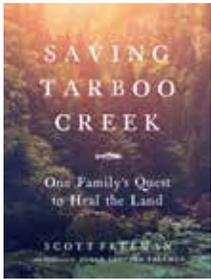
Publisher: Timber Press, 2017

Reviewer: Jody Morgan

The blaze is intense and you are in the middle of the action. Ferguson’s extensive descriptions of the job of putting down a wildfire are intentionally overwhelming. He details the latest research in analyzing threat level, coordinating the efforts of local, state and federal agencies, predicting the startling ability of fires to make their own weather and what needs to be done to reduce risk. Why has what once was a regular cyclical event become a regional disaster?

Many native western plants are fire-followers as their seeds require the heat of fire to germinate. In 1988, Yellowstone National Park exhibited the regeneration expected. But well intentioned suppression of wildfires for 80 years has adversely affected the natural balance. With the natural burn cycle disrupted, the buildup of fuel loads from fallen limbs has created dangerous situations. While regular burns might have arrested their spread, insect pests like pine bark beetles have romped through forests leaving dead trees ready to ignite.

Ferguson notes that the wildfire season worldwide lengthened by 18.7 percent from 1979 to 2013 due to warmer temperatures and more rain-free days. His final chapters outline what we all can do to reduce the risk.



### **Saving Tarboo Creek: One Family's Quest to Heal the Land**

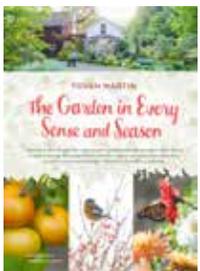
by *Scott Freeman (Author), Susan Leopold Freeman (Illustrator)*

*Hardcover, 225 pages*

*Timber Press, 2018*

*Reviewer: Karla Dalley*

The Freeman family bought 18 acres of land in 2004 in Washington at an important time—just as the state of Washington and public and private groups were working to restore Tarboo creek as critical salmon habitat. Working together with these groups, they managed to turn what had been a drainage channel back into salmon habitat (they call it re-meandering). In addition, they reforested the land around the creek and worked to eliminate invasive plants as well. How did they know so much about ways to accomplish this? Susan Leopold Freeman is Aldo Leopold's grand-daughter. Many of you may remember Leopold's epic work *A Sand County Almanac* about restoring land in Wisconsin and about the ethos that goes with caring for land. This same ethos (described as finding harmony with each other and the land) pervades *Saving Tarboo Creek*. It is present in each of the choices, which are separate chapters—that the author discusses, from the choice they make in selecting trees, to the choice they make in dealing with beavers on the land.



### **The Garden in Every Sense & Season**

by *Tovah Martin*

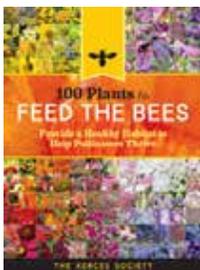
*Hardcover, 292 pages*

*Publisher: Timber Press, 2018*

*Reviewer: Keri Milne*

This book is as close to a virtual walk through a garden as you can get. "The garden in every sense and season" will awaken your imagination. It was easy to get caught up in

the moment of the Korean Spice bush in bloom, or the many descriptions of seed heads beginning to form for fall. Relating to your garden on many levels becomes a realistic possibility from the seasons, sights and scents all the way down to the function of your tools or the weight of a watering can you comfortably tote back and forth. This book brings common sense to the natural order of things.



### **100 Plants to Feed the Bees**

by *the Xerxes Society*

*Paperback: 240 pages*

*Publisher: Storey Publishing, 2016*

*Reviewer: Barbara Skomorowski*

This book is a great resource to have when hunting for pollinator plants. Its paperback construction and simple format make it a useful reference book. It is 90% plant

description with 10% of the pages detailing the importance of pollinators. The book's preface reminds us that 'What's Old is

New.' Conservationists and scientists have been criticizing the use of pesticides and praising the importance of insects for nearly 100 years.

The one hundred plants described in the book include Native wildflowers, trees and shrubs. 'Introduced' trees, shrubs, herbs, ornamentals, and bee pasture plants (both Native and Introduced). Each pollinator-friendly plant appears in a 2-page spread that includes: the plant's common and botanic names, its culture, several photos, pollinators it attracts (honey bee, native bee, hummingbird, butterfly or moth), uses in your garden and where it grows in North America. With this book in hand, you can do your part to choose plants that reward the environment as much as they reward you.



### **The Art of Flora Forager**

by *Bridget Beth Collins*

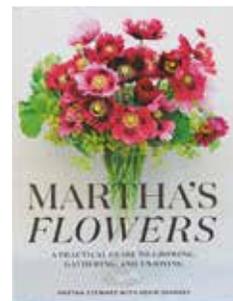
*Hardcover, 176 pages*

*Sasquatch Books, 2017*

*Reviewer: Karla Dalley*

For those that know the work of Connecticut artist Ellen Hoverkamp, who preserves flowers by using a scanner, this book will at first seem

similar. Some of the flower mandalas and other designs do remind me of some of Hoverkamp's work. But the similarity ends there. For one thing, Bridget Beth Collins photographs her work. But that is just minor. Collins use of flowers to create works of art—literally, she re-creates paintings and portraiture in flower petals, leaves, twigs, bits of mushrooms, moss and lichen—as well as sea creatures, fairies, circus animals and just about anything else that strikes her fancy, is amazing. In re-creating Van Gogh's *The Starry Night*, for example, she used blueberries as well as more traditional floral material. These fanciful works must be seen to be appreciated. Her "flower" art is truly amazing!



### **Martha's Flowers: A Practical Guide to Growing, Gathering, and Enjoying**

by *Martha Stewart and Kevin Sharkey*

*Hardcover, 288 pages*

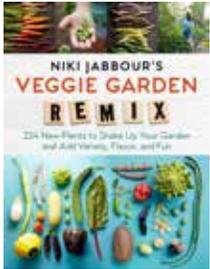
*Clarkson Potter, 2018*

*Reviewer: Karla Dalley*

Martha Stewart's name is synonymous with a homekeeping empire but few remember that her first book, back in

1991, was a gardening book. It's obvious from this book that she still loves flowers and enjoys growing them. This book is divided into three parts: Signs of Spring, Summer's Bounty and Early Autumn and within those divisions individual flowers are highlighted. Spring features the usual bulbs: tulips and daffodils but it also features more unusual choices like magnolias and rhododendrons. Summer features hydrangea, roses, including old roses and peonies. Autumn features sunflowers, rudbeckias and dahlias. Surprisingly there is no use of foliage, either by itself or as a design element in the Autumn section. But it's not all just pretty pictures and gorgeous

arrangements. There are short descriptions of how to grow each of the flowers, discussions with Kevin Sharkey of the individual flowers and ideas for arranging, and a section at the end on how to choose vases, tools and other practical considerations. There are even discussions about each of Martha's homes and the choices she made about what to plant.



### **The Veggie Garden Remix**

by *Nikki Jabbour*

*Paperback: 2018 pages*

*Publisher: Storey Publishing, 2018*

*Reviewer: Barbara Skomorowski*

The author, Nikki Jabbour, accidentally stumbled on alternative vegetables from her Lebanese mother-in-law Noha. Nikki had planted snake gourds to use for Halloween

decorations when Noha affectionately recognized them as a squash she grew up with in Lebanon. When a foot in length, they

are cooked and enjoyed much like you would summer squash. From that point, there was no stopping Nikki from experimenting with growing vegetables from around the globe in her Nova Scotia garden.

*The Veggie Garden Remix* is sensibly organized. Each chapter offers alternate crops to try if you 'like' a certain vegetable. For example, if you 'Like cucumbers?' then you are encouraged to try cucamelons, West Indian burr gherkins or cucumber melons. Nikki also includes tips on how to prepare and enjoy your new edibles.

This is a great book for the adventurous gardener and includes practical pointers on getting the most from your vegetable garden regardless of how unusual or ordinary the varieties.

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Now that the gardening season has passed, lose yourself in the pages in some of our holiday garden book choices. Before you know it, it will soon be spring and time to put what you've learned to use in the garden again! 🌱



## Connecticut Horticultural Society Scholarship Recipients 2018-2019

### **Sydney Bolduc**

#### *Connecticut Horticulture Society Richard Jaynes Scholarship*

Sydney is a second year Horticulture student. She maintains a 3.96 GPA and has been a dedicated student assistant to the grounds department on campus. She has volunteered many hours of her time to the beautification of the Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC) campus and program. Sydney also enjoys going to a variety of the horticulture trades shows such as the CT Flower Show and CT NOFA Winter Conference. She hopes to become a professional greenhouse grower or landscape designer—or both!

### **Julia Evangelista**

#### *Scholarship in memory of Edwin (Pat) Carpenter*

Julia is a junior majoring in Sustainable Plant and Soil Science (Horticulture) at the University of Connecticut (UConn). She is a stellar student with a cumulative grade point average of 3.9. Julia volunteers at the Spring Valley Student Farm that provides food for the dining halls at UConn. She is a member of EcoHusky and EcoHouse promoting waste reduction and recycling techniques at Green Game Day, and Gay City State Park. Julia wants to use her degree and experience to make the world a greener, brighter place and advance in a horticultural sense.

### **Chloe Girouard-Martel**

#### *Connecticut Horticulture Society Scholarship*

Chloe is a second year Horticulture student at NVCC. A former tattoo artist, she found horticulture a beautiful respite from the everyday stresses of the world. She is a dedicated student assistant

and maintains a 4.0 GPA. Her career goals are research/academic, with the hopes of transferring to UConn for a Bachelor's of Horticulture and perhaps one day obtaining a PhD. in Botany or Paleobotany.

### **Evan Lentz**

#### *Scholarship in memory of Ludwig Hoffman*

Evan is a senior majoring in Sustainable Plant and Soil Science (Horticulture) at UConn. He is a stellar student with a cumulative grade point average of 3.9. He hopes to give his attention to the role that plants naturally play in the ecosystem with regards to their capabilities as biochemical factories and the implications of such concerning human health and medicine. Evan has taken on a minor in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and intends to continue with this in his graduate studies, hopefully at UConn.

### **David Rascati**

#### *Scholarship in memory of David J.A. Smith*

David is a senior majoring in Sustainable Plant and Soil Science (Horticulture) at UConn. He is a stellar student with a cumulative grade point average of 3.8. Prior to attending UConn, David attended Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC) where he was recognized with The Presidential Arts Award, the NVCC Business Division Stepping Stone Scholarship, and won the 2017 Sculpture Competition. David has written and illustrated a book entitled "Selected Specimens of the Tamarach Arboretum" which includes watercolor depictions and botanical information about woody plants in the Tamarach Arboretum.

# CHS Travel



## A Delightful Day in Boston

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Spend a pleasant day in Boston visiting three interesting sites and indulging in a 3-course lunch.

The day will include stops to:

1. The **Mapparium** at the Mary Baker Eddy Library displays the world's boundaries as they were in 1935. See how much has changed from an unusual perspective – as if you are looking at the world from the inside out!
2. Attend a special **Organ Demonstration in the Mother Church** located at the spectacular Christian Science Plaza.
3. Visit the **Harvard Museum of Natural History** to view the Glass Flowers exhibit. These amazing life-like replicas include roots, stems, leaves and even soil made of glass. There will be a guided tour of this exhibit.

For lunch, you'll enjoy a delicious 3-course meal at **Grafton Street Bistro** in Cambridge. Entrée choices include: Seared Scallops, Roasted Salmon, Steak Tips or Roasted Vegetable Terrine. All meals include a salad, clam chowder and dessert.

**Cost:** \$125 per person for members of CT Hort. Non-members please add \$5.

Flower  
Power

## Philadelphia Flower Show Sunday & Monday, March 3-4, 2019

A single flower has the power to convey some of the strongest human emotions. This year's Flower Power... **The Power of Flowers!** will pay tribute to the enormous impact of flowers on our lives. From the first blooms of spring in your home garden to the expansive fields that fuel whole economies, flowers influence how we feel, think and act in small and global ways.

This is the 190th year of the Philadelphia Flower Show, presented by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS). It is America's largest horticultural event, attracting 250,000 guests each year. Enjoy acres of gardens, thousands of displays, more than 180 shops in the Marketplace, interactive exhibits and so much more.

PHS is proud to announce that the FTD World Cup 2019 floral design competition will take place at this year's show. This once-in-a-lifetime experience combines breathtaking talent with floral perfection. Sunday afternoon has been set aside to see part of the semi-final round of competition.

**Cost:** \$399 per person, double occupancy (\$479 per person single) for members of CT Hort. Non-members please add \$50.

**SOLD OUT!**  
CT Hort goes to Broadway:

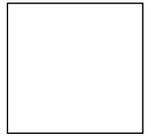
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*Dated Material*  *Please Rush*

### CT Hort Calendar at a Glance

- Tues., Nov. 13** – Hardy Japanese Maples,  
6-8 p.m. A talk by  
Horticulturalist Kevin Wilcox  
at NVCC, Waterbury
- Thurs., Nov. 15** – Program Meeting 7:00 p.m.,  
Leslie Duthie presents  
*Fronds with Benefits:  
Ferns from the Wild to  
the Garden*, Emanuel  
Synagogue, West Hartford
- Thurs., Dec. 13** – Board of Directors meeting,  
7:00 p.m., Friendship Tours  
offices in Bloomfield

Printed on recycled paper.



## Donate Directly from your IRA to Reduce Federal Taxes

*By Herb Isaacson, Planned Giving Chairman*

In 2018, many Federal income tax changes took effect. As a result, households that previously itemized deductions will likely choose to take a new higher standardized deduction. By doing so, the tax reduction received for charitable donations disappears. But there is a smart strategy available that allows you to continue to receive a tax deduction for up to \$100,000 for charitable contributions.

To take advantage of this you must be older than 70 ½ and receiving required minimum distributions (RMDs) from a traditional IRA. You can then establish a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly from your IRA to an eligible 501(c)3 charity. Any amount distributed to a charity counts toward your annual RMD. The QCD lowers both your adjusted gross income and taxable income, resulting in a lower tax liability. If this is of interest, be sure to discuss your personal situation with a qualified tax adviser to see if this strategy makes sense for you.

To satisfy the requirements of a QCD and receive a tax deduction, you must:

- Be 70 ½ or older
- Set up a direct transfer to the charity from an IRA (QCD)
- Not exceed \$100,000 in gifts per person per year
- Select a qualified 501(c)3 charity to receive your donation(s)

A gift directed to the Connecticut Horticultural Society (CT Hort) can serve to support many of its ongoing activities including the speakers at monthly meetings, the CT Hort website and Newsletter, symposiums or other programs of the giver's choice. One program of particular benefit to the Society is to provide endowed speakers for each of its monthly meetings. Such a gift can provide the funds necessary to pay for a distinguished lecturer and the endower is recognized as the sponsor of the lecture. Such contributions assure the best possible and most current educational information for members.

It should also be understood that the sustaining funds of the Society are a significant source of support to its ongoing budget. Because year-by-year expenditures from these sustaining funds constitute approximately one-third of the annual budget of the Society, these funds help to maintain annual dues at levels which make it possible for many members to afford membership. A larger fund would offer greater opportunities to expand activities without having to increase yearly dues.

The long history of CT Hort attests to the careful and considered use of sustaining and endowed funds. Additional gifts all provide opportunities both to the giver and the Society. Please share your questions and ideas with Herbert Isaacson, CT Hort Planned Giving Chairman, at [Herbert.Isaacson@gmail.com](mailto:Herbert.Isaacson@gmail.com).