

Connecticut Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 65, Number 6

Serving Horticulturists Since 1887

March 2023



Photo by Nasirum Khan

It is with great pride that we announce the debut of a new initiative to expand the Society's efforts to "encourage the enjoyment, appreciation and understanding of plants, the environment, and the art and science of gardening"—the mission of our great 136 year-old organization.

As you may know, CT Hort has been funding scholarships at the University of Connecticut College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources since 1959. We are one of their longest-running scholarship donors. In 2010, the CT Hort Board of Directors voted to begin offering scholarships to students attending the horticulture program at Naugatuck Valley Community College.

Earlier this year, the Board approved the formation of a Civic Project Committee to administer a grant program to support community efforts to educate our great state on the importance of plants and our precious environment. The generosity of donors and members affords us the ability to begin with a total of \$2,500 in grants that will be awarded this May. There are no restrictions on who can apply, but the grant must be used on a project taking place in the state of Connecticut. The maximum amount available per grant is \$500 and anyone who wishes to apply can do so [online](#) from March 1 through April 30.

CT Hort Cares Grant

New program to further the development of gardening education kicks off

The CT Hort Cares grant program aims to support community activities that bolster the mission of our organization. Applications will be accepted through April 30.

Our hope is to reach gardening enthusiasts and communities that may not currently be aware of our purpose. We wish to support and encourage grass-roots efforts to bring natural spaces and ideas to all corners of our state. Going forward, we plan to award two rounds of grants for a total of \$5,000 next season, which runs from September 2023 to August 2024.

We are also hopeful that this model will resonate with donors who will decide to support the CT Hort Cares grant program. The green DONATE button found at the very top of [our website](#) now includes the choice to use your donation for Civic Projects.

"This is new and exciting opportunity for us to provide new ways to further the love of all things gardening through our communities, schools and local organizations in the state," said CT Hort Board President Cheryl Marino. "It furthers our commitment of education in the field of Horticulture. We are looking forward to seeing what new programs we can support."

To fill out an application, go to [CT Hort Cares](#).



This Issue:

Nancy Stevens gives us a peek inside the lure of Scottish gardens

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Membership Dues:	
Individual.....	\$60
Family.....	\$80
Senior Individual (65+).....	\$55
Senior Family (65+).....	\$75
Student (full time with valid ID).....	FREE
Horticultural Business Member.....	\$100 or \$250
Organizations.....	\$80

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President's Letter Healing Mother Nature

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

I was driving down the highway in mid-February, and noticed the tips of the tress turning red—usually something I notice in March. Is this an early spring, or the new way things will be? We, as an organization, must continue to promote best practices for our properties and our surrounding environment, educating our neighbors, towns and state. Our next season of speakers will as always be an interesting mix...but the majority will focus on using more natives to heal our broken ecology and promote habitat for pollinators.

Hopefully you were able to tune into Deborah Chud's visually stunning lecture and had a chance to visit the convention center for the CT Flower Show. It is always timed right, just when we are ready to seek the signs of spring. This month, our speaker Nancy Stevens will delight us with Gardens of Scotland where she will be presenting to us direct from Scotland – at 11pm her time! This is the last “virtual only” lecture for the season.

There are still a few spots left in “Grafting Dwarf Conifers” too, on March 4 at the Noah Webster House in West Hartford. This is a really great process to learn, especially since it's being run by horticulturist Kevin Wilcox! See page 5 to learn how you can register.

If you are able, join us in person in West Hartford for our April program. Make new friends and see some old!

Cheers!
Cheryl

Thank you to our generous business members and supporters!



McVane, Bellobuono, Kuzmak, Wiezalis, and Bibisi, LLP



Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens
Connecticut Gardener

The Garden Barn Nursery
Go Organic LLC



Nancy Stevens

Poppies, Peacocks and Parterres - Gardens of Scotland

with Nancy Stevens

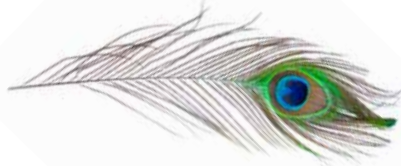
Thursday, March 16, 2023 • 7:00 pm

Live via Zoom (you'll be sent the link on the Sunday before the talk).



Scottish native Nancy Stevens will discuss everything from a 17th century Renaissance parterres to a garden of cosmic speculation; from General Eisenhower's "holiday home" to the garden where Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes acquired his extensive knowledge of poisonous plants. You'll view an artist's garden, an author's garden, see where Clive met Louise & Henrietta, and learn what the size of your walled garden says about your social status.

After working in the corporate world of banking, commerce and industry as ICI, GEC, Nancy Stevens decided to switch careers and become a freelance journalist. This has been augmented by her lifelong passion for plants and gardens: 30 years of owning gardens of various shapes, sizes and topography, supplemented by garden visits, broadened by the written word and topped off by membership of an excellent gardening club; in her case, Baldernock Gardening Club, where she was chairman, as she said, "for seven very enjoyable years."



We're back to meeting in person and on Zoom
for our April, May and June line-up.

Join us at Emanuel Synagogue in West Hartford.

Programs start at 7:30pm. Entry to the synagogue is 7pm.

April 20, 2023: Nibbling on Natives in Your Back Yard and Beyond

Join **Russ Cohen**, expert forager and author of *Wild Plants I Have Known...and Eaten*, for a presentation featuring dozens of species of native edible wild plants suitable for adding to your landscape, or nibbling on as you encounter them.

May 18, 2023: Healthy Plants, Indoor and Out

Dr. Nick Goltz, the director of UConn's Plant Diagnostic Laboratory, will introduce fundamental techniques of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for the home gardener as well as tips and tricks on how to help any plants—from hardy CT natives to delicate tropical houseplants—live their best lives.

June 15, 2023: The Eye of the Beholder: Is It Messy, or an Acquired Taste?

The rewards of gardening with nature, not against it, are a fabulous mix of process and perception. Landscape designer **Edwina Von Gal** discusses why we need to change the way we garden and how to make it happen.



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 six-question survey on our website – cshort.org. Click on the survey icon found on any page then chose the speaker you want to rate. Thank you for your feedback.

Nature and the Heart

By Mary Freeman

The heart I drew in symmetry I drew
With mind's eye open, and with an open heart.
So in the grass I dragged my rake,
And cut the young shoots down,
Yearling trees that blocked my open-hearted,
Open-minded way, the great symmetrical heart
I'd cut, envisioned in my mind.
I'd place my flowers down beside it low, in flower beds
On either side along its heart-shaped length.

What earnest war this Nature wages now
Against this plan of mine to cut a perfect heart
Through sweeps of old asymmetry,
Through swaths of deeper, lovelier stalks
And vines than any I'd make grow.
She makes me feel the power of her mind
In how she grows her trees in clumps
Right where my perfect heart-shaped path would be.
She laughs at flowers grown beside my paths,
She stops the dreaded shears from closing,
Makes all young trees when sprouting fast feel good.
She makes me bleed from scratches as I go,
Cutting my way through her undergrowth.
She would have me know, my Nature would,
A perfect heart was never in her plan.

Reprinted with permission from In the Apothecary's Garden: Poems from a Lifetime by Mary Freeman

2022-2023 Scholarship Fund

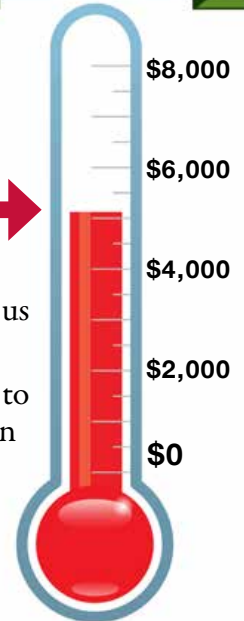
GOAL
\$8,000

\$5,053

We hope you'll consider helping us reach our goal!

Go to cthort.org to learn how you can give and support our mission!

Thank you!



Save the Date!

**Connecticut Horticultural Society
2024 Virtual Symposium**

February 3, 2024



CT Hort is thrilled to be participating in

On Earth — An Earth Day Celebration Sat., April 22 at Pope Park in Hartford

Volunteers wanted. Browsers encouraged! Details to come at cthort.org and in our next newsletter!

SAVE THE DATE



CT Hort's Annual Plant Sale & Auction is Friday, May 5

Connecticut Horticultural Society's 2023 Plant Sale & Auction is scheduled for Friday, May 5, at Bethany Covenant Church at 785 Mill Street in Berlin, CT.

The sale and auction will include new and rare collections of plants and shrubs.

The evening event kicks off with a plant sale and silent auction of unusual perennials, annuals, vegetables, herbs, shrubs and silent auction treasures from local growers, wholesalers, and businesses, and ends with a live auction of some unusual offerings.

Once again, Nancy DuBrule-Clemente (pictured) will curate the plant sale and auction, as well as serve as one of the auctioneers.

Proceeds from all sales are deposited into the Society's Scholarship Fund and used to provide scholarships to Plant Science students at the University of Connecticut (since 1959), and Naugatuck Valley Community College (since 2011). Admission is \$5.



Space is still available!



GRAFTING DWARF CONIFERS March 4, 1:30-3:30 pm

Noah Webster House, 227 South Main St. West Hartford
\$45 per person (Limit 20)

Go to cthort.org to register

Join horticulturist Kevin Wilcox as he teaches you how to successfully graft dwarf conifers. Our program will start with a short slide presentation, followed by participants preparing, cutting and wrapping the grafted conifer. Different conifer cultivars will be provided for people to graft, with selections from Oriental, Serbian, Norway and White spruces. Attendees are welcome to bring selections of their own to try grafting (bring up to two year's growth, not an entire large branch). Please bring a pair of hand pruners.

At this point, only spruce understock is available, and if others become available, scions for grafting will be provided. Depending on how many people join us, we will graft at least one plant each, with more seedlings for people to take and try at home.

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=xs24fg9ab&oeidk=a07ejm350md5abde3af>

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 March 15.

Sat., March 4, 10am-3pm, Mad Gardeners Symposium: "Sustainable For Our Future," Housatonic Valley Regional High School, 246 Warren Turnpike, Falls Village. Featuring speakers Kim Eierman on "Beyond Sustainability: Using Our Landscapes as a Source of Environmental Change" and Ellen Scheid presents: "Creating Beneficial Landscapes with Native Plants." The cost is \$75/members and \$85/non-members and includes lunch. Register at madgardeners.org.

March 6-11, CT NOFA 41st Winter Conference. The organization is hosting a week of live virtual workshops and concluding on March 11th with an in-person gathering and celebration at Wesleyan University that will include a keynote address by author and farmer [Leah Penniman](http://LeahPenniman.com), and live virtual workshops on farming, seed saving, organic land care, community food security, social justice issues, and more. Registration is on a sliding scale, from \$35-\$160. That includes invitations to all live virtual workshop sessions and our in-person celebratory gathering on March 11, as well as exclusive access to all workshop recordings for 3 months after the event. More information is at <https://ctnofa.org/winter-conference/2023-conference/>.

Tues., March 7, 2-3:15, New Directions in the American Landscape (NDAL) is hosting "Mini Meadow Making" with Graham Laird Gardner, as a virtual presentation. With as little as a few square feet of space, you can grow a beautiful, low-maintenance, naturalistic meadow that supports a diversity of plants, pollinators, and a plethora of other living things - not to mention its visual appeal in your home garden. A recording is available for three months after the live presentation. The cost is \$42. Students can email with a verification of student status to info@ndal.org for a discount code. For NDAL's series of seminars, go to <https://www.ndal.org/virtual-series-winter-2023>.

Thurs., March 9, 8:30am-4pm, the Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists (CAWS) is hosting a Wetland Science Conference, Eversource Energy Auditorium, 107 Selden St, Berlin. Module topics will include Invasive Aquatic Plants, Regulatory Updates from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Perspective from CT DEEP Fisheries Atlantic White Cedar Restoration, and more. Members: \$65 and non-members: \$80. Students are free. Register at www.ctwetlands.org.

Thurs. March 9, noon, West Hartford Garden Club presents "Top 30 Plants for your Landscape with Kaitlyn Larsen, Saint John's Episcopal Church, 679 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford. Ms. Larsen is a 3rd generation owner of Larsen's Garden Center in Burlington, and will share her top 30 plants to use in our landscapes. Register at www.WestHartfordGardenClub.org

Sat., March 11, 9am-2pm, Greenhouse Bulb & Plant Sale, Elizabeth Park, West Hartford. The bulbs and plants were grown by Conservancy Horticulturist Rosemary Aldridge; Gardeners Wesley Gage and David Rivera; and many volunteers. The Spring Greenhouse Sale helps support Elizabeth Park Conservancy in its mission to maintain, restore and protect the gardens, grounds, and buildings in Elizabeth Park. Go to <https://www.elizabethparkct.org>

Sat., March 11, 9am, Connecticut Master Gardener Symposium. This is a virtual presentation. "Gardening for Good: Full Circle Gardening" is the title and theme of this year's symposium. Speakers include Bill Logan, Ian Stewart, Jeff Lorenz, and Nikki Jabbour. The importance of gardening and our relationship with nature has come to the forefront during the COVID pandemic as we found ourselves turning to nature and to gardening to center us, for healing, connections, and peace. Members: \$60, non-members: \$90, and MG interns and sponsored members: \$40. Register at ctmga.org.

Wed., March 15, 7pm, Glastonbury Partners in Planting presents "Nature's Best Hope" featuring Douglas Tallamy, Welles Turner Memorial Library, 2407 Main Street, Glastonbury. Recent headlines about global insect declines, and three billion fewer birds in North America are a bleak reality check. Mr. Tallamy will discuss simple steps that each of us can- and must- take to reverse declining biodiversity and will explain why we, ourselves, are nature's best hope. The talk is free. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/bdz59trb> or email glastonburypollinatorpathway@gmail.com to attend in person.

continued on page 7



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

Horticultural Happenings *continued from page 6*

Horticultural Happenings & Announcements

Sat., March 18, 10am-2:30pm, the Hardy Plant Society of New England-CT Chapter is hosting the Soup Symposium, Wethersfield United Methodist Church, 150 Prospect Street, Wethersfield. The event includes two presentations, lunch, vendors, and networking with fellow gardeners. The cost is \$55. Go to www.facebook.com/hardyplantsocietyconnecticut.

Sat., March 18, 11am, Kerry Ann Mendez presents "Clever Design Tips for Everblooming, Low-Maintenance Gardens," a virtual presentation. Learn some creative, easy-to-implement strategies for extending the blooms of popular plants for weeks! Also showcased are time-saving design tips including distinctive plant combinations that provide unstoppable color spring through fall, as well as groundcover tapestries that smother weeds and delight pollinators. You will also learn valuable lessons from before and after design projects to avoid costly landscape mistakes. Cost is \$13.95. Register at <https://pyours.com/low-maintenance-gardens-webinar/ref/12/>.

Sat., March 18, 12-5pm & Sun., March 19, 10am-4pm, Nutmeg State Orchid Society Orchid Show, West Hartford Meeting & Conference Center, 50 S. Main Street, West Hartford. Admission: \$10. Go to www.nutmegorchids.org.

Mon, March 20, 11:30am, the Simsbury Garden Club presents Gardening in small Spaces with Eileen Anderson, Apple Barn, 60 Old Farms Road, West Simsbury. Ms. Anderson will share ideas for utilizing every space in your garden. Refreshments will be served. Guest fee \$10. Go to www.simsburygardeclub.org.

Tues., March 28, 6pm, Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens is hosting "Introduction to the American Chestnut," as a virtual presentation. Discover the fascinating history of the American Chestnut. SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry school experts will present the historical and ecological importance of the American chestnut and their efforts to restore it. Members: \$10 and non-members: \$25. Register at <https://www.bartlettarboretum.org>.

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

CT Hort Travel



Denver Gardens & Rocky Mountain Wildflowers

Escorted by C. Colston Burrell

June 13-20, 2023

Friendship Tours has partnered with Garden and Nature Tours to plan exciting itineraries focused on private garden experiences and escorted by C. Colston Burrell - author, speaker, gardener.

Join us for an immersive exploration of Denver gardens, history and culture at the foot of the Rocky Mountains. Poised at the foot of the Front Range, Denver's gardens reflect the tension between plains and mountains, with elements as diverse as sweeping prairies, colorful perennial beds, cottage gardens, dwarf conifer collections and intricate rock and alpine gardens.

PRICING

Based on 18-22 travelers

\$4,390—Double Occupancy

\$945 Single Supplement

Based on 15-17 Travelers

\$4,740—Double Occupancy

\$945 Single Supplement

Fewer than 15 travelers may result in a small surcharge.

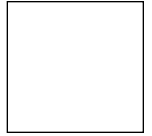
Itinerary subject to change without notice.

Call Barbara at Friendship Tours:

860-243-1630

or go to www.friendshiptours.net





Dated Material 🌿 *Please Rush*

CT Hort Calendar at a Glance

Thurs., March 2 – Board of Directors
Remote Meeting, 7 pm

Wed., March 15 – Deadline for April
Newsletter

Thurs., March 16 – Speaker presentation
featuring *Poppies,*
Peacocks and Parterres -
Gardens of Scotland with
Nancy Stevens, 7:00 pm
(Zoom only)

Go to CTHort.org for information on these
and all other meetings and programs.

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Gresczyk Farms Wins Best in Show

Congratulations to Gresczyk Farms in New Hartford for winning Best in Show at the Connecticut Flower & Garden Show last month. The displays this year were inventive and beautiful, so our judges—Richard and Susan Kaminski, and Elizabeth Valdez—had a challenge on their hands picking just one winner.

Every year, CT Hort picks a display at the show that offers educational value, horticultural interest, good design, effective use of plant material and inspiration to a home gardener.

Congratulations to Henry Gresczyk from Gresczyk Farms, shown here accepting the award From Ms. Valdez, and thanks to our judges.

