

# Connecticut Horticultural Society

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 65, Number 9

Serving Horticulturists Since 1887

June 2023

## First Wave of CT Hort Cares Grants Awarded

*By the Civic Projects Committee*

Earlier this year, the Board of Directors approved the establishment of a Civic Projects Committee. Its purpose is to administer a grant program in support of community projects that educate state residents on the importance of plants and the environment. The application window for this first round of grants was March 1-April 30. Fourteen candidates applied to receive a mini-grant of up to \$500 with a total sum of \$2,500 available.

Here are this term's winners:

**Cohen Butterfly-Pollinator Garden Revitalization, Colchester - \$500 award**  
**Project Administrator: Colchester Garden Club (CGC)**

This mature community garden needs a facelift with many perennials having outgrown or overgrown their space. School groups use the gardens for science activities. The CGC use the gardens for educational sessions and the general public is always welcome. CGC and community volunteers will re-diversify the garden, selling plants that have exceeded their boundaries and replacing them with additional butterfly/pollinator-friendly varieties.

**Bristol Boys & Girls Club Pizza Garden, Bristol - \$200 award**  
**Project Administrator: Bristol Garden Club (BGC)**

BGC members mentor a summer gardening program in conjunction with the Cambridge Park Unit summer camp of the Bristol Boys and Girls Club. The camp introduces children

to gardening and all that goes along with that responsibility—fellowship, patience and the art of preparing a meal with the harvest. Their award will be used to replace worn supplies such as hoses, watering cans, gloves and tools.

**Ballard Green Community Garden, Ridgefield - \$350 award**  
**Project Administrator: Ridgefield Garden Club (RGC)**

Ballard Green is a development of 63 independent living residences for seniors and disabled individuals. Some are food insecure and/or clients of Meals on Wheels. The RGC will establish a raised bed vegetable garden with the help of residents interested in helping and learning about soil health, seed selection, planting, growing, feeding, pest control and harvesting. Their award will be used to help with the cost to build a raised bed, add soil and amendments, and buy the vegetable plants.

**Conservatory Renovation at Mark Twain House & Museum (MTH&M), Hartford - \$500 award**

**Project Administrator: MTH&M**

The Mark Twain House Conservatory was vandalized this past winter, causing the majority of their plants to die after being exposed to below-freezing weather. This loss is not covered by insurance and the MTH&M is approaching local organizations for help. The completed project will promote horticultural knowledge to visitors by providing a

continued on page 4



Bristol Boys & Girls Club



**This Issue: New summer bus trips**  
**available with tour guide**  
**Nancy DuBrule-Clemente!**

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Send Membership Information & Direct General Questions To:  
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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



Dear Members  
Say hello to summer!

If you missed last month's presentation with Dr. Nick Goltz, be sure to check out the recording of it that you received via email. It's a wonderful resource for understanding what your plants may need to stay healthy. We were also really happy to see so many people join us for their special anniversaries. Thank you—and thank you even if you didn't celebrate a special anniversary with us this year—for your support and membership.

As our season of presentations comes to a close, I look forward to a great ending with Edwina von Gal.

Although we are taking a break on presentations in July and August, there are many fun events planned. Check out the affordable day travel opportunities with Nancy DuBrule-Clemente and Friendship Tours on page 7.

In September we begin our speaker meetings at a new time, 7 pm, and a new location. We're still in West Hartford but we're moving to the Elmwood Community Center. More about that is also in the newsletter.

Happy Gardening!  
Warmly,  
Cheryl



**Thank you to our generous business members and supporters!**



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



**Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens**  
**Colorblends Wholesale Flowerbulbs**

**The Garden Barn Nursery**  
**Go Organic LLC**



Edwina van Gal

# Eye of the Beholder: Is it Messy, or an Acquired Taste? *with Edwina von Gal*

Thursday, June 15 • 7:30 pm

Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford and via Zoom (you'll be sent the link on the Sunday before the talk).

Our obsession with tidy, clean landscapes is proving to be harmful to the things and the ones we love. How can we let nature play a role in how we perceive, design, and maintain our human-dominated landscapes? Ms. von Gal's lecture considers the rewards of gardening with nature—not against it. She will also discuss the new Earth Equity movement, which seeks ethical, social and environmental equity for human and non-human lives, and the systems that support them.

Edwina von Gal is the founder of the Perfect Earth

Project, a non-profit organization in East Hampton, NY that raises consciousness about the dangers of synthetic lawn and garden chemicals to humans, animals, and the environment, and educates homeowners and professionals about natural, PRFCT (toxic-free) techniques that provide beautiful, safe results at no extra cost.

The principal of her eponymous landscape design firm since 1984, her work has been published in many major publications and her book *Fresh Cuts* won the Quill and Trowel award for garden writing in 1998.



### 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 – [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.



CT Hort honored members celebrating special anniversaries in person, at the May speaker presentation. Congratulations to all of those who celebrated this year!

## 2022-2023 Scholarship Fund

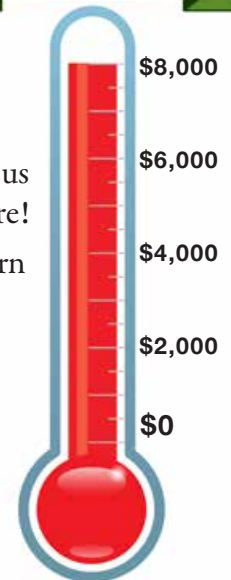
GOAL  
**\$8,000**

**\$12,473**

Thank you for helping us reach our goal and more!

Go to [cthort.org](http://cthort.org) to learn how you can give and support our mission!

*Thank you!*



CT Hort Care Grants from page 1



Garden Club of Windham

tangible example of historical in-home gardens and plants. The Conservatory and plantings are often listed as the favorite part of the house tour in post-visit surveys.

**Community Garden of Joy Youth Summer Camp, Seaside Park, Bridgeport - \$500 award**

**Project Administrator: Community Garden of Joy**  
[www.communitygardenofjoy.org](http://www.communitygardenofjoy.org)

Underserved youth are able to participate in the summer camp. Children learn about growing and eating fresh foods to improve overall health. During the last round, the children spent 6 weeks in the garden learning about soil, plants, germination, pollination and appreciation for gardening. Participants said it was an experience that they will never forget. The Cares grant will be used to help cover program costs.

**Pollinator Pathways Signage, Willimantic - \$450 award**

**Project Administrator: Garden Club of Windham (GCOW)**  
GCOW has planted pollinator-friendly habitat at three locations around Willimantic. The three locations are key recreational and public spaces scattered through the community, and their heavy use by the general public creates exceptional opportunities for



Garden Club of Windham

outreach. Native plantings installed over the last several years have become established and more conspicuous to users of the parks, making it an ideal time to explain some of the gardening practices – such as why leaf litter and plant stalks are still in place over the winter and into spring; to conspicuously label patches of native plants and explain their roles in the habitat; and to point out invasive plants and their detrimental impacts. Their award will be used to purchase nine signs to be used among the three sites.

Each of the groups who received an award will keep us posted on the progress of their project. They have also agreed to post a sign or plaque that indicates the support that CT Hort has provided for their project.

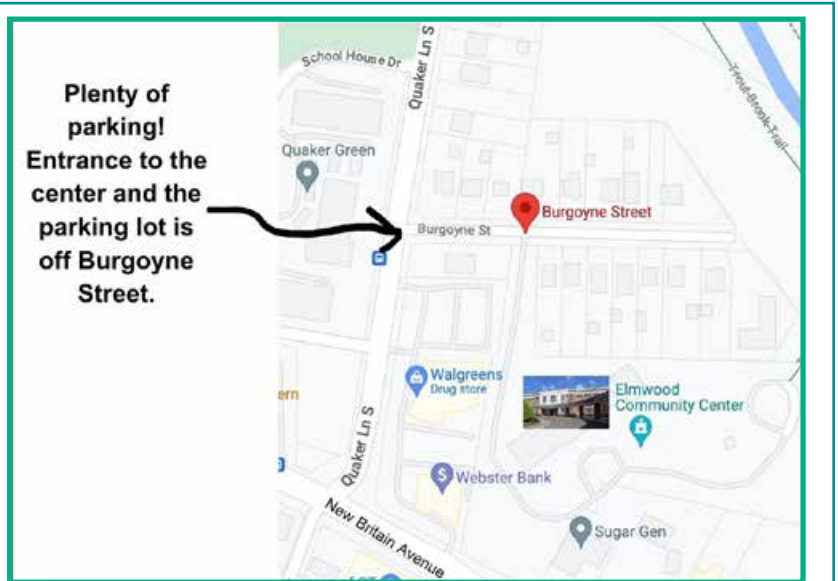
We anticipate being able to offer two rounds—fall and spring—of Cares grants in the upcoming 2023-24 CT Hort Season. You'll find all the latest news about this new program on our website at [CTHort.org](http://CTHort.org). If you would like to donate to this initiative, you are able to indicate your preference when donating online on our [website](http://website). We welcome your comments and questions; please send an email to [grants@cthort.org](mailto:grants@cthort.org)

**A New Season of Speakers =  
A New Space**

**WE ARE MOVING!**

*Programs will be held at*  
**Elmwood Community Center**  
1106 New Britain Ave., West Hartford  
**starting September 21, 2023**

**ENTRANCE TO THE CENTER  
IS OFF BURGOYNE STREET**



# The Spring Plant Sale & Auction



## Record setting auction!

The Spring Plant Sale & Auction took place on a sunny, warm May 5. It did NOT disappoint. Donors were incredibly generous and creative with donations, volunteers brought their best game and the turnout was impressive which resulted in record-setting proceeds that topped \$7,300 – a new high for a spring auction.

Our auctioneers—Nancy DuBrule-Clemente, Jim Sirch, and Kevin Wilcox—brought their vast knowledge, filling the hall with interesting particulars about each plant, making the live auction not only entertaining, but educational.

This evening not only heralds the coming of spring but it is the cornerstone event that funds the college scholarships distributed annually by CT Hort. Scholarships have been awarded since 1959 to UConn students and expanded in 2011 to include Naugatuck Valley Community College.

**In this century alone, CT Hort has donated \$175,700 to 82 college Horticulture students, with some receiving more than one scholarship.**

With the green industry in short supply of help—and in keeping with our nonprofit mission to educate—it is our intent to encourage the development of knowledgeable Horticulture graduates who will support this important sector of our state's economy.

We want to thank the dozens of tireless volunteers for their efforts leading up to and on the day of the event.

We could not have had such success without the generosity of our donors. Please keep these generous wholesalers and retailers in mind when purchasing gardening supplies:

### RETAILERS

Ballek's Garden Center, East Haddam  
 Butler Florist & Garden Center, West Hartford  
 Broken Arrow Nursery, Hamden  
 Cheshire Nursery, Cheshire  
 Country Flower Farm, Middlefield  
 Cricket Hill Garden, Thomaston  
 E. Draghi & Sons Farm, South Glastonbury  
 Dunning Nursery, Farmington  
 Garden Sales, Manchester  
 Gotta's Farm, Portland  
 Hart's Greenhouse & Garden Center, Brooklyn  
 JillyBeans Farmstand, Farmington  
 Natureworks, Northford  
 Paul's & Sandy's too, Inc., East Hampton  
 Sam Bridge Nursery & Greenhouses, Greenwich  
 Stonehedge Landscape & Garden Center, Newington  
 The Garden, Woodbury  
 The Garden Barn Nursery & Landscape, Vernon  
 Tower Farms, Cheshire  
 Warner Nursery & Garden Center, Simsbury  
 Woodland Gardens, Manchester  
 Woodward Greenhouses, Chaplin

### WHOLESALEERS

Canterbury Gardens, Canterbury  
 Judges Farm, Old Lyme  
 Michael's Greenhouse, Cheshire  
 Monrovia Nursery Co – Connecticut, Granby  
 The Plant Group, North Franklin

### INDIVIDUAL DONORS

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 Valerie Bryan  
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 Caroline Jones

### ACADEMIC DONORS

Naugatuck Valley Community College, Waterbury  
 UConn Horticulture Club, Storrs

**Your opportunity to vote for the proposed slate of officers for 2023-2024 will be coming via email (or hard copy through the USPS) the week of June 19.**



## 2022-2023 LEADERSHIP

### OFFICERS

President.....Cheryl Marino  
 Vice President.....OPEN  
 Secretary.....Yilin Sun  
 Treasurer.....Richard Kaminski

### BOARD MEMBERS

Diane Erling	Tom Christopher
Trish Lyons	Cheryl Whalen
Dr. Nick Goltz	Susan Kaminski
Barb Skomorowski	Jan Manchester
Elizabeth Valdez	

**Interested in a leadership position or in joining a committee? Contact us [office@cthort.org](mailto:office@cthort.org).**

## 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 July issue is June 15.

**Sat., June 3, 9am-2pm (rain or shine): Garden Club of Avon Annual Plant Sale**, at the Gazebo on Avon Town Green, Rte 44 & Ensign Dr., Avon. Connecticut grown plants from gardeners' homes and gardens at bargain prices. Cash & Check only. [www.gardenclubofavonct.org/](http://www.gardenclubofavonct.org/)

**Thurs., June 8, 10am-3:30pm: Garden Journaling at Hollister House**, 300 Nettleton Hollow Road, Washington. Create a visual record of your garden. This class will take place indoors and in the garden and is designed for all levels of experience. Demonstrations of new techniques and tools with a specific plant species will help to refresh your observation, drawing and painting skills. Members \$95; non-members \$120. <https://hollisterhousegarden.org/>

**Sat., June 10, 9:30am-3:30pm: "Through the Garden Gate" Perennial Planters Garden Club of Manchester**, multiple locations. Visit six beautifully designed private backyard gardens in Manchester. \$20-\$25. [http://manchestergardenclubs.org/perennial\\_planters.htm](http://manchestergardenclubs.org/perennial_planters.htm)

**Sat., June 10, 1-4pm: Documenting Nature: Smart Phone Photography Workshop, Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens**, 151 Brookdale Road, Stamford. Includes a tour of the Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens by a Bartlett staff member followed by a photography lesson with expert Mary Glass. Participants will explore the grounds, take photos and then come together to learn how to correct, enhance and transform images with the Snapseed

phone app. We will display participants' work at a future gallery show at the Stamford Art Association Townhouse Gallery. All levels welcome, iPhones and Androids users too. \$115 for Members, \$130 for Non-Members. <https://www.bartlettarboretum.org/>

**Sat., June 24 & Sun., June 25 from 10am-4pm (rain or shine), Wickford in Bloom Historic Home and Garden Tour, Wickford Village**, North Kingstown, RI. The self-guided tour, starting at Updike Park in the heart of charming Wickford Village features a dozen exemplary properties located on picturesque tree-lined streets that graciously welcome the public over the two days. Plum Beach Garden Club will also conduct its popular yard sale of garden items during the tour. Hosted by HistWick, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving, protecting and celebrating the historic and cultural features of Wickford Village. Tickets are \$25-\$30. [www.HistWick.org](http://www.HistWick.org).

**Wed., June 28, 7:30pm, the Hardy Plant Society of New England-CT Chapter presents "The Climate-Change Garden"** with Jonathan M. Lehrer, PhD, Associate Professor and Chairperson of the Department of Urban Horticulture and Design at Farmingdale State College on Long Island. Zoom only. He teaches several courses in plant materials and holds a special interest in the dynamic nature of our plant palette in response to global climate change. Members free; non-members \$10. Go to [www.facebook.com/hardyplantsocietyconnecticut](http://www.facebook.com/hardyplantsocietyconnecticut)

Visit [cthort.org](http://cthort.org) for the MOST CURRENT listings and links.



# CT Hort is excited to be co-hosting two day-long bus tours this summer with Friendship Tours!



## Won't you join us?

Your tour guide for both tours is **Nancy DuBrule-Clemente**, author and founder of Natureworks Horticulture Services.



### Gardens of Woodbury Friday, July 21

*Bus leaves at 8:30 am from New Britain and 9:00 am from Middletown. Approximate return time is 5-5:30 pm*

Your day kicks off with a visit to Earth Tones, a native plant nursery that offers grasses, ferns, perennials, shrubs, and trees that are native to New England. After a tour of the nursery, you'll enjoy a workshop on how to save seeds from native plants and how to sow and grow them.



Then, enjoy lunch at Marketplace Kitchen, in the heart of town, before a trip to the Gardens of Gertrude Jekyll. Ms. Jekyll had a profound influence on modern garden design and is widely considered the greatest gardener of the 20th century, with several hundred gardens designed all over the world.

**CT Hort Members: \$150 / General Admission: \$155**

### Massachusetts—Gardens on the South Coast Thursday, August 17

*Bus leaves at 8:30 am from New Britain and 9:00 am from Middletown. Approximate return time is 7-7:30 pm*

We'll drive to Avant Gardens in North Dartmouth first, where owner Katherine Tracey will lead a workshop on how to transform your container gardens for late summer and fall. Following the workshop, tour the gardens and greenhouse to enjoy and purchase any of the array of uncommon and rare trees, shrubs, perennials, garden annuals, succulents, and hard-to-find houseplants. A buffet lunch follows.

Then we're on our way to the Allen C. Haskell Public Gardens, a storied former New Bedford nursery and homestead-turned vibrant public park. Mr. Haskell himself curated the six acres of beauty blooming in the heart of the town.



**CT Hort Members: \$145 / General Admission: \$150**

## Quebec's Eastern Townships Garden Tour September 7–11, 2023

**The deadline is fast approaching to get on board for this amazing trip!**

Join CT Horticultural Society September 7-11 to travel back in time and take in the old-world flavor of Québec's Eastern Townships. In the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, uncover the delights of charming French villages, lush green valleys, enchanted woods, idyllic farmland and Victorian architecture

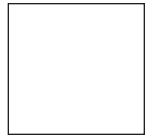
For more information:

<https://cthort.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Quebecs-Eastern-Townships-1.pdf>



**Contact Barbara at Friendship Tours**

**email [barbara@friendshiptours.net](mailto:barbara@friendshiptours.net) or call 860-243-1630.**



*Dated Material*  *Please Rush*

### CT Hort Calendar at a Glance

**Thurs., June 15** – Deadline for our Summer  
*Newsletter*

**Thurs., June 15** – Speaker presentation:  
*Eye of the Beholder:  
Is It Messy, or an  
Acquired Taste?* with  
Edwina von Gal, 7:30 pm  
(In person and on Zoom)

Go to [CTHort.org](https://CTHort.org) for information on these  
and all other meetings and programs.

Printed on recycled paper.



## 2023-2024 SPEAKER SEASON

Date	Speaker	Presentation	Speaker Info
September 21, 2023	Roy Diblik	Perennial Plant Communities: The Know Maintenance Approach and Coming to Know the Plants (First talk begins at 6:15pm)	<a href="https://www.northwindperennialfarm.com/roy-diblik">https://www.northwindperennialfarm.com/roy-diblik</a>
October 19, 2023	Robin Lensi	A Year in the Life of a Gardener	<a href="https://www.lensidesigns.com">https://www.lensidesigns.com</a>
November 16, 2023	Ian Caton	Designing in Challenging Situations: Plants and Techniques that Deliver	<a href="https://woodthrushnatives.com/about">https://woodthrushnatives.com/about</a>
January 18, 2024	Claudia West	Smart Planting Management	<a href="https://www.phytostudio.com/claudia-west">https://www.phytostudio.com/claudia-west</a>
February 15, 2024	Sheryll Durrant & Randell McShepard	Urban Gardens: Changing Lives	<a href="https://www.justfood.org/meet-the-team">https://www.justfood.org/meet-the-team</a> <a href="https://ridall.org/who-are-we/">https://ridall.org/who-are-we/</a>
March 21, 2024	Duncan Himmelman	Native Plants for Container Gardens	<a href="https://www.blauhouseandgardens.org/duncan-himmelman">https://www.blauhouseandgardens.org/duncan-himmelman</a>
April 18, 2024	Harland Patch	Ecological Approaches to Garden Design and Management	<a href="https://ento.psu.edu/directory/hmp11">https://ento.psu.edu/directory/hmp11</a>
May 16, 2024	Mike & Angelina Chute	Roses For New England	<a href="https://therosejournal.wordpress.com/author/rosesolutions/">https://therosejournal.wordpress.com/author/rosesolutions/</a>
June 20, 2024	Sam Hoadley	Knockout Natives	<a href="https://mtcubacenter.org/?staff=sam-hoadley">https://mtcubacenter.org/?staff=sam-hoadley</a>