

Connecticut Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

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Serving Horticulturists Since 1887

September 2023

Congratulations to Trish Lyons, our 2023 Service Award Winner

Trish Lyons knows firsthand just how big an impact volunteering can make.

“I strongly encourage people to volunteer for anything in their community if they have a few hours a week,” she said.

Trish is the winner of the 2023 CT Hort Service Award, and with good reason. Since she joined CT Hort a decade ago, she’s been an active volunteer, taking over the running of our popular auctions, sitting on the board, and assisting with the creation and administration of the new grant program.

Trish retired in 2012 from a 30-year career in IT as a programmer at Cigna. “By the time I left, I was bossing around the other programmers,” she joked. “I thought I better do something to structure my life,” she said. “I’m not a giant plant nerd, but I’ve always liked flowers.”

She enrolled in the UConn Master Gardener program in 2013, and that’s when she learned about CT Hort.

“Shortly after, I went to a (CT Hort) speaker meeting, and at one point, Leslie Shields was asking for people to volunteer for the auction, so that’s how I started. I wrangled Pat Lavery to help me.”

These days, she, Barb Skomorowski, and Nancy DuBrule-Clemente chair the auction. “I love working with Barb. She’s a giant help,” Trish said.



Trish Lyons, here with fellow volunteer and CT Hort member Diane Erling, is CT Hort’s 2023 Service Award Winner.

“Over the years, Trish has applied her corporate management skills to the auctions, transforming them to more efficient and profitable events,” Barb said. “In fact, this year the Spring Plant Sale & Auction grossed what the spring and fall ones would have totaled in prior years. I have worked with Trish for all the years she has led the Auction Committee and can say firsthand that she is an absolute joy to team up with. Her gentle manner and consistent follow-up encourages the best from each volunteer. Her wisdom in data collection and analysis has helped to maximize the success of the

event and cut the number of auctions we need to have to only one auction in the spring. This single auction, plus generous donations will cover the college scholarships we award to UConn and Naugatuck Valley Community College students.”

“I love doing the auction because it’s great to meet people doing the work behind the scenes,” Trish said. “There are a lot of really great people in CT Hort. I’m lucky I get to meet them. And the night of the auction is hectic but it’s a lot of fun.”

Right before this year’s auction, she realized just how much of a ripple effect her work with the auction makes.

CT Hort board member Nick Goltz is the Director of Plant Diagnostic Laboratory

continued on page 7



Summer trip photo wrap-up.



Page 4



IN THIS ISSUE:

Leadership Letter	2
September Speaker Info	3
Horticulture Happenings	6



Connecticut Horticultural Society
P.O. Box 330966
West Hartford, CT 06133-0966
(860) 529-8713

email: office@cthort.org
website: www.cthort.org

Phone Hours
Tuesday & Thursday
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tracey Weiss
CT Hort Director of Communications
news@cthort.org

All announcements, advertising news and articles for publication should be sent to: news@cthort.org.

Send Membership Information & Direct General Questions To:
Mary Anna Martell
Office Administrator
P.O. Box 330966
West Hartford, CT 06133-0966

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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LEADERSHIP LETTER

Dear Members,

We have had a busy season with all the educational events—many of you took advantage of these excellent outings. I'm always delighted to connect with others at these functions. These events bring great people together! Check the website and newsletters for more events and travel coming up. I am so proud of the work done by our Educational Committee.

How are your gardens holding up after this rainy summer? It has been quite a challenge working between the rainy days and the heat. Our vegetables have done quite well considering the limited sun and abundance of rain. Walking about the yard today, I marveled at the abundance and species of bees busy at work on the oregano, Peegee, Hydrangea, and Clethra. I am reminded that much of what I know about nature came from the experiences offered by CT Hort.

Our new season kicks off with a double header with Roy Diblick at 6:15 pm at our new location. Come early: doors open at 5:45 pm. You can catch up with friends and enjoy some robust refreshments.

Warmly,
Cheryl



Thank you to our generous business members and supporters!



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We're kicking off our 2023-2024 season of speakers in our new home at Elmwood Community Center with two talks by Roy Diblik. Starting at 6:15 pm



Roy Diblik

Perennial Plant Communities: The Know Maintenance Approach and Coming to Know the Plants with Roy Diblik

Thursday, September 21 • 6:15 pm

Elmwood Community Center, 1106 New Britain Ave., West Hartford and via Zoom (you'll be sent the link on the Sunday before the talk).

Perennial Plant Communities: The Know Maintenance Approach

Roy's thoughtful way to design perennial plantings welcomes fresh contemporary styles and plant diversity integrated with responsible stewardship concerns. By using a selection of regionally dependable perennials and native plants, endless nature inspired plant patterns can be created, each relating to time and cost to nurture and care for. He will discuss the developing partnership between the gardener, the plants and nature, always knowing the beauty is in the doing.

SECOND PRESENTATION: Coming to Know the Plants

The emphasis will be on the importance of knowing plants and their relationships to each other and the planting site. We will discuss the nature of plants beyond the general awareness of bloom time, flower color, height and soil conditions. Coming to know plants places you closer to their lifestyle needs within community. This thoughtful approach will create a greater interest and deeper enjoyment of landscaping open space, or simply gardening.

Roy is co-owner of Northwind Perennial Farm located in Burlington, Wisconsin. He has been growing traditional and native perennials since 1978. His garden designs emphasize plant relationships to maintenance strategies and costs. Roy's design and planting projects include the Louis Sullivan Arch for the Modern Wing at the Art Institute of Chicago and the lakeside plantings for the Oceanarium at the Shedd Aquarium and recently the perennial plantings for Scott Byron's new garden design for the Chicago History Museum. His book 'The Know Maintenance Perennial Garden' highlights his perennial gardening practice.

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

WE HAVE MOVED!

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

Programs will be held at
Elmwood Community Center
1106 New Britain Ave.
West Hartford.



Coming up:

Thursday, October 19, 7pm

Elmwood Community Center, 106
New Britain Ave, West Hartford

A Year in the Life of a Gardener



Gardener and landscape photographer **Robin Lensi** will share her secrets for how design and color can create a garden that excites, welcomes, and comforts.

A recent bus trip to Woodbury's own Earth Tones and the famous Glebe House (home to gardens designed by Gertrude Jekyll) was a delightful way to spend the day. Nancy DuBrule-Clemente (left) was the tour guide for the trip, coordinated by Friendship Tours. Also shown: a very hungry caterpillar and pollinator at Earth Tones.



Twenty lucky people went "Beyond the Pond" for a private tour with John O'Brien at his popular Granby nursery in August. Mr. O'Brien showed event-goers around the property and the beautiful scene at the pond, then enjoyed a picnic dinner under the stars. O'Brien nursery is known for its amazing selection of hostas. There are more than 1,300 on the property, as well as other plants to purchase.



Woodbury wasn't the only area visited by our CT Hort friends this summer. Last month, tour guide Nancy DuBrule-Clemente led participants to south Massachusetts, where stops included Avant Gardens and the Allen C. Haskell Public Gardens. Avant Gardens founder and owner Katherine Tracey led a workshop on transforming container gardens for late summer and fall, and participants were stunned by the beauty of the Haskell Gardens.

Connecticut Horticultural Society



2024 Virtual Symposium

"Gardening Matters: Our Future is Growing"



HEADLINE SPEAKER

Fergus Garrett

Award-winning gardener, plantsman



JOHN FORTI

Garden historian,
ethnobotanist, author



JARED ROSENBAUM

Field botanist, native plant grower,
restoration practitioner, author,
musician



GARY LEWIS

Botanist, nursery owner,
gardener, author

DETAILS & REGISTRATION: [CTHORT.ORG](https://cthort.org)
FEBRUARY 3, 2024 - 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM EST

Register by January 9, 2024 and the cost to attend is \$75 for members, \$90 for non-members, and \$15 for students with valid ID.

Starting January 10, the cost will be \$95 for members, \$115 for non-members and \$20 for students with a valid ID.

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 October issue is September 15.

Sun., Sept. 10, 9:00 am–3:00 pm—Sale of Rare and Unusual Plants, Hollister House, 300 Nettleton Hollow Road, Washington. Enjoy this annual opportunity to purchase plants suitable for fall planting from many of New England's premier nurseries. Advance Reservations: \$10, day of sale, \$12 (cash only). Entry includes admission to the garden. <https://hollisterhousegarden.org/event/cocktails-and-preview-buying-at-the-sale-of-rare-and-unusual-plants/>

Sun., Sept. 10, 1:00-3 pm—Third Annual Feast for Families, Common Ground, 358 Springside Ave., New Haven. Guest are invited guests to visit the Common Ground urban farm campus for a day of family-friendly, wellness focused activities for the family. Enjoy a celebration of food, community, and sustainability. Tickets are \$25/ per person for adults and children. All activities and food are included with the cost of ticket. Children under 3 attend for free. <https://givebutter.com/c/B6SdQp>.

Mon., Sept. 11, 11:30 am-2:00 pm—Garden Club of Avon presents “Learn, Listen, and Laugh,” Church of St. Ann, 289 Arch St., Avon. Watch as Marty Devenney demonstrates how to make large-scale floral designs without Oasis, clever Pot & Fleurs arrangements, and foliage manipulations while she shares behind the scenes tales. Cost is \$15. Call 860-675-9560 or go to <https://gardenclubofavonct.org>.

Sat., Sept. 16, 10 am-3 pm—The CT Chapter of the Hardy Plant Society presents Garden Mart, Eleanor Buck Wolf Nature Center, 156 Prospect Street, Wethersfield. Shop plants and gardening paraphernalia, including tools, garden whimsey, pots, stakes and supports, and more. Free admission.

Thurs., Sept. 21, 4:30-5:30 pm—Westbrook Garden Club presents “Color in your Garden,” Westbrook Public Library, 61 Goodspeed Drive, Westbrook. Landscape designer Christine Darnell will use exciting mixtures of bulbs and perennials to inspire you for your fall planting schedule. Free. Call 860-399-9206 or pathubb@icloud.com.

Fri., Sept., 22, 8:30 am-5:00 pm—Ecological Approaches to Landscape Design and Green Infrastructure, Dodd Center, UConn campus, 405 Babbidge Rd., Unit 1205, Storrs. Connecticut ASLA, in collaboration with the UConn Plant Science and Landscape Architecture program and the Connecticut Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council (CTGBC), present a full-day symposium featuring technical leaders in landscape ecology, soil science, and storm water engineering, and design leaders from landscape architecture firms across New England. They'll feature recent work at the University. The program will be capped off with a tour of the recently completed Science 1 Building and Woodland Walk followed by a reception. Tickets Are \$135-\$150. <https://www.ctasla.org/events>.

Tues., Sept. 26, 10:00 am-1:30 pm— Club Presidents' Day: Federated Garden Clubs of CT, Jones Auditorium, CAES, 123 Huntington St., New Haven. The meeting will be presided by President Karin Pyskaty. The event is free, but members must pre-register. Go to <https://ctgardenclubs.org>.

Wed., Sept. 27, 5:00 pm-7:30 pm— CT Valley Garden Club presents “Growing Beautiful Food,” Hill-Stead Museum, 35 Mountain Road, Farmington. The fundraising event includes speaker Matthew Benson, appetizers and drinks. Lettuce boxes and succulent bowls will be sold. Cost is \$80. Call 860-836-3407 or <https://ctvalleygardenclub.org>.

Tues., Oct. 3, 12:00 pm, The Garden Club of Hartford presents “Advocacy for an Equitable Zero Waste Future,” Asylum Hill Congregational Church, 814 Asylum Avenue, Hartford. Kevin Budris, Co-Founder and Advocacy Director of the non-profit Just Zero, will speak about an equitable zero waste future and present solutions to our waste crisis. Free to the public. Call 860-874-4878.



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

Trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show, New York Botanical Garden Orchid Show and Longwood Gardens Orchid Extravaganza

March 9-11, 2024

With Special Guest: Nancy DuBrule-Clemente,
Author & Founder of Natureworks Horticultural Services

Begin the trip with a stop at the New York Botanical Garden's annual orchid show before we head to Philly for a two-night stay at the Mendenhall Hotel for a welcome reception and dinner. The next day we are off to the 195th Annual Philadelphia Flower Show. On our last day, we will take a trip to beautiful Longwood Gardens for their spectacular orchid exhibit.

Trip includes deluxe motor coach, two nights hotel accommodations, tax and baggage, two breakfasts, two dinners, flower show admission, orchid show admission, sightseeing per itinerary, all gratuities, and a Friendship Tour director.

\$945pp double / \$1089pp single

CT Hort members receive a \$55pp discount

Deadline to reserve your spot/deposit is January 5, 2024



Contact Barbara at Friendship Tours
email barbara@friendshiptours.net or call **860-243-1630**.

2023 Service Award Winner from page 1

for UConn's College of Agricultural, Health and Natural Resources, and he put Trish in touch with Shelley Durocher-Nesta. She is the Floriculture Grower and Laboratory Technician and she also advises the student-run UConn Horticulture Club at UConn's Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture. The club was donating plants to the auction, so Trish went to go pick them up.

"It turned out they had a greenhouse full of stuff for us," Trish said. "I'm chatting with Shelley and she mentioned that she had once gotten a scholarship from CT Hort, and she was so thankful. It's not a lot but it helps more than you think. I'm learning the impact the organization has had on people's lives. And Renee Dackow was also there. She's a UConn student and the UConn Horticulture Club Vice President. She helped get the plant donations to my house and also came to the auction and helped set up the room."

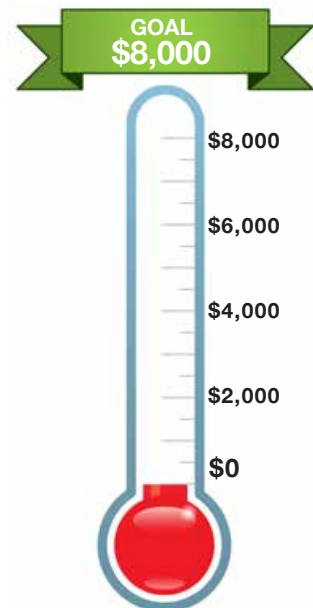
Which is why a little bit means so much, Trish added. "You don't even know the impact you're having. Volunteering, whether it's for CT Hort or somewhere else, gives you a sense of belonging to a group that's trying to make things better."

Trish has also been on the board of directors since 2019 and her work, also with Barb, on the CT Cares grant program, helped with the formation of the Civic Project Committee this spring to oversee the program. "It's a great idea, to give money to organizations. It's a small amount of money but it means a lot to them," she added.

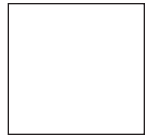



The Connecticut Horticultural Society exists largely due to the help of many volunteers. They are a source of inspiration, knowledge and encouragement which is valued and enjoyed by all of us. Every year, we recognize an individual who has enhanced the CT Hort experience by nominating them as the Service Award recipient.

2023-2024 Scholarship Fund



The 2023-2024 season begins, and with it, a fresh goal of \$8,000 to provide scholarships to students. We hope you'll consider helping us reach that goal! Go to cthort.org to learn how to give. **Thank you!**



Dated Material  *Please Rush*

CT Hort Calendar at a Glance

Tuesday, Sept. 5 – Board of Directors
Remote Meeting, 7 pm

Friday, Sept. 15 – Deadline for our
October *Newsletter*

Thurs., Sept. 21 – Speaker presentation:
*Perennial Plant
Communities: The Know
Maintenance Approach
and Coming to Know the
Plants*, 6:15 pm
(In person and on Zoom)

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

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