

# Connecticut Horticultural Society NEWSLETTER

Volume 66, Number 5

Serving Horticulturists Since 1887

February 2024



[Click here to register for the Feb. 3 symposium](#)



## Gardening Matters: Our Future is Growing

Enjoy a sample of writing from the published works of our virtual symposium speakers

### *Are you ready to be inspired?*

We are really excited about our virtual symposium, *Gardening Matters: Our Future is Growing*, on February 3. If you haven't registered yet, be sure to go to [CTHort.org](http://CTHort.org) and click on the banner to sign up. This is a day of enlightenment, inspiration, and learning that you don't want to miss.

Over the last several months, we've shared a lot about each of our speakers. What we haven't focused on is their published work. Fergus Garrett, John Forti, Jared Rosenbaum and Gary Lewis have all published books—some more than one—and when you register, you are automatically registered to win one of them!

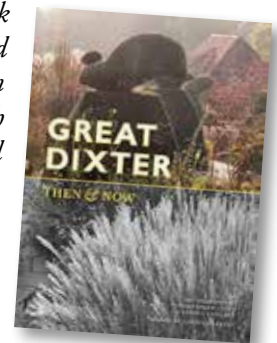
Enjoy these snippets from each of our speaker's works, and we'll see you online on February 3.



### **Fergus Garrett** *Great Dixter: Then & Now*

*The selection of photographs in this book shows how the garden at Great Dixter has developed since it was first laid out by Sir Edwin Lutyens and his clients Nathaniel and Daisy Lloyd in 1910. Though the garden has changed to reflect the fashions of the day—many of these set by Nathaniel and Daisy's son Christopher—there is nonetheless a strong line of continuity in the way in which it has been gardened. The baton has been handed on directly, from Daisy to Christopher and from Christopher to his head gardener, Fergus Garrett. Each has experimented and pushed boundaries while at the same maintaining the underlying and distinctive character of the garden.*

*The earliest photographs depict in formal black and white the raw new planting masterminded by Daisy Lloyd after the First World War; then we are shown, through the appropriately rich medium of colour slides, the lushness and exuberance of Christopher Lloyd's borders in the second half of the twentieth century. The photographs of the garden as it is today reveal the same passion for unexpected combinations but using a looser, more interwoven approach, blurring the boundaries between the cultivated and the natural world.*

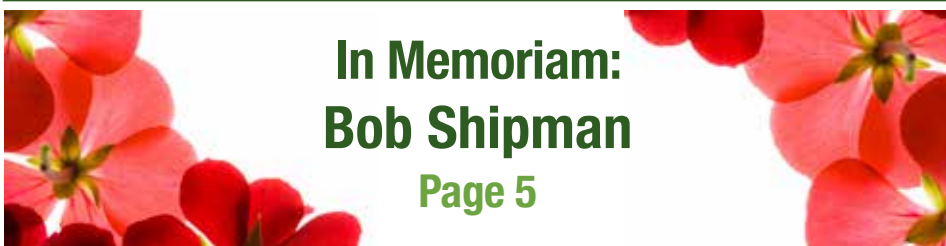


### **Jared Rosenbaum** *Wild Plant Culture: A Guide to Restoring Edible and Medicinal Native Plant Communities* (A Nautilus Book Awards Winner)

*We live in habitats, but are unaccustomed to thinking of them that way. We've drawn a hard line between what is natural and what is human, to the detriment of all. We need human areas—urban and otherwise—that welcome wildlife, and natural areas that welcome humans.*

*How can we break down the divide between human-occupied spaces and what is "natural"? As direct participants in natural communities—as creatures who find food, medicine, and purpose in natural areas, whether those are our backyard, a city park, a farm, or a nature preserve.*

continued on page 5



### IN THIS ISSUE:

Leadership Letter	2
Speaker info	3
Cares Grant Program	8



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#### Membership Dues:

Individual.....	\$60
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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

### Indoor planning for outdoor enjoyment

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

Winter gives us gardeners time to reflect on the upcoming season. We get to step away from the weeds (so to speak) and plan to use a newly-learned technique or philosophy. If we lived in a one season region, would we have the luxury of time off to do this?

It also gives us a chance to catch up on indoor projects that we tend to neglect when our gardens are in season. And of course, traveling in the colder months to warmer spots gives us a chance to visit our southern states' flora. Their public gardens shine during our dreary months in Connecticut.

I am grateful for the Connecticut Flower and Garden Show this month, which reminds us that winter does end. Our tradition of being present at the show has ended, but many of you longtime members remember volunteering there with Bob Shipman. We all mourn the loss of Bob; he and his family were a great support to CT Hort.

Bob's enthusiasm rallied many to be a part of something bigger than themselves. I sincerely hope that being a part of CT Hort will encourage you to play a big part in something else!

Warmly,  
Cheryl



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

**BiSafe  
Systems**

**FRIENDSHIP TOURS  
THE SHIP SHOP**



**Hollister House Garden**

**McVane, Bellobuono,  
Kuzmak, Wiezalis, and  
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**NATUREWORKS**

**White Flower Farm**  
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**Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens**

**The Garden Barn Nursery**

**Colorblends Wholesale Flower Bulbs**

**Garden Solutions**

**Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut**

**Go Organic LLC**





Sheryll Durrant and Randell McShepard

## Urban Gardens: Changing Lives with *Sheryll Durrant and Randell McShepard* Thursday, February 15 • 7 pm

**Zoom Only** (you'll be sent the link on the Sunday before the talk).

Enjoy this informative panel discussion. Step into the world of urban gardening and witness the life-changing impact at our presentation, "Urban Gardens: Changing Lives." Join us as we explore the inspiring stories of the Rid-All Green Partnership in Cleveland and the Kelly Street Garden in the Bronx, two remarkable projects that have transformed communities and touched countless lives. We are thrilled to be welcoming Sheryll Durrant, founder of Kelly Street Garden, educator and food justice advocate, and Randell McShepard, activist and co-founder of the Rid-All Green Partnership.

We will hear the story of the Kelly Street Garden in the Bronx. Explore how this once-abandoned space was transformed into a vibrant hub of community engagement and social resilience. Witness the positive impact it has had on the lives of residents, from improved nutrition and food security to strengthened bonds and a sense of pride.

We will also learn about the power of the Rid-All Green Partnership, where a group of dedicated individuals turned vacant urban lots into flourishing gardens. Discover how they not only created thriving green spaces but

also fostered economic opportunities, education, and empowerment within their community.

Learn about the strategies employed, the challenges faced, and the lessons learned along the way. Discover how these initiatives have become beacons of hope and change, inspiring individuals and communities to reimagine the potential of their urban landscapes. Be inspired by their journey and witness the profound transformation that urban gardens can bring to urban environments. Whether you are a passionate gardener, an advocate for community development, or simply curious about the incredible impact of urban gardens, this presentation is a must-attend event.



### Coming up on Zoom (only):



**Thursday, March 21, 2024, 7pm**  
**Native Plants for  
Container Gardens**  
with *Duncan Himmelman*

**In person at Elmwood Community  
Center and on Zoom:**



**Thursday, April 18, 2024, 7pm**  
**Ecological Approaches  
to Garden Design and  
Management**  
with *Harland Patch*

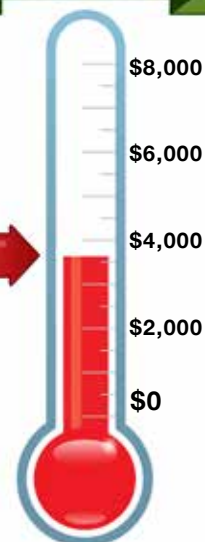
## 2023-2024 Scholarship Fund

The 2023-2024 season is off and running, and with it, a fresh goal of \$8,000 to provide scholarships to students.

**\$3,671.15**

We hope you'll consider helping us reach that goal! Go to [cthorts.org](http://cthorts.org) to learn how to give.  
*Thank you!*

**GOAL  
\$8,000**



## Workshop "seeded" interest from participants



A fully immersed crowd of folks got busy last month at "Propagating Native Plants from Seed," a workshop with Jim Sirch. If his name sounds familiar, it's because Jim Sirch is a CT Hort Board member, master gardener, and the Education Coordinator at Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History.

CT Hort was thrilled to be able to host this workshop. What workshops would you like us to coordinate? Email [news@cthort.org](mailto:news@cthort.org) and let us know!



## CONNECTICUT Flower & Garden Show

CT CONVENTION  
CENTER  
FEB 22-25, 2024

2024 Show Theme  
**Bursting into Spring**

*Floral Design &  
Horticulture Competition*  
by the Federated Garden Clubs of CT



**Spectacularly Floral  
& Artistic Gardens**



Thu 10a - 7p | Fri 10a - 8p  
Sat 10a - 8p | Sun 10a - 5p

\$20 Admission at the Door  
\$17 Advance Tickets Online  
\$5 Children Ages 5-12  
FREE Children Ages 0-4



**Hundreds of flower & garden exhibitors!**  
Including artists, crafters, tools, decor, outdoor living experts,  
indoor & outdoor plants, seeds, bulbs, water features & more!

**20+ horticulturalists, landscapers & experts**  
offering 80+ hours of educational seminars & demos!



Mike McGrath



Tom Christopher



George Trecina



Charlotte Albers



Adam Wheeler

**CTFlowerShow.com**



The Federated Garden Clubs  
of Connecticut, Inc.

**lite**  
**100.5**  
RELAX & UNWIND

**Connecticut**  
**Mulch**





## In Memoriam: Robert "Bob" Shipman

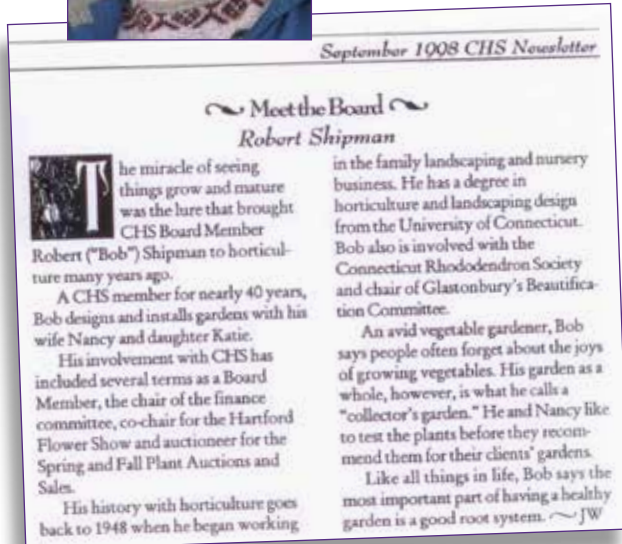
Robert "Bob" Shipman, 87, an active member of CT Hort, passed away on January 14, 2024.

He and his wife Nancy joined CT Hort in 1965, and they were (and Nancy still is) - the longest-standing members of CT Hort.

Bob's involvement in CT Hort included several terms as a Board member, co-chair of the Flower Show committee, Finance Committee chair, and a long-time auctioneer for the Auction.

He was a lifelong lover of everything horticulture. According to his obituary, "Bob loved his hometown of Glastonbury, where he lived his entire life, and which he dedicated to beautifying through his decades of work as a landscape designer and planter at the family business, Shipman Nursery. He was actively involved with many horticultural and civic organizations including the Connecticut Horticultural Society, the Historical Society of Glastonbury, the Service Club of Glastonbury, and the Congregational Church of South Glastonbury. Bob served for many decades on the town's Community Beautification Committee, working to ensure that Glastonbury's character was preserved as it grew, and every project included trees and plantings. In retirement he, Nancy, and friends started Glastonbury Partners in Planting, and the town tree nursery, in collaboration with town and private organizations to further beautify his beloved hometown."

We send our heartfelt condolences and best wishes to Bob's family and friends.



## 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 the March issue is Thursday, February 15.

**Tues., Feb. 13, 11 am—Pomperaug Valley Garden Club presents "Invasive Plants Among Us,"** Woodbury Fire House, 25 Quassuk Road, Woodbury. Holly Kocet and Barbara Thomas from Protect the Pollinators will discuss how invasive plants are spoiling wild places and invading yards. Using colorful photos taken from Newtown gardens and roadsides, Kocet will explain the criteria for invasive designation, what the plants look like, where they come, and more. Members are free; donations are \$5 per guest. Call 203-405-1506.

**Thurs., Feb 22-Sun., Feb. 25 various hours—Connecticut Flower and Garden Show, CT Convention Center, 100 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford.** "Bursting Into Spring" is the theme of this annual popular show that features expansive live gardens, a nonstop schedule of seminars and demonstrations, the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut's annual Standard Flower Show, and hundreds of vendors displaying and selling all types of items. [Go to https://ctflowershow.com](https://ctflowershow.com) for more information.

**Sat., Feb. 24, 11 am—Kerry Mendez presents Dazzling Plants and Design Tips for Seeing Your Way Out of the Shade webinar.** This lecture puts the spotlight on gorgeous, rugged plants (shrubs & trees, evergreens, perennials, vines, annuals, and bulbs) that shine in lower light. Many of these stars also work great in containers. Topics include assessing shade; modifying shade to allow more light; key design tips for maximizing color; solutions for dry shade; and gardening under trees. The cost is \$13.95. Go to <https://pyours.com> to register.

**Wed., Feb. 28, 7:30 pm—Hardy Plant Society of New England CT Chapter presents "Clematis Myth Busting" with Linda Beutler, Zoom only.** Ms. Beutler completely restates pruning advice for the genus without pegging the species and cultivars into pruning groups. Linda Beutler grows a great variety of plants on a simple city lot in the Sellwood neighborhood of Portland, Oregon. Her passion for clematis led to the publication of her first book, *Gardening With Clematis* (2004), followed by two more Timber Press titles: *Garden to Vase* (2007) and 2016's *Plant Lovers Guide to Clematis*. Free for members; \$10 general admission fee. <https://www.facebook.com/hardyplantsocietyconnecticut>



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

## Gardening Matters

from page 1



*This is a book about restoring your habitat: to abundance, beauty, function, and utility as well. For all wildlife—including us two-leggeds. Restoring habitats using edible and medicinal wild plants, in particular, welcomes us back to the natural community, because these species feed and heal us just like they do the other animals.*

*At the heart of ecological restoration is a reciprocal exchange. In exchange for the sustenance plants give us, we offer our human skills to restore and repair degraded plant habitats. Ecological restoration is a way of connecting to and healing nature, returning the gifts that we receive from the plants and the living earth.*

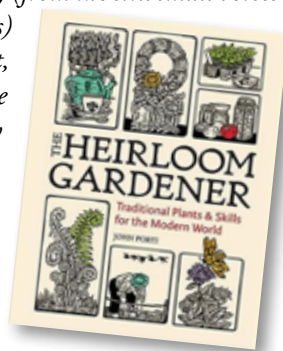


**John Forti**  
***The Heirloom Gardener: Traditional Plants and Skills for the Modern World***

*I don't know that there is a right answer, but I do value the cultural awareness that goes along with our latest native plant movement.*

*We often take for granted the things of our daily life. The same roadside New England aster we looked right past until recently was lauded in England as the elegant Michaelmas daisy by 1640. Similarly, our goldenrod arrived in 17<sup>th</sup>-century European gardens and apothecaries as an exotic flower and medicinal plant. After centuries of populations devaluing and eradicating plants like milkweed, we have learned the hard way (from the still small voices of monarchs, pollinators, and perfumers) that we don't need to, and often can't, buy the best things in life. Sometimes we need to make sure that we don't mow them down.*

*So, is the dandelion, introduced by early colonial gardeners, any less important to native bees searching our food in the early spring? We have all met earnest*



*native-plant Nazis eager to tell us why we must grow only natives. I will never be that much of a purist about anything. Instead, I see place-based knowledge as a critical way to touch base with, and live peaceably in, our environment.*



**Gary Lewis**  
***The Complete Book of Ground Covers: 4,000 Plants that Reduce Maintenance, Control Erosion, and Beautify the Landscape***

Winner of a Golden Laurel at the 2023 GardenComm Media Awards

*Ground covers are widely considered a utilitarian group of low-growing plants held to a narrow set of expectations; cover dirt and outcompete weeds. Certainly they can reliably provide these valuable services and become the negative space—much like a lawn—that enables the rest of the garden landscape and softscape to shine. Ground covers do not play an exciting role in our garden plans, and they normally exist outside the limelight we shine on their larger, more inspiring compatriots. We think of ground covers when we have a problem that needs a solution: How fast will it fill an area? Can we insert it into the tight spaces between pavers? How much foot traffic can it withstand?*

*Nevertheless, these small but tough and useful plants punch. Above their weight, so to speak,—not just in function, but also in beauty—and, like Napoleon, or Tinker Bell, or Frodo, ground covers are small but mighty and deserve a little respect. These resilient plants are not just “doers”; they offer a diverse range of beautiful and intriguing options with a great variety of colors, textures and forms for the garden...*

*...Ground covers also have an important role as we consider the state of our environment and its stewardship. When used as an alternative to lawns, they can reduce our use of water, fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides, carbon-based fuels, and electricity, not to mention time and money.*



**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**CT Hort Plant Sale & Auction**  
**Friday, May 17, 2024**  
**Bethany Covenant Church, Berlin**

This is our key fundraiser for the educational outreach efforts of the Connecticut Horticultural Society (CT Hort)—for both our **Scholarship Fund** and our civic grants program, **CT Hort Cares**.

We're always looking for volunteers (more about that in a future email), but this year, we are also looking for someone who is interested in helping run the auction. Co-chair Trish Lyons will be stepping away from her role after this year, but has graciously offered to train someone this year, and shadow next year.

# 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

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

The cost is \$95 for members, \$115 for non-members and \$20 for students with a valid ID.





*Dated Material* 🌸 *Please Rush*

### CT Hort Calendar at a Glance

**Tuesday, Feb. 13** – Board of Directors  
Remote Meeting, 7 pm

**Thursday, Feb. 15** – Deadline for our March  
*Newsletter*

**Thursday, Feb. 15** – Speaker presentation:  
*Urban Gardens:  
Changing Lives*, 7 pm  
(Zoom only)

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

Printed on recycled paper.



*The CT Hort Cares Grant program helped the Bristol Garden Club work with the Boys & Girls Club of Bristol on the club's summer garden.*



Scan QR Code for more  
information or go to  
[https://cthort.org/support/  
other-ways-to-give/](https://cthort.org/support/other-ways-to-give/)

## **Applications are being accepted for the CT Hort Cares Grant Program starting Feb. 15**

The program supports community efforts to educate state residents on the importance of plants and the environment. A total \$5,000 is awarded twice a year; the maximum amount per grant is \$500. The grants are open to everyone, as long as the project takes place in Connecticut.

Applications are being accepted from February 15 – April 15 for a May 1 distribution.