

Connecticut Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

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Serving Horticulturists Since 1887

May 2024



Sustainable Roses

The Future of Rose Gardening

By Angelina & Mike Chute



Sustainability has become the catchphrase for everything from gardening to the economy. We hear in the news and in the political arena the phrases sustainable jobs, sustainable automobiles, and sustainable agriculture. As rose gardeners, we're in luck because what we have in greater numbers than ever are sustainable roses.

Sustainable rose gardening does not mean the same as organic rose gardening nor does it mean limiting ourselves to EarthKind or Easy Care roses. We are not organic gardeners, but we do follow basic horticultural practices that overlap organic gardening. For instance, we plant our rosebushes further apart, and prune with the idea of consciously allowing more air circulation within and around our rose bushes. We introduced other plant species in our sustainable garden to avoid a monoculture that would encourage the development of rose-prone diseases and insects. In our other long-established garden we grow strictly roses although we are now considering redesigning this garden and making it more sustainable. We regularly amend our soil with organics and water and feed our roses regularly, but these are gardening practices we advocate for any garden, sustainable or not.

While good horticultural practices are a must for any garden, the key to having a successful sustainable rose garden starts with

the selection of the right varieties. We do plenty of research, visit many public rose gardens, observe our own gardens, and make note of the varieties that grow well with no chemical pesticides. However, what we have learned, through our observations and our roles as consultants for various public gardens, is that what is sustainable in one garden may not be sustainable in other gardens.

In one garden the climber Zephirine Drouhin, which has a reputation for high disease-resistance, performed poorly and developed a bad case of powdery mildew halfway through the first season. We removed all the plants of Zephine Drouhin, replacing them with another climber, New Dawn. Volunteers who worked in the garden took the defoliated Zephine Drouhin(s) and planted them in their own gardens where they are now reported to be growing disease free!

The phrase "a rose garden is a work in progress" definitely refers to the development of a sustainable garden. While most of the sustainable roses we first planted in our home's sustainable garden have performed well, we have had some disappointments. One rose called Playboy that had performed very well at the beginning of the season, developed a severe case of blackspot later in the

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**We're thrilled to be welcoming
Mike & Angelina Chute to our May 16 meeting.**

See page 3 for details

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Membership Dues:

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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

Plant a tree and join us for the roses

Dear Members,

Driving to yoga this morning, I noticed a Rhododendron in full bloom! I wrote this note on a glorious spring day where I spent a few hours in the yard. I can't believe how far along my Hydrangea macrophylla have leafed out at this early date. Usually, they don't reveal their dead stems until the end of June. Perhaps I will also be rewarded with blossoms this year?

I saw many of you in person at the Elmwood Community Center to see Harland Patch's presentation. There were lots of questions and a fair amount of conversation with Dr. Patch after the meeting. A discussion ensued about "No Mow May" where he suggested that for the very small number of pollinators visiting your lawn, (Honey Bees have plenty of food sources, it is our Native Bees that struggle) we plant a native tree instead. Our neighbors will be happier for it. And we can certainly add more gardens and minimize our lawns as well. If you enjoyed Harland Patch's talk visit the Penn State website Center for Pollinator Research (<https://pollinators.psu.edu/>). There is some great information on what to plant for all the various pollinators.

For our May speaker meeting we will be back at Elmwood Community Center in West Hartford as Mike and Angelina Chute present, "Roses for New England." Many of you will be celebrating milestone anniversaries that we will celebrate. I am always humbled by those members who see 25, 30, 35, 40 years and beyond, supporting our beloved organization. Please come and celebrate with us!

Warmly,
Cheryl



Thank you to our generous business members and supporters!



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Bibisi, LLP



Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens
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The Garden Barn Nursery

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Go Organic LLC
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Mountainview Landscaping LLC





Mike & Angelina Chute

New England Roses

with Mike & Angelina Chute

Thursday, May 16 • 7 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). **This talk will not be recorded**

Roses for New England is a special presentation for every rose-lover who wants to grow hardy, healthy, and disease resistant roses in their home gardens. This program specifically addresses the merits and challenges of rose gardening in New England. Novice rose gardeners will find everything they need to know to successfully grow roses and experienced gardeners will utilize this program as a ready reference to enable them to grow better roses. Mike and Angelina Chute's book, *Roses for New England: A Guide to Sustainable Rose Gardening* is the companion reference to this program.

This program includes: six easy steps to growing roses in New England; how to select winter hardy and disease resistant varieties for New England gardens; the best way to plant and prune roses; and tips and personal anecdotes from the authors' twenty-five years of rose gardening experience.

Roses for New England shows you how to grow roses better than you ever thought you could. Mike and Angelina Chute will be available to sign copies of their books *Roses for New England: A Guide to Sustainable Rose Gardening* and

Rose Gardening Season by Season: A Journal for Passionate Gardeners after the program.

Mike and Angelina Chute are co-owners of RoseSolutions, a landscape consulting company that specializes in roses. They are both certified American Rose Society Master Rosarians. Mike is an accredited ARS horticultural rose judge. They also serve as consultants for both municipal and private rose gardens. Accomplished garden writers, the Chutes' second book, *Rose Gardening Season by Season: A Journal for Passionate Gardeners* joins *Roses for New England: A Guide to Sustainable Rose Gardening*. In addition to their books, the Chutes are Contributing Editors to the American Rose magazine, have written numerous garden articles and authored the chapter "Roses" in the University of Rhode Island Sustainable Gardening Manual. They maintain a website (www.rosesolutions.net), a blog (www.therosejournal.wordpress.com) and publish a quarterly e-newsletter, *The Northeast Rose Gardener*. They were also co-founders and past presidents of the Rhode Island Rose Society.

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. Click on the survey icon found on any page then chose the speaker you want to rate. Thank you for your feedback.



2023-2024 Scholarship Fund

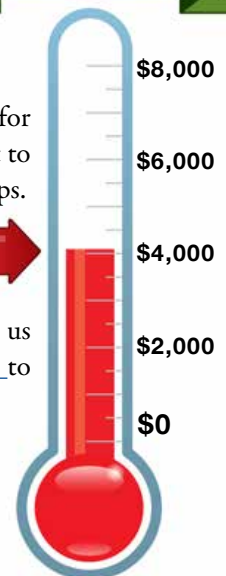
GOAL \$8,000

We are almost halfway to our goal for the 2023-2024 season in our quest to raise \$8,000 for student scholarships.

\$4,039.15



We hope you'll consider helping us reach that goal! Go to cthort.org to learn how to give. *Thank you!*



June 20: This program will be held at First Church, UCC, 190 Court St., Middletown and on Zoom

Knockout Natives

Sam Hoadley, horticulturist and landscape designer at Mt. Cuba Center

(See page 4 for more information about our June meeting)

BYLAWS AMENDMENTS REFLECT CHANGES IN CT HORT AND HOW WE OPERATE

Your vote on June 20 is needed

It's time to amend our bylaws and we need your help, as members, to vote to make those changes on June 20.

Since they were adopted in 1955, the Connecticut Horticultural Society's Constitution and Bylaws have been amended seven times to reflect the strategic vision, direction, mission, and operation of the organization.

The last amendment to our bylaws were in May of 2005, and there have been large changes in the world since then. Technology, the pandemic, and our increasingly busy schedules are some of the factors that have contributed to the way we run our organization. Our constitution and bylaws need to now reflect that.

As a member of CT Hort, your input is key. In order to vote in the changes needed to amend the bylaws, we must have an in-person quorum at our June 20 meeting at First Church Middletown at 190 Court Street in Middletown. We will need a vote of 55 votes to approve these changes, and to reiterate, the votes must be in person. We hope you will join us then for another important reason: our speaker, Sam Hoadley, also promises to offer a great presentation on "Knockout Natives."

Here are the changes that have been made to the existing constitution and bylaws. The underlined passages indicate the actual change.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I – NAME

Change: *Reference to the organization is more uniquely identified at CT Hort.*

BYLAW CHANGES

Change: *Membership categories have been updated to reflect the options currently offered.*

Change: *Term limits have been removed due to difficult nature of finding volunteers to hold these positions.*

Change: *Process has been revised to add the option to vote for Constitution and Bylaw revisions electronically. This is also stated in Article 5.2.*

Change: *Process has been revised to add the option to electronically vote to accept the incoming Board of Directors.*

Change: *The list of Committees has been updated to reflect those currently in existence.*

Change: *Process has been revised to add the option to vote for Constitution and Bylaw revisions electronically.*

There will also be two changes in the Connecticut Horticultural Society's Endowment Spending and Investment Policy statements.

For details about the changes, please see pages 4 & 5 in the April newsletter at <https://cthort.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/CHS-April-2024-WEB.pdf>

**Your vote is needed in person to pass
the needed amendments to our bylaws**

June 20, 7pm

"Knockout Natives" with Sam Hoadley

First Church Middletown, 190 Court Street, Middletown

Enjoy refreshments and giveaways!

It's Anniversary time!

Join us at our May 16 meeting at Elmwood Community Center in West Hartford, when we honor our members celebrating special anniversaries.



Sustainable Roses

from page 1



season, and we decided it wasn't sustainable enough to remain. Another rose, Rainbow Sorbet, grew in our garden for two seasons and then we removed it because, although it had a very clean first bloom cycle, by mid-July it had too much blackspot and we did not want it to infect the healthy plants on either side of it.

We evaluate our roses at the end of each season based on a set of sustainable standards we developed. It goes without saying that the first criterion is winter-hardiness and we plant only those varieties that are. In our very sunny sustainable garden, in addition to being zone-appropriate, the varieties we plant must tolerate the intense dawn-to-dusk sunlight and heat of mid-summer. Sadly, most mauve roses don't tolerate the kind of heat that this garden receives in mid-July through August. That is why when the blooms on the two plants of 'Rhapsody in Blue', planted on either side of our front steps, burned and shattered with the first heat wave of the summer, we replaced them with Super Hero and Macy's Pride.

Our second criterion for sustainability is that varieties don't have to be disease-free; they have to be *disease-resistant* and able to thrive without the use of chemical pesticides. If a variety has a little blackspot, a little powdery mildew, or a few nibbled leaves, it doesn't get banished automatically. However, if it has more blackspot than not, it may get replaced sooner rather than later depending on its ongoing performance. This was the case with a favorite rose, Julia Child. After a floriferous and healthy

first June bloom, it developed a severe infection of blackspot and many of its leaves dropped. It recovered in time for a mediocre third bloom. We gave it a second and then a third season and finally removed it from its prime location in the garden. We may give Julia another try elsewhere, considering we have seen it perform well in other gardens.

Our third criterion is that the varieties we choose not only need to have a repeat-bloom, but have to bloom profusely. A bush that gives us a scant bloom isn't worth the real estate it takes up in the garden – our space is too limited. We had planted Moje Hammarberg, a hybrid rugosa that showed no signs of disease but didn't give us much of a show of color either. It was transplanted to join other rugosas planted along our back property line.

By practicing sustainable rose gardening we're not looking for "No Care Roses" – roses we can plant and forget about like we do our forsythia bushes. What fun is that? For us rose gardening means planting nurturing plants. Nurturing entails caring for roses which includes watering, feeding and pruning as well as dealing with insects and diseases. Sustainable rose gardening encompasses all that without the use of chemical pesticides.

In an era where we are concerned about the environment and going green is on everyone's mind, the time for sustainable rose gardening has arrived and is, we believe, the future of rose gardening.



Some Reliably Sustainable Varieties Include:

Bonica

Campfire

Carefree Beauty

Cherry Frost

Crimson Mediland

Highwire Flyer

Home Run

Knock Outs

Lady Elsie May

My Girl

Super Hero

Party Hardy

Yellow Brick Road





CT Hort Plant Sale & Auction Friday, May 17, 2024

Bethany Covenant Church
785 Mill Street (Rt. 372), Berlin, CT
Doors open to the public at 6:30 p.m.
\$5 Admission



Mark your calendar to attend this lively, fun-filled, and educational event on Friday, May 17. The Auction is a great spot to find just the right plant or gift. The evening begins with a plant sale, while bids are accepted for unusual silent auction items and refreshments are served. Then it's on to the LIVE auction!

For more information and handouts to help promote the auction, click here! (Or go to <https://cthort.org/2024/04/save-the-date-ct-hort-plant-sale-auction/>)

If you'd like to volunteer to help with the evening, please add your name to the list of helpers by clicking here! <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/33211764065/false#/invitation>

We're thrilled that horticulturist Nancy DuBrule-Clemente will once again curate the night's offerings.

Proceeds from the evening provide [scholarships](#) to Horticulture students at the University of Connecticut (since 1959), and Naugatuck Valley Community College (since 2011). In addition, funds in excess of our scholarship commitments will spill over to CT Hort Cares, our civic grants program.

Please come join us! For additional information or questions email auction@cthort.org.



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 the June issue is Wednesday, May 15.

Sat., May 4, 9 am-4pm—May Gardener's Market, Greenwich Botanical Center, 130 Bible Street, Cos Cob. This one-day market supports the Greenwich Botanical Center. It will feature presentations from horticulture experts, top plant vendors, fun activities for kids, food truck, live music, and more in the Montgomery Pinetum. Free admission, held rain or shine. Go to <https://greenwichbotanicalcenter.org/may-gardeners-market/>.

Sat., May 11, 9am-12pm—North Stonington Annual Plant Sale, North Stonington Elementary School, 311 Norwich Westerly Road, North Stonington. The club's biggest sale of the year biggest fundraiser/community event, it raises the funds to support club activities and also to give back to the community via civic planting, donations to community organizations and the Anna Coit Memorial Scholarship. Free admission. Go to <http://www.nsgardenclub.org/plant-sale/>

Sat., May 18, 10am-2pm—Annual Daylily and Plant Sale hosted by the CT Daylily Society, Avon Senior Center/Sycamore Hills Park, 635 West Avon Rd, Avon. Purchase member-grown plants at rock-bottom prices. Held rain or shine but come early for the best selection. Free admission. Go to ctdaylilyclub.com.

Sat., May 25, 10-11:30am—Keeping Garden Fit with Madeline Hooper, Hollister House, 300 Nettleton Road, Washington. Learn how to work stronger and longer with Madeline Hooper, creator and host of the popular public television series Garden Fit. Members: \$30; non-members \$40. Register at <https://hollisterhousegarden.org/event/get-gardenfit-with-madeline-hooper/>.



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

In Memoriam: Della Winans

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Della Zera Winans. Della, 83, the beloved wife of Roger M. Winans, passed away at home on March 20, 2024. Della and Roger had lived since 2020 in Durham NH with their son Daniel's family, but for most of their adult lives—fifty years—Tryon Street in South Glastonbury was their home. Della loved her Nayaug neighborhood and contributed to the beauty and well-being of Glastonbury in many large and small ways.

Della applied her horticultural knowledge and degree from UConn in landscape design to many civic projects, including as a longtime member of the town's Community Beautification Committee, founding member and first President of the Glastonbury Partners in Planting (GPIP), and CT Hort. For many years Della and Roger opened their garden for CT Hort members to enjoy.

“Della and her husband Roger joined CT Hort in November of 1982, and were deeply involved with the Society and the Board of Directors,” said Past President Cheryl Marino. “Della was CT Hort President back in the mid-1990's, and received the Service Award in 2006. Della and Roger also founded Glastonbury Partners in Planting with Bob and Nancy Shipman. Her legacy in CT with the Horticultural Society and Partners in Planting left a beautiful example of how individuals set examples for the next generation.”



Left to right: Roger Winans, Della Winans, Kathy Winans (kneeling), Stephen Gryc, Judy King, Bob Shipman, and Nancy Shipman. The Winans were down from New Hampshire for the 20th anniversary celebration of Glastonbury Partners in Planting. The highly successful volunteer organization was founded by the Winans and the Shipmans. Photo Courtesy of Judith King

All are welcome to attend a memorial service on June 4 from 1-3pm at the Congregational Church, 949 Main Street, South Glastonbury.



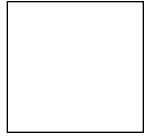
COASTAL NEW ENGLAND GARDENS September 12-14, 2024

Featuring:
Bedrock Gardens • Moffatt Ladd House • Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens
Tower Hill • Shop at Weston Nursery • Two Nights Hotel Accommodations at the AC Hotel Portsmouth Downtown/Waterfront, Portsmouth, NH • Two breakfasts, two lunches

Nancy DuBrule-Clemente

With special guest: Nancy DuBrule-Clemente, author & founder of Natureworks Horticultural Services
\$1254 per person Double / \$1684PP single (\$55 discount for CT Hort members)

Go to www.friendshiptours.net or Call Barbara at Friendship Tours: 860-243-1630



Dated Material 🌿 *Please Rush*

CT Hort Calendar at a Glance

Tuesday, May 7 – Board of Directors
Remote Meeting, 7 pm

Wednesday, May 15 – Deadline for our June
Newsletter

Thursday, May 16 – Speaker presentation:
Roses for New England,
7 pm (In person and
on Zoom; sorry, this
program will not be
recorded)

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

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Save the Date!
Wednesday, July 17
(afternoon time tbd)

It's a Throwdown!
Nancy vs. Nancy

with Nancy DuBrule-Clemente
and Nancy Ballek McKinnon

Nancy D. and Nancy B. will grab wagons and shop the benches at Ballecks in East Haddam. Then each will present their design for a late summer/early fall garden AND a July refresh for a container garden. Supper included.

Watch your email for details!

Nancy vs. Nancy



Nancy DuBrule-Clemente



Nancy Ballek McKinnon