

Connecticut Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

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Serving Horticulturists Since 1887

June 2024



Phlox paniculata 'Jeana'
Photo courtesy of Mt. Cuba Center

Natively speaking

Enjoy this expert advice on what to buy for your garden now

We're thrilled to be welcoming Sam Hoadley for our season-ending presentation on June 20, and in honor of his talk, Knockout Natives, we thought we would ask some experts—including Mr. Hoadley—just what natives would add some new texture and fun to your garden.

Sam Hoadley, Mount Cuba Center:

Phlox paniculata 'Jeana'

Phlox paniculata 'Jeana' is, without a doubt, the best-performing phlox from the trial. This cultivar was discovered growing along the Harpeth River near Nashville, Tennessee and named after its discoverer, Jeana Prewitt. Although there were many plants of Phlox paniculata in the area, 'Jeana' in particular stood out for its exceptionally mildew-free foliage. This trait carries through to the garden and is one of the main reasons 'Jeana' performed so well in the trial. This 5' tall beauty also produces an impressive floral display from mid-July through early September. Interestingly, the individual flowers, or pips, are much smaller than any other garden phlox. However, that does not deter the butterflies that feed on its nectar. In fact, we found 'Jeana' attracted more butterflies than any other garden phlox in the entire trial. With a top rank in both horticultural and ecological evaluations, Phlox paniculata 'Jeana' is hard to beat.

Hydrangea arborescens 'Haas' Halo'

Style meets substance. Hydrangea arborescens 'Haas' Halo' is a knockout that offers the perfect combination of horticultural

excellence and pollinator value. H. arborescens 'Haas' Halo' was a seedling selected by Frederick Ray, plantsman and horticulture professor, from the Pennsylvania garden of Joan Haas. It was chosen for its upright growth and oversized lacecap flower heads. In the trial,



Hydrangea arborescens 'Haas' Halo'
Photo courtesy of Mt. Cuba Center

plants in full sun displayed flower heads that were consistently among the largest in the entire evaluation. Cutting back in spring magnified the already substantial floral display and reduced the height of plant from 7' to 4'. H. arborescens 'Haas' Halo' also had a nearly flawless performance when grown in shade, where it displayed uniform growth, dark green foliage, and flower heads that remained attractive for months after their midsummer bloom.

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**Plant Sale & Auction
Breaks Records!**

Details and photos, page 6

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the dates for these upcoming events!
Check your inbox for details and registration information:

Fairfield County Nursery Tour
(Oliver's Nursery, Gilbertie's Herbs & Garden Center, Terrain)
Mon., June 24 • 9:30 am-4:00 pm

Have you always wanted to explore some of the state's best nurseries in Fairfield county, but never get around to it? Now is your chance! Pack a lunch, gather your gardening geek friends, and make a day of it.

It's a Throwdown!

Nancy vs. Nancy
Nancy DuBrule-Clemente and Nancy Ballek
Wed., July 17 • (afternoon time tbd)

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.

Nancy vs. Nancy



Nancy DuBrule-Clemente Nancy Ballek McKinnon

Picnic and Nursery Tour at Broken Arrow
Thursday, August 15 • 5 pm

Enjoy a tour of the nursery, then bring some chairs or a blanket to picnic, while you enjoy music by Jim and Willow Sirch



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The Garden Barn Nursery

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Grace Farms
Mountainview Landscaping LLC





Sam Hoadley

Knockout Natives

with Sam Hoadley

Thursday, June 20 • 7 pm

First Church Middletown, 190 Court Street, Middletown, CT and via Zoom (you'll be sent the link on the Sunday before the talk).



Carex pensylvanica (Pennsylvania sedge)
Photo courtesy of Mt. Cuba Center

Join Sam Hoadley, the Manager of Horticultural Research at Mt. Cuba Center, as he highlights knockout native species and cultivars from their trials. Top performers and favorites of Monarda, Phlox, Helenium, Echinacea, wild hydrangea, Carex, and Vernonia represent some of the best native plants for the mid-Atlantic region and beyond. Sam will discuss their horticultural and ecological performance and will share important information on standouts that will make beautiful additions to your garden.

Sam Hoadley is the Manager of Horticultural Research at Mt. Cuba Center where he evaluates native plant species, old and new cultivars, and hybrids in the Trial Garden. Sam earned his degree in Sustainable Landscape Horticulture from the University of Vermont.

Parking at the church

We encourage you to carpool to the church for Mr. Hoadley's presentation.

There is metered on-street parking on College, Court, and Broad Streets which is free after 6 pm.

The Middlesex Corporate Center parking garage also has parking and the entrance is on College Street between Main Street and Broad Street, one block south of the church with a pedestrian path from just east of the parking garage entrance directly to the front of the church. It charges .75 cents per half hour.

The Russell Library parking lot entrance is on Broad Street, just north of Russell Library, between Court Street and Washington Street. It charges \$1/hour until 8 pm.



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.

VOTE

Your vote is needed **in person on June 20** to pass the needed amendments to our bylaws

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

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. We will need a vote of 50 votes to approve these changes, and to reiterate, the votes must be in person.

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>

2023-2024 Scholarship Fund

GOAL \$8,000



Thank you for helping us reach our goal and more!

Proceeds from our Spring Plant Sale and Auction put us well over the top of our goal. Overflow funds will be directed to the CT Hort Cares Grant Program.

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

CARES GRANTS AWARDED AND ANOTHER ROUND OF GRANTS OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

On May 1, six grants were awarded to recipients of the CT Hort Cares civic grants program. The winners were chosen from 22 applicants from all over the state. Here are the winners:

1. KNOX Community Garden Program, Hartford - \$300

Working with local organizations, KNOX is able to provide free garden plots to areas they serve including The Village for Families and Children, South Park Inn, and WISEWOMAN. The City of Hartford owns some of the sites and provides KNOX these spaces for free. The 21 community gardens are located in ten low-to moderate-income Hartford neighborhoods. These gardens provide 244 families the ability to grow their own fresh food. KNOX will use the funds to help support the cost of staff who implement this program.

2. Replanting the Garden on the Bridge, Willimantic - \$500

Main Street is home to the Garden on the Bridge. Almost half of the planters in the garden are in dire need of repair and once that is complete, they will need to be replanted. The \$500 Cares grant will help to defray some of the costs.

3. Manson Youth Institution Gardening Program, Cheshire - \$500

Manson is home to incarcerated young men between the ages of 15-21. They administer an existing gardening program with the end-goal of teaching young men basic life skills that will last beyond their time at Manson. The funds requested will help to purchase trays and seeds, soil, plant food and animal deterrent. At some point, they hope to put up fence to protect the garden.

4. Botanical Signs for Broken Arrow Nursery, Hamden - \$500

The staff at Broken Arrow requested funds for signs to identify plants at their Display Gardens. The vast collection of more than 500 plants resides on 3-4 acres of property that is protected by a conservation easement so the grounds and the Display Garden will never be developed. The signs will provide an additional education tool to groups and guests who visit.

5. Bloomfield Elementary School Gardens, Bloomfield - \$500

Bloomfield High School horticulture students will revive abandoned school gardens at Laurel and Metacomet elementary schools. The high schoolers are required to gain work and leadership experience as part of the program. Consequently, the students themselves will build a program for the two elementary schools in which they will plan and lead the gardening lessons/activities on a regularly scheduled basis, both in class and after school. Younger students will gain exposure to gardening and healthy eating.

6. Pollinator and Mindful Garden, Bristol - \$200

There will be an area cleared and planted with perennials, annuals, and possibly berry bushes at the Cambridge Park Housing area in Bristol. This project will be mentored by the Bristol Garden Club, will include staff from the Bristol Boys and Girls Club, and will include children who live in Cambridge Park Housing. Funds will be used to purchase plants and garden supplies.

Starting June 1, another round of grants will be processed. Applications will be accepted from June 1 through August 1. They will be reviewed with grants being awarded August 15. [Click here](#) to get your application in today! Good luck!



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

Natively Speaking

from page 1

Amsonia tabernaemontana var. tabernaemontana

Amsonia tabernaemontana var. *tabernaemontana*, also known as wideleaf bluestar, is a geographically widespread species found in similar locations to *A. tabernaemontana* var. *salicifolia*. This variety has broader ovate leaves and displays the coarsest foliage texture of the trialed bluestars. Like *A. tabernaemontana* var. *salicifolia*, the stems and flower calyxes are hairless and have a waxy coating. Additionally, the fruit is held vertically as opposed to the pendent fruit of *A. tabernaemontana* var. *illustris*. This was one of the first bluestars

to emerge in the spring, with stems evocative of asparagus shoots. The stems emerge with a dark purple coloration, but the color fades as the growing season progresses. Wideleaf bluestar is one of the first *Amsonia* varieties to bloom, producing attractive sky-blue



Amsonia tabernaemontana var. *tabernaemontana* Photo courtesy of Mt. Cuba Center

flowers arranged in airy inflorescences in mid-to-late April. A newer selection of this variety from Plant Delights and Walters Gardens, *Amsonia tabernaemontana* 'Storm Cloud', has even darker stems and retains that coloration for a much longer period.

Karla A. Dalley, CT Hort Book Editor and member:

I am recommending two native plants that are probably less popular—or, in the case of goldenrod (*Solidago*), perhaps downright unpopular because of its confusion with ragweed. But more on that in a moment.

My first recommendation is a plant that has no good names. Its botanical name is *Veronicastrum virginicum*, which sounds completely unappealing. The common name, Culver's root, isn't much better. No wonder it's unpopular and few people know it or grow it. But nevertheless, it's a lovely tall perennial with spikes of flowers in lavender which will bloom for up to a month in mid-June to early July. There is a white variety as well.

And because these spikes are individual florets, there are plenty of flowers for butterflies or bees, both of which love this plant. It grows easily in full sun and will grow in wet soils—just don't let the plant dry out!

Now about that goldenrod. For years, people associated it with fall allergies, because the true culprit, ragweed, is so unassuming that it gets overlooked. Goldenrod pollen does not cause allergies, so don't be afraid to add this lovely late blooming native to your garden. It is adaptable to all sorts of conditions from full sun to

part shade—and as you coastal dwellers know, you don't need good soil to grow it either!

Best of all, because it blooms later, it is one of the last natives that pollinators can rely on as they either migrate (like the butterflies) or prepare for winter. And it's lovely color goes nicely with our fall palette of autumn leaves. It's a must-have in my garden!



Solidago (Goldenrod) Photo by Jeremias Müller

Nancy DuBrule-Clemente, CT Hort Education Committee Chairperson and founder of Natureworks

Zizia aptera Photo by Nancy DuBrule-Clemente

I recommend *Zizia aptera* or *Zizia aurea* (Golden Alexanders). It self-sows easily, competes well, and will grow in shade or partial sun. It is a native larval food plant of the black swallowtail butterfly, as opposed to dill, fennel, parsley, carrots, parsnips, etc., which are not native. It's a good cut flower, and long blooming.

I also love *Packera aurea* (Golden groundsell). It's an early blooming, native pollinator plant. The foliage holds all summer and fall, and often in the winter if it's mild. It's ideal to plant after removing an invasive, and it self-sows so it will help restore an area to natives. 🐝



Packera aurea Photo by Nancy DuBrule-Clemente



Record-Breaking Spring Plant Sale & Auction!



At times, the line for admission extended out the door. The mood at Bethany Covenant Church was festive and the air was filled with energy at the annual CT Hort Spring Plant Sale & Auction. The church hall was full of plants, people, and purpose. The audience cheered when a hard-to-find plant landed in the hands of a generous bid-winner.

What made the evening extra-special were the plants donated from long-time member Judy King's woodland garden. Judy and her husband, Stephen Gryc, will be moving out of state in a couple of years, leaving their family home and gardens of more than 45 years. Judy asked Nancy DuBrule-Clemente if she would like to auction

some of the more unusual plants found in her garden. Without hesitation, Nancy gathered a group of volunteers to aid in the laborious process of removing plants from the garden and preparing them for the auction by washing each plant of its garden soil and repotting each into new soil so as to eliminate the possible spread of the invasive snake worm.

Auctioneers Nancy DuBrule-Clemente, Jim Sirch and Kevin Wilcox set realistic expectations for each plant, providing bidders with exacting details about each plant's likes and dislikes. Their keen horticulture and sales skills helped to rake in a record-breaking total that will fund scholarships for Horticulture students at UCONN and Naugatuck Valley Community College. Funds collected above our scholarship commitment are being distributed in the form of mini-grants of up to \$500 for civic projects that support the educational mission of CT Hort.

One kind plant breeder donated cash to the cause as he struggles with health issues that have curtailed his gardening abilities. We want to recognize the generosity of all donors – members, growers, nurseries, wholesalers – who contributed to our cause. Please be sure to keep these folks in mind when purchasing items for your gardens. We are all pulling to keep the green industry top-of-mind and help it to remain strong in the state of Connecticut.



- Acer Gardens
- Ballek's Garden Center
- Broken Arrow Nursery
- Butler Florist & Garden Center
- Cheshire Nursery
- Claire Dipino
- Connecticut Flower Collective
- Country Flower Farm
- E. Draghi & Sons Farm
- Earth Tones Native Plant Nursery
- Garden Sales
- Garden's Dream
- Chris Dreisch - Good Soil Nursery

- Gotta's Farm
- Hart's Greenhouse & Garden Center
- JillyBeans Farmstand
- Judy King
- Kurtz Farm
- Michael's Greenhouse
- Natureworks
- Paul's & Sandy's too, Inc.
- Jillian Shea
- Robert Herman
- Roman & Terry Mroczkowski
- Sam Bridge Nursery & Greenhouses
- Scott's Orchard & Nursery

- Stonehedge Landscape & Garden Center
- The Garden Barn Nursery & Landscape
- The Plant Group
- Tower Farms
- Tracey Weiss
- Twin Gardens
- UConn Horticulture Club & Shelley Durocher-Nesta
- Warner Nursery & Garden Center
- WaterField Farms
- Woodward Greenhouses



2024-2025 LEADERSHIP

OFFICERS

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- Vice President OPEN
- Secretary Yilin Sun
- Treasurer Richard Kaminski

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- Tom Christopher
- Diane Erling
- Susan Kaminski
- Elizabeth Morin
- OPEN
- Debra Climan
- Dr. Nick Goltz
- Trish Lyons
- James Sirch

Your opportunity to vote for the proposed slate of officers for 2024-2025 will be coming via email (or hard copy through the USPS) soon.

Horticultural Happenings & Announcements

Note: Happenings are listed on a space-available basis. To submit an event, send details to news@cthorg.org.

Please format the announcement to resemble the entries below. Deadline for the Summer issue is Friday, June 14.

Wed., June 5, 5:30-8:00 pm—Get Your Green On Gala on the Great Lawn, Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens, 151 Brookdale Road, Stamford. Bartlett's annual fundraiser will celebrate the power of connecting of nature. Includes cocktails and jazz, hors d'oeuvres and small plates, green tie cocktail attire. Tickets: \$250-\$1400. <https://www.bartlettarboretum.org>

Sat., June 8, 11 am-2 pm— CT Open House Day Plant Sale – Leete's Island Garden Club, Hyland House Museum, 84 Boston Street, Guilford. Featuring the Club's own perennials, vegetables, annual flowers, herbs and propagated houseplants. Free admission. For more information contact: 203-453-0780

Sat., June 15, 10 am-4 pm—The Garden Conservancy Open Days at The Stubenrauch Gardens, Glastonbury. Longtime CT Hort member Joan Stubenrauch has opened up her gardens during the Garden Conservancy's Open Days program, which annually celebrates the country's most exciting, creative, and innovative private gardens. Cost: \$10 for non-members. <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/>

Sun. June 23, 10 am— Connecticut Landmarks presents "Flower Pounding Workshop, Phelps-Hatheway House and Garden, 55 South Main Street, Suffield. Phelps-Hatheway staff will guide you step-by-step as you create a unique work of art with blooms grown by Suffield's own Willow View Farm. Cost: \$20-25. <https://114536.blackbaudhosting.com/114536/Flower-Pounding-Workshop>

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

CT HORT TRAVEL



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

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

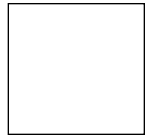


AUSTRALIA! March 21-April 5, 2025

Join Friendship Tours as we embark on a spectacular adventure in the Land Down Under. President & Owner of Friendship Tours, Brett Isaacson, along with local expert guides will lead the way on this land tour to explore this amazing continent.

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Dated Material 🌿 *Please Rush*

CT Hort Calendar at a Glance

Friday, June 14 – Deadline for our Summer *Newsletter*

Thursday, June 20 – Speaker presentation: *Knockout Natives* with Sam Hoadley, 7 pm (In person in Middletown—see page 3—and on Zoom)

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

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2024-2025 SPEAKER SEASON

Date	Speaker	Presentation	Speaker Info
Sept. 19, 2024	Lee Reich	Native Fruits	https://leereich.com/
Oct. 17, 2024	Marta McDowell	Frederick Law Olmsted: Shaping the American Landscape	https://www.martamcdowell.com/
Nov. 21, 2024	Christian Allyn	Invasive Plants in Connecticut: A Winnable War	https://nomoreinvasiveplants.com/
Jan. 16, 2025	Vincent Simeone	The Wonders of the Winter Landscape	https://www.vincentsimeone.com/
Feb. 20, 2025	Jim Sirch	Gardening for the Frogs	https://beyondyourbackdoor.net/about/
March 20, 2025	Dan Benarcik	Gardening in Overtime: Getting the Most out of Your Late-Season Display	https://danbenarcik.com/
April 24, 2025	Nancy DuBrule-Clemente	Oh! What I didn't plant	https://natureworksgardencenter.com/blogs/news
May 15, 2025	Panayoti Kelaidis	Crevice gardening: Even more than it's cracked up to be!	https://www.blogger.com/profile/01846898350006673316
June 19, 2025	C. Colston (Cole) Burrell	Designing for Habitat: From Back Yards to Byways	https://www.ccolstonburrell.com/