

Connecticut Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

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Serving Horticulturists Since 1887

January 2024



Editor's note: The annual Garden Trends Report is one of the most published garden studies in trade and consumer news. This is the 32rd anniversary of the report compiled by the Garden Media Group, a public relations and marketing firm from Philadelphia. A summary of their findings for 2023 is presented here. In addition, Garden Media has graciously allowed us to use their images in this summary. To read the Trends Report in its entirety, visit: www.gardenmediagroup.com.

Eco-Optimism

When it comes to climate change, the news isn't good, but yes, there is a silver lining. Truth is, 2023 will rank among the 10 warmest years on record. Millions of people may be displaced because of climate change, thousands of species are in danger of extinction, related disasters have increased by 50% since 2000, and 67% of Americans ages 18-23 experience eco-anxiety—chronic fear of suffering an environmental cataclysm.



Yet, 68% of people ages 15-24 want to make a positive climate impact. An extinct lion was spotted in Chad for the first time in 20 years, wind solar energy broke use records last year, if we stopped emitting greenhouse gasses today, global temperature would begin to flatten in three years.

So what's coming up in the name of horticulture?

Zoom out

Gen Z, or Zoomers, will reshape the future of the horticulture industry. Zoomers are willing to pay more for sustainable products that are better quality. Companies such as Ship My Plants are paving the way for green buyers and sellers alike.



Horti-futurism

A “horti-futurist” movement has started. And it feels sci-fi. Garden scholar and historian Tracy Qiu sees us replacing a cold, metallic vision of the future with bold, bright horti-futurism.

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Membership Dues:
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LEADERSHIP LETTER

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

Another year is upon us already! Consider how many opportunities we have to learn how our choices and actions can be part of the solution to reverse the ecological damage we've done to our planet.

CT Hort strives to have a variety of speakers, including many who share insight in helping us with our own properties, which is the logical place to start reversing the damage.

While we yearn to learn and seek information beyond our organization's offerings, we have much knowledge at our finger tips via websites, blogs, radio broadcasts and workshops. In addition to our own upcoming CT Hort Symposium on February 3 that promises to teach and inspire us as stewards of the earth, there's a great opportunity at the CT Flower and Garden Show on February 23 which has lined up an abundance of outstanding speakers. Lessons learned from attending even one of these major events will enlighten and educate gardeners at every level.

May this year's outstanding experts and educators inspire us.

Warmly,
Cheryl



Thank you to our generous business members and supporters!



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Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut

The Garden Barn Nursery
Garden Solutions
Go Organic LLC





Claudia West

Smart Planting Management with Claudia West

Thursday, January 18 • 7 pm

Zoom Only (you'll be sent the link on the Sunday before the talk).
Sorry, this presentation will not be recorded



Gardeners love nurturing their plantings but get frustrated when maintenance needs become overwhelming. Join Claudia for an eye-opening deep dive into the root causes of high maintenance gardens. She will discuss recent discoveries in plant community science and link them to some of the biggest challenges gardeners face. Attendees will leave with practical thinking models and tools to help you balance your garden's needs with your busy lifestyle and budget. Nurturing an inspiring, ecologically rich garden should not be a burden.

Claudia West is a leading voice in the emerging field of ecological planting design. Known for her passionate advocacy of plant-driven design, Claudia is a widely sought out speaker and consultant who applies the technologies of plant systems to bring essential natural functions back into our cities and towns. She has worked on all sides of the green industry—as a designer, a grower, installer, and land manager—grounding her innovative work in pragmatic solutions that address the realities of our urbanizing world. She is the co-author of the critically acclaimed book, *Planting in a Post-Wild World*.

Having grown up on a family-owned nursery, florist business, and design/build firm in eastern Germany, Claudia was propagating plants before she could walk. Her love of American native plants brought her to the U.S. where she worked at Blue Mount Nurseries in Maryland and immersed herself in the study of American flora and mid-Atlantic ecosystems. Claudia holds a Master's Degree of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning from the Technical University of Munich, Germany. Her intense studies of plant habitats and the science of plant community-based design strategies at the renowned school for horticulture in Weihenstephan, Germany built a solid foundation for her current work. Before co-founding Phyto Studio, Claudia was ecological sales manager at North Creek Nurseries, a wholesale perennial grower in Landenberg, PA. Her work was focused on bridging the gap between growers, designers, and land managers as well as introducing more functional and beautiful ecological plants into the nursery trade.

Coming up on Zoom (only):



Thursday, Feb. 15, 2024, 7pm

**Urban Gardens:
Changing Lives**
with *Sheryll Durrant and
Randell McShepard*



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

Bethany Covenant Church, Berlin

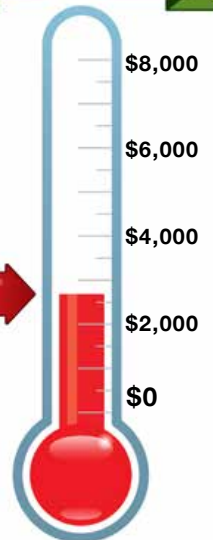
**GOAL
\$8,000**

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.

\$2,671.15



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

Thank you!

2024 CT Hort Virtual Symposium

The Connecticut Horticultural Society is thrilled to announce that its 2024 Virtual Symposium on Saturday, February 3, "Gardening Matters: Our Future is Growing, will feature talks by garden experts Fergus Garrett, John Forti, Jared Rosenbaum and Gary Lewis. The day-long symposium runs from 9am-4pm and is designed to inspire, enlighten, and educate novice and expert gardeners alike.

Fergus Garrett will talk about the principles of long season gardening. He will touch on long season plants, shape, texture, underplanting and interplanting with bulbs and other plants which are happy to share the same space, as well as the use of self sowers and temporary fillers to prolong the seasons.

The main part of the talk will concentrate on how to use bulbs and woodland plants to provide another layer in your perennial and mixed borders. From snowdrops through to alliums, these play a vital role in filling the gaps and giving you color for many months.

Mr. Garrett has held the position of Head Gardener for the internationally acclaimed Great Dixter Garden in Northiam, East Sussex, UK since 1993: It was from the charismatic gardener and writer Christopher Lloyd (1921-2006) and his unique gardening skills that Fergus learnt to keep the gardens of Great Dixter constantly changing throughout the seasons and to be adventurous in trying out new plants and plant- combinations.

John Forti's talk draws from his best-selling book of traditional plants and skills for the modern world. He will share the inspiration from our long history of heirloom preservation, garden craft and homestead lifeways that we can apply to our own gardens and landscapes, as well as artisanal gardening lifestyles that are helping us to rebuild vibrant local agricultural economies and celebrate sustainable cottage industries that are contributing to our new, homegrown American arts & crafts movement and backyard environmentalism.

John Forti is a garden historian and ethnobotanist who has directed gardens for Plimouth Plantation Museum, Strawberry Banke Museum, Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and Bedrock Gardens. He is also author of the best-selling book *The Heirloom Gardener—Traditional Plants and Skills for the Modern World*. As a Slow Food Governor and biodiversity specialist, his preservation work has helped to restore countless native and heirloom plants and has brought traditional artisanal practices to modern thinking. He has won numerous awards for historic garden preservation, children's garden design, herbal and historical education and the 2021 Award of Excellence from National Garden clubs. His new book was inspired by his posts as [The Heirloom Gardener – John Forti](#) which go out regularly to millions on Facebook.

Field botanist, native plant grower, and restoration practitioner **Jared Rosenbaum** asks whether we can honor native ecosystems and lifeways as we restore habitats that support humans, other animals, and native plants alike.

Jared Rosenbaum is a botanist, native plant grower, and Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner. He is a founding partner at Wild Ridge Plants LLC, a business that grows local ecotype native plants using sustainable practices and performs botanical surveys. Jared is the author of the book *Wild Plant Culture: A Guide to Restoring Native Edible and Medicinal Plant Communities*, as well as children's book *The Puddle Garden*, about native plants and wildlife.

Ground covers are widely thought of as utilitarian, but these plants also offer a diverse range of beautiful and intriguing options with a variety of colors, textures, and forms. They can unify a landscape, knit together plantings and hardscape, and add extra layers of beauty, dynamism, and surprise. As a replacement for lawns, they can reduce our use of water, fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides, carbon-based fuels, and transform a yard into a diverse landscape of habitat and food for native insects, birds, and other wildlife.

In this companion talk to his encyclopedia *The Complete Book of Ground Covers* (which won this year's Gold Laurel Award in the category of Technical/Reference Book from Garden Communicators International, the US-based industry organization that represents garden communicators), **Gary Lewis** will highlight the functional and aesthetic uses of ground covers in the landscape, including tips and tricks for designing with ground covers to take your outdoor space to the next level and a discussion on the diverse services ground covers can provide to make gardens more sustainable. He will illustrate all these benefits and uses of ground covers with beautiful photos taken from his travels to gardens around the world.

Mr. Lewis has had a lifelong passion for plants. While completing a Masters of Science degree in Botany, Gary became the owner of Phoenix Perennials on his 28th birthday. Since that time he has greatly expanded the business into a dynamic, award-winning, destination nursery for Western Canada with over 5,000 different plants a year, many of which are grown at Phoenix Perennials from plant material sourced from around the world. In 2013 Phoenix Perennials launched Canadian mail order to bring their unique plant selection to a broader audience and now ships more than 2,500 different plants a year to avid gardeners from coast to coast.

This symposium may qualify for continuing education credit(s) for green industry professionals, Connecticut Accredited Nursery Professionals, Master Gardeners, and Accredited Organic Land Care Professionals (CT NOFA). Please contact us at office@cthort.org with the subject line: Symposium CEU. After the Symposium, we will provide you with documentation of your attendance for submission to your accrediting association.

Register before January 9 to save \$\$!

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

Register by Jan. 9, 2024 and the cost 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.



2024 Garden Trends

from page 1

“We used to view the future like we view the past, erasing its color and vibrancy,” she said. “Not anymore!”

Futuristic trends will include closed ecosystem terrariums and nights gardens that shine in starlight. Nighttime botanic gardens exhibits, such as South Coast Botanic Garden’s “Astra Lumina” light event, push the envelope. Plants to pick include neons, bright variegation, “alien” plants like unusual succulents, star-flecked or silver-hued plants like Sterling Moon Lunar Light Begonia from Southern Living Plant Collection.

**Delight in the dark**

Cemeteries are hip places to hang and garden. Laurel Hill in Pennsylvania offers movies, yoga and hort-therapy. Cedar Hill in Hartford has tours, events and holiday character re-enactments. Eerie plants, such as Black Prince Snapdragon, Black Peony Poppy, Black Cherry Floribunda Rose and Hellebores Pine Knots Select Strain are growing in popularity.

**Bugging out**

Bugs in fashion and home décor are trending. Cushions, wallpapers, lamp shades jewelry, and rugs with bugs are all the rage. “The growing intrigue and awareness of insects helps boost an interest in the plants that feed them,” said Shubber Ali, CEO of Garden for Wildlife. And it’s working. The National Gardening Survey saw a 10% increase year over year in people planting

for bees, butterfly and birds. The number of people purchasing native plants, in addition to items with bugs, has almost doubled since 2019.

Hanging in there

Small space gardening continues to grow. By 2050, the United Nations projects that 89% of people will be living in urban areas. Combined with an increased interest in container gardening, the demand will continue to trend upward.

According to the NGA 2022 Survey, 600,000 more households engaged in container gardening last year, a 200% increase. Spending on container gardening increased by \$50 million.

People aged 45-54 spent the most on container gardening, \$72.81, up from \$22.19 in the previous year.

Among the plants growing in popularity are String of Pearls, Pothos, Philodendron, Arrowhead, English Ivy, Columnea, and Hoya. Edible plants includes cherry tomatoes, Midnight and Cascade blueberries, cucumbers, peas, strawberries, nasturtiums, oregano, creeping thyme, creeping rosemary and sage. Flowers include Lobelia, Fuchsia, Potato vines, Vinca, and Purple Dixie Dwarf Loropetalum, FlashForward Pink Petunias.



EcoTok

“EcoTok” is a collective against “climate doomism,” for climate solutions.

Co-founder Abbie Richards says “Climate change isn’t the apocalypse, it’s an opportunity to make meaningful change.”

Technology has given young people a louder voice than ever before. Gen Z are action-oriented, and unafraid to speak up. And, research shows that Gen Z’s passion for change is revitalizing all generations, too. Globally, 52% of all people believe Gen Z influences change.

Younger still, KidsGardening, an organization that supports educators and families with grant funding, original educational resources, inspiration, and community to get more kids learning through the garden, paves the way in positive news. By providing garden education that celebrates our differences and the good we are doing, they are fostering a love for the environment at a young age.

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

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.

Only a
few spots left
in the trip!



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 February issue is January 15.

Tues., Jan. 9, 11 am-2:00 pm—“Succulents and their Care” presented by Wallingford Garden Club, Yalesville United Methodist Church, 8 New Place Street, Yalesville. The Club hosts Horticulturist and Landscape Designer George Trecina, who has been planning and planting gardens since the 1970’s. His presentation centers on diverse and versatile succulents and their care. The talk is followed with a BYO lunch at noon. The cost is \$5. For more information, call 203-269-2653.

Tues., Jan. 9, noon-2 pm— Leete’s Island Garden Club hosts “Connecticut Gardens: A Celebration of the State’s Historic, Public and Private Gardens,” Guilford Community Center, 32 Church Street, Guilford. Caryn Davis, professional photographer and author, who will speak about ‘Connecticut Gardens: A Celebration of the State’s Historic, Public and Private Gardens.’ Caryn’s presentation covers her new book of the same title, showcasing 44 of our state’s most breathtaking gardens. The book will be available for purchase. Free and open to the public. Call 203-453-0780 for more information.



Wed., Jan. 24, 7:30 pm—Hardy Plant Society of New England CT Chapter presents “Restoration of the American Chestnut” with Jack Swatt. Wethersfield Academy for the Arts, 431 Hartford Avenue, Wethersfield and on Zoom. More than 100 years ago, a fungal blight was introduced that devastated the population of American chestnut trees in the Appalachian forests. Learn about the history of the American chestnut, the blight that attacked it and the efforts to restore it to the forests of the east. Jack Swatt has been a member of The American Chestnut Foundation since 1993. Free for members; \$10 general admission fee. <https://www.facebook.com/hardyplantsocietyconnecticut>

CT Hort members receive discount on Federated Gardens trips to the Canadian Rockies. Because CT Hort is an affiliate of the Federated Garden Clubs of CT, your CT Hort membership entitles you to sign up for Federated-hosted tours without having to pay a \$100 non-member surcharge. **Be sure to check out the scheduled trip to the Canadian Rockies this August.** Tours sell out quickly, but always check <https://ctgardenclubs.org/events-overview/tours>, as new trips are added on a regular basis.

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



Dated Material 🌿 *Please Rush*

CT Hort Calendar at a Glance

- Tuesday, Jan. 9** – Board of Directors
Remote Meeting, 7 pm
- Monday, Jan. 15** – Deadline for our February
Newsletter
- Thurs., Jan. 18** – Speaker presentation:
*Smart Planting
Management*, 7 pm
(Zoom only-there will
not be a recording of
this presentation)
- Go to CTHort.org for information on these
and all other meetings and programs.

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🌿 Deer, pets, neighbors...

these are just a few of the common challenges that garden guru Ian Caton discussed at our November meeting. More than 120 people tuned in on Zoom and joined in person at Elmwood Community Center for a potluck dinner and to hear some of his solutions to those challenges.

