

# Connecticut Horticultural Society

# NEWSLETTER

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Serving Horticulturists Since 1887

January 2025



**Editor's note:** The annual Garden Trends Report is one of the most published garden studies in trade and consumer news. This is the 33rd anniversary of the report compiled by the Garden Media Group, a public relations and marketing firm from Philadelphia. A summary of their findings for 2025, "Nature's Renaissance," 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: [grow.gardenmediagroup.com](https://grow.gardenmediagroup.com).



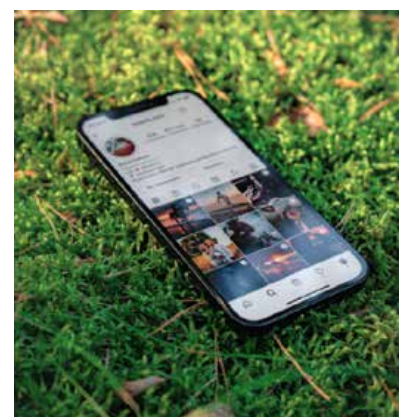
## Reclaiming urban spaces

There is a critical shift towards reclaiming urban spaces to integrate more natural elements, and reduce regulated and concrete-heavy environments. For instance, more than 13,000 vacant lots in Philadelphia have been

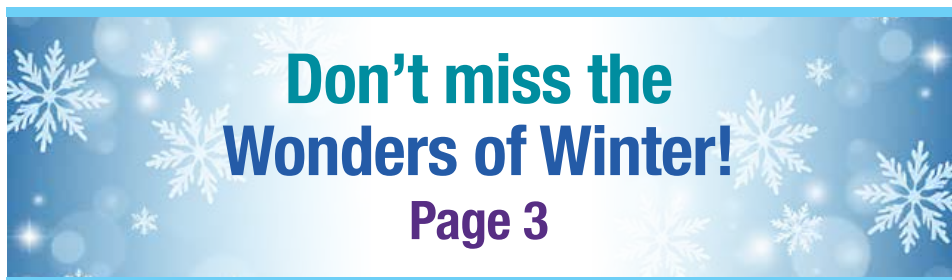
turned into usable green spaces. Exhibits by Kelly Norris and Apiary Studios at the 2024 Philadelphia Flower Show showed new approaches to horticulture. From Australia to Ontario, cities are removing stretches of concrete and asphalt, allowing nature to take hold in their place as the benefits of a healthier, more sustainable urban environment are proven. As cities adopt these green strategies amid the climate crisis, they are creating better environments for both nature and humans.

## Letting go of social media

By 2025, Gartner, an industry leader in analysis and communications, predicts that 50 percent of social media users will dramatically reduce interactions with platforms such as Meta, X, and TikTok. Instead, they will turn to social communities, which are driven by genuine interest and sustained by the quality of interaction that niche communities foster. Some of those communities include NextDoor, where neighbors interact with other neighbors; GoodReads, where book lovers share their favorite books to read and more; Strava, the largest sports community in the world, where members share their picks of botanic garden runs, areas with trails and gardens; and



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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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## Share what you know and spread the word!

Hello CT Hort members!

If we've never met at a monthly talk or workshop, I'd like to introduce myself. I'm Tracey Weiss, and I've been doing communications for CT Hort since June of 2021.

My job consists of spreading the word about what CT Hort does by disseminating information to the media, creating social media, maintaining and updating our website, and spreading the word through organizations such as the Federated Garden Club.

I may work from home, but I am never alone in what I do! Mary Anna Martell, our office manager, and Ashley Stewart, our executive director, and I are a great team! We help each other and provide support where and when it's needed.

If you read our newsletter and peruse our website, then you know that we love to share community news. And this is where we need your help. If you have news or events regarding a garden club or an organization, let us know. We want to share that news with other CT Hort members through our newsletter and on [CTHort.org](http://CTHort.org). And that would give your news or event more exposure.

Simply email me at [news@cthort.org](mailto:news@cthort.org).

Here's hoping that 2025 is a healthy, happy year for you and yours!

Warmly,  
Tracey

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



Hollister House Garden



**B. Yaeger LLC**

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**Colorblends Wholesale Flower Bulbs**

**Grace Farms**

**Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut**

**Greater Bridgeport Opportunities Industrialization Center, Inc.**

**The Garden Barn Nursery**

**Mountainview Landscaping LLC**

**Garden Solutions**



Vincent Simeone

# The Wonders of the Winter Landscape

with *Vincent Simeone*

## Thursday, January 16 • 7 pm



**Zoom only.** Members will receive the link to the program via email the Sunday before.

Winter is one of the most beautiful times of the year to appreciate the garden. Although plants lie dormant, interesting characteristics such as the growth habit, ornamental fruit, and bark interest become most evident. In addition, conifers and broadleaved evergreens can provide interesting foliage and texture. This lecture will focus on the wonders of the winter landscape and how to enhance the aesthetic value and interest of the garden by using horticultural treasures such as winter fruiting plants, broadleaved evergreens, conifers and trees with interesting bark.

Vincent has worked in the horticultural field for over 37 years. He is currently the Director of Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park in Oyster Bay, NY where

he has worked for 31 years and manages the facility. He received an AAS degree in ornamental horticulture from Farmingdale State College (SUNY), Farmingdale, New York and a BS in ornamental horticulture from the University of Georgia, Athens, GA. While at Georgia, Vincent studied under well-known professors Dr. Michael Dirr and Dr. Allan Armitage. Vincent also obtained a Masters Degree in Public Administration from C.W. Post-Long Island University in 2003. Vincent has specialized expertise in woody plant ID, culture, use and selection of superior varieties. Vincent is an experienced lecturer, instructor and horticultural consultant. He has published seven gardening books including a revised edition of a book on garden sustainability.



### COMING UP

## Gardening for the Frogs

with *Jim Sirch*

Thurs., Feb. 20 at 7pm  
Zoom only



**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](http://cthort.org). Click on the survey icon found on any page then chose the speaker you want to rate. Thank you for your feedback.



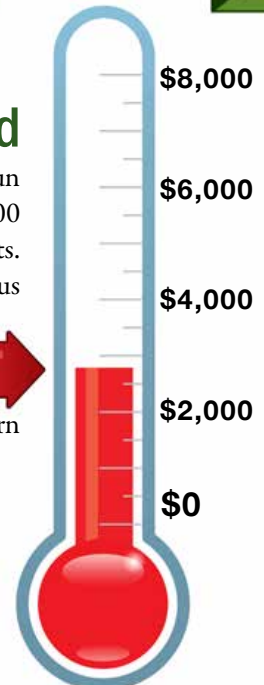
## 2024-2025 Scholarship Fund

The 2024-2025 season has begun and so has our goal to raise \$8,000 to provide scholarships to students. We hope you'll consider helping us reach that goal!

**\$2,788**



Go to [cthort.org/donate](http://cthort.org/donate) to learn how to give. Thank you!



## 2025 Garden Trends Report from page 1

Greg, a platform for household enthusiasts to connect with fellow plant lovers.

### Lived in

There's a shift now from the pristine and untouched to the more genuine and seasoned aesthetic. It reflects a broader craving for authenticity, for things that are more personal and loved. In gardening, this is taking shape in many of our nation's public gardens. According to research from Georgia Tech, a well-landscaped home may get up to a 12.7 percent increase in property value. Why? Because it gives the appearance of having been nurtured and loved for decades, which evokes tranquility

and beauty. An example of this is the planting of mature trees instead of new ones, leaving imperfect-looking flowers and plants, planting long-blooming flowers such as coneflowers, salvia, Black-eyed Susans and letting roses and other vine plants grow and extend to other areas.

#### LIVED-IN ADDS VALUE

These spaces are meticulously designed to appear as if they have been nurtured for decades, offering an oasis of tranquility and historical beauty.



### British estate core

Whether it's a Piet Oudolf hedge or one from Sissinghurst Castle in England, living fences are a statement of luxury and a functional addition to outdoor spaces. Thumbtack, an American home services website and app, reports that 20 percent of people plan to invest \$5,000 in outdoor spaces this summer. With 62 percent of homeowners prioritizing landscaping



projects, the demand for living fences has soared.

Hedges may seem boring, but they are important. They support a broader range of wildlife by providing food, shelter, and nesting sites, and thus becomes a vibrant ecosystem. So for a less boring hedge, try using native plants to layer the hedge.

Hedges also help reduce soil erosion, conserve water and soften the stark hues of HOA-approved plants. Building a hedge is less expensive than a fence.

Even those who live in condominiums or apartments can still embrace the idea of a living fence. Plant in large containers can create privacy screens and add some life to a simple patio or garden.

### Blooming farms and foraging for flowers

The rise of boutique flower farms highlights a growing interest in local, fresh flowers. This surge in popularity reflects a broader shift: people are not just growing flowers; they are becoming amateur foragers seeking to transform the natural bounty of their surroundings into stunning floral designs. It's all fueled by a desire to engage intimately with our environment, create beauty and enhance our well-being. Foraging, according to Ace Berry, a florist and educator with a large social media following, describes it as more than a hobby. It's a source of joy and a form of meditation.



"It's my Zen," he said. "When foraging, you forget about needing specific quantities or types of flowers. You're simply there, in the moment, with nature as your palette."

In a new book, "Go Forth and Forage," Whitney Johnson explains how to do it, without stripping the land and maintaining and preserving nature.



## 2025 Garden Trends Report from page 4

**Fashion imitates plants**

These days, the popularity of “cut outs” in fashion on dresses and other items of clothing is parallel to the interest in plants that have cut outs. The distinctive cut-out leaves of plants such as Monstera Deliciosa and Split-Leaf Philodendron have caught the attention of the public. Searches for Monstera have gone up by 60 percent on Google Trends and terms like “biophilia” dominate the conversation in interior design. Like the counterpart dresses being worn right now, they bring a flair and make a statement to home and office.

This trend underscores a shift towards the more “lived-in” look mentioned previously, where the beauty of mature and fenestrated plants is celebrated.

**Color of the year? Teal!**

Teal is the color that seemingly pulls all of this year’s predicted trends together. It bridges the realms of fantasy and reality. Evoking the serene blues of Caribbean waters, the blue of the sky and the immersive depth of virtual spaces.

It also aligns with evolving wellness trends, offering a calming effect that is soothing.



## 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 February issue is January 15.

**Thurs., Jan. 9, 7:30-9pm—The North Haven Garden Club presents “American Bald Eagle,”** North Haven Congregational Church, 28 Church St., North Haven. Ginny Apple, DEEP Master Conservationist, will do a program on the American Bald Eagle in Connecticut. Free for members; \$5 for non-members. Call 203-269-2653 for information.

**Tues., Jan. 14, 11am—The Wallingford Garden Club hosts “Deer Resistant Plants,”** First Congregational Church of Wallingford, 23 S. Main St., Wallingford. Adam Wheeler of Broken Arrow Nursery will discuss deer resistant plants. Lunch and a club meeting follows the program. Free for members; \$5 for non-members. Call 203-269-2653.

**Tues., Jan. 14, 6pm—Bartlett Horticulture Club,** Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens, 151 Brookdale Rd., Stamford. This is the inaugural meeting of the club. The goal is to create a place of community where you can learn something, meet new people, and practice your plant skills in a casual environment. Some meetings will have attendance capped when materials are limited, announced in advance. The

meetings are led by an educator at Bartlett and offer lectures and activities. Members are free; non-members are \$10. Registration is requested. [www.bartlettarboretum.org](http://www.bartlettarboretum.org).

**Wed., Jan. 1, 6-8pm—Opening reception of “A Garden in the Winter,”** a collection of pressed flower art by Marguerite Alpert, Green Farms Church Gallery, 71 Hilldale Rd., Westport. The show runs through February 10. Call 203-227-2728 for more information or go to [www.thefloweredpress.com](http://www.thefloweredpress.com).

**Wed., Jan. 29, 3pm— Journey Into the World of Tea | Introduction to Tea,** Grace Farms, 365 Lukes Wood Rd., New Canaan. Tea aficionados are invited into the Grace Farms Pavilion to sample teas while learning about the basics of tea varieties from across the globe. This six-part series is led by Tea Expert and Educator, Frank Kwei. Members \$24; non-members \$30. <https://tickets.gracefarms.org/events/018b4b6b-0e63-27e2-07a8-4a129e1dd59a>.



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

# GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE



We love to hear from recipients of our grant program. Nothing makes us happier. Recently, Burton Jaynes from Broken Arrow Nursery got in touch to thank us for the grant that allowed them to enhance their signage. This is what he wrote:

"I wanted to formally thank you for the \$500 grant Broken Arrow Nursery received from CHS earlier in the year to help us purchase botanical signs.

We have installed most of the 99 signs we purchased using your grant (and a similar one from Bartlett Arboretum) and are extremely pleased with the look and what we expect will be a very positive response from our visitors. See attached for a couple of pictures, We plan to add to these over the coming years as we have hundreds of rare and unusual plants in our landscape that are in need of botanical signs.

I hope many of your members are able to stop by in 2025 to view the plants and their corresponding signs, thanks to a CT Hort Cares grant."



## November Round Up

In November, more than 140 people online and in person tuned in to hear about how to win the war against invasive plants in CT. Christian Allyn's presentation was informative and comprehensive.

Before the talk, awards were presented to the winners of CT Hort's annual awards this year. Nancy DuBrule-Clemente presented John O'Brien with the 2024 Gustav A.L. Mehlquist Award; CT Hort Past President Cheryl Marino presented Diane Erling with the Service Award. Congratulations to both of them!



Christian Allyn



John O'Brien



Cheryl Marino and Diane Erling



Sarah Bailey, John O'Brien, Nancy DuBrule-Clemente, Jim Sirch, and Dick Jaynes

**There are still some openings for this amazing workshop!**

**Propagating Native Plants from Seed:  
Workshop with Jim Sirch  
Sat., Jan. 18  
10 am – noon**

Zion Episcopal Church,  
326 Notch Hill Road  
North Branford

Including native plants in your garden helps pollinators. Expand your native plantings by growing them yourself from seed. We will discover the germination requirements for different kinds of seeds. We'll plant and bring home a plastic milk jug filled with a seed selection to stratify over the winter. Proper after care will be discussed.

Bring a clear (translucent), one-gallon plastic milk or water jug; we will supply the soil and seeds.

Jim Sirch is a CT Hort Board member, master gardener, and has just retired as the Education Coordinator at Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History.



**CT HORT TRAVEL**

**Trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show, New York Botanical Garden Orchid Show and Longwood Gardens Orchid Extravaganza  
March 7-9, 2025**



With 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.

**\$975pp double / \$1129pp single • CT Hort members receive a \$55pp discount**

Deadline to reserve your spot/deposit is January 5, 2025

**Contact Barbara at Friendship Tours  
email [barbara@friendshiptours.net](mailto:barbara@friendshiptours.net)  
or call 860-243-1630.**



**Gardens of Charleston and Savannah  
March 26-April 2, 2025**

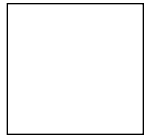
Please join us for an unforgettable journey as we survey the beauty and history of the Lowcountry of South Carolina and Georgia, with our special guest tour guide C. Colston Burrell, garden designer, lecturer, author and photographer.

**TOUR ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Savor a festive Lowcountry Boil
- Explore the Lowcountry's history, culture and cuisine
- Delight in two wine receptions and six private gardens
- Tour Brookgreen Garden's plant collections and sculptures, as well as a pontoon boat trip through rice fields to enjoy local wildlife
- Discover the secrets of Bonaventure Cemetery, made famous in the book *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*

**\$5,449 per person double / \$ 6,644 per person single**

**Call 800-243-1630 or go to [www.friendshiptours.net](http://www.friendshiptours.net)**



*Dated Material* 🌿 *Please Rush*

### CT Hort Calendar at a Glance

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

**Wednesday, Jan. 15** – Deadline for our  
February *Newsletter*

**Thursday, Jan. 16** – Speaker presentation:  
*The Wonders of the  
Winter Landscape*  
with Vincent Simeone,  
7 pm (Zoom only)

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

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## Greens make the season!



Here's a great example of our commitment to providing fun and educational opportunities: the wreath workshop we held in early December. It was led by Nancy DuBrule-Clemente, who brought in her own greens to share and had a great time with participants.

“The workshop was wonderful,” Nancy said. “Country Flower Farms was filled with the most beautiful poinsettias. They set up two long tables inside of a greenhouse and put up an amazing backdrop so we could take pictures. Every single person made a beautiful wreath. It was an excellent night.”