

Connecticut Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

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Serving Horticulturists Since 1887

Summer 2025



Too busy to read these days? Try a podcast!!



For a lot of people, the idea of curling up in a chair and reading is one of the best ways to relax, enjoy, and learn.

But for most of us, there simply isn't time in the day to do that. At least, not as often as we would like. That's where podcasts come in. Cleaning the house? Listen while you dust. Driving and doing errands? Listen in the car. Having trouble getting to sleep at night? Turn one on before you go to bed.

For your complete listening pleasure, we've asked some members, as well as this month's speaker, for their favorite podcasts—on gardening, naturally!

Board President Jim Sirch likes "A Way to Garden" (<https://awaytogarden.com>) by Margaret Roach. "Her award-winning podcast covers a broad range of gardening topics, but many have an environmental approach," he said. "She knows the importance of providing plants not just for our enjoyment, but for insects, birds, and food webs."

He also likes "Growing Greener" by (former board member) Tom Christopher. "Tom brings in top leaders in the field of ecological gardening. He has a background in and working knowledge of gardening as it relates to natural systems, as well as sustainable lawns. Tom has a real curiosity about each topic and asks insightful

questions, many that listeners would want to ask." "Growing Greener" is among the top 10 favorite podcasts on Apple and has a 4.8 rating (out of a possible 5.0) among reviewers on that site.

Past President Cheryl Marino agrees with Jim about Margaret Roach's, "A Way to Garden" and "Growing Greener." She also enjoys "Cultivating Place: Conversations on Natural History

and the Human Impulse to Garden" is a weekly public radio program & podcast exploring "what we mean when we garden," according to host Jennifer Jewell. "Cultivating Place stretches our idea of who and what gardening is," Cheryl said. "Diverse guests chat about movement, night creatures, public gardens, how plant-based businesses affect communities, trees, vegetables, flowers, pollinators, seeds, farming, and more!"

Tom Christopher enjoys "Prairiebreak" (<https://prairiebreak.blogspot.com/>) written by Panayoti Kelaidis (CT Hort's May 2025 speaker). "Panayoti especially

loves rock and crevice gardens but also admires all sorts of notable personal creations and describes them all in lively and eloquent prose," he said. "In this blog he also chronicles his expeditions around the world in search of notable plants.

continued on page 5



"A Way to Garden with Margaret Roach" is one of the most popular podcasts on gardening out there, according to many lists and our board members, Cheryl Marino and Jim Sirch.

**It was a busy June
for CT Hort members!**

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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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Leadership Letter

Dear CT Hort Family,

What an eventful June—full of pride and excitement as we welcomed Summer!

Cole Burrell wrapped up the month with a stellar presentation on designing your garden for the surrounding wildlife habitat!

This month, we take a small reprieve from workshops and presentations, and turn inward, to focus on symposium planning, the annual budget, board recruitment and much more.

But first, CT Hort needs your input! If you are a member, you are a voting body. Please take some time this month to vote on the most recent amendment to the bylaws. Voting closes at 5pm on July 11th. By voting, you ensure we stay accountable to our constituents and each other.

It's time for another round! The CT Hort Cares grant cycle is accepting submissions until July 31st! Use your voice to spread the word about our mission work. If you know of organizations that could use funding support for horticultural and garden related projects, please encourage them to apply.

Lastly, we are still seeking new board members. Ideal candidates are CT Hort members, with a background in horticulture, education, finance, business administration or law; however all that are interested are encouraged to inquire. Could this be an opportunity for you or someone you know? Sharing this opportunity within your networks and relevant organizations could really help attract passionate and qualified individuals.

As always, thank you for your ongoing love and support!

With gratitude,

Ashley Stewart
Executive Director



Thank you to our generous business members and supporters!



FRIENDSHIP TOURS
THE SHIP SHOP

grace farms



Hollister House Garden

NATUREWORKS

White Flower Farm
PLANTSMEN SINCE 1950



Colorblends Wholesale Flower Bulbs
Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut
The Garden Barn Nursery
Garden Solutions

Go Organic LLC
Greater Bridgeport Opportunities Industrialization Center, Inc.
Mountainview Landscaping LLC



Peter Del Tredici

Deeply Disturbed: The Emergent Forest of the Future

with Peter Del Tredici

Thursday, September 18 • 7 pm

In person and on Zoom.

Elmwood Community Center, 1106 New Britain Avenue, West Hartford

(Members will receive the Zoom link the Sunday before the talk)

The northeastern United States is a naturally forested landscape and has been so for thousands of years. In his talk, Peter Del Tredici will present an overview of the recent history of the forests of the northeast as impacted by natural disasters, shifting land-use patterns (urbanization and suburban sprawl), introduced pests and pathogens, invasive species, and climate change. He will speculate on how the “emergent” forests that develop in response to these factors differ from those that have existed in the past and what the implications are for our future landscape.

Peter Del Tredici holds a BA degree in Zoology from the University of California, Berkeley (1968) and a Ph.D. in Biology from Boston University (1991). He has been doing research with woody plants since 1972, first as a research technician at the Harvard Forest in Petersham, Massachusetts and then for 35 years at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University in Boston where he worked through 2014 as Plant Propagator, Curator of the Larz Anderson Bonsai Collection, Editor of *Arnoldia*, Director of Living Collections and finally as Senior Research Scientist. During his time at the Arnold Arboretum, he has made numerous seed collecting and ecological research expeditions to China,

Japan and Korea. Peter was also an Associate Professor in Practice in the Landscape Architecture Department at the Harvard Graduate School of Design from 1992 through 2016. and taught in the Urban Planning Department at MIT from 2016 through 2019.

He has published more than 100 articles on a wide variety of botanical subjects including: the taxonomy and cultivation of Magnolias, hemlocks (genus *Tsuga*) and *Stewartias*, the history of plant introductions from Japan and China, and the morphology of basal sprouting (resilience) in temperate trees. His PhD thesis (1991) was on the ecology and evolution of the Ginkgo tree, and he is now considered a world authority on the ecology and cultivation of this amazing tree. Recently, his research has focused on climate change and urban ecology which resulted in the publication of the widely acclaimed, *Wild Urban Plants of the Northeast: A Field Guide*.

In 2013, he was awarded the Veitch Gold Medal from The Royal Horticultural Society “in recognition of services given in the advancement of the science and practice of horticulture.



2025-2026 LEADERSHIP

OFFICERS

- President Jim Sirch
- Past President Cheryl Marino
- Vice President OPEN
- Secretary Yilin Sun
- Treasurer Richard Kaminski

BOARD MEMBERS

- Elizabeth Morin (August 2026) OPEN (August 2026)
- OPEN (August 2026) Debra Climan (August 2027)
- Susan Kaminski (August 2027) OPEN (August 2027)
- Dr. Nick Goltz (August 2028) OPEN (August 2028)
- OPEN (August 2028)

A Busy June!



Wickham Park

June was an especially busy month for CT Hort members who took advantage of the three events we offered.

The Manchester Garden Crawl—including stops at Garden Sales LLC, Wickham Park (with a talk by Kevin Wilcox), and Woodland Gardens—was a hit with the folks who attended.

“The day was fabulous,” said Nancy DuBrule-Clemente. “The peony fields at Garden Sales were almost done blooming but we had such a great time touring the place. Bill was amazing, as was his son David. Everyone shopped like crazy, and I even went back at the end of the day to buy more! Wickham Park far exceeded my expectations. I couldn’t believe how large and wonderful it was. Kevin was a great tour guide. Lori (Davis) and I sat by the pond in the oriental garden on a bench for lunch. There are so many different gardens, so many amazing trees, so much to see. Next time, we need to spend a lot more time there. Woodland Gardens was also impressive. Pat told us the history of the nursery, and three different employees gave us mini tours. Again, we all shopped!”



Garden Sales LLC



Woodland Gardens



Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens



At **Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens** in Stamford, Director Tracy Kay took participants on a tour of the property. According to CT Hort member and event coordinator Kelle Ruden, “I think the tour surpassed everyone’s expectations! Tracy Kay spent over two hours with us and offered an entertaining and very educational tour of trees, the fern ally, and more. The Arboretum is celebrating its 60th Anniversary.”

Finally, more than 25 people took a trip to **McCue Gardens** in Wethersfield to hear Bruce McCue discuss the various plants at his nursery.

“We basically toured through the fields with Bruce talking about his operation, pointing out the unusual nobody-else-grows stuff, with interesting stories in between,” said Lori Davis. 🛒



McCue Gardens

Try a Podcast!

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“A podcast I particularly like is “The Native Plant Podcast (<https://www.nativeplantpodcast.com>),” which is produced on an irregular basis by a team including John Magee, Susana Struve, Chris Fehlhaber, and Preston Montague. It has featured a who’s who of native plants gardeners ranging from Douglas Tallamy to Heather Holm, and Piet Oudolf as guests.”

There’s more. According to [gardenista.com](https://www.gardenista.com), the following podcasts top the list for gardening knowledge and pleasure:

Let’s Argue About Plants

<https://www.finegardening.com/series/fine-gardening-podcast-lets-argue-about-plants>

From the folks behind *Fine Gardening* comes this podcast during which Executive Editor Danielle Sherry and Associate Editor Carol Collins discuss various horticultural subjects on a deeper level. Arguments, according to the website, are “polite.”

The BEET-The Epic Gardening Daily Podcast

<https://www.epicgardening.com/podcast>

The Beet Podcast bills itself as “the perfect one-stop location for

the plant lover, featuring everything from beginner gardeners’ tips to in-depth discussions with industry and science experts.”



If you’re going native, this podcast should be at the top of your listening list.

The Joe Gardener Show with Joe Lamp’l

<https://joegardener.com/podcasts>

Media personality Joe Lamp’l’s podcast takes on an eclectic range of topics—from growing “epic” tomatoes to praising pansies for being more than just cold weather flowers.

The Beginner’s Garden

<https://journeywithjill.net/>

You have to start somewhere. This podcast is a great supplement to getting started on growing herbs, flowers and fruit. It’s hosted by Jill McSheehy, an Arkansas resident who fell in love with gardening, even though she admits she had no idea what she was doing when she first started. 🌱



Grant applications being accepted through July 31

Applications for the CT Cares grant program are being accepted through July 31, 2025. Go to [cthort.org](https://www.cthort.org) to apply. The program expands the Society’s efforts to educate our great state on the importance of plants and our precious environment.

When reviewing applications, the committee gives priority to projects that support the educational mission of our organization, and the project must take place in Connecticut. The maximum amount per grant is \$500.

Applications will be accepted from June 1 – July 31, with grants awarded on August 15.

If you would like to support our efforts with a monetary donation, please visit <https://www.cthort.org/support/other-ways-to-give/> to donate. You will be able to choose ‘Scholarship Fund’ or ‘Community Grants’ as the destination for your donation.

Thank you for your support!

Save the Dates!

And be sure to check your inbox for registration information.



It’s a Throwdown of the Nancys!
Nancy vs. Nancy Throwdown at Natureworks
Thurs., August 14, 4-7 pm

Natureworks, 518 Foxon Road, Northford
\$15/person

They’re at it again! Two of the masters of horticulture—Nancy DuBrule-Clemente and Nancy Ballek McKinnon—will go head-to-head for two rounds of design throwdowns!



Dreamland Flower Farm Tour and Dahlia-growing tips with Merrie Avallone
Sun., September 28, 1-3 pm

Dreamland Flower Farm
15 Beechwood Circle, Cromwell
\$50/person

Flower power! The dahlias will be in bloom as we tour the farm. Then learn some dahlia-growing tips from owner Merrie Avallone before you enjoy a walk and shopping tour of your own. Each person will go home with a bountiful bouquet of flowers!

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 September issue is August 15.

Thurs., July 10, 10am-noon—Heritage Rose Pruning Clinic, Elizabeth Park, 1561 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford. Director of Gardens & Grounds Mark Gutzmer leads this clinic in Elizabeth Park's Heritage Rose Garden. The Clinic is free, but registration is required. Participants are asked to bring their own gloves and pruning tools. Go to www.elizabethparkct.org.

Thurs., July 17, 3-6 pm—Shippan Point Garden Club presents "Time to Remember: 100 Years of Beauty & Blooms," Stamford Yacht Club, 97 Ocean Drive West, Stamford. The flower show is being held to celebrate the club's centennial. Admission is free and open to the public. <https://shippanpointgardenclub.org>.

Sat., July 19, 10-11:15 am— Hollister House Garden Explorers: From Buds to Flowers to Seeds, Hollister House Garden, 300 Nettleton Hollow Road, Washington. A kid-friendly, guided garden tour to discover plants that are in full bloom, look for plants that have finished blooming, and find buds on plants still getting ready to flower. Then we return to the barn for "A Plant's Life!" In this special program from White Memorial Conservation Center, we will discover the similarities and differences between basic animal and plant life cycles. Children will learn about all aspects of the plant life cycle, including seed germination, growth, flowering, pollination, and seed dispersal. Several interactive activities are included. Best suited for children in grades 1-4 but is open to all K-5 students. Caregivers must be present for the duration. Free but registration is required. <https://hollisterhousegarden.org>.

Sun., Aug. 3, 3-4 pm—Chef's Palate/Global Groceries, Grace Farms, 365 Lukes Wood Road, New Canaan. Join Pastry Chef and Educator Leah Jones to look at and explore everyday ingredients through a global perspective and learn why shopping for groceries locally and cooking seasonal meals can bolster your community while having a greater global impact. Members \$12; non-members \$15. Register at <https://gracefarms.org>.

Tues., Aug. 12, 10-11 am— Ornamental and DIY: 60 Years/60 Trees at Bartlett Arboretum, 151 Brookdale Road, Stamford. Join Lenny Macari, Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens Grounds manager for a walk that discusses some of our interesting ornamental trees, many of which he has planted and cared for over the past two decades. The event is one of many to celebrate Bartlett's 60th anniversary this year. Members are free; non-members, \$10. www.bartlettarboretum.org/events.

Thurs., Aug. 21, 10-11 am—The Garden Club of Brookfield presents "Reducing Light Pollution," Valley Presbyterian Church, 21 West Whisconier Road, Brookfield. After the sun sets, many important pollinating insects begin their night shift. A growing body of research suggests that the glow of uncontrolled outdoor lighting is causing serious harm to these nocturnal insects, migrating birds, other wildlife, as well as our own health. Margery Winters, Assistant Director at Roaring Brook Nature Center, will discuss the ecological impacts of outdoor lighting and to reduce light pollution around your home. Free. Event information: (917) 375-1615 or brookfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com.

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



IN MEMORIAM GINNY GINGRAS

Ginny Gingras, former CT Hort Board member and longtime CT Hort member, passed away in May at the age of 87. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends on this huge loss.

You can read more about Ginny here:
<https://www.courant.com/obituaries/virginia-ginny-gingras/>.

We need YOU to REVIEW!

Be part of our tradition. We're thinking ahead to winter...but only because we are looking for volunteers to read and review gardening books for our winter edition of the newsletter. We're looking for 300-400 words on your opinion of the book. If you are interested, please call Tracey at 860-796-0185 or send her an email at news@cthort.org.





SEPTEMBER 16-19, 2025 NEW HAMPSHIRE FARMS, FORAGING AND FUN!

Scenic New Hampshire Touring!

Come join the fun as we tour highlights of New Hampshire in the prime early-fall season. In just four days we will visit farms and gardens, have a go at foraging and enjoy special meals together with our congenial group of travelers.

We spend all three nights at the Hotel Concord centrally located in Concord, New Hampshire. From there, we will branch out to visit some of New Hampshire's premium sights.



The Federated Garden Clubs
of Connecticut, Inc.

<https://ctgardenclubs.org/>

Pickety Patch Lunch

Bees
Foraging & Farms

Lake Sunapee Lunch
Cruise

Private Gardens

Bedrock Garden

Three Nights at the
Hotel Concord

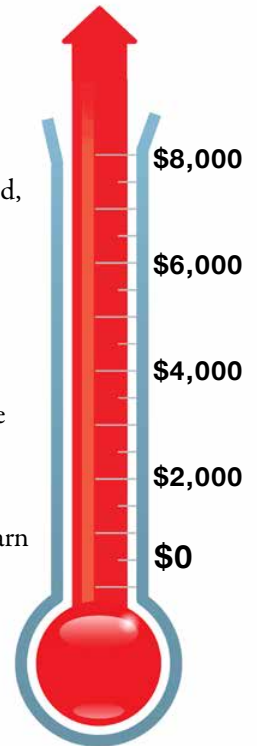
KATHY LINDROTH
Tour Coordinator

Kathleen.Lindroth@gmail.com
860.836.3407

2024-2025 Scholarship Fund \$12,919

We did it. Thanks to you, our goal of \$8,000 was far exceeded, and we are thankful and so appreciative. Your efforts will help provide scholarships and grants to those who can help our environment and further our mission of educating those in Connecticut about the importance of horticulture.

Go to cthort.org/donate to learn how to give. Thank you!



Enjoy the Philadelphia Flower Show along with the New York Botanical Garden Orchid Show & Longwood Gardens Orchid Extravaganza Feb. 28-March 2, 2026

Featuring special guest tour guide Nancy DuBrule-Clemente, Author & Founder of Natureworks Horticultural Services
Highlights include:

- Philadelphia Flower Show Admission
- New York Botanical Gardens Orchid Show
- Longwood Gardens – Longwood Reimagined: A New Garden Experience

Non Member double – \$995
CT Hort Member double – \$940
Non Member Single per person – \$1,139
CT Hort Member Single, per person – \$1,084



Registration and information:

www.friendshiptours.net/tours/philadelphia-flower-show-ct-hort



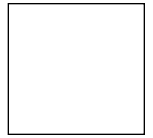
2025 Holiday Tour December 12-14, 2025

Highlights include:

- Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens – ‘Gardens Aglow!’ Festival
- Portland Stage Theater Evening Performance: ‘A Christmas Carol’
- Portland Museum of Art: Winslow Homer Time at Kennebunkport Holiday Prelude
- Two Nights Hotel Accommodations at the Westin Portland Harborview Hotel
- Four meals

CT Hort member double-per person - \$999
Non-member double-per person - \$1054
CT Hort member single-per person – \$1159
Non-member single-per person - \$1214

Go to www.friendshiptours.net/tours/ct-hort-maine-christmas for more information.



Dated Material 🌿 *Please Rush*

CT Hort Calendar at a Glance

Monday, August 15 – Deadline for the
September *Newsletter*

Thurs., Sept. 18 – Speaker presentation:
*Deeply Disturbed:
The Emergent Forest
of the Future* with
Peter Del Tredici,
7 pm, in person at
Elmwood Community
Center, 1106 New
Britain Avenue,
West Hartford, and on
Zoom

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

Printed on recycled paper.



We have adopted a garden!



CT Hort is pleased to be working with Valerie Bryan and students at the Annie Fisher Montessori School in Hartford, growing wonderful things! The students in first, second and third grades are growing corn, beans, onions, strawberries, potatoes, three kinds of lettuce, Jamaican pumpkins and lots more. Valerie uses the gardens to teach the children about how and why the vegetables grow. One week, “we learned a new word, ‘abundant’ and ‘abundance,’ which describes the mint because there is so much of it,” Valerie said, and one week in early May, “several students helped open bags of soil and compost to spread in Bed 4 using a rake,” Valerie said.

“This was a messy task and no one complained,” she continued. “Three boys stayed a few minutes later to help plant Glass Gem Native American corn from kernels I saved from my community garden. This is the same kind of corn that was grown last year at Annie Fisher Montessori. The kernels are different colors and the students picked which ones they wanted to plant. We made three circular mounds with flat tops and sides, and planted four kernels in each mound, at north, south, east and west points along the edge of the mounds. The students learned the four directions. This is the planting method used by the Wampanoag Native Americans in Massachusetts.”

We’re also happy to welcome new volunteer Bridgette to the program. 🌿