

Connecticut Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

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Serving Horticulturists Since 1887

Winter 2025

2025 Review of Gardening Books

by Karla Dalley, CT Hort member and blogger & Tracey Weiss, CT Hort Communications Director



From mythic plants to kitchen helpers and Victorian era styling to the benefits of nature on one's health, we have an eclectic and wonderful groups of books to share with you this year.

Our reviewers get right to it. In *Mythic Plants: Potions and Poisons from the Garden of the Gods*, writer and researcher Ellen Zachos “finds the roots of our joy in the stories of ancient Greek myths,” said Roger Desmond.

Kitchen Gardening Living: Seasonal Growing and Eating from a Beautiful, Bountiful Food Garden, by Bailey Van Tassel will help you design a garden that will reflect your personal taste,” according to Jill Benson.

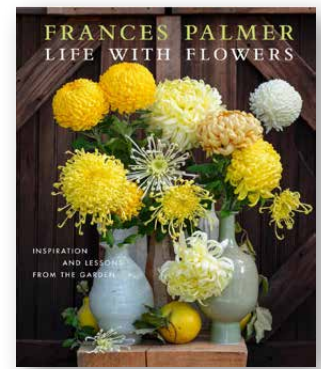
Celeste Yanni said Judith Taylor’s *Women and Gardens: A History from the Victorian Era To Today* “seeks to rectify this absence and include women’s accomplishments in the accurate telling of horticultural history.”

In Kelle Ruden’s review of conservation biologist and award-winning author Thor Hanson’s *Close to Home: The Wonders of Nature Just Outside Your Door*, she mentions that Hanson gives us food for thought by “sharing how each of us can retrain our eyes and senses to see the incredible biodiversity that exists in our everyday encounters with nature.”

There truly is something for every gardener here, whether you pick up one of these books for yourself or purchase one for a friend or family member.

Life with Flowers: Inspiration and Lessons from the Garden

By Frances Palmer
Hardcover: 288 pages
Publisher: Artisan
Reviewer: Karla Dalley



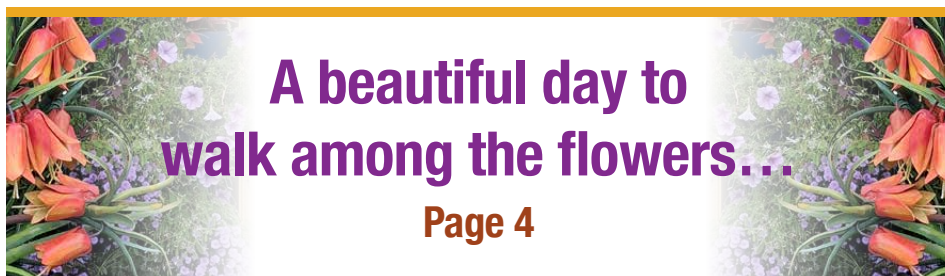
In her introduction, Frances Palmer describes herself as a potter and discusses how her pottery has shaped her gardening in the 38 years that she has been doing both. So, I confess that I found myself looking at her containers as much as her stunning flower arrangements as I read through this beautiful book.

The book is arranged into six divisions—she calls them her growing season—in her Weston, CT garden. She names the divisions—from early to late—prevernal, vernal, aestival, serotinal, autumnal and hibernal. For gardeners, the divisions are far more accurate than the arbitrary divisions of spring, summer, fall and winter, even if we use the meteorological meanings of those terms.

She does begin quite early—in February with branches for forcing—and ends with the holiday period, cut flowers, orchids, greenhouse flowers and all things indoors.

In between are the most magnificent photographs of flowers in all seasons, ideas for arrangements, recipes, discussions of the best varieties of flowers to grow, with photo spreads of many

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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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Giving thanks for you!

Dear CT Hort Family,

Tis the season to give thanks!

As we enter into the holiday season, we have so much to be grateful for. I am grateful for family, friends, and community. Last month, I had the privilege to be in community with some of you at our annual bulb sale. What a great turnout we had! A huge thank you to White Flower Farm for providing such a beautiful array of bulbs, and to those of you who joined us. I'm looking forward to getting my Purple Dream tulips in the ground!

This month, we prepare to host Michael Wojtech, as we learn about the evolution of trees. For those of you visiting in person, you'll have the opportunity to enter a raffle to win a door prize. And for our online audience, we'll have some fun and educational trivia about the night's guest speaker.

Your membership and engagement is important to us. In the last quarter of the year, I urge you to renew your commitment with CT Hort, whether that's through membership, volunteerism, attending events or donating. Thank you for always supporting our mission and vision!

Warm regards,
Ashley Stewart,
Executive Director



Thank you to our generous business members and supporters!



Colorblends Wholesale Flower Bulbs
Connecticut's Historic Gardens
Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut
The Garden Barn Nursery

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



Michael Wojtech

The Growth of Trees: A Journey Through Time

with Michael Wojtech

Thursday, November 20 • 7 pm

In person and on Zoom

Elmwood Community Center, 1106 New Britain Avenue, West Hartford

(The entrance to Elmwood Community Center is on Burgoyne Street. Type "Burgoyne Street, West Hartford" into your GPS.) *Members will receive the Zoom link the Sunday before the talk*

No single view of a tree is a fixed snapshot in time that tells a complete story. Join Michael and discover how trees grow, reproduce, and interact with their environment across days, weeks, seasons, and years and over varying spatial scales—from the intricate details of buds, flowers, leaves, and bark that we use for species identification to the collaborative roles of trees in ecosystems. Experience the function and beauty of characteristics such as peeling bark, overwintering buds, lobed or toothed leaves, flowers by the thousands, and seeds that fly on the wind.

Michael Wojtech strives to share the science and beauty of natural history in an accessible and compelling fashion through presentations, participatory activities, and outdoor exploration. He writes and teaches about the structure, growth processes, and ecology of trees—including their bark, buds, leaves, roots, and wood—for audiences at all levels of experience. He explores how knowing the natural history of the places we live, and love, fosters connection and the feeling of home.

Michael earned his master's degree in Conservation Biology from Antioch University New England in Keene, NH. He is the author of *Bark: A Field Guide to Trees of the Northeast* and co-author of *Drawing Leaves and Trees: Observing and Sketching the Natural World*.



Join us in person for Michael Wojtech's presentation and you could win this Fiskars Garden Spade/Shovel!

COMING UP ON ZOOM ONLY:



JANUARY 15, 2026

**Personal Habitat: 30 Years of Wildlife Gardening
with Julie Zickefoose**



FEBRUARY 19, 2026

**Tree Preservation Techniques
with Heather Dionne**



MARCH 19, 2026

**An Engineer's Approach to Houseplant Care
with Darryl Cheng**



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.

A beautiful day to walk amongst the flowers!

It was a spectacular day for the more than 40 people who day tripped to the New York Botanical Garden on October 1 to see Van Gogh's "Painting with Flowers" exhibit. The immersive display, indoors and out, was only part of the day's events. Hosted by CT Hort and Friendships Tours, the day also included a rare private tour of the LuEsther T. Mertz Library, which has one of the world's premiere collections of botanical literature.





Have fun and make a difference— join our Symposium Committee!

Our biennial Symposium is slated for November 2026, and we're looking for more folks to help us plan it and bring new ideas to the table.

This will be our first in-person Symposium since 2020. That will mean a few more moving parts to manage, but with your help, we're going to make this an event to remember. Help us decide on a theme, speakers, location—all the nuts and bolts key to a great day.

If you're new to CT Hort, our day-long Symposium is designed to inspire, enlighten, and educate novice and expert gardeners alike, through speaker talks, vendors, and lively conversation with your fellow horticulture lovers. It's both fun to plan and fun to attend!

Join the always dynamic Nancy DuBrule-Clemente, Symposium committee chair, and help bring our 2026 CT Hort Symposium to life!

Interested? Email Mary Anna Martell at office@cthort.org



2025-2026 Scholarship Fund

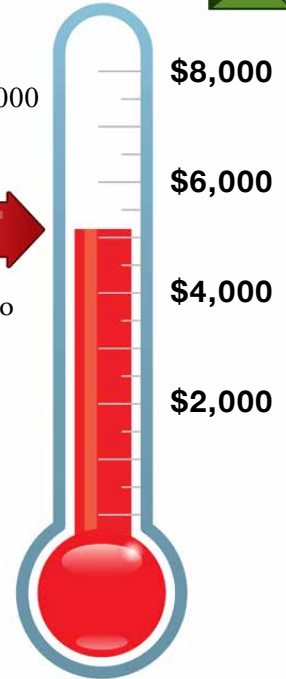


Won't you help us with our annual goal to raise \$8,000 to provide scholarships and grants?

\$5,094



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



*Join us to celebrate the special anniversaries (5-40 years!)
of your fellow CT Hort members. Everyone is welcome!*

Thursday, November 20 at 6:30pm

Elmwood Community Center, 1106 New Britain Ave, West Hartford, CT



Please stay to enjoy the talk

“The Growth of Trees—A Journey Through Time” with Michael Wojtech

Anniversary members will receive invitations in the mail

and can RSVP to 860-529-8713

or office@cthort.org.



2025 Book Reviews

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of the varieties she grows: narcissus, roses, flowering trees, iris, vines and many more.

There are projects like how to best photograph flowers, how to arrange roses, and the other flowers that she is spotlighting in that chapter (dahlias, sunflowers, larkspur—you name it!)

There are recipes, including a lovely one for risotto with fresh flowers, but if that's not your thing, there are more traditional ones like halibut with chives in parchment, because, of course, there's a whole section on herbs.

And there are some essays—each about a page length—on about how she does her best thinking in the garden, for example.

The book is a visual treat, as well as a master class on photography and life in the garden. It would be a lovely book to give as a gift, or even as a treat for yourself!

Kitchen Gardening Living: Seasonal Growing and Eating from a Beautiful, Bountiful Food Garden

By Bailey Van Tassel

Hardcover: 184 pages

Publisher: Cool Springs Press

Reviewer: *Jill Benson*

Bailey Van Tassel is the founder of The Kitchen Society and host of the Garden Culture podcast.

In this book she shares her joy of gardening and how it's woven into her life. She covers many basic areas for beginner gardeners, i.e. soil prep, design, seeds, types of beds, etc. but goes beyond that to emphasize the “personalization” of gardening. By this she means not only designing a garden to reflect the taste of the gardener, but also how this concept applies to soil preparation and other gardener chores. She emphasizes that there is no right way, that the garden should be an expression of the gardener and how they do things. “The living part of the garden is all about how the garden informs and enhances your life”.

The structure and format of the book make it easy to read any way you desire. Each chapter -Seasons, Plan, Grow, Tending, Make, Gather, Connect and Inspire- is self-contained so you can pick and choose without having read the previous one. All chapters are packed with useful information and some unorthodox recommendations so even experienced gardeners will learn something. The many color photographs through the book break up the prose and illustrate some of the concepts.



I especially liked the informational boxes sprinkled throughout the book. Some of them give a succinct summary of the prose on the page while others give concise practical information such as plants that prefer to be direct sown, in the Grow chapter and plants that should regularly be divided in the Tend chapter. Many of the chapters have an information box titled “For the Little Ones” suggesting things to do to include children in gardening. The Make section has recipes, tips on drying flowers, lists of edible perennials for the kitchen garden. The Gather chapter includes informational boxes on preserving the harvest and crops that need to be cured. The Connect chapter focuses on family gardening activities, gardening with children and kitchen garden generosity. The Inspire chapter focuses on connecting with others through gardening and mentions building a seed garden, sharing your harvest, teaching gardening to others and many other good ideas.

The one aspect of the book I didn't like was the direction the author used in relating the garden to your life. It delved a little too much into the psychosocial self-help arena, which I'm not particularly fond of. I did, however, appreciate the comment about weeding your garden and weeding negative people from your life.

There is so much useful information in this book that I would recommend reading it despite my last comment.

Mythic Plants: Potions and Poisons from the Garden of the Gods

By Ellen Zachos

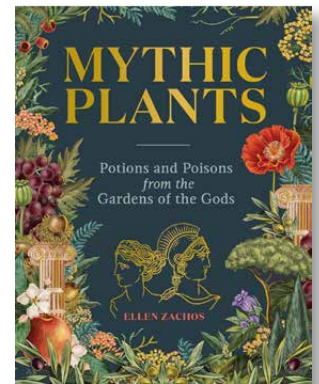
Hardcover: 192 pages

Publisher: Workman Publishing Company

Reviewer: *Roger Desmond*

Plants bring us so many things: beauty, food, scents, medicine but also relief from pain, transcendence, escape, and infinite variety. In this volume a brilliant writer and researcher finds the roots of our joy in the stories of ancient Greek myths. A squadron of gods and goddesses found or created a plant for everything. As the author reminds us, myths may be fiction, but in some manner, we want them to be true. The gods resemble humans like the ones we know, with all their beauty but also their imperfections.

An example of Ms. Zachos' knowledge is a section titled “Intoxicants” where we learn that Dionysus was given the first grapevine by Atropos, one of the fates, as compensation for the



2025 Book Reviews

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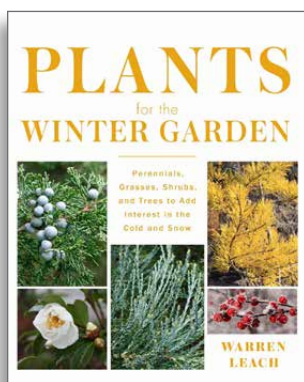
death of his young lover at the hand of a moon goddess. He would then have a way to ease his sorrows and then passed the gift of wine to mortals.

Mandrake is a beautiful plant that has been characterized variously as a stimulant, an aphrodisiac and a way to extend the power of wine to amplify drunkenness. There are references to the Greeks use of cannabis by Herodotus, opium in Homer's Odyssey and other plants to induce a sense of flying.

Through sections titled "It's All in the Dosage" and "Love Potions and Libido Killers" Zachos leads us into the usefulness of plants as medicine and as aphrodisiacs. Aphrodite discovered that lettuce was a poison that killed her lover Adonis. But caution! There is no need to give up lettuce! Other ancients reported that it also had power as a drug to kill the pain of menstruation. In the case of hemlock, the drug that killed Socrates, myth meets contemporary pharmacology. There is no safe dose!

Every page of this book is a revelation. Even if you missed the class about the Greek myths the author is such a capable scholar that you will be delighted by her vast knowledge of both myths and plants. You will feel comfortable as a reader. There are beautiful illustrations of the plants under discussion and a good deal of advice about how to grow them.

To read this book is to see plants and their uses in ancient and modern times; the stories are entertaining and enlightened by a virtual visit to Mount Olympus. You won't forget it.



Plants for the Winter Garden: Perennials, Grasses, Shrubs, and Trees to Add Interest to the Cold and Snow

By Warren Leach
Hardcover: 256 pages
Publisher: Timber Press
Reviewer: *Kelle Ruden*

The desire for Winter interest in the garden is not a new concept. The idea of a "four-season garden," a garden with year-round visual interest, emerged in the 17th century with the rise of the art of garden design. Somewhere along the way, a preoccupation with "Fall Clean-up" took over and for many gardens, all the pending Winter interest is clipped and blown-away with the leaves, a loss not just for visual interest but to wildlife and beneficial insects as well. What is left is a clean, yet barren landscape save for a few evergreens until the Spring bulbs emerge.

If you long to enhance your winter garden, you cannot find a better mentor than Warren Leach, the award-winning landscape

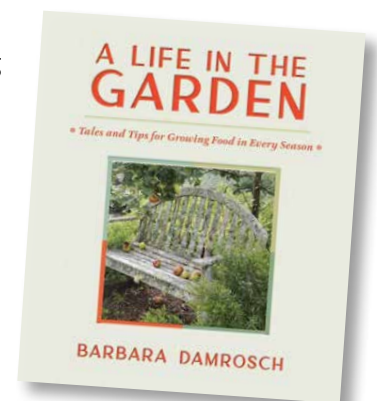
designer, passionate plant collector, nurseryman, horticulturist, speaker, writer and educator who is co-owner of Tranquil Lake Nursery in southeastern Massachusetts. His book, *Plants for the Winter Garden* is an American Horticulture Society Book Award Winner and is full of advice for a range of regions in winter, though Warren's decades of experience in zone 7a, make this book especially useful for Connecticut gardeners. While many gardeners are happy to have a cozy indoor respite from garden chores, the winter garden as seen here can be low-maintenance with no weeding, watering or dead-heading. The winter landscape need not be grey, there are many recommended plants with bright berries, colorful twigs, stems, foliage and winter-blooming flowers and the final chapter, Seasonal Care and Maintenance, has a section on planting permanent pots. The book showcases spectacular gardens Warren has designed along with design ideas that will bring delight to the coldest months.

A Life In The Garden: Tales and Tips for Growing Food in Every Season

By Barbara Damrosch
Hardcover: 380 pages
Publisher: Timber Press
Reviewer: *Kathy Niver*

Whether you've never gardened before or are an experienced gardener, there's much to be learned from Barbara Damrosch's "A Life In The Garden". You will see that growing food can be done by anyone, anywhere, at any age. I was sold on the health benefits, nutritionally, psychologically, and physically. This is a complete book on growing food successfully and is presented as a lifestyle with all the pleasures that it cultivates. Everything is provided from inspiration, getting started, what you will need, what/when/how to plant, caring for the garden, when and how to harvest, storing different produce, and even recipes for cooking and enjoying year-round bounty. Yes, year-round even without a greenhouse. The book is written with passion, enthusiasm, humor, and wisdom from years of experience. It's like a personal memoir over time. You will see, smell, taste, feel and hear the plants and the environment teaching you. It's almost spiritual as you learn to read the weather, follow the rhythm of the seasons, phases of the moon, and understand the soil and how it's built from top down (yes, you can leave the big rocks).

This book is packed with helpful facts and time-saving tips. Who knew that crowding your beans and peas increases yield. Brassicas like to follow alliums when rotating crops. Warm season crops (eggplant, tomatoes, etc.) decline faster when



refrigerated. And this is just the tip of the iceberg. Even tools are discussed to improve efficiency and minimizing body strain. A wheel hoe will be on my Christmas list. Of course, there's all the creatures that share the garden space and thrive in it along with us (the good, the bad, the cute and the ugly). I might've been in Mr. McGregor's garden with Peter Rabbit. A humble, democratic view of your garden's complex environment was well stated. Oh, and don't forget the weeds. Get to know them as they too can be helpful. An entire review could be written on the section that discusses specific crops. Details on their growth habit, cultural needs, origin, taste, and nutritional value are included. And so many varieties to choose from. I can't wait to try mache. Barbara Damrosch's conviction on the joy and benefits of growing your own food is compelling. More lawn will be removed in my garden this winter to make room for food crops in 2026 and this new resource in my library will come in very handy.

**Close to Home:
The Wonders of Nature
Just Outside Your Door**

By Thor Hanson

Hardcover: 304 Pages

Publisher: Basic Books

Reviewer: Kelle Ruden

Thor Hanson's research and conservation work has taken him around the globe and as the on-camera host of the PBS Nature series, *American Spring Live*, he navigated the natural history of "Springtime," checking in with experts and citizen scientists at sites across the country. When not working as a conservation biologist and award-winning author, he is a proponent of the role we can all play as citizen scientists. Having been a regular participant in The Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count, and Bumblebee Watch, he believes in the power of the individual to affect change. In *Close to Home: The Wonders of Nature Outside Your Door*, he takes his advocacy a step further, sharing how each of us can retrain our eyes and senses to see the incredible biodiversity that exists in our everyday encounters with nature. The book follows three themes that have been central to Hanson's work and that he believes are central to backyard biology: seeing (how to look), exploring (where to look), and restoring (how to help). His intention is that the book be both a report and a roadmap, offering readers the inspiration to head out to the nearest green space, all senses on high alert (hopefully armed with a copy of his book, to read in the type of settings described).

Hanson talks a lot about habitat in the book, and sprinkles in fun facts about the ways time spent in nature benefits human health. Although his garden is in Washington state, there will



be a good deal of terrain that is familiar to Connecticut. Each chapter is linked to an abundant notes section, and the Appendix is titled: Citizen Science Resources. The author clearly intends for this book to be useful, and it is. It is also preaching to the choir for most avid gardeners who are now well acquainted with the work of Doug Tallamy and the Pollinator Pathway, along with Homegrown National Park. With that said, *Close to Home* is a welcome addition to the library of those dedicated to doing what they can with their small patch to help the larger biosphere.

**Garden to the Max:
Joyful, Visionary,
Maximalist Design**

By Teresa Woodard and
Bob Stefko

Hardcover: 312 pages

Publisher: Timber Press

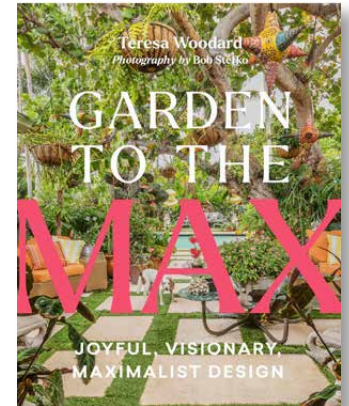
Reviewer: Clare Meade

Have you ever set out to purchase plants with a stern resolve to buy only what's on your list, and then failed miserably? Actually, who of us hasn't had that experience! There are so many ways to build a garden – not just the practical considerations of site, climate, design – but goals of adding plants for beneficial insects, pollinators, and biodiversity. And, of course, the sheer joy of color and form and scent.

Teresa Woodward writes to give gardeners permission to bring exuberant maximalism into the garden. In her philosophy, "More is Better". *Garden to the Max* celebrates 20 gardens from across the US that embrace maximalism through joy and wonder, nonstop blooms, and abundant layers. Visiting each garden in the book was an amazing sensual experience, fueled by gorgeous, sweeping photography by Bob Stefko.

The book is organized into five thematic sections: "Urban Exuberance," "Dramatic Style," "Abundant Naturalism," "Curated Collections," and "Bold Tropicals." Each section showcases several gardens and includes profiles of the gardeners. These gardeners – some amateur and some professional- are all driven to bring their own unique, maximalist vision to life. The variety of gardens is compelling—from tropical style gardens in unexpected climates to pollinator meadows, whimsical container gardens, and city dwellers converting small plots into lush escapes. I particularly loved the gardens in climates completely different than my own – what an inspiration to see beauty in a new way.

Woodard argues that maximalism in the garden is not just about aesthetic exuberance but is also deeply connected with ecological health—supporting pollinators, attracting wildlife, enriching soil life, and fostering diversity. The book both inspires and



instructs, with sidebars of tips and hand-on-ideas.

Garden to the Max has earned a permanent place in my garden library. It is a rich, visually stunning book that argues for letting gardens develop with layers of personality, color and abundance. It strikes a balance between design, personal vision, and ecological awareness. Through vivid narrative and interviews with gardeners, alongside striking photography, *Garden to the Max* invites readers to reimagine what a garden can be.

Women and Gardens: A History from the Victorian Era To Today

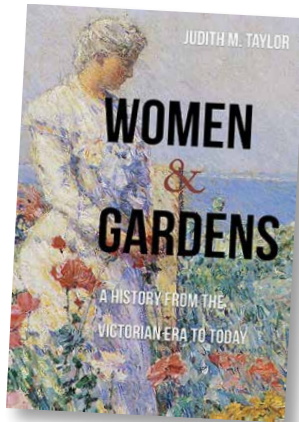
By Judith M. Taylor
Paperback: 216 pages
Publisher: UNM Press
Reviewer: Celeste Yanni

In current times the words “women” and “gardens” seem to be natural and complementary.

However, until recently the historical relationship between the two was complex and nuanced, if even included in the recounting of gardening history. Judith M. Taylor, the author of *Women and Gardens: A History from the Victorian Era To Today*, seeks to rectify this absence and include women’s accomplishments in the accurate telling of horticultural history. Beginning chapters of the book use the findings of early feminist researchers to supply the necessary framework to define how societal roles about “women’s place” and differences in class resources contributed to obstacles and opportunities in shaping the historical foundations and the presentation of gardening in England and the United States.

The last four chapters are specifically detailed to describe the development of formal horticultural education, the entrance of women into garden, landscape design and ornamental plant breeding and symbolic use of gardens in women’s literature. The necessity of “dirtying one’s hands,” leisure time, access to scientific education and large tracts of land were important contributors to how and which women gardened. While the cover painting by Childe Hassam vividly captures Celia Thaxter in her garden on Appledore Island it is the only color picture. All the photos of important women who contributed to the field of horticulture and the plants they have bred do add authenticity and breadth to the story, but they are monochrome.

The author, Judith M Taylor, now 91 years old, was a practicing board-certified neurologist trained at Oxford before she became a horticultural historian. Her interest in the early use of plants as the only form of “drugs” available prior to



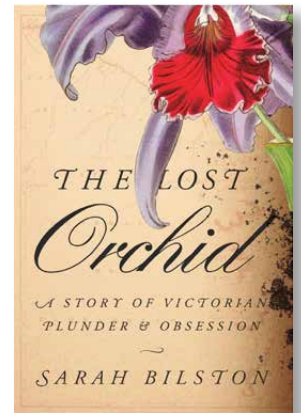
The Lost Orchid: A Story of Victorian Plunder and Obsession

By Sarah Bliston
Hardcover: 400 pages
Publisher: Harvard University Press
Reviewer: Zellene Sandler

Students of botanical history and lovers of orchids will enjoy this book, densely packed with facts and annotated fully. The story of the “lost orchid,” started a decades-long search for more. Named *Cattleya labiata*, the striking purple and crimson bloom became one of the most sought-after flowers in England and Europe. The story unfolds in 1881, when a root was found in a crate sent from Brazil to William Swainson, a nurseryman and plant dealer in England. The autumn-flowering orchid was raised in his greenhouses. Swainson never revealed where the orchid was found. Orchidmania was beginning to sweep the continents, driving efforts to find this and other orchid species.

Much of the book deals with the cut-throat rivalry between nurserymen who sent expeditions into the jungles of Brazil, the tropics, and elsewhere, trying to find the source of this orchid in its natural environment. Intrigue, spies, and fraudulent claims of finding the orchid abound. Besides the lost orchid, thousands of orchids of other species were loaded onto ships bound for England. Often these plants did not survive, but the hunger for more new and beautiful orchids continued.

Bliston describes the incredible hardships these expeditions suffered. Poorly paid leaders endured disease and misery. The demand grew so great that instead of harvesting orchids from their native environment, entire trees were cut down to obtain specimens. Brazil was ravaged in one of the most devastating environmental disasters to befall it. Warnings were finally published, but the damage had been done. Some orchid species never survived as every last one was shipped abroad. Still, nurserymen proclaimed they had found the lost orchid and sold roots for exorbitant sums. None of



these were the “pure” *Cattleya labiata*.

Finally, seventy-one years later, “pure” specimens of *Cattleya labiata* were found in the greenhouses of E. Moreau in France. Moreau revealed the location where they were found, setting off a frenzy of exploration. This was hailed as “the greatest event” of the year.

Interwoven with the story of the lost orchid, a wealth of interesting botanical history is explored. For example, it was believed that since God had created the original perfect plants in the Garden of Eden, no more species could be created. Charles Darwin, himself an orchid lover, showed that by natural selection, plants evolved their myriad forms. Darwin even authored a book called “On the Various Contrivances, by which British and Foreign Orchids are Fertilized by Insects”.

Today, we can purchase inexpensive orchids in supermarkets, drugstores and the local Home Depot. The pursuit of the finest species still exists, with many plants selling for large sums. But beware, experts still disagree on species types. I enjoyed this book and recommend it for its scholarly knowledge as well as its interesting plot and descriptions of the environmental ravages that occurred... a message for today’s plant hunters.



A special thank you to Karla Dalley, our Book Editor, for her commitment to finding us the most wonderful books to review. Her contribution to this ongoing popular annual review is invaluable.



Save the dates for this new trip!	May 4–8, 2026 Gardens of the Brandywine Valley with great public and private gardens and wonderful sights! <i>Details to come!</i>
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Connecticut Horticultural Society kicks off **Hort Hub**, a new hub for all horticulture-related events, talks and more

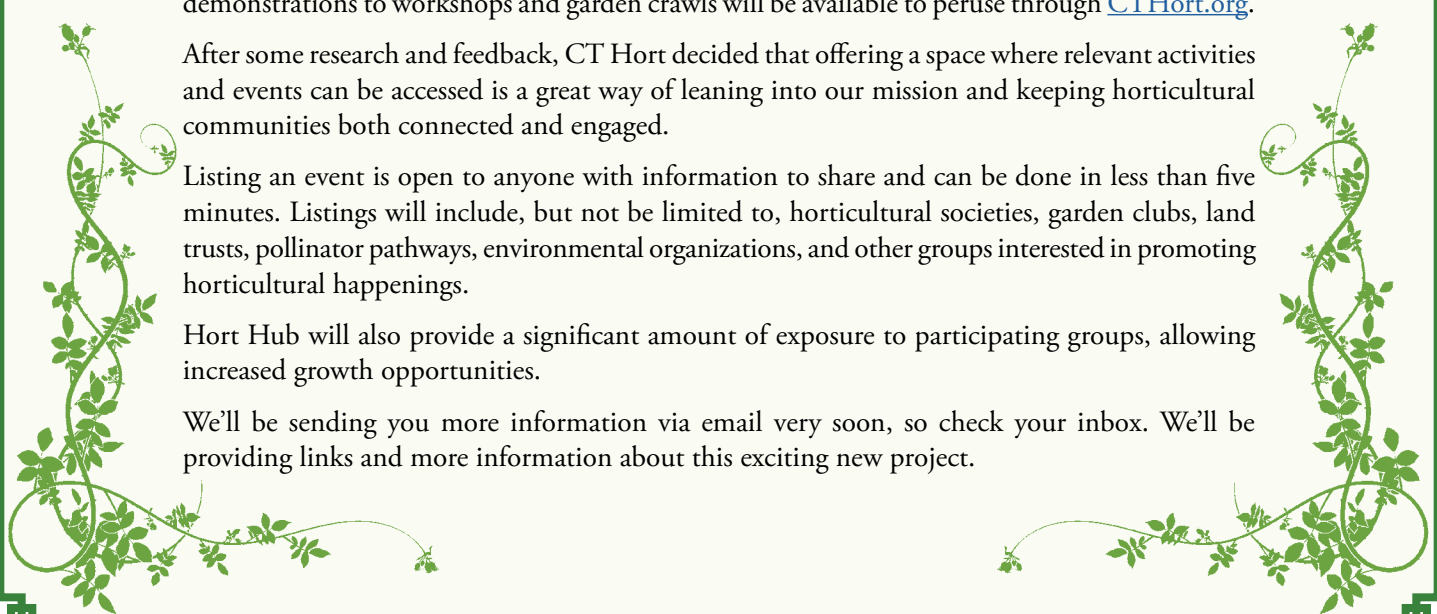
CT Hort is thrilled to introduce Hort Hub, a new space on its website that will list all the horticultural happenings in the state and beyond. Everything from presentations and demonstrations to workshops and garden crawls will be available to peruse through CTHort.org.

After some research and feedback, CT Hort decided that offering a space where relevant activities and events can be accessed is a great way of leaning into our mission and keeping horticultural communities both connected and engaged.

Listing an event is open to anyone with information to share and can be done in less than five minutes. Listings will include, but not be limited to, horticultural societies, garden clubs, land trusts, pollinator pathways, environmental organizations, and other groups interested in promoting horticultural happenings.

Hort Hub will also provide a significant amount of exposure to participating groups, allowing increased growth opportunities.

We’ll be sending you more information via email very soon, so check your inbox. We’ll be providing links and more information about this exciting new project.



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 January issue is December 15.

Sat., Nov. 8, 2025-June 13, 2026—CT NOFA's Permaculture Design Course, Flanders Nature Center and Land Trust, 5 Churchill Rd., Woodbury. This is a Permaculture Design Certification (PDC) course presented in collaboration with the Northwest Conservation District. This program is designed to immerse participants in information, ideas, and inspiration on how to design sustainable, regenerative systems. Taught by longtime Permaculturist and soil scientist Cynthia Rabinowitz of Northwest Conservation District. Each participant will complete a permaculture design project under the direction of the instructor. Cost: \$1450-\$1500. Register: ctnofa.org/happening/permaculture-design-course

Sat., Nov. 8, 10am-4pm—2025 SALT Conference: The Resilient Landscape: Gardening for Extreme Weather, Connecticut College Arboretum, 270 Mohegan Ave., New London. Explore the challenges that shifts in climate and the tendency for more extreme weather events pose to garden design, maintenance and plant health and learn strategies for creating garden spaces that are more resilient to our increasingly unpredictable weather. The conference includes morning coffee/continental breakfast, four speakers, lunch and a panel discussion. Registration fee is \$70 or a discounted rate of \$60 for members of the Connecticut College Arboretum and Wild Ones. Registration: www.conncoll.edu/salt.

Thurs., Nov. 13, 8:45am-3:15pm— 2025 UConn Native Plants and Pollinators Conference, UConn campus, Student Union Ballroom (Room 330), 2100 Hillside Road, Storrs. Expect a day of presentations featuring current science-based research and information on supporting pollinators in managed landscapes. Learn how native plants support pollinator health throughout the year. This program is designed for growers and other green industry professionals, landscape service providers, landscape architects and designers, town commissions, municipalities, and home gardeners. Registration: \$80; College/University Matriculated Students with valid school ID: \$25. Register: ipm.cahnrc.uconn.edu/nppc2025.



Sat., Nov. 15, 8am-4:15pm—2025 Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference of the Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions, Inc. (CACIWC), Courtyard by Marriott Cromwell, 4 Sebethe Drive, Cromwell. Enjoy a day of more than 12 educational workshops, informative displays, and special keynote presentations. Network with 250 other local wetland/conservation commission members, town staff, state and federal officials, land management consultants, academics, and environmental advocates. Cost: \$85-\$130. Register: caciwc.org/pages/annualMtg/2025

Thurs., Nov. 20, 9am-1pm— Luncheon and Boutique with the Danbury Garden Club, Amber Room Colonnade, 1 Stacey Rd., Danbury. The club's luncheon and boutique features designer Judy Grey, President of Rhode Island Federated Garden Club. She'll present "Designs to Celebrate." The event includes lunch, enjoy raffles, crafts, vendors, tasty treats, grandma's attic, jewelry and more. Cost: \$25-\$55. Event information: danburygardenclub.com.

Sat., Dec. 6, 1-4pm—A Victorian Holiday with the McCooks, Butler-McCook House, 396 Main St., Hartford. Experience the holidays as the McCook family would have celebrated them and hear stories from their rich memories, along with a display of special items from the museum's collection. America's Tapestry will also be stitching at the Butler-McCook House & Garden during this open tour day. Tickets: \$10 for CTL Members and \$15 for the public. Learn more: ctlandmarks.org/events.

Wed., Dec. 10, 1-3pm— Wallingford Garden Club presents the "Annual Holiday Tea, Design Pop-up Shop, Wreath Exhibit," Wallingford Public Library, 200 North Main St., Wallingford. Holiday wreaths and swags prepared by members will decorate the community room walls. There will be a variety of holiday items for sale at the Pop-Up Shop with holiday floral arrangements and some selected wreaths. Tea, coffee and punch with finger sandwiches and holiday pastries will be prepared by Wallingford Garden Club members to be served to the public. Free admission. Go to: www.wallingfordgardenclub.com.

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



Dated Material 🌿 *Please Rush*

CT Hort Calendar at a Glance

- Tuesday, Nov. 11** – Board of Directors
Remote Meeting, 7 pm
- Thurs., Nov. 20** – Speaker presentation:
*The Growth of Trees:
A Journey Through Time*
with Michael Wojtech,
7 pm, in person at
Elmwood Community
Center, 1106 New Britain
Avenue, West Hartford,
and on Zoom
- Monday, Dec. 15** – Deadline for the
January *Newsletter*

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

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Bulb Sale hits record sales at October meeting

It couldn't have been busier—or more fun—at the CT Hort October meeting at Elmwood Community Center in West Hartford. The annual bulb sale was a roaring success—bags of bulbs were almost all gone by the end of the night. Remaining bulbs will be available for sale at the November meeting. Special thanks to Cheryl Karpeichik and White Flower Farm for their generous donation of bulbs and time—we made \$2,324! And as you know, all proceeds go to fund CT Hort's scholarship and grant programs.

Nancy DuBrule-Clemente presented Judy King with the Mehlquist Award, and Jim Sirch presented Cheryl Marino with the Annual Service Award before Sarah Bailey began her talk, "Putting Your Garden to Bed: Rethinking the Ritual."



Cheryl Marino
and Jim Sirch



Nancy DuBrule-Clemente
and Judy King



Sarah Bailey