

# Connecticut Horticultural Society

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 53, Number 10

Serving Horticulturists Since 1887

Summer 2011

## A Nurseryman's Garden Gems

by Bruce McCue

It was a seemingly simple task: To describe six or so plants which I find unique and which might have special merit in a garden in Connecticut. Well, after an hour, I found the job impossible to do – my list was way too long. So here are about half of my plant picks, with the rest to follow in a subsequent newsletter.

**Astilbe Younique™ series.** These plants are of a vigorous, shorter strain than other varieties and have an exceptionally high bud count. For color and form, I am impressed with 'Carmine', 'Cerise' and 'Silvery Pink'. Another new cultivar, 'Delft Lace', is a later-blooming astilbe whose shiny purple foliage is retained all summer. It's a gem for any shade garden.

**Astrantia (masterwort).** This plant with its intricate flower offers an unusual, airy look. Once established, it flowers almost all summer in colors ranging from silvery white to dark purple-red. An added bonus: when cut, the blooms will last in a vase for up to three weeks. This shade plant has quickly become one of my favorites.

**Coryphantha sulcata and C. vivipara (barrel cacti).** These cacti are fully hardy to U.S.D.A. Hardiness Zone 4 and bloom over a long period. *Sulcata's* apricot-colored flowers have a rose-colored center, while the blooms of *vivipara* are hot pink. Both plants are unique for a rock garden. One down side is that they are difficult to weed near (ouch!).

**Dicentra Heart series (bleeding heart).** Growing 8 to 10 inches tall,

'Burning Hearts' is the best red-blooming bleeding heart to date, with anchors at the base of the hearts and each heart edged in white. All of this sitting atop lacy blue foliage really makes the whole package. Combine this cultivar with 'Ivory Hearts', a clean white ever-bloomer that also has lacy blue foliage. To complete the triangle, there is 'Gold Heart', the gold-leaved version of *D. spectabilis*. Even when the plant is not flowering, the gold foliage glows and shows off the blooms of 'Burning Hearts' and 'Ivory Hearts' for most of the summer if planted in a shady spot.

**Epimedium species (barrenwort).** There are unbelievable numbers of cultivars of this shade-loving plant, which I've been collecting since my teen years. Epimediums have small, intricate blooms in spring that resemble little roses. The *grandiflorum* types have spurred blooms that look like miniature columbine flowers. The plant's Asian-like foliage has a softening effect when combined with ferns and hostas. Epimediums are vigorous growers but are manageable because they stay in clumps.

**Euphorbia 'Bonfire' (spurge).** 'Bonfire' is a newer variety that grows 8 to 10 inches tall. In late spring, the plant is covered with large yellow bracts that look like the center of a poinsettia. The dark purple foliage lasts all summer and then turns almost scarlet in the fall. This sun plant is well worth its weight in gold. To complement 'Bonfire' there is 'First Blush', whose variegated pink-white-

green foliage in spring is topped with yellow bracts. The foliage holds its variegation all summer and becomes even more colorful if planted in a little shade.

*Bruce McCue is the owner of McCue Gardens in Wethersfield, which he founded 44 years ago (www.mccuegardens.com). He also lectures about plants.*

## Special Garden Event



Enjoy this lovely garden (page 3).

## Inside This Issue

CHS Garden Tour	Page 3
Scholarships & Awards	Pages 6-7
Book Reviews	Page 8
Traveling with CHS	Pages 10-11



**Connecticut  
Horticultural Society**  
2433 Main Street  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067  
(860) 529-8713

FAX: (860) 563-2217

E-MAIL: connhort@aol.com

WEBSITE: www.cthort.org

Office & Library Hours  
Tuesday & Thursday  
11 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Colleen Fitzpatrick Michelson  
CHS Director of Communications  
10 Bradley Road  
Simsbury, CT 06070  
Kalmia.editorial@gmail.com

SEND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION  
& DIRECT GENERAL QUESTIONS TO:  
Bonnie McLachlan,  
Office Administrator  
2433 Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

#### Membership Dues:

Individual.....	\$40
Individual Senior (65+) .....	\$35
Family.....	\$50
Senior Family (65+) .....	\$45
Sustaining .....	\$100
Business & Organization .....	\$60

Contributions are tax-exempt to the extent permitted under Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Service Code. Reproduction of the CHS Newsletter in whole or part without prior permission is prohibited.  
© Copyright 2011

## Speaking of Gardening... CHS Program Speakers for 2011-2012

In 2011-2012, the Connecticut Horticultural Society celebrates 125 years of informing gardeners, and the speaker line-up for this milestone year includes some favorite garden pros as well as experts who are new to a CHS audience. All are poised to tackle the wonders and challenges of gardening in Connecticut.

Meetings are usually held the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford. Members attend for free, as do full-time students with valid identification. Visitors pay \$10. An asterisk denotes a change from the usual third Thursday of the month to the fourth Thursday.

#### \*Sept. 22, 2011

Margaret Roach, former publishing executive (for Martha Stewart), author and lecturer, Copake Falls, N.Y.: *At Home in the 365-day Garden*

#### \*Oct. 27, 2011

Richard Jaynes, plant breeder and owner of Broken Arrow Nursery, Hamden, Conn.: *Changing Connecticut's State Flower?*

#### Nov. 17, 2011

Judith and Dick Tyler, plant hunters and co-owners of Pine Knot Farms, Clarksville, Vir.: *Made in the Shade: What's New in Shade Gardening*

#### Jan. 19, 2012

Thomas Rathier, soil scientist emeritus, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, Windsor, Conn.: *At Roots' End in the Urban Garden: Revelations of a Soil Scientist*

#### Feb. 16, 2012

Thomas Christopher, writer, lecturer, graduate of the New York Botanical Garden's school of professional horticulture, Middletown, Conn.: *Sustainable Lawns (To Lawn or Not to Lawn, That is the Question)*

#### March 15, 2012

Larry Weaner, owner of Larry Weaner Landscape Associates, Glenside, Penn., and Wilton, Conn.: *At Home with Natives*

#### \*April 26, 2012

Tim Jennings, senior gardener for water plants at Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Penn.: *'Take-home' Water-gardening Lessons from Longwood*

#### May 17, 2012

Nancy DuBrule-Clemente, owner of Natureworks, Northford, Conn.: *What's Bugging Your Garden? Sustainable Solutions for Today's Most Troublesome Pests*

#### June 21, 2012

Stephanie Cohen, horticulturalist, author and teacher, Collegeville, Penn.: *FALLscaping: Not Just an Afterthought*

**CHS President Steve Silk is in the garden, weeding.  
His letter will resume in September.**

#### Directions to the Connecticut Horticultural Society Office & Library

**From the south:** take I-91 North to Exit 23 West Street, Rocky Hill. Take a right at the end of the exit. At the fourth traffic light, take a left onto Route 99 (Main Street). The office is located at 2433 Main Street in the Prestige Office building, a short distance on your left.

**From the north:** take I-91 South, take Exit 23. At the end of the ramp, go left onto West Street. Follow the previous directions.

**From I-84:** take Route 9 to Exit 20 and I-91 North. Follow the directions above.



Join CHS for  
**Tapas at Twilight in the Garden**  
 Friday, Aug. 5, 2011, 5-8 p.m. (rain date Aug. 6)  
 Stonington garden of Arijia Retsema

Savor the beauty of summer by enjoying tapas and a twilight stroll through the 9-acre Retsema garden with CHS members and friends. The uphill drive to the house and gardens is a gallery of rock outcroppings and boulders amid dense woods. The Retsemas added to the landscape's natural beauty by rebuilding the ancient walls that now surround more than a dozen garden "rooms." Interwoven sun and shade gardens are lush with hydrangeas and hostas, grasses and boxwood hedges, and an allee of roses and nepeta 'Walker's Low'.

Tickets to this event cost \$25 for CHS members, \$30 for guests. Attendance is limited, and reservations are required. To reserve space, please send payment (cash or check only) to the CHS office by Tuesday, July 26. Directions will be provided upon registering. Proceeds from the event will support the mission of the Connecticut Horticultural Society, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. 🍷



## The 2011 CHS Garden Tour

The 2nd annual Connecticut Horticultural Society Garden Tour continues with two West Hartford gardens that maximize the use of small spaces, a lakeside garden in East Otis, Mass., designed according to feng shui principles, an evening garden-viewing in Meriden, and other gardens. Admission costs \$5 per person per garden (free for children 12 and under). Buy tickets in advance through the CHS office or on the day of the tour at the gardens (cash or check only). No pets please. Open gardens are held rain or shine.

**Sunday, July 24,  
 West Hartford, 1-4 p.m.**

☼ **Garden of Elizabeth Fitzpatrick  
 23 Greensview Dr.**

This small garden and its carefully placed plants got its start in deep shade following the removal of masses of pachysandra and pine bark mulch 20 years ago. The garden's color comes largely from foliage, its beauty from the combination of the various textures, shapes and hues in the planting vignettes. Elizabeth gives so much attention to plant combinations that her husband once teased that the plants, fearful of being moved, shudder each time she steps outside. Epimedium, hosta, astilbe, kirengeshoma, Solomon's seal and ferns, along with small trees and shrubs such as Japanese stewartia, nine-bark and *Cornus alternifolia* make up the plant palette. A few sun-tolerant plants found their way into the garden after

a maple tree died. Color is enhanced through the use of potted containers and pottery.

**Directions:** From I-84, take Exit 40 toward CT 71/New Britain Ave./Corbins Corner. Turn right onto Ridgewood. Go about 0.7 mile and turn right onto Sandhurst Drive. Turn right onto Greensview Drive. No. 23 is down the little hill on the right, a green house.

☼ **Garden of Paula Mooney  
 219 North Quaker Lane**

The Mooney garden is a secret oasis off a busy suburban street. Perennials have been Paula's passion since the late 1970s, when she moved into her home and started hacking at the forest in the back yard. The lush perennial borders that surround the house are continually in bloom from early spring to late fall. A believer in organic gardening, she has only used compost and other natural

materials to amend the soil. The yard is equally sunny and shady throughout the day, so the borders are a unique mix of shade and sun-loving plants, coexisting in perfect symmetry.

**Directions:** Take I-84 to Exit 43 toward Park Road/West Hartford Center. Merge onto Trout Brook Connector. Turn right onto Park Road. Take the third left onto Quaker Lane. No. 219 will be on the left.

**Saturday, July 30, East Otis,  
 Mass., 11 a.m.-4 p.m.**

☼ **Garden of Anita Brucker  
 30 Gate Island**

My garden is truly a cottage garden on a lake with perennials, tomatoes and self-seeders, and I'm introducing more shrubs for structure and longevity. This is a garden based on the principles of feng shui. The lake provides abundant  
 (continued on page 4)

## Garden Tours, from page 3



Brucker garden, July 30

chi energy for nourishment, which is enticed onto the land by wave-like garden beds. In another area, excessive fire energy is absorbed by boulders. The yearly malevolent energies are deflected with a wind chime in the east. The entertaining deck overlooks the garden and lake. Native high-bush blueberries and serviceberry feed the birds who are considered by the Chinese to be messengers from the heavens. This is also a certified wildlife habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. The entire effort -- plant selection, garden design, dirt digging and maintenance -- is my own passion. Since it is a cottage, all of my gardening must be done on weekends and during vacations.

**Directions from Hartford:** From Winsted, take Route 8 north. Pass by Colebrook Dam to New Boston General store over the river, then stay to the right on MA-8. Proceed to the center of Otis, Mass. Turn right at the blinking light onto MA-23, East Otis Road. Turn left onto West Shore Road (you'll see the lake), and take the second left onto Tolland Road (following white signs for Lakeside Estates B & B). Take the first left onto Kibbe Road. You'll see Tolland State Forest Headquarters on right. Take the first right onto South Gate Island. No. 30 is a gray house. Park in interior island spaces. Lost? Anita's cell phone at lake: 860-881-0348.

### Saturday, Aug. 6 Meriden, 3-7 p.m.

#### ☼ Garden of George Trecina 341 Spring St.

This series of gardens on one-third of an acre is a must-see for the most jaded horticulturalist. It features more than 300 container plantings, many tropical plants and a recent emphasis on vines and fastigate trees and shrubs.

**Directions from I-91 north:** take Exit 18/I-691 west to Exit 6/Lewis Avenue. Turn right onto Lewis Avenue (which becomes Linsley Avenue) and go to end. Turn right onto Hanover Street to first traffic light. Turn left onto Columbus Avenue to second stop sign. Turn left onto Prospect Avenue and take second right onto Spring Street. No. 341 is the fourth house on the right. Please park along Spring Street. Persons with walking problems may drive up driveway. **From I-91 south:** take Exit 15/Route 68. Turn left onto Route 68 and go about 2.75 miles. Turn right onto Route 150/Main Street. Turn left onto Route 71/Old Colony Road for about 2.25 miles to third traffic light. Turn onto Flower Street and go to end. Turn left onto New Hanover Avenue and then first right onto Prospect Avenue. Take first left onto Spring Street. **From I-84:** take Exit 27/I-691 east to Exit 5/Route 71/Chamberlain Highway. Turn right onto Route 71 and go to end. Turn left onto West Main Street and go to first light. Turn right onto Bradley Avenue and go to stop sign. Turn left onto Winthrop Terrace and go to first light. Go through intersection

up Columbus Avenue to second stop sign. Turn left onto Prospect Avenue and then second right onto Spring Street.

### Sunday, Aug. 21 Bethel, Redding

#### ☼ Garden of Colleen Plimpton 16 Starr Lane, Bethel

Nineteen years have brought many changes to my garden, which is also a classroom and living research laboratory for my writings. The acre under cultivation is composed mainly of ornamentals, and the space is divided into several named areas. The front yard features favorites such as heuchera, hydrangea, rhododendron, azalea and hosta, and a smattering of grasses, annuals and ferns. The backyard is given over to plantings, and the steep slope is anchored by a gazebo at the woods' edge. Grass paths meander from north to south, allowing the visitor to view the summer colors of daylily, Joe Pye weed, Knock Out™ roses, oakleaf hydrangea and cimicifuga. Benches are situated at various junctures and birds visit readily.

**Directions:** From I-84, take exit 9. Turn south off exit onto Rte 25. Go 1/4 mile to the light, turn right onto Rte 6. Go 1.4 miles, turn left at light onto Old Hawleyville Rd. Go 2.4 miles, turn right onto Dodgingtown Rd, Rte 302. Go 1.3 miles, turn left onto Putnam Park Rd, Rte 58. Go 1.3 miles, turn right onto Starr Lane. Take immediate left to stay  
(continued on page 5)



Plimpton garden, Aug. 21

## Garden Tours, from page 4

on Starr Lane and go .3 mile up the hill. No. 16 is on the left, a blue house.

❁ **Garden of Cathy Streit**  
**Rose Hill Farm**

**54 Cross Highway, Redding**

This country estate garden of more than 6 acres has elements of classic English design, including a formal parterre, herbaceous perennial border, sculptures, spiraled boxwoods and sweeping pastoral views. The garden style is best described as “relaxed formality.” A pasture greets you and a large “river” of grass is left uncut so birds and other wildlife can feast on insects and grasses. Near the driveway is a newly planted, steep, hillside garden with different soil types. Sedums, junipers, dianthus and yarrow colonize a rocky, well-drained slope. Rocks dug from the hill were used to create a creek bed, which has a naturalized drainage area. At the rear, flowering shrubs and plants create a profusion of color. The tour begins with Rose Cottage, which is surrounded by cottage flowers and boxwood hedge. Be sure to peek inside. The nearby organic vegetable garden is adorned with birdhouse gourds. The herbaceous perennial border is in its third year. A graveled path past spiraled boxwood and through an arch of linden trees leads to a harmonious view of the parterre. The pergola has been planted with wisteria and edged with a long row of roses. The gazebo is near the naturalized shade garden and its layers of hostas, ferns, azaleas and rhododendrons. Bronze sculptures of children are tucked among the trees. Relax near the fish pond and enjoy the sights and sounds of nature. On the far side of the creek is the start of a children’s garden, and there is a view of a 6-foot stone dam believed to be several hundred years old. Climbing the stone steps leads to the terrace, pool, cabana and kitchen garden. A stone stairwell reminiscent of an Italian grotto leads away from the terrace.

**Directions from Colleen Plimpton’s Bethel garden to Streit garden in Redding:** Retrace steps down Starr Lane to Rte. 58. Turn right onto Rte. 58/Putnam Park Rd, go 4 miles. At stop sign turn right



## FROM THE FIELD

*We love hearing about what our talented members are up to. Please share recent or upcoming gardening-related activities or accolades by e-mailing a note to Colleen Fitzpatrick Michelson at [kalmia.editorial@gmail.com](mailto:kalmia.editorial@gmail.com).*

**Colleen Plimpton** of Bethel joins CHS June program speaker Kirk Brown on a speakers’ panel at the annual symposium of the Garden Writers Association in Indianapolis in August. Panel members will discuss the business of garden lecturing. On Sept. 15, Colleen, back in the Nutmeg State, speaks to the Ridgefield Library about putting the garden to bed in fall.

❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁

The Garden Conservancy’s Open Days program continues this summer, with the Glastonbury garden of **Lynn Murray** open for viewing Sept. 11, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. The Murray gardens at 576 Thompson St. were also open on June 25. For a garden description and list of other open Connecticut gardens, visit [www.gardenconconservancy.org](http://www.gardenconconservancy.org).

❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁

On June 3, **Cathy Testa** of Broad Brook was on Channel 3, WFSB’s “Better Connecticut” program to talk with host Kara Sundlun about a garden and art event held in Cathy’s neighborhood. The owner of Cathy T’s Container Garden Parties, she also displayed some of her container plantings, including *Echeveria* ‘Black Prince’ potted in a coconut bowl.

onto Cross Highway and go 1.4 miles. No. 54 Cross Highway is on left. Enter driveway, park in designated area on left before reaching house.

**The 2011 CHS Garden Tour continues...**

- Saturday, Sept. 10, Farmington garden of **Steve Silk & Kate Emery**
- Sunday, Sept. 18, Norfolk garden of **Mary Ann McGourty**
- Sunday, Oct. 9, East Haddam garden of **Lee May**

Visit [www.cthort.org](http://www.cthort.org) for schedule updates.



*Karen and Larry Bouley, Colchester*

*Thomas Christopher, Middletown*

*Beth Critton, West Hartford*

*Doreen Farina, West Hartford*

*Nancy Hall, Wallingford*

*Joene Hendry, East Haddam*

*Cathy Peck, Ellington*

*Sibbie Segal, Glastonbury*

**Memberships: 881**

## CHS Scholarships: And Then There Were Four

CHS has added a fourth scholarship – at a community college – to its longstanding scholarship program for students pursuing degrees in a horticulture-related field. Starting with the 2011-12 school year, CHS is awarding a scholarship to a horticulture student at Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC) in addition to scholarships provided to three students at the University of Connecticut.

NVCC is the only college in the state's community college system to offer a horticulture program. The goal is to prepare students for immediate employment in nurseries and garden centers, greenhouses, parks and estates, golf courses and other venues and endeavors related to horticulture.

NVCC students may pursue an associate of science degree in horticulture or a certificate in horticulture or landscape design. They also may transfer with relative ease to UConn to pursue a bachelor's degree in the plant sciences.

CHS has awarded a total of \$10,000 to the following students.

### Naugatuck Valley Community College for 2011-12

- Christine Smith of Southport, \$1,000. The scholarship recognizes outstanding achievement in horticulture by a

student who has shown a pattern of academic excellence and outreach in horticulture.

### University of Connecticut for 2010-11

- Elizabeth Scovill of Higganum, recipient of the David J.A. Smith Scholarship, \$3,000. A horticulture major, she has helped raise money for victims of Hurricane Katrina, been a Husky Ambassador and student mentor, served as vice president to the Human Relations Club and played on the intramural basketball team. Since 2003, she has worked for Scovill's Garden Center in Cromwell. She plans to enter the family's garden center and landscape business after she graduates.
- Erica Pagliughi of Glastonbury, recipient of the Edwin D. 'Pat' Carpenter Memorial Scholarship, \$3,000. A horticulture major, she is a member of several national honor societies and is on the dean's list at UConn. She is a member of the American Society of Landscape



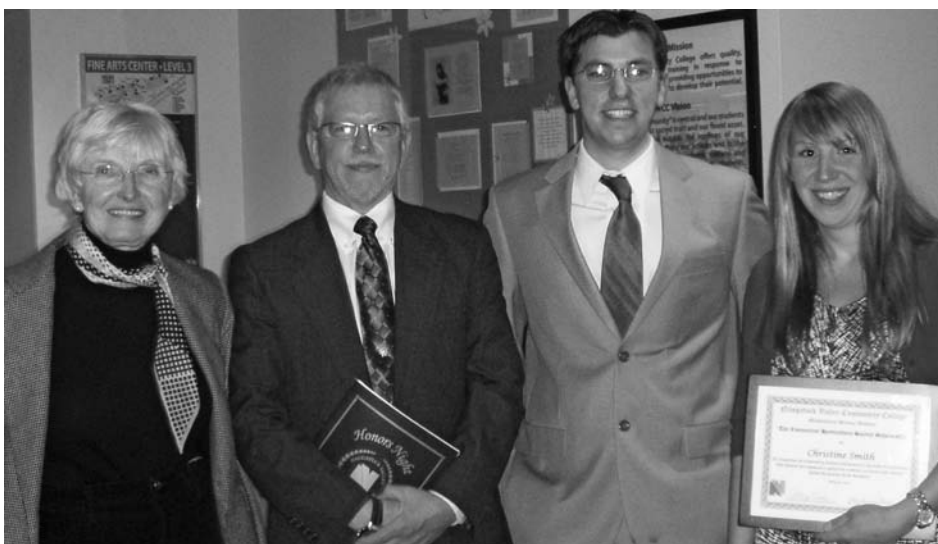
*UConn scholarship recipients (rear, from left) Elizabeth Scovill, Erica Pagliughi and Mary Grace Haggett, shown with CHS Awards Chairman Ginny Gingras*

Architects Student Chapter. She has performed community service at Day Lily Farms, Mount Holyoke College, Westfield Riding Club, UConn's Cornucopia Fest and St. Dunstan Roman Catholic Church. She has worked at Imperial Nurseries in Granby and B&B Landscaping in Glastonbury.

- Mary Grace Haggett of Ledyard, recipient of the Lud Hoffman Memorial Scholarship, \$3,000. A horticulture major, she has volunteered with the Animal Rescue Fund, the adopt-a-cemetery program in Ledyard, Ledyard High School's agricultural program, and Pfizer. She hopes to work in the floral design field and eventually open and manage a flower shop.

Funding for the scholarships comes mainly from money raised at the CHS spring and fall plant auctions. CHS is grateful to members, friends and nursery owners who donate plants and to the folks who buy them. 🐦

— Ginny Gingras, awards chairman



*With NVCC scholarship recipient Christine Smith are, from left, CHS Awards Chairman Ginny Gingras and NCVV instructors Robert Herman and Christopher Tuccio.*

## 2011 CHS Service Award – Times Two

by Ginny Gingras

In recognition of their varied and sustained contributions to the Connecticut Horticultural Society over the years, **Joanne Luppi** and **Fran Schoell** each received the 2011 Connecticut Horticultural Society Service Award at the June program meeting. The award recognizes CHS members for their devotion and meritorious service to the society.

Fran and Joanne have generously shared their time and energy in the operation of the society. Fran has worked on the CHS Education Committee since 2002 and has been committee co-chairman since 2006. She has also co-chaired the symposium and plant auction and coordinated the hosts and hostesses at the CHS flower show exhibit for many

years. For the last six years, she has run the holiday potluck dinner in December and the ice-cream social in June. She served on the CHS Board of Directors for seven years. Fran is known among her friends as the “great volunteer,” according to Joanne.

Joanne has been a CHS member since 1991. She served on the board from 2001 to 2008, and was board secretary from 2004-2008. She has worked on the plant auction, holiday potluck dinner and ice-cream social, and has served as chairman and co-chairman of the education committee and symposium.

Joanne and Fran have been active in their shared hometown of Portland and in various community organizations, including, of course, the garden clubs. Both



Joanne Luppi (left) and Fran Schoell

women are members of the town’s clean energy task force. Joanne was town chairman of the Girl Scouts for 15 years, while Fran has been a member of Portland’s drug- and alcohol-prevention council and the town’s emergency team. 🗑️

## Nancy DuBrule-Clemente Receives the Mehlquist Award

by Ginny Gingras

CHS has presented longtime member **Nancy DuBrule-Clemente** with the 2011 Gustav A.L. Mehlquist Award. The award honors prominent Connecticut plantspeople who have advanced the art of gardening or made an extraordinary contribution to horticulture.

Nancy, who received the award at the May program meeting, was recognized for her outstanding efforts to educate people about plants, gardening and organic practices.

Her ties to CHS date to 1974, when, as a student at the University of Connecticut, she received a \$300 CHS scholarship. After graduating from UConn’s Ratcliffe Hicks School with a degree in floriculture in 1976, she held a variety of gardening and landscaping positions. In 1983, she opened Natureworks, a specialty organic garden center and garden design business. It was housed in an abandoned gas station and moved to its current location in Northford in 1990.



She employs more than 25 people during the growing season. Her business was named a “revolutionary garden center” this year by Today’s Garden Center magazine, mainly because it has been practicing and teaching organic gardening for 28 years.

To that end, Nancy conducts garden walks and educational workshops,

makes radio and TV appearances, gives lectures, teaches classes and writes articles. She is a past president of the Connecticut chapter of the Northeast Organic Farming Association.

Through her website [www.naturework.com](http://www.naturework.com), weekly e-mail letter and the Natureworks catalog, she shares valuable information and timely garden talk. She has written and self-published “Succession of Bloom in the Perennial Garden” (2004) and coauthored with Marny Smith “A Country Garden for Your Backyard” (Rodale Press, 1992).

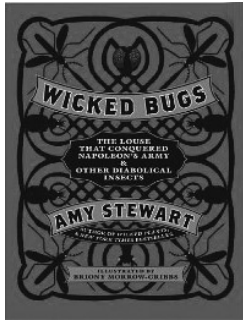
Nancy has also contributed to CHS in many ways. She was an auctioneer at spring and fall plant auctions, designed and created flower show exhibits for CHS, served as a judge for the CHS award given at the flower show, and written for CHS Newsletter. In 2005, she received the CHS Service Award.

Nancy is an inspiration to and exceptional role model for gardeners everywhere.

## Summertime, and the Reading is (Mostly) Easy

by Karla Dalley

For some light-hearted summer reading, we offer a review of “Wicked Bugs” by the always-entertaining Amy Stewart. Another book may help you make the most of this year’s edible garden bounty and give you ideas for next year’s. Finally, we review “The New American Garden” by **Thomas Christopher**. It’s not exactly a light read but it will get you thinking about gardening in new ways, and its lessons are worth considering, whether you’re at the beach or lake or swaying in a hammock.



### “Wicked Bugs: The Louse That Conquered Napoleon’s Army and Other Diabolical Insects”

Amy Stewart

Algonquin Books, May 2011  
Hardbound, 288 pages, \$18.95

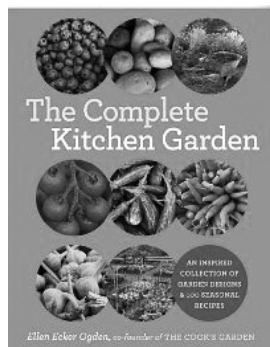
Following the success of “Wicked Plants,” Amy Stewart takes her readers to an even scarier place with “Wicked Bugs.” The former book was creepy; this one is creepy and then some.

I’m not particularly squeamish, nor am I afraid of insects; I’m the one who usually carries them outside instead of squashing them. But giant stinging centipedes whose bites rate a 10 out of 10 on a pain scale, and which hang by their hind legs to catch bats and devour them? Yuck. I need a break after reading that.

Thankfully, Stewart also describes in her trademark humorous prose more mundane insects like the mountain pine beetle that is deforesting areas of the American West and British Columbia, and mosquitoes, and some bugs she calls the “gardeners dirty dozen.” These include the usual suspects like slugs, earwigs and Japanese beetles.

The book has some truly terrifying accounts, but they mostly describe what humans have tried to do to other humans with insects. Or, they describe insects in areas remote enough that Connecticut residents need not worry.

With the dog-day cicadas sounding from the trees, you may be tempted to curl up in the hammock as you read. But don’t drift off, lest your dreams become haunted by thoughts of some of these creepy crawlies.



### “The Complete Kitchen Garden”

Ellen Ecker Ogden

Stewart, Tabori & Chang, March 2011  
Paperback, 240 pages, \$24.95

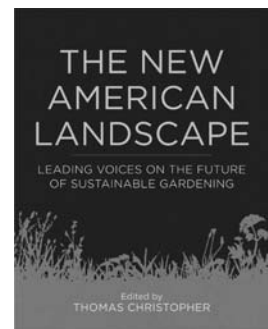
The danger of having “complete” in a title is that the book will fail to live up to expectations. Happily, this is not so with “The Complete Kitchen Garden.” Author Ellen Ecker Ogden, co-founder of The Cook’s Garden seed catalog, is comprehensive in her instruction on how to start a garden (covering, of course, composting and soil basics) and select seeds and tools.

Ogden presents 14 garden designs and describes the gardener for whom each design might be ideal. The organic rotation garden might appeal to beginning gardeners and those who appreciate order, for example, while the heirloom maze could be ideal for gardeners who have a love of greenery and history.

The author integrates recipes with her garden designs and advice. This is a particular strength of the book. Lettuces

are prolific in my garden this year, and I’m grateful to find recipes for vinaigrettes and wilted chard along with the design and discussion of a salad lover’s garden. For serious cooks who prefer to find recipes in a conventional way, the recipe index comes in handy.

A resources section and a brief section on preserving the bounty round out the book and help to make it one of the best “grow it, then cook it” books available. That it is well-written, well-photographed and beautifully illustrated makes it even more of a joy to read.



### “The New American Landscape: Leading Voices on the Future of Sustainable Gardening”

Thomas Christopher, editor

Timber Press, April 2011  
Hardbound, 256 pages, \$34.95

To quote Kermit the Frog, “It’s not easy being green.” I fear that some gardeners will throw up their hands in despair when they see statistics like those cited in the forward of this book about the vast amount of water used and pollution caused in maintaining the average yard.

Yet that is why Tom Christopher, who in September becomes a member of the CHS Board of Directors, edited this book—to give gardeners of all levels

(continued on page 9)

## Book Reviews, from page 8

a map for how to garden in ways that enrich or at least maintain the health of the environment instead of degrade it. Christopher creates this map by asking many of the foremost thinkers on sustainable gardening for their ideas on the future of the sustainable landscape. The book is a collection of their essays.

The sustainability movement seems a bit more forgiving than the true “green” movement. Landscape designer and author Rick Darke takes the sustainable approach in his essay calling for balancing native plants and “exotics” in the garden.

Other writers discuss managing a property as part of sustainable sites initiative (SITES), a landscaping designation along the lines of LEED certification for the use of sustainable building practices; managing water on a property, a chapter which Christopher wrote; the role of the edible garden in sustainable landscaping; gardening in a changing climate; creating green roofs; creating landscapes to welcome wildlife; managing soil health and the soil food web; and tying the elements together through whole-system garden design.

Sustainability is not about throwing out landscapes as we currently know them. To gardeners whose aesthetic includes having some lawn, the sustainable gardening folks say, fine, just try to use a species of grass that doesn't require a lot of supplemental irrigation, or perhaps use a rain barrel to feed your irrigation system. If you must mow, consider alternatives to the gas mower.

This is an important book about the future of gardening and the planet. Many of us have observed ecological changes since we started gardening. According to a Native American saying, we only borrow the planet from our grandchildren. If that's true, then we need to heed the lessons of this book and others like it to ensure that our grandchildren inherit the same wonderful place to garden that we have known. 🌱

*Karla Dalley of Farmington is the CHS book reviewer.*



## Learn With CHS

*It's still summer but eventually thoughts will turn to indoor gardening and protecting plants through the winter. The CHS Education Committee has you covered through September with two great programs. A registration form and directions to all programs can be found at [www.cthort.org](http://www.cthort.org).*

### Over-wintering Tropical and Tender Perennials

*Tuesday, Sept. 20, 7 p.m.*

*Location: CHS office, 2433 Main St., Rocky Hill*

No greenhouse? No problem. Learn from CHS President **Steve Silk** of Farmington how to protect and store tropical plants through the winter, without a greenhouse. In this slide-show presentation, Steve will help you identify which methods are best for which plants: overwintering as houseplants, or storing as cuttings and seeds, or as a dormant plant, corm or bulb, or as an outdoor, in-ground plant, with protection. Learn how, by over-wintering your plants, you can save money in your gardening budget and get a jump in spring on the growing season. Cost: \$5 for CHS members, \$10 for nonmembers. Limit: 20 participants

### Bonsai Care

*Saturday, Sept. 24, 10 a.m.-noon*

*Location: CHS office, 2433 Main St., Rocky Hill*

This is a hands-on workshop for people who have a bonsai and want to know how to care for it. You will learn how to prune and shape your plant, under the expert guidance of CHS member **Jeanine Loughlin**. Bring your bonsai plant, your horticultural scissors or small pruners and any and all questions about caring for your bonsai. Cost: \$5 for CHS members, \$10 for nonmembers. Limit: 6 participants



## 2011 Fall Plant Auction



**Date:** Friday, Sept. 23, 2011

**Times:** 6 PM—Doors open for donations and set-up

7 PM—Plant sale begins

7:15 PM—Auction begins

**Location:** Tolland County Agricultural Center

24 Hyde Ave., Vernon, CT

**Admission:** Free

As you assess your garden this summer, please make a note to DIG, DIVIDE and DONATE to this important fundraiser in fall.



## Washington, D.C.

\* Hillwood Gardens \* Potomac River Cruise \* City Tour  
Saturday, Sept. 17-Monday, Sept. 19, 2011

**Day 1:** Join CHS for three days in late summer as we travel to our nation's capital. En route, we visit the Newark Art Museum with a tour of the Ballantine Mansion. This national historic landmark fills a wing of the museum, and the mansion's 27 or so rooms are furnished in great opulence and beautifully displayed.

We spend two nights in Washington, D.C., at the DoubleTree Washington Hotel, ideally situated in the heart of the city and within walking distance of many sights. We enjoy a welcome dinner at our hotel.

**Day 2:** Free time for exploring The Smithsonian Institution at your leisure and lunching on your own. This after-

noon we visit Hillwood, the estate of Marjorie Merriweather Post. There are more than 12 acres of formal gardens, each designed to flow from the house. Highlights include Japanese, French parterre and English rose gardens and a greenhouse filled with 2,000 orchids.

Our estate tour includes viewing Russian imperial art, including two authentic Faberge eggs. A special "Wedding Belles" exhibit features 16 dresses worn to weddings by the Post family, a jewel-encrusted Cartier bag and a veil on loan from the Smithsonian.

We dine together and cruise the Potomac River, enjoying the pace and beauty of the river and its unique views of Washington.

**Day 3:** We embark on a guided tour to see the city's famous memorials. Highlights include the memorials commemorating the Vietnam, Korean and second world wars and FDR, with a stop to see the new Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial.

Then we're homeward bound with fond memories of our visit to Washington, D.C.

**Cost:** \$559 per twin CHS member based on 30-45 passengers; \$689 per single member; nonmembers add \$40.

**Includes:** deluxe motorcoach, two nights hotel, two dinners, sightseeing, driver gratuity, \$35 per person donation to CHS. Escorted by Lois Isaacson. **Full payment due with reservation.**



## Autumn in the Berkshires

\* Naumkeag Mansion & Gardens \* Norman Rockwell Museum  
Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2011

**O**ur fall day trip to the Berkshires begins with a docent-guided tour of Naumkeag mansion and gardens in Stockbridge, Mass., and includes a visit to the nearby Norman Rockwell Museum.

Naumkeag, a gorgeous 44-room mansion, was designed by American architect Stanford White for Joseph Hodges Choate in 1885. Choate's wife Mabel was an avid gardener and student of garden design. She and landscape

architect Fletcher Steele created seven formal gardens, including a Chinese temple with a circular moon gate, an afternoon garden and the famous blue steps. Horticulturalist Anne Gannon accompanies us in the garden.

Lunch is at the Cork 'N Hearth restaurant in Lee with views of Laurel Lake. **Menu:** baked scrod, grilled steak or chicken parmesan; salad; rolls; potatoes; veggies; dessert.

We enjoy a nostalgic trip back to the

"good old days" as we view paintings by America's most famous illustrator. Norman Rockwell's studio displays his original easel, palette, paints and brushes. We end our autumn outing with free time to browse the shops of Stockbridge.

**Departs:** 7:30 a.m., Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford; 7:45 a.m. Hartford Plaza Hotel (formerly Sheraton), East Hartford. **Returns:** 6:30 p.m. East Hartford.

**Cost:** \$83 per member, \$85 per nonmember, based on 40-52 travelers.

**Attention CHS travelers: The departure location for the West Hartford pick-up for July and August is Beth El Temple, 2626 Albany Ave., West Hartford (next to Moscarillo's Garden Shoppe).**

For complete information on any CHS trip, including meal choice, contact CHS Travel Chairman Lois Isaacson at Friendship Tours, (860) 243-1630 or (860) 236-1143. There are no refunds on the day trips, so please provide a substitute. Make checks payable to CHS, but mail them to: Friendship Tours, 533 Cottage Grove Road, Bloomfield, CT 06002. Friendship Tours arranges the components of the tours and does not own or operate the independent suppliers of services including motorcoaches. Trips cancelled because of weather conditions are handled on a per-trip basis. Friendship Tours will negotiate with all suppliers of the trip components to secure the best refund. However, it is possible that there would be no refund depending on timing of the cancellation and nature of the components. Friendship Tours reserves the right to adjust cost based on fuel surcharges. Tickets to theaters/events are nonrefundable. Trip Protection Insurance through the National Tour Association Protection Plan is strongly recommended for overnight trips and is handled by the individual passenger. As per the application, preexisting conditions and default are covered only if the application is received by the NTA Protection Plan, postmarked within 14 days of initial deposit. Please review the NTA Protection Plan brochure carefully for details of coverage and call them at (800) 388-1470 if you have any questions.



## White Mountain Christmas

\* Mountain View Grand Resort & Spa \* Currier Museum of Art  
 \* Annual Holiday Dinner \* Sunday Brunch  
 Saturday, Dec. 3 – Sunday, Dec. 4, 2011

**Day 1:** Depart for our annual CHS holiday weekend to the charming village of Whitefield, N.H. We stop for lunch before arriving at the Mountain View Grand Resort & Spa, New Hampshire's most historic resort.

We enjoy a tour of this 1865 resort that has been a retreat for celebrities, presidents and dignitaries, and whose scenery and architecture are stunning. Spend the afternoon enjoying all the resort has to offer: indoor pool, carriage rides, full spa and more.

Savor a holiday dinner at the hotel.

**Menu:** minestrone soup; entrée choice of prime rib, grilled swordfish with garlic herb butter or stuffed chicken with apple brie and cranberry; and a dessert of fresh berry trifle.

**Day 2:** We visit Littleton, home to author Eleanor H. Porter, best known as the creator of the world's most optimistic character, Pollyanna. Take time to view the welcoming statue in the historic downtown, visit the shops on Main Street, including Chutters, which bills itself as the world's largest candy counter.

We head to Manchester for our docent-led tour of the Currier Museum of Art, which features European and American paintings, decorative arts, photographs and sculpture, including works by Wyeth, Picasso and Monet.

The Yard Restaurant hosts our holiday buffet brunch. Sample menu: eggs Benedict, French toast, pancakes, fresh fruit, scrambled eggs; roast sirloin and



turkey, baked Virginia ham, filet of sole, lasagna; assorted breads; beverages; and a lavish display of desserts.

Enjoy our traditional CHS holiday party on our way home as we celebrate a wonderful White Mountain Christmas.

**Cost:** \$339 per twin CHS member based on 40-50 passengers; \$409 per single member; nonmembers add \$40.

**Includes:** deluxe motorcoach, one night hotel, one dinner, one brunch, sightseeing, driver gratuity, \$25 per person donation to CHS, holiday gift. Escorted by Lois Isaacson.

**Deposit:** \$100 with reservation by Sept. 15; final payment due by Oct. 19.

## Horticultural Happenings & Announcements

*Note: Happenings are listed on a space-available basis. Please remember when submitting material to include relevant information, a contact person's name and phone number. Please send e-mails to [kalmia.editorial@gmail.com](mailto:kalmia.editorial@gmail.com). Deadline for the September issue is Aug. 9*

### Help Hill-Stead

Share gardening tips with other Garden Gang volunteers as you help maintain the Sunken Garden at Hill-Stead Museum in Farmington on Wednesdays, July 27 and Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 9 a.m.-noon. To participate, contact Becky Trutter, 860-677-4787, ext. 132, or [trutterb@hillstead.org](mailto:trutterb@hillstead.org).

### CAES Plant Science Day

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station hosts its 101st plant science day Wednesday, Aug. 3, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., at the CAES research facility at Lockwood Farm, Hamden. The free event is intended to give people a chance to discuss current research topics with scientists, explore the farm and hear talks. Keynote speaker is Greg Schaan, CEO of Imperial Nurseries in Granby. Topics

of other talks: the brown marmorated stink bug, new crops program, transmission of West Nile and Eastern equine encephalitis viruses by mosquitoes. Visit [www.ct.gov/caes](http://www.ct.gov/caes).

### Roseland Cottage Landscape Tour

A walking tour of the landscape at Roseland Cottage in Woodstock will be held Saturday, Aug. 6, 10-11 a.m. Learn how the surroundings reflect the principles of fine 19th-century landscape design. Admission is free to Garden & Landscape members, \$5 for Historic New England members, \$8 for nonmembers. Registration is required. Visit [www.historic-newengland.org](http://www.historic-newengland.org) or call 860-928-4074.

### New Haven Farm & Garden Tour

The Connecticut chapter of the Northeast Organic Farming Association (CT

NOFA) hosts its second annual city farm and garden tour in New Haven Saturday, Aug. 6, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Stops on the self-guided tour include community, school, private and restaurant gardens, and urban farms. Fee: \$20. To register, visit [www.ctnofa.org](http://www.ctnofa.org) or [www.facebook.com/ctnofa](http://www.facebook.com/ctnofa).

### Gladiolus Show

Enjoy beautiful gladiolus blooms and magnificent arrangements at the Connecticut Gladiolus Society Annual Show Saturday, Aug. 13, McLean Village, 75 Great Pond Rd., Simsbury. Free admission. Exhibits open for viewing and silent auction for arrangements held from noon-4 p.m. Judging starts at noon. Contact Sue Gebo, 860-930-9022, or [suegebo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:suegebo@sbcglobal.net) or [cgsociety@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cgsociety@sbcglobal.net).

*Dated Material*  *Please Rush*

### CHS Calendar at a Glance

**July 24 – Oct 9** – Garden Tour,  
various dates (see page 3)

**Aug. 9** – September CHS Newsletter  
and Fall Marketplace advertising  
deadlines

**Sept. 8** – Board meeting

**Sept. 20** – Education program:  
Over-wintering tropicals (see page 9)

**Sept. 22** – Program meeting,  
Margaret Roach, *At Home in the  
365-day Garden*

**Sept. 23** – Fall plant auction, Vernon  
(see page 9)

The CHS Newsletter is printed  
on recycled paper with soya ink.



## Calendar Reminders

### CHS membership renewals

September marks the start of a new CHS year, and that means memberships are renewable. In late August, a mailing that includes a renewal form and return envelope will be sent to members. Please wait until you receive this mailing before sending your checks for dues to the CHS office. We look forward to having you join us for another year of horticultural activities. And good news for full-time students with a valid ID: Membership dues have been waived, following action by the CHS Board of Directors and the membership.

### Attention advertisers: 'Fall Marketplace' deadline nears

A "Fall Marketplace" advertising section is planned for the September issue of CHS Newsletter. Horticulture-related businesses may advertise their products and services as space permits and with preference given to businesses that are CHS members. About 900 garden-loving homes and businesses statewide receive the newsletter. Ad prices range from \$25 to \$90. Deadline for receiving digital copy is Aug. 9. Contact Colleen Fitzpatrick Michelson, 860-217-0902 or [kalmia.editorial@gmail.com](mailto:kalmia.editorial@gmail.com).

### 2012 flower show planning

Just about the time you've put your garden to bed, CHS will be revving up for the flower show in Hartford Feb. 23-26, 2012. What perfect timing for you to get involved. Please join flower-show planners Monday, Aug. 29, 6:45-8:30 p.m. in the CHS office in Rocky Hill. Committees will be formed and design ideas previewed. Contact Nancy Brennick, 860-665-0222 or [CHSFlowerShow@gmail.com](mailto:CHSFlowerShow@gmail.com).