

Connecticut Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

The Founding, Care and Feeding of a Non-profit Beautification Group

by Deborah Kent

Does your town need new street trees or help renovating an overgrown park planting? If so, then chances are the efforts won't be funded in this era of slashed municipal budgets. Even residents who know that "greener" town spaces increase property values and add to the sense of community may not want to pay for such projects with tax dollars.

Those same residents, however, might donate money, services and time to a non-profit organization if they see volunteers making the needed improvements.

That has been the case in Glastonbury, where the non-profit Glastonbury Partners in Planting (GPIP) has been working for eight years on beautification projects. As time passes and the economy

tightens, the group's horticultural expertise and contributions are in demand as never before.

This year, a middle-school teacher sought help in turning an overgrown school courtyard into a functional "green" teaching space. Also on various wish lists were shade trees for a new dog park, volunteers to plant elm trees in a floodplain and new landscaping for two firehouses. In each case, the individuals and groups involved turned to GPIP to make their projects happen.

They were added to the group's ongoing efforts: maintaining almost 90 seasonal planters, stocking a town tree nursery that provides dozens of street trees each year and tending four of the 13 public gardens GPIP has created.

If you're thinking of starting a non-profit group in your community or want to look at an existing one with fresh eyes, here are some factors you may want to consider. They are based on the experiences of GPIP, of which I served as president for four years.

Creating partnerships

The name GPIP and its emphasis on partners was suggested by Della Winans when she and her husband, Roger, along with Bob and Nancy Shipman and Betty Payton (all members of the Connecticut Horticultural Society), decided to form a non-profit organization in 2003. Partnerships remain the key to the group's success.

Consider last summer's project at Smith Middle School, where a teacher contacted the GPIP board of directors for help in transforming the courtyard. GPIP members worked with the town's Parks and Recreation Department to approve a rough plan for the courtyard.

(continued on page 7)

Spring into the Garden

A One-Day Symposium of Practical Gardening
Ideas and Inspiration, Sponsored by CHS,
Featuring Speakers Tony Avent, Nan Sinton
and Kerry Ann Mendez

Saturday, February 4, 2012
8:15 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Portland, Conn.

Register by Dec. 15 to get a discount.
See page 5 for details and a registration form.



Inside This Issue

Speaker Program	Page 3
Flower Show	Page 4
Traveling with CHS	Page 8
Holiday Potluck Dinner	Page 9
Vines & Wines	Back Cover

Made in the Shade: What's New in Shade Gardening

Nov. 17 – Speakers Dick and Judith Knott Tyler,
Clarksville, Va.

September speaker Margaret Roach touched on the ways in which she appreciates her Northeastern garden in winter. Now come Dick and Judith Knott Tyler, whose talk about gardening in shade could well inch toward a discussion of gardening in winter.

The Tylers' nursery, Pine Knot Farms in Clarksville, Va., specializes in hellebores. The plants thrive in shade and also are the stars of the winter and early-spring garden. So, talk a bit about hellebores and describe some companion plantings, such as snowdrops (*Galanthus*) and witch hazel (*Hamamelis*), and you've found yourself in the realm of winter gardening.

But Dick says that the CHS program will not be "helleboric." The Tylers will discuss many shade plants suitable for Connecticut gardens in various seasons and hope to open up thoughts about gardening in general.

Dick and Judith grew up on farms in Virginia. After spending eight years in British Columbia with their two children, they returned home in 1979 and settled on land held by Judith's family for six generations.

They began a home-building and remodeling business and, even before their own house was finished, they were growing plants to fill the perennial beds that Judith was creating on the property. A nursery of sorts was underway, they realized, and they started one in earnest in 1982 "with the delusion of (income from) it being a college fund for the kids," Dick says.



The nursery grew each year to where, about eight or 10 years ago, it offered 2,500 kinds of plants, employed 40 to 50 people and operated three trucks that made deliveries to the Carolinas, Tennessee and Washington, D.C. But several years of drought and changes in the industry put a halt to that trend.

The Tylers scaled back, focusing on hellebores, under whose "intoxicating influence" they had fallen. They breed the genus and sell 300,000 plants each year, including seed-grown liners, on a wholesale, retail and mail-order basis.

In their study of hellebores they have traveled throughout the United States and the Balkans, United Kingdom and other European locations.

Their breeding work with the double forms has sparked national interest. A laboratory in Virginia has been propagating through tissue culture some of the Tylers' Lenten rose-type hellebores. Plans call for introducing four of these to market next year, Dick says. (Most tissue-culturing of hellebores is done in Europe, with non-Lenten rose types. The most common ways of producing more of a special hellebore are through division and careful hand pollination.)

CHS Program Meeting

Our meetings are open to members and nonmembers alike, with a \$10 donation requested from nonmembers. We look forward to seeing you!

Date: Thursday, Nov. 17

Time: 7:30 p.m. (7 p.m. for socializing, browsing CHS library books, raffle items and travel fliers, and asking plant questions)

Location: Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Dr., West Hartford

Directions: From I-84, take exit 43 (West Hartford Center, Park Road). Turn right at exit and go half a block to the next light. Turn left at light onto Trout Brook Drive. Proceed for six lights to Albany Avenue. Turn right on Albany Avenue and continue to the next light, Mohegan Drive. Turn left on Mohegan Drive. Pass two stop signs. Synagogue is on the right.

Bad weather: Visit www.chhort.org, call the CHS office at 860-529-8713 for a recorded message, or tune in to WTIC radio, 1080 AM, or WFSB TV, Channel 3, to check the status of the meeting.

They have shared their love of the plant in "Hellebores: A Comprehensive Guide" (Timber Press, 2006), which Judith co-authored with C. Colston Burrell and which features many of Dick's photographs.

The Tylers are former co-curators of the Garden of Winter Delights at the JC Raulston Arboretum in Raleigh, N.C. Their own extensive display gardens (www.pineknotfarms.com) include shady woodlands, a large sunny meadow, rock garden, wetlands, ponds and perennial borders. The gardens have been featured in many regional and national magazines, numerous newspaper articles and on Martha Stewart's television program. 🌿

Calling all 2012 Flower Show Volunteers and Visitors

A landscape exhibit created by CHS again will be the first one visitors see when they enter the Connecticut Convention Center in February for the 2012 flower show, whose theme is “Traditions in Nature.”

“Our creative take-off from the theme is a display we call ‘After the Storm,’” says Nancy Brennick, flower show chairman and CHS vice president. “Our experience is that no matter how devastating the effect of Mother Nature’s weather, it is always followed by regrowth. A hurricane may wreak havoc, wind-whipping the landscape, toppling natural and man-made structures, causing flooding and changing water’s path, but it is only then we realize she uncovers a whole new landscape plan.”

One definition of tradition is “a customary practice or set of precedents that continually affects the present,” Nancy continues. “We wonder aloud in our display: Is ‘tradition’ the storm? Or the new woodland reclaimed from cultivation, or the swaths of native plants that can grow because new light reaches the earth? Or the damaged, less-than-proportional woody shrubs that flower defiantly? Or the wildlife that takes cover and then returns to make new homes,

nests and lairs without flinching as the scene changes?”

“Till Feb. 23, we’ll keep you guessing where we go with our idea,” she says. “Come see and decide if we’ve captured the ‘Traditions of Nature.’”

Volunteers

The Flower Show Committee loves its volunteers and extends an invitation to join committee members for hors d’oeuvres Nov. 17 at 6 p.m., before the start of the monthly program meeting, in the Emanuel Synagogue auditorium.

Bring your observations, ideas and suggestions from last year’s experience of greeting visitors to the exhibit and introducing the show’s seminar speakers. And don’t forget your calendar so Cathy Testa can get you on the greeter-facilitator schedule for 2012.

Other volunteers who have already signed on for the show include exhibit designer Katie Shipman; Joan Stubenrauch and crew, who tend the greenhouse plants all winter; Lynn Cavo and other members of the membership committee, who craft a membership deal and raffle; David Smith and his comrades at White Flower Farm, who tend the bulbs that always lend a strong presence to the display; the CHS Education

Discounted Flower Show Tickets

The 2012 Connecticut flower and garden show will be held Feb. 23-26, 2012, at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. CHS members who buy tickets in advance (at CHS program meetings and events or through the office) pay \$11 per adult ticket, saving \$5 off the general admission price of \$16. Cash or checks only, please. If buying through the CHS office, please send payment to CHS, 2433 Main St., Rocky Hill, CT 06067. Don’t miss taking advantage of this CHS membership benefit.

Committee, chaired by Joanne Luppi, which organizes the handouts that relay CHS’ educational mission.

The Flower Show Committee could use an hour or two from you. Please contact Nancy with your availability, chsflowershow@gmail.com. Visit www.cthort.org for meeting updates. 🐞

UConn’s Sid Waxman Inspires NYC Artist

University of Connecticut horticulturalist Sidney Waxman (1923-2005) changed the character of the cultivated landscape through his work hybridizing dwarf conifers from plants that displayed a peculiar growth mutation called witches’ broom. Sarah Bailey, CHS board member and UConn Master Gardener program coordinator, wrote eloquently of Waxman’s work and witches’ brooms in the Winter 2010 issue of CHS Newsletter.

Waxman’s legacy—at least 40 of his cultivars are known to have been introduced to the nursery trade—has now expanded from the realm of science and horticulture to the realm of fine art.

His work is the subject of “Arboretum,” a mixed-media biographical installation created by New York artist Barbara Siegel. It is being exhibited in an art gallery in Brooklyn, N.Y., during November.

Siegel uses varied media and materials, including drawings, prints, photographs, paintings, sculptures and found objects in “Arboretum,” which comprises about 80 discrete pieces. Covering the gallery walls are images of Waxman, the dwarf conifers he hybridized, the pine cones he used to propagate species and a collection of measuring devices. A *Pinus strobus* ‘Shaggy Dog’ sits on the floor, “guarding the intricate display,” accord-

ing to a description by Charlotta Kotik.

The exhibition may be viewed through Nov. 26 at A.I.R. Gallery, 111 Front St., #228, Brooklyn, N.Y. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call 212- 255-6651, email info@airgallery.org, or visit www.airgallery.org.

Siegel’s installations are infused with “painstaking research” into the lives and achievements of her subjects, Kotik writes. Earlier works include “S(e)oul of Korea,” depicting Siegel’s experiences while teaching in that country, and series on Harvard mineralogist Clifford Frondel and Coney Island sign painter Hector G. Wallace.

Spring into the Garden

An Exciting Day of Practical Gardening Ideas and Inspiration

Tony Avent (keynote speaker)

Session 1—Landscaping in Drifts of One—Residential Design for Plant Collectors

Session 2—Perennials: What's New and Exciting, Overlooked

Tony Avent planted his first greenhouse at the age of 8. While at North Carolina State University, he studied with the great plantsman, J.C. Raulston, who reinforced his love for finding new plants. Tony's horticultural activities included curating the shade garden at the Raulston Arboretum from 1985 to 1994. He began Plant Delights Nursery in Raleigh, N.C., in 1988 and is renowned as a breeder and introducer of rare and exotic plants. He has turned his expertise to several plant types, including hostas, aroids, hellebores, cyclamen and epimediums. He has participated in more than 66 plant expeditions in the United States, Mexico, China, Korea, Argentina, Holland, Thailand, South Vietnam, Taiwan and Crete. Tony is a prolific author and speaker. Visit www.plant-delights.com.

Kerry Ann Mendez—Shade Gardening with an Emphasis on 'Cool and Outrageous' Foliage

Kerry Ann Mendez, owner of Perennially Yours in Ballston Spa, N.Y., is

a garden consultant, designer, writer, teacher and lecturer who focuses on time-saving gardening techniques, workhorse plants and organic practices. A "passionate perennialist," she enjoys mixing humor with practical information. Kerry Ann is the garden columnist for Life@Home magazine and author of "The Ultimate Flower Gardener's Top Ten Lists" (Lone Oak Press, 2010) and "Top Ten Lists for Beautiful Shade Gardens" (Troy Book Makers, 2011). In 2010, she participated in a press event hosted by Adrian Bloom, owner of Blooms of Bressingham nursery in England. Visit www.pyours.com.

Nan Sinton—Romancing the Site (finding the hidden gardens in your own backyard)

Nan Sinton of South Dartmouth, Mass., is a landscape designer, horticultural educator and garden travel consultant who plans and leads garden tours worldwide for the Landscape Institute at the Boston Architectural College. She is president of the landscape design firm Sinton & Michener Associates and designs gardens throughout the United States and Europe. A former director of programs for Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum and outreach director for Horticulture

Date: Saturday, Feb. 4, 2012

Location: Portland High/Middle School, 95 High St. Portland, CT 06480

Fee: \$65 per CHS member, postmarked before Dec. 15
\$75 per nonmember, postmarked before Dec. 15
After Dec. 15, add \$5 per ticket

Program and Times

Registration check-in
8:15 – 8:55 a.m.

Lunch
1:00 – 2:25 p.m.

Speakers
9:00 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.

Garden vendors
8:15 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

magazine, Nan has been honored with a gold medal by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society for her work in horticultural education. 🌿

Between sessions, visit garden vendors and ask Connecticut Master Gardeners your questions. Garden-related materials, including books written by the speakers, will be available for purchase. Your registration fee includes a bistro lunch and coffee breaks.

Yes! I want to Spring into the Garden

Saturday, Feb. 4, 8:15 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Please list additional attendees: _____

A confirmation with directions will be mailed. Your registration fee includes attendance at this one-day symposium, bistro lunch, coffee breaks and access to garden vendors.

Fee: CHS member

_____ x \$65 (before Dec. 15)

_____ x \$70 (after Dec. 15)

Nonmember

_____ x \$75 (before Dec. 15)

_____ x \$80 (after Dec. 15)

Total \$ _____

Lunch Choice

Ham Turkey

Tuna Salad Vegetarian

Return your registration form and check payable to CHS to:

Connecticut Horticultural Society • 2433 Main Street • Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Registrations must be received by Jan. 26, 2012

The Fall Auction: Dark and Stormy (and Successful)

by Leslie Shields

It was a dark and stormy night, but it was no mystery that those who braved the weather had a good time at the 2011 fall plant auction and bought some fabulous plants.

The Sept. 23 auction at the Tolland County Agricultural Center in Vernon netted \$3203.06 from 53 bidders and the sale of table plants. The money helps fund CHS scholarships for students at the University of Connecticut and Naugatuck Valley Community College.

Thanks go to the following CHS members and friends who contributed generously to a fun and informative evening:

- Auctioneers and plant donors Adam Wheeler of Broken Arrow Nursery in Hamden, John O'Brien of O'Brien Nurserymen in Granby, Kevin Wilcox, owner of Farmington Valley Nursery in Avon and Bill Turell of Garden Sales in Manchester.
- Plant or merchandise donors Zen Teks, Kurt Weiss, Tower Farm and Cheshire Nursery, Gotta's Farm Stand, Draghi's Farm Stand and Garden Barn.
- CHS members who donated plants from their gardens, including Judy King

and David Smith, and Elizabeth Morin, Elaine Widmer, Mary Ann McGourty, Lynn Cavo, Ginny Gingras, Christa Sywenkyj, Fairlee Latawic and Ethel Fried.

- Volunteers who helped with all aspects of the auction, including Lynn Cavo, Joanne Luppi, Elizabeth Morin, Judy King, Joan and Ken Stubenrauch, Leslie Shields, Pat Murawski, Fairlee Latawic, Joanne Luppi, Cindy Andrus and Lakshmi Avatapalli.

Also, Betty Gehris, Rosemarie Tamiso, Phyllis Green, Pat Jurovaty, Bob Mallory, Fran Schoell, Phyllis Clark, Karen Ellsworth, Ginny Gingras, and Nancy Brennick and Richard Kuzmak.

- Master Gardeners accompanying Sarah Bailey, including Elaine Naczkowski, Mary Ellen O'Donnell, Sterling Andrews, Lynn Donnelly and David Moran.

As thoughts now turn to the spring auction April 27, 2012, at the United Methodist Church in West Hartford, please support the businesses that contribute so generously to our auctions each year. And please consider attending or volunteering at the spring auction. 🌱



Learn With CHS

Download a registration form and find directions to all programs at www.cthort.org. And while you're there, why not register for the 2012 symposium?

Flower Arranging Thanksgiving Table Centerpiece

Monday, Nov. 21, 6:30 p.m.

TK & Brown's Flowers

1761 Silas Deane Highway, Rocky Hill

Learn from the experts how to create a perfect table centerpiece in time for your own Thanksgiving celebration. Under the guidance of Terri Krisavage, owner of TK & Brown's Flowers, you will create a beautiful flower arrangement with a holiday or fall motif to take home with you. Terri will also share tricks of the trade gleaned from 40 years in the wedding, parade and daily flower business. The \$25 workshop fee includes all materials. Limit: 20 participants.

Movie Night: Organic Lawn Care

Tuesday, Dec. 6, 7-9 p.m.

Portland Library

20 Freestone Ave., Portland

The Education Committee is teaming up with the Portland Library to show "A Chemical Reaction," a documentary film about the movement that opposes the use of chemical pesticides on lawns. The film was produced by safelawns.org, an organization co-founded by Paul Tukey that advocates for educating society about the benefits of environmentally responsible lawn care and gardening. Tukey edited the former People Places & Plants magazine. A question-and-answer session with Colchester pesticide expert Scott Reil will follow the screening. Refreshments will be served. Free, but advance registration through CHS is required.

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 news@cthort.org.

Please welcome our new rafflemeisters, Sharon Mann of Bloomfield and Donna Eriksen of Burlington. One way to help them ease into their new duties of selling raffle tickets before the CHS monthly program meetings is...to buy lots of raffle tickets. Sharon and Donna take the reins from Leslie Shields of Plainville, who for more than five years conducted the raffle that helps support scholarships for college students in Connecticut.

"Mentors in the Garden of Life" (Park East Press, 2010) by Colleen Plimpton of Bethel is one of three finalists in the memoir category of the 2011 awards of the Connecticut Center for the Book at the Hartford Public Library. Winners in all categories were to have been announced Oct. 30. Visit <http://cfb.hplct.org>.

Beautification Group, from page 1

In late spring, students and GPIIP volunteers dug out plants worth saving and sold them, raising almost \$4,000 for the project. Glastonbury-based B&B Landscaping & Design volunteered its labor and the use of a blower truck to bring 20 yards of the town's compost into the enclosed courtyard. Town workers seeded the lawn areas, which will be mowed by a solar-powered machine paid for by special donations. Students are working with GPIIP volunteers to create a planting plan for gardens to be installed over two years.

In GPIIP's early years, town agencies worried that the organization would "disappear" and that they would be saddled with maintaining the new gardens that GPIIP had created. That's no longer a concern. GPIIP has demonstrated that it is crucial to keep projects looking great. About 50 members maintain our gardens, and they deadhead and fertilize the seasonal containers so that businesses will continue to sponsor them.

Raising money

The first steps aren't fun, as our first president, Della Winans, can attest. GPIIP formed a corporation and filed for 501(c)(3) status, a process that took three years. We wrote by-laws, looked for grants and donations, secured liability insurance and agreed on a mission and way of telling residents who we are and why we need money. I thought we'd never stop asking for large donations from local groups. We have since managed to build up a small balance maintained largely by \$20 or \$35 annual membership fees and a few generous gifts.

Current GPIIP President Ann Petten-gill has done a great job of keeping in touch with donors over the years by gently reminding them of ongoing projects and needs.

Logging early successes

You don't get the town and residents to buy in to the projects without some high-profile successes in the early years.

GPIIP tackled weedy state highway median strips at the entrance to town on Route 17, and it wasn't easy. The three new garden beds that replaced the weeds required the approval of seven state or town departments and cost \$4,000 to create. GPIIP raised the money and secured other resources from member donations, the Exchange Club of Glastonbury and Lebanon wholesale nursery Prides Corner Farm, whose owner, Mark Sellev, lives in Glastonbury.

That project, plus planting new gardens around the Main Street library and creating and placing almost 90 flowering planters throughout the business district, keep GPIIP's work in the public eye. This has increased interest, and the group now enjoys the financial support of 120 families.

Recruiting volunteers

The dollars have been easier to find than hands-on volunteers to do the "dirty" work.

We attract new members through lectures at our only two meetings each year, held in spring and fall. That's when we pitch our projects and sign people up for work parties. Project leaders try to get to know any new volunteers at the work parties and encourage them to return. That's done most easily when a garden is in a volunteer's neighborhood. We also try to respect busy schedules and limit the duration of work parties to an hour and a half. And we encourage volunteers to bring family members to our summer potluck.

In recent years, we have decided to install a garden only if a partner group agrees to maintain it, such as library volunteers at the private libraries in East Glastonbury and South Glastonbury, or a community group in the north end of town. The firefighters will maintain the new firehouse gardens, which were designed by a firefighter-landscaper with GPIIP input. GPIIP provided the plants and worked side by side with firefighters to install the gardens.

Identifying leaders

The biggest challenge is a common one for non-profit organizations, and that is finding new leadership. Many board members have served since GPIIP first formed and some cycle through the presidency twice.

As we find volunteers with particular skills or great enthusiasm we try to get them to take on parts of a project—without overwhelming them. Della Winans has succeeded in cultivating volunteers on established projects to eventually take them over, which frees her to tackle new projects. One member took charge of finding the solar-powered lawnmower for Smith school and has now joined the GPIIP board of directors.

Volunteers sometimes are more willing to lead projects if they have a co-chair. And we've found that newly retired people are an excellent resource for our volunteer recruitment efforts.

Finding people and money to sustain GPIIP and its projects is often a challenge, but it is satisfying to know that the volunteer group has set deep roots into all corners of our town. 🛠️

Deborah Kent has a design/build landscape business in Glastonbury. She served two terms as president of Glastonbury Partners in Planting and remains a board member. She is a CHS member.

Email Alert

CHS plans to begin including email addresses along with members' names, addresses and telephone numbers in the Membership Directory published annually and made available to members. If you would prefer that your email address not be published in the directory, please contact Office Administrator Bonnie McLachlan with your request (connhort@aol.com) before Jan. 31.



Gracie Mansion Tea and Tour

* Grand Central Station Holiday Fair
Thursday, Dec. 8, 2011

Our visit to Manhattan begins at the annual holiday fair, a shopping extravaganza held in the magnificent Vanderbilt Hall of Grand Central Station. Explore the beautiful and exotic goods sold by 76 selected vendors and enjoy the laser light show projected on the constellation-sky ceiling of the main concourse.

Then we're off to Gracie Mansion, whose current resident is New York

Mayor Michael Bloomberg. The elegant estate was built in 1799 by prosperous merchant Archibald Grace and overlooks a lovely bend in the East River. Our docent tour highlights a close-up of Mayor Bloomberg's lifestyle. Lovely decorations and furniture reflect the home's early years, and our docent will share fun stories involving previous mayors.

Relax while taking tea, sampling a va-

riety of tea sandwiches, cakes and home-baked scones, all beautifully presented. We will experience special hospitality at Gracie Mansion, and the holiday yule log may be lit, filling the house with the joy of the season.

Departs: 7 a.m., Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford; 7:30 a.m., Plaza Hotel, East Hartford. **Returns:** 6:30 p.m., East Hartford. **Cost:** \$76 per member, \$78 per nonmember, based on 40-52 travelers.



2012 Philadelphia Flower Show

* Theme: 'Hawaii – Islands of Aloha' * 'City of Murals' Tour
Sunday, March 4 – Monday, March 5, 2012

For a wonderful getaway, join the annual CHS trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show. This is the largest indoor show of its kind and it bursts with luxurious gardens, floral arrangements, a marketplace of more than 200 vendors, and great speaker programs. If you've been to the show, then you know what a treat it is, and if you haven't, then this is your chance to see it.

Day 1: Depart aboard a deluxe motor coach bound for Philadelphia with stops for rest and food en route. Upon arriving in Philadelphia, a guide will provide a behind-the-scenes look at the famous "City of Murals" exhibit, including details of how some of the 3,000 murals throughout the city were made and the

stories behind them. This tour blends art and history in a must-do, uniquely Philadelphia experience.

Enjoy our accommodations at the Warwick Radisson in historic Rittenhouse Square, where warm hospitality and gracious rooms are hotel hallmarks. We'll check in, have time to unpack and relax before a leisurely dinner at the Chart House overlooking the Delaware River at Penn's Landing. Menu: Entrée choice of grilled Atlantic salmon, chicken Romano or pasta primavera; green salad; bread; beverage; and, of course, the Chart House's famous mud pie for dessert.

Day 2: We're off to the fabulous Philadelphia Flower Show and its Hawaiian Islands theme. From towering water-

falls and waves of orchids to glowing volcanoes and serene sunsets, the show will exhibit the true spirit of Hawaii. Highlights include a floral hula fest, romantic beach wedding, tropical ranch house, surfers retreat and a rocky garden of the gods.

Then it's homeward bound, with breaks for stretching and refreshment.

Cost: \$295 per twin CHS member based on 30-45 passengers; \$369 per single member; nonmembers add \$50. **Includes:** deluxe motorcoach, one night hotel, one dinner, flower show admission, sightseeing, driver gratuity, \$25 per person donation to CHS. Escorted by Lois Isaacson. **Deposit:** \$100 per person with reservation by Dec. 1; final payment due by Jan. 9, 2012.

A few seats may remain for the "White Mountain (N.H.) Christmas" trip Dec. 3-4. Call Friendship Tours, 860-243-1630.

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.

Employment Opportunity

The Connecticut Horticultural Society is looking to hire an office administrator. The position is part time, about 50 hours a month, and requires attendance at night meetings, along with staffing the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Qualifications include computer skills (including knowledge of Microsoft Excel and Access); flexibility; ability to meet deadlines; ability to interact well with CHS members and the public; interest in horticulture; a desire to become an integral part of the future of CHS. For a job description, visit www.cthort.org. Interested applicants should send a cover letter and resume to the CHS Search Committee, Connecticut Horticultural Society, 2433 Main St., Rocky Hill, CT 06067. Application deadline is Nov. 23, 2011.



You're Invited CHS Holiday Potluck Dinner



Friday, Dec. 9, 6 p.m.

Keeney Memorial Center, 200 Main St., Old Wethersfield

Share your favorite holiday recipe. The evening begins at 6 p.m. with appetizers and punch. Bring an appetizer or dessert, main or side dish to share (enough for eight servings)—and don't forget the serving utensil. Coffee and tea, plates, cups, napkins and silverware will be provided.

Participate in the after-dinner slide show. Share pictures of your gardening adventures, including your yard or a trip with family members, friends or CHS that included flowers and landscapes. Please sign up at the Nov. 17 program meeting if you're planning to bring slides (limit your presentation to 15 slides at the most). Also, please bring your electronic presentation to that meeting to be tested on CHS equipment to ensure it can be seen at the dinner.

Consider volunteering. Your help is needed to make this special evening a success. Fran Schoell, holiday potluck chairman, needs help setting up and breaking down the party. Please sign up at the Nov. 17 meeting or contact Fran at 860-342-0376 or franschoell1935@comcast.net.

"We always have a great time, see new slides and go home full from the wonderful dishes of food," Fran says. "Come and meet your CHS officers, board members and fellow members."

Directions. Take I-91 to Exit 26, "Marsh Street/Old Wethersfield." If heading south on I-91, turn right at the end of the exit ramp, then left. If heading north on I-91, turn left, then left again. Follow the road into Old Wethersfield. Turn left on Main Street. Keeney Memorial Center is the third building on the left.

Horticultural Happenings & Announcements

Note: Happenings are listed on a space-available basis with priority given to CHS notices. Please remember when submitting material for the CHS Newsletter to include relevant information, a contact person's name and phone number. Please send e-mails to kalmia.editorial@gmail.com. Deadline for the January issue is Dec. 5.

Seasonal Floral Designs

The Cherry Brook Garden Club of Canton presents a lecture Tuesday, Nov. 8, by Bob Whitney on seasonal floral designs. The meeting begins at 10 a.m. at the Canton Community Center, 40 Dyer Ave., Canton. Free. Contact: Linda Lareau, lslareau@comcast.net.

Cottage, Knot, Victorian

On Wednesday, Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m., landscape designer Amy Sampson of Cheshire discusses the aesthetic and practical guidelines for creating English cottage, Victorian, and knot gardens. The Hardy Plant Society sponsors the

talk. Location: Solomon Welles House, 220 Hartford Ave., Wethersfield. Suggested \$5 donation. Socializing begins at 7 p.m. Contact Leslie Shields, selchie1@comcast.net, or visit www.cthardyplant-society.org.

Northeast Notables

Ed Bowen of Opus, a nursery known for its rarities in Little Compton, R.I., lectures at the Hardy Plant Society Wednesday, Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m., on new plant introductions and notable, underused plants for the Northeast. For meeting location, cost and contact

information, see previous item, "Cottage, Knot, Victorian."

Sign up for Spring!

Thursday, Dec. 15, is the cutoff date for paying a lower registration fee for the 2012 CHS symposium "Spring into the Garden" to be held Saturday, Feb. 4, 2012, in Portland, and featuring Tony Avent of Raleigh, N.C., as the keynote speaker. CHS members pay \$65 before Dec. 15; nonmembers pay \$75. After that date, add \$5 to each category. See page 5 for details and a registration form. Find extra forms at www.cthort.org.

CHS Calendar at a Glance

- Nov. 15** – Connecticut Vines & Wines, lecture and wine-tasting, West Hartford (see below)
- Nov. 17** – Program meeting, Judith & Dick Tyler, *What's New in Shade Gardening* (see page 3)
- Nov. 21** – Fall floral-arranging workshop, Rocky Hill (see page 6)
- Dec. 5** – January CHS Newsletter deadline
- Dec. 6** – “A Chemical Reaction” movie, Portland (see page 6)
- Dec. 9** – Holiday potluck dinner, Wethersfield (see page 9)

Dated Material ❁ *Please Rush*

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Connecticut Vines and Wines

Lecture and wine-tasting
Tuesday, Nov. 15, 7 p.m.
The Noah Webster House
227 South Main St., West Hartford

Connecticut may not be one of the world's top wine producers, but it does offer an abundance of grapes and local wineries. Discover some of these Nov. 15 at Connecticut Vines and Wines, a cozy evening of conversation and wine-tasting co-sponsored by CHS and the Noah Webster House & West Hartford Historical Society.

This special program will feature CHS President Steve Silk, who will give an overview of fermentation, and Charles (Charlie) Stephenson, the founding winemaker at Rosedale Farms & Vineyards in Simsbury. Charlie laid out the vineyards and ir-

rigation system 10 years ago and oversees the planting and cultivation of the vines. He is the past chairman of the Hartford chapter of the American Wine Society and has maintained a home vineyard since 1990. He will describe Rosedale's varietals and how wine is made.

Registration through the Noah Webster House is required. The cost is \$20 for members of CHS or the Noah Webster House & West Hartford Historical Society and \$25 for nonmembers. To buy tickets, visit www.noahwebsterhouse.org/shop/wine.htm or call 860-521-5362, ext. 21. Seating is limited. 🍷



Sterling and Ann Andrews, Newington
Pamela Cayward, East Granby
April Clayton, East Hartford
Lynn Dombrocker, West Hartford
Ed Donini, West Hartford
Chelsea Farrell, Westogue
Debby Goodrich, Portland
Adelle M. Hack, New Haven
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Margaret Kassner, Bloomfield
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