

Connecticut Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 67, Number 9

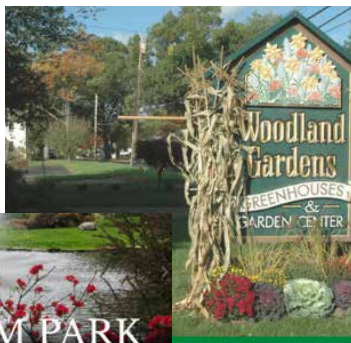
Serving Horticulturists Since 1887

June 2025

Slow down, it's Summer!

But be sure to enjoy these wonderful events we've got lined up for you.

Hello Summer! This is your time to garden, to think about gardening, and to do all things related to gardening. So, enjoy yourself and be sure to check out the events we have going on this season. We're thrilled to be able to offer them. And we have even more coming. Stay tuned, and be sure to check your inbox for registration information.



Manchester Garden Center Crawl and Wickham Park Tour & Lunch Thursday, June 12, 10am-3pm

Starting at Garden Sales llc, 308 Oakland St, Manchester

This promises to be an incredible day! Join us as we visit two iconic multi-generational family-owned garden centers in central CT: Garden Sales (10am) & Woodland Gardens in Manchester (2pm). In between garden center visits, tour Wickham Park led by Kevin Wilcox. Bring along a picnic lunch to enjoy in the park. Participants will drive themselves. Car-pooling is recommended. Ample parking is available at all sites.

Register: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/992vet2>

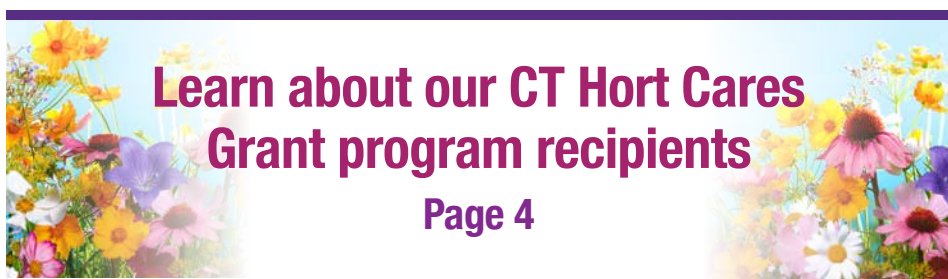
Tour Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens with Director Tracy Kay Monday, June 16, 10:30am-1pm

Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens, 151 Brookdale Rd, Stamford

Enjoy a walking tour of Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens' finest with Director Tracy Kay! CT Hort Members will go on a tree walk, highlighting the Arboretum's unique specimens. Then explore fern alley, the herb garden, and the collections of Laurels, Magnolias, Conifers, Pollarded trees, and the herbarium. Following the tour, bring a picnic lunch and enjoy lunch among the beauty of the gardens. Parking is ample and free.

Register: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/b7cdea2>

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Membership Dues:	
Individual.....	\$60
Family	\$80
Senior Individual (65+).....	\$55
Senior Family (65+).....	\$75
Student (full time with valid ID).....	FREE
Horticultural Business Member.....	\$100 or \$250
Organizations	\$80

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Leadership Letter

Dear CT Hort Family,

May has left us, but it surely went out in style. Amongst the many highlights, there are two that stick out like a “green thumb”!

Panayoti Kelaidis graced us with his presence, delivering a stellar presentation on crevice gardening. And of course, there was our annual plant sale and auction. This year’s turnout was great! A big thank you to the CT Hort board of directors, committee members, partners, and members like you. Without your steadfast volunteerism and commitment to our mission, none of this would be possible.

Summer is around the corner, and I can hardly contain my excitement! I’m looking forward to warm mornings, colorful sunrise, and garden chats with my neighbors.

I’m also looking forward to all that’s brewing at CT Hort this June. A garden crawl and picnic, tree walk, and shopping spree are amongst the lineup! What are you looking forward to this Summer? Hopefully, volunteering with us is on your list. Please reach out to me if you’re interested in making a impact through volunteerism.

With memberships on the rise, I’m thrilled to see new faces. Your membership support plays a vital role in helping us meet our organizational goals.

As always, thank you for your engagement!

Warm regards,
Ashley Stewart
Executive Director

Thank you to our generous business members and supporters!



B. Yaeger LLC

Garden Solutions

Colorblends Wholesale Flower Bulbs

Go Organic LLC

Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut

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

The Garden Barn Nursery

Mountainview Landscaping LLC



C. Colston Burrell

Designing for Habitat: From Back Yards to Byways

with *C. Colston Burrell*

Thursday, June 26 • 7 pm

In person and on Zoom. CNTR, 725 Main Street, Middletown
(Members will receive the Zoom link the Sunday before the talk)

What does a garden need to attract and sustain wildlife? How do we meet the aesthetic goals of owners while providing the structure and resources necessary to maintain the insects and birds we love? Can we create healthy habitat with a mixture of native and exotic plants? This lecture explores the possibilities and limitations of designing sustainable habitat gardens at various scales, from urban spaces to rural retreats.

Colston Burrell is an acclaimed lecturer, garden designer, award-winning author and photographer. A certified chlorophyll addict, Cole is an avid and lifelong plantsman, gardener and naturalist. He has twice won the American Horticulture Society Book Award for *Hellebores: A Comprehensive Guide*, Timber Press, in 2007, and for *A Gardener's Encyclopedia of Wildflowers*, Rodale Press, in 1998. Cole received the Award of Distinction from the Association of Professional Landscape Designers for his work promoting sustainable gardening practices.

Cole is a popular lecturer internationally on topics of design, plants and ecology. He has shared his love of plants and regional landscapes with professional and amateur audiences

for 45 years. He is principal of Native Landscape Design and Restoration, which specializes in blending nature and culture through artistic design.

Cole has teamed up with Friendship Tours and The Minnesota State Horticultural Society for Garden and Nature Tours with C. Colston Burrell to offer personalized leisure tours to exceptional gardens and natural areas around the globe. His one-of-a-kind tours explore the best private and public gardens and the most ecologically diverse natural areas to create once in a lifetime travel adventures.

He has an M.S. in Horticulture from University of Maryland and a Master of Landscape Architecture degree from the University of Minnesota. He is a lecturer in the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at the University of Virginia, where he teaches about plants and their ecological connections to natural systems and cultural landscapes.

Brought to you through the generosity of the Lois and Herb Isaacson Endowed Lecture fund.



Apply now for a CT Hort Cares Grant

Applications for the CT Cares grant program are being accepted through July 31, 2025. Go to cthort.org to apply. The program expands the Society's efforts to educate our great state on the importance of plants and our precious environment.

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

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

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

Thank you for your support!

2025 CARES GRANT AWARDEES

On May 1, grants were awarded to six recipients of the CT Hort Cares civic grants program. The winners were chosen out of a group of 33 applicants from all over the state. Here are the winning projects:

1. Portland Community + Food Bank Garden Enhancements, Portland - \$500

The project aims to: improve the productivity of the Portland Community Garden at Bransfield Memorial Park, retain existing gardeners and increase the overall number of community gardeners, promote horticultural knowledge by sharing gardening experiences among gardeners and community members, continue to provide food to the Food Bank (with over 500 lbs delivered in the past two years), and increase knowledge of and access to new varieties of produce to Food Bank recipients.

2. Essential Gardening Supplies for Maloney High School Gardening Club, Meriden - \$500

This project aims to establish a school teaching garden where the club will host workshops on sustainable gardening and provide hands-on learning for students, as well as enhancing the school grounds and space and creating a more welcoming and engaging environment for the broader community, hereby increasing community access to horticultural education and promoting biodiversity.

3. Knox Community Garden Program, Hartford - \$250

The grant will support staff in implementing the Community Garden Program, including providing outreach to new and returning gardeners on garden plot availability to ensure they can access these vital resources. The KNOX Community Garden Program's purpose is to provide over 200 families with access to green space, gardening education, and a stable source of fresh food. KNOX manages and maintains 21 community gardens throughout Hartford, encouraging residents to appreciate and benefit from plants through gardening.

4. Cheshire Pollinator Pathway Mixville pollinator garden installation, Cheshire - \$250

This grant will be used to purchase native plantings for the newly installed pollinator garden at Mixville Recreation Area. Cheshire Pollinator Pathway's (CPP) mission is to support declining

pollinator, bird, and wildlife populations; to support healthy ecosystems and watersheds, and to educate the community on environmental best practices. CPP has been doing this by installing closely planted corridors of native plants as food and habitat resources; educating the public on the importance of insects and biodiversity to the ecosystem and our larger environment; and providing hands-on opportunities to the public with weekly garden work parties in the growing season.

5. Bartlett Sensory Experience, Stamford - \$500

This grant will be used to provide plant-centered sensory programs for various community organizations throughout the area. Bartlett will invite groups to their property and guide them through experiential tours of the Sensory and Herb Gardens. Participants will learn about various plants requirements and growing habits. They will be invited to look at, touch, smell, listen to, and in some cases, taste a number of plants growing in Bartlett gardens to activate all their senses. Then they will participate in a hands-on activity that will help reinforce some of the information they learned on the tour. The purpose of this project is to expose as many people as possible to plants and information about growing them.

6. Huneebee Project Pollinator Gardens, New Haven - \$500

The grant will support the installation and maintenance of two pollinator gardens in New Haven. The project gardens will serve as model and teaching gardens for Huneebee Project (HBP), a small, nonprofit social enterprise based in New Haven. The gardens will be planted and maintained by HBP staff in collaboration with youth and adult participants in our programs, both the HBP Beekeepers in Residence Program, as well as a partnership with EMERGE CT's Restorative Food Justice Program. Participant-developed pollinator habitats become the site of broader community learning and engagement, hosting public workshops on pollinator stewardship, increasing awareness of the relationships between pollinator loss and climate change, and making environmental education

The next round of grant applications will be accepted from June 1 through July 31, with grants awarded on August 15, 2025.

Celebrate! West Hartford

Come say hello to us at Booth #209 at **Celebrate! West Hartford** on June 7 from 10am-6pm and Sunday June 8 from noon-6pm. We're excited to be a part of this popular event for the very first time!

Slow down, it's Summer!

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**Private Tour & Shopping Spree at McCue Gardens
Saturday, June 21, 1-3pm**

McCue Gardens, 47 Hartford Ave, Wethersfield

Enjoy a private tour at McCue Gardens from Bruce McCue himself, who will fill us in on all of the new arrivals at the plant nursery, offering information about each area amongst the acres of plants. Then it's time to shop! CT Hort will receive 10% of all sales to put towards its scholarship and grant programs. McCue Gardens prides itself on offering an extensive collection of popular, rare and native perennials and wildflowers for wholesale and retail customers. They currently sell more than

1,400 varieties with a great mix of common and rare selections. Register <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/vv7qnxq>

**It's a Floral Throwdown! Nancy vs. Nancy
Thursday, August 14, Time TBD**

Natureworks, 518 Forest Road, Northford

It's another "Throwdown of the Nancys," only this time we are setting up the match at Natureworks. Two of the masters of horticulture—Nancy DuBrule-Clemente and Nancy Ballek McKinnon—will go head-to-head for two rounds of throwdowns! First round: they'll vie to pick the best combination for a late summer/fall garden. Second round: Who will design the best container for late summer and fall? Who will win? Attendees will vote for the winner, then shop to their heart's content! *Check your inbox for registration information.*

Note: Our trip to Grace Farms on July 9 is sold out. Let us know if you would like to join us next year, and we will schedule a tour for June, 2026.

Coming up: Enjoy a bus excursion to New York Botanical Garden for Van Gogh's Flowers outdoor exhibit, October date TBD, but check your inbox for registration information. 🗳️

**Bylaws Amendment for
the New Executive Director
Position**

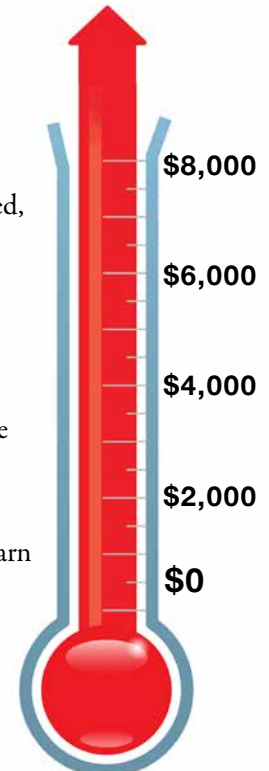
Last June, the membership of CT Hort approved amendments to the Society's Constitution and Bylaws, reflecting the organization's adaptation to the evolving landscape of the horticultural world. One such change was the approval of electronic voting for future amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. This June, you will have the opportunity to vote on one additional update to the Bylaws: the creation of the new position of Executive Director.

Watch your email in mid-June for the exact changes (or read about them in our April newsletter, <https://cthort.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/CHS-April-2025-WEB.pdf>) and your chance to vote on the amendment to the bylaws.



2024-2025 Scholarship Fund

\$12,919



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

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



A personal best for CT Hort Plant Sale & Auction breaks records for sales and attendance

by Cheryl Marino, CT Hort Past President

When tallied, the CT Hort Annual Plant Sale & Auction comes down to 500 Plants, 125 members and friends, 40 donors, 35 trips to nurseries, 28 volunteers, and three auctioneers. Which means record sales of more than \$10,000 to fund our Scholarship and Cares Grants programs!

The afternoon of the Plant Sale and Auction started outside Bethany Covenant Church, where plants were priced and separated to be auctioned, sold or featured at the silent auction table.

Volunteers pulled up to unload their vehicles in a systematic frenzy, as plants were evaluated, then carried to their sale destination. Meanwhile, the team of set-up volunteers readied the room arrangement. Our kitchen crew carried the food and supplies through the commotion to ready the spread of delicious offerings.

At 6:30pm, the doors opened up and people milled around the plants, spying treasures they wanted. And auctioneers Nancy DuBrule-Clemente, Jim Sirch and Kevin Wilcox never disappoint as they entertained and shared their knowledge

and expertise on the uniqueness of each plant offered in the auction.

Prior to the sale, long-time member and past president Judy King once again invited volunteers to dig and pot unusual species from her woodland gardens. They proved, like last year, to be popular with our members.



Featured in the Plant Sale and Silent Auction were works by Ellen Hoverkamp (pictured, left), who sadly passed in 2023.

Auction Coordinators Trish Lyons and Barb Skomorowski planned and streamlined the many varying tasks for two months with the Auction Committee to ensure a successful event. Each year we are humbled by the generosity of our donors who

are listed below; please, remember these organizations as you procure your garden needs this year.

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2025 Plant Sale & Auction Donors

- Ballek's Garden Center
- Broken Arrow Nursery
- Butler Florist & Garden Center
- Cheshire Nursery
- Country Flower Farm
- Cricket Hill Garden
- Dreamland Flower Farm
- Dunning Nursery
- E. Draghi & Sons Farm
- Earth Tones Native Plant Nursery
- Connecticut Flower Collective
- Garden Sales
- Garden's Dream
- Good Soil Nursery

- Gotta's Farm
- Hart's Greenhouse & Garden Center
- Judges Farm
- Michael's Greenhouse
- Monrovia
- Natureworks
- Paul & Sandy's too, Inc.
- PlantHer
- Prides Corner Farms
- Sam Bridge Nursery & Greenhouses
- Scott's Orchard & Nursery
- Summer Hill Nursery
- The Plant Group
- Tower Farms

- Town & Country Nurseries
- UConn Horticulture Club & advisor
- Shelley Durocher-Nesta
- Warner Nursery & Garden Center
- WaterField Farms
- White Flower Farm

Individuals

- Judy King
- Kathryn Hanlon
- Michael Russo
- Nancy DuBrule-Clemente
- Roman & Terry Mroczkowski
- Sarah Bailey
- Tim King

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 Summer issue is June 16.

Sat., June 7, 2-4pm—Container Garden Workshop at The Whisk, 15 Hartford Avenue, Granby. Create a beautiful container garden. Ticket includes all materials (except a pot), instruction and individual charcuterie snack board. Bring your own pot (approximately 12 Inches) or buy a recycled pot there. Beverages available for purchase. The cost is \$50. Go to <https://thewhisk.com/orderingpage/page/2/> for tickets.

Sat., June 14, 9:30am-3:30pm—Perennial Planters Garden Club of Manchester's biennial "Through the Garden Gate" garden tour, various locations. Visit six diverse, beautifully designed and landscaped private Manchester sanctuaries, ranging from pocket-sized hidden gems to large, manicured properties, including a vegetable garden and pass through a moon gate entrance to a meditation garden, and more. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 the day of, but smelling the roses is free. Locations given upon registration. Tickets are available at Woodland Gardens, Garden Sales, and Highland Park Markets or go to manchestergardenclubs.org/perennial_planters.htm

Sat., June 14, 10am-2pm—Hartford Blooms tour presents Gems of Hartford, various locations. Now celebrating 30 years, Hartford Blooms offers a bus tour of the Governor's residence Elizabeth Park, Connecticut Museum of Culture and History, a dozen area gardens, and a final stop at Westside Square for music and refreshments. Cost is \$25 (and does not include food or drinks at Westside Square). 422-7937 or go to www.hartfordblooms.net.

Sat., June 28, 10am-4pm—Windsor Garden Club 2025 Garden Tour, various locations. Discover a unique collection of private summer gardens throughout Windsor—each one thoughtfully designed, lovingly maintained, and a true reflection of the gardeners who care for them. From whimsical, themed spaces and artistic recycled planters to peaceful backyard retreats and vibrant displays inspired by Caribbean and New England landscapes, there's something to delight every visitor. Tickets are \$25. Go to windsorgardenclubct.org/gardentour/ for more information.

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

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

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

Highlights include:

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

Non Member double – \$995

CT Hort Member double – \$940

Non Member Single per person – \$1,139

CT Hort Member Single, per person – \$1,084



Registration and information:

<https://www.friendshiptours.net/tours/philadelphia-flower-show-ct-hort>



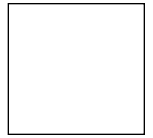
Save the date! 2025 Holiday Tour December 12-14


Including:

Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens'
Famous Gardens Aglow'

Performance of
"A Christmas Carol"
at the Portland Stage

Stay at the
Westin Portland Harborview
and more...



Dated Material  *Please Rush*

CT Hort Calendar at a Glance

Monday, June 16 – Deadline for the June *Newsletter*

Thursday, June 26 – Speaker presentation: *Designing for Habitat: From Back Yards to Byways* with C. Colston Burrell, 7 pm, in person at CNTR, 725 Main St. Middletown, and on Zoom

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

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CTHORT 2025-2026 SPEAKER SERIES

Date	Speaker	Presentation	Speaker info
Thursday, September 18, 2025	Peter Del Tredici	Deeply Disturbed: The Emergent Forests of the Future	www.peterdeltredici.com
Thursday, October 16, 2025	Sarah Bailey	Putting the Garden to Bed – Re-thinking the Ritual	www.linkedin.com/in/sarah-bailey-0a457018/
Thursday, November 20, 2025	Michael Wojtech	The Growth of Trees: A Journey Through Time	www.knowyourtrees.com
Thursday, January 15, 2026	Julie Zickefoose	Personal Habitat: 30 Years of Wildlife Gardening	www.juliezickefoose.com/
Thursday, February 19, 2026	Heather Dionne	Tree Preservation Techniques	www.linkedin.com/in/heather-dionne-2bb50012
Thursday, March 19, 2026	Darryl Cheng	An Engineer's Approach to Houseplant Care	www.houseplantjournal.com/
Thursday, April 16, 2026	Herb Virgo	The Past, Present, and Future of the Keney Park Sustainability Project	www.keneyparksustainability.org/
Thursday, May 28, 2026	Kathy Connolly	Designing Meadows and Naturalized Plantings for a Human Landscape	www.speakingoflandscapes.com/
Thursday, June 18, 2026	Uli Lorimer	Digging Deeper into Ecological Horticulture	www.linkedin.com/in/uli-lorimer-421b1729/