PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — ROBERT SHERMAN

In writing my first “President’s Message,” I’ll begin by thanking the past officers for the fine work they have done. Paul Brown, a man of seemingly endless enthusiasm and energy did much to expand our field of interests, and to raise the profile of CAEMG statewide. Chris Kuckert did a marvelous job as Secretary. Charlotte Hurbutt, who became Treasurer a year ago and remains this year, has worked diligently and successfully to keep our financial house in order. Our already noteworthy Newsletter continues to improve under the guidance of Marie Adams, Editor. A sincere thanks to all, and to all of you who helped to implement the many activities of CAEMG.

This year promises to be another active one. The Symposium, of course, is the major undertaking right now. It is coming about largely as a result of the work and organizational skills of Paul Brown and Jan Robertson.

We will, of course be helping in the Extension offices and monitoring new Master Gardeners. But you should be aware that numerous talks to various groups, adult education classes, work at the Prisons and State Hospitals and writing gardening columns, are all being scheduled too.

A unique activity will find Master Gardeners presenting programs for the athletes at this year’s Special Olympics in June at New London. More than 11,000 coaches and volunteers will come to New London for the event.

So we start the new year with lots of activity planned, but to continue the pace we need ideas from you, the members. If you have an idea, contact your District Coordinator. We want to hear it. Thanks B.S.

THE ANNUAL MEETING at the Hamden Office on December 5, 1992 was well attended. As guest speaker, MG Cindy Hunt discussed the survey she recently conducted. She sent 396 surveys to 1991 and 1992 MG’s and 154 responded, with 1200 write in comments. There are copies of the survey at all Extension Offices. One of the issues raised was the definition of in-service and volunteer work. It was noted that 80 percent of the students drop out after the course. We hope this survey will help the University improve the program.

Another Guest Speaker was Henry Ferris, who spoke on the idea of MG’s raising food for community need. He and his group work to grow, collect and distribute food to those in need. Anyone interested can contact—Henry Ferris 31 Rockledge Drive, Madison, CT 06443, Phone 245-4397.

GOLDEN TROWEL AWARDS — Bob Sherman had Charlotte Hurbutt present the Golden Trowel awards to the previous Treasurer-Florence Marone. Out going President-Paul Brown. Out going Secretary-Christine Kuckert. Publication Resource Person-Jeanne Chesnow, and Newsletter/Membership List/Historian—Marie Adams.

EASTERN DISTRICT — Paul Stake reports that sixty people have signed up for the MG class at Brooklyn. Jan Robertson reports that the next meeting will be at Haddam, on February 20 at 10:00 AM. Shirley Mitsko, one of our MG’s from the first class in Connecticut will show slides of gardens in Hawaii, where she lived for many years. We will skip the meeting on 20 March, because so many of us want to go to the Symposium at the Keeney Center in Wethersfield. This is being presented by the Connecticut Horticultural Society and promises to be very informative. Join us at 9:30 A.M. Cost will be $25/members, $30/non-members. For more information call 529-8713 Tues. or Thurs. 12:50-4:00.

The Press Conference Feb. 3rd. for the Special Olympics was attended by Marie Adams and Jan Robertson. This will be a wonderful community service for us to get involved in. We are receiving donations of
seed from Hart's Seed Co., Agway has offered us PRO-MIX, and other local nurseries I am sure will contribute. We will give short demonstrations to the athletes between events. This will occur June 11-13th 1993 and will be a heartwarming activity for YOU to participate in.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT REPORTS that they plan a meeting, February 17th at Bethel. Emily Kostecki, 55 Hillside Road, Woodbury, phone 266-6556 has offered to be Coordinator for the Southern District. As a project to get people involved she plans to work with the prisoners at Fairfield Hills. There is a greenhouse at the facility and much interest among the pre-release inmates.

Marie Dube would like anyone interested in working with Pre-release inmates at Cheshire to contact her at the Extension Office. Marie reports that the new MG class numbers thirty five. "Sound Gardening", a course being presented in Hamden, has sixty people enrolled.

Gene Whaples of the University of Connecticut Extension has informed us that Marie Dube will be our liaison between the University and CAEMG. A new member of the CES is Ms. Leanne Pundt, a graduate of Cornell, with a Master's in Plant Protection. Leanne has worked with Extension in New York, and at Rutgers, helping with Landscape IPM. Leanne will be a welcome addition in our search to protect our plants.

NORTHERN DISTRICT REPORTS that the new class of Master Gardeners numbers sixty. Carl Salsedo has promised to set up some tours of nurseries for all MG's in the state this summer. This should be great as he has many contacts. He may even be able to arrange buying privileges as we visit. The Fall/Winter issue of the GREEN THUMB PRINT from the Knox Parks Foundation has an article "How has your garden grown?" by MG Frank Lipski. MG Gail Collins has an article "Fall Comes to Knox Gardens" telling about the ALL AMERICA SELECTIONS that were grown at the gardens.

THE CONNECTICUT CENTER FOR FARMING, PLANTS, & FLOWERS, P.O.Box 414, Botsford CT 06404. Has sent us a paper telling us of their dream of having one place for all of the state's agricultural & horticultural communities to meet and work together. Sounds like a great idea, but I hope its not too far away, maybe in the center of the state. They are asking for donations. Call them at 203-268-9000.

BOOK REPORT — JAN ROBERTSON "Home Ground: A Gardener's Miscellany" by Allen Lacy. "It's easier to teach a gardener how to write than it is to teach a writer how to garden." Lacy writes frequently for Horticulture Magazine and the New York Times. This collection of his essays on the pleasures and frustrations of making things grow has something for everyone. It is available at several libraries.

MG Vicky Wetherell has written a trail guide for geological walks. The guide, NATURAL HISTORY OUTINGS ON CONNECTICUT'S TRAPROCK RIDGES, contains maps, illustrations and field notes. Vicky's guide can be purchased at the UConn Co-op for $5.95 plus tax.

Our Treasure; Charlotte Hurlbutt, wants to remind you that the deadline for the membership handbook is the fifteenth of March. In January, our friend and mentor, Ed Marrott, lost his father, A sympathy card was sent with a check to his favorite charity.

MASTER GARDENER ACTIVITIES IN 1992-ROBERT MCNEIL — 1992 was a very busy and productive year for Master Gardeners in the Eastern District. A survey showed that a total of seventy-six garden and compost programs were presented to the public. This included six Exhibits at fairs. It is estimated that 1500 to 1600 people attended the programs exclusive of the fairs and exhibits for which no count was available. A total of 26 different MG's participated in these programs. From March 13 to November 13, there were 36 weekly garden columns in THE DAY, written by fifteen MG's. This completed our third year. We expect to start our fourth year in March.

MG's have provided assistance at the Montville Correctional Center and the Women's Correctional Center in Niantic. Several MG's volunteered with Mark Bridgen at the University of Connecticut perennial garden this summer. Already this year, we are committed to programs at the libraries in East Lyme, Colchester, and Mystic; classes at Norwich Adult Education, and the Lions Flower show in New London, plus Earth Day at Connecticut College. It looks like another busy year.

The CONNECTICUT COLLEGE ARBORETUM is looking for six volunteers to assist with specific grounds maintenance tasks. Work will be done on a project by project basis and may include such tasks as pruning,
Volunteers will work directly with the Arboretum Horticulturists and will gain training and experience in many aspects of horticultural work. Volunteers will meet every Thursday beginning March 4th from 9:00 AM - Noon. Master Gardening training is preferred.

For additional information and an application form, contact Clare McFarland at the Connecticut College Arboretum 439-2131.

Rogers NK Seed Co., P.O.Box 4188, Boise ID 83711-4188, through their Sales Manager Harold F. Ford, is interested in having MS's evaluate their tomato, pepper, cucumber and cabbage varieties. They had a very nice article in their VEGETABLES TODAY publication, about the Master Gardener program.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT, a CT Weekly: reports that "Produce is a growth business. Forty percent of the nation's consumers say they are eating more fruits and vegetables than they did the year before. Concerns for health and diet fuel increased produce consumption. Consumers say quality, evidenced by appearance and condition (97%), taste and flavor (96%), and freshness and ripeness (96%), are their principal decision-making criteria when buying fresh fruits and vegetables." Are we not lucky we can grow our own.

Our friend and teacher, Mark Bridgen, is once again willing to play with us this summer. Mark is Associate Professor of Floriculture at the Univ. of Connecticut and has a great interest in the Perennial Garden. This will be the third year Mark has worked with us, and he has much more than he gets. We can see great improvement in the beds.

Mark plants to have guest speakers this year, such as Roger Adams on Insects, and his wife, Margot, on plant diseases. Last year we went on field trips and ended the summer with a pot luck lunch at Mark's house. What a treat! this is not the shoe repairman whose kids go bare foot. Mark's garden is beautiful and the best part was the grilled lawn given by his children. Mark has had a student design a plan for the area where we park, and has found donations of the trees and shrubs needed to finish the area. You may contact him at Univ. of Conn or at 429-0533.

Since the first national MG Conference in 1988 MAGIC (Master Gardeners International Corporation) has been the voice for the nations MG's. They have published a quarterly with much information relevant to MG's. It has been helpful to read the regional news to see what others are doing. Dues are $10.00 per year. They can be contacted at Magic Membership Services, 2904 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria, VA 22302.

INTERNATIONAL COMPOST TIMES: a new group that seems to be in charge of putting on the next international conference August 1993 in San Antonio, Texas writes, "We expect to be an aggressive organization and deliver the services outlined in this issue of the COMPOST TIMES. One of the services will be to provide a membership discount and gift certificate package worth over the $25.00 annual fee. Express your opinion on the organization and the $25 fee being discussed: by contacting your closest acting director or drop us a note at 'My opinion on MAGIC" 1143 Coliseum Road, San Antonio, TX 78219". I understand that the nearest director we have in this area is at the University of Rhode Island MG Office.

EASTERN MEETING—MARCH, 20 1993—Marie Adams—There isn't time to con someone else into writing this report, and I must share this wonderful day. Shirley Mitsko picked me up at 8:30 and by 10:00 we had set up her display of things collected in Hawaii, and Jan Robertson's six beautiful orchids. Shirley had been asked a few months ago to speak on her experiences as a MG in Hawaii. Her slides were still in storage in California, so the next thing we heard was that she was in Hawaii, taking pictures and bringing home door prizes.

This is a professional! We were all quite impressed. Her pictures were great and she not only gave us the name, but also all the botanical names of ALL these plants, shrubs and trees. Plants that we use as house plants or hanging baskets in the summer are considered weeds or ground cover over there.

She showed us pictures of the URBAN GARDEN CENTER where they have plots of different grasses, ground covers, shrubs and trees. All this is maintained by one County Agent and an Agricultural Resident Technician, plus many MG's.

The program is different in that they school 40 hours and volunteer 40 hours. when they take the course. Then every year, they must recertify. Shirley showed a list of the courses being offered this year, three hours a month. We all want to move to Hawaii.

We heard that "Bailie's" was having a lecture on Shade Gardening, so the caravan of cars took off,
leaving, we thought, poor Jan and her orchids. But Jan could not resist and followed us. Mrs. Ballik was wonderful as usual. She is so knowledgable and is so willing to share. Such a joyful day.

We still have reports from the MG Conference in New Jersey but again my time is getting short. Charlotte Hurlbutt, our treasurer is about to go to the hospital and would love to get a card from her friends.

ACTIVITIES


ORGANIC LANDSCAPING CONFERENCE 27 Feb., GROW ORGANIC FOOD 28 Feb. 1993 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM. NOFA presents these at Naugatuck Valley Community-Technical College, Waterbury. For Info call 484-2445.

First annual MG Garden Symposium, March 6, (9:00 AM-3:00 PM) at Hartford, University of Conn. Campus.

BOSTON FLOWER SHOW March 6-14 1993.

PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW March 7-14 1993.

NEW YORK FLOWER SHOW “Gardens for our future” March 13-21 $8.00, Info 212-757-0915

AMERICAN AGRICULTURE GROWING BETTER EVERY DAY, National agriculture week, March 14-20.

ANNUAL MEETING - Experiment Station Associates, March 18, 7-9:00 PM Jones Auditorium, 123 Huntington St., New Haven.

BIRDS LIVE & SPECTACULAR Univ. of CT Museum of Natural History, 20 March, 1:00 to 5:00 PM, Info 486-4460

A GARDEN SYMPOSIUM at the Keeney Center in Wethersfield, given by the CT Horticultural Society, 20 March, starts at 9:30 AM.

NEW LONDON FLOWER SHOW, March 27-28 1993.

Eastern Meeting Brooklyn, 17 April, 10:00-12:00 AM.

EARTH DAY at Connecticut College, 25 April, 10:00AM-4:00PM.

PLANT TISSUE CULTURE-Mark Bridgen-Torrey Life Science, Room 154

PLANT EXCHANGE, at 3:00May 6 1993, at Bethel Extension Office parking lot. Time 9AM-3PM. Inside if it rains. Perennials, annuals, Herbs. Must be potted labeled and pest free.

CONNECTICUT SPECIAL OLYMPICS, New London, 11-13 June 1993

WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL-13 June 1993 at U Conn. at Storrs.

BARTLETT ARBORETUM: Saturday, June 19th Summer Meeting of the CAEMG Guided tour at 11:30. Picnic-Bring your own lunch. More later.


PLANT SCIENCE DAY— Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, a Wednesday the beginning of August.

MG INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE— 11-16 AUGUST 1993, San Antonio TX Info 512-228-0417

Annual Greenhouse Tours

The Museum offers annual weekend, late winter and spring tours of this outstanding collection of 3,000 species of plants including 500 orchids, bromeliads, cacti and many other tropical and exotic plants. Registration: $3 per member, $1 per member child age 5-17; $5 per nonmember, $2 per nonmember child 5-17; UConn students $2.

February 27 & 28, Saturday & Sunday, 1:00 & 3:00 PM March 6 & 7, Saturday & Sunday, 1:00 & 3:00 PM March 27 & 28, Saturday & Sunday, 1:00 & 3:00 PM April 3 & 4, Saturday & Sunday, 1:00 & 3:00 PM April 10 & 11, Saturday & Sunday, 1:00 & 3:00 PM

These Greenhouses are behind the Torrey Life Sciences Bldg., 75 N. Eagleville Road, and are managed by the Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology. Reservations are required. Free parking.
Got a Plant Problem? Call a Master Gardener

Alice Nicolson approaches the shade garden she calls "my baby" and frowns. She falls on her knees, ploughs her practiced and beneath a plant, and rips out a guilty weed.

Nicolson knows a weed when she sees one: She's a certified master gardener in Arlington, Virginia. A boon to people. "You can bold their hand and reassure them that their plant won't die," she says.

She's a certified master gardener (GEOGRAPHY, May 1992) who has perennial problems or compost concerns, the master gardener concept originated in 1972 in the Seattle area. Master gardeners now volunteer 4146 states, the District of Columbia, and four Canadian provinces. Organized by county Cooperative Extension Service agents and linked to state land-grant universities, master gardeners take heavy-light horticulture classes. In Nicolson's area students must attend 30 hours of classes that range from pruning to pesticide management. Graduates must perform at least 25 hours of volunteer work, from answering phone queries of appearing at plant sales to zucchini blasting "beautification islands," local landmarks.

To Nicolson, who founded in 1980 and "got hooked," the appeal lies in helping people. "You can hold their hand and reassure them that their plant won't die," she says.

Let's face it: January is grim. February has its dark side. And winter yields a death toll on March. That's the bad news.

The good news is that at this very moment the sun has begun its brilliant climb toward the summer solstice, with each day lasting just a little bit longer, season enough for optimism. With the sun so inclined, spring just about starting us in the face. No need for the blues when a rainbow is just around the corner, right?

Back to the bad news: the rest of January, never-say-die March, and good old February sandwiched in between. These are not months known for nurturing plants that trip around the color wheel. Those that do turn out to be genuine mood elevators.

Take the witch hazel, or Hamamelis. One of the earliest to bloom with no competition in sight, it's a waker-upper on the winter scene, all aglow with early cloudy of yellow or bronze. Come across one in bloom on a bleak February day, and it will send you scurrying off to the garden center to buy one for your very own. Hamamelis xintermedia 'Arnold Promise' has large, deep yellow, fragrant flowers. H. xintermedia 'Diane' glows red, and 'Jelena' contains areas of yellow and red, which from a distance appear an impossible orange.

Another wake-up-call comes in the form of the Cornelian Cherry (Cornus mas), which has the distinction of being the first tree to bloom. In our little world, anyway. Masses of minute lemony flowers crowd naked branches creating a tidy and sunny presence on an otherwise dull landscape. Eyes to the ground in February opens winter aconites (Eranthis), yellow buttercup-like bulbs, followed by Glory-of-the-snow (Chionodoxa). With a same like that no further description is necessary. Let me simply say that this early spring bloomer is a sight for winter-weary eyes.

The hellebores barely hibernate, their leaves all leafy and green right through the fall and winter. In February Helleborus niger's pink-fuschia flowers burst on the scene. By early March the winestriped ivory blossoms of the Lenten Rose (Helleborus orientalis) are nodding good morning. And so it goes. From now on all the news is good. The alarm goes off, plants stir, stretch, yawn, and sing. As the inevitable march toward spring begins, keep your eyes open for the early risers.

National Geographic, November 1992

RESIDENT GARDENS

Early Risers

by Barbara Block

Barbara Block
Indoor Sowing Timetable**

You need to know the approximate date of the last spring frost in your area. Count back from that date the number of weeks indicated below to determine the appropriate starting dates for various seeds.

- 12-14 weeks: onion, leeks, chives, parsley, impatiens, coleus, geraniums, and artichokes.
- 8-12 weeks: peppers, lettuce, cabbage-family crops, petunias, snapdragons, alyssum, and other hardy annual flowers.
- 6-8 weeks: eggplants and tomatoes
- 5-6 weeks: zinnias, cockscombs, marigolds, other tender annuals
- 2-4 weeks: cucumbers, melons, okra, pumpkins, squash

**This is just a guide, check your seed packets for suggested planting time.

*Cold hardy plants: you may set these out 4-6 weeks before last frost.

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*** GARDEN TIPS ***

- Garden Reflections -

If you start seedlings in front of a window, try putting a piece of cardboard covered with foil behind the plants. The reflector stops the plants from reaching for the light and getting spindly.

- Small Seed Sandwiches-
  1. Prepare your planting bed.
  2. Sprinkle area with water.
  3. Roll out white toilet paper.
  4. Sow seeds such as carrots, parsley, lettuce or flower seeds.
  5. Roll another layer of paper on top.
  6. Cover with a 1/4" of soil.

The toilet paper marks the row and gives the seeds protection from birds and wind and helps to retain moisture. (Tips are from Troy-Bilt News.)
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — ROBERT SHERMAN

Here it is May again already. Everyone I talk with feels that we jumped right from the hectic pace of late Winter, to the even more hectic pace of Spring without a pause. Does anyone remember the days when we would have an occasional breathing space on our calendars?

The Symposium has come and gone and it was a huge success. For a time on Friday it appeared that the snow might force a cancellation, but it didn't, and a one hour delayed opening allowed most people to get there. Attendance suffered somewhat from the storm, but even so well over one hundred people participated, and the programs went on as planned. The evaluation forms which were turned in by the participants were overwhelmingly complimentary.

Kudos to Jan Robertson and Paul Brown, who together organized and produced this first major educational program for CAEMG. Thanks too, to all of you who helped before, during and after; without you it might not have happened.

The 1994 Symposium should be somewhat easier to put on now that many of the pitfalls have been identified and overcome. Yes, there will be a 1994 Symposium. No details yet, but we will be asking the membership for suggestions.

By now you should have received the 1993 CAEMG Membership Directory and with it a calendar of events for MG's. Look over the list, note the number and variety of activities. Plan to participate in as many programs as you can. We have had a terrific year so far and it will get even better.

See you at the Bartlett Arboretum for the June 19 meeting.

Marguerite Alpert, the Community Gardens Coordinator at Knox Parks Foundation has written us asking for help. This is a private non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in the city of Hartford through horticulture. Many of our MG's have worked with her in the past and from all appearances have really enjoyed the experience. Following are a list of the opportunities for volunteers.

The appointment of Kirklyn Kerr as the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources is effective June 1, 1993. A native of Green Bank, West Virginia, Dr. Kerr received a bachelor of science degree in animal science from West Virginia University, concurrent with earning a doctor of veterinary medicine degree at the Ohio State University. He received a master of science degree in medical microbiology from West Virginia University Medical Center. Dr. Kerr earned his Ph.D. in veterinary pathology from Texas A&M University. We do hope that his interest in animals does not keep him from a slight interest in the MG's and our needs. Welcome aboard Sir.

The grapevine tells us that Ed Merrotte bought a book for the office with our gift. Isn't that just like him.

TIPS FOR HELP IN YOUR GARDENS.

For a safe and effective way to aphid-proof your plants, try this spray from Organic Gardening. "In a blender, combine and chop, 1 clove garlic, 1 small onion, 1 tablespoon cayenne pepper, and 1 quart water. Let steep, then add 1 tablespoon liquid non-detergent soap." It might be good to strain this mess before you put it in your sprayer.

To kill weeds between stones and bricks, or where children and pets play, pour a boiling hot solution of liquid dish soap, vinegar and gin. (one ounce of each).
Laughing Brook- Audubon, Hampden NY, recommends as a bug killer 1 cup castor oil, 1 cup dish detergent, 2 cups of water.

For Black spot on Roses it is recommended you mix one quart of water, one drop of dish detergent and two teaspoons of baking soda.

Charlotte Hurlbutt highly recommends TECNU a Poison Ivy Cleanser. Your local pharmacy may have it, if not Gardeners Supply does. We never know when we will be in the middle of poison ivy so its nice to have something that will remove the problem even after six hours.

Final report from 1992 Northeast Regional Conference.

SHADE GARDENING with Steve Kristoph of Kristoph's Nursery, by Emily Kostecki of the Southern District

Anything will grow in shade, some plants do better than others, consideration must be given to type of shade. Broad leaf evergreens do best in shade. Mr. Kristoph, a very interesting and informative speaker suggested some of the following plants.

1.) Maples such as Devil Acer Diaboliums and Manchus type Maples. Acer Tegmentosum is grown for its bark.
2.) Boxwood - Buxus, are deer resistant.
3.) Camellia oleifera is winter hardy to -12 degrees.
4.) American Hornbeam - Carpinus Caroliniana, also known as Blue Beech, Ironwood, Muscelwood and Water Beech.
5.) Hinoki Falsecypreas - Chamaeyparis obtuusa is pest free.
6.) Wintergreen - Gaultheria is a low growing creeping ground cover.
7.) Witchhazel - Hammamelis Virginiana.
8.) Holly - Ilex , Winterberry Ilex Verticellata.
9.) Mountain Laurel - Kalmia, Many different colors.
10.) Spicebush - Lindera benzoin.
11.) Japanese Pieris - Pieris Japanica, eg. Mountain fire cultivar is spectacular.
12.) Rhododendron and Azalea. Actually all azaleas are now included in the genus Rhododendron. There is no clear cut line for distinguishing all azaleas from all rhododendrons. Rhodas and azellas bloom all seasons, some cultivars bloom in spring, some in summer and some are fall bloomers. There are fragrant cultivars, such as any of the Dexter hybrids.

Other plants that enjoy the shade are Hostas - Lilaceae, great for planting under large trees. Other ground covers are Houttuynia - Saururacica, various ferns and many other non-flowering plants.

ACTIVITIES

CONNECTICUT SPECIAL OLYMPICS, New London, 11-13 June 1993. We have been asked to have a table, with plants at various stages, and be able to help the athletes to plant something they can bring home with them. We will be there from 10:00AM to 3:00 PM on Sat. and Sunday. Anyone willing to donate some hours please call Jan Robertson or Marie Adams.

MG Nancy Clark has organized a campus tree walk led by Bill Cullina of the University of Connecticut Campus. This will take place 12 June at 2:00 to 3:30. Meet in Parking lot behind the Pathobiology building on North Eagleville Road. For more Info call 486-6386 or 429-7932. Refreshments will be served after the walk at Nancy's house.

13 June 1993, Wildflower Festival, CT State Museum of Natural History 486-4460.

16 June, 10:00-12:00 Show and Tell, Brooklyn Extension Office with Dawn Kerbow.


21 June 1993 Rose time at Elizabeth Park.

Master Gardener Conference in Ontario, Canada, some time in July. For more info call Cathy Young at the Guelph Ag. Center. 519-767-3540.

14 July, 10-112 AM, Show and Tell at the Hamden Extension Office.

10-11 July —4th Annual Insects Live and Beautiful at CT State Museum of Natural History. 486-4460.

17 July, Rain date 18th July. Garden Tour of Seven Mystic/Stonington Gardens, to benefit the Women's Center of Southeastern CT. For info call MG Barbara Block 536-3148.

21 July, Mail all articles to Marie Adams for Newsletter.

15 August Newsletter mailed, covers activities for September, October, and November.

23-25 July 1993 Burlington Vermont "Cold-Climate Gardening" For more info call 802-863-1308. This is a National Gardening Workshop.

24 July , Field trip to Tranquil Lake. Call Jan Robertson for Info.
Thursday, July 29, Caprilands Herb Farm, Coventry CT
Cost is $18.00. To reserve send check by June 15th made to Sylvia Wahl, 28 Drummer Lane, West Redding CT 06895, Phone 938-9515. Include name, Address, Phone, and whether you are willing to drive for car pool coordination. Directions: Exit 59 off RT 84 onto RT 384 to end, East onto Rt 44: in Coventry take right onto Silver St. at Nathan Hale Homestead Sign. 742-7244.


18 August, 10-12 A.M. Show & Tell, Norwich Extension Office, with Dawn Kerbow.

The annual Plant Science Day Open House of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station will be held at Lockwood Farm in Hamden from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday August II. There will be short talks by staff, and exhibits and field plot displays throughout the day.

Lockwood Farm is one block from the intersection of Whitney Avenue (Route 10) and Evergreen Avenue in the MT. Carmel section of Hamden. For more information, call 789-7223

In September or October there will be another class "Sound Gardening" given by Heather Crawford at the Norwich Extension Office.

MG will be teaching classes at Middlesex Community College, Six in the Fall and eight in the Spring.

The third year of working in the Perennial Garden at U. Conn. started on 20 May. It was great seeing Mark and all our old friends again. We discussed our plans for the summer, were given some plants from the greenhouse by Mark and then went to work. The gardens look much better than they did two years ago, but still need a lot of help. Our plans are to weed May 27 and then go to Chishire to the "Bedding Capital of the World" on June 3.

June 10 Plant Pathology I — Mrs. Margot Bridgen
June 17 Plant Pathology II — Mrs. Margot Bridgen
June 24 Entomology I or IPM — Dr. Roger Adams
July 1 Entomology II — Dr. Roger Adams.

We will work in the gardens from 8:30 to 10:00 A.M. then have our classes. After this we will meet every two weeks for work and Field Trips. Anyone interested can call Dr. Mark Bridgen at 486-2021.

Sorry for the problems with our Membership Directory. Maybe this will help. Edwin M. Lavitt, P.O.Box 900, Rockville CT 06066, no phone listed.
Shirley A. Mitsko, 62 Ginger Drive Groton CT 06340, Phone 448-2309
Sylvia Wahl, 28 Drummer Lane, West Redding CT 06896, Phone 938-9515.
It seems the computer wants a phone number. If there are any other mistakes, please let me know and it will be corrected.

LA T E B R E A K I N G N E W S thanks to Marie Dube we hear that Carl Salsedo has organized some programs, all MS's are invited.

7 June 10:00 a.m. at the Litchfield Office there will be a talk on "Landscape Plants for Connecticut".
10 June at 9:30 Tour Broken Arrow Nursery, 13 Gayford Mountain Road.
21 June at 10:00 at the Litchfield Office a talk by David Smith of White Flower Farm, on "Gardens of England".
12 July at 10:00 tour of Hillside Gardens in Northfolk, on RT 272
Soil pH important to gardening

BY ALLEN GAUTHIER

While fertilizer is important for proper nutrients to garden plants, it is just as important to remember that the soil needs to be in the proper pH range.

What is pH? People have an idea that it involves acid and alkaline, but that is about as far as it goes. The relative acidity or alkalinity level of a solution is measured by pH on a scale numbered from 0 to 14, with a pH of 7 being neutral (neither acid or alkaline). Values lower than 7 are acidic, while those higher than 7 are alkaline. The pH scale is a logarithmic measure, which means that while there is a tenfold difference in acidity from pH 7 to pH 6, a change from pH 7 to pH 5 represents a hundredfold difference.

Soil pH is very important, because it influences the availability of the nutrients needed for plant growth and the ability of soil microorganisms to carry on their beneficial functions. If the pH is too low, elements such as aluminum become increasingly available and potentially toxic to the plant. Beneficial nutrients, in some cases, become less available. If the pH is too high, deficiencies of iron and manganese can occur. A pH range of 5.5 to 7.0 is favorable for most plants, but remember that certain plants grow best under acidic conditions and some under basic conditions.

pH can be measured by three categories of devices: indicator strips, indicator solutions and pH meters. Indicator strips are treated paper that are inserted into a water solution of soil. Take it out after a few minutes and the paper turns to a color, such as red for acid, and blue for alkaline. Some enable you to see a difference between individual pH units; however, it is difficult to tell precisely how acidic or basic your soil is because they are not terribly accurate. Indicator solutions consist of tablets that you dissolve in water containing your soil sample. These tests are disappointing, because it is very difficult to tell the color of the pH indicator in order to compare it to a reference. Therefore, try to get an accurate pH measurement through a pH meter.

The pH meters are the most accurate, easily measuring to the nearest 0.1 of a pH unit or better, but they can be very expensive. A high quality pH meter can easily cost at least $1,000. There are also some very inexpensive units that are sold through gardening magazines, but I would question their accuracy.

An alternative to these do-it-yourself tests is to have it professionally tested. The University of Connecticut provides a soil testing kit for less than $3. Send your soil sample and information sheet to UConn in the mail. You will receive a computer report showing the pH, several nutrient values, and recommendations for soil treatment. Call the Extension office in Norwich at 887-1800, or Haddam at 345-4511, for information about buying one.

How do you modify the soil to put it in the proper pH range? If the pH is too low (acidic), it can be raised by adding lime. For garden purposes, dolomitic lime is recommended. It contains calcium and magnesium and raises the pH gradually.

If the pH is too high (alkaline), it can be lowered by adding sulfur. As well as being a pH modifier, sulfur is an excellent organic ingredient for the soil. Aluminum sulfate is not recommended because it contributes aluminum ions to the soil. The addition of limestone or sulfur should be done a few months prior to planting and preferably in the fall since it takes awhile for the modifier to work its way through the soil. Remember, keeping the soil at the correct pH range will keep plants healthier and more productive. The fertilizer that you put on the soil will be more efficiently utilized by the plants so you will be able to use less.

Allen Gauthier of Ledyard is a master gardener with the University Extension System.

Tips and guidelines for growing tomatoes

BY DON WETHERELL

This warm-season crop is available with a wide variety of plant and fruit characteristics, including earliness, plant form, disease-resistance, and fruit color.

Varieties designated "determinate" are often bush and have a restricted growth period. "Indeterminate" types are usually larger and continue to grow and bloom throughout the season. To stop them from growing excessively, you can pinch off the growing tips to put more growth into the fruit.

Choose a planting site which will get direct sunlight most or all of the day. Open sites with good air flow reduce foliage diseases and cold air injury. Tomatoes can be grown in most moderately-to-highly fertile soils. Well-drained sandy loams warm quickly, but may require more watering. Soil pH should be maintained in the 5.5 to 7.0 range. Plant tomatoes deep, with only three or four inches above the soil. The tiny hairs along the stem are potential roots which develop a strong root ball.

All danger of frost must be over before tomatoes can be placed outdoors. Well-developed seedlings may be transplanted into the garden when soil temperature reaches 65 degrees F and average daytime air temperatures are 55-60 degrees F. Plastic mulches warm the soil. Organic mulches help keep the soil cooler and should be applied before July 1.

For more detailed information on growing tomatoes in Connecticut, contact Horticulture Fact Sheet No. 24 (92-3) from your regional Cooperative Extension System office in Haddam (345-4511) or Norwich (887-1800). Master gardeners are on duty, throughout the season, for any gardening problems you may have.

Don Wetherell of Stony is a master gardener with the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System.
The Bartlett Arboretum occupies 63 acres of Connecticut countryside on the west side of State Highway 137 in North Stamford. At the turn of the century the area was still being farmed. Today it is nestled in what has become a prime residential area. A large part of the arboretum is natural growth oak, maple, and hickory, with a few scattered ash, birch, beech, and yellow poplar.
an inspiration to all of us, with or without real gardens to tend. I share two pieces of mid-spring gleaned from other newsletters. The first is a suggestion to "locate a piece of nature, a tree, a patch of garden, even a particular view from one window at a certain hour of the day, and in a notebook record the daily changes. 'We have,' said Thoreau, 'an appointment with Spring.' Enjoy your visit."

The second is this set of instructions:

First plant five rows of Peas:
- Preparedness
- Promptness
- Perseverance
- Politeness
- Prayer

Next to these, plant three rows of Squash:
- Squash Gossip
- Squash Criticism
- Squash Indifference

Then five rows of Lettuce:
- Let us be faithful
- Let us be unselfish
- Let us be loyal
- Let us love one another
- Let us be truthful

No garden is complete without Turnips:
- Turn up for meetings
- Turn up with a smile
- Turn up with a new idea
- Turn up with real determination.

Knox Parks Foundation
Volunteer Opportunities

- Design and plant a demonstration garden plot at one of Knox's many community gardens
- Assist with garden preparations and soil improvements at community gardens
- Prepare gardening information sheets for new community gardeners
- Plan and plant an herb, vegetable or flower garden at the Horticulture Center in Elizabeth Park
- Design and plant the Knox Horticulture Center flowerboxes
- Write gardening articles for publication in The Green Thumb Print or The Root Zone
- Build raised beds or portable cold frames
The Summer meeting of the CAEMG will be held on Saturday June 19th at the Bartlett Arboretum in Stamford CT. The program will start with a guided tour at 11:30 AM. Meet at the administration building. After the tour we can picnic on the grounds. BRING YOUR OWN BROWN BAG LUNCH. This will be followed by a CAEMG meeting to discuss several items of importance. The Arboretum grounds are open from 8:30 AM to Sundown. Plan to bring family and friends to see the collections. You may also want to spend the afternoon on the woodland Trail, or the Swamp Walk.
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE 1993 MASTER GARDENERS!!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
ROBERT SHERMAN

Welcome to the ever growing ranks of Certified Extension Master Gardeners in Connecticut.

Now that you've completed your studies and your "payback" time, what's next?

That question occurred to some of us who in 1987 were recently graduated and were looking for a way to remain actively involved in the Master Gardener program. We decided to form the Connecticut Association of Extension Master Gardeners (CAEMG). We envisioned CAEMG as a vehicle to:

• Expand our own knowledge,
• Meet and associate with others having like interests, and
• Continue to share our knowledge and offer our help to the public through the Cooperative Extension System.

All of these goals have been achieved and in a variety of ways.

For instance, to expand our knowledge we've participated in advanced training, seminars, regional and international conferences, garden tours and of course the inevitable "chinfests" that occur whenever gardeners meet one another.

All of these activities have introduced us to many new friends in the gardening world.

In serving the public our activities have been many and varied including writing newspaper columns, producing programs for television, mentoring new M.G.s, presenting talks to library and other groups, teaching adult education classes, producing and teaching a statewide gardening symposium and staffing booths at flower shows and fairs.

We are an active group and we would like to have all of you join us in this worthwhile and satisfying way to "keep our hands in". I invite ALL of you to consider joining the CAEMG.

Please come to our Annual Meeting on December 4 at 11 AM in the Social Science Building cafeteria on the West Hartford Campus - UConn.

Respectfully submitted, Bob Sherman, President-CAEMG.
EASTERN DISTRICT GRADUATES

Judith Allik, Polly Devany, Bob Boedecker and Douglas Moffat from Ledyard; Sam and Marie Chiovoni, Waterford; Corinne Cleveneger, Preston; Marion Donato and Ed Izbicki, Norwich; Paul Gotthelf, Bozrah; Roxanne Jeffcoat and Helen Lanier, Stonington; Mary Maria, Salem; Edmee' McIntosh, Noank; Virginia Brearton, Rogers; Ralph Chartier, Laura Clingmans, Jennifer Lefevre and Richard Bourque from Danielson; Linda Cunningham, Portland; Diane Deutermann, Lyme; Nancy Grandelski, Dayville; Carole Green and Maryann Nazarchyk, Niantic; Maureen Hanschmann and Barbara Nadeau, Lebanon; Gail Libertine, So. Windham; Kate MacKenzie, Brooklyn; Clement Matteau, Plainfield; George McKeon and Richard Snell, Old Lyme; John Mona, Woodstock; David Pechle, Killingly; Paul Rauscher and Mary Smeraldi from Clinton; Anthony Savino and Lisa Stearns, No. Windham, Sheryl Sommer, Pomfret Center; Carl Ellison, Ivoryton; Sidney Swadosh, Chester; Walter Stearns, Chaplin; Collette Tibbetts, Moosup; Louise Wisnewski, Coventry; John Young, Putnam; Ruth Cole and Bruce Reiber from Madison; Richard Miller, Groton; Sharon Overstrom, No. Stonington; David Spear, Columbia; William Yates, Mystic; and Margaret Bounty from Ashford. An impressive list, congratulations!

SOUTHERN DISTRICT GRADUATES

Diane Aaron from Easton; Carol O'Connor, Brennan and Rose Stowell, Milford; Jeanette Compton, Thomas Penna, Jr. and Richie Ur tz, Hamden; Doris Gerl, Bethlehem; Susan Gibson, Middlebury; Kenneth Graham, Branford; Michael Hughes, No. Haven; Linda Kurylo, Wallingford; Gary Mott, Fairfield; Vanessa Nesvig, Redding; Grace Plumb, Woodbury; Carol Powell, Newtown; Donna Pursley, No. Branford; Ruth Cole and Bruce Reiber, Madison; Mira Schachne, Oxford; Thomas Sievel and Carol Soter, West Haven; Gloria Stanton, New Haven; Mary Walker, Westport and Charles Weidig and Janice Wivagg from Bethany also Mary Smeraldi from Clinton -- and just in time: Margaret Borland, Gillen, Dinah Schell, Bill Gavoil and Jill Howard - Congratulations to all!

Thank you Master Gardener Mentors. Experienced Master Gardeners were extremely helpful to the new inexperienced Master Gardener Trainees in the Southern District. Thank you to Isabelle Buliger, Max Durrschmidt, Linda Giles, Bernadette Hanford, Marie Hayden, Cindy Hunt, Jane Lyall, Henry Marshall, Ingrid McCauley, Art Miller, Zarinna Mulla, Audrey Reid, Bob Sadler, Ellen Shepard, Ellen Speirs, Valerie Stagen, Fran Stodolink, Kate Summerlin, Morris Teller and Tracee Wells. These mentors volunteered to work alongside the new Master Gardeners to help them gain confidence and to help them feel more at east.

THE NORTHERN DISTRICT WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THE FOLLOWING NEW MASTER GARDENERS
FROM HARTFORD COUNTY: Vicki Anderson, Steven Ballinger, Judy Bichun, Ron Bolton, Maureen Crown, Lois Dunnells, Lila Ferrari, Nadine Glover, Barbara Green, Barbara Korzendorfer, Douglas McDonald, Bonnie McLachlan, Nick Metaxas (split hours in two offices), Walter Miller, Jr., Ellen M. Morse, Elizabeth Muench, Gail Musson, Gloria A. Rathbone, Ency Richardson (split hours in two offices), Eric Ruquist, Jacqueline Schipke, Peter Sleight, Gillian Steal (split hours in two offices), Helena M. Stidsen, Anthony J. Subach, Rosemarie Tamiso, Astrid Terman and Dr. Jeanette H. Wiggin.

FROM TOLLAND COUNTY: Dick Smith

FROM LITCHFIELD COUNTY: Bill Martin, Leslie Golymbieski, Lisa Golymbieski, Barbara Putnam and Cecilia Wallace.

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

Special Olympics

On June 12 and 13 Mother Nature gave the Special Olympic athletes a spectacular weekend. She covered the Connecticut College campus with sunshine and stirred up a cool Long Island Sound breeze.

The Master Gardener booth was sheltered beneath the arms of a giant tree. Our tables were covered with bulletin boards and handouts -- offering information from apples to zucchini. Passer-bys asked many questions and the Special Olympians, their friends, families, and guests were encouraged to plant pumpkin or sunflower seeds in small pots using Promix as the planting medium. The pots, mix and seeds were donated by Griffin Greenhouse Supply, Agway and Hart Seed Company. Hopefully, the newly planted seeds made it to a friendly windowsill.

The expected "Yuks, Ughs, and Oh, Gross" comments were heard as the more adventurous Special Olympians peered into Alan Fitzgerald's worm composting box.

And miracles do happen. In addition to all the cheering, music and good time noises, MacDonald's generously filled our growling stomachs with a brown bag lunch.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who gave of their precious time and lent a much needed helping hand.

NOTE: Summer Meeting Correction: Marie Adams was the coordinator for this event.

EASTERN DISTRICT SEPTEMBER 18TH MEETING

On a cool, drizzly Saturday an eager group of 16 Master Gardeners carpoooled to the Sun Dial Herb Garden in Higganum.

We were greeted by our very gracious hostess, herbalist Ragna Tischler Goddard for a tour of her 3 gardens, all distinct entities, but encompassing an amazingly small space.
The focal point of the knot garden is a figure eight pattern of Rue and Teucrium pruned to give the impression they are intertwined. The beds of various herbs are bordered with boxwood neatly trimmed.

The main garden, in 18th century European style, has a central sundial and geometric walkways. Here again boxwood outlines the beds creating a formal appearance.

The topiary garden is viewed as an outdoor extension of the house with an arched trellis of roses, central fountain and formal boxwood plantings in topiary designs. Attractive stone walls outline this garden on 2 sides giving an illusion of a sunken garden. This garden is in 17th century French style but patterned after ancient Egyptian gardens.

The tour was made even more enlightening by the commentary of Mrs. Goddard, including historical facts mixed with folk tales about the many herbs that she is growing.

On completion of the tour we were offered a welcome cup of hot tea and a chance to browse in the shop which is filled with many herbal products, teas, dried arrangements, books, etc.

Most of us made note to return in November for the Sundial Shop's special holiday offerings. The Sundial Herb Garden is truly one of Middlesex county's special places, worth many visits at any season.

Dorothy Cheo

The Master Gardeners working with Dr. Mark Bridgen at Storrs took a field trip on June 4 to visit Delucia Greenhouses in Cheshire. The magnitude of the greenhouse operation stunned the touring gardeners. The greenhouses made of glass, and of plastic housed millions of plants and much of the operations were automated.

To begin the process, a moving belt was hand loaded with trays that passed under a tower which dropped inorganic "soil" onto the trays which then passed under a roller to compress the material. At the next station the trays passed under another tower from which a hopper dispensed one or two seeds into each compartment in the trays.

Some filled trays were diverted to another line where operators inserted thousand of prepared cuttings into the planting medium. The filled trays were then placed in huge flats which were 10 or 12 feet square which were on rollers. As each flat was filled, it was pushed down the row to make room for the next flat until the length of the enormous greenhouse was filled. Then a new row was started and the process repeated. Pipes running beneath the flats provided heated water to maintain exacting temperatures offering optimum growing conditions for cuttings or for germination of seeds. Above the flats, a trolley car carrying a number of spigots was programmed to travel for watering, misting, or fertilizing the trays on a precisely timed schedule.
Lights were also controlled in a similar fashion.

The MG's observed how plants were propagated by leaf cuttings and stem and tip cuttings. Many of the cuttings were ready for market in only six weeks. A unique feature of these greenhouses was the way the sides of the greenhouses swung open to allow the entire contents of the greenhouse to be pushed out to an adjacent open area for hardening off, or to take advantage of the natural environment. It was a most impressive experience.

Dr. Jonas Zucker

FRIENDS OF HARKNESS MEMORIAL STATE PARK in Waterford is looking for volunteers to teach or help in the following areas:

• Greenhouse plants & procedures.
• Perennial flower bed restoration.
• Topiary and tree pruning and care.
• Composting, mulching, fertilization methods.
• Lawn care.
• Natural pest management.
• Sound gardening.
• Bird watching; historians.

Please contact Diana McMasters at 437-1576 or Carmen Whitehead at 376-8760 or 443-5725.

1994 BACKYARD GARDEN CALENDARS are available at the Extension office now. They are very nice looking in the format that everyone wanted back -- boxes with gardening hints for everyday and space for your notes. The cost is $3.00 each if picked up at the office and $4.50 (shipping and handling) if mailed. Order early. They make great stocking stuffers and small gifts for the gardeners on your holiday list.

SOIL BAGS - as of September 15, 1993 the price of soil bags goes to $5.00 if picked up at the Extension office and $5.50 if you mail in. The cost increase more accurately reflects the actual cost of the test.

To the man who asked about cutting alpine lawns (at the CAEMG symposium, March 6) and to anyone else interested in selective trimming in small areas: I recommend the Cordless ClipQuik by Weedeater. It is small (held in one hand) and cuts off clumps of dianthus, thyme, etc. neatly. It has a rechargeable battery and runs out of power too soon for a big area. About $22. (This is a personal choice; the CAEMG does not endorse or recommend any products.)

Jeanne Chesnaw

HORTICULTURAL TRIP TO ORLANDO, FLORIDA, March 19-26, 1994

An 8 day/7 night horticultural trip to Orlando, Florida has been planned by Dr. Mark Bridgen from UConn for March 19-26, 1994. We will be traveling on a 48 passenger, luxury European-designed motorcoach with individual lighting, oversized lavatory,
and 6 video monitors throughout the motorcoach for enroute tape viewing. It will only take 24 hours of traveling to reach Florida; this includes stops every 2-3 hours to stretch. If the majority of passengers wants to stop at the National Arboretum in Washington, DC, we will plan to do so. When we arrive in Orlando, we will be staying at the Continental Plaza on International Drive in walking distance to several restaurants, shops, and nightclubs. The hotel has a pool and will try to reserve our rooms in a block so we can be together. During our 6 days in Orlando, there will be several optional activities in which to participate: a 4-hour "Gardens of the World" tour at EPCOT Center, a "behind the scenes" workshop in Walt Disney World, a visit to the Leu Botanical Gardens, and of course, trips to Disney World, EPCOT Center, and Disney MGM Studios. If there is sufficient interest, the bus is available during the week both day and night to drive us around to functions and local sites such as Walt Disney World Village Marketplace and Pleasure Island, Sea World, Universal Studios, Church Street Station, and Rosie O'Grady's (admission is not included in our price).

The cost for the travel and motel is very reasonable: if there are 4 people in a room, it will cost $289 per person, if there are 3 people in a room, it will cost $302 per person, and if there are 2 people in a room, it will cost $327 per person. These prices include the bus trip, the hotel room, and all state and federal taxes. Other expenses which are not included in the prices listed above include your food, entrance fees to the Magic Kingdom ($35.95/1 day passport), and Horticulture Workshop ($20). In order to guarantee a seat on the bus, a commitment of $100 is needed (make checks payable to The UConn Horticulture Club). This deposit will be held by the Horticulture Club until January, 1994 and then deposited; deposits will be deducted from the cost of the bus/hotel. The final balance is due no later than 30 days prior to departure. Feel free to invite your friends and family to this activity. Seats on the bus are allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis.

If you have any questions, call Dr. Bridgen at 486-2021 or write him at the Department of Plant Science, U-67, 1376 Storrs Road, UConn, Storrs, CT 06269.

THANKS! We would like to thank Mrs. Rochelle Syme for donating her time to the typing of this newsletter. Thanks Rochelle!

MULCHING PERENNIALS by Rudy Favretti, Emeritus Professor of Landscape Architecture. Mulching perennials provides the most effective protection from the ravages of winter. Apply a two to three inch layer of a suitable material, such as peat moss, buckwheat hulls, cocoa hulls, sugar cane, salt marsh hay, pine needles, straw, compost,
manure and even sawdust. Any of these materials are effective, use the one that is cheapest or more easily obtainable.

Don't be hasty in applying the winter mulch. If applied too early, it can do more damage than good. Do not use it to keep the plants warm. Applying a mulch keeps the soil temperature constant so that fluctuations in temperature will not occur in the soil and damage root tissue. A mulch also provides protection when soil freezes and thaws to cause heaving. This is especially true in heavy or poorly drained soils.

For these reasons, it is customary not to mulch until the soil has reached 32 degrees F. This is usually around Thanksgiving or when the first icy crust has formed on the soil's surface.

Since these mulches absorb water, some plants will rot from excessive moisture around their crowns. Delphiniums, chrysanthemums, foxgloves and columbine are notorious in this respect. For these, it is wise to place a piece of fiberglass building insulation over the top and bring the mulch up around its edges to keep it in place. Many Connecticut home gardeners have found this a very successful practice in overwintering these tender plants.

FAREWELL TO A GOOD FRIEND
Marie Adams
May 1, 1925 - October 3, 1993

Marie Adams became a Master Gardener in 1988 and then completed her Advanced Master Gardener classes at the University of Connecticut Horticulture Garden program.

Marie had been eastern district regional director for 2 years and for the last 2 years she was newsletter editor, publisher of the membership directory, and CAEMG historian. The automobile accident that took Marie left an enormous gap in all of our hearts and lives. She was a joyous and giving woman who brought so much to the lives of all of us who loved her.

IN MEMORY OF MARIE ADAMS

A committee has been formed to select a book for use at the Norwich Extension office.
Deadline for February newsletter
January 10, 1994

No need to wait for the deadline, respect your editor's sanity - get your news in early. Reporters needed!

**VOLES**

In Connecticut meadow voles are abundant. They eat a wide variety of crops and plants, with a preference for grasses. Their extensive tunnel systems cause root destruction and interfere with crop irrigation, as well. In late summer and fall, voles store seeds, tubers, bulbs and rhizomes in their tunnels. Voles are active day and night the entire year. They construct a complex tunnel system with surface runways and numerous burrow entrances. A single tunnel system may contain several adults and young.

**CONTROL:**

1. Eliminate weeds, ground cover and crop litter in and around cultivated areas.
2. A weed-free or vegetation-free strip is an excellent buffer around areas to be protected.
3. Frequent tillage removes cover, destroys existing runways or tunnels and destroys a percentage of the existing population.
4. Rozol baits are effective for fall and winter vole control in noncrop areas. (Read the label instructions).
5. Wire or metal barriers (tree guards) at least 12 inches high, with a mesh size of 1/4 inch or less around trees or shrubs, will exclude meadow voles.
6. Mouse traps, or snap-back traps, can be very effective in reducing the vole population. Place the trap perpendicular to the runway, with the trigger end in the runway. Apple slices or a peanut butter-oatmeal mixture make good baits.
7. A section of roofing shingle placed over the burrow opening and baited with an apple slice will attract voles. A trap can also be placed on the ground. Shingles should be bent to form an A-shaped root.
8. At least one repellent utilizing thiram (Bonide Rabbit, Deer and Field Mice Repellent) is labeled for voles. Also, a new material, Miller Hot Sauce Animal Repellent, containing the extract capsaicin from peppers, may afford short-term protection from meadow and pine voles. Check the label for mixing directions and restrictions. (For more detailed information request Identification and Control of Mice and Voles #91-57 from the office).
ANNUAL MEETING

POTLUCK DINNER

Saturday, December 4th
starting at 11:00 am

SPEAKER: BOB TOWELL, landscape designer
(Owner Gledhill Nursery, W. Hartford)

LOCATION: UNIVERSITY of CT at W. Hartford
1800 Asylum Ave.
West Hartford, Ct.

DIRECTIONS: From east or west. Take exit 43 (Park Rd. to W.
Hartford) on 1-84 (from east, exit is on the left). At
the end of the exit, turn right. Immediately get in
left lane and turn left at light (Trout Brook Rd). At
the fifth light turn left onto Asylum Ave. Turn right
into the next driveway which goes to the parking lot.

November 20th Norwich Extension Office
Open Meeting 10am - Noon
Professor Bill Niering will speak on
Naturalized Landscaping

January 15th the meeting will be held at
Ballek's Garden Center in East
Haddam. There will be a tour and hands on
project. Call for directions. Time: 10am-Noon.

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER LISTEN TO WTIC-AM (1080) or
call your local coordinators.
Pettiness from the governor

Decision to let Harkness mansion fall apart comes from letting personalities and politics rule over reason

Gov. Lowell P. Weicker has let petty politics and personal opinion interfere with objectivity in deciding the fate of the mansion at Harkness Memorial State Park. The governor has no interest in repairing and maintaining this landmark.

Because of the governor’s personal feelings, the people of Connecticut could lose this piece of the state’s history. They should not let that happen.

Decades ago, Mary Harkness left the beautiful oceanside park and the mansion in Waterford to the state of Connecticut, along with facilities for summer camps for the blind, retarded and handicapped. Just as the governor has a responsibility to maintain the park and camp facilities, so too does his responsibility extend to the mansion.

But that’s not the way Gov. Weicker views the decision.

First, he’s piqued that First Selectman Thomas A. Sheridan, of Waterford, did a flip-flop over a proposed arts park under discussion among the Department of Environmental Protection, Summer Music and the Eugene O’Neill Theater Center.

Gov. Weicker, who can be imaginative and creative in his approach to solving major state problems, in this case is being petty and narrow-minded because he thinks First Selectman Sheridan embarrassed the DEP with his change of mind.

In an interview last Monday, the governor admitted that the flap with First Selectman Sheridan played a part in his reasoning. He also said he’s not impressed with the mansion as a structure, that it is not unique and does not lend itself to modern public uses.

The governor also said the state lacks the money to fix up Connecticut’s state parks, and doesn’t have the funds for educational and health care programs he’d like to see take place. The Harkness Mansion falls below those items on the state’s list of priorities, he added.

“My juices do not flow on behalf of that kind of a structure,” Gov. Weicker said. And he added, “Where do I get the money from?”

The governor could start by taking money from some of the hundreds of thousands of dollars in patronage jobs he’s handed out to Democrats and Republicans who supported the state income tax.

By the time Gov. Weicker took office, the state already had compiled a rundown list of those things that have accumulated at the Capitol.

As a first stunt Managing Editor Edward Murphy, Anthony Cronin, Harold Hanka, Lance C. Johoska, Managing Editor

Morgan McGinley, Editorial Page Editor

Lance C. Johoska, Managing Editor
Anthony Cronin, Assistant, Managing Editor
Harold Hanka, Assistant Managing Editor
Edward Murphy, Assistant Managing Editor

Morgan McGinley, Editorial Page Editor
Gregory N. Stone, Deputy Editorial Page Editor
Maura Casey, Associate Editorial Page Editor

Reported from the New London Day. If you agree (or disagree) consider the last paragraph.
CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF EXTENSION MASTER GARDENERS

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR 1994

(Dues are $5.00/year. Dues paid during Fall of 1993 will be valid through December 1994.)

YES, I am a fully certified Master Gardener and I want to be a part of the CAEMG. I am (a.) renewing my membership OR (b.) a new member.

Name __________________________ Year course taken

Address

Phone __________________________ Extension Office __________________________ District

INTERESTS

Circle 10 (or less) items of your highest interest.

Annual Flowers  Beeskeeping  Birds  Bonsai  Butterfly Gardening  Cactus  Children's Gardens  Community Projects  Compost  Computers in Gardening  Container Gardening  Drying Flowers  Educational  Flower Arranging  Fruit Growing


Photography  Plant Disease  Plant Propagation  Plant Therapy  Rock Gardens  Seed Saving  Seedlings  Senior Programs  Shade Gardening  Slides  Vegetable Growing  Water Gardens  Wild Flowers  Woody Orna[]nals  Writing

Indicate below those subjects you are willing to teach:

ALSO, please list any Affiliations you would like listed in the CAEMG Directory (for example: Conn. Horticultural Society, NOFA, Arboretum, Local Garden Club).

Please mail dues to CAEMG Treasurer Charlotte Hurlbutt 11 Johnson Court Waterford CT 06385