THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Our March meeting signifies the beginning of our second year. We have become organized, published a newsletter, presented informative programs, and met in various parts of the state in order to reach everyone. We are now ready to become more active and have some fun through tours, visits to places of interest, and other activities.

As Master Gardeners we know what is necessary to grow a healthy perennial plant. First a seed must be planted. After germination it must be nurtured with nutrients in order to grow. If provided with the proper care, it will survive for many years. Our organization is like a plant. Last year we planted a seed. It germinated and was nurtured by over 200 members. Nutrients were provided by a core group of officers and committee members. However, to grow stronger and healthier it must be supplied with both macro- and micronutrients. These must be provided by a growing membership and a greater number of volunteers becoming involved. For opportunities see the article elsewhere in the newsletter.

I urge you to join this year and help us become a strong voice for gardening in Connecticut. See you on March 13.

Robert McNeil
President

NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

OUR MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY, MARCH 13th AT THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE IN HADDAM. (map on last page)
7 PM snacks & socializing
7:30 meeting

For the program, we have not one, not two, not three, not four . . . . . . . I could go on and on, but you get the idea. We have several Master Gardeners with slides and/or pictures to tell about their own backyard (or front yard). If you too have some pictures, bring them along to share. Too shy to talk about them? Just put them out on the Sharing Table for all to admire. Do label them!

DRIVERS
Bob Sherman (Killingworth) 663-2345
Dan Noel (Manchester) 646-2421
Bob McNeil (Niantic) 739-5134

BAD WEATHER DATE FOR MARCH MEETING
Monday, March 20 (see p.)
The second National Master Gardener Conference will be held in Portland, Oregon October 11-14, 1989. Much planning has taken place. More specific information regarding schedules, reservations and other plans should be available at the March meeting. We need a volunteer to serve as coordinator for Connecticut to receive information and disseminate it to our members. There is a regional representative in New York state to help. If you can volunteer, please write to Robert McNeil, 16 Damon Heights Rd., Niantic, Ct. 06357 or call him at 739-5134, before the March meeting.

If you are interested in more information, write to Jean Sparkes, 14 Falls Bashan Rd., Moodus, Ct. 06469 giving your address and phone number. She will pass it along to the volunteer who will be able to send you application forms, etc. when we receive them. You do not need to be a CAEMG member to participate.

FROM THE MEMBERS

Several members have complained about receiving their newsletter after the meeting date. We mail it at least four weeks in advance using the bulk mailing permit of an Extension Service office. Third class mail moves more slowly than first class but should be delivered in two weeks. If the problem persists, we suggest members check with their local post office.

A suggestion has been made to have one daytime meeting. If many of our members work, this would be a problem unless we met on a Saturday, which would require a change in By-Laws. It might be a consideration for the December meeting. Those interested should bring it up at the March meeting.

NEED GARDENING HELP?

We'd like to suggest some sources of gardening information through the media which you may enjoy. If you know of others, let Jeanné Chesnau know and we'll include them in future newsletters. Her address is 214 Cornwall Ave., Cheshire, Ct. 06410.

RADIO

WOR-AM (710 AM) Ralph Snodsmith, 4-6 p.m. Saturday, 6-10 a.m. Sunday

Call-in show on all types of gardening.

TELEVISION

VICTORY GARDEN (Public TV) Ch. 2, (Boston) 4:30 p.m. (Saturday), 7:30 p.m. (Sunday) Ch. 53, 24 Conn. 1:30 p.m. (Thursday), 5:30 p.m. (Saturday). These may change in 1989. Check TV schedules.

NEWSPAPERS

Hartford Courant - Sundays - (Erwin Goldstein)
New London Day - Sundays (Don Kerr)
Norwich Bulletin - Saturdays (Barnett Laschever)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

1. Serve as coordinator for the National Master Gardener Conference
2. Serve on a committee (see By-Laws)
3. Serve as recording secretary of the Association
4. Help with mailing the newsletter
5. Be a carpool driver
6. Coordinate activity in your district.

Note: Volunteers for #1-5 should write to Robert McNeil, 16 Damon Heights Rd., Niantic, Ct. 06357 or call 739-5134. For #6 see District Activities.
February 1989

Dear Connecticut Gardener,

It’s not too late to join the Connecticut Association of Extension Master Gardeners for 1989. And if you really hurry and send your $5.00 annual membership fee with the bottom part of this letter to me FAST you may still make it into our MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY.

We have good programs and activities in the works and expect this to be an exciting year for our members— and there’s no time like the present to join. I hope to hear from you before the MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY goes to press.

Sincerely,

Wendy Maxwell
79 Howard Avenue, New Haven, CT 06519

---

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 ________________________________

Address ________________________________

Phone ________________________________

INTERESTS: Circle 10 (or less) letters.

A birds, B beekeeping, C compost, D drying flowers, E education programs, F flower arranging, G children’s gardens, H historic gardens, I community projects, J handicapped gardeners, K herbes, L landscaping, M fundraising, for CAEMG, N seed-saving, O organic gardening, S I have slides to share, T therapy (plants), V vegetable growing, W writing about gardening, Z other (please list)

If your work and/or training makes you somewhat of an expert in any of the above, please make a double circle around that letter. Maybe you’ll be asked to speak on that topic at one of our meetings, or to write an article for the newsletter.
The winning logo: 9 votes.
Runners-up: 7 votes.

Some members have said that they thought we should vote again, since a tally of 9 votes does not seem substantial enough to decide on our official emblem. If you think we should vote again, perhaps just on the three logos, why not bring it up at the March meeting?

THIS NEWSLETTER IS GOING OUT TO ALL WHO WERE MEMBERS IN 1988 and to all who became Master Gardeners in 1988. BUT, AFTER THIS ISSUE, YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER OR BE ABLE TO GO ON ANY OF OUR GREAT TOURS (SEE PAGE 5) UNLESS YOU PAY YOUR DUES.

PLEASE SEND YOUR DUES TODAY TO WENDY SO THAT YOU WILL STILL BE ON OUR MAILING LIST THE NEXT TIME AROUND.

AND IN THE DIRECTORY!

THINK OF HOW SAD YOU WOULD BE IF YOU DID NOT GET YOUR NEWSLETTER.....
OR GET TO GO TO ALL THESE PLACES WITH US...
IT'S THE BEST $5.00 you'll spend!

Editor: Thank you to the one person who voted for my praying m нарушен design (state insert) - RC
CAEMG MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS FOR 1989 ---MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

MARCH 13 (Monday) regular meeting -- Middlesex County Extension Service, Haddam. A sharing meeting with members giving short talks (comments) on topics such as Historic Gardens, Wildflowers, European Backyard Gardening, Landscaping on 8 Feet of Fill, Plant Lore, and more, more, more...

March 29 (Wednesday) Got the winter blahs? A sure cure will be this tour of De Lucia Farms Greenhouses in Cheshire, the bedding plant capital of Connecticut. The De Lucias have recently changed to "Dutch" houses with rolling benches, automatic watering and computerized environmental controls. Come with us and see wonderful green plants growing for the spring market. Tour begins at 1:30 p.m. Map and directions on back of this page.

June 3 (Saturday) Plant exchange in Westbrook. Map, directions, time all will be in your May newsletter. (Or call Wendy Maxwe 11: 562-8231).

June 13 (Tuesday) Regular meeting, preceded by a tour of Elizabeth Park Rose Garden (West Hartford). Led by Donna Fuss, this tour will feature Rare Roses. See May newsletter for time and directions. Or call Marie Dube at the Hamden (New Haven County Extension) Office: 789-7865.

July 12 at 3:30PM Tour of White Flower Farm in Litchfield, see May issue for map and directions.

August 2 (Wed.) Visit to Community Vegetable Gardens in Bridgeport. Time, Directions, Drivers, all in the May issue of your favorite newsletter.

September 13 (Wed.) Regular Meeting, preceded by a tour of the Connecticut Arboretum (New London). (Meeting at the Norwich office).

Our programs benefit us. Now what can we do to help others? See what Bob McNeil suggests below:

One of the purposes stated in our bylaws is to provide means whereby Master Gardeners may "share their knowledge and expertise and offer help and assistance to the public through the Cooperative Extension Service." The Executive Board suggests that one way to accomplish this is to carry out activities in each of the three districts --Western (Fairfield and New Haven Counties), Northern (Litchfield, Hartford, Tolland), and Eastern (Middlesex, Windham, New London). Members in each district would decide what project(s) they would like to carry out. Being closer together geographically should encourage people to get involved.

Possible projects might include helping with community gardens, plant sales, compost demonstrations, lecture programs for organizations, plant clinics, newspaper columns, etc. The list is limited only by the imagination and interests of members.

Needed to get started are one or two volunteers from each district. Call or write Bob Taylor, 8 Harmony Lane, Ivoryton, 06442 (767-1041) if you want to get started on projects in your area.
Marie Dube

Marie, the chairman of the program committee for the CAEMG, has acquired an impressive title: Cooperative Extension Service Associate Educator in Residence! She is in charge of home horticulture and urban agriculture for the Western District, and shuttles between Haddam and Bethel. The Master Gardening course is being taught in Bethel on Thursdays. Marie videotapes the sessions and replays them for those who missed a class. In her spare time (!) Marie gardens and goes to garden club meetings. Can you imagine this is the same person who arranged all of our programs this year? Hip, hip, hurray for you, Marie!

* * *

BAD WEATHER (cont. from p.1)

If, on the day of the meeting, March 13th, the weather is bad—snowy, sleet, icy, whatever—and you wonder if we are having our meeting, please call one of the people below AFTER 12PM to find out if the meeting is postponed. The snow date will be the next Monday, March 20, same time, same place.

People to call:
Haddam Office: 345-4511
Bob McNeil: 739-5134
Jeanne Chesnow: 272-1131

As we go to press, the CAEMG is still without a secretary. Please, someone (it could be you) volunteer for this post. We do not require Senate confirmation hearings; just say you'll do it!

Someone from the Hartford area or Fairfield County would be good to round out the representation.

* * *

OUR HELP MAY BE NEEDED

At our December meeting, Dr. Rideout indicated the need for additional staff members for the Cooperative Extension Service. Funding is being requested in this year's budget. Dr. Kirvin Knox, Dean of the College of Agriculture, has indicated that we may be able to help when the budget comes up for discussion in the state legislature by talking to (or writing to) our representatives. If so, information will be provided to us and relayed to you. Adequate personnel is becoming a critical problem if the Cooperative Extension Service is to continue its services to the people of Connecticut.

-Bob McNeil-

* * *

Editor's Desk

I should have mentioned in the profile of Marie Dube that she used to manage the greenhouse at Gaylord Hospital in Wallingford. This is a rehabilitation hospital and many patients stay there for a long time; how they must have enjoyed those plants!

I belong to Association for Living Historical Farms and Agricultural Museums (known as ALHAFM). The January bulletin mentions a seed catalog that CAEMG members might find interesting. Select Seeds, Fine Seeds for Old-fashioned Flowers is an heirloom seed catalog devoted to bringing the beauty and fragrance of historic annuals and perennials into gardens of today. The catalog has rare antique illustrations and old plant names (in addition to Latin names). For your copy, send $1.50 to Select Seeds, 81 Stickney Hill Road, Union, CT 06076.

Speaking of district activities, we in the New Haven area have decided to get together to decide on a project or two to work on. And we are not trying to encompass the whole Western District. We are trying to organize a group of MGs who live no more than 20 minutes from one another. This will maximize our time with one another. So, I suggest that everyone look around and see who lives close by. The more local the group, the more chances for success, I believe.
As some of you know I spent last year as coordinator of a Master Composter program in New London County through the Cooperative Extension Service in Norwich. The emphasis was on recycling yard wastes by composting since leaves will be a mandatory recyclable by law in 1991. Aided by 45 volunteers we reached thousands of people through fairs, lectures, demonstrations, and telephone calls and the distribution of 5000 brochures.

The project ended officially in December with a report to the DEP which funded it. However, we have continued to present programs and have received inquiries from within and outside of Connecticut. If you or your community would like more information, you may write or call me at 16 Pamun Heights Rd., Niantic, Ct. 06357 (739-5134).

As gardeners we are aware of the importance of the environment. Rich healthy soil and non-polluted air are essential for gardening. Disposal of solid waste is a crisis in Connecticut. I urge all gardeners to become knowledgeable about recycling and support programs in your community which are designed to improve the environment in which we live.

I look forward to meeting you on June 13 at Elizabeth Park.

Robert McNeil, President
ROOMMATE NEEDED for national convention. BOB TAYLOR asks, "Is there anyone who would like to share a hotel room in Portland? Please call me at 767-1041."

* * *

VOLUNTEERS needed to work at the BARTLETT ARBORETUM. Call Sharon Morrissey at 322-6971 if you have some time to offer her. There may be a possibility of exchanging some form of education in return for your time.

* * *

HARKNESS MEMORIAL PARK, Waterford, needs volunteers to plant and maintain the gardens. Needed May - August. Please call Linda Callahan 444-1364 if you'd like to work there.

* * *

UPDATE on HOLE IN THE WALL GANG CAMP: the project there has changed with a change in the directorship of the camp--from gardens for the children to gardens for show; from vegetables to flowers and shrubs. Our role has changed: also, from statewide involvement to local group and from advisory to hands-on. Dan Noel who is heading this project has a few MGs ready to spend some Saturdays at the camp. He also has access to a giant pile of well-rotted horse manure that should make all those flowers sit up and take notice! Dan is looking for PERENNIALS and for anyone willing to spend some time and help on a Saturday or two. An hour or two of time would be appreciated. The camp is having an open house on May 21 and each guest has been asked to bring a plant. Dan is envisioning a vast array of plants all needing to be planted right away. HELP! Call Dan at 646-2421 if you want to help, or even if you just want to console him.

* * *

The New Haven area group of the CAEMG is teaching a course in the Cheshire Adult Education program in the fall. Each of 4 Master Gardeners is teaching one session (two hours) of the 4-week course. The fee $160. will go to the CAEMG and will perhaps be used as scholarships for new MGs although that has not been decided. Any of the materials for the course will be available to any member of the CAEMG. Wendy Maxwell (herbs), Jeanne Chesnok (rock gardening for beginners), Justine Petersen (pruning), and Florence Marrone (wildflowers) are the participants in this course. This will be one of our answers to Bob McNeil's advice: "Pick out a project that is do-able and do it!!" (Rather than think up a dozen exciting projects and do none of them).

So we are dwelling in the realm of the possible.

* * *

Other areas of the state: what are you doing? Have you formed your area group yet? Now's your chance to get involved. Do it! 2.
The registration brochures are out and we will have some at the June meeting. Or you can get one from Linda Callahan, 69 North Rd., Waterford, CT 06385 (Tel. 444-1364). Linda is the coordinator for the CAEMG convention-goers. If you register, please let her know that you are going. We may try to plan transportation, room-sharing, etc.

Here's some information about the conference that may help you decide whether to go or not. First, the prices——

**COST:** $100.00 registration fee; $85 per night hotel room (double) $75. (single) Banquet tickets: $23.00 apiece (Fri. 13th)

Now the good news. Oregon is supposed to be beautiful in all seasons with the fall being one of the best. There are three daytrips available that you can take either before or after the meeting. Oregon Coast Loop, Columbia Gorge-Mt. Hood Loop, or the Mt. St. Helens Loop (A Wilderness Experience). And then Tour 4 (after the meeting) — Victoria B.C. and the Butchart Gardens. This is a three-day tour. (Prices in brochure)

Meanwhile, back at the meeting. Thursday, Friday and half-day Saturday (12, 13, 14) are chock-a-block with sessions including one given by the Peace Corps for information and recruitment. Some examples of the many sessions: Edible Landscaping, New Pruning Techniques for Trees, Gardening with Specialty Vegetables, Garden Photography, Organic Gardening, Critter Control, and, as they say, more, much more! With eight sessions going on simultaneously there's a treasure trove of information to partake of.

Additionally there will be a trade show of garden-related products and books, state exhibits, and a Master Gardener Trading Post.

Other good news-- for those who choose to fly out to Oregon-- American Airlines is the official carrier for the conference and they are offering discounts for advance ticket purchase. The phone number to call is on the reservation brochure.

Just a note: We have been pricing T-shirts and other garments. We plan to have some silk-screened with our logo and have them available for sale so that we can wear them to the national meeting. Or just around the garden, or wherever. Look for a proposed design and a sample T-shirt at our June meeting.

This newsletter is going out to all who are presently enrolled in Master Gardener classes in CT. If you finish your volunteer hours and become certified, you will be eligible to join the CAEMGs and we hope that you will do so. Meanwhile, keep up the good work. Hope to see you as members in the fall.
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MARCH MEETING

Haddam, CT. The March meeting was event-filled. I'll try to fill you in on what I recall from the evening. We did take another vote on the logo and came up with a majority this time (for the mountain laurel).

The program was multi-faceted: Fred Babbitt led off with his slides of gardens in Germany. We noticed the intensive use of space and the colorful window boxes everywhere. Also some intriguing spiral-shaped supports for tomatoes. Jack Lugrin's slides of his yard were a photographic record of many years, showing his house when newly built and unplanted. Today azaleas blaze in abundance and masses of tulips greet the spring. He invites any CAEMG members to view his yard in Hamden. (Call the Ext. Service Office in Hamden for his phone number). Florence Marrone has fantastic wildflowers in her yard and can tell the legends of each one. Her slides were beautiful. Jeanie Sparkes had brought in some photographs of her farm. Jeanie is so amazing; she planted that farm all by herself and sold the produce at a stand. I brought a very few slides just for amusement--the lady in the bathtub seen in the bleeding heart flower, for example.

We then saw a presentation sent to us by the national association, designed to entice us out to Oregon for the convention and the scenery. I guess I was most impressed by the coastline, every bit protected and available to the public. A great contrast to our state.

Reporter: JR Chesanow

SECRETARY STRICKLAND

We have a new secretary of the CAEMG--Judith Strickland. She will be profiled in the next newsletter, but we just wanted to say, "Thank you for stepping into the breach. We needed you!"

INTO THE BREACH

Others who have stepped courageously into the breach are Arlene and Ina who have volunteered to be our permanent senders-outers of the newsletter. They will see that it gets mailed out all through 1989. Thanks, ladies.

FREE SEEDS

Who was that wonderful woman who handed out those free seeds at the March meeting? We thank her. Just a small example of the nice things that happen at our meetings.

CONGRATULATIONS

We salute Justine Petersen for her blue ribbon (for design) won at the CT Flower Show in Hartford.

Publication Notice: This is the CAEMG newsletter, the quarterly, official publication of the Connecticut Association of Extension Master Gardeners. Editor: Jeanne R. Chesanow. Officers of the CAEMG: Robert McNeil, Pres.; Jeanie Sparkes, V. Pres.; Judith Strickland, Sec'y; Wendy M. Donnelly, Tres. Published February, May, August, and November.
PLEASE take a second and answer these questions. The information will be used in planning an ADVANCED EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER course for fall 1989. The classes will be held once a month at one or two sites.

**CHOOSE ONLY FIVE TOPICS FROM THE LIST BELOW: RATE YOUR CHOICES FROM 1 to 5. 1 is the most desirable so 1 would be your first choice, 2 your second choice, etc. etc.**

We've you've finished, fold this paper into thirds and mail to your nearest coordinator (names and addresses on the back of this sheet). THANK YOU.

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<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>PREFERENCE</th>
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<td>Composting</td>
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<td>Houseplants</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Propagation (of woody plants by grafting, budding, etc.)</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Propagation (herbaceous)</td>
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<td>Propagation (seeds, including stratification)</td>
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<td>Plant Identification: Spring, Summer, Fall</td>
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<td>Pruning techniques and hands-on pruning</td>
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<td>Fruits: insects, diseases and cultural problems, an IPM approach</td>
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<td>Herbaceous Plants</td>
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<td>Lawns; insects, diseases, cultural problems, an IPM approach</td>
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<td>Vegetables; insects, diseases, cultural problems, an IPM approach...</td>
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<td>Woody Plants; insects, diseases</td>
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<td>Horticultural Math</td>
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<td>Public Speaking and program presentation</td>
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<td>Other topics that you want</td>
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<td>More topics that you could suggest</td>
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(NO, I have no idea what horticultural math is. Call Marie Dube if you want to know what it is.) Which of the following sites would you like the classes to be held at: Circle one.

STORRS          BARTLETT ARBORETUM      WEST HARTFORD      NEW HAVEN

If not offered at your choice would you travel to the class? yes no. How far?________
PROGRAMS*MEETINGS*ACTIVITIES*FUN*TOURS*ACTION*SOCIAL LIFE*PROGRAMS

MAY In the merry month of May we tour the Edwin Way Teale Homestead. We all know that he was a noted naturalist and author, but do we know exactly where he lived? Turn over and you'll find out.

JUNE A double-header: Tour of the Rose Garden and meeting at Pond House, both at Elizabeth Park. DIRECTIONS: From I-84, turn north at exit 44 on Prospect Avenue. Go 1½ miles; the entrance to the park is on the left. Parking: Behind the greenhouse, left side only please. (HARTFORD) — Tues. June 13

If you come early to the park you can enjoy some of its other attractions. In June there will still be lilacs, rhododendrons, azaleas. Don't miss the Rock Garden, Perennial Borders, the Children's Garden, and the Herb Garden. Maps showing the location of these gardens plus things like the rest rooms and picnic areas are available at the horticulture center, across from the Rose Garden. Why not come early and picnic. Tues. June 13.

OOPS I put the second part of the double-header first, so here goes the first part FREE PLANTS*FREE PLANTS* Come to the Old Clinton Road Farm in Westport on June 3 (Saturday) and bring your extra plants. Take away someone else's extra plants. How's that for a deal? DIRECTIONS: I-95 Exit 64 (turn south) go to Horse Hill Rd., right at the blinking light; farm will be the second place on the right—watch for a long white picket fence. The farm is LESS THAN 1 MILE FROM I-95; if you get lost, call 669-1776 and Wendy will direct you. HOURS OF PLANT EXCHANGE: 9 to 12, Saturday morning. Rain or shine. Come what may.

JULY 12th Tour of White Flower Farm. 3:30 PM. Go to parking lot and Marie Dube will direct you to the starting point of the tour. DIRECTIONS: Rte.84 to Route 8, go north on Route 8; get off at Rte.109 exit, go west through the Black Rock State Park. On Rte 63 go north. WFF will be on your left, 4 mi. south of the center of Litchfield. (You will pass another nursery on your right just after the state park; if you have time stop in; they sometimes have some good things.) (MORRIS, CT)

AUGUST 2 (Wednesday) Visit to Community Vegetable Gardens in Bridgeport. DIRECTIONS: I-95 west to Exit 23 (Stratford Ave.) At the bottom of the exit ramp, take Stratford Ave.; it will be the street to the left of the Carpenter Steel Building. Go three traffic lights to Central Ave. Take a left on Central Ave. Go two traffic lights to Barnum Ave. Take a right on Barnum and go about ½ mile to the garden. You should see a little red building between two lumberyards. Parking right there also by the fence.

Thanks to Joe Maisano for these directions. Please come.

From New Haven this drive should take about 45 minutes.
THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

After serving a year and a half as President I have some questions about how well we are achieving the purposes of the association as stated in the by-laws. How much have we extended our knowledge in gardening? How many of us have met and associated with others? And most importantly has the association provided means by which members may "share their knowledge and expertise and offer help and assistance to the public through the Cooperative Extension Service"?

At the risk of sounding negative I feel that much still needs to be done in order to achieve these purposes. Our program committee has planned programs for each meeting this year as well as monthly activities for members. To date attendance at the activities has been small. A statewide meeting has been held every three months in various parts of the state for the past year and a half. Attendance has ranged from 25-45 members with most of them coming from the area where the meeting was being held. It would appear that we're not reaching our members effectively.

Your executive board has discussed these matters as well as several others and thinks that we might be more effective if the association was brought closer to the members. Therefore, we are suggesting that members be organized within the three districts established by the Cooperative Extension Service while retaining the State association with fewer statewide meetings. This will reduce travel distances, make it possible for each district to organize its own activities, and provide opportunities for members to get to know each other and work together on projects.

Details of the proposal are printed elsewhere in the newsletter. Please read them and give us your reaction. I hope you can be with us on September 13 to express your ideas.

Robert McNeil, President

CHANGE OF PLANS

Our plans to tour the CT Arboretum have had to be cancelled. Maybe we'll go another time. Look below for the time and place of the September meeting.

NOTICE OF MEETING

SEPTEMBER 13, Extension Service Office at Norwich. 7:00 pm refreshments. 7:30 program, business meeting to follow at 8.

SPEAKER: ERWIN GOLDSTEIN
JUDITH STRICKLAND: Being the CAEMG secretary is only one of the many facets of Judith's life. She sings alto in the Eastern Connecticut Symphony chorus, volunteers many hours at the New London Area Food Pantry, is recreating her grandmother's garden, edits and writes the newsletter of the Waterford Historical Society, and is a fond grandmother.

Judith says, "I developed my love for gardening from my mother and paternal grandmother. Mom loved flowers, but she was the Victory Gardener during World War II."

As an enthusiastic member of the CAEMG, Judith has attended every program and has written accounts of each for those who could not attend. (See pages 3,4.)

We are lucky to have Judith on board!

PLANT TREES, SAVE THE EARTH

"Plants can get along without us, but we can't get along without plants." This quote from an article in The Day caught Bob McNeill's eye. The authors, George and Kitty Abraham, go on to say, "Every reader of this paper inhales and exhales 23,000 times in a single day... we take in 35 pounds of oxygen and it all comes from green plants."

We give off carbon dioxide which plants then "gobble up" but if there are not enough plants to use up the carbon dioxide that is being produced on earth, then the "greenhouse effect" is the result.

What can we do to fight climate change? Plant trees, protect existing trees, grow all kinds of plants. 100 million trees are needed to use up the carbon dioxide.

(Thanks, Bob, for sending in this article. Anyone else who sees an interesting article, please send it to: Jeanné R. Chesnow, 214 Cornwall Ave, Cheshire, CT 06410.)

SHOW AND TELL SESSION

Ed Marrotte is having one of his famous Show and Tell sessions at the Knox Foundation on Wed. Sept. 20.

From 10 to 12 he will identify plants that are brought in, diagnose disease on sickly plants, and, in general, give expert advice on any plants that are brought to the session.

From 1 to 3 he will talk about Woody Plant Propagation.

Attendance at this Show and Tell can earn you credits toward an Advanced Master Gardener Certificate.

The number of people who can attend may be limited, and these sessions are very popular, so if you want to go, maybe you should call Ed first to make sure you can get in.

Ed Marrotte: 486-3435

Editor's Desk

My apologies to those who were puzzled, inconvenienced, teed-off or whatever at not knowing the TIME of the Community Garden visit (Aug. 2 in Bridgeport).

Along with my apologies comes a plea for HELP with the newsletter. Errors such as these occur when there isn't a backup person to proofread the copy and catch the boo-boos.

In the directory --SPLENDID WORK BY WENDY!-- I noticed a number of people who say they like to write. We need you, of course, but do you also like to proofread, paste-up, re-type, revise, etc.? All the nitty gritty of newsletter work that are not as glamorous as a by-line but sorely needed. Especially since we are non-computerized here at CAEMG newsletter headquarters.
Firsthand Reports of May, June, and July Activities
by JUDITH STRICKLAND

The June 13 meeting was preceded by a tour of the Rose Gardens at Elizabeth Park in West Hartford. The tour was led by Donna Fuss, Director. The weather was rainy and the ground soggy, but Ms. Fuss and a group of about 25 Master Gardeners, enjoyed looking at and smelling the roses. Can you imagine the perfumed air we would have experienced had the sun been shining! Ms. Fuss is very knowledgeable about the many varieties of roses, their names, the dates they were introduced, etc.; for example some of the rose beds were planted in 1904, some of the roses were hybridized in different years. The tour also made a brief tour of the Perennial Garden that has been recently added at the Park. Unfortunately, the rain and the evening shadows kept us from lingering. We adjourned to the garden house for our meeting. I hope we can visit again when we will be able to use our umbrellas as parasols.

WHITE FLOWER FARM TOUR, JULY 12, 1989 ATTENDED: 20 Master Gardeners & Guests

Caroline Hedburg, Head Grower at White Flower Farm led the tour. She explained the experimental beds, the "head house" where seeding and propagation are done, describing the heating cables and automatic misting process. In one greenhouse that is kept at high humidity, they use muslin to protect plants that do not like drops of water on their leaves.

From the greenhouses we toured the stock fields where seedlings are kept to winter over when there is no room in the greenhouses.

Ms. Hedburg pointed out the bars of soap tied to the fence posts. They are supposed to be a deterrent for deer. Each year the deer enjoy a smorgasbord of Nerine, Sedum and Lilies. The effectiveness of the soap, (Cashmere Bouquet and Dial) has yet to be determined. There are 25 full-time employees.

Following the tour, there was plenty of time left for shopping in the Store. Although there is a large variety of plants to buy, Ms. Hedburg said that 80% of the Farm’s business is mail-order.

As secretary of the CAEM3, I mailed a thank-you to Ms. Hedburg for her time and patience. Many of the Master Gardener’s expressed disappointment that the tour was so brief and exclusive. We would have enjoyed a more extensive tour. For instance, there were sections of the grounds planted with different varieties of evergreens, trees and shrubs. It would have been interesting and informative to some of us to see these areas, have the plantings identified and hear some of their ages, growing habits, etc.

The Plant Swap, June 3, 1989 (Westbrook)

I wasn’t sure what to expect at the plant swap at Clinton Road Farm in Westbrook. (Either I missed reading the details or I wasn’t paying attention when it was talked about.) I have many more extra plants I could have brought for swapping. I hope we do it again next year. I met several Master Gardeners from around the state. It is always fun exchanging information and meeting other gardeners. There were some unusual plants to swap. Have you ever seen PINK Yarrow? Wendy was wonderfully enthusiastic and helpful. She guided us on a tour of her garden. We enjoyed trying to identify the herbs in the herb garden. When I left Wendy was digging more plants to swap.
Reports, cont.

I also attended the tour of the Edwin Way Teale Homestead in May. The N. L. County Extension was well represented. There were six of us.

I regret that I do not know our Guide's name. He met us in the parking lot, took us to the house, where we were greeted very graciously, by Mrs. Teale. She asked us to please sign her guestbook which was in Edwin's study.

Our guide then led us thru two of the many paths that Edwin Teale had created. We stopped at the Beaver Pond. Our guide explained the living habits of the Beaver so that we could better understand how a Beaver Pond is created. We saw the writing cabin where Edwin did much of his writing and the hideaway in the woods where he spent many, many hours observing and recording the plant, bird and animal life of the woods.

What struck some of us was, the natural QUIET of the woods. No traffic sounds, no construction vehicles making their particular noises, no airplanes happened over while we walked. It was wonderful! The tour lasted approximately two hours.

I don't think we could have investigated all the paths and observation spots that Edwin Teale used in two weeks, they were so numerous! The weather was sunny and warm, a perfect compliment to the tour.

ERWIN GOLDSTEIN will be our speaker in September. He has been a biology teacher for 30 years (now teaching at N. Stonington High) with an active second career in journalism. In 1974 he started writing for the New London paper The Day. Now his lively informative gardening column appears in The Courant and the (Meriden) Record-Journal. He will talk about "Adventures of a Garden Columnist".

COMPOSTING PROGRAMS COME TO NORWALK AND TOLLAND

Bob McNeil and Roy Jeffrey of the Extension Service in Norwich will be giving two composting programs in September. RECYCLING BY BACKYARD COMPOSTING is the title of the program. Both are from 7 to 9 PM.

September 19 (Tuesday), sponsored by the SE Regional Recycling Program, will be the date of the first program, to be held at the Norwalk City Hall.

September 27 (Wednesday), sponsored by the town of Tolland, is the date of the second program, to be held at the Hicks Memorial Center.

HOLE IN THE WALL PROJECT ENDED (editorial comment)

What the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp (under new directorship) wanted was groundkeepers. While the CAEHG was willing and able to plan and plant, we were not prepared to cast ourselves in the role of maintaining existing plantings. Hurrah to Dan Noel and all those who gave of time and energy to try to work on this project. (Perhaps Dan would send me a list of all those who contributed expertise to that venture, so I could mention all the names). You guys gave it your best shot; thanks.
We, the Executive Board of the CAEMG, are proposing to you, the members, some changes in the organization. Bob has put forth the proposal in his column. Here are some further details.

I. WHAT WOULD BE THE SAME? We will still be the same CAEMG with the same goals, the same ideals, the same requirements for membership. We will still have a quarterly newsletter, keeping you up with the news of the organization. We will still have elected officers heading up the statewide group.

II. WHAT WOULD BE DIFFERENT? We will be further organized into three areas just as the Extension Services have been: Southern (New Haven and Fairfield Counties), Northern (Hartford, Middlesex, and Litchfield Counties), and Eastern (Tolland, Windham, and New London Counties).

For each of these three areas there would be a coordinator or maybe more than one. Elected or appointed? A reporter to send news of the area into the newsletter? We will discuss the specifics of the new area groups at the September meeting.

III. WHAT WOULD THE CHANGE MEAN TO INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS? Within each of the three areas members would be free to organize as they wished. If a group of 5 or 10 people who live near one another want to do a project, hold a fundraiser, teach a course, they can do so. Maybe this little group will meet once a week; maybe they will only meet twice a year. This will be up to them. BUT, WE NEED ACTIVITY, INVOLVEMENT. AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL IS WHERE WE THINK IT WILL BE MOST EFFECTIVE. The little groups can meet at someone's home, in a park, or wherever. The CAEMG needs a few KEY people NOW, in all areas of the state, to say, "I'll call a few people who live near me and get started on something."

The statewide organization would meet only twice a year. These will be business meetings plus Show and Tell times for the smaller groups.

This new grouping will require a few bylaws changes. These will be brought up in September and voted on in December.

If members think this re-structuring is a good idea and vote to approve it, the new CAEMG would be in effect for 1990.

IV. WHAT WOULD CONVINCE YOU TO APPROVE OF THE CHANGES? How about MONEY and POWER? Each of the smaller groups will have a budget of some $3. CAEMG will pay the bills up to that amount. If you make money will you keep all of it? Hah! (This is one of the issues to be discussed). POWER: each small group will have the power to teach, have an influence on their community, help bring the pleasures and benefits of gardening to others.

* * *

We do not propose to be a kinder, gentler CAEMG. We propose to be a more active, effective, feisty CAEMG with pizzazz and clout. Each small group will be a link in the CHAIN that will be the CAEMG.

If you will not be able to attend the September meeting, but would like to be a part of the discussion, please write to Jeanné Chesanow or one of the CAEMG officers. Addresses in the new Directory (GREAT DIRECTORY, WENDY!)
The annual meeting in December will mark the end of the second year of the CAEMG and the conclusion of my two terms as president. According to the By-Laws no officer may serve more than two consecutive terms so I shall be conducting my final meeting.

In reviewing the first two years I feel that we have made some progress. We have met at various locations to bring the association closer to all members and have offered a variety of activities and programs. The officers have given willingly of their time to conduct the association business and Jeanné Chesnow has provided us with an excellent newsletter.

Our association has an opportunity to make significant contributions to horticulture in Connecticut. There are many ways we can do this but strong and innovative leadership is needed as well as widespread participation by members. I think that the plan to organize by districts should provide the setting in which everyone can find an activity which will be interesting and enjoyable.

I hope that you will attend the district meetings in January and be willing to serve as coordinator or in some other capacity. Information about these meetings will be sent to all members after the annual meeting in December. (cont. column 2)

DECEMBER MEETING

THE CAEMG PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER 7 will feature Dr. Richard Jaynes, noted plant hybridizer. Come at 7 for refreshments, business meeting at 7:30, we must vote on the suggested bylaws changes. Dr. Jaynes will speak at 9 pm, -- hybridizing with emphasis on mountain laurel. (You may have seen his named cultivars in some of the well-known nursery catalogs.)

LOCATION OF MEETING: THE EXTENSION OFFICE IN HAMDEN on MARNE STREET

(see map on last pages of this newsletter)

INSIDE: More on Dr. Jaynes, news report from the national convention, MG program at Norwich, proposed bylaw changes (as we gear up for smaller local groups) and a fascinating account of the visit to community gardens in Bridgeport.

THE PRESIDENT’S CORNER, CONT.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president for the past two years.

Robert McNeil
President
A GREAT SEASON
by Arlene Hartmann

The Norwich Office had a great 1989. 12 MG Certificates were issued in October. Total amount of hours -- 900½. Yes, 900½ with the help of 6 returning MGs.

The class of '89: Cindy Baril (Groton), Donald Wetherell (Storrs), Bill Fink (Pomfret Center, volunteered in Brooklyn), Betty Fink (Pomfret Center, hours in Brooklyn), Graham Herwerth (Groton), Barbara Barnes (60½ hours at Harkness, 20¼ hours at the office--from Gales-Ferry), Claudia Roesler (Oakdale), Astrid Balanger (Columbia), Dorothy Estes (Gales Ferry), Anne Arnold (Ledyard), Irving Tannenbaum (Columbia).

Returning MGs: Ina Goldberg, Judy Strickland, Dorothy Cheo, Allen Fitzgerald, Jay Israel.

Plant clinics were very well attended. Extra volunteer hours : Plant sales, spring festival, judging at fairs and garden tours.

Seven presentations by MGs.

We are very proud of the MGs from this office.!

GARDENING: SPECIAL TECHNIQUES

This was the title of a 4-session course given this fall by the Cheshire Adult Education Program. Jeanne Chesnow (Getting Started in Rock Gardening), Wendy Donnelly (Herbs), Justine Peterson (Pruning) and Florence Marrone (Wildflowers) each taught one session. Proceeds from the course --$160--went directly to the CAEMG general fund. About 20+ people took the course, from 4 towns. A big success!

Note: I have extra handouts from my session (Rock Gardening). If anyone wants a copy please write to me at 214 Cornwall Ave. Cheshire, 06410. (Jeanne Chesnow)

ON THE NATIONAL SCENE

Six Connecticut Master Gardeners just got back from the conference in Portland, Oregon. We had a hard time deciding which of the 74 speakers to listen to.

There are now over 46,000 Master Gardeners -- amazing when you consider that the program was only started in 1972 in Seattle, Washington, by Dr. Dave Gibby. About 800 MGs were in Portland this October, from 43 states and Canada.

The Trade Show was great too -- 30+ commercial booths. We really enjoyed the 28 states who had Master Gardener exhibits; we get lots of ideas for new programs in our area.

Master Gardeners volunteer to do such a broad array of things for their communities -- from giving advice to home gardeners to assisting senior citizens with raised beds to landscaping their home towns.

We're already looking forward to the next national convention -- 1991 in Detroit, Michigan / Windsor, Canada.

(Related story on page 3.)

Editor's Desk: Outgoing President Bob McNeil asked me to write some words which would convince CAEMG members to come out to our December meeting. So, here goes:

1. An appeal to your intellect -- Dr. Jaynes will provide food for thought.
2. An appeal to your stomach -- great refreshments!
3. An appeal to the pinch-penny in you -- if you don't come, you're not getting your $5.00 worth.
4. An appeal to your guilty conscience -- you've missed the last 2 meetings, it wouldn't look good not to show up at this one.
5. An appeal to your vanity -- why not try out that new holiday outfit -- or even better, show us that you can still fit into last year's! COME! JRC
Marie Dube: Thoughts and Jottings on the National Convention of MGs

What a great experience! We were busy from 8AM to 5PM with classes and workshops. It was difficult to choose since there were so many excellent classes. The Connecticut Contingent -- Linda Callahan, Laura Evans, Dula Fuller, Bob Taylor, Myra Strauchen and I -- met several times to socialize and discuss the classes we had attended. We also learned a lot about Master Gardeners in other states.

Here are a few of the things that MGs do that impressed me:

In Maryland Master Gardeners hold PLANT CLINICS weekly at TOWN LIBRARIES.

Wyoming MGs are required to take and pass a private PESTICIDE APPLICATOR training course. These MGs also make HOUSE CALLS!

Part of the fee for the Michigan MG class is used to pay a STATE COORDINATOR (for the MG program).

Several MGs in Oregon have developed a program called LANDSCAPING FOR HOME SECURITY! 25 MGs have been trained to show homeowners how to prune for CRIME PREVENTION.

In New Jersey the telephone lines to MGs are open during the EVENING. So if, after work, someone makes garden rounds and discovers some slimy slug trails (and can't remember what to do about the problem), help is immediately available.

* * *

DR. RICHARD JAYNES, our speaker in December, received a PhD from Yale University and worked at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven for twenty-five years. At the Experiment Station he specialized in the breeding of woody plants, in particular mountain laurel and chestnuts. He edited the book Nut Tree Culture in North America and last year published the book Kalmia, the Laurel Book II. Six years ago Dr. Jaynes left the Experiment Station to run his own nursery, Broken Arrow Nursery, specializing in mountain laurel and cut-your-own Christmas trees.

We look forward to hearing his talk. December 7 (Thursday) at the Hamden Office.
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CAEMG BY-LAWS

At the September meeting in Norwich proposed amendments to the By-Laws were presented and discussed. The amendments are designed to provide for reorganization of the association into districts as explained in our last newsletter. They will be presented at our December meeting for a final vote. We need your opinions so please attend.

Below is the proposed Article VI amendment which describes the organization and operation of the three districts. Other proposed amendments are minor changes to conform to the reorganization. A motion was passed that, if the amendments are adopted in December, each district will hold a meeting in January to elect a coordinator. More about that at the annual meeting.

DISTRICTS

Section 1. Organization
The state association shall be organized into three district groups as follows:
Southern - New Haven and Fairfield counties
Northern - Hartford, Tolland, and Litchfield counties
Eastern - Middlesex, New London, and Windham counties

Section 2. Coordinators
a. One or more coordinators shall be elected by each district prior to the annual meeting to serve for one year.
b. The coordinators shall supervise the activities of the members in the district including the expenditure of funds. They shall provide information regarding activities to the President throughout the year to avoid conflicts and keep other districts informed.
c. They shall give a written report at the annual meeting and serve as members of the executive board and the finance committee.

Section 3. Activities
a. Members in each district may decide what activities to have, when and where to meet, and any other matters to come before the group.
b. Emphasis shall be on conducting activities commensurate with the Statement of Purpose in Article II of the by-laws, particularly involvement at the community level through the Cooperative Extension System.
c. Activities in each district, if appropriate, should be open to members from all districts.
d. Funds will be provided to each district in the association budget annually. They may be used in accordance with guidelines approved by the executive board and bookkeeping procedures established by the treasurer. Requests for additional funds must be approved by the executive board.
Growing pride in our neighborhoods

by Wendy Maxwell Donnelly, August 1989

We gathered at the Extension Service office in Bridgeport and traveled caravan style through the back streets. There are about 20 community gardens currently in Bridgeport, all operating under the watchful eye of CAEMG member Mohamed Dhinbil, director of the Bridgeport Urban Gardens program. He escorted us on a tour of three of the "safer" sites.

Our first stop was at the West End garden. A picture perfect garden, fenced and lined with a border of roses and annuals. The center had eight 12' x 12' raised beds – each one carefully maintained by one family. Crops from chamomile to corn to carrots showed diversity, while every family also had tomatoes and cabbage. Gravel lined the walk-ways between the family plots, and this corner in this reviving community was cheerful and full of pride. It only needed a good soaking, the gardeners must buy water from the city. We hoped for rain.

Our next stop was the Hall Neighborhood garden. Or what used to be the Hall neighborhood. This area is under "redevelopment" and most of the buildings have been demolished. But in a clearing stands a day care center, and a garden. Mohamed did most of the planting in this large space, and now the children in the day care center are responsible for weeding, watering and harvesting. Rows and rows of vegetables, in raised beds and in the walkways, give one a sense of optimism, and we felt that these gardeners contributed more than just the produce from the garden.

Last stop, the Laotian neighborhood. Picking our way across the crumbled sidewalk and cautious of the broken glass and garbage we came to the familiar fence – this garden was different! Weeding was planted very intensively; emerging seedlings and young plants were evidence of a second planting underway; many crops were close cropped and obviously regularly harvested; there were unfamiliar plants, and even many that we recognized were dwarfed by regular harvest. Nothing was overlooked or unplanned. Looking at this garden, worked by 30 Laotian families, was like visiting a foreign country. We did not ‘go in' because there was nowhere to walk; occasional six-inch wide paths between the raised beds were for sure-but-small-and bare-footed gardeners. A most unusual and unforgetable experience.

Many CAEMG members are interested in Community projects, and we followed our tour with a discussion of how we could best get involved. Most of us would be lost working closely with the communities we visited, where few even understand English, however, there are other areas we can work in:

- Community gardens for the elderly
- Gardening for day-care children
- Community gardens for Condo-dwellers
- Political action
- Donations

For more information on city gardening, read The Downtown Farmer, a guide for city gardeners, available at your Extension Service office.
Article VII, Section 3

Delete "at least one week prior to each regular membership meeting" and substitute "at least two weeks before the mailing of each regular newsletter."

Note

Add the following article to the by-laws and renumber the present Articles VI through X to read VII through XI.

Article VI

DISTRICTS

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d. Funds will be provided to each district in the association budget annually. They may be used in accordance with guidelines approved by the executive board and bookkeeping procedures established by the treasurer. Requests for additional funds must be approved by the executive board.
Proposed Amendments to CAEMG By-Laws

Meeting December 7, 1989

The following proposed amendments were presented at the September 13, 1989 meeting in Norwich. They are being presented for adoption at this meeting by majority vote of the members present and voting in accordance with Article VIII, Section 1 of the by-laws.

Article I, Section 2 and Article II, Section 1c.

Change "Service" to "System"

Article III, Section 2.

Delete the first sentence "Dues---Meeting". Substitute "Dues for the next calendar year shall be determined by majority vote of the executive board prior to October 1 and shall be due and payable by the annual meeting in December."

Article V, Section 1 d.

Delete "those present and voting at a meeting of the association" and substitute "the executive board."

Article V, Section 2b.

Delete "two weeks before each regular meeting" and substitute "four times a year."

Article V, Section 4a.

Delete "three members" and substitute "one member."

Article V, Section 5 a.

Delete "and" after treasurer. Insert "and the district coordinators" after standing committee on the second line.

Article V, Section 6a.

Delete "three members" and substitute "one member."

Article VI, Section 1.

Delete "on the first Thursday."

Article VI, Section 2.

Replace entire section as follows: "A regular membership meeting shall be held in June at a time and place designated by the executive board."

Article VI, Section 4 a.

Insert after of "on first line "the annual and the" and change meetings to meeting.

Article VII, Section 1.

Insert after standing committee "the district coordinators."