Summer Garden Safari

Connecticut Master Gardener Association presents our semi-annual Summer Safari & Meeting Event at Lockwood Farm in Hamden, CT Friday, August 13, 2021 at 9:00 am

Tovah Martin “Awakening Your Senses”

Dr. Charles Vossbrinck (CAES) “Growing Figs in Connecticut”.

Open to the public. Walk-ins accepted.

Registration $20 CMGA Members $25 for non-members, walk-ins.

Online Registration & Information here at https://ctmga.org/summer-safari-2021-event

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## Officers 2021

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<td>Kathye Cipes</td>
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<td>Jane Comerford</td>
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<td>Jean Fletcher</td>
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<td>Theresa Hennessey</td>
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<td>Mary Ellen Seuch</td>
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## CMGA website:

- [www.ctmga.org](http://www.ctmga.org)
- cmgaweb@ctmga.org

## UCONN Extension Center Coordinators

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Dear CMGA Members:

Ah, SUMMER! It’s my favorite season. The gardens are in full bloom, and my viburnum is putting on its second show of the year- the one with an abundance of bright red berries. How about those hydrangeas this year?

As usual, your Board of Directors has been very busy the last few months. We added a new event in May in partnership with the Connecticut Science Center at their MakeFest: Make It Grow event. Our volunteers joined the Green Team in putting on a plant sale to benefit both of our organizations. For a first effort, it went pretty well, and we were able to raise some more dollars to help fund grants and scholarships.

Nursery Day in June was bigger and better than last year, despite the brutal heat. Roughly, 60 members and friends attended, and it was a delight to have CMGA members from Fairfield County join us! Of those, about 20 took advantage of a tour of the nearby Colonial Revival Garden at the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum in Old Wethersfield.

Up next is our August 13th Annual Summer Safari at Lockwood Farm in Hamden with guest speaker, Tovah Martin and her presentation titled “Awakening Your Senses.” In this issue of the Laurel, you’ll find information about registration and a new service we are offering from Panera Bread Catering for those who prefer not to bring their own picnic lunch.

As we carefully emerge from the pandemic, which sadly is not quite over, planning events is almost as challenging in 2021 as it was in 2020. Locating a venue for our Symposium is usually completed by now. However, the various higher education facilities we target are solely focused on re-opening for their fall semesters. Needless to say, a lot of uncertainty lies ahead with the new variants and developing guidelines.

The survey results from our first ever virtual Symposium were quite favorable with many participants indicating that they would attend another in the virtual format. Sure, there were some technical issues, but I can assure you: Learning has occurred! So, if we have to go virtually we won’t encounter the same issues. We will have to wait and see for now, but the Symposium must go on!

Don’t forget to register for the Summer Safari, and enjoy the rest of your summer!

Deb Prior
President CMGA
Bug Out with UConn Extension

UConn Extension is hosting the 6th Annual Bug Month virtually in July. Keep checking the website to see what's buzzing! [https://bugs.uconn.edu/](https://bugs.uconn.edu/)

July 21 - 27: Bug week at the Connecticut Science Center
All ages are welcome to explore the activities dedicated to insects and their relatives. [https://ctsciencecenter.org/blog/insects-in-your-backyard-celebrating-bug-week/](https://ctsciencecenter.org/blog/insects-in-your-backyard-celebrating-bug-week/)

Hiking Connecticut

After a very challenging year and a half, it is time to get out there and enjoy a hiking trail in the many state parks of Connecticut. DEEP has a wonderful website that lists all the parks and their trails. Each trail is described with its history, level of difficulty, and types of activities available. There are downloadable maps and directions to each trail. [https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/State-Parks/Explore/Hiking](https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/State-Parks/Explore/Hiking)

Ordering from Amazon??? Please remember to use the Amazon Smile website ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)), and select CT Master Gardener Association as your charity. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases directly to CMGA. Thank you for your support!
Safari and Semi-Annual Meeting

Don’t miss the Summer Safari on August 13 at Lockwood Farm, Hamden

On Friday, August 13, our Summer Safari is going to include our semi-annual business meeting followed by two guest speakers at the beautiful Lockwood Farm, 890 Evergreen Ave, Hamden, CT 06518. The day will open with a continental breakfast at 9:00 am followed by our Semi-Annual Meeting at 9:30.

After the business meeting, Connecticut author Tovah Martin will present “A Live Outdoor Lecture: Awakening Your Senses” that should be informative and fun. Tovah is a delight to hear and shared this description of her new lecture. Tovah’s presentation is based on her book, The Garden in Every Sense and Season: A Year of Insights from my Garden, which will be available for signing and purchase.

A garden offers a world of wonders for your senses. And so often, we focus on duties and chores rather than reaping the rewards of what we have sown and planted. On all levels and in many layers, there is so much to discover when you begin to plug your senses into the garden. In this live lecture, everything from the pace of pathways to the secrets of gardening without sustaining injuries will be examined. In the process, we’ll broaden our senses as they come into play throughout the day and seasons. And as a result, we’ll discover how to create habitats that benefit all creatures great and small. Come and become more aware!

Following lunch, CAES scientist Dr. Charles Vossbrinck will present a lecture and demo on “Growing Figs in Connecticut” including a tour of his fig tree greenhouse and container growing system. He is growing 6 cultivars of figs in 25 gallon self-watering pots, both outdoors and in high tunnels. The pots are stored indoors during the winter.

Ticket price for CMGA members is $20.00, and non-members pay $25.00. Members may also invite one guest to attend the event with them for a total of $40 (2 tickets @ $20 each). This price covers the cost of a Continental breakfast, beverages and Ben and Jerry’s ice cream. Walk-ins are welcome and will be asked to pay the non-member price ($25) regardless of their membership status, and to be responsible for their own lunch.

No food will be available for sale at the meeting. You may bring your own picnic lunch, or pre-order a Panera box lunch from a special link for our CMGA Event. Panera will deliver prepaid lunches to Lockwood Farm.

CMGA members are welcome to attend the Semi-Annual Meeting portion of the event at no charge. Please register and pay by August 9, 2021 on the CMGA website. We hope to see you!
Nursery Day and First MakeFest Day
Plant Sales a Success

CMGA Members enjoyed two plant sales in May and June in conjunction with the Connecticut Science Center and McCue Gardens in Wethersfield, Ct.

Saturday, May 22, 2021 was the first of a series MakeFest: Make It Grow, part of Family Gardening Day at the Connecticut Science Center in Downtown Hartford. The event was a partnership of CMGA, the Science Center and the Petit Foundation. CMGA members donated plants and the Science Center shared perennials from their green roof gardens. CMGA received $444 from the total sales.

More important than generating sales was the opportunity to give the public information about gardening and plants. Outreach was provided by CMGA Volunteers and members of the CSC “Green Team” that volunteers each week at the 50,000 square feet of green roof gardens. Everyone agreed it was a great first effort.
Saturday, June 9, 2021 was Nursery Day at McCue Gardens. OK, we’ll admit it. It was hot! But that didn’t stop CMGA members and friends from supporting this popular annual event. And the sixty-six individuals who attended were happy that they came!

Bruce and Cindy McCue’s nursery in Old Wethersfield is just such a special place and an amazing experience in such a beautiful New England setting.

We received 20% of the sales for the day. Your support of events like these means so much to our organization’s ability to support Master Gardeners across the state. So far this year, we have provided grants for 12 gardens and educational programs, and have announced a second cycle of grants that started June 15 and will be awarded in August.
Connect with Us
Take CMGA with you, any time, any place!

By Vicky Ambrosey and Lisa Doggart

CMGA can now easily fit into your busy schedules via our social media outlets: Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and our website blog. You can view the latest news and information about CMGA happenings on all mobile and desktop devices.

**Facebook since 2010 - Follow CMGA & Like Our Page**

We celebrate 11 years with Facebook, since Earth Day, April 22, 2010. Our intent with Facebook is to share our CMGA activities and events, along with other state and local activities that might be of interest to our members and our UConn Master Gardeners. Like our page and look forward to timely updates and information about our state.

**Instagram since 2021 - Follow us at @ctmastergardener**

With Instagram, we enjoy sharing our stories and pictures of our outreach projects, activities and events. If a picture is worth a thousand words; gardening pictures are worth a million words!  

#ctmastergardener
YouTube since 2020 - See Our CMGA Channel

We have established a CMGA YouTube channel where you can view videos of our events, projects and activities plus other tours and interviews of interest to our members. There will be public videos as well as unlisted links - accessible through your email communications - to our membership & event attendees.

Website since 2005, updated 2019 - ctmga.org

Our recently renovated website is our official place to visit CMGA online. For the most complete information and access to Membership, Grants & Events, we have all the News, Member Happenings Blog, Forms & Details about what's happening and when. For our UConn Master Gardeners and Interns, it's a great place to read and learn what CMGA is all about!

Mailchimp since 2021

You are receiving this email because you opted in for communications when you became a member of the CMGA organization.

Mailchimp is our new tool for email communications to our membership. CMGA uses only official organizational emails to communicate with our members-@ctmga.org-Please consider adding these emails to your safe list so they will not be considered as spam. We don't want you to miss out on your CMGA News!
Fernridge Park Pollinator Garden

Submitted by Debbye Rosen, CMGA Member
Written by Owen MacDonald

My name is Owen MacDonald. I am a Boy Scout with Troop 146 in West Hartford, as well as a Freshman at Conard High School. I currently serve as the Senior Patrol Leader for Troop 146 and I am a candidate for Eagle Scout. I started my scouting career at Duffy Elementary Pack 161.

My recently completed Eagle Scout project was to build a Pollinator Garden at Fernridge Park in West Hartford. The Pollinator Garden is contained in a 10x4 foot raised garden bed that was built on-site near the tennis courts at Fernridge Park. This raised garden bed is now filled with a variety of pollinator-friendly plants and it is the first garden bed in Fernridge Park dedicated to providing a protected habitat to support pollinators. I am happy to have my project contribute to the growth of the Pollinator Pathway here in West Hartford.

I was interested in a project that would benefit Fernridge Park, because it is my neighborhood park. Since I grew up nearby I have spent countless hours at Fernridge Park’s playground, pool and ball field and I wanted a project that would help contribute to the health of the park.

The project was a collaboration between the Town of West Hartford, the Friends of Fernridge Park, the Connecticut Master Gardener Association, and myself.

Mr. Douglas Jackson, Park Naturalist at Westmoor Park, has been integral in assisting with the sponsorship of this project and helping to coordinate approval of my building plan and obtaining some essential supplies, like the soil for the garden bed.
which was provided by the Town of West Hartford.

Ms. Debbye Rosen, a Master Gardener, had a grant from the CT Master Gardener Association which provided financial support for the building materials used in the construction of the raised garden bed as well as the plants to be installed in the garden.

Ms. Rosen also helped with the selection of the plants to be included in the garden. The plants chosen for the sunny location of the garden bed site include the following:

Clethra Ruby Spice
Liatris Floristan White
Phlox Paniculata Laura
Echinacea Wild Berry
Salvia May Night
Coreopsis Moonbeam

These plants should be well adapted for the local climate and will have a variety of bloom times over the spring and summer once they are established in the garden.

We started construction of the garden on May 29, 2021 which was the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. You might recall that was a fairly miserable cold and rainy Saturday. We were fortunate though with our timing and were rain-free for the first half of our build time. We used pop-up tents borrowed from a neighbor to protect the buildsite.

I was assisted on the building portion of the project by a dedicated team of helpers which included some troopmates (Nathan Refici and Jacob Mooney), a classmate (Jack Doyle), family members (my parents Edward Macdonald and Megan Dunphy and sister, Emma Macdonald), and two additional adult volunteers (Brian Refici and Mike Dalton). Mr. Dalton is my Eagle Scout project mentor and is also an Assistant Scout Master with Troop 146. Ms. Debbye Rosen, the Master Gardener assisting with the project also stopped by to cheer us on as well.
Ideal Small Lawn Trees
How They Benefit Your Garden

By Alicia Cornelio
Editor, Laurel

Trees add beauty and value to a home property. When homeowners wish to plant a new tree, there may not enough space in their yards to accommodate a large tree. But no worries! There are many small trees that are just as useful and lovely.

Smaller trees are often referred to as ornamental trees. Unlike large trees, these smaller trees often have visibly beautiful flowers and leaves. They are large enough to provide food and nesting places for birds and insects. And, many ornamental trees grow quickly to their ultimate size.

With an average height and width of 25 feet, an ornamental tree provides privacy, reduces noise, cleans the air, and prevents soil erosion. Plus, it will fit better in a smaller yard and be easier to prune and maintain.

Japanese Maple

There are over 1,000 varieties of Japanese maple trees, which make them one of the most popular ornamental trees. They can be dwarf to 25 feet tall but are slow growing, so buy the biggest tree you can afford. The leaves come in many different colors. Some are fringed. This tree is ideal for zone 5.
Redbud

A native tree to the Eastern United States, the Redbud flowers on stems and branches before the heart shaped leaves appear in early spring. The Redbud has an umbrella shaped canopy and is stunning planted in groups. Grows moderately fast.

Stewartia

One of the few ornamental trees that blooms in summer, it is slow growing to a pyramid shape of 25 feet. It has beautiful purple and bronze foliage in the fall. Plant in the front yard for a season long display.
**Kousa Dogwood**

Unlike the native Eastern Dogwood, this tree blooms longer and later in the spring and withstands full sun. It has a unique mottled, peeling bark and round seeds loved by birds. Its shallow roots benefit from a layer of mulch.

**Downy Serviceberry**

A perfect tree! It is native, has very early white blossoms, dark blue fruit loved by birds, and brilliant fall foliage. Serviceberry is adaptable to many kinds of soils and grows moderately fast.
Sargent Cherry

This tree is an upright-spreading to rounded tree, with deep reddish brown, polished bark. Grows at a moderate rate to 25 feet high. Fruit are edible if you can get them away from the birds. Beautiful deep pink flowers bloom in the spring.

Paperbark Maple

This is a relatively small tree for a maple that provides interesting peeling copper-orange to reddish-brown bark. It is slow growing to 30 feet with seeds that seem large for the size of the tree.
THE LAUREL 2021

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