29th CMGA Garden Symposium
Our third virtual event!
Saturday, March 12th, 2022

2022 Connecticut Master Gardener Symposium to Feature
International Speakers

Connecticut Master Gardeners, guests, and the public will have the opportunity to learn from international and national experts on the theme “Gardening For Good”

Information and Online Registration for this virtual event is available on our website at Events > Symposium 2022 - Gardening for Good

NOTE: There will be no mail-in registration forms this year.

Register Online Today!
$30 for interns, $60 for CMGA members, $90 for non-members

Opening Speaker: Noel Kingsbury
Closing Speaker: Georgina Reid

See page 4 for speaker descriptions
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*The Laurel* is published quarterly for CMGA members.  
Please send information by email to cmganews@ctmga.org.  
**Deadlines for publication are January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1.**  
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Dear CMGA Members:

Happy 2022! In this my first letter as Interim President of CMGA I want to begin by thanking all of you for your continued support. Many small non-profit organizations like CMGA have struggled these last few years and it is because of our members that we have been able to continue our mission to support the Connecticut Master Gardener program as well the numerous master gardeners who volunteer their time to bring the joy of gardening to their local communities.

I know we all were hoping that by now the pandemic would be a thing of the past. Instead masks have become the new fashion statement and we regularly discuss Greek letters like delta and omicron as if they were household terms. In numerous ways we have learned as a community to adjust to the new normal and to continue to thrive. For example, CMGA successfully made the shift from its traditional in-person symposium to a virtual Garden Symposium for 2021 and will again be holding a virtual symposium on March 12, 2022 focused on the theme, “Gardening for Good.” Not only do we have a great line-up of speakers this year, but the virtual platform has made it possible to showcase several international experts. For now, please save the date and watch your email for more information on the program and how to register for this exciting event.

As an organization, CMGA’s success depends on its members and its energetic and dedicated board members. This year we are happy to welcome three new board members, Kathy Cassidy from Hartford County, Mary Jane Toomey from New Haven County and Jim Ward from New London County. At the same time, we say goodbye to former president Theresa Hennessy as well as Susan Demuth and Carolyn Wilcox. We are grateful the time and energy these women gave in service to CMGA and wish them well in their future endeavors. This week marked the start of the 2022 Master Gardener program with close to 200 interns enrolled. We wish the new interns success in the program and look forward to working side-by-side with them as they participate in the many community outreach projects across the state. For those of you with an idea for a new outreach project in your own community, we encourage you to look into the CMGA Grant Program. Last year CMGA provided funding for 25 different outreach projects across Connecticut. Funded projects ranged from a Permaculture Demonstration Garden and Edible Landscape in Brooklyn, CT to the Bethel School Student Raided Bed Garden.

So, as you mull over the seed catalogues and hope for an early spring, we hope you will consider joining us at one of this year’s CMGA events. We are a great community of Master Gardeners with a keen interest in continuing the learning that began in the MG program. You can start by going to ctmga.org and clicking on the Membership Tab to renew your membership. And of course, we hope to see you on March 12 for the CMGA Virtual Garden Symposium. Registration will open soon!

In closing, we are always interested in new ideas so I invite you to share your thoughts. You can reach me at president@ctmga.org. With best wishes for a healthy and happy spring!

Paula Russo, Interim President CMGA
GARDENING WITH INTENTION

Dr. Noel Kingsbury
Opening Speaker

An early British advocate of naturalistic planting design and a leading figure in the New Perennial movement, Dr. Noel Kingsbury is an acclaimed international garden designer, best-selling author and collaborated for over 25 years with the renowned Dutch designer Piet Oudolf. With a doctorate from the University of Sheffield, Dr. Kingsbury writes and researches gardening and plant sciences.

Having been at the forefront of planting design with perennials, Noel will share his philosophy and practice of selecting plants with intention for the ecology of the site, including woody plants, often lacking in perennial gardens. Noel now lives and gardens in Portugal.

https://www.noelkingsbury.com/

CELEBRATE GARDENING

Georgina Reid
Closing Speaker

Georgina Reid is an Australian writer, gardener and founding editor of The Planthunter online magazine and Wonderground print journal. In a recent article she shared: “As a gardener (and I am fully aware of what a privilege it is to be one) I am directly engaged with the health of the ground beneath my feet...I know from experience that a healthy garden requires attention, faith, action and care. Each day I am reminded to respect the laws and the whims of Mother Nature. I cannot ignore the beauty and wonder and madness and pain of the world because I am engaged in its care. I live in relation to it.”

Georgina is passionate about telling meaningful stories that connect people, plants, and places and we look forward to hearing her unique perspective.

PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER
Owen Wormser

Based in Western Massachusetts, Owen is the founder of Abound Design providing design and consulting for re-generative, sustainability-focused landscapes. In his work and in his book Lawns Into Meadows, Owen supports his lifelong understanding that the world naturally tends toward abundance. In his mind, the rich life that results from turning irrigated turf grass into the diversity and nurturing power of a meadow is the perfect illustration of how changing our view of our yards and gardens allows us to see them as part of the larger ecosystem.

He is also the co-founder, with traditional and clinical herbalist Chris Marano, of the non-profit Local Harmony, focused on encouraging and creating community driven regeneration. You can learn more at Local Harmony and at these links.

https://awaytogarden.com/turning-lawns-into-meadows-with-owen-wormser/
https://www.owenwormser.net/about

SHARING, MENTORING, TEACHING.
Ken Greene

Ken Greene was working as a librarian in Gardiner, New York when he decided to go beyond the bounds of his own personal garden and take his passion for seed saving into a more public, community-based arena. He began the Hudson Valley Seed Library (HVSL) out of the Gardiner Public Library, initially just adding the seed varietals to the library catalog as another item that patrons could "check out." In 2008 he and his business partner Doug Muller moved the HVSL onto a farm in Accord, New York where it has remained ever since as Hudson Valley Seed Company. Today, the library catalog is online, and the library's membership boasts over 1,000 farmers and gardeners. Ken will share his journey and the evolution of his business as an outreach of his desire to share his knowledge with others.

https://hudsonvalleyseed.com/pages/team
Food insecurity, brought on by COVID, impacted the entire state of Connecticut, including the towns of Lyme and Old Lyme. In response to that need, an ambitious goal was set to establish a FoodShare garden to provide fresh produce to area food pantries.

Without as much as a place to plant, the initiative formed a 501(3) (c) non-profit organization with a Board of Directors. Next, they were able to secure land within a Lyme-Old Lyme recreation facility near a playground which has parking, restrooms, electricity, and plenty of sun and water. The CMGA grant of $350 was the first step in a SustainableCT matching grant campaign. In total, $7500 in donations from 42 supporters was matched by SustainableCT. Costs to plant and maintain a row are estimated at $250 a year. An annual sustaining fundraising campaign has been launched to “Sponsor a Row.”

June - prepping for fence and irrigation
With funding secured, deer fencing was installed and an irrigation system was connected to the recreation facilities irrigation system, 6 raised beds were built and 16 are ready for planting in 2022. A mailing list of 55 volunteers has resulted in a consistent crew of ten to fifteen volunteers for scheduled work days. Over twenty rows are committed for the 2022 planting season.

**HOW CMGA HELPED:**

The CMGA grant of $350 was the first step in a Sustainable CT matching grant campaign and was used to create the community garden.
Birds Adapt to Climate Change

By Alicia Cornelio
Editor, Laurel

Climate change and the warming of our planet is no longer a debatable issue. As habitats and natural cycles are transformed, animals will adapt, as they have over millions of years. However, the new study “Nature Communications” warns: “Modern plants and animals may not be able to adapt fast enough to survive the pace of human-driven climate change.

Animals generally adapt in one of two ways: either morphologically, such as increasing or decreasing in body mass to better regulate heat, or phenologically, such as adjusting the time they perform life events like mating, reproducing, hibernating, and migrating.” (Daley, Jason)

The oft cited study “Nature Communications” by Ecologist Victoria Radchuk and her colleagues at the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research evaluated 71 long-term, high-quality studies from the past 30 years. They chose birds because they are easiest to track due to many offspring in a length of time and their migratory behavior. According to their findings, the current pace of change in birds is not enough to keep pace with the expected rate of a changing climate. That is very troubling, since many of the bird species in the study are common to their regions. If they can’t adapt, birds that are less common or geographically isolated will have an even harder time keeping up.

It seems to be a logical response by birds to move northward in latitude or upward in altitude to follow the movements of the climate. Indeed, the most immediately visible aspect of climate change consequences is the change in distribution areas. Since migratory behavior is a genetically determined and inheritable trait, it is expected to evolve under the effects of directional selection pressures exerted by current warming. Many partially migratory species can be expected to become resident. A local example in Connecticut is the American Robin. No longer a harbinger of spring, it is seen throughout the winter.
For many birds, insects are their food source. This means that “birds time their egg laying to correspond to the peak of prey abundance so their chicks have lots of food,” says Radchuk. Some birds have shifted to earlier dates according to the study.

Scientists are hopeful because birds have shown resilience in the past. A recent example is the Bald Eagle. Almost extinct due to DDT poisoning in the 1960s, they rebounded after the chemical was banned.

**What we are seeing in Connecticut**

Migratory patterns can affect the region’s ecosystem as a whole. The Greenwich Audubon Center has noted during its annual bird count that the Cardinal, Black Capped Chickadee, and Red Bellied Woodpecker have extended their northern ranges in the last 30 years. However, other species that rely on a particular habitat are more vulnerable. If sea levels rise and destroy Connecticut’s salt marshes, the endangered saltmarsh sparrow could become extinct. Also, plants can’t migrate quickly like birds. If the food birds eat are dying out in usual ranges and not growing quickly enough in new ranges, some birds will go extinct. The fastest declining birds in New England include those that nest in shrub habitat. Connecticut’s Wildlife Action Plan is trying to save existing habitats to keep bird migration patterns stable.

![Figure 1](www.nature.com)
**What can we do?**

♦ Supporting land preservation by protecting forests and grasslands locks up carbon in plants and trees to keep it out of the atmosphere.

♦ Three quarters of all emissions from Connecticut are from transportation and from buildings, including houses. Consider an EV, when car shopping. Drive less and drive slower. Turn the thermostat down in winter and up in summer.

♦ Convince your town that birds matter. We had endangered chimney swifts in our chimney this summer. They eat thousands of mosquitoes. I have proposed building a chimney swift tower in town to help them.

♦ Grow a bird friendly garden. There has been much discussion about pollinator friendly gardens, but birds also need food and protection to thrive. For tips on making a bird friendly garden, see: [https://www.audubon.org/news/how-make-your-yard-bird-friendly-0](https://www.audubon.org/news/how-make-your-yard-bird-friendly-0)

Sources:


Christian, Joanie. Spokesman Review. “Unusual Anna’s hummingbird sightings have local birders scratching their heads looking for ways to help bird make it through winter.” December 27, 2021.


Huang, Pien. “Birds Are Trying To Adapt To Climate Change — But Is It Too Little, Too Late?.” July 26, 2019. [www.npr.com](http://www.npr.com).

CMGA Needs You...More than Ever!

Please consider joining the Board, join a committee, or volunteer to help the Symposium.

There are currently four Officer openings on the Board

It is a friendly group with a common goal. And many hands make light work! CMGA does so much to promote its mission of gardening for health and joy!

Most of the work can be done at home. Another opportunity is to volunteer at the Symposium. The success of this important event depends on dozens of people to help with the many little tasks that must get done. No experience is necessary!

And, after the work is done, there are so many opportunities for comradery. Won’t you get to know us better? We have a variety of tools and support to help you in your new role, including mentoring from previous Board members.

Contact Paula Russo at president@ctmga.org or Susan Eisenhandler, chair of the nominations committee at nominations@ctmga.org They will send you the description of the roles and responsibilities and the mentoring you will receive as you fill your position.

Will you help support CMGA??

Ordering from Amazon?? Please remember to use the Amazon Smile website (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!
2021 Master Gardener Graduates

Hartford

Darci Alves
Colleen Quinn Amster
Linda J. H. Aparo
Jill Benson
Phyllis Campbell
Rebekah Chestna
Linda “Cibby” Ciborowski
Elizabeth Cleary
Elena Silk Coffey
Joanna deBear
Hera Doceti
Joanne Eudy
Deanna Fontaine-Motyl
Jaymie Frederick
Dennis Gallant
Deborah Gosselin
Holly Hambleton
Jill E. Harvey
Kim Hughes
Donna Maine Kaffenberger
Rebecca L. Kowalski
Kasandra Lambert
Penelope Leitner Lisi
Laura Jean Lundgren
Margaret M. Lynch
Rebecca Maloney
Jeanne Merola
Leah Moelling
Anna Sava Namnoun
Joan Noblet
Laureen Relyea
Donna Summers
Sandra C. Tombaugh
Cecily Vasington
Nat Wyse

Lower Fairfield

Catherine Agnelli
Regan Avery
DeeDee DeBartlo
Kara Donahue
Cindy Eadie
Ann Flinn
Joanne Hastings
Christina Hennig
Claire Hurley
Alisa McNeill Kuhn
Alysa Margolin
Janet Marolda
Beth Marsh
Elizabeth Moyse
Chhavi Punia
Kelle Ruden
Ann Sawyer
Nancy Souza
Megan Young
Natalia Zhiltsova

Fairfield

Chris Cunningham
Caitlin deDufour
Christine Dreher
Mary Beth Gilbert
Elizabeth Hendrick
Sarah Jeffrey
Jean Kreizinger
Althea Langer
Joe Langer
Jamie McDonald
Ann Mead
Carolyn Morin
Aleksandra Mrvaljevic
Daisy Okas
Kristy Ouellette
Carrie Priano
Jason Priano
Mary Jane Reis
M. Josephine Robinson-Fisher
Maria Rodriguez De Arraiz
Sibylle Saewe
Martin Schneider
Amy Sorensen
Ralph Stein
Christine Winner
2021 Master Gardener Graduates

Middlesex

Fareena Alam
Debra Anastasio
Lucia Brea
Lise Brule
Amy Butler
Lori Chadwick
Elizabeth Cooley
Susan Aezza Cope
Molly Deegan
Danielle DiBella
Ken DiVito
Luke Fatsy
Theresa Fox
Pamela Gallagher
Diane Gawronski
Richard Gill
Jennifer Gill
Becky Gladych
Mary Gratton
Mary Griskewicz
Mary Hall
Kierra Holroyd
Michelle Kutz
Kathleen Lowe
Karen McAllister
Patrick McIntosh
Ingrid Menon
Roslyn Reeps
Joanna Reindel
Mary Richardson
Paul Rossi
Nancy Russo
Joanne Schmaltz
Katherine Scott
Aaron Smith
Tracy Stella
Amanda Stern
Loretta Tafuri
Robert J Tafuri, M.D.
Brett Thompson

Windham

Renee Tschopp
Elizabeth Vinick
Elaine Wilson
Rosemary Ostfeld
Matan Ackelsberg
Ethan Barrett
Ella Doherty
Karlas Felix
Madisyn Gomez
Maya Hall
Mairead Kennedy
Bryan Osorio
Adam Sussbauer
Sabrina Tian

Larry Bibri
Diane Blume
Monique M. Dutram
Kristen G. Kaiser
Alison Lewis
Dave Miller
Katie Morneault
Becky Nichols
Carolyn Otto
JoAnn Sandgren
Stacey Simpson
Bill Singer
Jan Sousa
Juan Torres
Steven Williamson
Steven Zoni

Congratulations!
2021 Master Gardener Advancements

Advanced Master Gardener

Bartlett: Laura Cunningham Tara Forschino Christina Koether Pamela Nobumoto Mary Verel

Bethel /New Haven: Joan Cominski Lou Denaro Christine DeCrescenzo Alicia Jacobsen Jane Jawlik Norma Jean Macauto Sue Rubin Ron Switzer Nancy Zychek Samantha Pullaro

Windham/Tolland: Heather Zevetchin

Litchfield/Hartford: Ginni Block Lisa Cushman Sarah Hsieh Janet Loynes Annmarie Riemer Jennifer Sherman Beth Ann Loveland Sennett Gina Trusiewicz Sandra Cady Louise Mango Jennifer Sherman Theresa Sullivan-Barger

AMG Bronze

Bartlett: Betsy Bilus Pat Carroll Susan Hawley

Patricia Morris Lucille Oricchio Michele Sorensen Mary Verel Dana Weinberg Diane Wilson

Bethel/New Haven: Christine DeCrescenzo Lindy Hennessy Diane Ryan Tamira Montorsi Elaine Piraino-Holovoet Samantha Pullaro Pat Sabosik Celeste Suggs Susan Turner

Litchfield/Hartford: Debra Barberi Lea Anne Moran Mary Dombrowski Christine Kuriger Janet Loynes (also AMG) Beth Ann Loveland Sennett Gloria Shusdock Carolyn Wilcox

Haddan/New London: Sue Augustiniak Lynn Keller

AMG Silver

Bartlett: Jane Alpert Greg Moonie Margaret Eustace Eva Mullervy-Klatt Marie Gross Toni Simonetti

Bethel /New Haven: Henry Bissonnette Elizabeth Craig Kim Doyle Carol Hamilton Holly Kocet Robin Michalak Rosemary Volpe Serena Guerrette Tamira Montorsi Elaine Piraino-Holovoet Samantha Pullaro Pat Sabosik Celeste Suggs Sarah Torff Susan Turner

Litchfield/Hartford: Suzi Diehl Faith Geist Diana Simoni Janice Sniffin Jackie Wasta

Haddan/New London: Joan Lazar Jack Leary
### AMG Gold

**Bartlett:**  
Frances Bright  
Daniel Schiefferle  

**Bethel/New Haven:**  
Barbara Stauder  
Flo Vannoni  
Cheryl Cappiali  
Jim Sicilia  

**Litchfield/Hartford:**  
Marlene Mayes  

**AMG Ruby**  

**Bartlett:**  
Linda Albanese  
Nathalie Gavrilovic  
Martina Doshan  
Phyllis Padro  

**Bethel/New Haven:**  
Margot Abrams  
Lorraine Ballato  
Thomas MacGregor  
Adelle Hack  

**Haddam/New London:**  
RoseMarie Bagioni  
Joanne Lukasevic  
Sylvia Delson  
Ginni Donovan  

**AMG Ruby Bronze**  

**Bartlett:**  
Nancy McClelland  

**Bethel/New Haven:**  
Fran Litwin  
Tim Ohsann  

**Litchfield/Hartford:**  
Sandy Ingellis  

**AMG Ruby Silver**  

**Litchfield/Hartford:**  
Marlene Mayes  

**AMG Ruby Gold**  

**Litchfield/Hartford:**  
Marilynn Palmer  

**AMG Sapphire**  

**Bartlett:**  
Carrie Sears  

**Bethel/New Haven:**  
Allan Brown  

**Haddam/New London:**  
Sarah Bailey  

**AMG Sapphire Bronze**  

**Litchfield/Hartford:**  
Jean Fletcher  

**AMG Sapphire Silver**  

**Bartlett:**  
Dawn Fiss  
Janet Kruse  

**AMG Sapphire Gold**  

**Bartlett:**  
Beth Miller  

**Litchfield/Hartford:**  
Sarah Bailey  
Steve Kovack Jr.  

**AMG Emerald**  

**AMG Emerald Gold**  

**Haddam/New London:**  
Ken Sherrick  

**AMG Topaz**  

**Haddam/New London:**  
Joan Lazar  
Sherry Smith  
Ginni Donovan  

**AMG Gold**  

**Bartlett:**  
Frances Bright  
Daniel Schiefferle  

**Bethel/New Haven:**  
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Flo Vannoni  
Cheryl Cappiali  
Jim Sicilia  

**Litchfield/Hartford:**  
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Sarah Bailey  
Steve Kovack Jr.  

**AMG Emerald**  

**AMG Emerald Gold**  

**Haddam/New London:**  
Ken Sherrick  

**AMG Topaz**  

**Haddam/New London:**  
Joan Lazar  
Sherry Smith  
Ginni Donovan