

# *7th Annual Gardening Fair*

Saturday, August 15, 2009 • 12:30 to 5:00 pm

**FREE ADMISSION • Something for everyone!**

Sponsored by the UCONN Fairfield County Master Gardener Program  
& the Connecticut Master Gardener Association

## **Presentations by Master Gardeners**

**Information Booths  
Perennial Walking Tour  
Plant Raffle**

**FREE Soil Testing  
(details on back)**

**Learn about 4-H programs  
and help support them  
with their bulb sale**

**At the  
Fairfield County  
Extension Center  
67 Stony Hill Road  
Bethel, CT**

**(on Route 6, less than a mile  
from Exit 8 on I-84)**

**[www.extension.uconn.edu](http://www.extension.uconn.edu)**

**Questions?  
Call the  
Master Gardener Office  
at (203) 207-3262**

### **12:45–1:30 • DESIGNING TROUGHS & CONTAINERS**

Claudette Amen, Master Gardener and owner of Flower Me Pretty, will give you the recipe for making every aspect of an alpine trough — from the making of the trough itself, the specialized soil mix, to the selection of the miniature plants that make these works of art. She will also teach you about container design, choosing the right plant at the right time, and keeping everything looking great throughout the season.

### **1:45–2:30 • DESIGNING WITH NATIVE PLANTS**

Donna Katsuranis, Advanced Master Gardener, owner of Dream Gardener, will tell you about all the wonderful native plants that you can add to your landscape. Because they are native they are well suited to our soil, weather and moisture conditions. Native plants perform well with little additional care and compliment our abundant historical architecture. Join Donna and learn what you can reintroduce to your own backyard.

### **3:15–4:00 • DESIGNING WITH WATER IN THE GARDEN**

Laura Stabell, Master Gardener, Designer and Consultant, has been a clean water advocate for many years. As we now know how important it is to keep our waterways as pristine as possible, learn how to be responsible in your own garden. By collecting rain water you can create an enchanting rain garden and habitat for the many animals and insects that live in and around our gardens. Laura will show you ways to be responsible with your usage and treatment of water so you can appreciate the beauty in your own environment.

### **4:15–5:00 • DESIGNING WITH SHRUBS**

#### **—THE BACKBONE OF THE GARDEN**

While introducing you to the many new shrubs on the market, Advanced Master Gardener and garden writer Lorraine Ballato will show you their fabulous foliage, discussing their low maintenance, and even deer resistance. Using some tried and true workhorses and these newer introductions, Lorraine's pictures will show you how easily you can transform your garden to a low maintenance, colorful space that will bring you pleasure for the entire growing season, without even a hint of a flower!

***Perennial Walk at 2:30 pm • Details on back***

## *Information Booths*

**MASTER GARDENER** — Do you have a question on an insect in your yard or in your garden? Need to identify that plant growing in your garden? Having a problem with a prize tree or shrub in your landscape? Master Gardeners will be on hand to help solve these gardening mysteries and more. While at the booth, don't forget to ask how to become a Master Gardener yourself.

**INVASIVES** — Who likes a bully? If you don't, then make a point to stop at this booth to find out about invasive plants, the ones which are trying to take over. Learn why certain plants are considered invasive and how they became a part of our eco-system.

**TURF** — Gone are the days when you have to use harsh chemicals and daily watering rituals to have a green, lustrous lawn. Learn about the various types of low maintenance grasses you can use for your lawn and the ways you can keep it looking as good as the chemically treated one across the street.

**SOIL TESTING/COMPOSTING** — We will be testing soil pH at the fair. Bring a sample with you and learn about your own soil. A soil test is only as accurate as the sample collected!

Please visit [www.canr.uconn.edu/plsci/stlab-2b.htm](http://www.canr.uconn.edu/plsci/stlab-2b.htm) to learn how to properly collect a sample.

**VEGETABLES/HERBS** — Our experts will be available to answer your questions about problems you're having growing your favorite vegetables: whether it's weeds, wildlife, insects, managing high yields (we should all be so lucky!), staking, the right kind of mulch, or whatever else is going on in your vegetable garden.

**ANNUALS/CONTAINER GARDENING** — Ask questions and view live demonstrations to make your container a year-round focal point. We will also have a display of special containers that will help you take advantage of natural or man-made microclimates at your home.

**PERENNIALS** — Learn what plants will thrive in different degrees of light, soil and moisture. See the best picks from some of the local nurseries and learn about landscaping challenges like shade, deer and dry or wet conditions.

**LOW TOXIC APPROACHES** — Our experts will answer your questions about what works and what doesn't across the broad spectrum of low-toxic and organic products without resorting to harsh and hazardous chemicals. We'll help you identify the least toxic choices available to you in your garden and we'll have lists of where you can buy some of these products so you can take your collections of poisons to your town's next hazardous waste disposal day.

**USED BOOKS** — The book booth will have gently used gardening and natural history books. The price range of \$1 to about \$5 per book will be very tempting and allow the curious gardener to build a library very economically.

## *Perennial Walk • 2:30 to 3:15 pm*

The property at 67 Stony Hill Road has several gardens that are maintained by local Master Gardeners. They are planted with natives and self-sustaining trees, shrubs and perennials designed to add color throughout the growing season while sustaining birds, butterflies and bees.

Take a short walk with **Fran Litwin**, an Advanced Master, Connecticut Accredited Nursery Professional and owner of Garden Vision Landscape & Design, and learn about these plants, their habits, and how they contribute to the overall curb appeal of the property.