Hello Fellow Gardeners! You are receiving this email because you have provided us with your email address either when subscribing to our quarterly newsletter, having your soil analyzed, or testing the horticultural prowess and investigative abilities of our incredibly well-versed staff at the UConn Home & Garden Education Center! Or, we just might have thought you would enjoy this e-newsletter. If you do not wish to receive our monthly email updates on gardening tips, pest problems, events and other information, please email us at ladybug@uconn.edu and ask to be removed from this list.

Pest Patrol/Current Concerns/Topics of Interest:

Late Blight Alert
The devastating tomato and potato disease late blight, caused by the pathogen *Phytophthora infestans*, has been found in Hampshire County in Massachusetts on cherry tomatoes. It can occur on all types of tomatoes, potatoes and occasionally other plants in the Solanaceae family. Late blight does not overwinter here (but blows up from the south and may also be introduced by infected transplants that were grown where the disease is present). Wind, rain and splashing water can spread the disease. Dark lesions occur on leaves, stems and fruits. The disease spreads quickly and once infected, plants cannot be saved. Control measures include planting late blight resistant varieties of tomatoes and potatoes, spacing plants to allow for good air circulation, avoiding wetting leaves when irrigating and using fungicides as a preventative measure when humid and wet conditions prevail. For more information go to:
Asiatic Garden Beetles
Are you noticing C-shaped notches on the edges of the leaves of your perennials, dahlias, roses, basil or coleus? After looking around, are you stumped about what creature is feeding on your plants? There’s a good chance that the culprit is the Asiatic garden beetle. This 3/8 inch, cinnamon-colored beetles hides during the day underneath the mulch or in the ground and comes out at night to feed. Luckily for us, there is only one generation per year. Adults emerge from the middle of July until the middle of August. They feed and lay eggs in grassy areas. The eggs hatch into grubs that feed on grass roots. The grubs overwinter underground and then pupate. The adults emerge and the cycle begins anew. For control suggestions, see: http://www.ipm.uconn.edu/documents/raw2/Beetles/Beetles.php

Carpenter Ants
Hot summer days have us sitting around more on porches, decks and patios and some have noticed what seems to be increased ant activity near their residences. Carpenter ants are active now and can be seen continuously foraging. These are relatively large black or reddish brown ants up to ¾ inch long. They are very common insects and may or may not mean trouble. They could be coming from nests in old trees, logs or other protected areas or they could be a signal that you have moisture-ridden, rotting wood in your residence. Large numbers of ants and unexplained piles of sawdust usually indicate a problem. Watch to see where they are going. Carpenter ants excavate sections of water-damaged wood so are often found where there are leaks in water pipes or roofs, near areas where water drips from sweating pipes or around doors and windows where rot has set in. To learn more, check out: http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu/FactSheets/termites-and-carpenter-ants.php

Look for Monarch Caterpillars on Milkweed Plants
Whether you have butterfly weeds or other members of the Asclepius species in your garden or you notice some wild milkweed in a neighboring field, check out plants for monarch butterfly larvae. The caterpillars are striking with their black, white and yellow stripes. Soon they will form a chrysalis and eventually emerge as a butterfly. While the larvae feed only on members of the milkweed family, the adults sip nectar from many species of flowers. As fall approaches, the adults migrate to southern parts of the country and Mexico. You can help monarchs on their journey by supplying nectar rich flowers that bloom well into fall. For some plant suggestions see: http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu/FactSheets/index_43_1698414969.pdf There are several other insects that require members of the milkweed family for their survival including these milkweed bugs.

Monarch larva on Asclepius incarnate & milkweed bugs on A. tuberosa. Photos by dmp.

Other items that the Center is getting calls or emails on include subterranean termites, powdery mildew on cucurbits, moss on roofs, tomato diseases, moles, voles, woodchucks, holes in peaches, dying arborvitaes and blueberry canker and twig blight. If you have specific questions, gardening queries or pest problems, check out our website, www.ladybug.uconn.edu, call the UConn Home & Garden Education Center (877)
Ten Tips for the August Gardener:
1. A second planting of cool-season crops such as broccoli, spinach, kale, lettuce, and chard should go in an area where they will be shaded from the afternoon sun.
2. Pick summer squash and zucchini every day or two to keep the plants producing.
3. Allow tomatoes to ripen fully on the vine although cherry tomatoes may split if left too long. Pick as soon as they have color.
4. Water azalea and rhododendron bushes regularly during dry periods as they are forming their flower buds for next spring.
5. Peppers can be picked at any stage of development. Sweet peppers just become sweeter and hot peppers hotter the longer they are on the plant.
6. Order peony roots so that you have them to plant in September.
7. Fertilize containers and hanging baskets with ½ the recommended dose of a balanced liquid fertilizer twice as often as recommended.
8. Take 3-4 inch cuttings of begonias, geraniums, coleus, and fuchsia to overwinter. Place the cuttings in containers with potting mix & keep moist in a shaded area until they root.
9. Monitor plants for spider mite activity. Hose these pests off with a forceful spray of water.
10. Pick beans often to keep the plants productive.

Join in the Big Bug Hunt to Beat Garden Pests!

*Major citizen science project tracks garden bugs to identify when and how they spread*

**Key points**

1. The Big Bug Hunt is an international research project to track when and how garden bugs spread.
2. Participants are helping to create a pest-alert system that will warn gardeners when pests are heading their way.
3. Anyone can take part and reporting a bug takes seconds. The more reports received, the quicker the pest-alert system can be developed.
4. Now-in its second year, The Big Bug Hunt has already identified patterns in the way some major pests spread. Additional reports will improve accuracy and speed development of the pest-alert system. [BigBugHunt.com](http://BigBugHunt.com)

CT Needs a Passport to the Parks
By: Eric Hammerling

*What is the Passport to the Parks?*

The Passport to the Parks is a $10 charge added to your 2-year motor vehicle registration which would generate an estimated $14.3 million each year for the operations, maintenance, and improvement of your State Parks. In return for paying this charge every other year, all motor vehicles with CT license plates would gain
day use parking entry to the State Parks for free (the parking fee charged for out-of-state vehicles would continue).

This would be an amazing value considering that one weekend visit to a shoreline Park like Hammonasset Beach State Park costs $13, and a season’s pass to the State Parks is $67. This would reduce traffic backups entering parks, and help CT DEEP redistribute more seasonal workers to manage land, wildlife, and water resources for the public since fewer seasonals would be needed to staff entry gates.

Will the Passport to the Parks totally fund the Parks?
No, but it would generate about 80% of the funding for the Parks from a new funding source (the total budget for State Parks at full operations is ~$18 million). Making 80% of State Parks funding “reliable” from year to year would allow the Parks to operate more smoothly by reducing current timing problems related to the annual budget process (e.g., the state fiscal year starts July 1st, right before one of the busiest weekends of the year, and DEEP has to staff-up with seasonals in April/May to be ready although there typically isn’t a budget in place for the next year). Obviously, it would be better for State Parks funding to be 80% reliable versus 100% vulnerable.

It is important to note that if the Passport to the Parks funding is combined with out-of-state parking fees along with camping, cabin, and other facility rental fees being dedicated to DEEP for Park and Campground management rather than to the General Fund, the Parks can become virtually self-sufficient.

Is the Passport to the Parks Necessary?
Absolutely! This year, 4 campgrounds were closed, museum and nature center hours were cut, seasonal workers were reduced by almost 50%, 12 full-time park maintainers were given pink slips, and the revised Governor's Budget for 2018-19 proposes a large funding cut along with moving to “passive management” for most Parks. If the current trajectory continues, further Park and campground closures and losses of public services are imminent. The chronic underfunding of the Parks must be addressed with this new source of funding in the 2018-19 state budget, or we risk losing the immense value that State Parks provide to Connecticut.

How important are Parks to Connecticut?
State Parks are an essential part of our state’s natural legacy in many ways. If they are allowed, through neglect, to become liabilities rather than assets, the tremendous benefits currently supported by State Parks could be lost. An economic study by UConn documented that Connecticut’s state parks and forests generate over $1 billion/year in revenues for the state and support more than 9,000 private sector jobs. Furthermore, for every $1 invested in the State Parks, an impressive $38 is returned to State and local coffers. Beyond significant economic benefits to the state and local communities, State Parks provide recreation and public health benefits, wildlife habitat, groundwater recharge, and many other irreplaceable ecosystem benefits as well. Also, for many economically strapped families in many communities, State Parks and Forests provide the only quality outdoor recreational opportunities available for public use without charge.

If you have questions about the Passport to the Parks, please contact Eric Hammerling via ehammerling@ctwoodlands.org.

Events/ Programs/Save the Dates:
Saturday, August 26, 2017. Connecticut Butterflies with Pamm Cooper. 2 – 3 pm. James L. Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton, CT. All welcome. RSVP recommended. Talk and walk. For Questions, Contact: Jasper Sha  jasper.sha@ct.gov  (860) 455-9534

A half-hour Power Point presentation on Connecticut butterflies followed by a walk to find butterflies and perhaps any caterpillars that may be nearby. We will look at plants that are both important for nectar sources and are also hosts for caterpillars. Pamm Cooper works at the UConn Home and Garden Education Center office. She also teaches the entomology and turf portions of the UConn Master Gardener Program. She worked for Dr. David Wagner (evolutionary biologist at UConn who specializes in Lepidoptera), collecting and raising
caterpillars for a bio-survey of the Tankerhoosen DEEP property and the Belding Wildlife Management Area in Vernon, CT. She has also documented flora and fauna in various areas of Connecticut since 1995.

**Saturday August 26, 2017. Monarch Butterfly Workshop.** 10 am to noon. Featuring Diane St. John. Natureworks in Northford, CT. Natureworks raised and released over 700 monarch butterflies from eggs and caterpillars collected in their organic gardens in 2016. Their work continues in 2017. Join Diane St. John to learn how this is accomplished. The life cycle of the monarch butterfly will be discussed as will the various forms of Asclepias (milkweed) that can be grown for their food and shelter. You’ll learn how to spot the eggs, protocol for raising them indoors, important nectar flowers to plant in your garden as food, and finally, how to release and tag them for monarch watch. This kid-friendly workshop is sponsored by the Connecticut Horticultural Society and is suggested for both adults and children who like bugs and science.

Contact Mary Anna at the CHS office – (860) 529-8713 – to register.

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**UConn Native Plants and Pollinators Conference**

STUDENT UNION BALLROOM (ROOM 330)
2100 Hillside Road, Storrs, CT 06269
October 19, 2017

Register online on the IPM website ([www.ipm.uconn.edu](http://www.ipm.uconn.edu))

Early Registration $50.00, by Friday, September 8, 2017

$60.00 after September 8, 2017

Students $25.00 with valid school ID

Registration fee includes parking, morning refreshments, and lunch.

Sessions include ‘Lifestyles of Pollinators’ by Dr. David Wagner, EEB, UConn, ‘Native Perennials for Bees, Butterflies, and Birds’ by Emily DeBolt, Fiddlehead Creek Nursery, NY, ‘Selecting Native Shrubs for Season-long Pollinator Support’ Dr. Jessica Lubell, PSLA, UConn, ‘Research Update: Examining Pollinator Attraction of Shrub Nativars’ by Jacob Ricker, Grad Student, PSLA, UConn and ‘Native Trees for Pollinators’ by Andrew Brand, Broken Arrow Nursery, CT.
Come and learn about the amazing healing power of shinrin-yoku, also known as “forest bathing.” Scientific research has now caught up with ancient knowledge that time spent in forests have a direct, measurable and profound effect on the human spirit and physical well-being. You can learn more about shinrin-yoku through this NPR story! Following a short presentation, there will be a Q & A period.
Presenter Alexandra Lowry is a Certified Integrative Life Coach and a member of the Association of Nature & Forest Therapy Guides. Alexandra is also a Red Cross First Aid/CPR certified CFPA Ramble Guide.
This event is being offered as part of a series of Forest Bathing programs at CFPA that include both rambles and presentations. Attend one or all of each! For additional programs, visit CFPA's event page.
For Questions, Contact: Alexandra Lowry, CFPA Ramble Guide allylowry4@gmail.com

2017 UConn Master Composter Program
Become a UConn Master Composter! The purpose of the Master Composter Program is to provide local compost enthusiasts with the tools and information necessary to educate and teach interested community members about composting and reducing the amount of solid waste sent to the state’s incinerators and landfills. Participants would attend classroom sessions at the Fairfield County Extension Center in Bethel, CT. Two Saturday field trips will also be scheduled, with one being mandatory Classes begin Thursday, October 6th and will run for 4 consecutive Thursdays, plus on Worm Day which is Saturday October 21st.

A Master Composter Certificate is awarded to those who have attended all program sessions, demonstrated a solid understanding of composting principles and practices, and engaged in a minimum of two outreach activities. Program fee is $100 payable to University of Connecticut. Enrollment will be limited to 24 participants. Visit www.ladybug.uconn.edu for more information or call (860) 486-4274.

UConn Master Composter Program presents:

WORM DAY, October 21, 2017, 10 am – 1 pm.
What: Learn about invasive and beneficial earthworms, discover how to set up and care for a worm bin with vermicomposting worms, make your own bin to bring home (complete with worms).
Where: Fairfield County Extension Center, Bethel, CT
To register and find out more go to www.ladybug.uconn.edu. Program is free. $5 donation for worms appreciated.

**KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON!**

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**
A New Study Shows That An Orange A Day Could Keep Dementia Away.

Drinking Coffee Could Lead To A Longer Life, Scientist Says

The Not-So-Sweet Side-Effects Of Artificial Sugars


Mediterranean-Style Diets Linked To Better Brain Function In Older Adults

**CLIMATE CORNER**
Most Effective Individual Steps To Tackle Climate Change Aren't Being Discussed

What You Can Do About Climate Change

Campaigning On Climate Science Consensus May Backfire, Warn Scholars

Surprising Scientists, 2017 Could Be Among Hottest On Record

Two Degrees Of Warming Already Baked In

Climate Change Expected To Increase Premature Deaths From Air Pollution

**WHO KNEW?**
First Bumblebee Species Declared Endangered In U.S.

The United States Will Soon Experience A Rare Total Solar Eclipse


Study: Bumblebee Species Declining Worldwide

Are Urban Bats The Future?

Greatest Threat To Eastern Forest Birds Is Habitat Loss On Wintering Grounds

**UCONN PLANT DIAGNOSTIC LAB:** www.plant.lab.uconn.edu
Sweet Corn ‘American Dream’

AAS Judges selected American Dream as their top trial choice and it just so happens to come from the same company that introduced Honey ‘N Pearl, an AAS winner from 1988. In a tight trial, American Dream was pitted up against Honey ‘N Pearl and came through as the winner! With its excellent germination, very tender, super sweet kernels, this newbie will make a great addition to the home garden. American Dream matures slightly earlier than the comparisons and produces vigorous, healthy plants with cobs that have good tip fill of bi-colored kernels. Plants grow 6-7 feet tall and mature in 77 days after planting the seed. Perfect fresh, roasted, grilled, canned or frozen.


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If you do enjoy our efforts to keep you informed about horticultural and College-related items, please consider showing your support by liking us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/pages/UConn-Home-Garden-Center/136211899745967, checking out our weekly blog www.uconnladybug.wordpress.com.

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