

Dear Friends,

As the last vegetables were harvested from the Common Ground plot and the final bag of Hort. Farm apples headed down the road with a happy customer, I was reminded once again of the cycles of life, not just in the garden, but in our daily affairs. Sometimes one simply has to let go of old ideas and ways of doing things to make way for the new.

This truism applies equally to non-profit organizations. Taking a look across the country this year, it is staggering just how many non-profit organizations have struggled – even disappeared – in response to lost investments, shrinking endowments, deficits in budget, etc. The future is still uncertain for many.

What gives me confidence about The Friends of the Horticulture Farm is its dedicated corps of volunteers – volunteer Board members, committee members, curators, workshop leaders and event coordinators as well as a host of volunteers with saws, shovels, paintbrushes, hammers – who dedicate themselves to one aspect or another of our mission of protecting, enhancing, and promoting the UVM Horticultural Research Center, its plant collections and natural areas for research, education and public enrichment.

As I write, our Program Committee, headed by **Margaret Bartholomew**, is working hard on the final details of new workshops, lectures, tours and other events for 2011. Upcoming events are listed on page 4. Landscape architect **Kate Lalley**, co-chair of the Collections and Facilities Committee, is working closely with former Friends' Board member and landscape architect **Terry Boyle** and Hort. Farm Manager **Terry Bradshaw** to pull together materials to update a master plan for the Hort. Farm and its facilities. **Ben Crockett**, also co-chair of the Collections and Facilities Committee is planning work days and other activities to

maintain and enhance the plant collections. **Jen Mills** and **Eileen Andreoli** are updating our database of members and volunteers and sending out membership reminders while **Linda Elrick** and other members of the Finance Committee, including former Treasurer **Joan Fox**, is helping to develop a lean budget and new fundraising ideas for 2011. There's a lot of work yet to be done.



Marijke's Perennial Gardens Plus - July 2010
Photo by Jen Mills

The Friends will have a booth at the 2011 Flower Show on March 4, 5, & 6 at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction, VT. We need volunteers to help design, set up, and staff that booth. If you are interested, please contact Volunteer Coordinator **Stephanie Miner** at 863-1876. We are also looking for talented individuals to take over editorial and layout responsibilities for the quarterly newsletter and someone to help maintain our website. These are part-time duties that can be done at an individual's own pace and largely from a home office. They are essential to continuing (and hopefully expanding) our capacity to communicate with our members and those interested in the Hort. Farm and Friends' activities.

Please contact Tina Bielenberg at krisbiel3@yahoo.com for more information.

The Board of Directors, elected by the membership in October 2010, has been hard at work trying to determine how best to balance the books in 2011. For nearly all of its 16 years of operation, the Friends has requested donations in support of its events (\$5 for members; \$10 for non-members). At the December Board meeting, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Board took another look at its expenses and reluctantly concluded that it was time to establish a new fee structure for its events. The Board voted to set a fee of \$10 for members of The Friends (as well as active Master Gardeners) and \$20 for non-members. We hope that new fees will not discourage attendance, given the quality of our presenters. In the

coming months, the Board will be looking at other ways to increase revenues in 2011 in the hopes of developing the reserves that will enable us to fund future projects and activities. As always, your continued support is greatly valued, especially as we re-think how we can achieve our mission more effectively. If your membership has expired, or is about to, please renew today. If you have a gardening friend, consider a gift membership. Thank you.

Kristina Bielenberg,
President

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Board of Directors of The Friends of the Horticulture Farm has moved its regular monthly meeting date to the **second Tuesday of every month**, 6:00 pm. Meetings are held in the Blasberg Classroom of the UVM Horticulture Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Drive in South Burlington, Vermont. Members and others interested in the operations of The Friends of the Horticulture Farm are always welcome to attend. It is best to check ahead of time to confirm the date and meeting time. Please contact Jennifer Mills at jamvt70@gmail.com

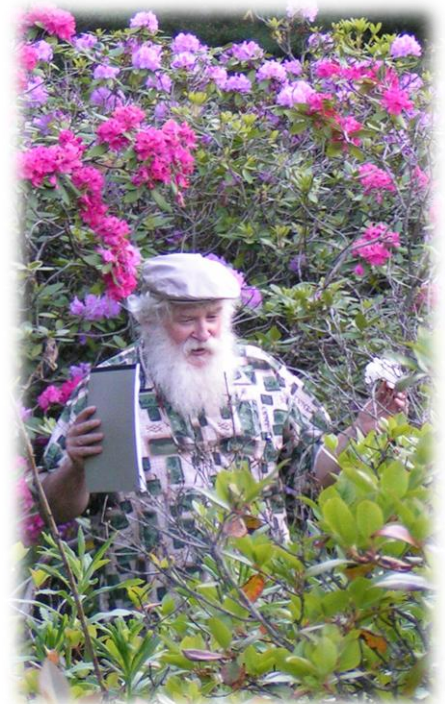
Various standing and special Committees of The Friends of the Horticulture Farm meet between monthly Board meetings. If you would like to know about upcoming committee meetings, please contact us and we will put you in touch with the Chair or co-Chair of the relevant Committee.

BLOOM-TIME FESTIVAL
May 21st **Save the Date!!**

BLOOM-TIME FESTIVAL

This year's **Bloom-Time Festival** is scheduled for Saturday, May 21st. The flowering trees and shrubs should be in full bloom, and, with any luck, the wild flowers, including the Hort. Farm's spectacular stand of *Trillium grandiflorum*. As always, the Festival is a great event for families and a wonderful opportunity to introduce new friends and visitors to the splendor of the Hort. Farm.

Also taking place at this event is the **Burlington Garden Club's Annual Plant Sale and Silent Auction**. This sale includes over 1,000 plants and quality items from local businesses, nurseries and Garden Club members. Proceeds from this sale benefit scholarships and civic projects.



Hal Bill gives a tour of the Rhododendron and Azalea collection at the Hort. Farm.
June 2010 Photo by Jen Mills

There will be **guided walking tours**, including one with **Jon Turnel**, State Entomologist, and a bird walk with Gail Lawrence of the Bird Museum in Huntington. Don't miss our **used garden book sale**, dance and entertainment by **On the Border Morris**, and talks with our Lilac Curator, **Jeff Young**, and Azalea and Rhododendron Curator, **Hal Bill**.

NEWFS VT/NH SYMPOSIUM -- APRIL 9, 2011

The VT/NH chapter of the New England Wild Flower Society (NEWFS) is pleased to announce the **2011 Annual Gardening Symposium** on **Saturday, April 9, 2011**. It will be held at Vermont Technical College (VTC), Randolph Center, VT, just off I-89 at Exit 4. Members of The Friends of the Horticulture Farm are entitled to a discounted enrollment fee.

Speaker **Sydney Eddison** has written seven books on gardening as well as many articles for the Brooklyn Botanic Garden Handbooks in the "**21st Century Gardening Series**". Many have read her articles in "**Fine Gardening Magazine**" and other publications.

Sydney's presentation will be: "Change: The Passage of Time in the Garden". Change in a garden can be gradual as in the maturation of woody plants, like rhododendrons, or it can be sudden as in the felling of a large oak by lightning. But like it or not, gardens change from hour to hour, day to day, season to season, from one year to another, and in the case of

Ms. Eddison's garden, over a period of many years. Although this process is ongoing and inevitable, change is one of the least talked about aspects of gardening and one of the most fascinating.

Charlotte Albers of Paintbox Garden, a landscape design business based in Shelburne, VT, studied botany and plant taxonomy at the U.S. National Arboretum, holds certificates in Horticulture and Landscape Design from the USDA Graduate School in Wash. D.C. and completed the Master Gardener program in VA. Through workshops and classes she continues to explore the art of the garden and promotes sustainable landscapes as a volunteer habitat steward with The National Wildlife Federation. Charlotte has been a contributing writer to The American Gardener, People Places & Plants, Vermont Life, and others. She currently writes for The Burlington Free Press.

In her presentation, "Designing With Native Plants" Charlotte will present combinations that include examples of naturalistic design, including her long border.

Liz Kreig's experience in teaching Landscape Design and Ornamental Horticulture at VTC prepared her for the exciting career she has created for herself as lecturer, garden designer and grower of high quality, unusual and hard to find plants at her business, Rising Sun Greenhouses and Landscape Company located in Bethel, VT. She is a VT Certified Horticulturist, an Accredited Organic Land Care Professional, a VT Master Gardener, and an instructor for the NEWFS.

Liz's presentation, "Rock Gardens For All", will feature native xeric species from the Great Plains and northwestern intermountain regions and small northeast regional plants. Covering cultural needs, selection and use of rock, plant choices, garden creation and care of rock gardens, this program will give anybody with a pile of rocks true inspiration to "dig in!"

The fee, which includes lunch, parking and the symposium packet, is \$53 for non-members and \$47 for members of cosponsoring organizations - The Friends of the Horticulture Farm, the Hardy Plant Club, The Fells N.A. Rock Garden Society, Master Gardeners and NEWFS. To register please send your check, payable to NEWFS-VT (preferred) or Visa/MC number and expiration date, with your name, address, phone and e-mail (for confirmation and directions) clearly written to Thelma Hewitt, PO Box 2333, New London, NH 03257 or tkhewitt@aol.com.

No refunds after April 1. For further information, call NEWFS at (508) 877-7630 extension 3303 or visit www.newfs.org.



Bloom-Fest 2010

Photo by Jen Mills

THANK YOU FROM THE BURLINGTON GARDEN CLUB (BGC)

A sincere thank you to the Hort. Farm for the opportunity to present the 2010 Annual Garden Club Plant Sale & Silent Auction in conjunction with the Bloom-Time Festival. This fundraiser helps BGC to provide scholarships in horticulture at UVM and to provide philanthropic donations to: The Friends of the Horticulture Farm, Friends of Burlington Gardens, UVM Waterfront Display Garden, Hope Lodge Gardens, The Nature Conservancy, Vermont Garden Park, and others.

Garden Club members appreciate the UVM Hort. Farm as a special treasure of our region. Many of our members are also members of The Friends of the Horticulture Farm. The mission of the Club is to promote the appreciation and knowledge of horticulture; aid in protecting native trees, plants, and wildlife habitats; and promote the beauty and usefulness of civic and home gardens. We present informative programs throughout the year about environmental and gardening topics, participation in civic projects, and do garden tours during the summer. For more information. Contact Jan DeSarno at 372-4058 jandesarno@gmail.com or visit www.bgcvt.org. Thank you again !
See you in the gardens ~ Jan

The Friends of the Horticulture Farm Board of Directors

Kristina Bielenberg, President
Stephanie Miner, V. President
Linda Elrick, Treasurer
Jennifer Mills, Secretary
Ron Krupp
Kate Lalley
Eileen Andreoli
Ben Crockett
Terry Bradshaw, Ex-Officio,
UVM

The Friends of the Horticulture Farm Newsletter - a quarterly publication of the Friends of the Horticulture Farm. Members of the Friends are always welcome, and encouraged, to contribute letters to the editor and articles for this newsletter.

Please send your contributions!
FHF Newsletter Department
PO Box 64788
Burlington, VT 05406-4788
or:
info@friendsofthehortfarm.org
or krisbiel3@yahoo.com

NEWSLETTER STAFF:
Kristina Bielenberg, Editor
Jennifer Mills, layout/Design
Lee Diamond & Stephanie Miner, production.

The Friends of the Horticulture Farm is a 501(c) (3) non-profit, tax-exempt, membership organization dedicated to the protection, promotion and enhancement of the UVM Horticulture Research Center, its plant collections, and natural areas, for education, research and public enrichment.

The Hort. Farm is located at 65 Green Mountain Drive in So. Burlington, VT - just off Shelburne Rd (Rt 7).

Please visit our web site:
www.friendsofthehortfarm.org
Phone: 802.864.3073

Please don't throw this newsletter away. Pass it on to another gardener!



2010 Annual FHF Plant Sale
Photo by Jen Mills

SAVE THE DATE!!

July 24, Sun 10am - 3pm
Friends of Horticulture Farm
17th Annual Plant Sale
& Silent Auction

Select from a wide variety of shrubs, ornamental trees, perennials and other plants donated by Vermont nurseries, local businesses and FHF members.

9-10am **Members-Only** Preview Sale

Join or Renew your membership beforehand so you can attend the Preview Sale!



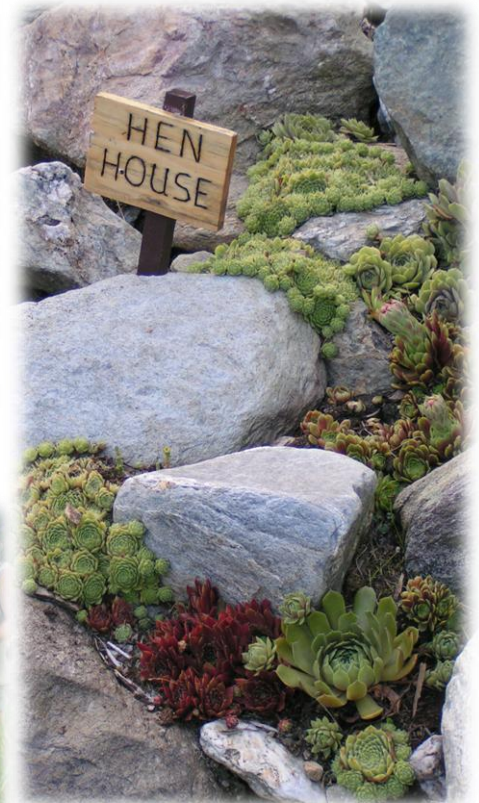
FHF Mushroom Walk - October 2010

Photo by Lee Diamond



Full Circle Garden Tour - August 2010

Photo by Jen Mills



Marijke's Perennial Gardens Plus
Garden Tour - July 2010
Photo by Jen Mills

SOME NOTES ON THE INTESTINES OF THE EARTH *Ryan Melnichuk, BSc,*

Earthworms... We seem to see them every time good soil is turned, and for good reason. Earthworms love loamy soil that is high in organic matter; it is like living in an all you can eat buffet. And eat they do. Decaying organic matter is ingested and physically degraded, mixing with microorganisms, resulting in improved soil fertility and better plant growth. So, microorganisms are happy, worms are happy and farmers are happy. But, what about the plants? Depending on where you are looking, some plants may not be so pleased with earthworms.

All earthworms are the same, right? Nope. There are almost 5000 species, with up to 20 seen in the Northeast, many with dissimilar life histories. The most commonly seen life histories are anecic, endogeic and epigeic. Night crawlers are a common anecic species. They are indiscriminate eaters, constructing deep semi permanent burrows lined with a skin secreted mucous 6 feet deep or more. Rose worms are a common endogeic; soil-eating (geophagus), living predominantly below ground in temporary burrows and are pink or white (non-pigmented). Red worms, related to the night crawler, are a common epigeic. They live mostly in the surface organic layer, and build temporary burrows and are pigmented dorsally, like their anecic cousin. Each of these worms affect soil properties such as drainage, erosion, water holding capacity and decomposition/mineralization rates.

Almost all earthworms in the northern half of the US are non-native species, with the predominant type coming from Europe and Asia. Similar climates allow for an easy transition and adaptation. Highly invasive species like the *crazy snakeworm* from Asia often have been brought over in the soil of ornamentals and have appetites and dispersion capabilities many times that of their European cousins, making them a threat to forest ecologies. These worms were not considered a threat because of their inability to survive the harsh winters in Vermont. Even though they cannot survive, the cocoons (eggs) can. Surprise! Snake worms even inhabit the Hort Farm woods.

In a garden or flat field setting, earthworms in balance are a good thing, breaking down organic matter and freeing up unavailable plant nitrogen and other nutrients while increasing aeration. However, in areas where earthworms are not initially present, an invasion can set off a major ecological change. Forests are loaded with decaying organic matter, at levels not seen in any agricultural setting. When forest decomposition rates are increased, plants have a hard time taking up all of the

excess, allowing invasive plants to establish in areas previously too competitive.

Though increased diversity and organic methods like vermicomposting and vermiculture are appealing, proximity to invadable forests should be considered. If practicing vermicomposting or growing exotics, a few precautionary measures can help increase sustainability, preserve local habitat and native ecosystem diversity:

1. Compost in a contained bin that will not allow earthworms to escape (i.e. trash can with a lid).
2. Before mixing compost into garden, remove earthworms and confine compost to dark container in the sun for two weeks to minimize survival and escape of worms and cocoons.
3. As in # 2, but in winter, allow to freeze in shade, not covered by snow for at least two weeks.
4. When possible, plant native species, or grow plants from seeds or clippings. Many potted plants come with soil material that is contaminated with invasive flora and fauna.

Ryan Melnichuk is a graduate student at the University of Vermont. He is keen on seeing sustainable agriculture applied effectively and studying the effects of earthworms on forest soils and organic maple syrup production.
rmelnich@uvm.edu

GreenWorks
VERMONT NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

**2011 VERMONT
FLOWER SHOW
"SWEET DREAMS"
MARCH 4,5,6**

3 days of seminars
& workshops, hands-on
children's activities, over
80 vendors, VT Railway
Society's landscaped train
display, and so much more.
VT Chamber of Commerce
"TOP 10 Winter Event"

Visit the FHF booth #24
OR Volunteer at the booth.
3 Hour shifts available.
Call Stephanie Miner @
863-1876 for details.



Photo by Jen Mills

2011 Calendar of Events



Friends of the Horticulture Farm

JANUARY

Jan 19, Wed 6 - 8pm
"The New Flora of Vermont"
 Local botanist, Art Gilman

Jan 24, Mon 6 - 7:30pm
Ecological Alternatives to Invasive Plants in Vermont
 Rose Paul (VNC)
 Brian Vaughan (VNLA)

FEBRUARY

Feb 9, Wed EMG-E 6 - 8pm
Permaculture Today
 Keith Morris

Feb 23, Wed 6 - 8pm
FILM showing: "Vermont: A Garden Tour"
 Relax and take a 52-minute tour of 15 of Vermont's public and private flower gardens. Dorothy Lovering, producer and director from Odyssey Productions (Vermont), will lead a discussion about how and why this film was made.

MARCH

Mar 4, 5, 6 Fri/Sat/Sun
Vermont Flower Show "Sweet Dreams"
 Don't miss the FHF booth at Vermont's biennial Flower Show at the Champlain Valley Fairgrounds in Essex Junction. Email us if you would like to volunteer and work a shift at our booth!

Event Fees:

\$10 for FHF Members & current Master Gardeners (bring ID)

\$20 Non-Members, unless otherwise specified.

No-Show/Cancellation ??

Please call us! We can fill your spot.

Mar 9, Wed 6 - 8pm
Stone Walls: Past & Present
 Stonewalls are a part of Vermont's agricultural and social history. A wall structure, location and condition are clues to our past as well as evidence of changes to our landscape today. Charley MacMartin will lead a discussion of our state's stonewalls and recent efforts to preserve them. Bring your stone wall photos to share!

Mar 12, Sat 10 - Noon
UVM Greenhouse Facilities Tour
 Colleen Armstrong and David Heleba take you on a guided tour. Divided into 11 adjoining compartments, the greenhouses cover 8,000 square feet. They are for the use of faculty, staff, and students in teaching, research, and extension. *Located on the Main Campus; adjoining Jeffords Hall. Limit: 15 attendees*

Mar 26, Sat EMG-E 9am - Noon
Crab Apple Pruning Workday
 Mark Biercevicz, Crab Apple Curator, will explain and demonstrate proper pruning techniques. Bring pruning tools, gloves and loppers if you have them. We'll provide some too.

Mar 30, Wed 6-8pm
Gardening in VT - Spring to Fall
 Ron Krupp, FHF board member and Vermont author of "Lifting the Yoke" and "The Woodchucks Guide to Gardening" leads a discussion on about starting seeds in your home, for growing greens in cold frames, planting by the stars, storing vegetables in a root cellar and putting gardens to rest in the fall. Bring your gardening questions and, if you'd like to share, any seedlings you may have started at home.

APRIL

April 9, Sat 9am - 5pm
New England Wildflower Symposium
 Vermont Technical College, Randolph

Apr 16, Sat EMG-E 9am - 4pm
Lilac & Flowering Shrubs Q & A
 Jeff Young, Lilac Collection Curator reviews how to properly choose, plant, grow and prune lilacs and flowering spring shrubs.

Apr 16, Sat 8am - 4pm
Build A Rustic Cedar Trellis / #1
 Join Brian Gluck of Vermont Rustic Cedar for an all day hands-on workshop. Build a rustic cedar trellis for your home garden. \$80.00 includes materials. Limited to 16 attendees. *Required: Pre-register by email or phone. Full payment must be received by Apr 3rd to hold your spot.*

Apr 17, Sun 8am - 4pm
Build A Rustic Cedar Trellis / #2
 Due to the popularity of this workshop, a second date has been added. See above for RSVP and registration info.

Apr 17, Sat EMG-V 9am - 1pm
Collection & Facilities Workday
 Many Master Gardeners and volunteers are needed to help cleanup and maintain various Hort Farm plant collections.

Apr 23, Sat EMG-V 9am - 1pm
Perennial Garden "Wake Up"
 Master Gardeners and volunteers needed to help Brian Vaughan, Perennial Garden Curator, "wake-up" the Perennial Garden. Come take part in spring clean-up of this fabulous collection in time for our May 21st Bloomtime Festival. Bring pruning shears/weeding tools if you can.

MAY

May 7, Sat EMG-V 9am - 1pm
Perennial Garden Maintenance
 Master Gardeners and volunteers needed to help Brian Vaughan, Perennial Garden Curator, tidy up this fabulous garden in time for our May 21st "Bloom-time Festival". Learn proper techniques for dividing perennials. Bring pruning shears and weeding tools if you have them. *Take home a free perennial plant!*

May 11, Wed EMG-E 5:30 - 7:30pm
Tree Walk & Talk
 Craig Lambert, South Burlington City Arborist, tours the Hort. Farm discussing species selection and tree maintenance. Please bring your tree questions!

RSVP requested for all events:

info@friendsofthehortfarm.org

or 802-864-3073

www.friendsofthehortfarm.org

PO Box 64788, So Burl, VT 05406

MAY (cont.)

May 17, Tues **EMG-E** 5:30 - 8pm
Lilac Walk & Talk

45-minute tours of the Hort. Farm's extensive lilac collection with Jeff Young, Lilac Collection Curator. Catch a tour starting at 5:30pm, 6:30pm or 7:30pm. Bring your lilac questions, friends and a picnic!

May 21, Sat 10am - 3pm
17th Annual Bloomtime Festival & Burlington Garden Club's 77th Anniversary Plant Sale

Open to the public. Come awaken your senses to the scents of lilacs, flowering crabapples, magnolias and more! Perennials, lilacs and gardening books will be on sale. UVM Greenhouse will be on hand selling indoor plants.

May 21, Sat **EMG-E** 9am - 4pm
Lilacs Q & A

Jeff Young, Lilac Collection Curator, answers your lilac questions and sells a variety of lilac starters during Bloomtime Festival. See Apr 16th for description.

May 26, Thur **EMG-E** 5:30 - 8pm
Lilac Walk & Talk
See May 17th for description.

JUNE

June 1, Wed **EMG-E** 6 - 8pm
Rhododendron Walk and Talk

Hal Bill, Collection Curator, offers a tour of the Hort. Farm's Rhododendrons and Eastern U.S. Native Azalea collections in bloom. These "Jewels in the Crown" are one of best collections in New England. Rain or shine.

June 4, Sat **EMG-E** 10am- Noon
Rhododendron Walk and Talk with Hal Bill, Collection Curator

A great opportunity to tour the Rhododendrons and Eastern U.S. Native Azalea collections in bloom. These "Jewels in the Crown" are one of best collections in New England.

June 4, Sat **EMG-E** 9am - 4pm
Advanced Pruning Techniques

Jeff Young, Lilac Collection Curator, offers a pruning workshop for the more experienced gardeners, landscapers and horticulturalists, reviewing proper pruning techniques for shrubs and small trees. Please bring pruning tools.

June 15 (Wed) 6:30-8:30pm

June 18 (Sat) 10am-Noon
2-day workshop! Must attend both dates.

Botanical Identification & Illustration

Jane Neroni and Denise Quick teach how to observe, identify and draw native plants. Meet Wednesday to discuss how the knowledge of botany aids the artist in the field and review drawing techniques in preparation for Saturday's walk around the Hort. Farm with sketchbooks in hand. Bring a sketchbook and sharpened #2 pencils w/eraser. \$30 for BOTH days.

JULY

July 16, Sat **EMG-V** 10am - 1pm

Perennial Garden Maintenance Day

with Brian Vaughan, Perennial Garden Curator. Volunteers needed to help weed, deadhead and stake perennials. Bring pruning shears and weeding tools if you have them. Brian will review specific perennials in the garden, their uses and their cultural needs.

July 23, Sat 9am - Noon
Annual Plant Sale Set Up

Volunteers needed to help set up tents and organize plants for Sunday's sale. Please call Stephanie Miner; 863-1876.

July 24, Sun 10am - 3pm

Friends of Hort. Farm 16th Annual Plant Sale

Select from a wide variety of ornamental trees, shrubs, perennials and other plants donated by gardens and nurseries throughout Vermont. Don't miss the 9-10am Members-Only Preview Sale. Join or renew your membership now!

AUGUST

August 3, Wed 6 - 8pm

Gourmet Mushroom Workshop

Don't get left behind this trend. Eric Swanson owns "Vermush" and will show us how to grow and harvest our own gourmet mushrooms. Take home your own oyster mushroom spawn kit! \$20/\$30 includes Materials.

August 17, Wed **EMG-E** 6 - 8pm

The Marvel of Honey Bees

Bill Mares, President of VT Beekeepers Association, talks about bees and their 10,000-year symbiosis with humans, how they help gardeners, and the current cluster of threat to their health and our food supply.

SEPTEMBER

Sept 14, Wed **EMG-E** 6 - 8 pm

Fall colors for the Perennial Garden

Tired of buying mums for fall color? Come discover colorful late-blooming perennials with Sarah Salatino from Full Circle Gardens in Essex. Sarah will share her season-extending cultural practices and help you find ways to be green and save \$\$!

OCTOBER

Oct 9, Sun **EMG-E** 10 - 1pm

Mushroom Walk & Talk

Join Robert Resnick and Stephanie Miner for a fun-filled walk and talk in the Hort. Farm woods followed by a lively discussion of your "finds". Bring a basket or a paper bag, no plastic please. Pre-registration required. Limit: 25 attendees

Oct 15, Sat 12 noon - 3pm

Annual Members Meeting

FHF Members gather to review the current year's successes. Come hear about the latest on-site research. We urge you to attend with suggestions and input for the future. Refreshments served.

Oct 22, Sat 10am - Noon

Out of Your Gourd

Come learn about hard-shell gourds; tips on growing them and make a lasting container or a birdhouse. Alice Trageser will share her expertise and provide gourds and art materials to work with. Try painting, staining, wood burning, decoupage, or reconstructing. These organic forms are ready for whatever you can imagine. \$25/\$35 includes all materials.

NOVEMBER

Nov 16, Wed 6 - 8pm

Herbs for The Holidays: Folklore, Culinary & Health

Ever wonder why we decorate with mistletoe & holly during the holiday season or why frankincense & myrrh are honored this time of year? Laura Brown, of Purple Shutter Herbs, will recount tales & folklore about our cherished December herbs such as rosemary, cinnamon & sweet woodruff.

Master Gardener Hours:

EMG=V these events have been approved for VOLUNTEER hours

EMG=E these events have been approved for EDUCATIONAL hours

SUCCESSFUL 2010 PLANT SALE

Jennifer Mills, FHF Board Member & 2006 MG

On Sunday, July 25th, The Friends sponsored its Sixteenth Annual Benefit Plant Sale at the UVM Horticulture Research Center. Over seventy growers, nurseries, and garden centers throughout Vermont, contributed plants, garden items, and gift certificates to the sale. Thanks to the generous support of our members and the gardening community, The Friends raised almost \$6000.

The Friends wish to acknowledge the many volunteers who made the 2010 Plant Sale a success. We wish to thank this year's Volunteer Coordinator, Stephanie Miner, for once again gathering an impressive group of hard working volunteers. Planning and executing such an event takes an enormous amount of time and energy. Without the generosity and commitment of our volunteers, this wonderful fund-raising event would not take place. We are always looking for suggestions on how we can improve our Annual Plant Sale. We encourage our members to share any ideas for improving or enhancing this event. If you'd like to share your ideas or volunteer for next year's Benefit Plant Sale, it's not too early to step forward. Please call Stephanie Miner at 863-1876 or email us at info@friendsofthehortfarm.org.

We would like to thank the following donors for making our Annual Plant Sale a success! We could never have done it without you! If there is anyone that we've forgotten, we apologize in advance. Please drop us a line and let us know who you are.

~ Board of Directors,
The Friends of the Hort Farm

Editor's Note: The following report from last summer. Nonetheless, it captures the enthusiasm that UVM students participating in the Common Ground Student-Run Farm brought to their work at the Hort. Farm in 2010. For more information about Common Ground planned activities and to secure a CSA share as a member of the UVM community, Hort. Farm neighbor, or member of The Friends, please contact faculty advisor Yolanda Chen. Yolanda.Chen@uvm.edu

Thank You 2010 Plant Sale Donors!!

Ace Hardware	Lambert, Hank
Adam's Farm Market	Leaves of Grass
Agway Inc.	Legare Farm
Albee, Kyle	Lemonlily Farm
Amanda's Greenhouse	Little Siberia Perennials
Arcana Gardens & Greenhouses	Mad River Garden Center
Bailey's Nursery	Marijke's Perennial Gardens
Barrett's Tree Services	Mazur, Mary
Bates Farm & Home	Mill Brook Bonsai
Bates, Lorna	Mills, Jennifer
Bear Pond Books	Mills, Libby
Beaver Meadow Greenhouse	Miner, Stephanie
Breezy Acres	Montpelier Farm & Garden
Buds & Roses	Mr. Twitter's Garden & Gift
Cabot Greenhouse & Nursery	Old Nash Farm Nursery
Cady's Falls Nursery	P.J. Bushey Landscaping
Cider Hill Gardens	Paquette Full of Posies
Claussen Perennial Farm	Perennial Pleasures
Cobble Creek Nursery	Pine Tree Gardens
Creative Landscaping & Garden	Pinewood Gardens Inc.
Cross View Gardens	Poker Hill Gardens
Dandelion Acres	Purple Shutter Herbs
Egidio, Elaine	Rock Crest Gardens
Elmore Roots Nursery	Rocky Dale Gardens
Essex Agway Inc.	Rt 66 Garden Center
Evergreen Gardens of Vermont	S. Mazza Farmstand
Friends of Burlington Gardens	Simson, Nancy
Full Circle Nursery	Skyline Nursery & Garden
Garden Time Inc.	South Forty Nursery
Gardener's Supply Company	Standing Stone Perennials
Gardenside Nursery	LaPoint Landscaping & Nursery
Golden Russet Farm	Nursery
Grand Isle Nursery	Swanson's Nursery
Green Mountain Florist	The E.C. Brown Nursery
H & B Greenhouse & Nursery	The Rock Garden
Hamlen's Garden Center	Tina Bielenberg
Honey Gardens Apiaries	Trillium Designs
Horsford Gardens & Nursery	Trombly's Greenhouses & Northfield Floral
Hudak's Greenhouse	UVM Horticulture Farm
Imported Car Center	Vaughan, Brian
Intervale Organic Compost	Vermont Daylilies
Irish Family Farm	Vermont Flower Farm
Jail Branch Greenhouse	Von Trapp Nursery
Jones, June	Way Out Wax
Just Dancing Gardens & Greenhouse	Westphal, Marjorie
Kate Brook Nursery	Woodbury Landscaping & Garden Center
Keeler Bay Lilies	Wood's Market Garden
Killdeer Farm & Nursery	Young, Steve
Kunkel, John	

UVM's Common Ground Student-Run Farm, Mid-Summer 2010 Report

It seems like only yesterday that we were prepping and seeding the first bed of spinach in our fields, with nothing to assure the promise of growth except small weed seed heads sprouting through sandy earth. We have to feed 70 people from this, we thought. But now, only months later, purples, greens, yellows, and oranges lushly fill the space that was once an overwhelming void.

Common Ground was bustling with energy as Vermont's mid-summer settles in. We found a steady rhythm—a stream of produce came out of our fields each week with new offerings for our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) members as each month unfolded. This year, we chose to expand our CSA program, almost doubling its subscriptions, to offer fresh, organically-grown produce to over 60 households in the Champlain Valley community from May through September.



Hort Farm greenhouse - seed starting

Photo by Jen Mills

The farm is in its 8th week of the program. One share included everything from plums to yellow and purple striped cattle beans. We love having our shareholders be able to drive by our fields to come and pick-up their produce each week; it's the most satisfying part of farming. Vermonters eagerly await our Green Zebra Tomatoes, New Mexico Joe Hot Peppers, Sugar Baby Watermelon & the forever-coveted Sungold Cherry Tomato!

As this farm depends of both student participation and community support, we would like to take this opportunity to let you know that we always accept extra seeds that local gardeners and farmers might have from the 2010 season to kick start our seed stock for the 2011 farm crew. If interested, please drop them off on your next visit to the Horticulture Research Center or post them to us at the following address: 65 Green Mountain Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403.

Watch for our fall events too! We will be hosting Harvest Celebrations and Agricultural Workshops on the farm and will have a table at UVM's Farmers Markets on the Davis Center Green on campus.

Gardening for you in 2010 were: Noah Lagle, JC Hines, Danika Frisbie, Asher Lober, Carrie-Anne Palmeri, Rylan Sirianni

START YOUR PLANTS IN THE UVM GREENHOUSE FACILITIES

If you dream of starting your own seedlings for your home garden, the UVM Greenhouse can make it happen. They provide soil, containers, and labels. They water, fertilize, and protect your plants from insects and diseases.

The Greenhouse makes growing fun and easy. You can grow your favorite, new, hard-to-find, or heirloom varieties. We like working with people who have never gardened before as well as experts. Start anytime between February and June 2011.

You provide the seed; they provide the space; 10 ft², that's enough for ninety small pots or thirty 6 packs. \$60 for the first month; \$30 each 2 week period afterward. Share the space with a friend to save even more! They have a limited number of "organic" spaces at the Spear St. facility (BioResearch Complex in So. Burlington). The cost for this space is \$70 for the first month and \$35 for every 2 week period afterward.

Contact UVM Greenhouse Facilities personnel
Call: 656-0465 or email greenhouses@uvm.edu



Bat House at the Hort. Farm
Photo by Jen Mills

90 PERCENT LOSS OF BATS IN VERMONT

Mary Houle,
Master Gardener

Scott Darling from the State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and Department of Fish and Wildlife gave a presentation at the Pierson Library relating his research and

findings about bats and white-nosed syndrome, a fatal fungal disease infecting the bat population in the Green Mountain State as well as other areas of the country.

Nine kinds of bats call Vermont home. Within those nine, there are three distinct types: house bats, forest bats, and migratory bats. The small brown bat is a tiny house bat and weighs only seven grams, as much as three pennies. Then there is the big brown bat that commonly winters in attics and weighs 14 to 18 grams. There are four types of forest bats. One of the four, the

Indiana bat, is considered endangered by the State and federal government. This specimen is found in large colonies in Vermont's Champlain Valley. The silver haired bat is a migratory bat and is historically one of Vermont's most common.

The best news about bats is that a population of a half million bats consume over 2.5 billion insects each night. To eat the bugs, bats use echolocation to find their prey. Bats hibernate from November through April. Generally, the bats that die during hibernation are those that wake up and exit the cave, the barn, or the attic. Researchers are not clear about the reason for the premature awakening. Are the bats hungry? Is it white nose-syndrome that causes unrest and awakens them? Winter flight is fatal to bats because they cannot generate enough warmth and there are no flying insects for food.



Bats are mammals that have only one pup per year. The normal life span of this mammal is 20 to 30 years. Eighty to 90 percent of bats are affected by white nose syndrome and death can occur in the first to the fifth year of the disease. This disease gravely threatens the bat population. What can we do? The solution is unclear at the present time, however, if you discover bats in your attic or barn, do not destroy them. Call someone at the state level to remove it for study or relocation. Some bats are on the endangered species list and are protected by the law.

Has white-nose syndrome been around in the past and only recently discovered, or studied? Has the bat population suffered the same problem in the past and recovered? Bats have not been the subject of this kind of study before. The cause of the syndrome is unknown but many theories abound: cell towers, sound waves, satellite television, and pesticides have all come into question.

Does the syndrome transmit to humans or cross over to other winged creatures? If a fox or rodent eats a dead bat, does it succumb to the disease as well? The crowd also queried the possibility of colony collapse in honeybees as a related issue. There are no answers yet.

Although the assembled crowd at the library did not leave with solutions, we did depart with a keener sense of the environment and an increased knowledge about bats and their good qualities. The burning question for the audience was this: Now that I know there is a problem, what can I do? My answer? I just bought a bat box. I plan to install it and give a warm and cheery welcome to the first bat I hear or see when summer arrives.

As we began the evening, a bird flew into the auditorium of the library and clung to the top of the curtain on the stage during the entire presentation. At first, some of us thought it was a bat and a handy prop for the discussion. It was not, but it did command our attention for a good share of the time we were there. At our departure, the bird seemed content to stay the night in the library.

FORCING FLOWERING BRANCHES

Dr. Leonard Perry, Extension Professor UVM

Trick your spring-flowering trees and shrubs into thinking it's spring this winter, and into blooming. This is what you do by cutting branches and bringing indoors. The process is called "forcing."

Trees and shrubs, which bloom in spring, form their flower buds the previous fall. After at least eight weeks of cold outdoors (under 40° F), their branches are capable of blooming if you provide the right conditions. To make sure they receive enough cold, don't cut branches until after Jan. 1 in a "normal" year or after Jan. 15 in a "mild" year. Branches harvested in late winter often come into bloom indoors sooner than those harvested earlier.

Carefully prune out branches so as not to injure the plant or ruin its shape. Use sharp pruners, and cut branches at least 12 inches long. Select branches with a large number of flower buds. These are often on younger branches. Make sure you are looking at flower buds and not leaf buds. The flower buds are usually larger and rounder. If in doubt, cut a few buds open to look for leaf or flower parts inside. Branches force more readily if cut on a sunny afternoon or when temperatures are above freezing.

Bring the cut branches indoors, placing the stem ends immediately in water. If branches are in a bucket, mist them frequently the first few days or enclose in a plastic bag out of direct sun. If possible, submerge the whole stems in water, such as in a bathtub, overnight. This allows buds and stems to quickly absorb water and begin to break dormancy.

The old recommendation was to smash the stem ends with a hammer to improve water uptake by the stems. Sometimes this works, but it may have the opposite effect if stems are mashed too hard. The best method is to make a slit or two in the bottom of the stem before placing in the water, such as in a cross or star pattern as viewed from the bottom.



2009 VT Flower Show. Hort Farm Booth

Keep branches in a bucket of water in a cool area (60 to 65°F). Warmer temperatures cause buds to develop too rapidly and not open properly. Change the water every 2 to 3 days to ensure it stays clean. Low humidity, common in many homes in winter, also may cause buds to fall off. Try to keep branches near a humidifier, or misted. Direct

sunlight also may cause buds to fall, so keep in bright but indirect light.

Once the flower buds show color, the branches can be used in arrangements. Use of floral preservatives, available at many garden stores and florists, may increase the life of the branches (the "vase life"). Once again, keep stems in bright, but indirect, light. Moving arrangements to a cool location at night (40 to 60°F) will help them last even longer.

For cutting as early as January, consider the Cornelian Cherry (yellow flowers, 2 wks to force into bloom), Forsythia (yellow flowers, 1 to 3 wks to force), Witch Hazel (yellow flowers, 1 week to force), Poplar (long lasting, drooping flowers called "catkins," 3 wks to force), and Willow (catkins, 2 wks to force).

In February, consider these same plants plus the Red Maple (pink to red unusual flowers followed by leaves, 2 wks to force), Alder (catkins, 1 to 3 wks to force), Amelanchier or Serviceberry (white flowers, 1 to 3 wks to force), Apples and Crabapples (white, pink and red flowers, 2 to 4 wks to force with doubles slower than singles), Birch (long lasting catkins, 2 to 4 wks to force), Quince (red to orange flowers, 4 wks to force), Cherries (white and pink flowers, 2 to 4 wks to force), Rhododendrons and Azaleas later in the month (many

colors, 4 to 6 wks to force), and Pussy Willow (well-known furry flowers, 1 to 2 wks to force).

Then in March, consider cutting branches of Hawthorns (white, pink or red flowers, 4 to 5 wks to force) but be careful of the thorns, Deutzia (white flowers, 3 to 4 wks to force), Honeysuckle shrub (white to pink flowers, 2 to 3 wks to force), Mockorange (white flowers, 4 to 5 wks to force), Oaks (catkins, 2 to 3 wks to force), Lilacs (many colors, 4 to 5 wks to force), and Spirea (white flowers, 4 wks to force with double flowers lasting longer).

Cut various branches, at various times, for a succession of blooms and color indoors during our long winters. It's one way to help spring come early in the North!

Want to *really*
Dig In ?

newsletter editor

newsletter production

website maintenance

**We are now seeking to fill a
few FHF vacancies!**

For Details, please contact Jen Mills
802.310.3152 jamvt70@gmail.com

KIOSK GETS A LITTLE HELP FROM A FRIEND

The Board of Directors wishes to thank **Nick Meyer** for his repair work in 2010 on the Hort. Farm information kiosk. Nick spent an afternoon repairing rot, installing a new threshold and building a new front step for the kiosk. He saw a need and volunteered his carpentry skills to make sure that this little building was safe, secure, and tidy. Rumor has it that he will return again for some work on the tool storage doors and perhaps some new siding.

The Kiosk was built several years ago by The Friends, both as a place to dispense our brochures and information during special events and a secure storage facility for our hand tools for Neighbor Labor work days. Thank you, Nick, for lending your time and skill to The Friends!

Membership Form - Join or Renew Today!

Please remember that many local businesses such as IBM have a matching gift program. Contact your employer for the appropriate forms and send them to us with your membership fee or donation.

We recently received word from a donor that General Electric will now provide The Friends of the Horticulture Farm with matching money for all donations made by current or retired GE employees. If you or a friend work for GE or are retired from this company, please consider becoming a member of The Friends or making a gift to our organization. All you need to do is call GE at 800-305-0669, tell them that you want to have GE do a matching gift to The Friends of the Horticulture Farm, and give them the Friends' zip code which is 05406.

**Your donation is
tax deductible!**

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