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SPRING 2008

# SOUND & COUNTRY

A GUIDE TO THE CONNECTICUT/RI SHORE

FESTIVALS • APRIL VACATION • THE ARTS • CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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# GREEN THUMB HARVEST

CLUB PLANT SALES  
YIELD BOUNTY FOR LOCAL GARDENS



TOP, BY SUPPORTING LOCAL GARDEN CLUBS, YOU CAN HAVE SOME BEAUTIFUL BLOOMS FOR HALF THE WORK. PHOTO JEFF EVANS

ABOVE, THE SMALLEST FORSYTHIA CAN YIELD MANY THOUSANDS OF BLOOMS MORE IN YEARS TO COME. PHOTO JEFF EVANS

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BY KATE CAREY-TRULL SPECIAL TO THE DAY

Whether you are an expert or a novice gardener, plant sales in southeastern Connecticut are a great way to add to your garden, offering unique plants and shrubs as well as advice from local garden clubs.

Many of the plant sales kick off Mother's Day weekend, with gift ideas such as container gardens for inside or outdoors, or Harkness day lilies. The sales usually benefit different causes, whether it is scholarships in Ledyard, the Mystic Noank library, Connecticut College Arboretum or the greenhouse project at Harkness Memorial State Park.

Sue Anderson, president of the Ledyard Garden Club, said garden club members are available to help with questions and advice about what plants work best in sun or shade.

"This year we will have a special feature on plants that attract hummingbirds," Anderson said. "We have a lot of plants dug from members' gardens, so you know it grows here. We do buy some annuals locally as well."

People also can sign up to join the garden club; Anderson said they usually get a few new members from the show each year.

MAY  
&  
JUNE

"Our show has grown over the years and often it is wall-to-wall people," she said. "So come early, it is a lot of fun."

The Ledyard Garden Club will hold its annual plant sale May 10, from 8:30 a.m. to noon, rain or shine. The sale will be at the Ledyard Congregational Church Hall (adjacent to the Bill Library), on Route 117 in Ledyard. The sale will include annuals, perennials for sun and shade, shrubs, herbs, trough gardens, mushroom compost, and Mother's Day gifts and baskets. The club has held this event for more than 30 years with the proceeds benefiting the scholarship fund, maintaining the Nathan Lester Garden, the Ledyard Center streetscape, the Ledyard Senior Center, Gales Ferry Firehouse and McCort Gardens and other community projects. For more information, call Anderson at 464-6878.

The Duck River Garden Club Plant sale will be May 9 from 3-7 p.m. and May 10 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of the Old Lyme Shopping Center. Proceeds from the sale are used to provide landscape enhancements for the town, as well as scholarships for graduating high school students and educational programs. The club is a member of the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut. For more information about the plant sale or club membership, contact Doreen Thomas at 434-7740.

**Heirloom plants a draw**

Connecticut College Arboretum hosts a spring plant sale featuring a variety of flowering shrubs from the arboretum. Kathy Dame, assistant director of the Arboretum, said there would be container gardens as well as the shrubs for gift giving for Mother's Day. "The Martha Washington geranium and hydrangeas flew out of here last year, so we will have more of those this year," she said. Other flowering shrubs will include azalea, fothergilla, spirea, lilac, scotchbroom, rhododendron, and viburnum. There also will be numerous flowering plants and a selection of limited selection of garden ornaments.

See page 16



TOP, VANESSA BEARDEN OF THE LEDYARD GARDEN CLUB MAKES SURE EVERYTHING IS IN ORDER FOR THE SALE; ABOVE, JAN THEILER AND JUDY GRAZIANO GET THEIR HANDS DIRTY IN PREPARATION FOR THE LEDYARD SALE; LEFT, ROBERTA LEVANDOSKI ARRANGES THE TROUGHS FOR SALE. PHOTOS COURTESY LEDYARD GARDEN CLUB



...ies at their plant sale. "People come in droves, we lend people wheelbarrows to take plants out to their care," she said. "The plants are from when Harkness was an estate, so there are interesting varieties. It is a popular event."

The 13th annual Friends of Harkness Plant Sale will be May 9 and May 10, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. rain or shine at Harkness Memorial State Park, 275 Great Neck Road, Waterford.

Proceeds from the event will help fund education programs, public lectures, and the Harkness Greenhouse Restoration Project.

The Mystic Garden Club has been in existence for 84 years and the club started doing a plant sale in 1930, explained member Gail Ettinger. "It is a great sale for plant lovers who want variety in their garden," she said. "You can find unusual plants donated from our members' gardens."

Diane Davis, a member of the club, said the sale raises money for the Mystic Noank library. "The library is a unique place, surrounded by old captain's homes in Mystic," she said. "Once you've been to the plant sale you want to be sure to go again. The ladies can talk about the care of the plants and where to put them. Everyone seems to come because they know it is going on and it benefits the library."

The Mystic Garden Club Plant Sale will be June 7, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Mystic Noank Library, along with a book sale, bake sale and tag sale.

The Mystic Garden Club also is a member of The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut. For more information about the club, go to [www.mysticgardenclub.com](http://www.mysticgardenclub.com)

Find out more about the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut at [www.ctgardenclubs.org](http://www.ctgardenclubs.org)