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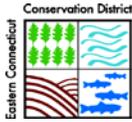
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ECCD OUTLOOK

A publication of the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District

Winter 2016 Edition



Farewell to Winthrop Benjamin Long-Time Friend of Conservation

Possibly Connecticut Conservation Districts' longest running member, we bid farewell to Winthrop "Winnie" Benjamin. In 1955, Winnie was contacted by the State of Connecticut to work as the operator of a bulldozer that they were considering purchasing to help the local landowners, many of them farmers, throughout the New London County Soil & Water Conservation District (NLSWCD), as it was called back then. Winnie agreed and so began 60 years of service to his deeply respected Conservation District.

A man of great strength and conviction, Winnie was devoted to his beloved family whom he cherished dearly. He serviced the local community, both through his 60 years of service to the Conservation District and through his faith and dedication to the Preston City Congregational Church.

After many years of working for the NLSWCD, Winnie left his job with the Conservation District to open his own business, the W.W. Benjamin Company in Preston. At this time Winnie began volunteering his time to NLSWCD as a member of its Board of Directors, holding several offices and serving as Treasurer until his health finally gave out. Through hard work and years of experience managing streams and ponds, along with associated water and soil movement and protection, he became expert in this field, and was recognized for his expertise as far reaching as Washington DC.

Winnie passed away on October 4, 2015, ten days before ECCD's Annual Meeting where he was to be honored for his six decades of service. On his behalf, family members received a Special Recognition in Memoriam from the State of Connecticut, and also a Citation from the Governor's Office for his outstanding contributions to conservation.

Win's accomplishments in soil & water conservation in eastern Connecticut remain throughout the region as tribute to Win's commitment and 'know-how.'

Celebrating a Ten Year Water Quality Monitoring Partnership with The Last Green Valley

In 2006, The Last Green Valley (TLGV) and ECCD entered into a cooperative agreement to fund a part time coordinator for TLGV's volunteer water quality monitoring program. The program initially was funded at 5 hours per week with no budget for equipment. Ten years later, the program has evolved. About 100 volunteers participate annually, some continuously since the beginning. Sophisticated equipment has been acquired with support from CT DEEP, MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, US EPA equipment loan program, Long Island Sound License Plate and Long Island Sound Futures Fund programs, and other funding sources. Connecticut DEEP, MA DEP and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service have provided program support through "Train the Trainer" workshops.

Continued on page 9

ECCD welcomes USDA's NRCS State Conservationist Tom Morgart to CT!

What on Earth is a Moon Garden?

Moon gardens are nighttime's answer to beautiful gardens, popular since before electricity. Moonlight gardens may have their roots in colonial India and became popular in England and the U.S in the 1920s and '30s. They are made up of white or light-colored flowers and foliage that become almost magical at night, especially when the moon shines on them. With our busy daytime schedules, oftentimes we aren't able to fully enjoy our gardens during the daylight hours. With comfortable seating planned into our moon gardens, we establish a relaxing spot to enjoy the evening sights, sounds and scents while embracing a sense of peace at the end of the day.

In addition to white and light-colored plants and comfortable seating, it is important to plan for flowers that bloom during the night, are fragrant and that attract evening pollinators such as moths and bats. It's always a good idea to use a variety of plants that will bloom in the spring, summer and fall. The plants' green foliage will contrast with the white and light blooms, while your silver, gray, chartreuse and variegated foliage will provide visual enhancement.

Beforehand it is important to determine how large or small your moon garden will be. It can be as small as a container on your deck or a whole section of your yard. It can also be designed around a patio or deck, or even by a swing or near a window. You will then be able to make your plant selections based on the size of your garden. Let your imagination go as you ask yourself "what will my moon garden look like in the moonlight"? Water features and solar powered light stakes for lighting a pathway may help to compliment the space.

This year we are offering two groupings of plants that work well in moon gardens, as well as in your natural settings, and have noted additional plants in our regular offerings with the code **MG**. Winter is the perfect time to plan for that relaxing, warm-weather, nighttime enjoyment, whether it's quiet time alone in nature or an evening dinner with family or friends in your special place on earth...in your moon garden.

~ ~ ~

Consider mixing some of our bold colors with white in your daytime gardens for a striking accent!

Soil Analysis Test Kits: Available at your local UConn Extension office for \$8, and also available at: www.soiltest.uconn.edu or at 860-486-4274.

2016 ECCD SPRING SEEDLING AND PLANT SALE

WHAT: Bareroot seedlings and potted plants, all winter hardy to at least Zone 6, which is our growing area (descriptions and order form follow).

WHEN: **Order deadline:** April 6, 2016 postmark.

Southern area pickup at **Ocean State Job Lot Building, Gales Ferry** (space donated by Ocean State Job Lot): 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Friday, April 22nd; or at 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 23rd.

Northern area pickup at **Brooklyn Fairgrounds, Route 169, Brooklyn** (space donated by the Windham County Agricultural Society): 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Friday, April 29th; or at 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 30th.

Please indicate on the order form whether you will be picking up at the Ocean State Job Lot location or the Brooklyn Fairgrounds. This is important since the seedlings and plants for each pickup point are delivered a week apart and are not carried over from one pickup to the other.

HOW: One hundred seedlings of most tree species can fit easily into a grocery sack. Potted plants take up more room. Be prepared to keep the roots of the bareroot plants moist and covered until actual planting. Herbs and perennials should be sheltered until mid-May.

AND: The District cannot be responsible for any orders not picked up by noon on Saturday unless prior arrangements have been made. Sorry, there are no refunds on orders not picked up.

QUESTIONS: Call Kate at 860-887-4163, Extension 400, M-F between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

CODE KEY FOR PLANTS:

BD—attracts birds, **BE**—attracts bees, **BT**—attracts butterflies, **D**—Deer Resistant
HM—attracts hummingbirds, **M**—works well in meadows, **MG**—works well in moon gardens, **N**—native to New England,
RB—works well as a riparian buffer plant, **RG**—works well in rain gardens

BAREROOT EVERGREEN SEEDLINGS (In bundles of 25 of each)

1. **COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE**: 8 to 15 inch tall 3-year bareroot seedlings. Color ranges from blue-green to silvery blue, superb color, excellent shape, good growth rate. One of the finest for Christmas trees, ornamental and windbreak use. **BD, MG**
2. **NORWAY SPRUCE**: 10 to 20 inch tall 3-year bareroot seedlings. Fastest growing spruce, short-needled with deep green color. Demand for Christmas tree, ornamental and reforestation. **BD**
3. **WHITE SPRUCE**: 8-16 inch tall 3-year bareroot seedlings. Very hardy, compact, with short blue-green needles, fast rate of growth, tolerates wide variety of soils. Used for Christmas, ornamentals and windbreaks. **BD**
4. **WHITE PINE**: 7 to 14 inch tall 3-year bareroot seedlings. Soft blue-green needles 3-5" long, fast growth, excellent needle retention. Desirable for Christmas, ornamentals, reforestation. **N, BD, RB**

TREES & SHRUBS (#1, #2 or #3 "gallon" containers)

5. **BEARBERRY**, *Arctostaphylos* 'Massachusetts Hybrid': Great groundcover, small, deep green, lush, evergreen foliage, easy to grow, plump red berries. Full sun to part shade. Very well drained soil, inc. poor, dry infertile soils. Matures to 6-12" tall. (#1) **N, BD, BE, BT**
6. **DUTCHMAN'S PIPE**, *Aristolochia macrophylla* (staked): An energetic vine with an old fashioned touch used to cool porches with big, deep green, heart shaped leaves, elongated green pipe-like flowers that are loved by butterflies bloom in spring. Full sun. Moist, well drained soil. Matures 10-30' tall. (#1) **N, BT**
7. **CHOKEBERRY**, *Aronia arbutifolia* 'Brilliantissima': Narrow, upright growing shrub, dark green, shiny foliage with flattened heads of small white flowers mid to late May, filled with nectar for native bees, maturing to brilliant red berries and later red foliage. Full sun to part shade. Medium moist soils. Matures to 6-10' tall. (#2) **N, BD, BE, RG**
8. **FLOWERING QUINCE**, *Chaenomeles* 'Double Take Orange Storm': Mounded shrub, double ruffled, silver dollar sized orange blooms line the thornless branches in April. Prune to shape after flowering. Full to part sun. Average soil, tolerates drought. Matures to 3-4' tall. (#2) **BD, D**
9. **LEATHERLEAF**, *Chamaedaphne calyculata*: Low growing shrub, forms a dense thicket, leathery evergreen foliage, tiny white bell shaped flowers bloom below upturned foliage along branches April-June, delicate scent, larval food for many butterflies. Partial to full shade. Likes wet areas. Matures to 2-4', (#1) **N, BD, BT, RG**
10. **SWEETFERN**, *Comptonia peregrina*: Tenacious, upright growing with deep green, lustrous, sweet scented foliage, colonizes. Full to part sun. Sandy, most infertile soils, drought tolerant. Matures to 2-4' tall. (#1) **N**
11. **FLOWERING DOGWOOD**, *Cornus florida*: Deciduous tree producing white (sometimes pinkish) 4-petal blooms in late April or early May, Full sun to part shade. Medium, moist soil. Matures to 15-30' tall. (#3) **N, BD, BT**
12. **OAKLEAF HYDRANGEA**, *Hydrangea quercifolia* 'Jetstream': New cultivar, dense, compact, non-flopping habit, lustrous, dark green foliage turns a beautiful orange-red in fall, large white trusses transition to pink in. Full sun to part shade. Moist, well drained soil. Matures to 5-6' tall. (#2) **N, RG**
13. **WINTERBERRY**, *Ilex verticillata* 'Red Sprite: Female, can be pollinated from male winterberry in the wild. Produces 1/2" red berries in abundance. Provides food for over 40 species of birds. Full sun to part sun. Likes wet, acidic soil. Matures 3-4' tall. (#2) **N, BD, BE, RG**
14. **MOUNTAIN LAUREL**, *Kalmia latifolia* 'Sarah': Dense, rounded, dark green foliage, clusters of blooms in rich pink fading to medium pink. Full to part sun. Well drained soil. Matures to 8-10' tall. (#2) **N**
15. **COMMON NINEBARK**, *Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Center Glow': Glowing yellowish green foliage darkens to a stunning reddish-purple, leaves tightly packed on bulky round form. Flattened heads of small, white-tinged pink flowers in June provide nectar. Sun to part sun. Tolerant of poor, infertile soil. Matures to 4-6' tall. (#2) **N, BD, BE, RG**
16. **CINQUEFOIL**, *Potentilla fruticosa* 'Setting Sun': Compact, rounded with unique peach blooms with darker pink eye, long flowering, easy to grow. Full sun. Wide range but prefers moist soils. Matures 3-4' tall. (#2) **N, BE, BT, D, RB**
17. **FLOWERING ALMOND**, *Prunus glandulosa* 'Rosea': Upright and vigorous, loads of small double pink colored flowers in April. Full sun to part shade. Medium moisture. Matures to 5-6' tall. (#3)

18. RHODODENDRON, *Rhododendron* x 'PJM Elite': Compact evergreen, late April burst of lavender pink blooms that the bees love, extremely hardy. Part sun to full shade. Moist, well drained soil. Matures to 4-5' tall. (#2) **BE,BT**

19. PURPLE LILAC, *Syringa vulgaris* 'Grandma's Purple': Bring back memories with this old-fashioned lilac, deep purple blooms in June, superb fragrance. Full to half day sun. Medium moisture. Matures to 12-15' tall. (#3). **BT**

20. LOWBUSH BLUEBERRY, *Vaccinium angustifolium*: Dense, low, spreading, compact form with small, white, nectar filled flowers in May, maturing to sweet blueberries. Beautiful fiery orange-red-purple fall foliage. Full sun to part shade. Moist, well drained soils. Matures to 8-12" tall. (#1). **N,BD,BE,BT,RG**

'MOON GARDEN' TREES & SHRUBS (#3 "gallon" containers)

21. GLOSSY ABELIA, *Abelia* x *grandiflora*: Semi-evergreen small leaf foliage, full arching form with small, funnel shaped white-light pink flowers June-frost. Full sun to part shade. Medium moisture. Matures to 3-6' tall. (#3) **BT,MG**

22. SWEETSHRUB, *Calycanthus floridus* 'Venus': Shrub with 3-4" magnolia-like white blooms with yellow and lavender centers from late May to late July, fragrant, glossy green foliage. Full sun to part shade. Moist, well drained soil. Matures to 8-10' tall. (#3) **N,MG,RG**

23. MOCK ORANGE, *Philadelphus* 'Snow White Fantasy': Graceful arching form, abundant 2" double white flowers in clusters, deliciously fragrant, repeat flowering in spring and summer, forms a beautiful hedge. Sun to part shade. Likes moist, well drained soil. Matures to 5-6' tall. (#3) **BE,BT,MG,RG**

24. WHITE LILAC, *Syringa* x *hyacinthiflora* 'Angel White': Upright grower with open branches, exquisite pure white flowers in May, wonderful scent. Sun to part sun. Medium, well-drained soils. Matures to 12-15' tall. (#3) **BT,D,MG**

GRASSES (#1 "gallon" containers)

25. PURPLE LOVEGRASS, *Eragrostis spectabilis*: Mounded light green foliage, gives rise to tall, thin flower stalks in August of fine textured pinkish seed heads. Foliage turns bronzy red as weather cools. Cut foliage to ground in early spring. Full sun. Sandy soils, tolerates infertile and poor soils and drought. Matures to 18-24" tall. (#1) **N,BD,BT,D**

26. SWITCHGRASS, *Panicum virgatum* 'Cape Breeze': Grey-green leaves form strictly upright, dense clump, rose colored flower panicles and leaf tips in fall, provides winter shelter for birds, cut back to ground in late winter, or before new growth. Full sun. Does well in all soils, from sand to clay. Matures to 40-48" tall. (#1) **N,BD,BT,D,RG**

27. SHENANDOAH SWITCH GRASS, *Panicum virgatum* 'Shenandoah': Forms narrow, upright, steely blue-green column, begins to add burgundy color in late spring which dominates by late summer, light, airy, small red flowers form seed heads in late August. Full sun. Medium moist to dry soil. Matures 30-35" tall. (#1) **N,BD,BT,D,M,RG**

28. LITTLE BLUESTEM, *Schizachyrium scoparium* 'The Blues': Loads of slender green foliage in clumps, seed stalks in Aug with purplish-bronze flowers. Outstanding bronze to orange fall foliage color. Full sun. Likes dry or moist soil. Matures to 2-4' tall. (#1) **N,BD,BT,RG**

PERENNIALS (8", #1, #2 or #3 "gallon" containers)

29. BUGLE WEED, *Ajuga* 'Black Scallop': Groundcover, shiny, jet-black leaves with deep blue flowers from May through June, leaves shiniest with some sun, great as mass planting. Full sun to full shade. Well drained soil, tolerates poor soil. Matures to 3-6". (#1) **BD,BT,D,HM**

30. COLUMBINE, *Aquilegia* 'Swan Pink & Yellow': Earlier and profuse flowering, dense, beefy plants, light yellow flower with coral pink horned back, easy to grow, blooms several weeks in May-June. Full sun to partial shade. Moist, well drained soil. Matures to 18-24" tall. (8") **BD,BT,D,HM**

31. TURTLEHEAD, *Chelone lyonii* 'Hot Lips': Later in summer produces big tight spikes of rose-pink blooms from Aug.-Sept., for bushier plants, pinch back in May. Part shade. Moist soils. Matures to 2-3' tall. (#2) **N,BE,BT,D,RG**

32. TICKSEED, *Coreopsis* 'Crème Brulee': Mounding, graceful form, yellow flowers that cover plant canopy, blooms June-Sept. Full sun. Medium to dry soil. Matures to 18-20" tall. (#1) **BD,BT,D,MG**

- 33. CONEFLOWER**, *Echinacea* 'Sombrero Salsa Red': Dense, tight compact form with immense bud counts, brilliant red flowers with rounded center cone, beginning in early summer and lasting thru the season. Full to part sun. Moist well drained to dry soils. Matures to 18-24". (8") **BD,BT,D**
- 34. BLANKET FLOWER**, *Gaillardia aristata* 'Burgundy': Olive green foliage with upright stems forming a bushy plant covered with deep burgundy red blooms starting in June, long bloomer. Full sun. Well drained to dry soil. Matures 20-30" tall. (#1) **N,BE,BT,D**
- 35. SNEEZEWEED**, *Helenium autumnale* 'Mariachi Salsa': Abundant summer bloomer, dense rounded form loaded with daisy-like flowers in fiery deep red shades late June to frost, pretty in containers. Prune back after frost or in late winter. Full sun. Average to moist, well drained soil. Matures to 20-24" tall. (#1) **BT,RG**
- 36. ROSE MALLOW HIBISCUS**, *Hibiscus moscheutos* 'Cranberry Crush': Grows wide (4-5'), not as tall as some, produces 7-8" scarlet blooms along stems (not just at top of stem) late July-Sept., gorgeous group plantings, cut back to 4-6" early spring. Full sun. Medium to wet soil. Matures to 3-4' tall. (#3) **N,BD,BE,BT,HM,M,RG**
- 37. YELLOW SHASTA DAISY**, *Leucanthemum* 'Banana Cream': Large 4-5" lemon yellow flowers, brighten to creamy white, long blooming, nice in containers. Full sun or with some afternoon shade. Moist to dry, well drained soil. Matures to 5-18" tall. (#1) **BD,BT,MG**
- 38. CARDINAL FLOWER**, *Lobelia cardinalis*: Loves wetland features but will thrive with moist soil, forms dense clump of upright green stems with buds at the tops, rising to scarlet red, two lipped tubular flowers that grow upward, blooming late July-Sept. Full sun to part shade. Moist soil. Matures to 2-3' tall. (#1) **N,BD,BE,BT,D,HM,RB,RG**
- 39. BEE BALM**, *Monarda* 'Coral Reef': Upright stems filled with fragrant foliage, festive, large, hot pink and coral blooms July-Aug., a hummingbird's delight. Full sun to part shade. Well drained soil. Matures to 3-4' tall. (8") **BE,BT,D,HM,RG**
- 40. CATMINT**, *Nepeta faassenii* 'Cat's Meow': Small, grey-green, aromatic leaves, well-branched stems, spikes of sky blue flowers, prune after first bloom to encourage new blooms. Full sun. Avg. soil. Matures to 17-20" tall.(#1) **BT**
- 41. OBEDIENT PLANT**, *Physostegia virginiana* 'Pink Manners': Strong stems provide lavender pink blossoms from midsummer to fall, excellent cut flowers. Full sun to part shade. Moist soil, tolerant of average soil. Matures to 30-36" tall. (#1) **N,BT,D,HM**
- 42. SOLOMON'S SEAL**, *Polygonatum odoratum* 'Variegatum': Oblong, cool green foliage with white variegation along arching stems, delicate tube-like white flowers on the underside of arching stems appear in May. Part to full shade. Medium to wet soil, tolerates dry soil, drought. Matures to 18-20" tall. (#1) **MG**
- 43. LUNGWORT**, *Pulmonaria* 'Raspberry Splash': Deep green foliage with distinct, nearly luminous whitish-silver spots, forms dense mound, flower stalks reveal strings of raspberry colored flowers that bloom in May. Part shade to full shade. Moist, well drained soil. Matures to 10-12" tall. (8") **MG**
- 44. BROWN EYED SUSAN**, *Rudbeckia triloba* 'Prairie Glow': Brilliant daisy-like flowers of burnt orange with yellow tips and chocolate centers, a short-lived perennial but tends to self-seed and generally naturalizes. Full sun. Medium moist soil, drought tolerant. Matures to 3-4' tall. (#2) **N,BD,BE,BT,D,M,RG**
- 45. PINCUSHION FLOWER**, *Scabiosa caucasica* 'Butterfly Blue': Compact, mounding, grey-green foliage with abundant, beautiful lavender-blue flowers blooming from May to October, long-lasting cut flower. Full sun. Well drained fertile soil. Matures to 20-24" tall. (#1) **BD,BT,D,HM**

MOON GARDEN PERENNIALS (#1 or #2 "gallon" containers)

- 46. WINDFLOWER**: *Anemone x* 'Whirlwind': Ruffled, pure white double flowers with green and yellow centers, blooms in early fall. Full sun or part shade. Average to wet soils. Matures to 18-20" tall. (#2) **MG**
- 47. ARTEMESIA**, *Artemisia stelleriana* 'Silver Brocade': Super hardy groundcover, stunning silver-grey coloring, superb texture from scalloped dissections, great partnered with bright blooms and also in containers, can be pruned hard in mid-summer to maintain mat-like effect. Full sun. Dry to average soils. Matures to 6-12". (#1) **BT,D,MG**
- 48. SWAMP MILKWEED**, *Asclepias incarnata* 'Ice Ballet': Upright stems with flattened masses of lightly fragrant white flowers early to mid summer, nectar-laden blooms, host plant for Monarch butterflies. Full sun. Moist to wet soils. Matures to 3-4' tall. (#2) **N,BD,BT,D,HM,M,MG,RG**

49. WHITE ASTILBE, *Astilbe arendsii* 'Bridal Veil': Ferny, shiny mounds of foliage, flower spikes rise above foliage June-July with airy, pure white blooms. Prune after last frost. Partial to full shade. Moist, well drained soil. Matures to 24-36" tall. (#1) **BD,BT,HM,MG,RG**

50. DELPHINIUM, *Delphinium* 'Guardian White': Strong, narrow stems support stately spires of double, pure white flowers May-early July, excellent cut flowers. Full to part sun. Moist, well drained soil. Matures to 30-40" tall. (#2) **BT,MG**

51. WHITE CONEFLOWER, *Echinacea purpurea* 'Pow Wow White': Strong, upright grower, superior branching, blooms all summer with 3-4" white flowers, great in containers, mass plantings and in a bed. Full sun to part shade. Moist, well drained soil, tolerates dry soil and drought. Matures 20-24". (#1) **N,BD,BT,D,M,MG**

52. SWEET WOODRUFF, *Galium odoratum*: Groundcover of small, delicate looking, resilient green foliage, tiny white flowers engulf the plant May-June, fragrant. Shade. Moist soil. Matures to 6-8" tall. (#1) **MG**

53. ROSE MALLOW HIBISCUS, *Hibiscus moscheutos* 'Luna White': Enormous, showy white flowers with bright red center eye, prune back in early spring, likes good air circulation. Full sun. Moist, well drained soil, tolerates drought. Matures to 2-3' tall. (#2) **N,BD,BE,BT,HM,M,MG,RG**

54. WHITE PHLOX, *Phlox paniculata* 'David': Big, bright white clusters of flowers July-Sept., great fragrance, likes good air circulation. Full sun. Medium moist well drained soil. Matures to 3-4' tall. (#1) **N,BD,BE,BT,HM,MG**

55. WHITE IRIS, *Iris sibirica* 'White Swirl': Clear, white, yellow tinged flowers in late spring. Full sun to part shade. Moist, well drained soil, but tolerates dry soil. Remove dead foliage in fall. Matures to 30-36". (#1) **MG**

KITCHEN GARDEN

56. BLUEBERRIES: *Vaccinium corymbosum*: Set of three individually potted plants for cross-pollination, each set has 3 plants-one each of: early, mid and late-season bearing (priced at 1gal containers, but may have some 2gal subs.) Full sun. Moist, acidic (ideal pH 4.5-4.8), well drained soil. Matures to 4-6' tall. (#1) **BD,BE** Perennial.

57. CHILE PEPPER, *Ancho Poblano*: Abundant, mildly hot, tasty, 4" long peppers, maturing from green to red in 65 days, a staple in Mexican cooking (called Poblano when fresh, Ancho when dried). (#1) Annual.

58. SWISS CHARD, *Beta vulgaris* 'Bright Lights': Leafy vegetable with a great mix of bright neon colors, milder than some swiss chards, great in the garden or in a patio container. Pick outer stalks when they reach 20" and allow smaller stalks to mature. Full sun. Matures to 20-24" tall. (#1) Annual.

59. CILANTRO, *Coriandrum sativum*: A favorite used in Mexican and Asian cooking, grows well in ground or in containers, prune to remove flavor-altering flowers. Full sun, tolerates part shade. Matures to 10-12". (#1) Annual.

60. RED RASPBERRIES, *Rubus* 'Raspberry Shortcake': Medium sized red raspberries, thornless, dwarf, rounded, abundant production of sweet mid season berries June-July, plant in ground or container on deck. Full sun. Matures to 2-3' tall. (#2) Perennial.

61. GARDEN SAGE, *Salvia officinalis*: Dense bushy form, flavorful taste used with meats and vegetables, also dried for use in wreaths and potpourri. Full sun. Matures to 24-30" (#1) Annual.

62. GREEN GRAPES. *Vitis* 'Lakemont Seedless': Delicious for eating or wine, tight clusters of crisp, juicy sweet, yellowish green fruit, excellent flavor. Full sun. Moist, well drained soil. Matures 3-5'. **BD** (#2) Perennial.

63. STRAWBERRIES, 'Cabot': Huge berries, excellent flavor, disease resistant, medium firmness, good freezing quality. Sold by bundle of 25 bareroot plants. **BE,BD** Perennial.

LANDSCAPING NEEDS

64. BARLEY STRAW: Bales of barley straw for controlling your pond algae this spring! For more information on using barley straw, we invite you to check out the link on our website at www.ConserveCT.org/eastern.

65. FERTILIZER TABLETS: 1 application fertilizes 2 full years. Use 1-2 tablets for each plant set out. Easy to use, safe, will not harm new trees or shrubs. After holes are dug, place 1-2 tablets in hole under each plant, shrub or tree. Tablets slowly release plant food feeding plants for 2 full years.

Eastern Connecticut Conservation District 2016 Spring Plant Sale

Name _____ Phone: Home _____ Work/Cell _____

Address _____ Town, ST, Zip _____

_____ I will pick up my order at the **Ocean State Job Lot Complex, Route 12, Gales Ferry**, on April 22nd or 23rd (Southern end of building) on Friday, April 22, 1-6 PM ~ or Saturday, April 23, 9 AM to Noon
Space generously donated by Ocean State Job Lot

OR

_____ I will pick up my order at the **Brooklyn Fairgrounds, Route 169, Brooklyn**, on April 29th or 30th (Fairground Road entrance) on Friday, April 29, 1-6 PM or Saturday, April 30, 9 AM to Noon
Space generously donated by the Windham County Agricultural Society

Orders due postmarked no later than April 6, 2016

Evergreen Bareroot Seedlings sold by Bundles of 25 SEEDLINGS-per-SPECIES

1-3 Bundles \$27 each 4 or more Bundles \$25 each

1. Colorado Blue Spruce. No. of Bundles _____
2. Norway Spruce. No. of Bundles _____
3. White Spruce. No. of Bundles _____
4. White Pine. No. of Bundles _____

CODE KEY:

BD...attracts birds	BE...attracts bees
BT...attracts butterflies	D.....deer resistant*
HM...attracts hummingbirds	M.....works well in meadows
	MG.....works well in moon gardens
	N.....native to New England
	RB.....works well as a riparian buffer plant
	RG.....works well in rain gardens
*but not always "deer proof" to a hungry deer!	

No. of Tree Bundles _____ x Price per Bundle: \$ _____ = Seedling Total \$ _____

TREES & SHRUBS			CODES	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
5.	Bearberry	1gal	<i>Arctostaphylos</i> 'Massachusetts Hybrid'	N,BD,BE,BT	\$16	
6.	Dutchman's Pipe	1gal	<i>Aristolochia macrophylla</i>	N,BT	\$18	
7.	Chokeberry	2gal	<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i> 'Brilliantissima'	N,BD,BE,RG	\$23	
8.	Flowering Quince	2gal	<i>Chaenomeles</i> 'Dbl Take Orange Storm'	BD,D	\$20	
9.	Leatherleaf	1gal	<i>Chamaedaphne calyculata</i>	N,BD,BT,RG	\$16	
10.	Sweetfern	1gal	<i>Comptonia peregrina</i>	N	\$15	
11.	Flowering Dogwood	3gal	<i>Cornus florida</i>	N,BD,BT	\$38	
12.	Oakleaf Hydrangea	2gal	<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i> 'Jetstream'	N,RG	\$25	
13.	Winterberry	2gal	<i>Ilex verticillata</i> 'Red Sprite'	N,BD,BE,RG	\$21	
14.	Mountain Laurel	2gal	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i> 'Sarah'	N	\$26	
15.	Common Ninebark	2gal	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> 'Center Glow'	N,BD,BE,RG	\$19	
16.	Cinquefoil	2gal	<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i> 'Setting Sun'	N,BE,BT,D,RB	\$23	
17.	Flowering Almond	3gal	<i>Prunus glandulosa</i> 'Rosea'		\$23	
18.	Rhododendron	2gal	<i>Rhododendron</i> x 'PJM Elite'	BE,BT	\$23	
19.	Purple Lilac	3gal	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i> 'Grandma's Purple'	BT	\$32	
20.	Lowbush Blueberry	1gal	<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	N,BD,BE,BT,RG	\$11.50	
MOON GARDEN TREES & SHRUBS (white evening garden, often fragrant)						
21.	Glossy Abelia	3gal	<i>Abelia x grandiflora</i>	BT,MG	\$29	
22.	Sweetshrub	3gal	<i>Calycanthus floridus</i> 'Venus'	N,MG,RG	\$29	
23.	Mock Orange	3gal	<i>Philadelphus</i> 'Snow White Fantasy'	BE,BT,MG,RG	\$24	
24.	White Lilac	3gal	<i>Syringa x hyacinthiflora</i> 'Angel White'	BT,D,MG	\$32	
GRASSES						
25.	Purple Lovegrass	1gal	<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	N,BD,BT,D	\$12.50	
26.	Switchgrass	1gal	<i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'Cape Breeze'	N,BD,BT,D,RG	\$12.50	
27.	Shenandoah Switch	1gal	<i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'Shenandoah'	N,BD,BT,D,M,RG	\$12.50	
28.	Little Bluestem	1gal	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> 'The Blues'	N,BD,BT,RG	\$12.50	

PERENNIALS			CODES	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
29.	Bugle Weed	1gal	<i>Ajuga</i> 'Black Scallop'	BD,BT,D,HM		\$8.50
30.	Columbine	8"	<i>Aquilegia</i> 'Swan Pink and Yellow'	BD,BT,D,HM		\$13
31.	Turtlehead	2gal	<i>Chelone lyonii</i> 'Hot Lips'	N,BE,BT,D,RG		\$12
32.	Tickseed	1gal	<i>Coreopsis</i> 'Crème Brulee'	BD,BT,D,MG		\$8
33.	Coneflower	8"	<i>Echinacea</i> 'Sombbrero Salsa Red'	BD,BT,D		\$15
34.	Blanket Flower	1gal	<i>Gaillardia aristata</i> 'Burgundy'	N,BE,BT,D		\$10
35.	Sneezeweed	1gal	<i>Helenium autumnale</i> 'Mariachi Salsa'	BT,RG		\$8.50
36.	Rose Mallow Hibiscus	3gal	<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i> 'Cranberry Crush'	N,BD,BE,BT,HM,M,RG		\$20
37.	Yellow Shasta Daisy	1gal	<i>Leucanthemum</i> 'Banana Cream'	BD,BT, MG		\$11
38.	Cardinal Flower	1gal	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	N,BD,BE,BT,D,HM,RB,RG		\$10
39.	Bee Balm	8"	<i>Monarda</i> 'Coral Reef'	BE,BT,D,HM,RG		\$13
40.	Catmint	1gal	<i>Nepeta faassenii</i> 'Cat's Meow'	BT		\$9
41.	Obedient Plant	1gal	<i>Physostegia virginiana</i> 'Pink Manners'	N,BT,D,HM		\$10
42.	Solomon's Seal	1gal	<i>Polygonatum odoratum</i> 'Variegatum'	MG		\$13
43.	Lungwort	8"	<i>Pulmonaria</i> 'Raspberry Splash'	MG		\$13
44.	Brown Eyed Susan	2gal	<i>Rudbeckia triloba</i> 'Prairie Glow'	N,BD,BE,BT,D,M,RG		\$14
45.	Pincushion Flower	1gal	<i>Scabiosa caucasica</i> 'Butterfly Blue'	BD,BT,D,HM		\$8
MOON GARDEN PERENNIALS (white evening garden, often fragrant)						
46.	Windflower	2gal	<i>Anemone</i> x 'Whirlwind'	MG		\$15
47.	Artemesia	1gal	<i>Artemesia stelleriana</i> 'Silver Brocade'	BT,D,MG		\$8
48.	Swamp Milkweed	2gal	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i> 'Ice Ballet'	N,BD,BT,D,HM,M,MG,RG		\$14
49.	White Astilbe	1gal	<i>Astilbe arendsii</i> 'Bridal Veil'	BD,BT,HM,MG,RG		\$8
50.	Delphinium	2gal	<i>Delphinium</i> 'Guardian White'	BT,MG		\$14
51.	White Coneflower	1gal	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> 'Pow Wow White'	N,BD,BT,D,M,MG		\$8.50
52.	Sweet Woodruff	1gal	<i>Galium odoratum</i>	MG		\$8
53.	Roe Mallow Hibiscus	2gal	<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i> 'Luna White'	N,BD,BE,BT,HM,M,MG,RG		\$13
54.	White Phlox	1gal	<i>Phlox paniculata</i> 'David'	N,BD,BE,BT,HM,MG		\$8.50
55.	White Iris	1gal	<i>Iris sibirica</i> 'White Swirl'	MG		\$9.50
KITCHEN						
56.	Blueberries (set of 3)	1set	<i>Vaccinium</i> - 1or2 gal ea: early, mid, late	BD,BE		\$35/set
57.	Chile Pepper	1gal	<i>Pepper Ancho Poblano</i> annual			\$8.50
58.	Swiss Chard	1gal	<i>Beta vulgaris</i> 'Bright Lights' ann.			\$8.50
59.	Cilantro	1gal	<i>Coriandrum sativum</i> perennial			\$8.50
60.	Red Raspberries	2gal	<i>Rubus</i> 'Raspberry Shortcake' per.			\$20
61.	Garden Sage	1gal	<i>Salvia officinalis</i> annual			\$8.50
62.	Green Grapes	2gal	<i>Vitis</i> 'Lakemont seedless' per.	BD		\$21
63.	Strawberries	25	'Cabot'(25/bundle-bareroot) per.	BE,BD		\$8
MISC.						
64.	Barley Straw	bale				\$30
65.	Fertilizer Tabs		Use 1-2 per plant every 2 years	Instructions inc. 10/\$4		25/\$8

____ I WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH THE PLANT SALE

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or email: kate.johnson.eccd@comcast.net

For additional information on the ECCD Plant Sale, please visit our website at: www.ConserveCT.org/eastern

Page 2 Total \$ _____

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238 West Town Street, Norwich, CT 06360

Questions? Call: 860-887-4163 ext. 400

or email: kate.johnson.eccd@comcast.net

Since 2006, many miles of streams have been visually assessed using the NRCS StreamWalk protocol. In dozens of locations, underwater bugs that represent the “canaries in the coalmine” have been collected as part of a program to evaluate our small streams for their underwater life support capabilities. Summer water temperature, another key aquatic life support indicator, has been monitored using temperature data loggers in 24 streams. Water samples have been collected from about 100 locations to determine if they are safe to play in, or if there are unacceptable levels of fecal bacteria in them. Thirteen lakes and ponds have been sampled to evaluate their condition. All data is collected using very specific protocols that have been approved at state and federal levels.

Due to this special partnership, the program goes beyond just data collection. Some data is sent directly to CT and MA officials for inclusion in water quality assessment reports they are required to send to Congress every two years. Our volunteers have helped to show that several streams fully support aquatic life, and have helped to track down sources of bacterial contamination. They have also demonstrated where water quality has improved and can be removed from the list of impaired waters each state is required to maintain.

In some cases, data that the TLGV volunteers collect is used by ECCD when our staff drafts a Watershed Based Plan to bring contaminated water back into compliance with the Clean Water Act standards. This data has helped to direct pollution reduction projects where they are most needed. The data has helped support ECCD when we apply for funding to correct a stormwater runoff issue, or plan a river cleanup.

This year, we are able to expand our water quality monitoring focus through two new grant funded projects. ECCD was awarded a grant by the CT DEEP to focus on a healthy watershed initiative – the first EPA § 319 grant of its kind in Connecticut. Through this special ECCD/TLGV partnership, volunteers will be assigned monitoring locations to help document healthy water quality in the upper Natchaug River watershed while ECCD staff develops educational materials promoting anti-degradation practices. We will also be purchasing new equipment to support modified edge-of-field monitoring as part of a Regional Conservation Partnership Program with TLGV, as well as for a Conservation Innovation Grant.

Most important, the ECCD/TLGV partnership has led to an increased understanding about human impacts on water quality through the annual training which the volunteers are required to participate in. Trained volunteers become our river stewards, helping to spread the clean water message to others. As TLGV’s Water Quality Monitoring Program Coordinator, I am thankful for each volunteer who participates in our programs and look forward to continuing to grow the program in the future. To all our water quality monitoring volunteers, thank you for your service.

Submitted by: Jean Pillo, ECCD Watershed Conservation Project Manager and
TLGV Water Quality Monitoring Volunteer Coordinator

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2015-16 ANNUAL APPEAL

This year's Annual Appeal is currently under way. We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to those of you who have already donated. Anyone wishing to donate may do so by sending your tax-deductible donation to:

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Your generous donations help to keep our programs going throughout eastern Connecticut!

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ECCD Receives Environmental Champion Award from Rivers Alliance of CT

At its annual meeting on December 11, 2015, Rivers Alliance of Connecticut honored Eastern Connecticut Conservation District, along with the four other CT Conservation Districts and the CT Association of Conservation Districts, as an *Environmental Champion* for 2015. Judy Rondeau, ECCD's Natural Resource Specialist, accepted the award on behalf of the District. The award recognizes ECCD "for its expert and generous assistance in helping our communities preserve healthy soils and waters."



Judy Rondeau, Eastern CT Conservation District

ECCD is honored and grateful to Rivers Alliance for having been selected to receive the award. It is a testament to the dedicated, hard-working staff and Board of Directors at the District, whose commitment to conservation is inspiring. Rivers Alliance's commitment to conservation is inspiring as well. The award certificate being featured in the photograph could readily be replaced by a mirror, for Eastern Connecticut Conservation District recognizes and appreciates all that Rivers Alliance does to preserve and protect Connecticut's rivers and other natural resources; thank you all for your passionate and tireless efforts.

ECCD anticipates with enthusiasm the opportunity to support and work with Rivers Alliance of Connecticut for many, many years to come!

Construction for Conservation

Improving the water quality in the Little River Watershed has been a priority for ECCD. As a source of drinking water for Putnam, in 2013 the watershed, located in the towns of Woodstock, Putnam and Thompson, was designated by USDA/NRCS and EPA as a priority watershed to address agricultural sources of water pollution.

In cooperation with Elm Farm in Woodstock, CT, ECCD is constructing an Aerated Composting System for Dairy Mortalities. This fall, construction began on the six-bay facility which will demonstrate efficient composting in an enclosure that prevents non-point source pollution by destroying pathogens. Being covered, the facility will also prevent rainwater from infiltrating the compost, thereby reducing the volume of contaminated leachate discharged from the compost. The leachate that is generated will be directed into a leachate collection system and stored in a tank.



Aerated Compost Facility, Woodstock, CT, nearing completion

ECCD will also incorporate solar panels designed to power the electric blower for the aeration unit, forcing air through chambers into the composting piles which accelerates composting. Aeration during composting intensifies the activity of the microorganisms, shortens the period of active composting, and, consequently, reduces time and land area needed for composting. Additionally, since the pile is aerated, the farmer does not have to turn the pile, saving fuel and labor costs. Aerated compost facilities also reduce odors and flies.

The finished compost, originating from dairy mortalities, young stock manure and hay/sawdust shavings from bedding, will be incorporated into the farm's Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan and spread onto corn and hay fields. If you would like to learn more about this project, please contact ECCD at (860) 887-4163 ext. 400.

This project is partially funded by an EPA Section 319 Clean Water Act Grant and administered by CT DEEP.

Special Recognitions at ECCD's 2015 Annual Meeting

The Eastern Connecticut Conservation District held its Annual Meeting at the Lisbon Meadows Community Center on October 14, 2015. Following dinner and a "Year in Review" presentation, the following awards and recognitions were presented. ECCD is honored to extend its appreciation to the following recipients.

This year's award winners are:

Mayor Marian Galbraith – *Conservation Project Partner Award*
Municipal tree filter installation support, Baker Cove, Groton

Charles Morgan - *Farmer Cooperator Award*
Conservation Best Management Practices, Misty Meadows Farm, Ashford

Carol Millard - *Farmer Cooperator Award*
Conservation Best Management Practices, Misty Meadows Farm, Ashford

Patrick Smith – *Conservation Project Award*
Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Support, Roseland Lake, Woodstock

Mauri Pelto, Nichols College – *Conservation Partner Award*
Project Support and Community Leadership in Conservation, Roseland Lake, Woodstock

Norm Wood, General Contractor, Inc. – *Professional Project Support Award*
Tree Filter Support and Services, Baker Cove, Groton

Eastern Connecticut State University, Kim Wilcox and the Center for Community Engagement
Project Partner Award – Leadership and Community Support in Conservation, Lauter Park, Windham

Kate & Len Johnson – *Special Thanks*
Appreciation for Hosting the ECCD Annual Picnic at their Home for the Past Nine Years

Winthrop Benjamin – *Special Recognition in Memoriam* – For 60 Years of Service and Support to the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District (and former NLCSWCD)



Family members of Winthrop Benjamin receive a plaque honoring his 60 years of service to the District. From left: Dan Mullins, ECCD Executive Director; family members Laura Benzinger, Linda Pershaec, Joellen Fleming and Matt Orwat

~ ~ ~

Congratulations to the Winners of 2015 CT Envirothon at Connecticut College Arboretum!

1st Place: Coginchaug Regional High School

2nd Place: Housatonic Valley High School Agriscience ~ 3rd Place: Housatonic Valley High School

ECCD serves the Towns of Andover, Ashford, Bozrah, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Columbia, East Lyme, Eastford, Franklin, Griswold, Groton, Hampton, Killingly, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Mansfield, Montville, New London, North Stonington, Norwich, Plainfield, Pomfret, Preston, Putnam, Scotland, Sprague, Sterling, Stonington, Thompson, Union, Voluntown, Waterford, Windham and Woodstock.



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See order form on pages 7 & 8.



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