Unfortunately, due to the Corona Virus pandemic some of our early programs have been canceled. As of this writing the parks are still open, but Governor Lamont’s executive orders only allow for solitary recreation— groups of more than 5 are prohibited and must maintain 6 foot social distancing. Picnics are not allowed. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

New Sign for the Gift Shop

Our Buildings and Grounds Committee has been busy during the pandemic! A new sign for the Gift Shop was designed by Phil Tankard, Committee Chair, and fabricated by Yankee Remodelers of New London—it will be mounted on the Gift Shop in time for our opening in Spring 2020.
**Garden Volunteers Always Welcome!**

The FOH garden Volunteers have been taking cuttings and potting up heliotrope in the greenhouse since February 1. Over 500 heliotrope have been started to date, including some standards (heliotrope pruned into tree form). Another group of volunteers have been pruning our heirloom apples. If you love our daylilies, we need help weeding in that bed too. Please consider joining us on Wednesdays from 9AM to 12noon – social distancing is observed. You don’t have to commit to every Wednesday, most garden volunteers come as their schedule permits. You can email John Suhr, Garden committee chairman for more details and “meeting place of the week” at jshur159@gmail.com

**Garden Volunteers Resuming Work!**

Garden volunteers are returning to the gardens after several weeks of staying at home. The Daylily beds and the reference garden area will be the first to receive attention as these gardens are less traveled by park visitors. Volunteers will also have the opportunity to work on days/times other than Wednesday mornings. If you are interested in helping out, please email the committee chairman at the email address above. Social distancing will be observed and please bring your own mask and tools.

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**Gift Shed (shop) volunteers needed for summer 2020**

We will need volunteers to keep our new shop open on weekends and selected weekdays. Hours are from 11AM to 3PM. We are open at the Plant Sale and from Memorial Day weekend to Columbus Day. Please contact Deanna Bosdorff at matjge6@gmail.com if you are interested in donating some of your time here!
MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Due to uncertain ability to host activities in the mansion in June, we will be re-scheduling a program on Ellen Shipman, a landscape designer and contemporary of Beatrix Farrand, presented by Judith Tankard, author of “Gardens of the Arts and Crafts Movement” and “Ellen Shipman and the American Garden” to next spring.

Our next scheduled Membership Meeting will be our July 20 with Ivy Mellow of Ivy’s Homemade and Rene Vogt presenting a program on “Entertaining Harkness Style”. Samples will be served. This will be a ticketed event, limited to 50 members and guests. More information will follow in June.

Our Annual Picnic has been moved to August 10.

NEWS FROM THE PARK GROUNDS

- Picnicking has been suspended in the park due to groups not observing social distancing guidelines. All picnic tables have been removed and stored for use when social distancing guidelines are suspended.
- Last Fall the FOH office and State DEEP office was condemned due to air quality concerns. The State will be renting an office trailer for their personnel, but FOH has nowhere to go at the moment. The FOH Board has been exploring some possibilities including use of the Enders House or purchasing another Kloter Farms shed. More news to come when a decision is made.
- The Ad hoc committee on our FOH promotional video is preparing a voice over script for the video which will promote membership in the Friends and all the volunteer opportunities that we offer.

DOCENTS NEEDED FOR SUMMER TOURS

Looking ahead to summer, FOH needs docents for both house and garden tours. Docent led tours are usually offered from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 AM to 2PM. In 2019, 29 docents gave 2,237 tours and received $6,119 in donations. If you want to share your love of all things Harkness with visitors, please contact Gail Brookover at gailbrookover@gmail.com. Docent training for both house and garden tours is planned soon after the social distancing requirements are suspended.
Annual Plant Sale
Possibly rescheduled to
Wednesday June 3
Thursday June 4
Friday June 5

Waiting for approval from
State DEEP

More information
to follow on approval

Historic Garden Day

June 28, 2020

Still scheduled as of this publication date