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 25 are prohibited and must maintain 6 foot social distancing. Picnics are not allowed. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

John Suhr Retiring from Garden Volunteer Coordination

We will miss John after six years of hard work in the gardens and participation in the Friends of Harkness Board of Directors. He was instrumental in building our garden volunteer group to the size it is today, as well as researching our antique grape vines and improving our financial gains from our Annual on site Plant Sale.

Please wish John well during this COVID-19 crisis, we hope to see him again soon.
Welcome Gift From The Friends!

The Friends of Harkness Board of Directors voted to donate a new table saw and compressor to the park as their annual non-profit status gift. Shown above with the new tools are Phil Tankard, Chair of the Buildings and Grounds committee, and Vincent Messino, Park Manager.

New Sign for the Gift Shop Installed

Our new sign for the Gift shop was installed by Building and Grounds Committee Chair, Phil Tankard and committee member Russ Carr. Yankee Remodeler of New London not only fabricated the sign, but donated it to us! Thank You Yankee Remodeler!
Garden Volunteers Resuming Work!

Garden volunteers are returning to the gardens after several weeks of staying at home. Volunteers will also have the opportunity to work on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9AM to 12PM. If you are interested in helping out, please email Jeanne Shelburne at JLShelburn@aol.com. Social distancing will be observed and please bring your own mask and tools. Meet in front of the Mansion. Work will be starting in the Rock Garden soon.

Anyone with a background in Horticulture, who may wish to coordinate our Garden Volunteers, please contact:

Jeanne Shelburne at jlsheburn@aol.com

Gift Shop Volunteers needed for July 4 weekend opening!

We are currently seeking volunteers for the summer season. Hours are generally 11AM to 3PM most weekends and some weekdays. Masks and gloves will be provided for workers. If you would like to donate some time in the gift shop, please contact Gift Shop Chair, Deanna Bossdorf at:

matjge6@gmail.com
MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Due to uncertain ability to host activities in the mansion in June, we will be rescheduling 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 Monday, 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 25 members and guests. More information will follow.

Our Annual Picnic has been moved to Monday, 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.
Annual Plant Sale
Great Success!
Conducted for three weeks on our web site, we have grossed over $6741!

Historic Garden Day
June 28, 2020

Docent tours canceled due to COVID-19 group size restrictions