Unfortunately, due to the Corona Virus pandemic some of our programs have been cancelled. As of this writing the park is open, Governor Lamont’s executive orders now allow for larger group recreation– groups of more than 100 are prohibited and all visitors must maintain 6 foot social distancing. Limited picnicking is allowed. The mansion is not open to visitors. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Heirloom Apple Orchard Producing this Season’s Apples

Spring pruning pays off!
A cooler September found the garden volunteer hours impacted by rainy and windy Wednesdays. The garden volunteers worked 52 hours in September with a few volunteers not reporting in yet. That number is down from our 80 hours in August, but it has been a productive month. The volunteers have fought off the prickly climbing roses digging grasses, pokeweed, bittersweet, assorted vines, and the prolific, beautiful blue and white porcelain berry (*Ampelopsis glandulosa var. brevipedunculata*). We also weeded the perennial beds in the cutting garden while the seasonal workers pulled the porcelain berry off the shrubbery. If you missed visiting the cutting garden this summer, you missed a sea of colors; put it on your calendar for next year. The volunteers are off to the Day Lilies once again to dig and divide dailies for our BIG BLOOMING Daylily sale next July. Come and join us Wednesday mornings from 9 to about 12; many hands make light work.

News from the Board

- Due to concerns over the COVID-19 restrictions for interior gatherings, the FOH Board of Directors has decided to cancel the Annual Meeting scheduled for November 2, 2020 and replace it with an Annual Report. The slate of Board members for the following year will be published in this report. The election of board members which normally would take place at this meeting will be conducted at the next ‘in person’ meeting in 2021. This will also commence the staggered terms for board members as required by our new By-Laws.

- FOH has also been given permission to share one of the offices in the new office trailer at the park.

- Construction is about to begin on the new Grapevine enclosure to be finished by year’s end.

October Membership Meeting Cancelled

Although the Governor is proceeding with Phase 3 reopening, we have not been notified of the status of use of the Mansion for meetings. At the September 3 meeting, the FOH Board of Directors voted to postpone our scheduled October presentation by Miles Sax of the Connecticut Arboretum until 2021.