

Greenwich Historical Society Newsletter

Greenwich
historical society

SUMMER
2021

A Summer of Garden Celebrations

Dear Friends,



June brings the promise of long, warm summer days stretching out before us, full of adventure and opportunity to enjoy the easy

company of friends again. Join us on our campus, enjoy our award-winning gardens and visit our new exhibition, *Beautiful Work: The Art of Greenwich Gardens and Landscapes*. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy, paint *en plein air* at your leisure, shop for fresh produce and flowers at our Tavern Garden Markets on alternating Wednesdays, or sit back and enjoy our Music on the Great Lawn series on Thursday evenings. Once again, we look forward to the joyful noise from our Art & History Campers in July. This summer is sure to be lively. We look forward to seeing you.

Debra Mecky
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO

Cover Image: Elmer Livingston MacRae, *Back of the Old House*, 1910. Oil on canvas. Greenwich Historical Society, Gift of Shirley Fogwell

The Garden Club of America's Zone Historic Preservation Commendation



We're thrilled to announce that the Greenwich Historical Society is the recipient of The Garden Club of America's Zone Historic Preservation Commendation, recognizing the sustained preservation of the National Historic Landmark Bush-Holley House site and restoration of the American Impressionist art colony gardens. We are

supported by the vision, hard work and dedication of Hortulus and the Greenwich Garden Club, and our own Green Team volunteers, board and staff.

Hortulus's partnership with the Greenwich Historical Society includes the renovation of the Bush-Holley House heirloom vegetable gardens, the recent restoration of the 120-year-old grape arbor and the reestablishment of Elmer and Constant Holley MacRae's historic flower garden that inspired many paintings by American Impressionist artists at the Cos Cob art colony. The Greenwich Garden Club established the Tavern Garden near the restored Toby's Tavern to reflect the Colonial Revival interests of the art colony era. The Tavern Garden, now home to our Tavern Garden Markets, is cultivated with climbing vines, historic daffodil bulbs, lilies, hydrangeas and appropriate perennials and annuals.

Elizabeth Darling presided at a ceremony to present the award in person ahead of the April 14th virtual event. Accepting the award were Board Chair Haley Elmlinger; Historical Society Trustees Bea Crumbine, Davidde Strackbein and Debbie Reynolds; Peter J. Tesei, Former First Selectman for the Town of Greenwich; Jane Dunn, past president of the Greenwich Garden Club; Hortulus President Nanny Cannon; and Historical Society Executive Director Debra Mecky and Director of Operations Michele Couture.

Spotlight on the Archives

Beautiful Work features original objects, artworks and archival material drawn primarily from the collection of the Greenwich Historical Society. In preparation and research for the exhibition, Curator Maggie Dimock worked with Curator of Archives Christopher Shields, and was supported and guided by discoveries made by Project Archivist Leslie Albamonte and Digitization Associate Kelsie Dalton, whose work in the collections unearthed several photographs and architectural records that shaped the scope of the exhibit.



Planting plan for the home of architect Henry W. Rowe, Greenwich, Connecticut. Olmsted Bros., Landscape Architects, August 1926

Part of the Edson & Edson Collection, Greenwich Historical Society, recently catalogued by Project Archivist Leslie Albamonte.



Formal gardens at The Orchards, home of Herbert and Louisa Satterlee in Greenwich, Connecticut, circa 1925. Gardens designed by Ellen Biddle Shipman. Greenwich Historical Society.

Several photographs of the Satterlee estate were newly identified and scanned at high resolution by Digitization Associate Kelsie Dalton.

BEAUTIFUL WORK



THE ART of GREENWICH GARDENS and LANDSCAPES

MAY 1-SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

Beautiful Work: The Art of Greenwich Gardens and Landscapes is now on view in the Greenwich Historical Society's Frank Family Foundation Gallery. *Beautiful Work* takes a historical approach to the themes of gardening, landscape design and horticulture in Greenwich with an innovative display of agricultural tools, landscape design drawings, photographs, artworks and other ephemera. Visitors to the exhibition will encounter a selection of locally collected 19th-century dried botanical specimens, floral paintings and garden furniture, and projected images of Greenwich gardens from the early 20th century, taken from hand-tinted glass lantern slides.

Complement your visit to the exhibition with a guided **Outdoor Historic Site and Landscape Tour**, offering an introduction to the history of the Bush and Holley families, their gardens and the surrounding neighborhood of Cos Cob's Lower Landing. Guided Site and Landscape Tours are offered Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. (weather permitting).

Beautiful Work will be on view through September 5, 2021.

Curator's Happy Hour



Join us for a **Curator's Happy Hour** on June 2 from 5:00–6:00 p.m. Curator of Exhibitions and Collections Maggie Dimock will lead a series of 20-minute gallery tours, and Christopher Shields, Curator of Library and Archives, will feature special items from our collections. Afterward, join us for outdoor drinks and refreshments in the Historical Society's gardens.

Tickets: \$10 Members / \$20 Non-members; visit www.greenwichhistory.org to purchase.

2021 Music on the Great Lawn Concert Series

Summer concerts are back!



Thursdays 6:30–8:00 p.m.
(Grounds open 5:30 p.m.)

Gather friends, order your picnic and enjoy an evening at the Historical Society! The Thursday evening concerts are generously sponsored by The First Bank of

Greenwich, with catered picnic provided via online preorder by our friends at Marcia Selden Catering; \$10–\$20 tickets or season passes are available online or onsite.

JUNE 10

The Merlin Band

JULY 8

Justine Goggin

AUGUST 5

Gunsmoke

SEPTEMBER 2

Billy & the Showmen

JUNE 24

The Demolition Brass Band

JULY 22

Suburban Chaos

AUGUST 19

Scott Wenzel Big Band

SEPTEMBER 16

Vinny Nobile & the Jazz Alliance



Tavern Garden Markets

9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., alternating Wednesdays

This summer, join us on alternating Wednesdays for our Tavern Garden Markets! Tavern Garden Markets feature all things “home” – from food and flowers to specially curated items that enrich life, shared with family and friends. Take a stroll on our campus, shop the market, enjoy an iced coffee at our Artist’s Cafe and support local growers, producers and artisans.

Vendors will vary weekly and include pick-up or pre-order farm-fresh produce and eggs from Double L Market, CSA pick up and fresh cut peonies and dahlias from award-winning Bear Creek Farm, a flower bar with Meg Critchell and specialty items from Versailles Farm, Wave Hill Breads and Dough & Co. Plus, you’ll find distinctive gifts and crafts to collect and give, prepared foods to enjoy for lunch or to take home for dinner.

Wednesday Market Dates

MAY 5	JUNE 30	AUGUST 25	OCTOBER 20
MAY 19	JULY 14	SEPTEMBER 8	NOVEMBER 3
JUNE 2	JULY 28	SEPTEMBER 22	
JUNE 16	AUGUST 11	OCTOBER 6	

Art & History Camp 2021

For more information and registration, find us online at www.greenwichhistory.org/art-and-history-camp.

Come explore Connecticut’s colonial history and Cos Cob’s art colony through games, crafts and hands-on fun. Creative minds will spend time in our historic gardens and (air-conditioned!) barn, exploring their surroundings using art, science and old-fashioned ingenuity under the guidance of professional educators and artists. Space is limited! Early bird pricing is available.

History Week

Campers will be transported back in time to Greenwich’s colonial era. They will learn about important historical events as well as skills necessary for living in a time without electricity and running water. Campers will have the opportunity to weave, cook and create colonial art. They will also learn about the importance of a personal garden and about the plants that could be grown for cooking, medicine and creating natural pigments.

Art Week

Campers will learn about the Cos Cob art colony and the avant-garde work of the Impressionist artists who stayed at the Bush–Holley House. Led by Master Painter Dmitri Wright, campers will have the opportunity to learn about color, light and form as they create their own unique works of art. Activities include painting *en plein air*, pottery and theater.

Elementary Camps:

Grades 2–5, 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

History Camp: July 26–30

Art Camp: August 2–6

Middle School Camps:

Grades 6–8, 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

History Camp: July 12–16

Art Camp: July 19–23



HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

May 31, July 5, September 6

OFFICE, MUSEUM STORE AND CAFÉ

Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday, noon–4:00 p.m.

MUSEUM GALLERIES

Wednesday–Sunday, noon–4:00 p.m.

Reservations recommended.

BUSH-HOLLEY HOUSE

Wednesday–Sunday, 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Docent-led House and Landscape tours.

Reservations recommended.

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

By appointment

ADMISSION

\$10 adults, \$8 seniors, \$7 group rate

FREE: Youth under 18, members, active military/
Blue Star and free for all the first Wednesday of
every month.

Visit all 21 museums on the Connecticut Art Trail
for \$25. Buy a passport at the museum lobby desk
or at ctarttrail.org.

*We work to preserve and interpret Greenwich history to strengthen the community's
connection to our past, to each other and to our future.*

Visit us this summer

Enjoy a visit to the Greenwich Historical Society's award-winning gardens. Enjoy an outdoor concert, paint *en plein air*, visit our Tavern Garden Markets and don't miss our current exhibit, *Beautiful Work: The Art of Greenwich Gardens and Landscapes*. Public docent-led tours of the Bush-Holley House and surrounding historic landscape and gardens are offered Wednesday–Sunday at 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Tours highlight the lives of the Revolutionary War-era Bush family and the boarding house and gardens operated by the Holley family during the time of the Cos Cob art colony, circa 1890–1920.



Save the Date

Tavern Garden Markets

May 5, 19, June 2, 16, 30, July 14, 28,
August 11, 25, September 8, 22,
October 6, 20, November 3

Concerts on the Lawn:

June 10, 24, July 8, 22
August 5, 19, September 2, 16

June 2

Cocktails with the Curator

June 12

CT Open House Day, free admission

June 15

Historic Trust Cocktail Reception and
Garden Tour at Sleepy Cat Farm

July 12–August 6

Art & History Camp

September 5

Exhibit closing, *Beautiful Work: The Art of
Greenwich Gardens and Landscape*

September 30

Landmarks Recognition and 90th Annual
Meeting

October 6

Exhibit opening, *Life and Art: The
Greenwich Paintings of John Henry
Twachtman*

October 13

History in the Making Award Dinner
honoring Barbara & Ray Dalio