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AWAY FROM HOME

Tour Solar-Energy House In New Hartford

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April 2, 2010

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A Zero Energy Challenge solar house in New Hartford, with many active and passive energy-saving features, will be open for tours April 10 from noon to 4 p.m., sponsored by People's Action for Clean Energy (PACE) and the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund.

The home has a 7.6-kilowatt grid-tied, roof-mounted photovoltaic system leased through the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund. Among the energy-conservation systems are the home's box design with open floor plan, a cupola to release summer heat, a sand earth-box

heat sink and radiant floor heating.

Ecological building products used in the house include structural insulated panels, bamboo floors and doors and cabinetry built of salvaged wood. Low-e windows, cement siding, motion-sensor lights, Energy Star appliances, interior no-VOC paint and energy-efficient lighting also attest to the homeowners' commitment to energy conservation.

Vendors and the homeowners will be available during the tour to answer questions about clean energy, affordable green lifestyles and Clean Energy Fund programs.

Tickets are \$15. Send a check to PACE, c/o Donna Grant, 128 Melrose Road, Broad Brook, CT 06016, or order online at www.pace-cleanenergy.org. Tickets and a map will be mailed. For details, call 860-623-5487 or 860-693-4813.

For information on the CT Zero Energy Challenge, go to www.ctzeroenergychallenge.com.

First Impressions

Landscape designer Regina Neal will discuss "Entry Gardens: Making That First Impression" in a free slide presentation Monday at 2 p.m. at the meeting of the [Old Saybrook Garden Club](#) at the Katherine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center, 300 Main St., Old Saybrook.

Neal won the 2009 Award for Outstanding Design from the Landscape Design Council of Connecticut.

Jazz Age Gardens

Garden historian Jenny Rose Carey will give a free talk on "Gardens of the Jazz Age" Tuesday at 12:45 p.m. at the [New Britain Museum of American Art](#), 56 Lexington St., New Britain.

Carey, director of the Landscape Arboretum at Temple University in [Pennsylvania](#), will focus on gardens that epitomize the soul of the Jazz Age and discuss how jazz and changing socio-economics influenced American gardens. The Garden Club of Hartford is sponsoring her lecture.

The English Lady

Landscape designer Maureen Haseley-Jones will present "In Your Garden with the English Lady" at a meeting of the [West Hartford Garden Club](#) Thursday at noon at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2080 Boulevard, West Hartford. The fee for nonmembers is \$5. A light lunch will be served; call 860-561-0724 for reservations.

Invasive Plants

Ted Elliman will present a class on 40 of the most common invasive non-native plants in Connecticut's landscapes April 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Yale Peabody Museum, New Haven. At the class, co-sponsored by the New England Wild Flower Society and the museum, he will cover identification and management

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techniques for many of these species.

The fee is \$52 (\$44 for members). Register Registration is required at 508-877-7630, Ext. 3303.

Succulent Show And Sale

The Connecticut Cactus and Succulent Society will holds its 27th annual Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale April 10 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and April 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Art and Music Center at [Naugatuck Valley Community College](#), 750 Chase Parkway, [Waterbury](#).

The judged portion of the show — with more than 500 entries in 100 categories — will open at April 10 at about noon, as soon as ribbons are awarded.

The event also includes auctions; children's entertainment; and a free series of lectures on such topics as soil preparation, care and feeding of succulents, and raising winter hardy cacti. A free plant will be given to the first 50 families each day.

For information and the lecture schedule, go to www.ctcactusclub.com or call 860-489-8356.

Wild Food

Naturalist and author "Wildman" Steve Brill will lead a wild food and ecology tour April 10 at 2:30 p.m. at Sticks and Stones Farm, 201 Huntingtown Road, Newtown. A 90-minute tour of the 60-acre farm will follow his 30-minute talk.

Among the foods to be sought: chickweed, which tastes like corn-on-the-cob; daylily shoots, which taste like Chinese food; dandelion greens; spicy hairy bittercress, which tastes like watercress; mild-flavored shepherd's purse, lemony sheep sorrel, field garlic, garlic mustard, sassafras, mullein and wild mushrooms, including oyster mushrooms, enoki mushrooms, and tree ears.

The fee is \$25 for adults and \$10 for children under 12. Call 914-835-2153 or e-mail wildman@wildmanstevebrill.com to register (advance registration is required). For directions, go to www.sticksandstonesfarm.com.

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