



My Favorite Part of Winter is...

Greetings!

"My favorite part of winter is spring" William Cullina



Do you have spring fever? Last week was a tease, with warm temperatures coaxing the earliest bulbs out of the ground. My Valentine's Day gift was the sight of my first snowdrop. Many times I walked the beds at home and the shop (with my mud boots on) astounded to see so much life emerging. Then, on the eve of my first day setting up our garden at the flower show-SNOW. The weather this week? Warm. It's a roller coaster ride, a giant tease. Mother Nature is teasing spring fever out of us. I have a cure for that:

The **CT Flower and Garden Show** which is **THIS WEEK**, February 22-25 at the CT Convention Center in Hartford.



All sorts of Calendula seeds will be overflowing our racks at the flower show

No matter how we try to simplify, we inevitably empty our shop and truck it up to Hartford. This year, instead of terrariums and fairy gardens we have macramé hangers and pretty planters. Yes, the seed racks are restocked and loaded. And the tender bulbs are here! Some years they can't be shipped because of the freezing temps. Dahlias galore reign supreme on the shelves along with giant elephant ears with bulbs the size of small grapefruits. Books? Yup, we have awesome books, especially tons of new kid's books. Four different and equally wonderful books on monarchs. We pack it up, truck it in, unpack it, and...the party begins. The enthusiasm and joy that fills the air as you walk in and smell the earth and plants, well, it's indescribable.



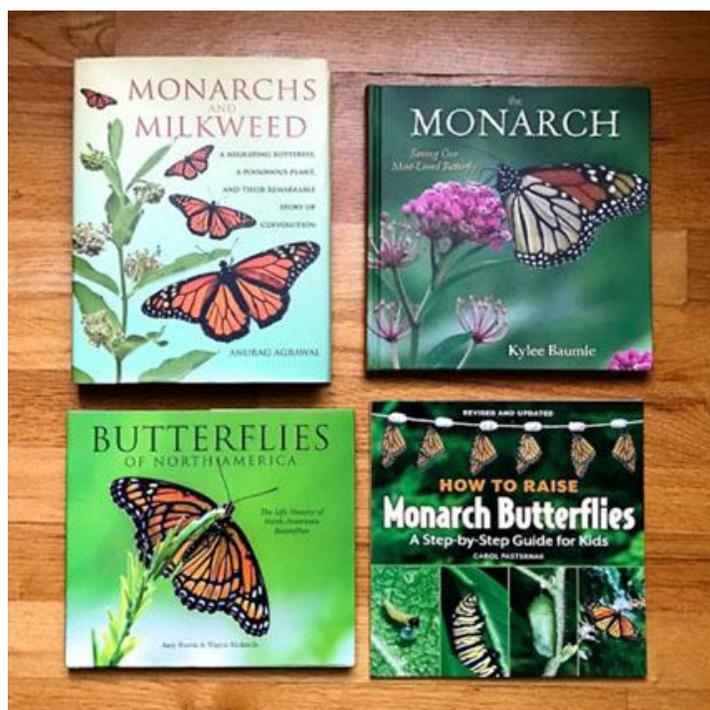
Yes there will be Dahlia tubers. Suzanne is unloading one of TWO bulb shipments!



You'll never guess what we will be selling this year...

You MUST make the time to attend some educational workshops. Some folks walk the show and never realize what they are missing. The workshops are held upstairs and they are free with your admission to the show. The lineup this year is really star studded. Doug Tallamy is my ecological hero and, if you plan on attending his talk, I would say get a seat early. Craig LeHoullier, author of *Epic Tomatoes* and the man who made "dwarf tomatoes" happen, is speaking. Tovah Martin, Stephanie Cohen, Nancy Balleck (on houseplants!), Kathy Connelly, Kerry Ann Menendez, Charlie Nardozzi, Len Giddix, yours truly (twice) and Natureworks' *butterfly rock star* Diane St. John. [CLICK HERE](#) to link to the flower show website for hours, directions, and the schedule of workshops.

#educatedgardenersrock





Diane St. John will be giving a fabulous workshop called **1000 Monarchs** on Sunday afternoon. As you can probably imagine, she will be explaining how we raised over 1000 monarch butterflies at Natureworks in 2017. Our goal is to inspire YOU to raise them this year and she will show you how.

#learnsomethingnew

I will be speaking on Thursday afternoon at 4:30 on The Healing Power of Plants and Gardens and on Saturday at 12:30 on Food and Flowers Belong Together. The educational garden that I designed will be easy to spot as you walk in the front entrance- it will be the garden with all the educational banners and signs about pollinators, butterflies, and birds. It's called Plants with a Purpose and it is a labor of love by many folks in the industry who want YOU to learn how to make YOUR yards a rich habitat for these important creatures.



We have LOTS of pollinator friendly bug houses this year



And... there will be poppy seeds galore! Get your breadseed poppies this week. The warming weather trend will create the perfect opportunity to sow them directly on cold soil. This picture doesn't even show all of the varieties on our racks! We also have California, Iceland, and Shirley poppies along with the amazing summer blooming red poppies that I fell in love with on my English garden tour in 2016.

Larkspur can be sown early too, and it's one of my favorite flowers for cutting and drying. Yup, we have larkspur seed too!

Here's my take on it: Inside the flower show you will lose yourself and forget that we still have another month of winter to wait out. This kick starts the year, gets your blood pumping. There will be gardens, and flowers, and waterfalls, and spring blooming bulbs. There will be cool plants and flower arrangements across from our booth by the Federated Garden Clubs of CT.

So I hope to see you up at the CT Convention Center this weekend. We will all be there and spring will be happening inside. Don't miss it!

#getyourspringon

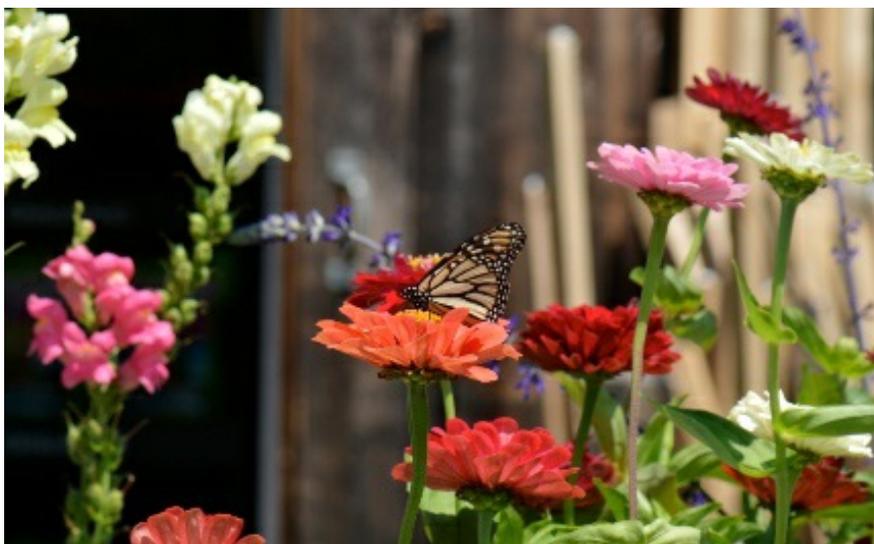
Nancy



P.S. There are still spots available for my July Garden Tour in England. Email me at nancyd@naturework.com and I will send you the information.



Natureworks is Hiring!



[CLICK HERE](#) to view the details.

Great Gardening Events Happening this Winter



Below is a list of some of the fantastic garden related events happening over the next few months. Please check the specific garden club or host of each event for details and to be sure the public is invited.

Thursday through Sunday, Feb. 22-25th

[Connecticut Flower and Garden Show](#)

Stop by the Natureworks booth, visit the gardens, and attend lectures by our own Nancy DuBrule-Clemente and Diane St. John.

Saturday, March 3rd Soup Symposium

[Hardy Plant Society of New England](#) - Connecticut Chapter

Theme: "March into Spring"

Saturday, March 3rd [Mad Gardeners, Inc. Symposium](#)

(open to the public)

Theme: Gardening with Wildlife: The Balancing Act

Housatonic Valley Regional HS in Falls Village, CT

[Click Here](#) for the flyer, print it in landscape mode.

Saturday, March 10th

Natureworks all day seminar held at Zion Episcopal Church

Grow a Healthy Yard. See

[class brochure](#) for details. [Click](#)

[Here](#) for online registration.

Tuesday, March 13th

[Cheshire Public Library](#)

lecture by Nancy DuBrule-Clemente

Topic: "Native Pollinators to Know and Love."



Saturday, March 17th

[CT Master Gardeners Symposium](#)

Theme: "Gardening Gone Native"

Saturday, March 24th Seed Starting Workshops

in the Natureworks greenhouse. See [class brochure](#) for information. [Click Here](#) for online registration.

Saturday April 7th Pruning Classes

held at Zion Episcopal Church. See [class brochure](#) for information

- Overcoming your Fear of Pruning - Basic Principles and Practices ([Click Here](#) for online registration.)
- Pruning Hydrangeas with Lorraine Ballato ([Click Here](#) for online registration.)

● ● ● ● ●

Click a Quick Link for more Information

Our Website	Buy a Gift Certificate
Employment Opportunities	Gardening Classes
Handouts	Landscaping Services
Organic Lawn Care Info.	Natureworks App Details
The DuBrule Diaries Blog	Veggies-Incredible Edibles

RETAIL HOURS

Closed for the winter, then we reopen on the first day of Spring.



Natureworks Horticultural Services ([map](#))
518 Forest Road, Northford, CT 06472
Business Reg. #B 3307 | CT. License #0569208
naturework.com | nature@iconn.net

● ● ● ● ●

STAY CONNECTED and SHARE IT:





Click the Update Profile link shown below and then SUBMIT
to see the special email groups you can join!