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News

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Green Earth Agriculture Staffer Certified As 'Connecticut Accredited Nursery Professional'

MONROE—24 green industry persons recently passed one of the toughest courses in horticulture in Connecticut to be certified as “Connecticut Accredited Nursery Professionals” (CANP).

The rigorous 13-week course is held every fall for tradespeople employed by garden centers, landscapers, nurseries, and greenhouses in the state. It's tough: out of 126 persons who took the course this past year, only 24 passed the exam. Taught by instructors of the University of Connecticut and Naugatuck Valley Community College, the CANP course covers must-know horticultural studies such as plant identification, botany, soils, plant nutrition, plant diseases, insects, weeds, lawns, landscaping, safety, worker protection, etc. The course is open only to the green trade.

Persons passing the CANP regimen are considered among the top professionals among the 48,000 persons who work daily in Connecticut's green industry, and are entitled to use the certification letters “CANP” after their name. Since the accreditation program started by the Connecticut Nursery & Landscape Association in 1981, over 800 have received certification.

Connecticut's green industry has over 3,000 independently-owned companies, operating in every town of the state, with over \$1 billion in annual sales.

Following are this year's “graduates” of the CANP program:

- Daniel Ballek, Ballek's Garden Center, East Haddam CT
- Shawna Barker, Van Wilgen's Garden Center, North Branford CT
- Rachel Blundon, Madison Earth Care Services, Madison CT
- Alyssa K. Colleran, Natureworks, Northford CT
- Daniel DiBiasco, Van Wilgen's Garden Center, North Branford CT
- Adriana Gentile, Winterberry Gardens, Southington
- Lydia O. V. Gompfer, Imperial Nurseries, Granby CT
- Dan Grange, Laurelrock Co., Wilton CT

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- Wendy Henderson Jurgilewicz, Cheshire Nursery, Cheshire Ct
- Catherine Nye Kearney, Sam Bridge Nursery & Greenhouses, Greenwich CT
- Wm. Paul Kubarych, Sam Bridge Nursery & Greenhouses, Greenwich CT
- Mary Livingstone, Haynes Materials, Oxford CT
- Emily Magazzi, Green Earth Agriculture, North Branford CT
- Mark Marenholz, Broken Arrow Nursery, Bethany CT
- Adrienne Mitchell, Laurelrock Co., Wilton CT
- Thomas W. Nitchke, Broken Arrow Nursery, Hamden CT
- Frank E. O'Connor IV, Elise Landscapes & Nursery LLC, New Canaan CT
- Bonnie T. Parkinson, Paul & Sandy's Too Garden Center, East Hampton CT
- Stacey Pope, Van Wilgen's Garden Center, North Branford CT
- Laura Rock, Laura Rock Landscape Designs LLC, Watertown CT
- Devin Savoy, Everything Botanical, Litchfield CT
- John Umbarger, Meadowbrook Gardens, New Milford CT
- Gisella Weissbach-Licht, Clinton Nurseries, Branford CT
- Kristen A. Yanick, Prides Corner Farms, Lebanon CT

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