

# Westchester Fairfield Horticultural Society

www.westfairhort.org

## *Visit to The Gardens at Long Ridge*

*With Kevin Catalano, Garden Owner and Horticulturist*

2488 Long Ridge Road, Stamford, CT 06903

6:00 to 8:00 PM, Tuesday, July 14, 2009

*Free admission for members of West Fair Hort and new members, \$10 for non-members*

Bring horticultural displays for judging by 5:30 PM

Our host, Kevin Catalano, found his dream property and home in the Long Ridge section of Stamford six years ago. With over two acres, the landscape had areas and features upon which to build gardens and grow collections of favorite plants. There are large rock outcroppings in one area, wooded areas, stone walls, as well as many varying types of lawn areas. Kevin has added numerous woodland plants such as lady slipper orchids, toad lilies, hellebores, as well as a large variety of ferns. He also built a cutting/vegetable garden surrounded by a white picket fence with a Nantucket Arbor as its entrance; an oriental garden; and two ponds for Japanese koi fish, with a streambed flowing into one. Kevin is a true plant enthusiast, with an interest in plants that are hardy in this zone, but are seldom planted here, as well as unique and interesting trees and shrubs. He has planted hardy bananas, kiwi vines, hardy oranges, and hardy palms. Other trees and shrubs he has planted include paperbark maple, paw paw, crepe myrtle, Carolina allspice, Carolina silverbell, bottle brush buckeye, and beautyberry.

Kevin Catalano is a Greenwich native and since childhood he has spent most of his free time exploring natural areas. He worked for the Parks Department in Greenwich for about six years, starting out doing gardening work, with most of his tenure spent working at the Montgomery Pinetum in Cos Cob. He became a part time foreman and assistant foreman there. During that time, he took numerous courses at the New York Botanical Garden School of Horticulture. Approximately twenty-five years ago, he started his own business in garden design and maintenance. Kevin is a member of West Fair Hort and also of the Bartlett Arboretum and the New York Botanical Garden.

### DIRECTIONS TO KEVIN CATALANO'S GARDEN

FROM THE MERRITT PARKWAY: EXIT 34, LONG RIDGE ROAD/ROUTE 104. GO NORTH ON ROUTE 104 FOR ABOUT 3.6 MILES. TURN LEFT ON GRAY BIRCH ROAD. PARK ON THE STREET AND WALK TO THE FIRST DRIVEWAY ON THE LEFT.