

Christie J. Higginbottom Garden Research Historian and Consultant

Christie has worked as a costumed interpreter at Old Sturbridge Village since 1981. From 1984 to 2004 she coordinated the historic horticulture program researching, planning and planting the re-created kitchen and flower gardens at the museum's historic households. She also supervised the Village's Herb Garden collection, a garden exhibiting over 300 varieties of historic herbs. From 2004 to 2006 she researched and developed a series of self-guided walking trails interpreting people and the environment in the early 1800s. She contributed research and design for the 2007–2009 exhibit, "Taking Root: Gardening in Pots in the early 1800s." Now retired from full-time work at OSV, she continues to work in costume part-time – most often in the gardens.

Christie writes and consults on historic gardens and their interpretation, antique plants, and herb use; and she lectures at museums, garden clubs, historical societies, colleges and libraries. She teaches home gardening classes at the Adult Education program at Bay Path Regional Vocational High School, Tower Hill Botanic Garden, and the Northeast Organic Farmers Association.

Lecture and workshop venues have included the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants at Monticello, the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, the Seed Savers Exchange, Hamilton College, the University of Rhode Island Master Gardeners, Connecticut Horticultural Society, and the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and she is a recipient of the Society's Thalassa Cruso Award.

The Kitchen Garden: Tips from the Past for Modern Gardeners

The kitchen garden played a vital role in the diet and landscape of 1800s New England households. This PowerPoint -illustrated lecture explores traditional garden plans and cultivation practices featuring the historic vegetables, fruits, and herbs favored by our ancestors. Christie will highlight garden practices valuable for today's family kitchen garden such as inter-planting and succession planting, using garden frames, and creating homemade tools.

Time: approximately 1 hour