

**FAIRFIELD COUNTY CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE
HIGHLIGHTS CCCA MASTERPIECES**

The Fairfield County *Concours d'Elegance* will celebrate the Classic Car Club of America with a special class at its Sunday, September 21, show at the Fairfield County Hunt Club in Westport, Connecticut. Organized by Chairman and CCCA member Bill Scheffler, this fifth annual "gathering of excellence" will host more than 140 of the world's most extraordinary automobiles and motorcycles, ranging in date from the late nineteenth century to today.

On Saturday, September 20, approximately 50 vintage automobiles will participate in the Nutmeg Tour for Autism, winding along a 50-mile route through nearby towns. A gala reception and dinner that follow will feature a talk by award-winning sports writer and NPR commentator Frank Deford and will honor automotive artist Chuck Queener.

Malcolm Pray's 1937 Delahaye Type 135M Roadster and 1935 Amilcar Pegase Roadster will be on view at the show. The Delahaye is the cornerstone of Malcolm's collection, being the same car that inspired him as a youth when he saw it at the 1939 New York World's Fair; he became the car's second owner when he purchased it in 1964. Original owner Bob Grier, a founder of the Motor Sports Club of America, competed in the car in multiple outings, including the Mohansic Lake, New York, hillclimb. With coachwork by Figoni & Falaschi, it is the seventh of the eleven built and one of the three extant today. The roadster secured Best in Show at the 2005 Fairfield County *Concours d'Elegance*, and will shine again at this year's event in an exhibition of Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance winners, having earned a Best in Class distinction in 2008; it also won Best in Class at the Barrington Concours in 2007. The Amilcar roadster, also by Figoni & Falaschi, is one of only six built to the best of Malcolm's knowledge.



Malcolm Pray's 1937 Delahaye Type 135M Roadster

Joseph and Margie Cassini's 1938 Horch 853A Erdman & Rossi Sport Cabriolet will also be among the Amelia Island Concours winners given its Best in Class award this year. It was also recognized as the Best of Show at the Pebble Beach, New York City, and Meadow Brook Concours events in 2004, 2005, and 2006, respectively. This Special Roadster is one of three extant examples of the five "second series" originally built. All five differed in exterior and interior styling. The two "first series" and the one "third series" 855 also survive in American and European collections. The Cassini's car was imported in the late 1940s by a serviceman returning from the War who began to restore it as did a subsequent owner. The Cassinis purchased the Horch in 2001, and oversaw a complete restoration.



Joseph and Margie Cassini's 1938 Horch 853A Erdman & Rossi Sport Cabriolet

A 1938 Talbot-Lago T150 C SS Teardrop Coupe with coachwork by Figoni & Falaschi will be exhibited by Oscar Davis. This unique car was designed and built to run at the 1939 LeMans 24-hour race by the Duke Philippe de Massa. Performance was enhanced by its lower coachwork that reduced drag and its lighter-weight aluminum body and steel fenders. The car was outfitted with Figoni's signature flush-fitting sunroof, a specially-designed one-piece rear window that opened at the top for cockpit ventilation, a quick-release external fuel filler cap, a large-capacity fuel tank, and a full-size trunk that housed the regulation spare tire. In 2007, the coupe was awarded Best of Show at both Radnor Hunt and St. Michaels Concours shows and third in its class at the Pebble Beach Concours.



Oscar Davis' 1938 Talbot-Lago T150 C SS Teardrop Coupe with coachwork by Figoni & Falaschi

Important American CCCA cars will also grace the field. Dave Czirr's 1934 Packard Eight 1100 Sedan returns to Westport, Connecticut. At a chance meeting at a gas station in New Jersey in 2003, the driver of a car from Connecticut approached Dave and identified the car as the one his uncle chauffeured for its original owner, a Rita Kittinger who summered in Westport in 1934. He accurately recalled her monogram on both back doors, her St. Christopher medal in the back seat, and the single, center-mounted driving light. When Dave purchased the car in 1964, the registration bore her name as did a 1935 hotel receipt that he found among tools under the seat. Dave has enjoyed the Packard, driving it over 45,000 miles. Approximately 70 of the 2,200 built with the exact chassis and body still exist. Dave's Packard is primarily unrestored with 70% of its original paint, some original chrome, and partially (rear compartment) original interior. He has secured many awards, including a second in Touring Class at the 2006 Grand Classic in Mt. Olive, New Jersey, and a second in its class at the 1999 Packard Centennial in Warren, Ohio.



Dave Czirr's 1934 Packard Eight 1100 Sedan

Hollywood actress Greer Garson's 1939 Cadillac 7523 Fleetwood 7-Passenger Touring Sedan owned by Howland and Joy Blackiston will take the stage at the Fairfield County Concours. MGM purchased the \$3,102 luxury car to carry the Academy Award-winning celebrity in style to the studio, movie openings, and award ceremonies. Studio artisans customized the car for her with upholstery in her favorite red color and with exterior modifications, including additional chrome trim above the grille and on the side mounts. The car has starred in numerous shows, winning Best in Class at the 2006 Greenwich Concours and other national and regional shows as well as in the 2006 movie *The Good Shepherd*. The Blackistons understandably take pleasure in their Cadillac, driving it on excursions and donning period dress for shows.



**Greer Garson's 1939 Cadillac 7523 Fleetwood 7-Passenger Touring Sedan
owned by Howland and Joy Blackiston**

Luxury and history also surround Grace and Bob Gluck's 1940 Cadillac Series 74 Convertible Sedan (Model 7529). This well-loved car was a Christmas gift from Lamott du Pont Copeland to his wife Pamela in 1939, when the du Pont family was the largest shareholder in General Motors. She drove it around Wilmington, Delaware, the site of their magnificent Mt. Cuba home and gardens. The car saw several owners, including Tom Clarke of Detroit, who purchased it in the late 1970s and undertook its 10-year-long restoration. Subsequent owners toured it in CCCA events before Grace and Bob purchased it in January 2007. They have generously shared their Cadillac with others by showing it at concours events and driving it on many CCCA CARavans. The car has received its Primary, Senior, and Premier Awards from the CCCA.



Grace and Bob Gluck's 1940 Cadillac Series 74 Convertible Sedan (Model 7529)

Other outstanding CCCA cars will greet attendees, including a Speed Six Bentley, an Isotta Fraschini 8A, a Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost, a Studebaker President, and a Cadillac V16.

In addition to presenting 100 years of significant motor vehicles in a chronological display, the Fairfield County *Concours d'Elegance* offers education with professional-guided field walks, detailed descriptive signage about each car, access to car owners, and auto-related children's programs. The art of the automobile will be presented in exhibitions of works by locally- and nationally-recognized artists, which highlight the area's rich artistic heritage and flourishing creative community.