

October 1st is the deadline for articles for the WINTER News Leaf as well as listings of upcoming club events and November-January online ads.

Send articles and club listings to ruthkorn77@gmail.com.

Go to www.gardenclubofnewjersey.com for the information about the cost and size of an ad. Contact Sue Berdahl at sue.berdahl@gmail.com with any questions.



NEWS LEAF - August 2019

Fall Issue

President's Message

How fortunate we are to be part of an outstanding organization known as The Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc.! I'm so honored to be the 49th GCNJ President and most of all, so excited to introduce some new, innovational projects.

You may have wondered why all the Fall District Meetings are being held at Holly House, the GCNJ Headquarters, which is at Rutgers Gardens. The answer is that my theme, "Paths to Discovery through Outdoor Learning Centers", is being showcased in Rutgers Gardens.

New, too, will be the free workshops being held during the third week in September at Holly House, that is available to all of our club members. September 24 and 25 will be about Flower Shows. We plan to have four District Flower Shows taking the place of the GCNJ State Flower Show (in Edison) throughout 2020 with our members forming committees now and planning the theme, time, place, etc. This is all designed to introduce you to the NGC's HANDBOOK for FLOWER SHOWS, (revised in 2017), that is a cornucopia of fabulous new possibilities in staging flower shows. Look for the registration form for the Flower Show Workshop and sign up. Chair Marina Kerber will help you.

September 26, our Youth Co-Chairs, Onnolee Allieri and Bob Markey, will roll out their projects designed to inspire our young people to explore the world all about them. Did you realize that Smokey Bear, a long time favorite, will be celebrating his



75th birthday! Get your schools to participate in creating posters about Smokey. Look for their article.

Our Awards Co-Chairs, Peggy Morrissey and Sandy Witkowski, would like to guide you through the Awards offered by NGC, CAR/SGC and GCNJ so we can honor you for the valuable work you do in your communities in gardens, parks, programs for youth, schools, seniors, and our pollinators! They spell out some of the due dates and procedures in articles that follow.

The last day, September 27, will be all about our Plant America Grants and Rutgers Gardens Learning Centers as Teddie Falcone and Pat Wilson introduce you to these projects, in person. Mark your calendars! Here, too, an article explaining this new area is in News Leaf.

Last, but far from least, is our November 4 GCNJ Fall Conference & Presidents Day "Paths to Discovery" at the Bridgewater Marriott. We will welcome Gay Austin, our new NGC President, who will tell us about her NGC Plant America theme and projects. The morning activities will include a presentation by Bruce Crawford on our joint projects; Jeanette Johnson will provide a glimpse of our illustrious GCNJ History; Special Citations will be presented to garden club presidents attending this program plus special honorees will receive GCNJ Medals, GCNJ's highest honor.

Jane Bianco, Fall Conference Chair, and her committee have so many surprises--vendors, exhibits, raffles, prizes and includes the afternoon's fabulous "Christmas on Broadway", a design program by the talented duo Angie Raitano and Diane Hughes doing holiday arrangements that you can incorporate into your upcoming holiday celebrations. Come join us! I'm looking forward to meeting each and everyone of you.

Your Gardening Friend & President,

Jeannie Geremia

National Garden Club Welcomes New President



For the years, 2019-2021, Gay L. Austin of McComb, Mississippi, was installed as the 46th president of NGC, Inc., the largest volunteer gardening organization in the world, currently hitting the 165,000-member mark. Installation was held on May 2 at NGC's 90th Annual Convention in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Our new president is passionate about fostering local gardening projects that conserve and preserve natural resources and encourage young people in communities to assist in those efforts. In addition, Austin will support NGC's Plant America, an initiative that focuses on gardens and gardening with an emphasis on community service, as well as the Plant America Community Project Grants Program, which provides funding to member clubs that implement gardening projects in their communities.

Have You Met Our New National First Vice President?

It is Mary Warshauer of Rumson, New Jersey, who, as First Vice President, will serve as liaison to NGC state presidents and region directors, help to guide the national organization and work to advance NGC's mission that is to promote civic and environmental responsibility, as well as a love of gardening and floral design. She will support the organization's major objectives—to foster education and participation in NGC's local, regional, national and international outreach programs, including Plant America. She has served previously in many positions. On the state level, from 2009 to 2011, Warshauer was President of The Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc. and on the local level, she has been a member of the Garden Club of Fair Haven for over 30 years. We will be most proud when, in two years, she is installed as the 47th National President at the National Convention in New Jersey.



Community Project Grants with Plant America

Grant Amount: Up to \$1,000.00 is available to be used for direct expenses of projects.

Who May Apply: Individual garden clubs that are members of NGC.

Recipients of 2017-2019 are not eligible to apply.

Application Deadline: October 15, 2019

All money will be awarded by January 31, 2020. Projects must be completed by February 28, 2021 and final report forms are due April 1, 2021.

The final report is a short one-page report describing the project including photos; a copy of the final financial report including all income and expenses and a copy of any publicity. You then mail the completed one-page application form and budget to David Robson, 1515 W. Fayette Avenue, Springfield, IL 62704-2306 or email David at PLANTAMERICAGRANTS@gmail.com. To download the application, please go to

gardenclub.org/projects/plant-america-community-project-grants.aspx



Garden Study School

Course 11

We're pleased to announce that the 2019 GCNJ Gardening Study School will be held at Holly House on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 1 & 2, 2019, with an optional exam offered Wednesday after class (and if necessary, on Friday the 4th).

The deadline to register without a late fee is September 23rd (not so far away!).

As always, Master Gardeners receive 10 CEU for completing the 2 day course.

Garden Club members who successfully complete GSS Courses I - IV are eligible for certification as a Gardening Consultant. (The courses may be taken out of order.)

For additional information, please visit the Garden Club of New Jersey's website.

<http://gardenclubofnewjersey.com/gardening-study-school/>

If you go to the website for GCNJ that is listed above, you will find a printable form of the Registration form.

Beverly Kazickas

GSS Chair

kazickas55@aol.com

Ellen Preissler

GSS Registrar

ellepreissler@yahoo.com



WHY TREES MATTER

As garden club members, we surely appreciate the beauty of trees. From our home garden to stately forests, the benefits of trees are numerous. In recognition of their importance, the first Arbor Day was celebrated in 1872. Over time, science has proven that trees matter and are crucial to our very existence.

In 1950, the Garden Club of New Jersey was instrumental in establishing the Northern Red Oak (*Quercus borealis maxima*) as the official NJ State Tree. Celebrating the beauty of this great oak, along with acknowledging other species, is just one aspect of the importance of

trees ... there are also social, economic, and environmental benefits as well.

A recent study in England shows that people living near green areas with trees, experience lower rates of depression and anxiety. Trees offer recreational opportunities such as bird-watching and contribute to a multi-billion dollar-a-year ecotourism industry which continues to grow in popularity.

Trees improve our quality of life. They offer privacy, reduce noise, and lower cooling and heating costs. Their by-products are fuel, food, shelter, and furniture. Trees produce environmental benefits such as improved air and water quality, reduced erosion, and of course, trees offer critical habitat for wildlife.

Large forests made up of a range of tree ages and species store carbon as they grow. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours per day. Thus, one acre of forest absorbs 6 tons of carbon dioxide and produces 4 tons of oxygen. Thriving forests can also better withstand disturbances such as storms, invasive species, and diseases.

The presence of trees leads to an improved environment. The National Wildlife Federation estimates that there are up to 200 million spaces along city streets where trees could be planted. Planting trees in these spaces has the potential to absorb an additional 33 million tons of carbon dioxide every year with a savings of \$4 billion in energy costs. As gardeners, let's recognize why trees matter and ban together to improve the environment by protecting and planting trees for future generations. Let's plant now in our own communities.

Environmental Chair, Beverly Kazickas

"Paths to Discovery Through Outdoor Learning Centers"

The Garden Club of New Jersey, under Jeannie Geremia's leadership, is championing ***"Paths to Discovery through Outdoor Learning Centers"***. Teddie Falcone and Pat Wilson are chairing this ambitious project partnering with Rutgers Garden Director, Bruce Crawford. The plan is to upgrade prior projects in the gardens created by past GCNJ presidents while incorporating Bruce Crawford's vision of creating a living history of plants and their complimentary wildlife counterparts that existed and interacted throughout the millennia. ***Paths to Discovery*** will lead the public through the gardens by introducing large sculptures, reading libraries, play and learning areas and signage throughout. Great News – our first Reading Library has been gifted to us and will be installed near Holly House to attract the public just as they enter the gardens!

Goals

Our goals are to create this fun journey so that learning about the flora and fauna around us is encouraged, and to inspire our local clubs to use this as a template to create smaller, but similar, areas in their communities.

Clubs should plan and apply for Plant America Grants, Youth Lead the Way Grants, and/or Espoma and Ames Tool Grants to help fund and improve these learning centers.

The Vision

Envision a native pollinator area with a six foot butterfly or bee, an interactive nest, a reading library, or an area to encourage use and education of all the senses! We are so excited to begin and watch this concept grow. Happily, Barbara Mullin will lead the efforts for Ruth Paul's Native and Regional Plant Garden and Outdoor Classroom, working with Garden Club of Westfield along with Rake and Hoe; Vivian Morrison will work with Seaweeders Garden Club, restoring and growing Wini Applegate's Historic Log Cabin Planting Restoration and Rain Garden; Carole Iuso will coordinate with Bridgewater Garden Club to upgrade the Freedom Trail of Great Americans and Field of Heroes; Onnolee Allieri will work with Rockaway Valley Garden Club on Helen Hull's Wild Flowers for your Garden, and Bruce Crawford, Diana Kazazis, Pat Wilson and Teddie Falcone will work with corporations, foundations, industry organizations, and like-minded non-profits to gain their involvement in ***Paths To Discovery*** as well as their financial and publicity support.

The first target of these efforts will be the installation of an eight to ten-foot bird sculpture in the Magnolia Grove. The bird, who had teeth, evolved along with the magnolia tree over 140 million years ago.

Find Out More

How do you find out more? JUST ASK! We are so excited and would love to visit clubs to present the exciting news about ***Paths to Discovery***. You can help by being a worker bee, or by donating financial assistance and ideas, or by jumping in and initiating a project in your area. Together we can do this and sustain it for years to come. Attend the Workshops in September and the Fall Conference in November to learn more about each of the Rutgers Gardens projects or how to create your own learning center.

Awards Deadline Dates

NGC Awards Year: January 1 – December 31

GCNJ Awards Year: February 1 – January 31

PERENNIAL BLOOM AWARD: Due Date: May 1

Mail to: Peggy Morrissey or Sandy Witkowski

YEARBOOKS: Due Date: September 30

Mail 4 copies to: Peggy Morrissey or Sandy Witkowski

These copies are disseminated as follows: 1) Evaluation 2) District Director 3) State President 4) If merited, consideration for higher award

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB AWARDS: Due Date: November 15

Mail to: Peggy Morrissey or Sandy Witkowski

STANDARD FLOWER SHOW ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: Due Date: December 15

Send to: State Flower Show Evaluation Chairman, Cecelia Millea, 422 Laurel Creek Blvd., Moorestown, NJ 08057
cmillea@msn.com

PUBLICITY PRESS BOOK: Due Date: January 25

Mail to: Peggy Morrissey or Sandy Witkowski



GCNJ AWARDS including Youth Awards and American Horticulture Society Award

Due Date: February 15

Mail to: Peggy Morrissey or Sandy Witkowski

Perennial Bloom Award Applications

Due: May 1st

Mail to: Peggy Morrissey or Sandy Witkowski

Peggy Morrissey email: peggymorrissey67@yahoo.com

Sandy Witkowski email: sandyw43@comcast.net

Addresses are as follows:

Peggy Morrissey

142 Osborne Avenue

Bay Head, NJ 08742

Sandy Witkowski

12N Tamarack Drive

Brielle, NJ 08730

**Awards Presented to Garden Clubs
at the Annual Meeting
Bridgewater Marriott
June 6, 2019**



3	GCNJ Continuing Project	Moorestown
6	Elizabeth Hood Silver Trophy	Montclair
13	Thomas Turner Cooke Memorial Award	GC of Long Valley
14a	Hazel Browne Stern Civic Beautification	Moorestown
14b	Pinelands GC Civic Beautification	Haddonfield
15a	Myra Brooks Garden Therapy Trophy	Moorestown
15b	Smoke Rise GC Therapy Trophy	Toms River
19	The Ruth B. Somerville Silver Trophy	Long Beach Island
22	Clare Hunter Garden Therapy Perpetual Trophy	GC of Long Valley
25	Wyckoff GC Trophy	Long Beach Island
26	East Orange Silver Trophy	Long Beach Island
27	Lillian C. Koelsch Trophy	Belvidere
31	Basking Ridge Garden Trophy	Neshanic
34	GCNJ Award	Navesink
35	Holly Club of Sea Girt	Seaweeds
36	GC of Toms River Trophy	Moorestown
40	Moorestown GC Trophy	Seaweeds
41	Pin Lakes GC Trophy	Montclair
42	Hanover GC Trophy	Long Beach Island
47	GC of Mountain Lakes Silver Trophy	Long Beach Island
48	Comm.GC of Hunterdon County Silver Trophy	Rockaway
49	Woodbridge GC Trophy	Moorestown
52	GCNJ Special Award (\$200)	Belvidere (small club)
52	GCNJ Special Award (\$200)	Long Valley (medium club)
52	GCNJ Special Award (\$200)	Montclair (large club)
53	Demarest GC Yearbook Award	Pine Lakes (small club)
53	Demarest GC Yearbook Award	Ramsey (medium club)
53	Demarest GC Yearbook Award	Montclair (large club)
54	Edison GC Trophy	Warren
59	Bernardsville GC Trophy	Pinelands
64	Jane S. R. Breach Trophy	Moorestown
65	Ringwood GC Trophy	Mountain Lakes
66	Green Thumb GC of Cranford	Belvidere
67	GC of Westfield Trophy	GC R.F.D.

Save the Date for Flower Show Workshop at Holly House

A two-day free workshop will be held on Tuesday, September 24 & Wednesday, September 25 from 10 am to 2:30 pm. Advance registration is required. Deadline for registration is Friday, September 13, 2019.

Please copy the form below to register or contact Chair Marina Kerber by email or phone as listed below.

REGISTRATION FORM FOR FLOWER SHOW WORKSHOP

The two-day workshop, which is free, will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 24 and 25 from 10 am to 2:30 pm. Advance registration is required. Topics covered on Day 1 will be Schedule Writing, Staging, and Horticulture. Day 2 will cover Design and Botanical Arts.

You may bring your own lunch and beverage or pay \$13 a day for lunch. If you want lunch, please so indicate on this form and send a check payable to Garden Club of New Jersey to Marina Kerber.

Deadline for registration is Friday, September 13, 2019.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Garden Club Name: _____

Please indicate lunch preferences below:

Lunch on Tuesday \$13 _____

Lunch on Wednesday \$13 _____

I will bring my lunch _____

Mail registration and check to

Marina Kerber

49 Rosalyn Court

Elberon, NJ 07749

Phone: 632-229-4926

Email: marina2thebeach@yahoo.com

YOU MUST SUBMIT THIS FORM IN ORDER TO REGISTER FOR THE WORKSHOP.

Youth Workshop in September



The Garden Club of New Jersey will be offering a “free” Youth Workshop on Thursday, September 26, at Holly House from 10 am to 12 noon.

Youth co-chairs Bob Markey and Onnolee Allieri will be discussing great projects, ideas and suggestions for your club members.

Youth leaders, those who are working with youth, and those who want to start a youth group, are most welcome to attend.

We will be offering information on opportunities to participate in the poetry, essay and sculpture contests and the Smokey Bear and Woody Owl poster contests and so much more. Come join us!

Advance registration is required. Deadline for registration is September 13, 2019. Please email your registration response to: Onnolee Allieri at callieri@aol.com.

Youth Co-chairs: Bob Markey and Onnolee Allieri





Paths to Discovery

November 4, 2019



The Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc

FALL CONFERENCE

Bridgewater Marriott

Bridgewater, New Jersey

Gay Austin, our new national president, will be on hand representing the National Garden Club and Bruce Crawford will be the speaker. There will be a very large contingent of vendors under the great organizational hands of Carol Iuso and Kay Cross. The theme is Christmas on Broadway. Come enjoy a day out and meet members of other clubs in New Jersey as well as our new NGC president and our new president of GCNJ.

Look for more information on GCNJ website.

Information Concerning Scholarship Awards

With summer in full swing, the thoughts of school and deadlines are far from our minds, but many clubs have asked about the deadline for GCNJ Scholarship Awards which are presented to deserving students every June at our Annual Meeting.

It is important to note that the GCNJ Scholarship deadline is February 1 each year. All documents must be received by that date because the National Garden Clubs Scholarship deadline is March 1. (Please go to the GCNJ Website under Scholarships at www.gardenclubofnewjersey.com.)

Many of our local clubs award their scholarships in the late spring, and the question has been, how do we let these students know how to apply, in a timely fashion, for GCNJ Scholarships. Or, how does an individual club submit applications of those students to GCNJ in time to be considered.

Communication and contact work best. Local clubs should let their recipients know, at the presentation of their spring award, about the "next level" of scholarships GCNJ offers. The garden club should give them information about the GCNJ website under Scholarships, and perhaps remind them in October about applying and that the deadline is February 1. A reminder after winter break leaves the student with little time to gather credentials. The March 1 NGC deadline is inconvenient but it makes our deadline necessary.

Once your recipient's application is in our (GCNJ) hands, the committee will review, select and notify those who are receiving a scholarship from GCNJ as soon as possible. If you would like to be notified if your student is selected, please email your name, email address and your local applicant's name to me and I will do my best to get in touch with you.

Scholarship Chair, Patricia Polunas - scholarshipsgcnj@gmail.com

A Gardeners Shoes

I was recently at an all-day plant conference where I was honored to be one of the presenters. Following the talk, a lady approached me in the hallway and mentioned that she was not certain if I was the presenter or not, until she looked at my shoes. An odd comment I thought, but it got me to wondering – can you tell a gardener by their shoes and if so, what do those shoes look like? In my case, they were a well-worn pair of loafers that undoubtedly needed a little polish. Far from the sharpest looking shoes, they were comfortable and reflected how I prefer to garden. As years have crept by, bending over to weed for hours has become more challenging, and in the spirit of comfort, I have become a firm advocate of groundcovers to smother the weeds. Although the current ground cover of choice appears to be mulch, I still remember the day when *Pachysandra*, *Vinca minor* or Myrtle and English Ivy were the big three groundcovers. Fortunately, there are many more options from which to choose!

At Rutgers Gardens, one of the more troublesome weeds is *Microstegium vimineum* otherwise known as Stilt Grass or Packing Grass. It seeds about with tremendous gusto and manages to grow through nearly every plant, except *Hakonechloa macra*, Japanese Forest Grass (image below). Native to the volcanic region around Mt. Hakone, the grass will grow from 18" tall in well-drained shade to nearly 3' tall in moist, fertile



soils. The plants slowly spread by rhizomes or horizontal stems to create a dense matt of gracefully arching foliage. Aside from its beauty, it is very rare that you will ever see a weed penetrating through the canopy, even stilt grass. There are also several selections with colorful foliage, of which ‘All Gold’ is my favorite, with chartreuse foliage in May through July, becoming increasingly green as fall approaches. Plants turn yellow come autumn, and finally tan, for the winter, with the stems collapsing under the snow load and minimal spring cleanup to follow.

If you like grassy foliage as a groundcover, but are looking for a New Jersey native, consider Oak Sedge or *Carex pensylvanica*. The plants are once again rhizomatous, creating a dense weed suppressing mat that flourishes best, believe it or not, in dry shade! The advantage to Oak Sedge is its carefree nature. It typically requires no irrigation, fertilizing, weeding or cutting back come spring, although I have seen some Stilt Grass and Norway Maple seedlings successfully seed in. Come winter, the foliage turns tan and mats down, serving as a mulch for the new foliage that grows up through that of the previous year.



Come mid-June, the

previous year's foliage is completely hidden and starting to decay (the image above was taken on June 18). For the shade garden, this Sedge would be the perfect living mulch and plants such as Hosta, Turtlehead or Snakeroot can be planted directly into and through the planting. I should also mention that neither *Hakonechloa* nor *Carex* are beloved by deer.

Cranesbill or Hardy Geraniums can also make an impressive ground covering. One of my long standing favorites is *Geranium macrorrhizum* or Bigroot Geranium, which does in fact feature thick rhizomatous stems that appear as a root. Spreading fairly quickly, the palmate or maple-like foliage has an attractive fragrance when moved or crushed and this fragrance is also great for keeping deer at bay. Shrubs like Pepperbush or *Clethra* (image below) appreciate the cooler root run this plant affords.



Come late April into May, the plants display attractive pink to magenta flowers and in late autumn through winter, the foliage is often painted with splashes of oranges, purples and reds. I would not call the foliage as evergreen as a Juniper, but it does persist throughout the winter months. Best grown in shade or moist areas in the sun. Another Geranium that has been receiving great reviews is *Geranium* x ‘Rozanne’. It offers attractive blue flowers that continue to open throughout the summer months on sprawling stems. Unlike its big rooted cousin, it prefers sun and does not cover the ground densely. Consequently, it works best when worked with a companion groundcover. I recently saw it nicely coexisting with our native *Clinopodium vulgare* or Wild Basil and I thought the color combination between the two, as well as their ability to attract Hawk Moths was noteworthy. The Wild Basil has whirls of rosy purple flowers that are just a bit pinker than the blue of the Geranium.

There are obviously many additional plants that I have not touched upon, such as Mountain Mint or *Pycnanthemum muticum*, all of which help to ease the gardener’s burden of weeding while allowing more time to focus on more ‘advanced’ details. Indeed, I guess gardeners can be recognized by the style of their shoes!

Bruce Crawford

Director, Rutgers Gardens

Awards.... we love to get them!!!

Awards recognize worthwhile projects, endeavors, accomplishments. They affirm our commitments to our communities and to the values and beliefs we love as gardeners and advocates for our precious world. They also can

serve as an historical record of our club's activities and a great source of pride in our club's achievements. For all these reasons, the Garden Club of New Jersey (GCNJ), the Central Atlantic Region (CAR) and the National Garden Club (NGC) encourage all clubs to participate in the Awards process. And it's easy to do. Here's how...

Choose a project(s): It can be a new project or a continuing one.

The GCNJ Awards list is located on the GCNJ website. Both the CAR and NGC websites also list their Awards list.

Choose an award: The Awards are listed on each of the websites under "Awards". Any project started or enhanced during the year, February 1, 2019, through January 31, 2020, is eligible for award consideration this year. The rules for applying for an award are listed as well. For example, a club can only apply for one award per project. Also CAR Awards are received from GCNJ Awards that are forwarded on for regional recognition. A club does not apply directly for a CAR Award.

Fill out the application: The Award application can be found on the GCNJ website. It is a three-page document. Page one outlines the project, its objectives, process of completion, budget and outcome(s). The next two pages contain supporting information (pictures, news coverage, letters of appreciation and commendation as examples). A completed sample is included on the GCNJ and NGC websites to help you.

Mail two copies of the application: The Awards Chairs and Committee review the applications and determine the award recipients. The awards are given out at the GCNJ Annual meeting in June. Yearbook awards are given out at each Spring District meeting.

Important Dates for Award Submissions:

Please check the GCNJ website and/or the listing in this newsletter for Awards submission deadlines. The first deadline is for Yearbook submissions. Four copies of each club's Yearbook should be sent to the Awards Chair by September 30, 2019. This year, please send your Yearbook copies to:

Sandy Witkowski

12 N. Tamarack Drive

Brielle, NJ 08730

Deadline for submission of a National Award is November 15, 2019.

Please send the application to:

Peggy Morrissey

142 Osborne Avenue

Bay Head, NJ 08742

PLEASE NOTE: In order to apply for a National Award, the club project must have first received a GCNJ Award. Your application will be reviewed by the GCNJ Awards Co-Chairs first and a cover sheet will be added should your application be sent on for National Garden Club review.

The deadline for the Publicity Press Book is January 25, 2020, and includes Publicity from club activities during the 2019 year. Information regarding the rules for submission is included on the GCNJ website under Awards.

The deadline for GCNJ Awards submissions is February 15, 2020. The list of eligible awards is located on the GCNJ website. Please look for additional information regarding these award submissions and where to send them in a separate article in this News Leaf.

It is so rewarding to hear your club's name recognized with an award(s) and hold that silver trophy at the GCNJ Annual Meeting in June!! We look forward to hearing from you and stand ready to help in any way we can!!

So start thinking of the great projects you are working on, check out the Awards list on the website, download the application and the rest is easy!!

Sandra Witkowski: sandyw43@comcast.net

Peggy Morrissey: peggymorrissey67@yahoo.com

Youth Co-Chairs Sandra Witkowski and Peggy Morrissey

Conditioning Plant Material-The Basics

Proper conditioning of fresh plant material is necessary when entering specimens in the Horticulture Division of a NGC Flower Show. It is also useful when using cut flowers or foliage for use in a floral design or when displaying flowers in your home.

Definition: It is a technique to prolong the freshness of cut plant material by increasing the quantity of water within the cell structure of the plant. It enables specimens to take up more water than they lose, improving substance and helping to maintain freshness. It is also referred to as "hardening". Proper conditioning will produce a turgid specimen that will remain fresh for a longer period of time.

Some General Conditioning tips:

- • Cut mature plant material. Immature stems will not condition well.
- • Cut in early morning or evening. Avoid cutting under mid-day sun.
- • Make sure container was properly cleaned before use. Use boiling water or a bleach solution to reduce unwanted bacteria.
- • Take the container with clean, tepid (90 -100°) water with you into the garden, plunge cut material immediately into water. Stems should be covered with water. Support flower heads.
- • Cut stem on a slant with a sharp, clean implement. Cut stem longer than required.
- • Remove unnecessary foliage. Consult the Flower Show schedule to determine what foliage is permitted. Generally, all foliage below the water line is to be removed, except for Gladiolus.
- • Most foliage (Hosta, Ferns) can be totally submerged for greater absorption.
- • In the house, gently wash away dirt and recut stems under water. Additional grooming can be done after the plant material is conditioned.
- • Keep container of plant material in a cool dark room, out of drafts for 12-24 hours.
- • No surface treatment is permitted on plant material exhibited in an NGC Flower Show.
- • When transporting plant material to the show ensure that each individual stem is well supported. Chicken wire, a floral tape grid or plastic film with holes cut applied over the top of the container will keep your exhibits separated and flower heads supported.
- • Stems may be recut underwater at the show when staging in container.



• All Horticulture entries and plant material grown by the exhibitor for use in floral designs will require conditioning. It is recommended that you try a “practice run” ahead of time as the tips above are not specific to all types of plant material. We all learn that it pays to plan ahead when entering Horticulture in a Flower Show. Please consult the resources below for more information and conditioning instructions for specific plants.

Resources:

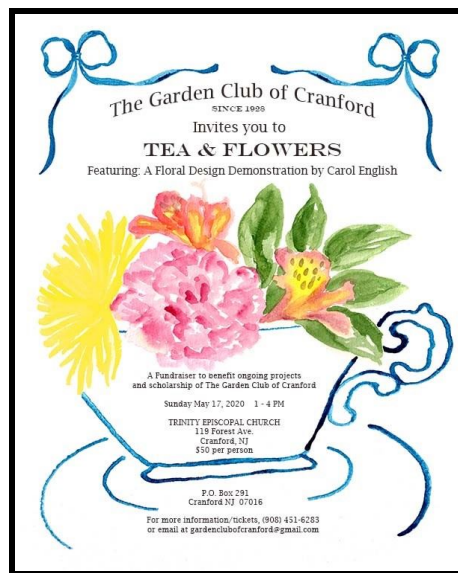
NGC Handbook for Flower Shows Available at NGC Website: <http://www.gardenclub.org/schools/flower-show-handbook.aspx>

Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging Available at NGC Website:
<http://www.shopgardenclub.org/shop/item.aspx?showalert=emailed&itemid=220>

GCNJ Conditioning of Flower and Foliage Available for \$7.00 from Shirley French gcnHorticultureChairHorticultureChairjinc@aol.com

Horticulture Chair, Alice Dickson

Advertisers



Friends of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum~Fall Programs



Distinguished Speaker Series:



MARGARET ROACH NONSTOP PLANTS: A GARDEN FOR 365 DAYS

Sunday, October 27
2 pm

Margaret Roach has worked for more than 25 years to make her garden a visual treat every day of the year. Meet the plants and the philosophy that make it happen, delivered with a dose of "horticultural know-how and woo-woo." Her new book, "A Way to Garden," will be available for signing.



BIBLICAL BOTANY WALKING TOUR (OCT 6, 2 PM)
Biologist and Bible Scholar Dr. Jon Greenberg shows us the Arboretum's plant collections through the lens of the Old Testament as we tour the gardens at their fall peak.

PRESSED BOTANICALS (OCT 12, 10 AM)
Botanical artist Beth Murphy demonstrates the process of pressing plant material and collage design, as you create a card or bookmark with materials from the instructor.

2ND ANNUAL TREE SYMPOSIUM (NOV 9, 10 AM)
Join Frank Goodhart, Adam Wheeler, Drs. Mike Aucott and Tom Molnar for an exciting series of talks on trees. Learn about the great tree men and women of America, the many botanical taxa of maples, bringing back the American Chestnut, and dogwood and hazelnut breeding at Rutgers. Bring a bag lunch. This program eligible for CEU's.



Mark your calendar.
Gingerbread Wonderland 2019
Dec. 6 through Dec. 15



Pre-registration suggested for all programs.
Visit arboretumfriends.org for details.

353 East Hanover Avenue • Morristown, NJ 07960
973.326.7603 Registration/Membership

enjoy the
experience
morris county park commission



AUGUST

August 26, 2019 GCNJ District IV and District V Meeting at Holly House at 10 am

SEPTEMBER

September 9, 2019

GCNJ Board Meeting at Holly House at 10 am to noon

September 11, 2019 The Garden Club of Fair Haven presents “Plant America” and NGC Specialty Flower Show from 1:00-3:00 pm at the Community Center on Fisk Street in Fair Haven. Open and free to the public.

September 13-14, 2019 Garden Club of Neshanic Flower Show "90 Years of Gardening": Friday, September 13, 1 pm - 7 pm, Saturday, September 14, 10 am - 3 pm-- Hillsborough Municipal Building, 279 South Branch River Road, Hillsborough NJ 08848 Cost: Free Admission/Donation- Contact Diana Reinhardt, 908-369-4362, greinhardt9@gmail.com or Jean Stives, 908-359-6480, mjstives50@comcast.net

September 23, 2019 GCNJ District I, II, III Meeting at Holly House at 10 am

September 24-25, 2019 Free two day Flower Show District Workshop at Holly House - 10 am to 2:30 pm - See article and registration in News Leaf

September 26, 2019 Youth Workshops & Awards Workshops at Holly House at 10 am to noon

September 27, 2019 Plant America & Paths to Discovery at Holly House at 11 am to 2 pm

OCTOBER

October 1, 2, 4 Gardening Study School (Course II, Series IX) at Holly House at 8 am to 5 pm

October 6, 2019 Frelinghuysen Arboretum: Biblical Botany Walking Tour-2 pm

October 7, 2019 GCNJ State Board Meeting at Holly House at 10 am-noon

October 10, 2019 Judges' Council at Holly House at 10 am to noon

October 12, 2019 Frelinghuysen Arboretum: Pressed Botanicals-10 am

October 14, 2019 GCNJ District VI & VII Meeting at Holly House at 10 am

October 18, 2019 GCNJ District VIII Meeting at Holly House at 10 am

October 24, 2019 Warren Garden Club Annual Fundraising Luncheon: 11 am Hawk Pointe Golf Club, RT.31 South, Washington NJ 07882 - Theme is “Flower Power” with Program by

Pattie Bierwirth, owner of Flowers by the River, Califon, NJ -Tickets: \$50 per person- Contact B. Smith to purchase tickets or for additional information, call 908-689-3744

October 24-25, 2019 CAR Conference in Arlington, VA

October 27, 2019 Frelinghuysen Arboretum: Nonstop Plants: A Garden for 365 Days with Margaret Roach at 2 pm

NOVEMBER

November 2, 2019 Vincentown Garden Club presents “Antiques and Artisans”, an antiques, vintage and handmade show to be held in Historic Vincentown Village on November 2 from 9 am to 3 pm. Shop for beautiful antiques and vintage items as well as handmade works and demonstrations by local artisans. Food and music. \$3.00 suggested donation at the door as this is a fundraiser for the club.

November 4, 2019 GCNJ Conference and Presidents Day at Bridgewater Marriott at 8 am-3 pm

November 9, 2019 Frelinghuysen Arboretum: Annual Tree Symposium-10 am

November 18, 2019 GCNJ State Board Meeting at Holly House at 10am to noon

May 17, 2020 The Garden Club of Cranford invites you to Tea & Flowers from 11-4 pm at the Trinity Episcopal Church, 119 Forest Avenue, Cranford. Price: \$50 per person. Call 908-451-6283 or email gardenclubofcranford@gmail.com.



"Paths to Discovery through Outdoor Learning Centers"

[Garden Club of New Jersey Facebook Page](#)