



Issue #3

January
2020

News Leaf

Garden Club of New Jersey

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Deadline for next issue is

April 1, 2020

President's Message

Spring, and there's magic in the air as we wait breathlessly for rebirth and renewal. We will greet old friends, both flora and fauna, with delight as they emerge from their winter slumber. The joy of anticipation, as we count the days to the emergence of the first snow drops, has us giddy as the days grow longer. Here's hoping you've rested up as we have a myriad of projects and educational opportunities awaiting us in 2020.

The Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc.'s Board has been hard at work over the last several months in preparation for hosting the National Garden Club's Convention at the East Rutherford Hilton at the Meadowlands on May 17 to May 20, 2021. We're eagerly anticipating the installation of our own former GCNJ President and current National Garden Clubs, Inc.'s 1st Vice President, Mary Warshauer, as National Garden Club President. Pat Wilson, member of Rake & Hoe Garden Club, is the 2021 NGC Convention Chair and her committee is planning to make this a lifetime memory for all our GCNJ garden club members and garden club visitors from across the United States and Central and South America.

To get an idea of what an exciting time this is for the GCNJ's member clubs, please take a look at the Winter, 2020 issue of *The National Gardener*, National Garden Club's quarterly publication, sent to all club presidents. You'll find multiple pages devoted to NGC's upcoming 91st Annual Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, giving you convention highlights including speakers, seminars, workshops, tours, registration and the tentative schedule. Wisconsin is the host state for this fabulous convention as New Jersey will be next year! All garden club members are welcome to attend both conventions and take an active role in ours. Meanwhile, we have a lot of work to do with showcasing the great projects, flower shows and educational programs that our clubs provide to our members and the public.

You will see a new GCNJ website emerge shortly as we are obtaining a professional website manager. The website will simplify search operations and will showcase our new and innovative projects including Tova's Florambunctious Blog, Members Services on the Home Page, and monthly updated information, eliminating outdated information and showcasing our GCNJ history as we enter our 95th year! Please keep us informed of your fabulous programs, SHARE with neighboring clubs and be an active member of The Garden Club of New Jersey.

Jeannie Geremia

GCNJ President

jgeremia42@gmail.com





ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 4, 2020

POLLINATORS ON PARADE

The Garden Club of New Jersey is in the planning stages of our upcoming Annual Meeting that will take place once again at the Bridgewater Marriott in Bridgewater, NJ. The schedule details are to follow.

The GCNJ is thrilled with the awards our clubs have received and they will be highlighted at the morning session which also includes our business meeting. There will be ample time for viewing our educational exhibits and visiting the boutiques. Many vendors from the 2019 Fall Conference are returning as so many positive reviews were received. Pollinators will once again be front and center, with many chances to participate in raffles, contests and more.

We are especially delighted with our afternoon program as we have secured the fabulous Mark Bryan, Floral and Landscape Designer Extraordinaire, as our speaker. Mark will satisfy both our horticulture and design focused members as he combines both in a dynamic program showcasing his passion of using native plants and flowers. Both are used creatively and practically in innovative ways. He will also be providing his audience with growing tips that he has employed on his over 6 acre garden in Bucks County, Pa.

Please reach out to me if you'd like to be on the committee or want to showcase a special club project. We welcome any ideas/suggestions you may have to make this a fun, informative day.

Jeannie Geremia
Annual Meeting Chair

GCNJ JUDGES CREDENTIALS

Garden clubs planning to stage a NGC Flower Show--either a Standard Flower Show, a Small Standard Flower Show, a Horticulture Specialty Flower Show or a Design Specialty Flower Show--are requested to contact this chairman for the names of judges needing a show for credit. This is especially important now due to the new judging and exhibiting requirements for all levels of judges. The 2017 Handbook for Flower Shows contains this information and Judges' Council chairman, Florence Leyssene, has emailed updates to all judges. Check Flower School School articles in The National Gardener as well.

Jane Bersch
Judges CredentialsChairman
janebersch@aol.com



The Frelinghuysen Arboretum Upcoming Programs



Great Speakers Series

Margaret Rieper
*Master Gardener &
 Garden with Me Series*

Tuesday, February 14 at 2 pm
 (free admission, free admission)

Margaret has authored 10+ books on making your garden a beautiful and healthy place. She will share her expertise and philosophy on garden design.



PAUL MEYER
*Botanical Ambassador to
 the Garden*

Tuesday, March 14 at 2 pm

Paul Meyer, recently retired Director of the Botanical Garden, will share his expertise on the history and current state of the garden.



Other Upcoming Events

Women in Landscape Architecture (WLA)
 This series of programs will focus on local landscape architecture firms, and feature speakers from the WLA, and others in the field.

Big Bear to the Sea: A Journey Through Time
 The Big Bear to the Sea is a journey through time, from the early days of the Big Bear to the present day.

Community Garden Committee (CGC)
 The CGC will be holding a series of workshops on garden design, including garden planning, garden design, and more.

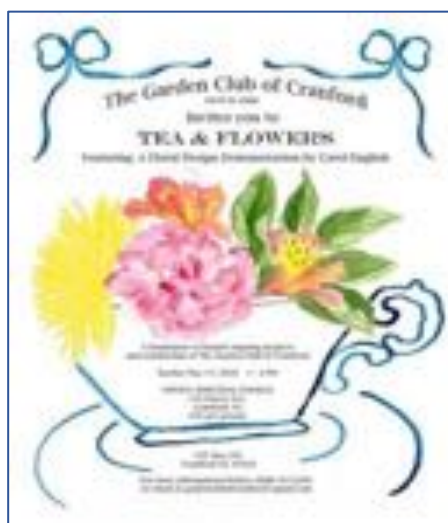
Join the Club

19th Annual Plant Sale
Saturday & Sunday
May 1 & 2
9 am - 4 pm



For more information, visit www.frel.org or contact:
 322 East Main Street, Cranford, NJ 07016
 973.261.1100, Registration@frel.org

**Enjoy the
 Experience**
www.frel.org



UPCOMING Events

January 21, 2020 Judges Council at Holly House at 10 AM – noon

January 27, 2020 GCNJ State Board Meeting at Holly House at 10 AM – noon. Snow Date is February 3, 2020.

February 15, 2020 Margaret Roach speaks on “Nonstop Plants: A Garden for 365 Days” at 2 PM at Frelinghuysen Arboretum. Visit arboretumfriends.org for details and see ad.

February 17, 2020 GCNJ Board Meeting at 10 AM—noon at Holly House

February 29 -March 8, 2020 The Pennsylvania Flower Show will be held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia, PA. Tickets at the door: \$48. Mon., Tues., & Wed. from 3PM to closing are the best times to attend.

March 9, 2020 GCNJ Board Meeting at Holly House at 10 AM—noon. Snow Date is March 16.

March 10, 11, 2020 Landscape Design School, Course II, at Holly House--More information on GCNJ website.

March 11-15, 2020 The Boston Flower Show will take place at the Seaport World Trade Center in Boston, MA. Cost: \$22. For more information, go to <http://bostonflowershow.com>.

March 27-29, 2020 The Capital District Garden & Flower Show will be held at Hudson Valley Community College, Troy, NY. Tickets are \$12 before March 26 & \$14 at the door. Go to <http://gardenandflowershow.com/> for more information.

March 28, 2020 Paul Meyer speaks on “Bontanical Adventures in Kazakhstan” at 1 PM at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. See ad.

March 30, 2020 GCNJ IV & V District Meeting at Holly House at 10 AM

April 6, 2020 GCNJ District VI & VII meeting at Medford Leas, Medford, NJ at 10 AM

April 8, 2020 Judges’ Council Meeting at Holly House from 10 AM -- noon

April 15, 2020 GCNJ District VIII meeting at 10 AM (hosted by Fairways Garden Club)

April 20, 2020 GCNJ State Board Meeting at Holly House at 10 AM—noon

April 22, 2020 Riverview Garden Club & The Pines Lake Garden Club invite you to the Beefsteak and Tricky Tray Fundraiser at The Brownstone, 351 West Broadway, Paterson, NJ at 6--10 PM. Cost: \$55. Contact Linda Wescott at 973-694-1098 or lwescott6@gmail.com.

April 22, 2020 District I, II and III Meeting
More information will be given.

April 25, 2020 Spring Plant Sale at Leonard Buck Garden, 11 Layton Road, Far Hills, NJ on Saturday at 10 AM-5 PM and Sunday at noon - 5 PM. Visit www.somersetcountyparks.org or call 908-234-2677 for more information and see ad in this issue.



April 25, 2020 Districts IV and V Flower Show will be held at Shady Rest Country Club, 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, NJ. See article.

May 2, 2020 Master Gardeners of Ocean County will hold their Annual Plant Sale from 9 AM-1 PM at the Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Ocean County, 1623 Whitesville Road (Rt. 527) & Sunset Ave., Toms River, NJ. For more information, call Sue Masoorli at 732-349-1245 or pncnurse@aol.com.

May 6, 7, 8, 2020 Flower Show School, Course III, at Holly House--Cathy Felton, Horticulture Instructor: Studying Tulips and Lilacs and Julia Clevett, Design Instructor: Studying Design Types. Registrar: Contact Carol English at overbrook@comcast.net. Check GCNJ website, <https://gardenclubofnewjersey.com/flower-show-school/> and this issue's ad, as well, for information.

May 8-9 The Garden Club R.F.D. will hold their Annual Plant Sale at 10 AM-6 PM on Friday and at 9 AM-3 PM on Saturday in Middletown, NJ. Annuals, Perennials, Baskets, Vegetables, Herbs and Home Grown Potted Perennials will be available. Contact Colleen Muldowney at 5colleenm0@gmail.com for more information.

May 12-16, 2020 National Garden Clubs, Inc. will hold its 91st Annual Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Visit <https://www.gardenclub.org> and The National Gardener, Winter, 2020 edition, for more information.

May 17, 2020 The Garden Club of Cranford invites you to Tea & Flowers from 1- 4 PM at the Trinity Episcopal Church, 119 Forest Avenue, Cranford.

Price: \$50 per person. Call 908-451-6283 or email gardenclubofcranford@gmail.com for more information.

May 29-30, 2020 West Trenton Garden Club is holding a Standard Flower Show called "Spring Time in Paris" at Sypek Center, Mercer County Technical School, 129 Bull Run Road, Pennington, NJ on Friday at 1- 4 PM and Saturday at 10 AM - 4 PM. Contact Pat Bowker at 609-506-7575 or kellysaunt@gmail.com.

June 4, 2020 GCNJ will hold its 95th Annual Meeting at the Bridgewater Marriott, 700 Commons Way, Bridgewater, NJ. See article.

June 18, 2020 Seaweeders Garden Club of Bay Head & Mantoloking will hold a Garden Tour called "Gardens by the Sea" at 10 AM-3 PM, at the Bay Head Yacht Club, 111 Metcalf Street, Bay Head, NJ, where they will be given their program and lunch ticket. Visit nine gardens. Cost: \$65 (includes lunch and gardens). Call 732-714-6772 or email pdwitt@gmail.com with any questions.

June 20, 2020 Garden Club of Long Valley will hold a day-long "Hats Off" Garden Tour with multiple locations in Long Valley, NJ. 10 AM- 3 PM Cost: \$40.00 Contact Maria Birch by email at birch47@gmail.com for more information.

September 11, 12, 2020 District VIII Flower Show will be held at the Shrewsbury Presbyterian Church, 352 Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, NJ. Watch for further details.





**Spring Plant Sale at
Leonard Buck Garden**
AN EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, April 25th
10am - 5pm

11 Layton Rd
Far Hills, NJ

Sunday, April 26th
12pm - 5pm

Enhance your garden with spectacular new plant treasures and join us in celebrating Earth Day. The plant sale will feature many choice selections of perennials, ferns, alpine and woody plants, as well as troughs.

*Free guided tours of
Buck Garden*

*Lectures by Rutgers
Master Gardeners of Somerset*

Co-sponsored by the Wasing Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society and Somerset County Park Commission's Leonard J. Buck Garden.
Please visit www.somersetcountyparks.org or call (908) 234 - 2677 for more information.



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR DISTRICT FLOWER SHOWS



“Let’s Go..” to the inaugural GCNJ District Flower Show!

The opening event of the GCNJ District Flower Shows will be presented by Districts IV and V. The committee has a wonderful, whimsical day planned that will be accessible to all talents or experience levels in our clubs. For many participants and spectators alike, it may be their first time participating in a National Garden Club Standard Flower Show, and the friendly and informative atmosphere is the perfect spark to light curiosity in horticulture, design, botanical arts and equally importantly -- what garden clubs do and how potential members can contribute.

The theme of “LET’S GO..” will transport us through the fields of Holland, Buck Gardens, conservatories and green spaces in Horticulture. Design will have us dining in Chinatown, Little Italy, or a secret garden, while the Petite Design Section will shrink the fun of a big circus to little doses of colorful joy. Our Designer’s Choice Award isn’t to be missed as we share our visions of Paris, Hawaii and the magic of Disney. Artistic crafts and photography will be on exhibit as well, and with quite a few youth sections participating, your support is very welcome to encourage and appreciate the work of our youngest members.

It’s the perfect opportunity to visit and get inspiration for your region’s show. The venue has ample parking just in front, and many local towns (Westfield, Cranford, etc) have a great

selection of restaurants and shopping so you can enjoy the day. For those participating in the event, or preparing your own, may we remind you of the following resources, as well as Horticulture Chair Alice Dickson’s article on Conditioning in the Fall 2019 edition of NewsLeaf.

**District IV and District V
present
“LET’S GO..”
Saturday, April 25, 2020
12:30pm – 4:00pm
Shady Rest Country Club
430 Park Avenue
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076
Open and Free to the Public
Donations Greatly Appreciated**

Resources:

NGC Handbook for Flower Shows Available at NGC Website:

<http://www.gardenclub.org/schools/flowershow-handbook.aspx>

Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging Available at NGC Website:

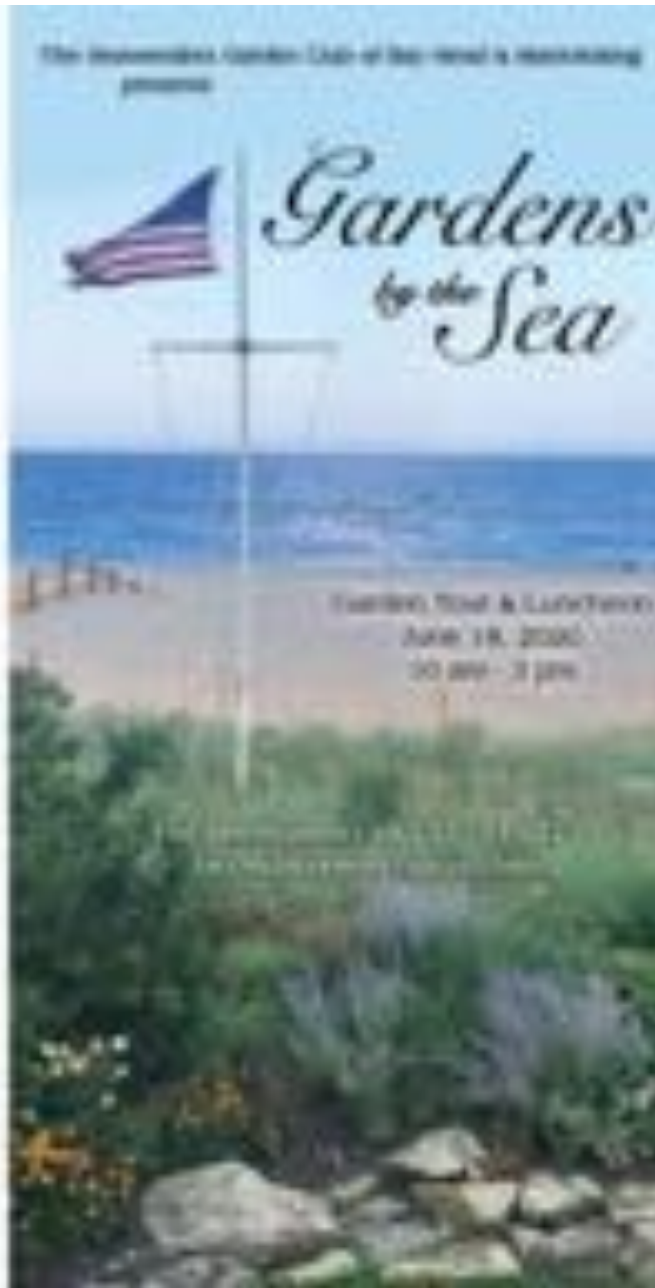
<http://www.shopgardenclub.org/shop/item.aspx?showalert=emailed&itemid=220>

GCNJ Conditioning of Flower and Foliage Available for \$7.00 from Shirley French at Holly House Headquarters.

<https://gardenclubofnewjersey.com/club-service-s-and-products/>



Paths to Discovery Through Outdoor Learning Centers



Can you believe that we are already in 2020?

At the time of this publication, our wreath fundraiser has come to a close and we wish to sincerely thank everyone that supported us, came out to bow and hang the wreaths before an ice storm and contributed to this worthy cause. To date, we have raised over \$5,000!

In the next News Leaf, we will give you the final results. You will have the list of garden clubs that donated and GCNJ will acknowledge everyone that has been honored or remembered by a loved one. We will not list all the individual donators. However, remember that while the wreath fundraiser has concluded, it is never too late to donate to Paths to Discovery! Your donations are tax exempt, as long as you itemize. If you specifically requested that your donation was to go towards a garden, your request will be honored.

The plans to improve the gardens, develop outdoor learning centers, and add sculptures to excite and engage visitors, are extensive and we are only beginning. Please reach out to Pat Wilson and myself to visit your clubs to describe the plans and present the Paths to Discovery project. Please consider how your club can assist in these efforts and let us know. We also would appreciate the chance to talk with your club about how it can do its own Paths to Discovery project.

In the meantime, there are other ways that you and your club can contribute. We are looking for sponsors to assist with the sculpture costs: Do you know of a company or group that we could approach? Does your corporation offer matching donations? Would you be willing to contribute towards a particular sculpture? Do you know of a local sculptor? We are open to possibilities and ideas, so please talk with us. Our phone numbers and emails are at the end of this article.



Now, what's next in the work program?

The team chairs--Barbara Mullin, Vivian Morrison, Carole Iuso and Onnolee Allieri are spending these cold months working out their plans for each garden improvement and budget. These plans will then be presented to the Committee who, after examination and discussion, will present them to the GCNJ Board. We're sure that this will result in outdoor learning centers that will be just perfect for their areas and the newly added sculptures will be highlighted. They will be proud additions to Rutgers Gardens.

With your help, we can make this happen!

Teddie Falcone

908-883-0908

tfalcone@comcast.net

Pat Wilson

908-377-5713

patjohnwilsojn@hotmail.com

Chairs of Paths to Discovery



PLANT, PRESERVE AND PROTECT TREES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

In 2019, the GCNJ's Environmental Committee began a series of articles in News Leaf on the importance of trees. In this issue, we continue to encourage members to plant native trees in their communities. The National Garden Club is also promoting the effort through their *Plant America with Trees* Program.

Gardeners should be aware of the best options for any new landscaping project. Below are issues to consider when selecting and planting trees.

Plant Native Trees: Native plants are best adapted to a region's climate, soil conditions and indigenous insects and wildlife. This means they are more likely to thrive with minimal attention (less water, fertilizer, chemicals and maintenance) thus producing healthier trees with less strain on the environment.

Plant Trees Grown from Local Stock: Be sure to select native trees from locally grown nursery stock for greater success and longevity. Species of trees that are native to New Jersey but grown and distributed by nurseries located in southern states are less likely to thrive when planted in our region because the root stock has acclimated to conditions in the south.

Plant a Variety of Trees: Planting various species will protect against one particular disease or pest damaging all your trees. Using a variety of trees means resistance to a singular threat so that not all plantings perish. Often, the lack of diversity in a monoculture system leads to extensive loss. Planting various genera promotes the healthy functions nature takes to protect soil and plants. Also, planting a variety of trees will add more interest to the garden.

Plant Trees in Well Drained Soil: In New Jersey, most trees do not benefit from drought or extremely dry soil. Likewise, trees that prefer moisture tend not to thrive if their roots sit in water for extended periods of time. Well-drained soil offers the best setting for a polyculture of native trees.



Plant Trees 10 Feet from Paved Surfaces:

Avoid planting trees close to roads, driveways, sidewalks, parking lots and buildings. During winter storms, a large setback prevents potential damage from snow, ice and road salt due to snow shovels and plows clearing nearby surfaces. Additionally, artificial surfaces do not allow water to absorb into the soil, causing run-off away from plants and leading to dehydration. Lastly, tree roots confined by pavement are detrimental to the health of the tree and can crack or damage paved structures.

Beverly Kazickas,
Environmental Chair
kazickas55@aol.com

Sources: Cornell Cooperative Extension and North Shore Land Alliance

New Jersey State Tree: Northern Red Oak



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL

Course III
The Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc.
Holly House
130 Ryders Lane, East Brunswick, NJ
May 6-7. Optional Exam May 8, 2020

Go to the Garden Club of New Jersey Website for further information and to obtain a registration form:
<https://gardenclubofnewjersey.com/flower-show-school/>

Gail Barvelling, Chairman
gbarvelling@aol.com

Carol English, Registrar
carolenglish@comcast.net



AWARDS CORNER



The stockings are empty, the decorations packed away, the resolutions are still fresh...and it's time to think about GCNJ AWARDS!!

First, let's congratulate the 59 clubs who submitted Yearbooks for review this

past Fall. The projects, creativity, graphic design, gorgeous covers were just amazing!!! Kudos to all!!! Additionally, we have four outstanding submissions for consideration of receiving a National Garden Club Award. Again, the creativity, community collaboration and involvement is so energizing. GCNJ is rocking with so many worthwhile endeavors that encourage and nurture a love of gardening and protecting our precious environment!!

Now, please note some important upcoming dates:

JANUARY 25, 2020:

All submissions for the Publicity Press Book Award are due January 25, 2020. Please forward them to me, Peggy Morrissey, 142 Osborne Avenue, Bay Head, NJ, 08742. Requirements for submissions are found on pages 5 and 6 of the GCNJ Awards Booklet located on the GCNJ website, under Awards. The Publicity Press Book year is January 1, 2019-December 31, 2019. The GCNJ Award for a Publicity Press Book (The Westfield Garden Club Trophy, # 67) requires completing a GCNJ Award application found on the GCNJ website.

Additionally, your Press Book may also qualify for a CAR award. The CAR-SGC website outlines the requirements for Regional Award consideration. Please check under Members, using the password "FLOWERR" for relevant information.

Important note: if your club has won a CAR-SGC award for your Publicity Press Book last year you may not submit an application for the award for this year. This award is not available two years in a row.

FEBRUARY 15, 2020:

All submissions for GCNJ Awards are due February 15, 2020 and should be sent to me at the above mentioned address. The individual awards, application and protocol for completing the application are also found on the GCNJ website under Awards. Club Presidents, please look for a note from me regarding more specifics and tips about the Awards

process that you can pass along to your Awards Chairs. Importantly, each award requires its own application form and narrative. The awards year includes projects accomplished from February 1, 2019-January 31, 2020.

GCNJ Flower Show Achievement Awards are available for application to garden clubs that have had a Standard Flower Show which has been evaluated and scored a 95 or above. A "Request for Flower Show Evaluation" form can be found on the GCNJ website and sent to Cecelia Millea, GCNJ Flower Show Evaluation Chair. Cecelia's email is cmillea@msn.com.

Nothing is more fun, rewarding and motivating than having the hard work and creativity of your club's projects being recognized and celebrated at the Annual June Meeting. It's even better than shopping at the boutiques!!

Happiest New Year Blessings to all!

Peggy Morrissey
GCNJ Awards Chair
peggymorrissey67@yahoo.com



CRAWFORD'S CORNER

Treetop to Tabletop Cactus

The cold temperatures of winter often redirect a gardener's focus indoors as extended outdoor activities are often less than pleasurable. Aside from seed catalogues, it is also time to enhance our collection of houseplants. One family of plants that I typically avoid for indoor display is the cactus family; their threatening spines and rather stark, arid appearance does not create the welcoming and lush feeling I personally desire from houseplants. To my surprise, one of the more curious houseplants that I enjoy also happens to be a cactus! Perhaps, this is also the reason why the true identity of the genus *Rhipsalis*, a cactus found growing throughout the tropical forests in the Caribbean and Central and South America, was so elusive!

The Cactaceae or cactus family is characterized by leaves that are highly reduced or very often absent, with the stems containing openings for carbon dioxide and oxygen exchange that supports photosynthesis. Interestingly, not all cacti exist in arid environments. About 10% of the world cactus population reside in treetops or rock outcrops throughout tropical and very humid regions of the world. This is home to the 36 species of *Rhipsalis*, commonly known as Mistletoe Cactus, which embody all the characteristics of cactus while being a dramatic and user friendly houseplant!

Rhipsalis was first described in 1788 by the German botanist Joseph Gaertner (1732-1791). The name is derived from the Greek *Rhips* or *Rhipos* meaning wickerwork, willow branch or young twig and refers to the flexibility of the branches. The branches are circular in cross-section and are lacking of foliage. The stems initially grow upwards when the plant is young, but rapidly become pendant, extending downward from one to several feet (**as seen in the image at the top of the next column of *Rhipsalis piliocarpa***). It is the cascading branches and its treetop habit that allows the

plants to bare a resemblance to the parasitic Mistle-



toe Plant, and giving rise to its common name. Each branch divides several times at its tip, yielding a mass of intertwining stems. Of the species available, the

afore mentioned *Rhipsalis piliocarpa* is a very attractive species for the home that is native to Southeastern Brazil. It was originally named *Erythrorhipsalis piliocarpa* in 1903 by Johan Albert Constantine Löfgren (1854-1908), a Swedish born Brazilian botanist who chaired the botany department at the Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden. It was properly named in 1920 by Alwin Berger (1871-1931) who specialized in the study of Agave and Cacti. Unique to this species are the numerous hairs sprouting from the green and burgundy colored stems. Cactus plants have areoles or raised 'growths' along the stems, from which their spines typically arise.



For this species, the areoles produce small hairs, giving the plant a very soft, fuzzy appearance. To further enhance its ornamental merits, a bountiful display of flowers extend from December

into January, with the flowers appearing at both the tips of the stems as well as points along the stems (**as pictured above**).



The flowers are lightly fragrant and typically 1 - 1 ¼" in diameter. The ½" long 'petals' actually consist of an outer ring of 5-6 modified leaves called bracts and an inner ring of 10-15 true petals. Since both appear identical, they are termed tepals. They are translucent white in color with a red base, and a blush of red towards the tips. At the center of the flower, a multitude of airy white male anthers appear, through the center of which the female style penetrates. The tip of the style splits into 4-8 radially arranged stigmas, looking much like a miniature flower! The job of the stigma is to receive pollen. The flowers are followed by red berries that also sport hairs and inspired the name for the species, since *pilos* is Latin for hair and *carpa* for fruit!

Another species that was very effectively used in hanging baskets at Longwood Gardens is *Rhipsalis baccifera* (**pictured on the right**). Originally described as *Cassytha baccifera* in 1771 by the Swedish botanist Daniel Carlsson Solander (1733-1782), it was not until 1939 with William Thomas Stern (1911-2001), a self-taught botanist and author of over 400 plants, correctly named the plant. It has a much coarser texture than the previous species with a more diminutive ¼" diameter flowers that appear later in the winter. The white fruits that follow are also near ¼" in diameter and just as above, served as the source of the species name since *Bacci* or *Bacca* is Latin for bearing berries.

Another very similar genus, both in appearance, habitat and name is *Pseudorhipsalis*! Commonly called Red Mistletoe Cactus, this genus is also a member of the cactus family and features 6 species. It grows in the treetops or occasionally cliffs throughout tropical forests in Central and South America. The genus name was penned collaboratively by Nathaniel Lord Britton (1859-1934), who was initially a geology and botany professor at Columbia University in New York and Joseph Nelson Rose (1862-1928), an authority on cactus who worked at the Smithsonian. In 1923, they published the 4th and final volume of their treatise named *The Cactaceae* where they officially named and described this genus.

As an interesting aside, Britton was also a member of the Torrey Botanical Society where he met his wife to be, Elizabeth Gertrude Knight, a specialist in non-vascular terrestrial plants called Bryophytes. During



their honeymoon in 1885, they visited Kew Gardens in England and upon returning, Elizabeth suggested the creation of a new public garden in New York City. They both championed the cause and through the help of 49 incorporators, including Cornelius Vanderbilt, John D. Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie, New York Botanic Garden began with Britton serving as the first Director from 1895-1929!

Pseudorhipsalis ramulosa (**pictured below**) is an attractive and readily available species, which undoubtedly has major insecurity issues over its name



– it has been renamed 16 times since 1834, with the final name authored in 1991 by the German botanist Wilhelm Barthlott! The species epithet is from the Latin *ramulosus* meaning many branches, and many branches it has!



Similar to *Rhipsalis*, the branch segments divide readily at their tips to produce a bevy of cascading stems. Unlike *Rhipsalis*, the stems are flattened or ribbon-like. If grown in bright light or in the sun, the stems will turn from green to a very attractive maroon-red, giving rise to its common name! The ¼” diameter greenish-white flowers appear along the edges of the stems and, although plentiful are rather inconspicuous. It is the ample, ¼” diameter white fruits (**pictured on the right**) that follow that are very ornamental, especially when paired against the deep red stems.

Culturally, both plants will grow well in an east facing window. *Rhipsalis* stems will scorch in full sun, while those of *Pseudorhipsalis* typically turn to a deep maroon, although they too can scorch in hot, afternoon sun. The plants will survive in a north window as well, but without some direct sunlight, they are less likely to flower. The soils should mimic their natural highly organic and well-drained duff that accumulates in the crotches of trees in the tropics where they typically grow. Conventional peat or compost based potting media is the ideal potting soil. *Rhipsalis* can and should dry out thoroughly between watering, although setting the containers on a bed of water filled pebbles will help raise the much needed humidity levels. *Pseudorhipsalis* enjoys the soil remaining slightly more moist than its cousin and resents having thoroughly dried out soil.

The interesting green or dusky maroon-red cascading stems of Mistletoe Cactus provides a wonderful touch of the tropics to the winter homestead as well as the shady garden come summer. Far from resembling the typical cactus, these easily maintained, long lived and very dramatic cactus should no longer remain a treetop mystery, but rather a table top tradition!



Bruce Crawford
Director of Rutgers Gardens



**VISIT RUTGERS GARDENS AND
SEE THE PROGRESS GCNJ
WILL BE MAKING.**



Natural Disasters Fund

What is the Natural Disasters Fund?

The Natural Disasters Fund assists local and state garden clubs to replant parks, municipal gardens and other garden-related sites that suffered from natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, ice storms, tornadoes and wildfires. The grants are awarded for restoration efforts, however, not toward professional fees.

How can it help my garden club carry out the goals of the National Garden Club?

One of the goals of the NGC is to promote civic beauty. Restoring public spaces after a natural disaster is one way to carry out this goal.

Are the Natural Disasters Funds available just from the State or from National?

Grants up to \$500 can be awarded to individual clubs by their state garden club for restoration after natural disasters. Grants up to \$5,000 can be awarded to individual clubs by the NGC. Only one grant can be awarded, either from the State or National.

How do I apply for a grant?

State grants: Go to

<https://www.gardenclubofnewjersey.com>. Find "Club Projects" on green bar. Scroll down to "National Disasters Fund Application" and click to open it. Click on "Click Here" to get the application. *There is a sample application to the right.

National Garden Club grants: Go to

www.gardenclub.org. Click on "Projects", scroll down and click on "Grants", scroll down and click on "Natural Disasters". Scroll to bottom of article to "Apply for Funds" and click here for "Application Form". On either application, please include the location of the area and nature and severity of the disaster. A photo of the area will help in the determination of the grant amount to be awarded.

How can my club donate to the Natural Disasters Fund?

A dedicated jar can be used to collect money at meetings. Another way is for your club to pass a resolution to send a donation. Or a line can be added to the budget that indicates an annual amount for the Fund. Then the club treasurer sends a check for the donation to the Natural Disasters Fund State Chairman. For a specific relief, write that on the check memo line. Make check payable to: Garden Club of New Jersey with GCNJ NDF on memo line.

Margaret Smith

dean.l.smith@att.net

Margaret Esposito

Mmesposito@yahoo.com

Co Chairs of Natural Disasters Fund

*GARDEN CLUB OF NEW JERSEY NATURAL DISASTERS FUND APPLICATION:

A garden club or clubs may apply for funds to help replant, restore and beauty a public area(s) that has been damaged or destroyed by a natural disaster such as hurricanes, tornadoes, ice storms, floods, fires etc. The restoration project is to be sponsored by your club members. The maximum you may receive is \$500 per disaster.

Information needed to apply: • Application form • Nature and severity of disaster • Location of area to be restored • Proposed restoration by garden club • Estimated itemized costs • Pictures of both before and after Application

Date: _____

Disaster _____

Date: _____

Applicant _____

Name _____

Address: (city, state,zip): _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Judging is based on following points:

- Emphasis on live plant material 45
- Scope of project 40
- Scope in relation to number of members 5
- Networking with other groups in project 5
- Completed application form 5
- Total 100

Send Form to: Margaret Smith 295 Chattin Court Mountainside, NJ 07092





5th Annual Home Garden Symposium

Presented by the Bergen Master Gardeners of Monmouth County



Saturday, March 28, 2020

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Rutgers Cooperative Extension
Monmouth County Agriculture Building
4000 Koshoski Road, Freehold, NJ 07728**

Schedule of the day (subject to change)

- | | |
|---|---|
| • 8:00 Doors open & sign-in/breakfast refreshments/visit exhibit tables | • 11:45 Lunch (bring your own)/visit exhibit tables |
| • 9:00 Welcome and opening remarks | • 12:45 Not Tonight My Dear: Plants That Don't Do's Like in Eat |
| • 9:15 Soil Health for the Home Garden | • 2:00 Meet the Pollinators and How Their Paradise |
| • 10:00 Break/visit exhibit tables | • 3:00 Free door-prize table |
| • 10:15 Let's Talk Tomatoes: Be Inspired to Try Something New | |

And don't miss:

- Spring nurseries and related demonstrations
- Exhibits about the Invasive Species Laboratory, Warminghills, and Worm Composting
- Plant Hospital - bring in samples of your plant problems
- Master Gardeners will be available all day to answer your gardening questions

Pre-registration is required via our online registration form:

<https://www.monmouthcountynj.gov/5thAnnualHomeGardenSymposium>

**\$20 registration fee per person with checks payable to BMG/AMC.
Mail checks attention to "MG Symposium" to the address shown above.
Registration and payment deadline is March 26, 2020**

**Register early while seats are still available!
Your seat is not guaranteed until we receive your payment**

Questions?

Email mgquestions@gmail.com
Phone 732-383-7624



LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL

SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 10th & MARCH 11th 2020

COURSE III

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION VISIT THE GARDEN CLUB OF NEW JERSEY'S WEBSITE



***Information for the next
issue:***

***April 1 is the deadline for
articles for the Summer News
Leaf as well as listings of
upcoming club events and
online ads.***



Send articles and club listings
to Ruth Korn at

ruthkorn77@gmail.com



Go to

[https://www.gardenclubof
newjersey.com](https://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 about
advertising.



See you in April!