



Garden Club of New Jersey News Leaf



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President's Message

Dear Garden Club of New Jersey Members,

We are poised to bid 2020 adieu, a seminal year in The Garden Club of New Jersey's history, as we were confronted with ongoing challenges including a global pandemic that upended our lives, leaving a permanent imprint on us and the world.

The Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc. and our 100+ garden clubs met the challenge with optimism and determination to keep our garden club members and the public engaged and informed. I am so proud of your resilience and your adjustments to stay in touch by embracing new methods of communication that turned out in many cases to be a good way to conduct meetings, conventions, and workshops. This may be so even when the pandemic fear is eliminated.

If your club hasn't gotten onboard via Virtual Zoom meetings, please give it a try as you'll find many benefits including better attendance, no travel (saving time, money and pollution, not to mention safety) and sharing of resources. Check out the latest issue of our parent organization, National Garden Clubs Inc.'s Keeping In Touch newsletter, to see a wealth of information regarding NGC schools available to you, or attend a Zoom training program and read "Virtual Meeting Guidelines."

Take the plunge, as we can utilize "Hybrid" meetings in the future where we would have a combination of in person plus virtual meetings, workshops, conferences, and conventions. GCNJ President Elect Cecelia Millea and I are working on next June 10, 2021's GCNJ Annual Meeting with the goal of conducting it in an outdoor location with perhaps 180 in person attendees plus another 200 or so via Zoom.

Sadly our NGC Convention, to be held in NJ, was cancelled due to the pandemic, but GCNJ's own Mary Warshauer will be inducted as scheduled as NGC's President and Mary is slated to install Cecelia Millea as GCNJ President so we can honor both, with an extraordinary extravaganza! More to come in the near future.

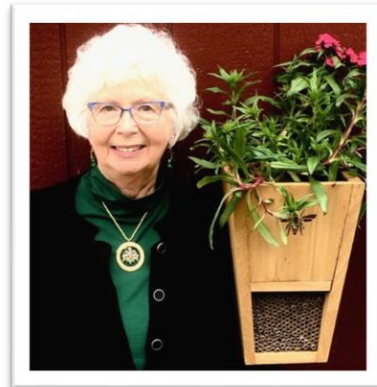
Congratulations to all our clubs for the volunteer work you do even under challenging circumstances that have limited your ability to fundraise. Your ingenuity is inspiring. The GCNJ is so proud of all of you and would especially like to acknowledge Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield as they continually lead the way as shining examples of grit and determination in carrying on their multiple community service projects as illuminated by just two so beautifully featured in NGC's Keeping In Touch. Please read "Helping Hands" by Joe Da Rold on page 10 and "Books of Support" on page 13! Not to be missed is "Wetland Pollinators" by Arabella Dane with the link to "Where Do Native Bees Go in Winter?" provided at the bottom of page 12 (a must read), and "ENVIRO TIPS".

The main message for all our GCNJ members and the public, is to embrace "messy gardening". If we want to grow our pollinator population, then think about not cleaning up your yard and garden, since this has been proven to be lethal to our pollinators including birds, bees, butterflies, and beneficial insects--do some reading instead of weeding!

May you have a blessed and safe holiday season!

Onward and Upward!

Jeannie Geremia,
GCNJ President
igeremia42@gmail.com



Nominating Committee Business



As per required, the Nominating Committee is pursuing the selection of candidates for the following positions.

ARTICLE XIII – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 6. The **First Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, four District Directors** of uneven numbered Districts and **four members of the Nominating Committee** from uneven numbered Districts shall be elected in uneven numbered years.

If anyone would like to be considered for any of these positions please contact Diana Kazazis at diana.kazazis@gmail.com, as soon as possible.

GCNJ ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Actions and Announcements

The Garden Club of New Jersey's Environmental Committee is pleased to announce that the GCNJ Board of Directors has voted and adopted the following Conservation Pledge. With the new pledge, GCNJ has useful guidelines as we all work together towards a better tomorrow. (Up to now, we have relied on The National Garden Club's Conservation Pledge to guide us in our environmental efforts.)



GCNJ Conservation Pledge

The Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc., pledges to protect and preserve the natural resources of Planet Earth through conservation awareness, education and advocacy so that our members may become responsible caretakers (stewards) of the environment, providing resources to conserve, restore and cherish the quality of our air, water, forest, land and wildlife for present and future generations.

Adopted - October 12, 2020

GCNJ Board of Directors

New Brunswick, New Jersey

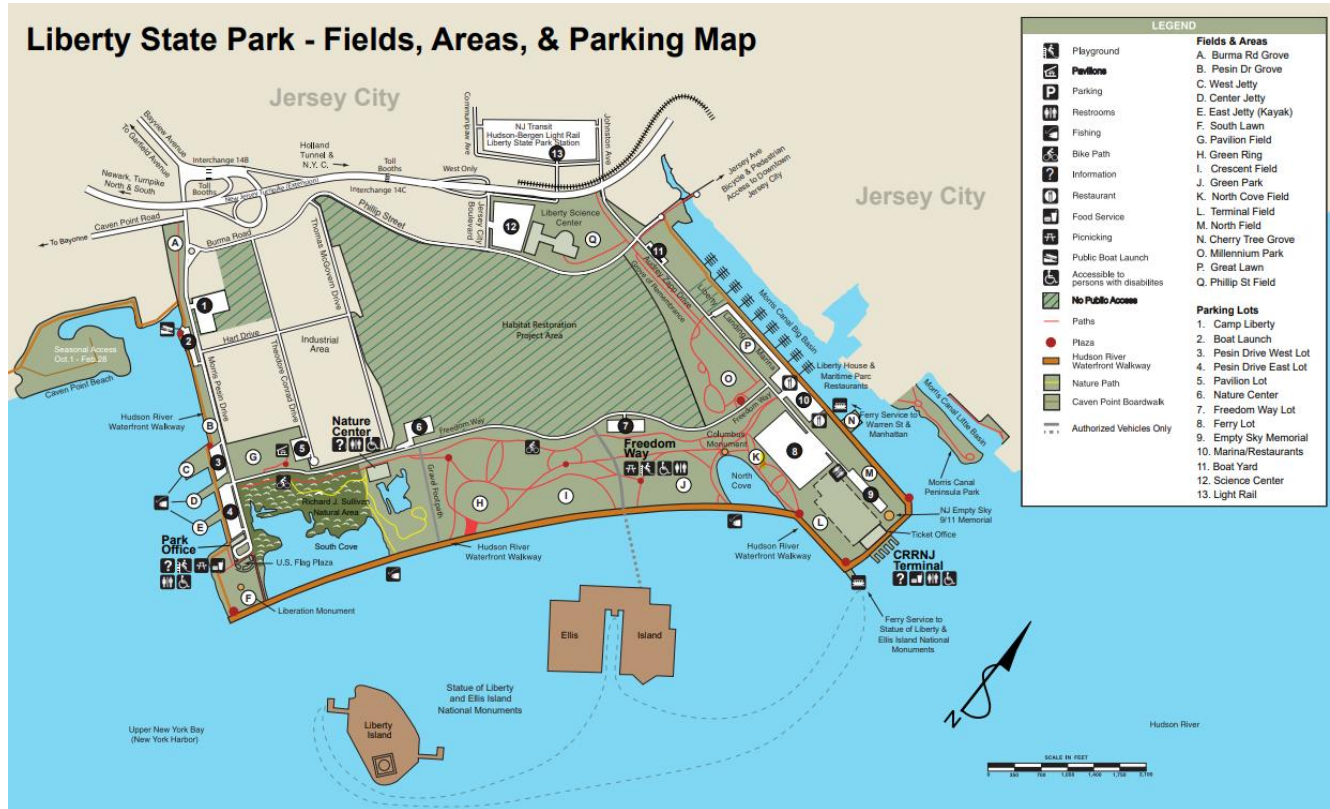
GCNJ & Our Environmental Partners

What is the definition of a partner? According to the Oxford Dictionary, it means "to be involved in a project with another person or group" in order to achieve likeminded goals. Such is the case in The Garden Club of New Jersey teaming up with the two 501c3 non-profit organizations listed below.

We are working with these respected conservation groups to preserve the environmentally sensitive sites known as Liberty State Park and Caven Point Bird Sanctuary. The GCNJ's new Conservation Pledge encourages member involvement through "awareness, education and advocacy" so that we protect "our air, water, forest, land and wildlife for present and future generations" ... Please visit the GCNJ's website to learn more about the Environmental Committee and their latest conservation alerts.

The Friends of Liberty State Park

The Friends of Liberty State Park (LSP) is an all-volunteer, 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to protecting, improving, and beautifying Liberty State Park (LSP). Established in 1988, this committed group of volunteers has been fighting attempts to privatize and commercialize LSP and Caven Point for the past 30 years. Most recently, they are working towards passage of the Liberty State Park Protection Act (Senate Bill S1449 and Assembly Bill A2189), legislation that would protect the park from private and commercial development.



Aerial Map of Liberty State Park and Caven Point Bird Sanctuary

This magnificent state park was gifted to the nation to celebrate our bicentennial in 1976. Liberty State Park is considered a worldwide destination as it looks out to the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, and the Manhattan skyline. Located on New York Harbor, this beautiful landmark is recognized for its historical, cultural, and environmental importance as well as a key migratory route along the Atlantic Flyway for countless bird, butterfly, and wildlife species. To learn more about the Friends of Liberty State Park and their efforts to preserve LSP for future generations, visit their website at www.folsp.org.

Scenic America

Scenic America is the only national 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated solely to preserving and enhancing the visual character of America's communities and countryside. In working to protect scenic conservation, they promote tree conservation, advocate for roadways lined with native plants and wildflowers, preserve open spaces, and protect environmentally important sites.

Scenic America has signed on to protect New Jersey's Liberty State Park from private and commercial development. On behalf of The Garden Club of New Jersey and Friends of Liberty State Park, we are thrilled to have Scenic America join us along with 92+ non-profits and other organizations in the coalition to pass the Liberty State Park Protection Act and Save Caven Point. To learn more about Scenic America and their conservation efforts, visit their website at www.scenic.org.

Beverly Kazickas

Environmental Committee Chair

kazickas55@aol.com

Cornucopia of Hope



Kids In Business® (KIB) is a multidisciplinary non-profit organization founded in 1985 by Barbara G. Weiland. Through Newark's Adopt-a-Lot program, KIB and members of the Newark community came together and created the Kinney Community Garden, a community garden in the truest sense of the word. Driven by their shared passion and hopes for their community, Garden members plant and learn together, and share the food they grow. The garden continues to evolve, with each community member contributing to the tapestry of creative food access.

We are now entering the Garden's fourth year. Today, after months and months of excavating, spreading wood chips, installing a wrought iron fence, this beautiful garden truly reflects the heart, creativity, and generosity of the community. An eye-catching and ADA-compatible walkway made of Old Chicago pastel brick welcomes everyone who passes by. It is an oasis whose beauty invites the entire community to be a part of something bigger.

The spirit behind the Kinney Community Garden and all its programs is one of engagement, commitment and a desire to give to one another without asking anything in return. The Garden spontaneously draws in members of the community, who want to be a part of the magic they observe.

One of the Garden's most loved programs began three years ago and is its annual "Cornucopia of Hope" project. This program was the result of the community's desire to bring the concept of sharing and giving in kindness to more people to make a larger impact. Before the Thanksgiving holiday each year, the Garden hosts painting workshops with partner organizations and partner gardens. This year, in order to adhere to COVID-19 safety regulations, volunteers were safely spread out and painted in small groups at the First Baptist Church in Vauxhall, Giving One-Tenth Community Garden, and the Nicholas Family driveway! Volunteers beautifully and creatively decorate donation boxes and bags with recycled donated paint. People of all ages come together with a shared passion to bring kindness and a restorative healing to those who have less. Once the painting is finished, neighbors and passers-by can see the beautiful artwork hanging to dry on our trees, fences, tables, and patios!

Despite all of the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Cornucopia of Hope program expanded into driveways, parking lots, patios and other community gardens. Ms. Carol Cruikshank, of the Giving One-Tenth Community Garden in Newark, found a way to paint the bags while maintaining the required social distance. She designed a cube, laid the bags on a tarp, and threw paint on the bags from each side. She said, "It brings me joy to help...this process brings me

a gentle calm.” Other partners, the Nicholas family, uses beautiful stencils of nature’s impressions to decorate their bags.



These one-of-a-kind hand-painted bags are filled with fresh produce and other Thanksgiving goodies, prepared in partnership with The First Baptist Church of Vauxhall. Recipients are not given a plain brown or plastic bag or a cardboard box, they receive a beautifully decorated gift. We are not merely putting food in the hands of community members in need. The presentation and the sensitive act of giving and receiving are equally important. The boxes or bags are painted with love and care and presented to others in the spirit of Thanksgiving.

This effort affords the opportunity to train and empower young people in civic accountability and responsibility. The participants take care to model for the younger generation expansive examples of what giving and donating means, and the importance of honoring the feelings of those who receive.

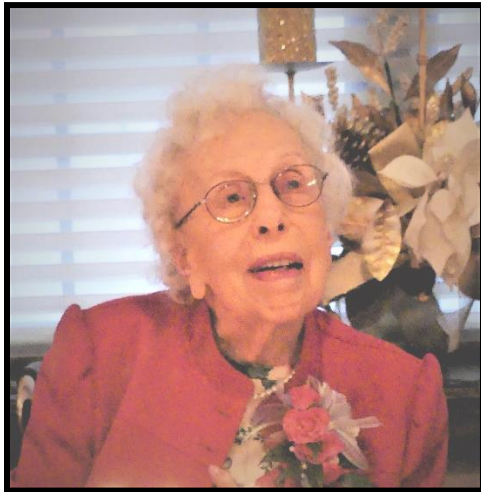
We constantly emphasize hope, kindness, and respect. In Cornucopia of Hope’s first year, we provided vegetables/fruit for 50 meals; in 2018 it was 100 meals; and in 2019 it was 300 meals! The Garden’s goal for this year is 400 meals, each including fresh produce and a hot turkey dinner!

The Reverend Durwin F. Johnson of the First Baptist Church of Vauxhall applies the acronym H.O.P.E. to the program, believing participants “Have Only Positive Expectations.” This multi-dimensional outreach project is a positive experience for entire families, who can volunteer to assemble meals, paint, and decorate boxes, and enjoy the amazing recipes of their fellow community gardeners and neighbors, bringing the whole community together. While the program addresses food insecurity, it also emphasizes that people matter--their lives matter, their families matter and their dreams matter. It reinforces to all that they are a part of a larger community that affords care and compassion, particularly to those in dire need.

Our overriding goal at the Kinney Community Garden is to improve the lives of the people in the neighborhood. Through our work together, we have become a place of teaching and learning about the importance of healthy eating; a place where we grow and give away our food and a place where members of the community can further their own education and vocational training. The Garden is built on a foundation of mutual trust, persistence and the belief that honing the art of giving and receiving can transform lives.

Barbara Weiland
Community Garden Chair
bweiland74@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS, KAY McCORMACK!



The Garden Club of New Jersey has presented Kay McCormack with a special citation to honor her many accomplishments for a lifetime of dedicated service to both the Terra Nova Garden Club (TNGC) of Edison and the Garden Club of New Jersey (GCNJ).

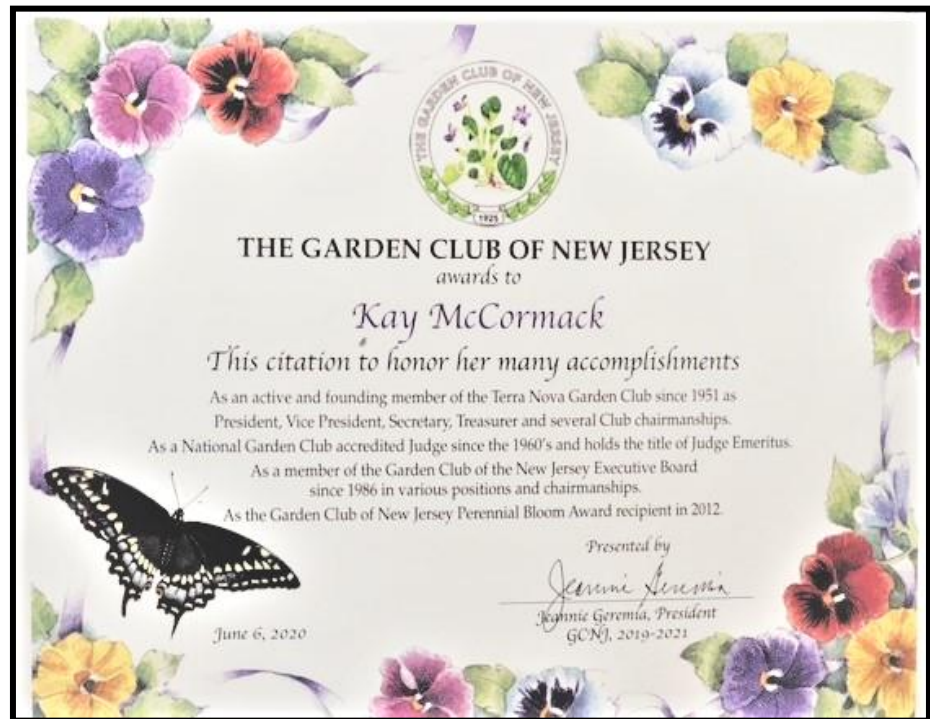
One of the original founding members of Terra Nova Garden Club in 1951, Kay has been an active member for over 69 years!! She has held every office for Terra Nova more than once - president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer as well as several club chairmanships.

Kay was District 6 Director for GCNJ and is a lifetime member. She has been a member of the Executive Board since 1986, holding numerous chairmanships and, most recently, the honorary position of Third Vice President.

She has been a National Garden Club Accredited Judge since the 1960's and currently holds the title of Judge Emeritus. Kay was awarded the State of New Jersey's Perennial Bloom Award in 2012 and went onto represent New Jersey in the Central Atlantic Region.

Kay was one of four children born in Erie, Pennsylvania. In her early 20's, she was the first female to fly a plane in the state of Pennsylvania. She was also one of the first women ever to pilot a plane, solo, across the United States. After living in Pennsylvania, Kay moved to Brooklyn, Edison and then Metuchen, NJ. She served as librarian within the Edison school system while raising her family, and also took part in many organizations locally including AARP, the Edison Job Corps, TNGC, GCNJ, and was President of the Metuchen Borough Improvement League. In 2001, at the age of 80, Kay chaperoned Metuchen High School Students on their senior trip to Japan!

Kay is truly an amazing woman, a dynamo of knowledge and is most deserving of this truly prestigious award.





Pollinator License Plates



What follows below is GCNJ President Jeannie Geremia's testimony advocating for the "Protect Pollinators" License Plate, prior to a vote in the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on October 23rd. She testified in person as well as at a Virtual Meeting where it passed unanimously. Jeannie also sent the Pollinator Center Poster seen on Page 10, to the Assembly committee.

To the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:

The Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc. is continuing its proud history of educating the public on the need to grow our endangered Pollinator population, as our bees, birds, and butterflies are still experiencing a precipitous decline worldwide.

The GCNJ, is a state 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization composed of 102 garden clubs and 4,000+ members throughout New Jersey and was founded in 1925 as we joined forces to combat the destruction caused by the tent caterpillar. We helped to get the Goldfinch to become the Official NJ State Bird in 1935, followed by the Honeybee becoming the Official NJ State Insect in 1974, culminating in the successful campaign to have the Black Swallowtail Butterfly designated as the Official NJ State Butterfly on January 11th, 2016.

This push for a State Butterfly was the cornerstone of our efforts to stem the troubling decline of our pollinators as we read article upon article of alarm knowing that pollinators provide 35 percent of the food we eat.

Our GCNJ Butterflies & Bee GAP (Gardeners Adding Pollinators) continued its efforts to reverse this trajectory by creating the GCNJ Pollinator Center signage in 2016, a series of six signs showcasing birds, bees, butterflies and the plants needed for their survival.

We took part in our parent organization, National Garden Clubs, Inc's campaign as part of the National Pollinator Garden Network that oversaw the successful Million Pollinator Garden Challenge, meeting its mark of over one million registered gardens with 8 million participants in over 5 million acres of pollinator habitat in 2018.

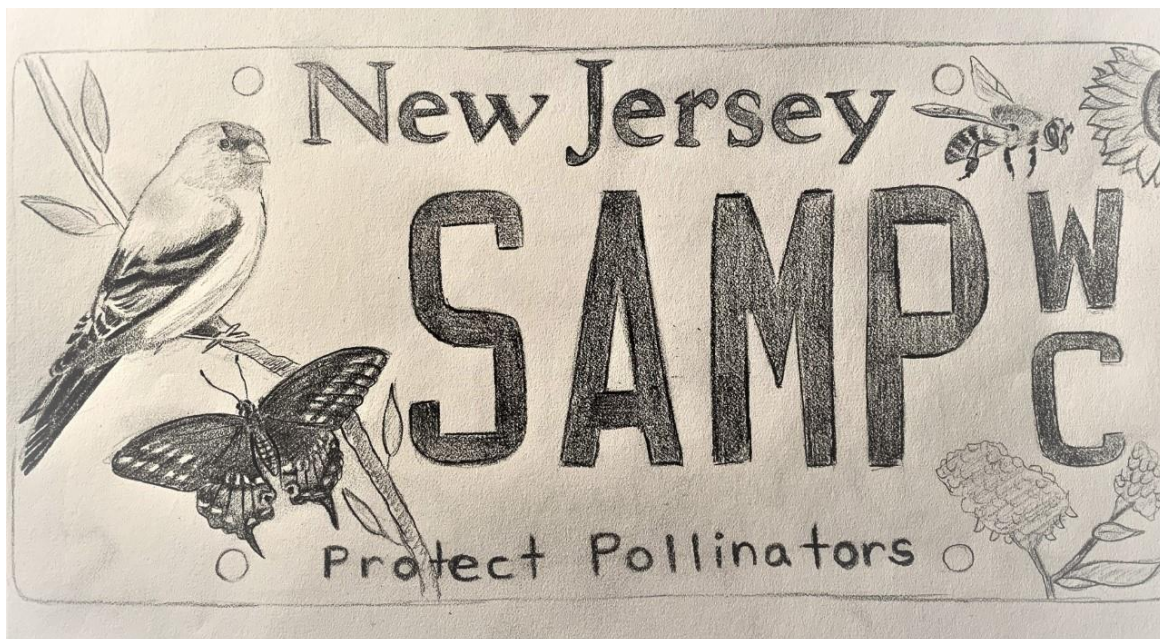
Fast forward to today, we are immersed in a global pandemic the likes of which we haven't experienced in our lifetimes. We fear the worst is yet to come as our life has

been altered as we shelter in place. Our economy is facing dire predictions as businesses and schools and life as we've known it has been upended.

Why now, would we advocate for a Protect Pollinators License Plate, you may well ask? The answer is simple, as we have been shown in a stark and vivid reality that man is not master of the universe. We are guests on this planet we share with flora and fauna, and we must learn to live and support our wildlife and protect our environment as our very lives depend on it.

What could be more positive at this critical time in our world's history than to take every opportunity to educate the public on the intrinsic value of our pollinators? By introducing a Protect Pollinators License Plate, we are prompting the public to learn more about pollinators, especially in a time where more people are experiencing gardening and nature all around us. We want them to be good neighbors and not use lethal sprays and toxic chemicals that not only rid them of unwanted weeds and insects, but kill the good guys, too. We wish to thank our legislators and Tom Castronovo, Editor/Publisher of Gardener News, as this was part of an article published in the September, 2020 issue of Gardener News that was written by me, Jeannie Geremia, The Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc. President.

Mock-up sketch of possible license plate design by James Fiorentino (the 2 paintings on page 8 were also done by James!):



World renown artist James Fiorentino who painted our Black Swallowtail Butterfly advocating for wildlife via the James Fiorentino Traveling Art Exhibition in partnership with Conserve Wildlife Foundation/D & R Greenway Land Trust/Studio 7 Fine Art Gallery

Pollinator Center

Presented By
J&J Landscaping and Garden Center
In Partnership with
The Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc.

Honey Bee



New Jersey
State Symbols

Goldfinch



Black
Swallowtail



Create a Garden to Help Pollinators

The Pollinator Center has Plants for Butterflies, Bees, and Birds
Plants for Butterfly and Bee Nectaring
Host Plants for Butterfly Caterpillars
Fruit and Seed Plants for Birds



©The Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc. Butterflies & BeeGAP "Creating Pollinator Centers"

Think about hosting an interesting talk.....

liven up your garden club meeting with a fascinating talk, fabulous images and a great speaker. choose from a variety of garden history and garden design topics. if your club can host an online meeting, I can provide members with an hour's respite in another green and leafy time and place.



Lesley Parness
connecting people and plants,
one story at a time
parness@verizon.net
lesleyparness.com

Don't Forget.....

JOIN A CLUB **ABOUT US** **OUR NEWSLETTER** **ENVIRONMENT**



The Garden Club of New Jersey

The deadline for updates to the GCNJ website (www.gardenclubofnewjersey.org) is the 10th of every month and should be submitted through the website. Thank you!

Diana Kazazis
diana.kazazis@gmail.com

From the Awards Desk



First, congratulations to all CAR-SGC award recipients for the 2019-20 Year. The Garden Club of New Jersey was so well represented spanning the spectrum of Civic Development to Environmental Concern to Standard Flower Show recognition to projects that involve youth participation. Bravo!!

Also, following are some important dates to keep in mind so that clubs can appropriately participate in the 2020-21 Awards process. All pertinent information regarding rules for submissions, Award descriptions, deadlines for submission of applications and the application itself can be found on the following websites:

- State GCNJ Awards: www.gardenclubofnewjersey.org - Look under "Awards"
- National NGC Awards: www.gardenclub.org - Look under "Awards and Grants"
- Regional CAR-SGC Awards: www.car-sgc.org - Look under "Members" password "FLOWERR" then under Application Forms

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL AWARD SUBMISSIONS FOR NATIONAL, CAR AWARDS AND GCNJ AWARDS MUST FIRST BE SENT TO PEGGY MORRISSEY, GCNJ AWARDS CHAIR.

Key upcoming deadline dates for award submissions, 2020-21:

- 2020-21 Yearbook submissions (4 copies): **October 31, 2021**
- 2020 Applications for National Garden Club Awards (3 copies): **December 15, 2020**
- 2020-21 Application for National Award of Honor (3 copies): **January 15, 2021**
- 2020-21 Application for Publicity Press Book Award: **January 25, 2021**
- 2020-21 Applications for GCNJ Awards (3 copies): **February 15, 2021**
- 2020-21 Application for Perennial Bloom Award (3 copies): **July 31, 2021**

Peggy Morrissey
GCNJ Awards Chair
peggymorrissey67@yahoo.com
732-330-3636

YOUTH HAPPENINGS!

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE AND REMINDER ABOUT OUR GCNJ YOUTH CONTESTS

**All entries for GCNJ/NGC Youth Contests are due to this chairman NO LATER than
JANUARY 6, 2021**

The contests include:

- High School Essay Contest
- Youth Poetry Contest
- Youth Sculpture Contest
- Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

This year's poster should focus on Woodsy Owl because it is his 50th birthday.

The quote on the poster should say what Woodsy Owl always says:

“LEND A HAND-CARE FOR THE LAND or GIVE A HOOT-DON'T POLLUTE.”



You will find detailed contest information and applications on the GCNJ website under "YOUTH"

Entries are to be mailed to: Onnolee Allieri, Youth Chair
552 Powerville Road
Boonton, NJ 07005

If you have any questions, feel free to call me at 973-335-8249.

ONE MORE IMPORTANT REMINDER TO OUR YOUTH LEADERS:

If you have not sent me your youth registration form and \$20.00 registration fee, please do so ASAP. The form is found under "YOUTH" on the GCNJ website.

Onnolee Allieri

Bob Markey

callieri@aol.com

Bob@MrBobtheGardener.com

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Do you know a diligent student majoring in horticulture, botany, or environmental science? Do you know a student graduating from high school or college, who has a passion for and wants to major in landscape design, floral design, sustainable farming and crops? Does your student have ideas to save our planet from plastic and toxic chemical pollution?



The Garden Club of New Jersey has supported and encouraged such students during the past, with financial scholarships to help ease the burden of college tuition and costs, and presently, continues to do so.

This past year, amid shutdowns for COVID 19, while the world was in the greatest pandemic since the Spanish Flu of 1918, the GCNJ Scholarship Committee selected students to receive \$18,000 in scholarships for the school year 2020-2021. We also selected two students to receive additional scholarships from National Garden Clubs, Inc., and Central Atlantic Region of Garden Clubs. Although colleges and universities throughout the nation began teaching classes online or through hybrid learning, we were able to keep in contact with these students throughout the spring and early summer and awarded scholarships of \$1,500 to \$2,500, from the Garden Club of New Jersey.

Pass the word on to family, friends, and neighbors that GCNJ is again looking for deserving students majoring in the fields listed above to receive financial scholarships in June of 2021 for the academic year, 2021-2022. Information and forms are on our website.

Students graduating from an accredited high school or college may apply. A student must be a resident in the state of New Jersey but can attend college in another state.

Questions may be addressed to Trish Polunas, Scholarship Chair, at scholarshipsgcnj@gmail.com. Scholarship deadline is always the first of February, but we are somewhat flexible because of the pandemic. This year students may be given an additional week to submit their application and pertinent documents to Ms. Polunas, if needed.

Trish Polunas
Scholarship Chairman
scholarshipsgcnj@gmail.com

CRAWFORD'S CORNER

Stromanthe – A 'New' Plant for the Holidays

Peruse any garden center around the holidays, especially this year, and there is no question that shopping for seasonally colorful houseplants is all the rage. Of course, the traditional plants for the holidays are the red and white bracted Poinsettias and the large, red trumpeted Amaryllis bulbs. These are marvelous plants that bring color and life to any home and make fantastic gifts. Unfortunately, once the holidays have passed and the depths of winter descend, they lose much of their luster just when a bit of household cheer is most needed! Over the past ten years I have observed several plants to see how well they perform throughout the year as houseplants in bright and low-light situations. One plant that has really captured my fancy for its color and tough constitution is *Stromanthe thalia* 'Triostar'. With its very showy red, white, burgundy, and green foliage, I feel it is also an ideal plant for the Holidays!



Stromanthe is a member of the Marantaceae or Prayer Plant Family and has between 19 and 21 species. Interestingly, it appears to have no other common name than *Stromanthe*! Native to the tropical rain forests of Brazil, plants are often found at the edge of forests from sea level up to over 5,000 feet! It was first described in 1829 by the Brazilian botanist José Mariano de Conceição Velloso (1742-1811) who named it *Heliconia thalia*. *Heliconia* is still a viable genus that was named by Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778) after the Greek mountain of Helicon and home of the mythological Muses. As an aside, evidently the first *Heliconia* that Linnaeus studied resembled a banana,

which is botanically called *Musa*; with a playful nod to the Greek Muses, a new genus name was born! The genus name of *Stromanthe* was first penned by the German botanist and pharmacist Otto Wilhelm Sonder (1812-1881) and it alludes to the arrangement of the flowers, as *Stroma* is from the Greek for being spread out like a couch or a bed while *Anthos* is from the Greek for flower. The flowers are in terminal panicles and are spread out much like a fan. The genus name of *thalia* refers to the general resemblance of this plant to the aquatic plant genus of *Thalia* (pictured above left), which honors the German physician and naturalist Johann Thal (1542-1583). It was not until 1996 that the Brazilian botanist João Marcelo Alvarenga Braga (1971-) finally reassigned this species to the proper genus. The botanical name certainly has an interesting story all unto itself!



To add to the confusion, the plant is often referred to as *Stromanthe sanguinea*, which was a reference to the sanguine or burgundy color of the backside of the foliage.

The straight species is a rather large plant, with the oblong dark green foliage growing from 12-20" long and 3-6" wide, while the plant itself can approach heights of 5 feet. Each leaf is supported by a long petiole that arises from the crown of the plant. As is typical of many plants in the Marantaceae, the base of the petiole is swollen into a pivoting joint called a pulvinus. When planted in a greenhouse or outdoors, the pulvinus allows the leaf to follow or remain oriented to the sun during its daily trek across the sky, increasing the plant's ability to collect solar radiation. At night, the leaves fold up – hence the name, Prayer Plant Family – and come morning they open to face the rising sun! The plants are rhizomatous, but they spread slowly and for all intents and purposes, they can be considered as clump forming.

The cultivar 'Triostar', also sold as 'Tri-Star' and 'Tricolor', is a far more modest growing form of *Stromanthe* due to the reduced amount of chlorophyll and is more manageable as a house plant! Growing to 2' tall and a little wider, the foliage remains in scale with the plant, growing to a more modest 6-8" long. The name 'Triostar' refers to the green, white and pink colors that irregularly pattern the upper surface of the foliage, while the underside of the foliage remains the attractive deep burgundy, as pictured above and below. An incredible collage of colors that far exceeds the impact of a fleeting flower.

As is typical of plants with white patterned foliage, it will scorch in full sun, regardless of how moist the soil is maintained. In fact, plants do not prefer overly moist soils and prosper in well-drained potting soil that is watered weekly during the growing season and every two weeks during the winter. From April through September, provide a regiment of monthly liquid feeding with ½ the recommended dosage rate. It is the need for lower light levels that allows it to thrive indoors near a bright or east facing window or outdoors come summer in a shady retreat! Although the plant is touted as requiring high atmospheric moisture, I have watched this plant thrive over the years in a heated and air-conditioned room without any leaf scorch. The plants are rare to flower inside a home, but under greenhouse or tropical conditions, the pink fan-shaped panicle of buds will give rise to flowers that have tubular orange red bracts in winter through early spring. Very colorful!

Stromanthe thalia 'Triostar' is certainly not new to the market and although widely available, it is not widely promoted as a holiday charmer. With its tough constitution and multi-seasons of interest, it is the perfect plant to enjoy for this upcoming holiday season – and for many to come!



Bruce Crawford

State Program Leader for Home and Public Horticulture, NJAES

Crawford@NJAES/Rutgers.edu

BLUE STAR MARKER UPDATES

HADDONFIELD GARDEN CLUB BRINGS FIRST BLUE STAR MARKER TO CAMDEN COUNTY!

Haddonfield Garden Club, with the assistance of the NJ Department of Transportation and the Garden Club of New Jersey, marked Veteran's Day with the dedication of the first Blue Star Memorial Marker in Camden County. Located on Kings Highway in the historic section of downtown Haddonfield, the marker graces the front of the town hall property, and is clearly visible to both auto and foot traffic.

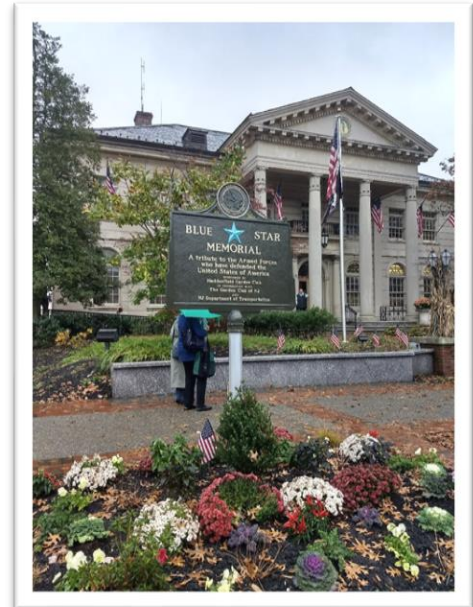
In a dedication ceremony led by club president Sharon Winge and Blue Star Project Chair Jeannette Glennon-Morrissey, members of the local VFW were honored as they provided the color guard for the ceremony. Many local and county officials also paid tribute during the rainy ceremony. Lois Johann and her crew from the NJ DOT Landscape Bureau assisted the Club in securing this location and installing the marker.

The site is currently landscaped with seasonal plantings and will be maintained by the Haddonfield Garden Club.

The Garden Club of New Jersey congratulates Haddonfield for their successful project which brings the first Blue Star Marker to Camden County!

For more information on how your club can become a Blue Star Marker sponsor, see the GCNJ website or contact GCNJ Blue Star chair, Joan Cichalski.

Joan Cichalski,
GCNJ Blue Star Chair
jjcichalski@comcast.net



Holiday Angels

Hello fellow Gardeners.

This is certainly a challenging time for us all, but we try to keep positive. With the help of our friends, the people of the Woodbridge Public Library, our small group is having limited meetings.

We were able to have a workshop where we made Holiday Angels. The workshop was fun but being able to have a Socially distancing meeting helped boost our morale.

*Angie Heuer
Woodbridge Garden Club*



Information for the next issue:

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

Send articles and upcoming events to
Karen Eardley at k.eardley@live.com

Go to the GCNJ website at www.gardenclubofnewjersey.org for more
information.

