



Issue # 2

November
2019

News Leaf

Garden Club of New Jersey

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Black Swallowtail Butterfly- NJ State Butterfly

President's Message

What an exciting time to belong to The Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc.! We were able to welcome so many club members from throughout the state to our various District Meetings, GCNJ Workshops, Garden Study School and Judges Council, all held at our headquarters, Holly House, located in Rutgers Gardens that is part of Rutgers University's Cook Campus in East Brunswick, NJ.

The goal was to not only have numerous educational programs for our club members, but to showcase our new project and President's theme, "Paths to Discovery through Outdoor Learning Centers." Thanks must go to

Teddie Falcone, Pat Wilson and Nancy Schmalz from the GCNJ Board's Rutgers Gardens Project Committee who work with Bruce Crawford, Director of Rutgers Gardens, to refurbish the projects of past GCNJ Presidents. It is hoped that this project will not only bring everything up to date but will expand them with the implementation of learning centers.

Our member clubs will be able to take any of these ideas back to their own communities and, in the process, also apply for Plant America grants. If you missed viewing this project in person, you will be able to view it during the upcoming GCNJ Fall Conference & Presidents Day "Paths to Discovery".

I hope you've registered for this huge event as we will be welcoming our National Garden Club President, Gay Austin and honoring our club presidents and four honorees who were instrumental in helping us have the Black Swallowtail Butterfly designated as New Jersey's Official State Butterfly. The day will be unforgettable as it concludes with "Christmas on Broadway", a fabulous design program replete with music, poetry and easy to follow holiday designs.

I want to thank Marina Kerber, Flower Show Workshop Chair, for the outstanding role she played by providing two days of free workshops designed to introduce our clubs to the cornucopia of information available to them in National Garden Clubs, Inc.'s **Handbook for Flower Shows, Revised 2017**. Marina had our top National Garden Club Judges for the Garden Club of New Jersey instruct our attendees on staging a flower show, writing a flower show schedule, exhibiting designs, horticulture and botanical arts, all

in a fun and interactive two day session culminating with a "hands on" botanical arts collage that members were able to take home. Thank you to Florence Leyssene, Carol English, Elizabeth Lilliston, Alice Dickson, Cecelia Millea, Marina Kerber, Teddie Falcone and Linda Williams, excellent instructors all! More to come as we work to replace our GCNJ Standard Flower Show with four District Flower Shows to be held in the next two years. Onward & Upward! The sky's the limit.

I very much look forward to meeting each and every one of you as you join with us in new experiences.

Jeannie Geremia, GCNJ President
igeremia42@gmail.com



UPCOMING Events

November 2, 2019 Vincentown Garden Club presents “Antiques and Artisans”, held in Historic Vincentown Village 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 is provided. \$3.00 is suggested donation at the door.

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

November 9, 2019 The Garden Club of Watchung is sponsoring “Tag Sale Treasures & Boutique” at Fireman’s Exempt Hall, 31 Mountain Blvd., Watchung, NJ 07069. Hours are 10 am-2 pm. For further information, contact Vonnie Mott at 908-279-7344 or /vonnienj@aol.com.

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

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

December, 2019 Visit Drumthwacket in Princeton—a delightful experience!

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

March 10, 11, 2020 Landscape Design School, Course II, at Holly House

May 6, 7, 8 Flower Show School, Course III, at Holly House--Cathy Felton, Horticulture Instructor, and Julia Clevett, Design Instructor Course III focuses on creative design types.

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 for more information.

June 18, 2020 Seaweeders Garden Club of Bay Head & Mantoloking will hold a Garden Tour beginning at the Bay Head Yacht Club, 111 Metcalf Street, Bay Head, NJ, where they will be given their program and ticket for lunch. Visit nine gardens in both Bay Head and Mantoloking. Contact Ann Castagnola at 631-786-7831 for more information. Cost: \$65 (includes lunch and gardens).

June 20, 2020 Garden Club of Long Valley will hold a day-long Garden Tour with multiple locations in Long Valley, NJ. Contact Maria Birch at 908-876-9123 or email birch47@gmail.com for more information.



New Life Members

Information has been brought up to date and eleven Life Members have been added to the rolls for Garden Club of New Jersey. One new National Life Member has also been added.

The Life Members are as follows:

2017-Pamela Sutton, Elizabeth Hanson,
Nancy Smith, Gail Bassolino, Carol Johnson
2018-Cecelia Millea, Patricia Polunas,
Muriel Komolski
2019-Diana Dove, Pamela Marhan, Joanne
Mallon

Pam Sutton
Life Membership Chair
pamsutton.sutton@gmail.com

GCNJ Judges Credentials

My sincere thank you to our garden clubs who have held Flower Shows recently and who have contacted me to request the names of Garden Club of New Jersey Judges who are in need of judging credits that will go towards being eligible to take our next Symposium for credit.



Many are now eligible for the Symposium, but some still need judgments. Therefore, if your club is planning a Flower Show, please contact me so that we can utilize these judges.

Jane Bersch
Judging Credentials Chair
Janebersch@aol.com

609-654-6580

609-923-8427 (cell)

Scholarship Deadline

This is a reminder that February 1, 2020, is the deadline for Scholarship



Applications for high school seniors through graduate school students.

All information and forms can be found on the Garden Club of New Jersey website under **Scholarships/Study Schools** after clicking **Forms** at the top.

Please let friends, family and other interested applicants know about this scholarship.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me.

Patricia Polunas
Scholarship Chair
scholarshipsgcnj@gmail.com
732-202-6775

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Murphy Business Brokers
m.nabulsi@murphybusiness.com
(484) 905-2080



IMPORTANT WINTER AWARD

DEADLINE DATES:

DECEMBER 1, 2019: Please submit any application for a National Garden Club Award to Peggy Morrissey, 142 Osborne Avenue, Bay Head, NJ 08742 by November 15, 2019. The awards application is on the National Garden Club (NGC) Website under AWARDS. Look for more details in a note that will be sent in the coming weeks to all GCNJ Club Presidents via the District Directors.

JANUARY 15, 2020: Please submit your Publicity Press Book Award applications to Peggy Morrissey at the address above. The Publicity Press Book chronicles your club's activities in newspapers, magazines, social media, etc. The application process is outlined on the GCNJ Website under AWARDS. (Please see pp. 5,6 of GCNJ Awards Booklet.)

FEBRUARY 15, 2020: Please submit your GCNJ Awards applications to Peggy Morrissey at the address above. (See pp. 9-15 and p. 20 of GCNJ Awards Booklet.) The awards application is on the GCNJ Website under AWARDS. See below for more tips and details for submitting a winning application. Flower Show Achievement Award applications are submitted to the GCNJ Flower Show Evaluation Chair, Cecelia Millea, 422 Laurel Creek, Moorestown, NJ 08057.

TIPS FOR WRITING AN AWARD

WINNING APPLICATION

Every club has so many wonderful projects. As Awards Chairs, we review club yearbooks and are in awe of the dynamic projects that are educating club members and involving them in their communities throughout our great state! So how does a club decide to apply for an award? What constitutes an award winning project and application?

Here are some tips from the National Garden Club and The Garden Club of New Jersey Websites that may help your Awards Chair complete and submit award winning applications!!

Both websites give a numeric listing of awards offered. But the list in its current form can be overwhelming. So for the GCNJ AWARDS, whose submissions are not due until February 15, 2020, here is a breakdown by category:

Civic Beautification Awards: This category considers civic beautification projects, community gardens, decorating an historic building, civic improvement, and decorating a public building for a specific occasion. Some examples might be participating in decorating Drumthwacket; decorating a public building for a specific holiday or special anniversary; improving a public garden or introducing native plants to a public landscape. If you have a project that might fit one of these categories, check out the following award numbers:

14a, 14b, 25, 26, 27, 40, 41, 52, 59, 63 and 65.

Garden Therapy: This category considers outstanding work in garden projects with groups with special needs and/or senior citizens (e. g. working with child study teams at local schools, local senior citizen groups). If you have a project that fits one of these categories, here are some of the award numbers that might apply:

15a, 15b, 22, 31, 49, and 54.

Environment: This category considers outstanding achievements in the areas of conservation, bird welfare, wildflowers, landscape gardens, environmental improvement and leadership in the community with regard to the environment and conservation.

Take a look at the following awards if you have a project that might apply:

13, 19, 23, 26, 32, 47, 59, 61, 63.



Garden Club Objectives: This category considers outstanding achievements with educational programs or exhibits related to Garden Club Objectives in Community, State, CAR-SGC or National levels and advancement of Garden Club Objectives in any level. (e.g. A presentation on a topic of community interest, such as an educational program on ticks or a type of gardening technique such as square foot gardening, etc.). Awards that might qualify here are:

1, 7, 48.

Unique Categories:

1. Hybridization Award #2, Continuing Project Award #3, Garden Centers Award #6, #20 and #36.
2. World Gardening: #12.
3. Garden Tours Award: #64 for an outstanding garden tour **not in conjunction with a Flower Show**.
4. Publications: #66 and #6.
5. Youth Programs: #35 and #43.
6. Publicity Press Book: #67.
7. Garden Club of the Year Silver Trophy: #7, presented to the garden club judged most outstanding in furthering Garden Club Objectives on the National, State and Community levels. This award requires a Book of Evidence that documents all activities and achievements over a period of one year. (This award also requires a special application form—please see p. 20 of GCNJ Awards Booklet for details.)

Finally, for those clubs who have held a Standard Flower Show during 2019, there is the opportunity to apply for a **Flower Show Achievement Award**. Those applications with a Book of Evidence should be forwarded to GCNJ Flower Show Evaluation Awards Chair, Cecelia Millea, 422 Laurel Creek, Moorestown, NJ 08057, by February 15, 2020. Applications and relevant details can be found on the GCNJ Website under Awards. The awards that apply are:

4, 5, 8, 10a, 10b, 11, 17, 18, 21, 29, 30, 37, 38, 39, 44, 45, 50, 51, 55, 56, 58, 62, 68, 69, 70 and 71.

Now, how are applications reviewed?

First, they must be only 3 pages, single sided. Page 1 is the GCNJ Award application with all questions on the application answered in the order in which they are asked. Pages 2 and 3 are supporting material:

Predominantly photos of the project, possibly before but definitely during and after. (Remember a picture is worth a 1,000 words.) If space is available, publicity and/or letters of commendation may also be included. The overview is critical as those reviewing the award application have not seen your club's project.

So if Award Applications are something new for your garden club, don't be afraid to put your "toes in the water." Choose one or more of your fabulous projects and come on in! The water's warm and the rewards are great fun! Your club will be energized by the recognition of its accomplishments. It's a great way to build pride and participation in your club!! We stand ready to help in any way we can.

Peggy Morrissey

Awards Co-Chair

peggymorrissey67@yahoo.com

Sandy Witkowski

Awards Co-Chair

sandyw43@comcast.net





SAVE THE DATE

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL

Course III

The Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc.

Holly House

130 Ryders Lane, East Brunswick, NJ

May 6-7, Exam May 8, 2020

NGC Flower Show School Course III

Cathy Felton, Horticulture Instructor. Studying Tulips and Lilacs

Julia Clevett, Design Instructor. Studying Creative Design Types

Two Day Course \$135, with exam for credit \$140

Single day, Horticulture or Design \$75

Two-Day Club Special, Two people may attend each day, one offer per club \$135

Attending Course I is a pre-requisite for taking the class for credit.

Carol English, Registrar, overbrook@comcast.net (908) 931-1426

Registration coming soon on the GCNJ website

Gail Bassolino, Chairperson, cbassolino@aol.com (973) 650-9783

Classes are held at Holly House, Rutgers Gardens

130 Ryders Lane, East Brunswick, NJ

May 6-7, Exam May 8, 2020



The Holidays at Drumthwacket

It is a very special year to visit the New Jersey Governor's Residence, Drumthwacket, during the holidays. The stately mansion was recently decorated by renowned decorator, Anthony Baratta. The new decor revitalizes this home while respecting its architecture and history. Once again, GCNJ Garden Clubs have been invited to decorate the residence, both inside and out, for the holidays.

The garden clubs involved with decorating this year include Allentown Garden Club, Bernardsville Garden Club, The Garden Club of Essex Fells, Greater Woodbury Garden Club, Keyport Garden Club, Garden Club of Mountain Lakes, Seaweeds Garden Club, Warren Garden Club and West Trenton Garden Club.



Some of the
rooms that will be decorated by GCNJ garden club members.

Come share the holiday spirit and see Drumthwacket in all its holiday splendor. Drumthwacket is located at 354 Stockton St., Princeton, NJ 08540. Please visit www.drumthwacket.org for Open House dates and visiting information.

Chris Endris
Drumthwacket Chair
chrisendris@gmail.com
908-832-63



UPDATE ON GCNJ FLOWER SHOW WORKSHOPS

Forty-nine GCNJ members attended the free Flower Show Workshops that were held at Holly House on September 24 and 25. Carol English and Florence Leyessene used a Powerpoint presentation to illustrate how to write a schedule and also provided a hard copy of the Navesink Garden Club SSFS Schedule as an example of a completed schedule. In addition, staging and properties were discussed. Carol and Florence both offered to review the Flower Show Schedules for any clubs that were planning to stage a flower show.

In the afternoon, Elizabeth Lilleston and Alice Dickson discussed the Horticulture Division of a flower show. They provided beautiful horticulture specimens as examples. Elizabeth explained in detail how to prepare plants and specimens for display and how to properly fill out an entry card.

Design was the topic on Wednesday morning. Cecelia Millea and Marina Kerber discussed and provided examples of traditional and creative designs. Staging, backboard panels and underlays were also discussed. Cecelia reviewed the Principles of Design and the Elements of Design.

Teddie Falcone and Linda Williams presented the much anticipated Botanical Arts workshop. They provided examples of horticulture, collages and jewelry. Participants also were able to make a small collage with the materials provided.

Kudos to all the presenters who did an outstanding job of inspiring and educating GCNJ members.

Marina M. Kerber

Flower Show Workshop Chair

Marina2thebeach@yahoo.com

TRY SOMETHING NEW---A CLUB WEBSITE



A **Club Website** is a natural place for your garden club to attract the attention of potential members. Using images and a few words, you can share your club's story, mission and goals with the world, and invite those who are interested to join you! Use "data forms" to capture all information about potential members. Use an email & newsletter tool to invite members to engage with your activities, and keep everyone updated as you progress toward your goal. You do not need to be a professional to edit and maintain your online presence. If you can email, you can create and edit your website. If your club has a website, elect a communication member to make regular updates and be sure to keep it fresh! For support and ideas, please reach out to me.

Sarah Stransky

GCNJ Membership Chair

sarahsstransky@gmail.com



LIST OF HOST TREES

Best Choices for Planting this Autumn

When planting a tree, please consider choosing from this list as part of your landscape plan. The list was provided by Douglas Tallamy (noted entomologist, professor and speaker) for the value they provide as “host” plants to insects and larvae which in turn are sustenance for our native birds, butterflies and small mammals.

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Plant Genus</u>	Number of Species Supported
Oak	Quercus	534
Cherry	Prunus	456
Willow	Salix	455
Birch	Betula	413
Poplar	Populus	368
Crabapple	Malus	311
Maple	Acer	285
Elm	Ulmus	213
Pine	Pinus	203
Hickory	Carya	200
Hawthorn	Crataegus	159
Spruce	Picea	156
Alder	Alnus	156
Basswood	Tilia	150
Ash	Fraxinus	150
Filbert	Corylus	131
Walnut	Juglans	130
Beech	Fagus	126
Chestnut	Castanea	125

Source:

“Bringing Nature Home, How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants” by Douglas W. Tallamy

Beverly Kazickas

Environmental Chairman

kazickas55@aol.com



OAK TREE



CRABAPPLE



YOUTH HAPPENINGS

All entries for GCNJ/NGC Youth Contests are due to this co-chairman on or before **January 6, 2020**.

These contests include:

High School Essay Contest

Poetry Contest

Youth Sculpture Contest

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

It is the 75th Birthday for Smokey, so make this year

special for him by entering the contest and meet him on November 4th at the Fall Conference.

All instructions and information that you will need to apply can be found on the Garden Club of New Jersey website at www.gardenclubofnewjersey.com under "Youth".

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at 973-335-8249.

Onnolee Allieri

Youth Co-Chair

callieri@aol.com



First Blue Star Memorial is erected in 1944 on Route 22.

[Read the Blue Star story on the next page.](#)



First Blue Star Memorial is refurbished on May 23, 2014.



GCNJ BLUE STAR COMMITTEE WORKS

TO BRING A MARKER TO EVERY COUNTY!

Did you know that the Blue Star Memorial Marker Program, designed to honor all service men and women, originated in New Jersey? During the last year of World War II, GCNJ President, Helen Hull, along with GCNJ Roadside Chair, Elizabeth Hood, decided it would be important to create a living memorial dedicated to returning service men and women. Working with club members, they successfully planted a stretch of Route 22 between Mountainside and Plainfield with over 5,000 flowering dogwoods (native to NJ), and erected the first Blue Star Highway Sign. That Sign was refurbished and rededicated in 2014. Since their initial efforts so many years ago, the program has grown to over 3,000 markers throughout the United States!

While NJ boasts 35 markers, we still have several counties with no markers, and the Blue Star Committee goal is to have a marker in every county by 2021. To that end, the committee has been working with various clubs as well as with the GCNJ to find sites and start the process to bring markers to those counties.

Later this fall, a new marker will be dedicated in West Trenton. Many thanks go to West Trenton Garden Club and the New Jersey Department of Transportation's Lois Johann for getting this done!

In 2020, we expect to bring markers to Camden and Cape May County, which currently do not have any Blue Star Memorials. Thanks to Haddonfield Garden Club and Lois Johann for their work on that site and we look forward to the marker's dedication in 2020! Cape May's marker is tentatively planned for a location along Route 9, and this marker will be co-sponsored by GCNJ and the Department of Transportation as we have no participating garden clubs in that county.

Deciding to participate in this project is an exciting time for any garden club! If you are a member of a club in Sussex, Passaic, Hudson, or Gloucester counties, why not consider co-sponsoring a marker? We are hoping for new markers in these counties before 2021 ends!

Details on how to proceed may be found on the GCNJ's website, along with contact information for GCNJ's Blue Star Committee Chair, Joan Cichalski. What better way to honor all who serve and thank them for their service.

Joan Cichalski
Blue Star Chair
jjcichalski@comcast.net



Paths to Discovery Through Outdoor Learning Centers

Be a part of the story! What story you ask?

It is a continuing story where some of our past presidents have written chapters that enhanced Rutgers Gardens with native plantings, pollinator gardens, the Freedom Trail of Great Americans, the Field of Heroes and a Rain Garden. Our plan is to now connect all of these areas, groom them and add **Outdoor Learning Centers, Garden Libraries and fun interactive activities.**

Larger than life sculptures will also be added to excite young and old visitors and will provide information about how plants, trees and wildlife have evolved and grown together.

How many know that ants are an important pollinator or that millions of years ago, magnolia trees began to bloom and birds with teeth began to evolve so that their teeth disappeared and gullets replaced them? There will be so much to learn and excite our visitors to the Gardens. The tales and tidbits will amaze you.

Okay, what can you do?

Look at the page following this article to learn about sponsoring a wreath that will enable us to purchase the first sculpture and assist in funding the Rutgers Pantry to feed students in need; also, please check your home libraries and those of your children and grandchildren to find books to donate to our Garden Libraries. Want to learn more about the “Paths to Discovery Through Outdoor Learning Centers”? Attend the Fall Conference to hear Teddie Falcone and Pat Wilson’s presentation and then contact them to make arrangements to have them speak at your local club meeting.

Better yet, apply now for a [Plant America Grant](#) (See NGC Website) and plan a Learning Center in your community. We are here to assist you.

Teddie Falcone

tfalcone@comcast.net

Pat Wilson

patjohnwilson@hotmail.com

Rutgers Learning Centers Chair





Will You Help?

Let's grow the gardens, add sculptures and make the Rutgers Gardens a major educational attraction.

Where? Rutgers Gardens, Ryders Lane and Log Cabin Rd., East Brunswick, NJ

We are asking you to sponsor the making & hanging of a Wreath!

How? A \$40.00 sponsorship will provide \$30 to the funds!

Please mail your contribution and this completed page to: T. Falcone, 9 Ashwood Trail, Long Valley, NJ 07853.

I will sponsor _____ wreaths at \$40.00 each for a tax-deductible donation of \$_____.

I would just prefer to make a tax deductible donation of \$_____.

Please make checks payable to: *GCNJ-Garden Club of New Jersey.*

Your help is very much appreciated.



Got books? Have books to give away?



Why? GCNJ wants to include your give-away books in our Rutgers Garden Library.

For Whom? Books for all ages from "itty-bitties" to teenagers to adults.

What kinds of books? Nonfiction books focusing on science, gardening, pollinators, birds, insects, dinosaurs, ecology and evolution--especially of plants, birds, insects & on & on.

BUT...including picture books and fiction books that tell a true story such as, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

When and Where? Contact your District Director or Margaret Esposito directly @ mmesposito@yahoo.com

Thank You!

"Paths to Discovery through Outdoor Learning"



PLEASE READ:

January 6th is the deadline for articles for the Spring News Leaf as well as listings of upcoming club events and 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 about advertising.

