



#### This issue:

President's Letter	1-2
CAR-SGC Photos	3
Flower Show	4
Upcoming Events	5
Environmental News	6-7
Holidays in Princeton	8-9
Scholarships	10
Judges Credentials	11
Club News	12
Crawford's Corner	13-16
Blue Star News	17
Youth Corner	18-19
Next Issue Deadline	19

## President's Message

Greetings Fellow Gardeners!

The brilliant colors of fall have faded, the days have grown shorter, and the night air is crisp and cold. It is a time for our gardens to receive their winter's rest and emerge again when warmer weather returns. Mother Nature will bring forth a renewal that is inspirational.

The fall months are always a busy time for our organization as we begin our garden club year after a summer hiatus. We and our affiliate clubs have happily returned to in-person meetings and events while still utilizing the advantages of virtual technology when beneficial. We are fully back in business!

The Garden Club of New Jersey sponsored a symposium held on October 12 and 13 after a two-year delay due to the pandemic. Symposiums are held so that Accredited Flower Show Judges may maintain their credentials as required by NGC. I want to thank Jan Warshauer, Symposium Chairman, and her committee, for organizing a very successful symposium.

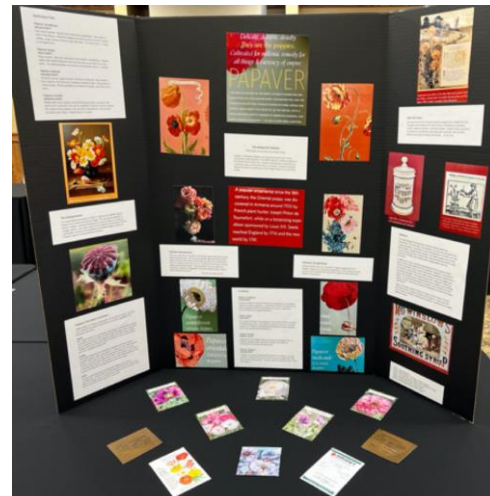
The CAR-SGC Region, of which the Garden Club of New Jersey is one of seven members, held its Conference at the Seven Springs Resort in Champion PA on November 2 and 3. I attended the conference along with GCNJ President-elect, Beverly Kazickas and GCNJ Nominating Committee Chairman, Jane Bersch. NGC President, Mary Warshauer was also in attendance. It was a busy two days but a wonderful opportunity to, once again, connect with fellow CAR state presidents from New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Ohio and the National Capital Area.



CAR-SGC Director, Betty Cookendorfer, presents an award certificate to GCNJ President, Cecelia Millea.



**Left:** Tribute design honoring GCNJ President, Cecelia Millea created by Teddie Falcone. The beautiful design incorporated palm spathes, dried allium, poppy pods, and dried cane ribbons.



**Right:** GCNJ's Education Exhibit by GCNJ President-elect, Beverly Kazickas, explored the World of Poppies (Papaver) from the early history of the plant to growing various cultivars in today's garden.

I was honored to be invited to speak at a Blue Star and Gold Star Memorial marker dedication at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Gloucester County on October 30. I spoke about the history of the Blue Star Memorial marker program, sharing with those present, it's beginning in 1944 by the Garden Club of New Jersey and the NJ Highway Authority. It is our goal to have at least one marker in each of New Jersey's twenty-one counties by 2025, which will be GCNJ's 100th anniversary! Only one county now remains without a marker, and Joan Cichalski, GCNJ Blue Star Memorial Chairman, is currently pursuing a possible site for it to be located.

The Garden Club of New Jersey held a virtual Leadership Conference for Club Presidents on October 20. The purpose of the conference was to acquaint club presidents with our state organization and assist them in their leadership role.

I began the agenda with a presentation about the qualities of an effective leader followed by President-elect Kazickas, and several committee chairmen, who provided information about many aspects of GCNJ. We have found this format to offer club presidents, new and seasoned alike, knowledge and support in their position.



Gloucester County, Blue Star Dedication L to R. Joan Cichalski, Cecelia Millea, Lois Johan, NJ Dept. of Transportation and Julie Humeniuk, Greater Woodbury GC President

Two New Jersey Garden clubs celebrated significant anniversaries recently. The Westfield Garden Club celebrated its 100th anniversary, while the Garden Club of Toms River celebrated its 70th anniversary. I welcome the opportunity to join these clubs in marking such milestone occasions. The ability of these garden clubs to continue to succeed is a testament to the efforts and dedication of their members!

I wish each of you a joyful holiday season.

Warm Regards,  
Cecelia Millea  
GCNJ President  
[cmillea@msn.com](mailto:cmillea@msn.com)



"Plant trees, invest in the future"





## Additional Photos from the CAR-SGC Conference

### "7 Super Blooms That Changed Our World"

November 2-3, 2022 at Seven Springs Resort in Champion, Pennsylvania

GCNJ members Cecelia Millea, Beverly Kazickas, Mary Warshauer and Jane Bersch attended the CAR-SGC Conference which included Tours, Workshops, Meetings, Vendors, an Awards Dinner and numerous other activities. It was a wonderful experience filled with lots of information and camaraderie.



L to R Cecelia Millea, GCNJ President; Vikki Bellias of NY; Mary Warshauer, NGC President



This tribute design honored current NGC president and former GCNJ President, Mary Warshauer. It included a metal structure, dahlias and eucalyptus.



President-elect Beverly Kazickas and Nominating Committee Chair, Jane Bersch, joined the Conference tour of Frank Lloyd Wright designed home, Falling Water, in Mill Run, PA.



Demarest Garden Club member, Michael Kazickas, on the tour of the Flight 93 Memorial in Stoystown, PA. The 9/11 crash site is memorialized by a white marble wall of 40 panels etched with the names of the 40 victims.



# **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

## **FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL**

Course IV

The Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc.

Holly House

130 Ryders Lane, East Brunswick, NJ

Flower Show Procedure via Zoom, April 15, 2023, Exam Follows

Design and Horticulture (at Holly House), April 19 & 20,

Optional Exam April 21, 2023

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 Bassolino, Chairman  
[cbassolino@aol.com](mailto:cbassolino@aol.com)

Teddie Falcone, Registrar  
[tfalcone52@gmail.com](mailto:tfalcone52@gmail.com)

# Upcoming Events



## Environmental school

- Course 1 – **Feb 17-Feb 18, 2023** Westerville Ohio (Zoom)
- Course 2 – **Feb 23 - Feb 24, 2023** Fort Meyers, FL (Zoom)
- Course 3 - **Jan 10 - Jan 18, 2023** Washington, DC (NCA) (Zoom: Tuesday & Wednesday Evenings only)
- Course 4 - **Mar 20 - Mar 24, 2023** St. Louis, MO (Zoom - Evenings only)

## Flower Show School

- Course 1 - **Jan 14 - Jan 25, 2023**, 2023 Albuquerque, NM (Zoom 1/14/2023)
- Course 4 - **Apr 15 - Apr 20, 2023** East Brunswick, NJ (FSP via Zoom 4/15, Other Subjects 4/19-20)
  - o Flower Show Procedure via Zoom on April 15, 2023 at 12noon with exam immediately following. Instructor – Barbara May.
  - o Design (Creative/Abstract) will be held on Wednesday, April 19. Instructor - Claudia Bates.
  - o Horticulture (Flowering Branches-Collections and Displays) will be held on Thursday, April 20. Instructor - Cathy Felton.
  - o Exam scheduled for Friday, April 21, 2023.

## Gardening School

- Course 1 - **Apr 15 - Apr 20, 2023** Chelmsford, MA (Zoom)

## Landscape Design

- Course 1 – **Mar 30- Mar 31, 2023** Louisville, OH (Zoom)

**January 23 – February 13, 2023** - Bee-ginner's Beekeeping: The Basics of Apiculture. This is an online, self-paced format where you work at your own pace between this period. For more information visit: <https://cpe.rutgers.edu/beekeeping/beginners-beekeeping>.

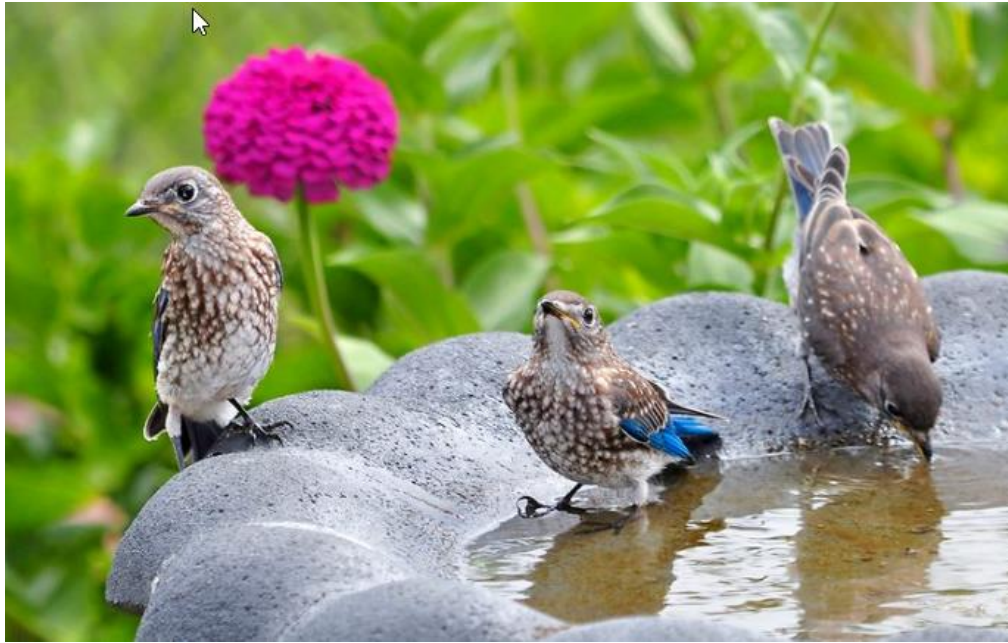
**November 18<sup>th</sup>- January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023** - The Neshanic Garden Club will be participating in "The Festival of Trees" and have decorated a Mantle at the Morven Museum in Princeton. For more information contact Robin Shaw at [robinshaw@mindspring.com](mailto:robinshaw@mindspring.com).

**January 25, 2023** – Deadline for Publicity Press Books: Any club working on their Publicity Press Books must submit both an application and book to the GCNJ Chair by 1/25/2023. Application process information can be found on the CAR-SGC website under Members/Awards. Jessica Wang, Director of District I, has offered to assist in converting awards booklets into "Word" format, for ease of editing.

**June 10, 2023** - The Garden Club of Cranford is holding a "A Peek Beyond the Garden Gate" A Garden Tour from 10 am to 3 pm (Rain or Shine) Proceeds from the tour will benefit The Garden Club of Cranford, community based activities and the annual Frances Wismer Scholarship. For additional information email: [gardenclubofcranford@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubofcranford@gmail.com).



## CREATE A BIRD FRIENDLY YARD FOR EVERY SEASON



According to the National Audubon Society, bird populations have declined drastically over the last 50 years. Here in the Northeast, forest birds have declined by 27% and shorebirds by 33%. Unfortunately, some individual species have declined by more than 50%. An extreme case is that of the once abundant passenger pigeon. In 1850, there were billions of them in North America. Sadly, in the mid-19th century, the passenger pigeon population crashed and by September 1914, the species was extinct.

The current bird decline is noted in the “State of the Birds 2022 Report” published by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative. The report states that the health of birds and humans is linked together. In fact, “birds and people alike need healthy environments” to survive. Thankfully, there are success stories of conservation efforts that have protected and led to the rebound of bald eagle and osprey populations.

Concerningly, more than 3 billion birds have perished since 1970. Much like the proverbial canary in the coal mine, we should not ignore the warnings in the State of the Birds report. Let’s take action now!

This winter is the perfect time to start planning your bird friendly yard. There are strategies, that when put into action, will improve the health and well-being of yourself, your family, and the wildlife that depends on all of us for survival. Be sure to take strides to plant native plants, provide habitat / shelter, reduce lawns, not use chemicals / pesticides, protect glass windows from bird strikes, supply critical nutrients, and support non-profit organizations like Audubon and The Nature Conservancy who actively protect crucial habitats in New Jersey and worldwide.

### 1. Plant Native Plants and Trees:

Select plants for your garden that produce fruit, seeds, and host insects / caterpillars that birds particularly eat, as fuel during reproduction and migration. Plants that are considered native to an area specialize in the needs of local wildlife. In particular, the oak tree is the most prolific host for numerous birds and pollinators.

2. Provide Habitat and Shelter:

Trees and plants supply essential habitats (along with man-made nest boxes) to give shelter during extreme weather. Structures provide protection in both the summer heat and winter cold. Birds seek shelters for safety from seasonal elements / weather, predators and for nesting.

3. Reduce Lawns:

Expansive, weed free lawns are little more than barren deserts to birds. The manicured yard lacks the insects, blossoms, seeds, and nutrients that a natural, “weedy” space provides.

4. Do Not Use Chemicals / Pesticides:

Stop applying chemicals to your gardens and lawns. This quick, easy action prevents exposure to toxic chemicals. Spraying plants in bloom or in seed is particularly deadly to birds and pollinators as they unwittingly consume harmful toxins.

5. Protect Glass Windows:

The reflections, of large windows that are lit, and sliding glass doors, are disorienting to a bird in flight and can lead to death when they fly into one. Preventing the reflection of sky and trees in the pane of glass will reduce bird strikes. Try using window decals, awnings, wind chimes, curtains/shades, UV-reflective glass, and moving feeders / bird baths within 3 feet (too close for a collision to be fatal) or more than 30 feet (the birds will be able to see these deterrents and avoid a strike).



6. Bird Feeders:

Birds are excellent foragers when insects, seeds, berries and water are available. However, during harsh weather such as extreme heat, drought, cold, snow, and storms, finding food sources is extremely difficult. Supplementing needed nutrients becomes critical to survival.

7. Stop Habitat Loss / Support Environmental Groups:

Providing and protecting habitat is crucial and local non-profits are great sources for spearheading action. One such group that GCNJ partners with is the Friends of Liberty State Park and their efforts to pass the Liberty State Park Protection Act, A2189, which will protect the Park's Caven Point Natural Area from private development. Please see the GCNJ's website for more information on protecting Caven Point, a crucial stopover on the Atlantic Flyway - a major migration pattern for birds in North America.

Please join the Garden Club of New Jersey in promoting healthy gardening practices, protecting the environment, and preserving our nature resources.

Beverly Kazickas  
NGC Gardening School Accrediting Chair  
and GCNJ First Vice President

## 2022 Holidays at Drumthwacket

Please join us in celebrating the holidays at Drumthwacket, New Jersey Governor's Official Residence, in Princeton, NJ. The Garden Club of NJ will continue its longtime tradition of decorating the grand house for the holidays.



The clubs participating are Allentown Garden Club, Belvidere Garden Club, Garden Club of Hunterdon Hills, Keyport Garden Club, Garden Club of Long Valley, Garden Club of Mountain Lakes and West Trenton Garden Club. There will be several Open Houses scheduled in December.

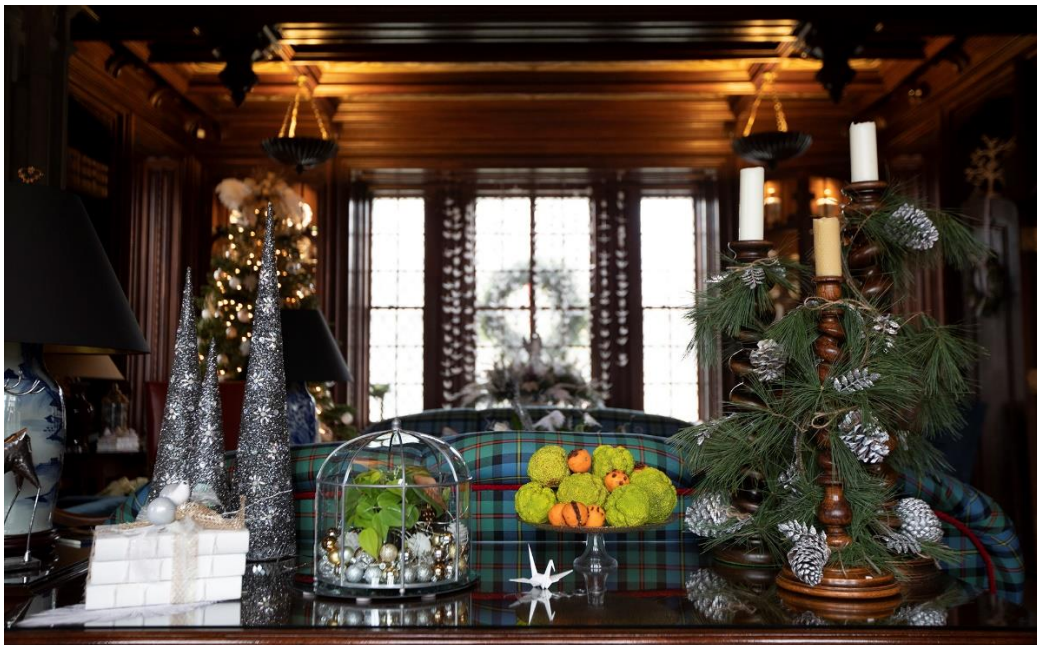




Open House Days when the public may visit are Dec. 3, 4, 5, 8, 12, and 22 from 11 am - 2 pm.



For further information visit the Drumthwacket website at [www.drumthwacket.org](http://www.drumthwacket.org).



Note: All credit for the beautiful photographs goes to Andrew Wilkinson.

Chris Endris  
Drumthwacket Chair  
[chrisendris@gmail.com](mailto:chrisendris@gmail.com)

# Scholarships



## WHO GETS FINANCIAL SCHOLARSHIPS FROM GCNJ?

For the past 5 years, as Scholarship Chair, I have been privileged to see more than fifty students from high school seniors through students already in their doctorate programs, receive worthy financial scholarships from the Garden Club of New Jersey at our Annual Meeting each June. Real money in real time and really needed. Many of these students reapply and receive new scholarships year after year. Isn't that amazing!!!

Don't hesitate to suggest to the students you know (and the students your garden club has selected to win your scholarships last year and in the coming years) that they go onto the Garden Club of New Jersey website [www.gardenclubofnewjersey.org](http://www.gardenclubofnewjersey.org) to find forms for our scholarships and information about applying. Look under Scholarships.

A student must be a New Jersey resident, however, the student may attend school outside of our state and still qualify. The objectives of the Garden Club of New Jersey define our scholarship requirements. A student must study full time in an accredited college, and students in a two year or community college program qualify as well. The deadline for GCNJ Scholarship is February 1st, so it's suggested that students begin their application process as soon as possible, and even before winter break.

If you would like to be a member of our Scholarship Committee, please email me at [scholarshipsgcnj@gmail.com](mailto:scholarshipsgcnj@gmail.com) or call me at 732-216-5841. We meet once in February to select recipients. We select one student to receive an additional National Garden Club scholarship and another to receive a CAR scholarship each year. If you have questions, let me know.

Trish Polunas  
Scholarship Chair

## JUDGES CREDENTIALS

GCNJ held a successful 36th Symposium at The National Conference Center in East Windsor, NJ, on October 12-13, 2022, for which Jan Warshauer was chairman. About forty judges attended, with several joining us from Pennsylvania, New York, California, and Connecticut. On Wednesday, Jan Griffin lectured on cacti, ilex, and creative staging for horticulture. A large display of both plants was present, provided by Heidi Muschick and GCNJ judges. On Thursday, following her lecture on Flower Show Evaluation, Julia Clevett and her awesome designs taught us about Abstract Creative Designs and Abstract Creative Cascade Designs. A comparison between Traditional, Creative and Abstract Creative Designs was presented.

We are most appreciative of those judges who provided the designs for the Practice Point Scoring: Teddie Falcone, Cecelia Millea, Louise Davis, Gail Bassolino, Debbie Moran and Pat Bowker.



Also, for the Point Scoring Exam the following judges participated: Florence Leyssene, Debbie Moran, Brenda Bingham, Carol English, and Jan Warshauer.

Congratulations are extended to Pat Bowker and Alice Dickson who passed their First Refresher as Accredited Judges and to Mary Warshauer, who completed her Second Refresher to Life.

Life Judge status was achieved by Gail Bassolino, Teddie Falcone, Mary Lou Phifer, and Linda Scarano Senatore.

Linda Williams became a Master Judge.

About twenty Master Judges from GCNJ, California, New York, Rhode Island, and Pennsylvania audited the Symposium. Several garden club members also joined us.

Jane Bersch  
GCNJ Judges Credentials Chairman  
[janebersch@aol.com](mailto:janebersch@aol.com)



## Club News

### Garden Club of LBI: TEMPESTS IN A TEACUP



What's more warm and cozy than a pretty teacup filled with steaming tea as winter rolls around? Try pretty teacups overflowing with dried flowers to welcome the days of autumn!

Twenty-eight talented Garden Club members selected their favorite teacups and filled them with the soft colors of fall for an exhibit at the Surf City Branch of the Ocean County Library. The designs in miniature are less than 5 inches tall and feature plants from LBI. Some of the flowers include dried roses, hydrangeas, native grasses and leaves, seedpods and wildflowers.

Eye catching as well, the exhibit includes antique postcards and laces, biscuit tins, old photographs and books. Library committee chair Diane Pley of The Dunes and Photographer Jeannette Michelson of Barnegat Light staged the exhibit in November.

### Garden Club of LBI Teaches Flower Arranging

On Wednesday, September 21, the Garden Club of LBI joined forces with children at Long Beach Island School to create fall flower arrangements. Twenty five third graders met in the gym of their school with twelve Garden Club members for an hour of learning the rudiments of flower arranging. This included learning about flowers and greenery, how to cover an oasis, and how to keep an arrangement healthy.

The Garden Club's agenda also includes environmental programs, tree planting, college scholarships, The next flower arranging program is scheduled for October 19, for third through sixth graders, after school at the Surf City Library.

Information about all the Garden Club's activities and how to join are on the website, [thegardencluboflbi.com](http://thegardencluboflbi.com). Follow us too on Facebook and Instagram.



Gillian Rozicer  
Board Member, Garden Club of LBI  
[gillian616@aol.com](mailto:gillian616@aol.com)

## CRAWFORD'S CORNER

### Spicy and Fragrant Witch Hazels are Right Under our Nose

For the gardener who craves flowers, I have found late fall into early winter to be the most challenging season for a frost hardy floral display. Every plant with a lick of 'common sense' is entering into dormancy in preparation for a long winter's nap. Only the most ardent of bloomers would consider flowering then! It also proves challenging for garden centers who are hesitant to bring in plants for late season color at a time when no one is thinking of flowering plants. Interestingly, a great solution to this flowering dilemma is not to be found in Asia or the mountains of Europe, but in the Eastern North American woodlands. *Hamamelis virginiana* or Witch Hazel is a relatively common understory plant to NJ, yet it is surprising how few gardeners have come to recognize its beauty!

Witch Hazels are members of their own family of Hamamelidaceae with 2 or 3 species native to North America, one to Japan and one to China. *Hamamelis virginiana* is native from Nova Scotia west to Minnesota and south to Florida and eastern Texas. Perhaps some of the hesitation for gardeners stems from the common name; why buy a plant that could be aligned with witches and shaman practices? In reality, the name Witch most likely comes from the Old English *wiche* or *wych*, referring to something pliable. The stems of *Hamamelis* are quite pliable and young forked stems were purportedly used as divining rods in search of water! Hazel refers to the shape of the leaf, which resembles that of *Corylus* or Hazel. Plants were initially introduced into Europe by Peter Collinson (1694-1768) who was a fabric merchant by profession but had a strong passion for gardening. He became friends with American plant collectors such as John Bartram (1699-1777) and realizing there was a demand for plants from across the 'pond', he helped to fund their plant expeditions. Collinson was also well connected with the European scientific community, including the Swiss botanist Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778) and he most likely passed along



samples of Witch Hazel to Linnaeus. In 1753, Linnaeus published both the genus name of *Hamamelis* and the species of *Hamamelis virginiana*. *Hamamelis* was from the Greek *hama*, meaning together, and *mela*, meaning fruit. The name was based on how *Hamamelis virginiana* has seed capsules or 'fruit', flowers and next year's buds all 'together' on the stems concurrently. The species epithet is in reference to the enormous colony of Virginia that initially extended north to the Great Lakes! Somewhere within the colony Bartram collected seed of

*Hamamelis virginiana*. This species was well received by European gardeners and was long respected by Native Americans for its medicinal qualities. The oils captured from the steam of boiled stems and bark were used for reducing inflammation. Whether it was for cuts, insect bites, sore muscles, inflammation or even as an aftershave for those lacking dexterity with a razor, Witch Hazel was the cure!

Even considering the odd time of year for bloom or the intriguing shaman reference of the name, the only true excuse a gardener should have for not planting this Witch Hazel is simple unawareness! The





multistemmed plants are typically open in appearance when seen in woodlands, often reaching rather demure heights of 10-12'. However, in full sun, the plants grow much denser and taller, often reaching heights of 20' with the gently arching habit far more readily apparent, as seen above in fall color at Frelinghuysen Arboretum. The appearance of the plant also varies by their native provenance. Those located further north are shorter in stature with larger leaves while those found in southern regions are taller, some reaching to 30' with

smaller foliage. Throughout the growing season, the dark green foliage provides an attractive foil for other plants, as the obovate or egg-shaped leaves grow upwards of 6" long by 2-4" wide. Characteristically, the leaf bases on either side of the leaf petiole are mismatched, with one side shorter than the other (as seen at left). Come autumn, the foliage turns to a buttery yellow, from late October through November in NJ. The flower buds can appear singularly, but they are usually in clusters of up to 4 per floral stem or peduncle, as it is known botanically. Each cluster of buds originates from the base of the leaf, as seen below, with the yellow flowers beginning to open come late October. They are initially masked by the golden foliage, but gradually become more apparent in November as the leaves fall (the image below shot on November 9<sup>th</sup>). The flowers consist of 4, strap-like petals, as seen to the right. Each petal is upwards of ¾" long with a somewhat crinkled appearance. Appearing near the base of the petals and alternating with the petals are 4 short and yellow pollen bearing stamens along with 4 greenish, nectar bearing stamens that are sterile. At the center are 2 highly pubescent or hairy styles that support the stigmas.



The flowers bloom for 4 weeks or longer depending on the weather conditions and release a slightly spicy



fragrance. During cold weather, the petals curl clockwise into the flower in an attempt to protect the floral parts. The flowers are pollinated by gnats and bees that remain active late into the season, feasting off the nectar and sticky pollen. Interestingly, throughout the winter the base of the female carpel containing the ovary and the pollen transferred by an insect remains in a state of suspended animation and the actual act of fertilization does not occur until the following spring. The seeds slowly develop in pods that resemble a pair of puckered lips throughout the summer and fall (pictured to the

left). Each pod holds one or two developing black seeds. Come October, the seeds are dispersed by a mechanism called Explosive Dehiscence, whereby the seeds are literally shot out of the seed pod to distances of up to 30'! As a teenager tending the garden of one of my first 'client's', I remember one early



November day eating lunch next to a Witch Hazel. The owners German Shephard was patiently sitting by my side in hopes of a handout or belly rub. All the while I kept hearing a very distinctive sound of something

hitting the newly fallen leaves. The sound came in sets of two. That memory stuck with me and I now realize I was hearing those ejected seeds!



*Hamamelis virginiana* is not the only North American Witch Hazel blooming in late fall. Even less known among the gardening community is the Ozark Witch Hazel. As the name infers, it is native to the Ozarks, growing from Southern Missouri through northwestern Arkansas into eastern Oklahoma. The

renowned botanist Charles Sprague Sargent (1841-1927) originally described and named the plant in 1911 as *Hamamelis vernalis*. Sargent served as the first Director of the Arnold Arboretum, beginning in 1872 and continuing for the next 55 years until his death. He worked with landscape architects, such as the renowned Beatrix Farrand along with many nursery professionals who were all attempting to learn the many new plants coming into commerce from lands abroad. The species epithet indicates how plants can bloom around the spring vernal equinox, although some seedling selections will start to bloom in late fall and early winter. The plant is also commonly referred to as Vernal Witch Hazel. Most references still list it as *Hamamelis vernalis*, but in December of 2007, Frederick Gustav Meyer (1917-2006), the well-respected Director of the National Arboretum's Herbarium from 1963-1991, reclassified the plant as *Hamamelis virginiana* subspecies *vernalis*. It is interesting to note how the Ozarks are a family meeting grounds since the subspecies and species of *Hamamelis virginiana* often grow a mere 20' apart! They manage to sustain

their distinct characteristics most likely through the limited overlap of bloom time.



Although rarely seen in home landscapes, I must admit the Vernal Hazel has long been a favorite of mine. A multistemmed shrub growing from 15-18' tall, the dark green foliage followed by yellow fall color appear very similar to that of its cousin. Of course, there are exceptions and for those plants with more brilliant red or purple flowers, the fall color traditionally features attractive red overtones. One downside with younger and vigorously growing plants is the tendency to retain the now tan foliage throughout winter. Flowering often persists for up to a month or longer, with a few plants commencing bloom in late fall while others wait until the warmth of spring. The major difference between the species and subspecies is the wonderfully sweet fragrance offered by the Vernal Witch Hazel flowers. On those 'warm' 35 to 40-degree days in winter, fragrance can waft a good 30' away and is known to attract not only gardeners but a bevy of pollinators! The petals vary from

red to orange (as seen below), with the occasional plant showcasing yellow or deep purple blooms! Petals are smaller than their cousin, usually  $\frac{1}{3}$  -  $\frac{1}{2}$ " in length. However, when set against a snowy backdrop as seen above on a chilly 35° February afternoon, it provides a very impactful and well received winter sight.

The Ozark Witch Hazel has several selections that are available in the trade. 'Red Imp' is a readily available form with a somewhat more compact habit, growing to 8-12' tall. It was named by Peter Dummer and Roy Lancaster at Hilliers Nursery in England in 1996. The fall color is a bright red, followed by reddish orange flowers come late February and March. It does have the annoying habit of retaining the previous year's foliage that can obscure many of the blossoms. The cultivar 'Kohankie Red' was selected by the Henry Kohankie Nursery of Perry Ohio and is another mid-sized plant reaching 8' tall by 12' wide. I find the flowers more purple than red, as seen above left, but they are still very attractive and definitely light up the winter garden when back-lit! The flowers area also considerably larger, sporting  $\frac{3}{4}$ -1" long petals.

If you are lacking color and fragrance in your late fall and winter garden, these two plants can provide the solution to your problem. At Rutgers there was a selection of Vernal Witch Hazel that consistently started to



bloom at the end of December and was often still in bloom come February (pictured below), while at Frelinghuysen Arboretum a *Hamamelis virginiana* glows nicely against the mid-November skyline (the initial image). If you are looking for flowers for late fall through winter, look no further than your local woodlands or a trip to the Ozarks via your local garden center. Sometimes great spicy or fragrant flowered solutions really are just under our nose!

Bruce Crawford  
Manager of Horticulture, Morris County Park Commission  
[bcrawford@morrisparks.net](mailto:bcrawford@morrisparks.net)



# BLUE STAR NEWS



New Jersey Welcomes Another Blue Star Marker and Celebrates its FIRST Gold Star Marker!!

Bright sunshine and glorious autumn colors framed the background for the dedication of the newest Blue Star Marker in New Jersey! Even more exciting, the same site now displays New Jersey's first Gold Star Marker!

Gloucester County Memorial Veterans' Cemetery in Williamstown is the setting for both of these markers which were dedicated on Saturday, October 29 at 11:00 a.m. A combined effort of the GCNJ, NJ Department of Transportation, the Cemetery Association, and the Certified Gardeners of Gloucester County, these markers represent a year-long project which brings the first markers to Gloucester County.

The Blue Star Memorial Marker project originated in New Jersey in 1944, when the GCNJ and NJ Highway Commissioner worked together to designate a portion of state route 22 as the first Blue Star Highway. It was planted with 1000 native dogwoods and given the first Blue Star sign, naming it Blue Star Drive. That marker still stands and has been refurbished and replaced several times. Since 1944, the program to honor all service men and women has become a nation-wide program to recognize our military personnel. Markers are now found in all 50 states, along highways, by-ways, and in public spaces such as civic parks and cemeteries.

The Gold Star program provides support for families of service members who gave their lives during conflict. The Gold Star Memorial marker, also supported by National Garden Clubs, allows garden clubs and civic organizations to pay tribute to those in the community who died in service to their country. We believe the marker dedicated on October 29 is the first one here in New Jersey.

Currently, there are over 40 Blue Star Marker sites in New Jersey!! All counties except for Hudson now have at least one marker. Another marker is in the works for Sussex County through the efforts of the Snufftown Garden Club, GCNJ, and the NJDOT. We are also working on a possible site for Hudson County.

Joan Cichalski  
[jjcichalski@comcast.net](mailto:jjcichalski@comcast.net)  
 732-977-4477



## YOUTH CORNER



Here is some timely information for those interested in working with youth

**January 6th is the GCNJ YOUTH CONTEST Deadline.**

**February 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for YOUTH AWARDS**

Youth Contests are an important way for children of all ages to express a message about protecting our natural resources through art and their written word. Adult Garden Clubs are invited to sponsor youth entries in the 2023 YOUTH CONTESTS. Number of entries is limited to no more 3 top entries per grade level for each participating grade and for each contest.

### **Grades 1-5 Smokey Bear (or) Woodsy Owl Poster contest**

Please submit on 11X17 inch paper with entrant info on the back. Choose either Smokey or Woodsy on a poster with their logo as described in the rules. For more information visit: [Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Youth Poster Contest | National Garden Clubs, Inc.](#)



### **Grades K – 9 National Poetry contest**

Must be typed with entrant info on back. Any poetry style is acceptable. Theme is Seeds, Trees, & Bees...Oh My! Celebrating the Diversity of Nature. Students enter in one of three categories: General Education, Special Education, or English as a second language. For more information visit: [Poetry Contest | National Garden Clubs, Inc.](#)

### **Grades 4-8 National Youth Sculpture contest**

Sculptures must consist of recyclable, reused and reduced materials – attach photos of sculpture to official application (2 4x6 photos are recommended); entrant keeps the sculpture. Sculpture width: no larger than 8.5 inches by 11 inches and height should be appropriate to width. For more information visit: [Youth Sculpture Contest | National Garden Clubs, Inc.](#)

Please mail entries flat rather than rolled, using a sturdy mailing envelope. Reminder: Maximum of 3 entries per grade level, for each of the Youth Contests, submitted to:

Peggy Morrissey, GCNJ Awards Chair, 142 Osborne Ave, Bay Head, NJ 08742  
Email: [peggymorrissey67@yahoo.com](mailto:peggymorrissey67@yahoo.com)  
Phone: call or text (732) 330-3636

### **Grades 9-12 CAR-SGC High School Essay Contest**

Contest is open to High school students attending Grades 9-12 who may find their voice through the use of their pen writing essays about vital environmental issues. A 600-700 word essay with a well thought out title, is required detailing the theme, "How do we protect our water resources?".

For more information visit: [https://www.car-sgc.org/files/ugd/0cd9d6\\_692802149b48420aaefd23d5b8683f25.pdf](https://www.car-sgc.org/files/ugd/0cd9d6_692802149b48420aaefd23d5b8683f25.pdf)

Email high school essay entries via email attachment as a PDF file to:

Marg Peterson

Email: [margpeterson@comcast.net](mailto:margpeterson@comcast.net)

An optional photo may be sent as a JPEG.

All Adult Garden Clubs are encouraged to invite students to enter a Youth Contest now. It's a way to take action and educate others. These contests give youth a voice...a voice we all need to hear.

YOUTH AWARDS is another area, (separate from Youth Contests.) Applying for a YOUTH AWARD involves filling out an awards application, sponsored by an Adult Garden Club, and documenting what your Youth Garden Club has accomplished to let others know about your garden related projects and receive well deserved recognition for your hard work and success. The deadline for YOUTH AWARDS is February 15, 2023. Please go to the GCNJ website for info: [Awards-Booklet-11111431.pdf \(gardenclubofnewjersey.org\)](#)

For more information contact:

Peggy Morrissey

GCNJ Awards Chair

Email: [peggymorrissey67@yahoo.com](mailto:peggymorrissey67@yahoo.com)

Diana Dove

GCNJ Youth Chair

[dianadove13@gmail.com](mailto:dianadove13@gmail.com)

(908) 763-9648

---

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

***January 30 is the deadline for articles for The Spring 2022 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](mailto:k.eardley@live.com)

Go to GCNJ website at [www.gardenclubofnewjersey.org](http://www.gardenclubofnewjersey.org) for more information or check out Facebook for some informative posts: [\(4\) Garden Club of New Jersey | Facebook](#)



**Happy Holidays and Stay Safe!**