

>>> JUNE 2023 <<<



COMPOST HEAP

An Official Publication of Rumson Garden Club



Enjoy this temporary format as we "turn over" our HEAP.
Don't stop reading until you learn about "An Early Morning Visitor"!

We look forward to seeing you at our
June Membership meeting!

11:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at Bingham Hall

[RSVP TO JUNE MEETING HERE](#)

Schedule:

8:30-9:30am Passing

9:30-10:30am Judging

11:00am-12:00pm Business Meeting followed by a delicious complimentary box lunch!

Please take a moment to download, print, and fill out your entry cards prior to dropping off your entries. If you need entry cards or have questions, contact our Staging Chairs, Wendy Wilt (wendytwilt@gmail.com) or Mary Brodsky (mary.brodsky@foxroach.com).

JUNE SCHEDULE

PASSERS:

BOTANICAL ARTS: BONNIE TORCIVIA AND LUCY KALIAN
HORTICULTURE: BETSY FORD AND AVERY BRIGHTON

CLERKS:

BOTANICAL ARTS: ALEX SMITH AND SHEILA EHRENBERG
HORTICULTURE: GAIL VAN WINKLE AND TAPHY HARCSAR

JUDGES:

BOTANICAL ARTS: JOAN LYNCH AND CYNTHIA LABRECQUE
HORTICULTURE: SARAH FLEMING AND STELLA RYAN

BOTANICAL ARTS

Class 1 Welcome to the "Dog Days of Summer!"

Using the bar pins provided create a brooch of your favorite pooch. Keep your canine under 3" in any direction and make sure you include at least one gem or pearl.

Class 2 **Novice.** Same as above.

All plant material must be dried - this includes flowers, foliage, seeds, pods, nuts, twigs, vines, reeds, etc. Your piece can be painted with nail polish, acrylics, Testor paint, varnish and waxes. Non plant material (i.e. cardboard, metal, twine, string, cording, etc.) may be used for construction and must not show.

Contact Stella Ryan @ 732-718-0332 or stellaryan1@aol.com with questions.

HORTICULTURE

Class 1 One sumptuous bloom. To be displayed in an RGC container.

Class 2 **Novice.** Same as above.

FERNS

Class 3 One fern frond. To be displayed in an RGC container.

Class 4 **Novice.** Same as above.

HYDRANGEA

Class 5 One stem to be displayed in an RGC container. Class may be subdivided.

Class 6 **Novice.** Same as above.

Class 7 **PAR**



Happy June! As our flower beds come to life growing into their full potential, it's reassuring to watch the butterflies, moths, birds, and bees out and about doing their usual jobs. Summer is here and a new routine is taking shape. I like to keep in mind Janet Kilburn Philips words, "There are no gardening mistakes, only experiments." Words to live by as we add more and more native plants to our landscapes – happy natives may surprise you with how robust and tall they will become (as I learned from propagating and planting *Helenium Autumnale*, Sneezeweed in my crowded backyard)! Enjoy this wonderful transition of season.

I am honored to be your President for the next two years and hope as a Club, we can make a positive impact on our community. The Heap and website are currently a work in progress. We would like to feature a member's favorite photograph on the Heap each month. Going forward, we will have a link for you to submit your photographs. This month we are featuring one of my photographs of my garden. I love when this area of my garden comes into full bloom at the start of summer. Looking forward to seeing your photographs of nature that you are proud of in the months to come!

We have a small Show this month with Botanical Arts "Dog Brooches" and Hort. One more chance for us all to come together as garden enthusiasts before our summer "break." Boxed lunches will be served compliments of RGC. Hope you all can make it!

Best wishes,
Susan

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

(See Committee Reports for full details)

June 13: Floral Committee Meeting to plan next year's schedule

June 13: Civics Committee weeding at Monmouth Day Care Center

June 15: Conservation Walk & Talk

June 22: Horticulture Committee Meeting to plan next year's schedule

June 22: Horticulture Committee Propagation Workshop

July 1: Floral, Hort & Photography Chairs please submit your schedules to Susan!

***ALL members are encouraged to serve on at least two committees each year.**

Please click [here](#) to sign up.

FLORAL:

The Floral Committee will be meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 13th at the home of Taphy Harcsar, 10 Osprey Lane, Rumson, to discuss next year's Floral Schedule. Contact Taphy at taphy.harcsar@gmail.com

HORTICULTURE:

Join us for a propagation workshop on Thursday, June 22 at 2:00 p.m. at Bonnie Torcivia's home, 115 Battin Road, Fair Haven. Soft wood cuttings will be provided (or bring your own). We will have peat-free growing medium, rooting hormone, and 4" pots (or bring your own, plastic or clay). Plants propagated at this workshop will be eligible for the Ritchie Moore Trophy (Classes in October 2023 and May 2024). Give it a try! Contact Alexandra Smith at 6amzc4@gmail.com by June 19th if you'd like to join.

And if you'd like to join the Horticulture Committee we welcome you! We will be meeting at 1:00 p.m. prior to the workshop to plan next year's schedule.

CIVICS:

Civics Committee planted the window boxes with summer annuals at the Oceanic Library on May 23rd. We have planted the Monmouth Day Care Center raised garden beds and are planning on returning mid June to weed. Contact Betsy Ford at betsyford72@gmail.com if you would like to join the group on Tuesday, June 13th at 1pm.

CONSERVATION:

Walk & Talk Thursday, June 15 at 8:30AM -- we will be doing our own "beach sweep" so bring a bag to collect trash! We will meet on the jetty between Seabright Beach Club & Anchorage Beach (the public beach directly north of SBBC). See you then!



A NOTE FROM THE BIRD LADY:

It was an early sunrise. The old dead trees in the woods next door changed from their pale white to a rich gold in the morning light. Up in the branches of the tallest one was a large young bird. Dark feathers and a white head. It turned sideways and immediately that distinctive beak and white head were recognizable as our own bald eagle.

It was breakfast time for it, and the wriggling fish held fast in its curved talons was a gourmet meal. A tender morsel. The early birds were curious. They had not seen this stranger before and began to circle it, gathering in numbers. Red winged black birds, starlings, and iridescent grackles shrieked, and dive bombed it. It was oblivious.

Breakfast was more important than these upstarts. Then the blue jays sounded the alarm bringing even more curious birds to the dead trees, squawking and scolding, adding to the ever-increasing din of the dawn chorus.

The fish, who were floating by in the river cast glassy eyes up at the chaos in the trees and were thankful that they had managed to evade an attack from this successful though inexperienced bird. They flipped and flashed their tails and sped away.

Soon the entree was finished.

The young eagle took off in a wide flap of its wings to find another victim of the river.

The sky was softening now to a bluish grey. The gathering clouds were lavender tinged. Rain was threatening. The neighboring birds flew off to find their own breakfasts and to appease their raucous fledglings. The entertainment for the day was over. The rain fell softly and quietly on the collection of bones and scales laying at the foot of the tree, becoming another meal for the smaller and shyer inhabitants of the woods.



Haiku
High in a dead tree
Curved beak, dangerous talons
Beautiful eagle



Photos by Jan
Jan Glass "Bird Lady" May 2023
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