



OCTOBER 2023



COMPOST HEAP

An Official Publication of Rumson Garden Club



DON'T STOP READING UNTIL YOU GET THIS MONTH'S MEMBER TIPS!

We look forward to seeing you at our
October Membership (Open!) meeting!

9:30am October 24, 2023

at Rumson Country Club

RSVP TO OCTOBER MEETING [HERE](#)

Schedule:

8:30-9:00am Passing

9:30-10:30am Judging and **BUSINESS MEETING**

10:30am **SPEAKER**

Complimentary Breakfast available at 9:00am

OCTOBER SPEAKER

“Wild in the Garden State”

Sarah Galloway

Sarah Galloway is a documentary filmmaker who enjoys translating complex topics into clear and compelling stories. She got her start as an Assistant Editor on the seminal documentary, Hoop Dreams. As the Senior Media Producer for the American Museum of Natural History she created video, interactive media, web content and immersive experiences for exhibits. Her first independent film, Bike Riddim won the Asbury Park Press Award at the 2018 Asbury Park Music & Film Festival. Her second independent film is Wild in the Garden State.



OCTOBER SCHEDULE

PASSERS:

FLORAL DESIGN: ELAINE EADON AND JOAN LYNCH

HORTICULTURE: MISSY FALKENBERG AND PARI HARRISON

CLERKS:

FLORAL DESIGN: KATHRYNE SINGLETON AND GAIL VAN WINKLE

HORTICULTURE: LINDSAY WALLS AND SUSAN SMITH

JUDGES:

FLORAL DESIGN: GCA

HORTICULTURE: HEATHER ROBINSON AND MAYA SPEELMANS

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)

OCTOBER SCHEDULE

FLORAL DESIGN

Reverse The Interpretation

“Fashion designers throughout history have been inspired by flowers.” -E. Glenn

ELIZABETH DIMOCK KNAPP TROPHY

Open to all members

A silver bowl awarded to the member with the best interpretive design arrangement.

(GCA Judges)

Class 1 A floral arrangement that best interprets your favorite designer: Lilly Pulitzer to Chanel.

Please include a small picture of your inspiration and a statement of intent on 4x6 card.

Please email or call to register your entry: taphy.harcsar@gmail.com or 732-842-8570.

HORTICULTURE

“Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away...” Emily Bronte

(All entries must always be properly identified)

RITCHIE MOORE TROPHY

Class 1 Open to all members. Any plant propagated since June 2023. Clay or plastic pots are permitted. Pots not to exceed 4” in diameter. Maximum three pots per member. Points from October 2023 and May 2024 exhibits will be combined to award the Ritchie Moore Trophy in June. Propagation cards are required.

FALL FOLIAGE AND FLOWERS

Class 2 One stem of three different kinds (genera) of herbaceous and/or woody specimens foliage displayed in one RGC container. May contain cut branches and/or perennials and/or grasses. Not to exceed 24” in length or width from lip of container to tip of entry. To be judged 80% on horticultural merit and 20% on artistic merit, reflecting a fall color palette.

Class 3 Novice. Same as above.

HORTICULTURE CONT.

SEED EXTRAVAGANZA

Class 4 Three to five different kinds (genera) of seed capsules, pods or seed heads, arranged and displayed in a RGC glass container. To be judged 70% horticultural merit and 30% artistic merit.

Class 5 Novice. Same as above.

DRIED HYDRANGEA

Class 6 One Stem. Must be fully dry, foliage removed.

Class 7 Novice. Same as above.

FALL GRASSES

Class 8 One stem native** grass with foliage and/or inflorescence. Unlimited Height. Class may be divided.

Class 9 Novice. Same as above.

ASTERS

Class 10 One flowering stem to be displayed in a RCG container, not to exceed 18” in length from the lip of the container to the tip of the specimen.

Class 11 Novice. Same as above.

SUMMER SURVIVOR

Class 12 One late blooming flowering stem, to be displayed in a RCG container. Excludes fall flowering bulbs.

Class 13 Novice. Same as above.

Class 14 PAR

A rooted plant of exceptional horticultural merit, which does not qualify for entry elsewhere in the Horticultural Division. Please see page 10 for PAR definition.

*Inflorescence: The complete flower head of a plant including stems, stalks, bracts, and flowers.

**Native plants, for the purpose of this schedule, will be defined as ‘native to New Jersey’ according to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center or the JerseyYards.org Native Plant Database. Please visit these sites to verify the eligibility of your specimens.

Fall is here and the colder weather is a welcome change! While the leaves are still green, the feeling of transition is evident. Summer annuals are looking past their prime as perennial seeds and berries emerge everywhere. It's time to replace those reliable Mandevilla container plants with more seasonal Pansies, Ornamental Peppers, and Chrysanthemums.

We had a great turnout for our September Meeting and were able to get a fabulous membership photo at the beach thanks to Avery Brighton (featured on Page 8 below). Our next meeting will be the FIRST breakfast meeting at the Riverhouse, our new home for the year until the RCC Club House construction is complete. Breakfast will be available at 9:00am and is complimentary for all our members. Hope to see you there!

We have an exciting Floral challenge this month for ALL members -- to interpret your favorite fashion designer with flowers. GCA judges will be present to determine the winner for this Club Award. In Hort, we also have the chance to show off our Fall foliage, seed capsules, grasses, and propagations – the first opportunity to gain points toward the Ritchie Moore Trophy which will be awarded in June.

Our Business Meeting which starts at 9:30am, while Hort and Floral are being judged, will be followed by our engaging Speaker, Sarah Galloway at 10:30am. This is our Open Meeting for the year -- please let us know if you plan to bring a guest to hear our Speaker.

We have had lots of fun with Betsy Ford's Civics clean-ups – the Oceanic Library window boxes and Monmouth Daycare Center look amazing. Stella Ryan and MJ O'Hare led a lively Botanical Arts workshop showing us how to create gleaming gems with Eucalyptus seed pods. Our Club has a lot going on right now! It's a great time to get involved. Please join us wherever you can!

Look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday, the 24th!

Cheers,
Susan



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

(See Committee Reports for full details)

Tues. Oct. 10, 8am - Conservation Walk&Talk @ Historic Portland Place in Hartshorne Woods

Wed. Oct. 13, 10:30am - Monmouth Daycare Center - weeding, thinning, bulb planting (Civics)

Wed. Oct. 18 - GCA Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference (virtual/open to all members)

Wed. Nov. 8 - NJ Committee Annual Lecture and Luncheon, Canoe BrookCountry Club

Thurs, Nov 16 - GCA Garden History & Design Conference (virtual/open to all members)

Fri. Dec. 1 - Set Up; **Sat. Dec. 2** - Christmas Greens! Wreath making & workshop

FLORAL DESIGN:

We encourage everyone - regular and novice members - to enter the October Floral Design (Elizabeth Dimock Knapp Trophy) which will be judged by GCA judges. Please let's have a great turnout!

Please let Taphy or Susan know:

Taphy Harcsar 732-842-8570. Susan Sorokolit 732-842-9520.



Enjoy these pictures of creative minds at work at the recent Botanical Arts workshop at Bingham Hall in anticipation of our January challenge!

HORTICULTURE:

Please remember to place your bulb orders with Alex Smith at 6amzc4@gmail.com!



And many thanks to Avery for hosting and organizing a delightful workshop at her magnificent propagation set up! Thanks to this event our community will have many charming Sweet Williams blooming in the spring!

CONSERVATION:

Walk-and-Talk at 8:00am on October 10th at Historic Portland Place in Hartshorne Woods

200 Hartshorne Road, Locust (Middletown Township), NJ 07760

RSVP to Piper Leddy at [732-859-0734](tel:732-859-0734) piperbrighton@gmail.com.

Not sure how to start incorporating Native Plants in your garden? Check out the RGC website for the Native Plants excel form and filter your needs by deer-resistant, light requirements, classification, blooming season, nursery location, etc.! This is a living document so if you have any corrections/comments or need help navigating the excel form, please send all queries to Piper Leddy at piperbrighton@gmail.com.

How clean is your drinking water? Why should you install a Reverse Osmosis Filter? Learn about PFAS contamination and other insights on all things water via The Watershed Institute's fabulous YouTube playlist of content for the general public, such as backyard composting, along with more technical content.

Learn how to build resiliency to the water-related climate change issues at the Watershed Conference to be held **Friday, February 23rd at TCNJ**. Options for both hybrid or in person. Save the date and check back for registration.

CIVICS:

Civics will be at the **Monmouth Daycare Center on Friday, Oct. 13 from 10:30 to 12:00**. The plan is to plant a few bulbs for Spring, tidy up a few areas and check on the cold weather vegetables.

The Oceanic Library window boxes are looking great thanks to Gail van Winkle, Robbyn O'Neill, Elaine Eadon, Janet Rotchford, Wendy Wilt, Piper Leddy, Stephanie Hoitt and Betsy Ford. The cabbage, kale, pansies, ornamental peppers and gourds were planted on September 26th and should look good for the fall. **We will be greening them up for the holidays on the Saturday, Dec. 2**. The Rumson Environmental Commission and the Rumson Garden Club recently met to discuss the maintenance of the Victory Park Rain Garden with Lucia from the American Littoral Society. This project will help keep our River cleaner and also educate the public on how rain gardens can help the environment by capturing storm water runoff.



CHRISTMAS GREENS

Christmas Greens 2023 at Bingham Hall in Rumson

Set Up: Friday, December 1, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Wreath Making: Saturday, December 2, 8:00 a.m. - noon

Member Wreath Making Workshop: Saturday, December 2, noon - 2:00 p.m. (Bring a friend!)

Fundraiser: The Christmas Greens Committee will be selling pre-made holiday bows at the November 14th meeting for \$20 each.

HANDBOOK:

If you would like to pick up your handbook at Peekka's please text (732-208-9854) or email (peeka10@aol.com) her and she will leave it on her front doorstep. Otherwise they will be available at the October meeting.

Please take a look at your contact information and let Peekka know of any changes. Please note: Stephanie Hurtt's cell number is 732-995-4808 (not the 772 area code printed).

Thank you!

Peekka



THE BIRD LADY:

“A CONTORTED WHITE HERON”

It was a cool, clear morning. The sky was a soft golden pink growing gradually to a warm lavender. A hazy mist hung over the river as it slowly glided downstream. Egrets were wading in the shallows and ducks bobbed up and down. Quiet and serene.

Then, as I was looking out of my window, I thought I saw a strange sight that interrupted the serenity of the morning. I looked over at the stand of old dead trees in the next-door garden and wondered why my new neighbors had flung a pair of white pillowcases up into the top of one of them.

They fluttered and waved slowly in the gentle early morning breeze. Then they gradually changed into a more recognizable shape. As they turned and twisted, and I finally saw that it was a young white heron.

It was doing its early morning ritual of stretching and primping after an uncomfortably cold night high up on one of the old dead branches. But it was obvious that it had some irritating and unwanted visitor burying itself under all those beautiful soft feathers. It was twisting and turning its neck, its strong yellow beak probing around its silvery body trying to find that tenacious pest. And because it was stretching that flexible neck into such contortions I wondered if it would be able to straighten it out again.

Finally, it found the pest, the hunt was over, and now no doubt it felt rather hungry. So, returning its long neck to a more comfortable position, and on those wonderfully wide wings, it gracefully took off out over the river for its breakfast.

Jan Glass, Bird Lady. September 2023

Janbglass13@gmail.com

MGRGC

High in a dead tree

Neck twisting and contorting.

A great white heron

All club members are invited to attend at no cost
the GCA's

2023 Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference!

Wed, Oct 18, 2023

- Last day to register: Sun, Oct 15, 2023
- Virtual

Plan to attend two unique sessions, with a break in
between:

- 1 pm ET (12 pm CT, 11 am MT, 10 am PT) ending at 3:30 pm ET.
- 4 pm ET (3 pm CT, 2 pm MT, 1 pm PT) ending at 6 pm ET.

Registration is free and open to all GCA club members through the GCA website.

Save the Date! Wednesday, November 8th

Save The Date for The New Jersey Committee's annual Lecture and Luncheon supporting the Millicent Mercer Johnsen Summer Intern Scholarships. This event has supported over 62 students in a field of study including horticulture, the environment, landscape architecture, plant and marine sciences. This year's event will be held at Canoe Brook Country Club. A flyer with information regarding the speaker, Christopher Spitzmiller is attached below. Also, don't forget about the always popular boutique which will help you get ahead of your holiday shopping or perhaps even treat yourself! It's a great event for us to attend together! Please email Cynthia Labrecque if you plan on attending and prefer to carpool — cl331@comcast.net.



*Shirley Meneice
Horticulture Conference*
Historic Gardens of Hawaii
October 18, 2023

The flyer is enclosed in a green border. At the top, it features the logo for "The NEW JERSEY COMMITTEE of the Garden Club of America" with a purple flower icon. Below the logo, the text reads: "Please save the date for Christopher Spitzmiller Celebrated Lamp Designer, Author & Garden Enthusiast". A photograph of Christopher Spitzmiller, a man in a dark jacket, is shown standing in a garden with purple flowers, with a white house in the background. At the bottom, the text says: "Lecture, Luncheon, Book Signing & Boutique Wednesday, November 8, 2023 Canoe Brook Country Club *Ticket information coming soon! Proceeds to support Millicent Mercer Johnsen Summer Intern Scholarships".

Did you know you can buy perennials, bulbs, books and accessories AND support the NJ Committee all year long? Brent and Becky's Bloomin' Bucks program donates 25% of your entire order towards NJC programs.

- Go to WWW.BLOOMINBUCKS.com
- Select "NJ COMMITTEE OF GCA" from the pull down menu
- Reminder page, select "YES"
- Shop, go to checkout, and follow prompts



OR

Call toll free at 1-877-661-2852

Please inform Customer Service to credit your order to "BloominBucks for the NJ Committee of GCA".