



NOVEMBER 2023



# COMPOST HEAP

An Official Publication of Rumson Garden Club



RGC is thankful for all of its wonderful members!

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

**We look forward to seeing you at our  
 November Membership meeting!  
 9:30am November 14, 2023  
 at RCC Riverhouse**

**RSVP TO NOVEMBER MEETING [HERE](#)**

**Schedule:**

**8:30-9:00am** Passing

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

**10:30am** **SPEAKER** “**BYOV - Bring Your Own Vase**”

**\*Flower fee \$25 Absolute sign-up deadline: Tues., Nov. 7th!\***

**Complimentary Breakfast available at 9:00am**

# NOVEMBER SPEAKER



Ulana Joslin's goal at Flower Barn at Locust Pointe is to provide locally grown, chemical-free cut flowers to our community. Bring your own vase for that special spot at home and Ulana will share with us the best and most creative practices of flower arranging.

## ***WORKSHOP DETAILS***

- **Container may be round or rectangular, not to exceed 6" in diameter or height.**
- **Bring your own insert or frogs for arranging.**
- **No oasis permitted.**
- **Bring your own clippers.**

**Absolute sign-up deadline: Tues., Nov. 7th!**

**\*Flower fee \$25\* (checks payable to RGC)**

**Mail to:**

**Cathy Smith**

**10 Ave of Two Rivers**

**Rumson, NJ 07760**

**Or VENMO Cathy: @CG-SMITH (memo – BYOV)**

# NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

## PASSERS:

FLORAL DESIGN: LUCY KALIAN & CYNTHIA LABRECQUE  
PHOTOGRAPHY: LINDSAY BRANIN & LIZ DUSKO

## CLERKS:

FLORAL DESIGN: WENDY WILT & CHRISTINE WEBER  
PHOTOGRAPHY: SUSAN SOROKOLIT & TILDEN WILT

## JUDGES:

FLORAL DESIGN: MAYA SPEELMANS & IBBY HERTZ  
PHOTOGRAPHY: GCA JUDGES

*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](mailto:wendytwilt@gmail.com)) or Mary Brodsky ([mary.brodsky@foxroach.com](mailto:mary.brodsky@foxroach.com))*

## **\*IMPORTANT PHOTOGRAPHY INFO\***

Tuesday 11/7 is the deadline to drop off your photo entries for the November show. Please drop off at Lindsay Branin's house between 8AM - 5 PM, 237 Oxford Avenue, in Fair Haven. She will have a box on her front porch. Please remember that in order for your entry to count and be passed, it must be fully mounted, and it must have a fully filled-out entry card form when you drop it off (in addition to meeting the requirements as listed on page 11 of the Handbook).

If there is a circumstance where you are unable to drop it off, please let Lindsay ([lbranin@SpencerStuart.com](mailto:lbranin@SpencerStuart.com)) or Liz Dusko ([ldusko@gmail.com](mailto:ldusko@gmail.com)) know and they will try their best to accommodate. As a reminder, for this month's show, we are going off of first come, first serve (your photo must be dropped off to count).

## *FLORAL DESIGN*

### **Let Us Give Thanks**

“And the sun took a step back, the leaves lulled themselves to sleep, and Autumn was awakened.” - Raquel Franco

**Class 1** A Thanksgiving inspired arrangement that celebrates the bounty of the season. The use of fruit and vegetables is encouraged. **Done in Partnership, Novice and a Regular member.** For a 60” round table or sideboard. A statement of intent of 25 words or less on a 4x6 card.

Please email or call Taphy to register entry: [taphy.harcsar@gmail.com](mailto:taphy.harcsar@gmail.com) or 732-842-8570

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## *PHOTOGRAPHY*

*(GCA Judges)*

### **WIZARD OF OZ**

**Class 1** Follow the Yellow Brick Road. Color Photograph. Take a photograph of a yellow plant or flower of your choice.

**Class 2** The Emerald City. Color Photograph. Take a photograph of a green landscape.

**Class 3** Same as Class 2. Novice.

Entries must be submitted by Tuesday, November 7th. Follow the Photography Rules in Handbook. Four entries per class. Please contact Lindsay Branin with questions at [Lbranin@spencerstuart.com](mailto:Lbranin@spencerstuart.com).



Ahh, the leaves are falling from the trees and Halloween is behind us. Are you ready for the oncoming Holidays? With Thanksgiving right around the corner, our Floral Chairs are helping us prepare our tables for our Thanksgiving feasts this month. The November Floral challenge is to create a Thanksgiving inspired arrangement with a partner – and the best part of this assignment is that it pairs a Novice with a Regular member. I hope these creative bonds last well beyond the Show!

We also have our first Photography Classes of the year. Our Photography Chairs have cleverly used a Hollywood favorite, The Wizard of Oz, to give us inspiration with this assignment. We have new rules and procedures for entering photography – please check your Handbooks for the details. Looking forward to seeing everyone's masterpieces!

Instead of a lecture this month, we are trying something new with a hands-on BYOV (bring your own vase) workshop. Ulana Johnson will be bringing an abundance of flowers and show us how to put them all together to make fabulous arrangements in our own 6" vases. Just more inspiration for us as we get our houses ready for the holidays!

October's breakfast meeting went smoothly giving us more free time to enjoy our afternoons and I am thrilled we had such a great attendance from members and our friends! It is wonderful to see so many familiar faces again and I hope you all continue to come. This meeting will be the same format – with a complimentary breakfast offered at 9am. Our Business Meeting will begin promptly at 9:30am when the Floral and Photography judging begins.

Hope to see you all on Tuesday, the 14th!

Cheers,  
Susan



## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

(See Committee Reports for full details)

- Sat. Nov 4** - Native Plant Society "NJ ecoregion" virtual event (Conservation)
- Tues. Nov. 7** - Absolute deadline to sign up for November meeting "BYOV" workshop
- Wed. Nov. 8** - Native Plant Society "Rainscaping" virtual workshop (Conservation)
- Wed. Nov. 8** - NJ Committee luncheon at Canoe Brook Country Club - \*SOLD OUT!\*
- Thurs, Nov. 16** - GCA Garden History & Design Conference (virtual/open to all members)
- Thurs, Nov. 16** - Partners4Plants planting with Sarah Fleming at Sandy Hook
- Fri. Dec. 1** - Set Up; **Sat. Dec. 2** - Christmas Greens! Wreath Making & Workshop
- Sat. Dec 2** - post Christmas Greens - Civics will tidy up the Oceanic Library window boxes!

# COMMITTEE REPORTS:

## CHRISTMAS GREENS:

Wreath bows for sale at our next meeting on Nov. 14th for \$20 each. Proceeds to benefit the charitable works of RGC.

### Join us at Bingham Hall for Christmas Greens:

**Set Up: Friday, December 1st, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm**

**Wreath Making: Saturday, December 2nd, 8:00 am – noon**

**Member Wreath Making Workshop: Saturday, December 2, noon – 2:00 pm  
(bring a friend!)**

Look for a Sign Up Genius in early November to reserve your spot at the Member Wreath Making Workshop. Space is limited!

A separate Sign Up Genius will be sent out to gather a list of volunteers for set up and Christmas Greens assembly, (wreaths + arrangements).

If anyone would like to make bows at home to contribute to our fundraisers, please contact Stephanie at 917-572-3947 and she'll get you the supplies!

Every bow makes a difference and is very much appreciated!

Thanks,  
Stephanie



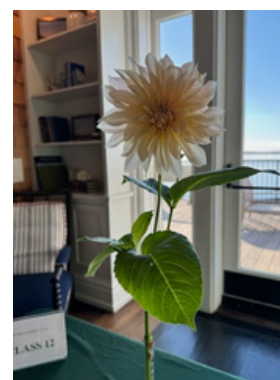
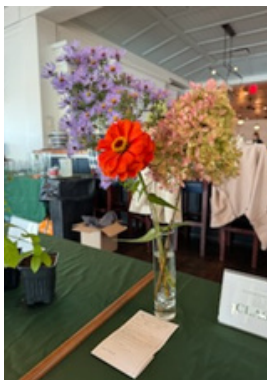
Get ready, Christmas Greens is coming!!!!



**HORTICULTURE:**

Please remember to place your bulb orders with Alex Smith at [6amzc4@gmail.com](mailto:6amzc4@gmail.com)

And please enjoy this picture of the raised beds still going strong from the Shrewsbury Sailing & Yacht Club workshop (with a special thanks to Maya)!



And a few Hort beauties from the October show!

**FLORAL DESIGN:**

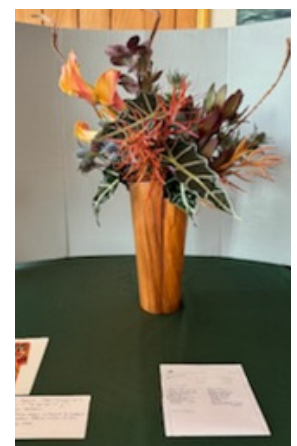
We had a very impressive turnout for the October floral division. The judges were thoroughly impressed with the creativity of our members. Thank you to all that participated.

Our November floral competition will be novice members teamed up with regular members. Novice members - you know who you will be working with - you have their name and phone number. Please contact that regular member soon so you can begin working together on your November centerpiece.

Susan Sorokolit and Taphy Harcsar



Just a few of the fashion inspired floral creations from our October Show!





## PARTNERS4PLANTS:

**Reminder: Thursday, November 16th from 10:00am-1:00pm**

GCA-funded Sandy Hook Partners 4 Plants planting at Sandy Hook. Venue tbd. If you would like to join the waitlist, please contact Sarah Fleming at [srf529@comcast.net](mailto:srf529@comcast.net). Bring Gloves, Shovel or trowel, and mug (for post-planting cider).



## CIVICS:

Civics planted bulbs at at Monmouth Daycare Center on October 13th. Special thanks to Sarah Fleming, Cynthia Labreque, Gail Van Winkle, Betsy Ford and Bonnie Torcivia. **Our next visit will be on November 10th at 10am.** We will tidy up the beds for winter and plan for the spring. **Also we will be greening up the window boxes at the Oceanic Library on Saturday, December 2nd at 2 pm or after Christmas Greens workshop.**





## CONSERVATION:

We all know New Jersey suffers an abundance of highways, cars and houses, but did you know New Jersey offers an abundance of varying ecoregions? NJ is one of the most diverse states in all of the U.S.! This Saturday, learn more about the ecoregion we call home, and the plants and animals that will thrive there at the virtual event "Fall Conference: Hidden in Plain Sight: the Outstanding Natural Diversity of New Jersey" hosted by the Native Plant Society. November 4th, 8:30am-1:30pm. [Register here](#)

Learn more about Rainscaping Practices in the Native Plant Society's virtual event Rainscaping Practices: Gardening with Purpose / Bergen-Passaic Chapter Meeting. Rainscaping practices like rain gardens are designed to hold water on the property longer, to encourage water to infiltrate back into the ground, like it did before development. Permeable paving also encourages water to enter back into the ground. These and other rainscaping practices will be discussed in this homeowner-friendly webinar presented by Scott Woodbury, owner of Cacalia Design and Wilding. November 8th, 7:00pm-9:00pm. [Register here](#)

Did you know roughly one-third of America's wildlife species are at some degree of elevated risk of extinction?

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) will dedicate over \$1.3 billion annually towards proactive, voluntary conservation efforts for wildlife at-risk. The money will be used for on-the-ground conservation efforts such as conserving and restoring habitats, fighting invasive species, reintroducing native species and tackling emerging diseases. Importantly, this includes native plants that grow in the habitats of these species – a provision The Garden Club of America helped draft, protect and steward as the bill made progress over the years. We hope you will pitch in to help it get over the finish line! Stay tuned for a Call To Action later this month!

We are excited about upcoming events next year featuring native plants to highlight the joint resolution passed last year to have April as Native Plant Month in NJ!

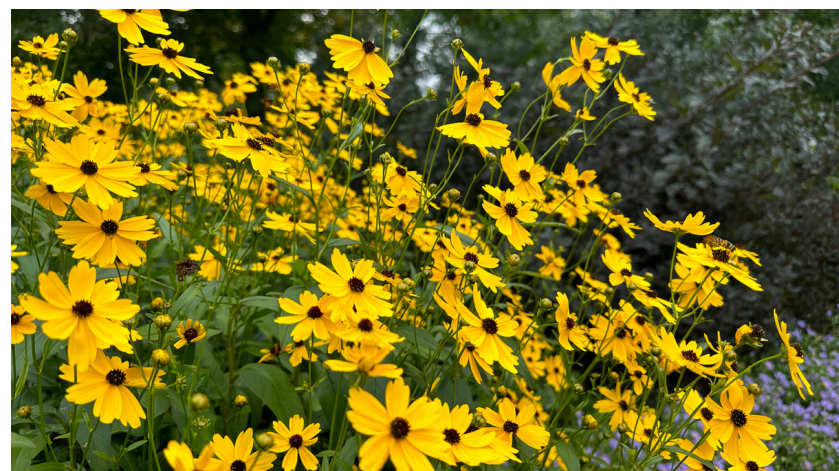
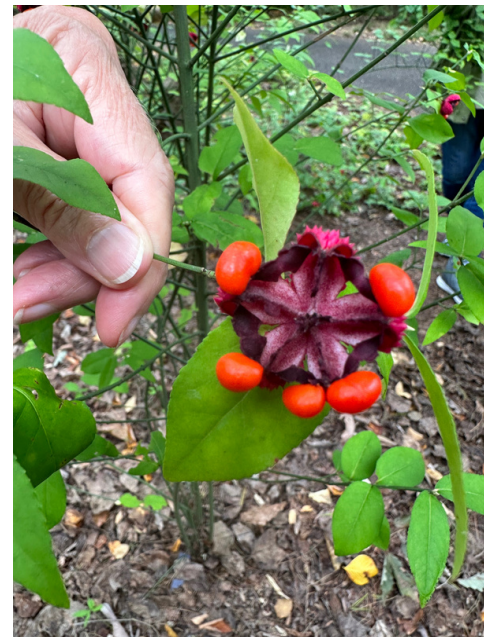


## VISITING GARDENS:

### Let's Go! RGC Travel

Early in October, a RGC group took to the road with their Autumn destination of Mt Cuba Center, in Hockessin, DE, to wander some of the 500 acres of native plant formal gardens, horticultural research gardens, meadows, ponds and woodlands. Mt Cuba Center is the 1935 Dupont Estate that was transformed in 1983 from formal English into native plant botanical gardens. The Center's mission is to provide "a place where people will learn to appreciate native plants, so that they, in turn, will become conservators of our natural habitats."

Go to [mtcubacenter.org/plantsoffall](http://mtcubacenter.org/plantsoffall) to download a user friendly guide to must have native plants for your garden!





## THE BIRD LADY:

“Lunch Time on the Navesink”

It was midday, hot and cloudy by the Navesink River, the sun high in the sky and this young hawk was hungry. He had been sitting expectantly on his perch, ignoring the chattering starlings that swooped and swirled around him. He was watching and waiting. His parents had not been to feed him in quite a while. He tried flapping his wings to attract their attention. This usually worked especially when he was a fledgling. But now he was older this method didn't seem to work anymore. He was like a teenager who had just learnt to drive but didn't know the way to the corner store. He needed his mamma and papa to show him. But they figured they had taught him enough, and if he was hungry enough, he would eventually find his own way of catching his lunch. After all, they had left him in a tall dead tree with a good view of the fish in the river, so they thought it was about time he went solo. He flapped, and flapped his wings some more and jumped and wriggled on his perch. And the more he did that the hungrier he became.

The river tickled his nostrils with its pungent aroma of grasses and mud. As the herons on the river bank gracefully speared their fish, they wondered why it was taking him so long to catch the fish they so easily snared. Time went by. He was feeling desperate. His parents watched all this from a nearby tree. They had a despairing look in their eyes. They had led him to the river, what more could he want. His other brothers and sisters had taken off and had caught their lunch. Why couldn't he?

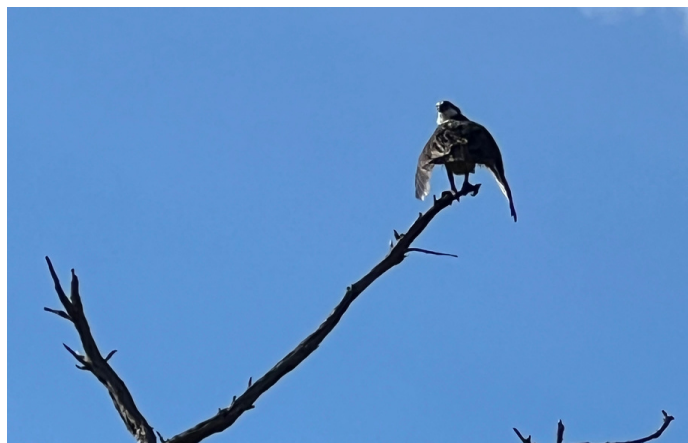
After awhile, hunger over came him, and he took his courage in his talons and took off, floating high above the tranquil river, his eyes sharp and piecing, his stomach growling. He finally dove with hardly a splash into those green-gray waters and came up with a glistening fish in his strong curved beak.

He had crossed the threshold of teenager into an independent, grownup raptor. No need to flap his wings for his parents anymore. Only now he'll flap them to attract a mate.

Haiku poem

A young hungry hawk  
Flashing down the deep river  
Fish in his curved beak

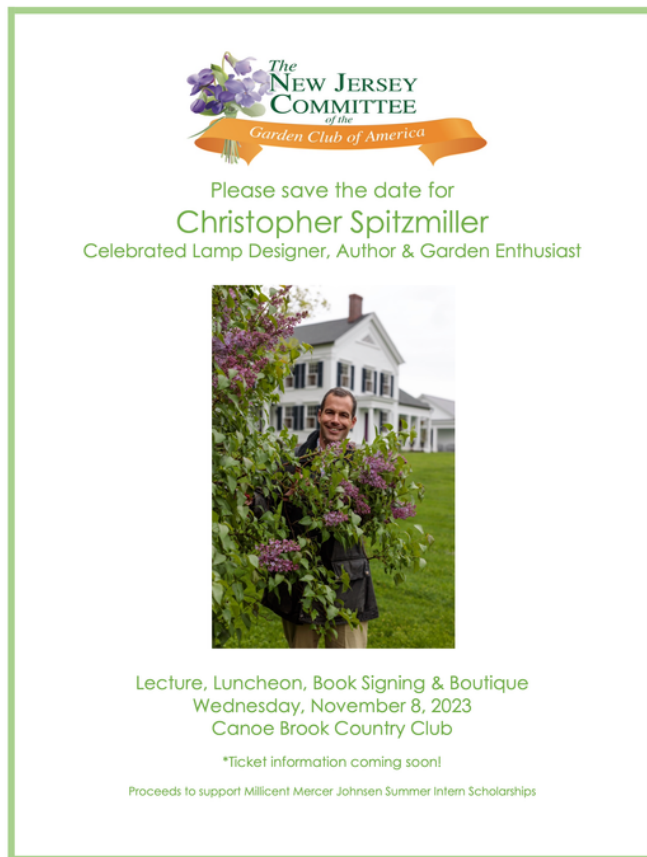
Jan Glass, Bird Lady. November 2023  
Janbglass13@gmail.com





**\*SOLD OUT\* Wednesday, November 8th**

SOLD OUT - 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](mailto:cl331@comcast.net).



**GARDEN HISTORY & DESIGN CONFERENCE  
November 16th**

Join us in an exploration where the realms of horticulture, conservation, photography and history converge in the artful pursuit of garden design. Our distinguished conference speakers encompass architects, designers, garden directors and historians – together they guide us on a captivating journey through a multitude of gardens across the United States.

Event Details:

**Date: Thursday, November 16th**

**Time: 11 AM - 3:30 PM Eastern**

**Location: Virtual**

REGISTRATION: Check your Inbox or the GCA website for details



**Fall bulb planting tip from Betsy Ford:** plant grape hyacinths with your daffodils because grape hyacinths send up new shoots in the fall so you will always know where the daffodil bulbs are already planted!

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Looking for something to do with those leftover Halloween pumpkins?  
**Robbyn O’Neill shares this idea:**

<https://www.nj.com/news/2023/10/animals-at-these-nj-farms-and-zoos-will-take-your-leftover-pumpkins.html#:~:text=Leftover%20Halloween%20pumpkins%20are%20a,emu%2C%20alpaca%2C%20and%20sheep.>

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And - Just making sure you didn’t miss it last month - or the month before!

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](http://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 I-877-661-2852

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

*Have a quick tip to share for the January 2024 Heap?  
Email Anne at [annejdreiss@gmail.com](mailto:annejdreiss@gmail.com)*