



FEBRUARY 2024



COMPOST HEAP

An Official Publication of Rumson Garden Club



January bulbs in bloom!

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

**We look forward to seeing you at our
February Membership meeting!
Container Garden Workshop
\$10/pp**

Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 11am @ Sickles Market

RSVP TO FEBRUARY MEETING [HERE](#)

by Friday, February 16th

FEBRUARY DETAILS

Please join us for a Container Garden Workshop at Sickles Garden Center on Tuesday, February 20th 11am-12:30pm.

It's a great opportunity to build your container gardens for the May Show. Bring your container (or shop for one there). The fee for the class is \$10 and each participant will receive a 20% discount on plants and container, or you can bring your own up to 16" diameter. Sickles will have soil and plants. We will receive instruction on how to design and maintain our small gardens in anticipation of entering in the May Container Garden Award class. Entries for the class must be owned for 3 months so we will just make the deadline!



(*See Hort. Committee Report for full Container Garden Award details.)

[RSVP HERE](#)



January Cocktails at the Riverhouse

February is here! And if groundhogs are truly weather predictors, get ready for an early Spring!

We had a wonderful Show in January with Botanical Arts earrings, Photography, Tussy Mussys, and Amaryllises. I'm so happy to see so many of you participating and earning points for your efforts!

We don't have a Show this month, but we do have the Container Garden Workshop coming up on Tuesday, February 20th at Sickles Market. It's a great opportunity to put an entry together – since the plants need to be owned for at least 3 months. Come join us for a quick meeting followed by a demonstration and the chance to get your hands dirty!

I'm excited to see our membership working together to succeed beyond our Shows. The Plant Sale Committee has met, leaders have taken on jobs, and we are preparing to have a fabulous Sale on June 1st at Rumson Borough Hall! Our Plant Sale will be happening on the same day as Ecofest, another chance to educate our local community and friends on all the benefits of going Native as well as “natural”, without chemicals and pesticides.

Speaking of Native, April is around the corner and our Native Plant Month planners have much in store for all of us! More to come....

Hope to see you all at the upcoming workshops and lectures. Enjoy this slower time of the year with rest and reflection and be thankful for the coming Spring!

Warmest wishes,
Susan



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER: (See Committee Reports for full details)

Wed., February 14th - Happy Valentines Day!

Thurs., Feb 15 - 8am-1pm, Zoom: Bowman's Hill Wildlife Preserve (Conservation)

Fri., Feb 16 - 9am-4pm, Zoom: GreenScapes Symposium (Conservation)

Tues., Feb. 20 - 11am, Container Garden Workshop @ Sickles

Fri., Feb. 23 - 9-11:30am, Zoom: 7th Annual Watershed Institute Conference (Conservation)

Fri., Mar. 1 - Deadline for Reeves-Reed Arboretum Winter 2025 Art Show (contact Susan)

Wed., Mar. 20 - 1pm, Advanced Ikebana workshop @ Rumson Bingham Hall (Floral)

Wed., Mar. 20 - 7-9pm, Zoom: “Cultivating a Sustainable Future” (Conservation)

Wed., Mar. 20 - 6-8:30pm, Movie Night @ Count Basie "Meadowscaping (Conservation)

April is Native Plant Month!

Tues., Apr. 9 - 12-2pm, Open Lecture: Tama Matsuoka, “Into the Weeds: How to Garden like a Forager” @ Rumson Bingham Hall (Conservation)

Sat., June 1 - RGC Plant Sale! @ Rumson Borough Hall

FLORAL DESIGN:

The Floral Committee will be having a workshop on an advanced Ikebana skill. An arrangement of three vases with flowers will be taught to us by our own Machiko Maki. We will then try to replicate this lesson at our April Floral competition. The workshop will be held Wednesday, March 20th at 1:00pm at Bingham Hall. We are so fortunate to have Machiko as a member of our garden club! If you would like to invite guests, please do!

Please RSVP to Taphy at taphy.harcsar@icloud.com



Blue Ribbon January
“Tussy Mussy” Beauties!



HORTICULTURE:

Food for the thought for the February 20th Container Garden Workshop @ Sickles:

CONTAINER GARDEN AWARD (May Meeting)

Open to all members. A silver bowl awarded to the member exhibiting the best container garden with a single color scheme, including three or more rooted plants labeled correctly, to scale. Other plant material may be added like mosses or alpines. No artificial props allowed. The maximum pot size is 16". To be judged 70% on horticultural merit, 30% on artistic merit. A 4 x 6 white key card is required. Must be owned for a minimum of 3 months.

PHOTOGRAPHY:

The January Photography Show was a great success! We were honored to have GCA judges with us at the show titled 'Grey Gardens'. Susan Van Tassel gave a very informative and interesting talk afterwards on what elements judges look for in photographs. We do have the slides so please let us know if you are interested in seeing them. The next show is in May with an 'Alice In Wonderland Theme'. Spring will be a great time for inspiration!

Lindsay and Liz



Photograph by Sarah
Fleming - Birr Castle
Demesne

BOTANICAL ARTS:



Some botanical Beauties
from the January show!



A note from the Treasurer:

RGC ST-5 Exempt Organization Certificate Form from the State of NJ has been posted on our website under "Resources". Any members purchasing goods on behalf of the club should provide this form to the vendor / business so that we are not charged sales tax as an exempt NJ Registered Charity. The form can now be downloaded and printed by all members for use. Feel free to reach out to Christina cmcnamara2934@gmail.com with any questions or issues! Thank you!

CONSERVATION:

Zone IV Conservation is encouraging all members to join in a celebration of "April is Native Plant Month!" through a variety of offerings that will further your Native Plant gardening! Please participate in at least one of the many events over the next few months! More to come!

Feb 15th 8am-1pm, Zoom: Bowman's Hill Wildlife Preserve "Creative Approaches to Ecological Landscaping" with Larry Weaner (registrants will also receive a recording after the event for later viewing).

Feb 16th 9am-4pm, Zoom: GreenScapes Symposium "Reimagining Traditional Landscapes" w/ Ethan Kauffman (Each session will be recorded and a link to watch the symposium will be emailed to all participants).

Feb 23rd 9am-11:30am, Zoom: 7th Annual Watershed Institute Conference.

March 20th 7pm-9pm, Zoom: "Cultivating a Sustainable Future" with Todd Bitner, Director of Natural Areas for Cornell Botanic Gardens.

March 20th 6pm-8:30pm, Movie Night at Count Basie "Meadowscaping --Just say NO to thirsty pesticide ridden lawns!" NPSNJ will be showing several films and shorts of environmental importance. Basie Center Cinemas, 36 White Street, Red Bank.

April 9th 12pm-2pm Bingham Hall: We are looking forward to hosting Tama Matsuoka Wong for a short presentation and book signing of, "Into the Weeds: How to Garden like a Forager". Preorder now! Bring all your friends!

We need your help!

Please drop off your new or used Native Plant books to Robbyn O'Neill @ 935 River Rd, Fair Haven. We will be setting up an educational Native Plant book display at the Oceanic Library to couple with the Native Plants featured in the window boxes in April.

*Stay tuned for... the Native Plant events at our Monmouth County Parks!

*Look forward to... the RGC Plant Sale's DIY Native Plant Container Garden Kits!



Bonnie Torcivia with Doug Tallamy at his January Monmouth Univ. lecture

VISITING GARDENS:

We will have a very busy 2024!

**Save the Date for Zone IV Visiting Gardens program on May 16th!
"Greenwood, A Garden Path to Nature and the Past" Short Hills, NJ
RSVP to robbynoneill@gmail.com to reserve your spot.**

A 28 acre enchanted hideaway astride the unique geologic formation of New Jersey's Watchung Mountains, steps from the burgeoning suburbia of NYC, the early 20th century historic Greenwood Gardens is graced by terraced gardens, woodlands, and unsuspecting romantic paths. Most importantly, the experience for the visitor is that Greenwood is an example of bold acts of conservation that provide one the opportunity of immersion in the natural world in a pastoral setting and to understand how the partnership of landowner Peter Blanchard and the The Garden Conservancy formed the roadmap to conquer the task of warding off unscrupulous and aggressive developers to protect this landscape in the country's most densely populated state, New Jersey, The Garden State.

**Year-at-a-Glance: - Many a la carte offerings will become available in 2024!
Here are but a few to whet your appetite and get your traveling gear in order!**

- *"Lunch + Learn at The Farm" Javits Center and The Highline NYC
- *Pollinator Pathways "Natives in My Backyard" by Samantha Bean in Hopewell
- *"Let's Visit a Farm" series including Terhune Farms in Lawrenceville
- *Tour of Billy Johnson Mt. Lakes Preserve w/Princeton Open Space
- *Tour of The Shakespeare Garden, Cedar Brook Park, Plainfield
- *"Gardens of Philadelphia" including Morris Arboretum, Chanticleer and Bartram
- *National Audubon Society "Birds of America Page Turning"

NEW JERSEY COMMITTEE:

The Growing Fund Campaign is in full swing and we want to do as well as last year or even better! Please donate today! It's easy to donate - just **click [here](#)** to access the New Jersey Committee website to make your donation!

Cynthia and Kathleen



 SCHOLARSHIPS Millicent Mercer Johnson Scholarships Established 1997 Funded via Fall Lecture & Luncheon and Bloomin' Bucks	 THE GROWING FUND Zone IV Grants for Community Projects Established 1987 Funded via Zone IV Member annual contributions and Bloomin' Bucks
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MISSION
 Stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening
 Restore, improve and protect the quality of the environment in the fields of conservation and civic improvement
 Fund projects that benefit the state of New Jersey

THE GROWING FUND



Contribute to the 2023-2024 The Growing Fund

Please complete this form, and make your check payable to the **NJC of GCA**

Please mail to: Fran Ciolino
49 Alton Drive
Florham Park, NJ 07932

YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS:

Garden Club of: _____

Amount of Donation: _____


Thank you sincerely for your support! *The NJ Committee of The GCA*



THE GROWING FUND



The Growing Fund of The New Jersey Committee of The Garden Club of America raises funds to provide Zone IV clubs with grant money to fund worthwhile projects within the state. The Growing Fund generates about \$25,000 a year through the generous donations of the friends and members of the Zone IV Garden Clubs. Over the years, every club in Zone IV has received multiple Growing Fund grants that have allowed them to actively pursue local endeavors that help educate others as well as to conserve, beautify, and restore our New Jersey environment. The Growing Fund has gifted over \$545,000 to support over 91 projects. Please make a contribution to help our Garden State flourish!

CLICK 	VISIT http://www.njcommitteegca.org/	SCAN  the QR code with your phone's camera
MAIL Check to "NJC of GCA" Send to: Fran Ciolino 49 Alton Drive Florham Park, NJ 07932		

When you donate, please note your Garden Club Name. Contributions of \$75 and over will be acknowledged. We are a 501(c)(3) organization. Please consider us if your employer has a matching gift program. **Deadline for donations is May 31, 2024.**



CIVICS:

Civics has the first week in April penciled in for pansy planting at the Oceanic Library. We are adding creeping phlox, a native plant to the line up. Details to follow...

THE BIRD LADY:

To Spray or Not to Spray

On walking the dog around the neighborhood I saw a mosquito and tick sign. After awhile I saw four more. We have a very small orchard which is filled with wild flowers. Created to attract bees and butterflies. Many lovely native and prairies flowers are waiting expectantly for the pollinators that have yet to make an appearance. A wildlife habitat sign is fixed to the mail box post hoping they'll read it.

We are told we need our pollinators to pollinate most of the food we eat. There is a bee and bat virus that is killing them off. The monarch butterfly population is declining. Billions of birds have vanished.

Do you remember in earlier times when driving along that we frequently had to get out and wipe the windshield? The wipers being not too efficient at keeping it clear. We can now eat out on the patio on a summer's evening. At first it was a great treat not to be eaten alive, to host a July 4th bbq, but now it's a bit of a worry, isn't it?

All over parts of Europe rewilding is in progress. This is a process of trying to return parts of the countryside to the way it was before farming and development turned nature upside down. To recreate places alive with all manner of wildlife, pollinators and wild flowers. We can do our part. Hold off on the insecticides and pesticides. Plant natives, trees, flowers and shrubs. Embrace the wildlife we share our planet with.

Lyme disease and West Nile virus are draining and debilitating diseases, I am told. Miserable conditions to have. If you spray your yard or your child visits an unsprayed yard, is your child at risk? I give my dog a monthly heart and tick medication. I wonder why we humans don't have similar meds for us. So, until that happens, spray ourselves and not our yards.

For further reading and information on insecticide and pesticide spraying:

www.nj.gov.dep.depfs

www.health.state.ny.us

www.Washington.edu>news

www.cdc.gov>mosquitoes

Haiku

Spray or not to spray
What would pollinators say?
I can guess, can't you?

THE BIRD LADY:

To Spray or Not to Spray (cont.)

An old fashioned but tried and true treatment for mosquito bite:
1 teaspoon baking soda mixed with a little water to make a paste,
Apply to bite
Wash off after 10 minutes.
Relief is almost immediate.

Postscript:

Hello everyone:

I was in two minds whether to write this essay or not. But I feel strongly about the uses of pesticides and insecticides. The words for this essay kept buzzing around in my head and as much as I wished them away they continued to compel me to write about the subject. I know there are strongly held opinions on both sides. And I know people can get really sick from Lyme disease and West Nile virus.

So I hope you will not take me to task for having written it. I hope to hear your thoughts in the near future. Jan

Jan Glass Bird Lady February 2024.
RGCMG. Janbglass13@gmail.com.



Please review the three Founder's Fund proposals on the GCA website. Summaries of them are below.

Then, cast your vote [HERE!](#)

Conserving Natives! The Restoration of an Orchid Learning Center

Proposed by The Garden Club of Palm Beach, Zone VIII

Seconded by The Grass River Garden Club, Zone VIII

Florida's native orchids once neared extinction when they were ripped from trees and shipped north. Now, however, FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center grows thirteen native orchid varieties, educates the local community, and conducts school programs placing native orchids on local school campuses. The grant money will build a much needed orchid learning center / slat house to nurture orchids while serving as an outdoor classroom for thousands of students and community who visit annually.

Green Space becomes Caring Space: Church Health Community Garden

Proposed by: Memphis Garden Club, Zone IX

Seconded by: Little Rock Garden Club, Zone IX

An educational, therapeutic garden in the midst of a neighborhood, public healing center and vertical urban village is in need of growth to help the attributes in place. The Church Health Community Garden's addition of a pavilion generously funded by GCA Founders Fund will allow new space to gather in order to increase participation, accessibility, educational programs & classes, hands on nutrition & wellness classes, respite and much more to expand utilization of the space.

Replanting Indigenous and Historic Northeastern Species to create an Edible Plant Learning Center at the Jay Estate

Proposed by The Little Garden Club of Rye, Zone III

Seconded by Rye Garden Club, Zone III

The Award will secure the "capstone" of this eminent botanical learning center with the restoration of indigenous and historic Northeastern plant species. It will support the study of native vegetation in this dedicated outdoor classroom for thousands of visitors throughout the NY/NJ/CT area. A robust curriculum will focus on the pivotal role that native plants - pawpaws, elderberry, blueberry - have played in healthy, sustainable human and wildlife communities over time as well as today.

CLEAN OCEAN ACTION



RALLY FOR THE TWO RIVERS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Clean Ocean Action is currently seeking volunteers for the Rally for the Two Rivers ambient bacteria monitoring project!

Volunteers will be trained to become community scientists to help Clean Ocean Action (COA) collect water samples. This program is in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to help address and improve water quality within the watershed of the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers.

These watersheds have suffered profound degradation over the last decade. This monitoring program seeks to identify areas contributing to pathogen pollution. The goal is to "find-it,fix it" with an emphasis on a "no blame game" to encourage municipalities to work together to address and fix pollution issues so that everyone living in these watersheds and the environment can benefit. Our community scientists for this program will be in the field collecting water samples that will be then be analyzed for pathogens by NJDEP and COA's own in-house lab.

It is a great way for community members to participate directly in efforts to improve their local water quality and environment! We do have some requirements for volunteers; you must be over 18 years of age and attend a training session hosted by COA.

Sampling occurs weekly in the Navesink watershed on Wednesdays from 7:30 - 9:30 am and biweekly in the Shrewsbury watershed on Tuesdays from 7:30 - 9:30 am. COA provides training for sampling methods, safety and background information and resources for volunteers so that they are successful community scientists!

Email programs@cleanoceanaction.org or call us at 732-872-0111
to help our rivers and ocean!

Love butterflies? Interested in free milkweed seeds? **Taphy Harcsar** offers this great tip!
Send a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

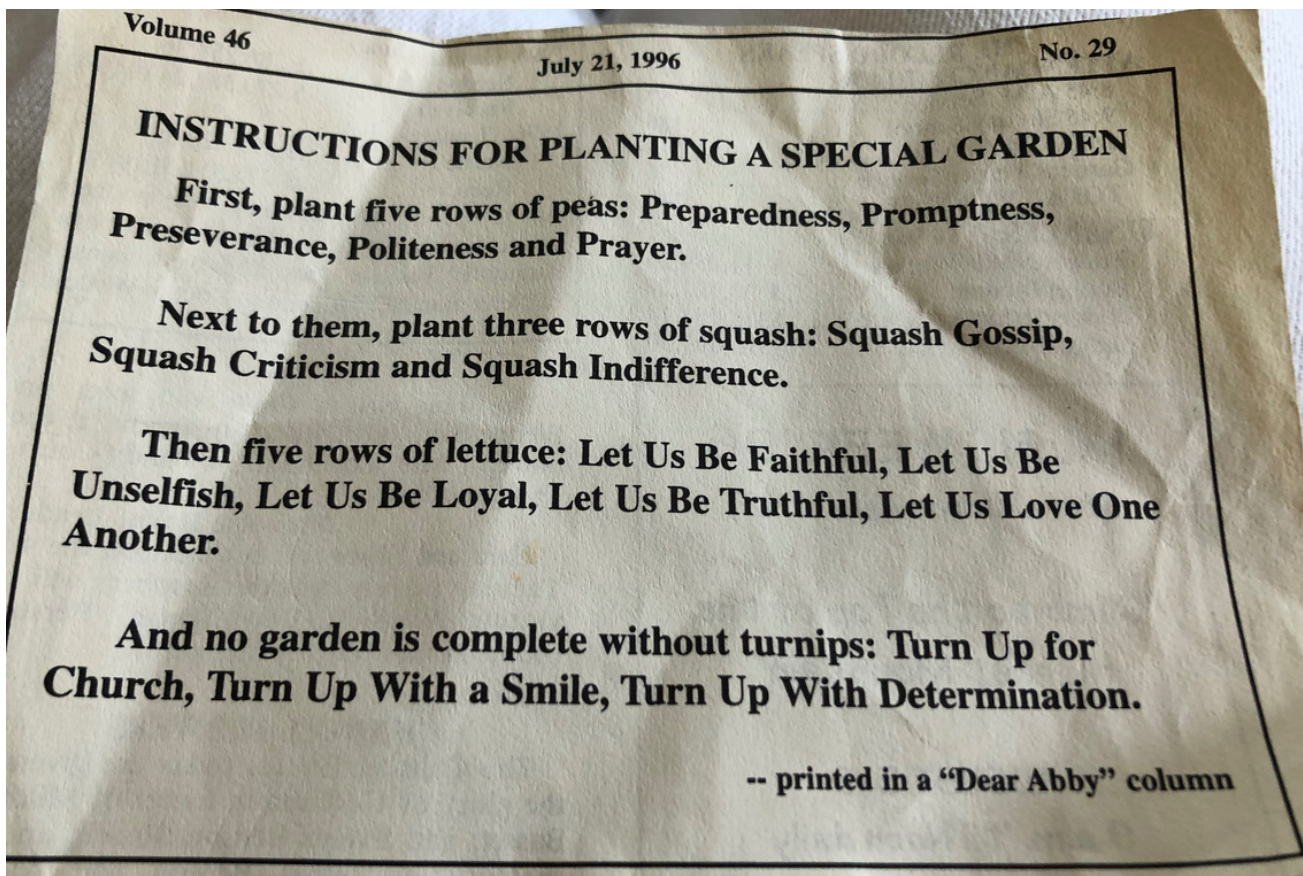
Live Monarch Foundation
P.O. Box 1339
Blairsville, GA 30514

They will send you free milkweed seeds native to your region!

From **Betsy Ford**: Look out for scale and mites on indoor plants. They seem to always appear in the spring. Dawn dish soap and a little alcohol with water in a spray bottle can usually keep them under control.

Joan Lynch would like to remind everyone: If you happen to clean out your pantries, please bring canned goods to Monmouth Day Care Center. Right inside the main entrance is a large storage rack to donate items. They also love diapers, formula, peanut butter. Any extra vegetables you grow are welcomed at Lunch Break. They also collect clothes, as well.

And some old words of wisdom from **Dear Abby**....



Have a quick tip to share for the March 2024 Heap?

Email Anne at annejdreiss@gmail.com