Edition #7 April 2024





APRIL 2024



COMPOST HEAP

An Official Publication of Rumson Garden Club



February's Container Garden Workshop @ Sickles!

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

We look forward to seeing you at our April Membership Meeting 9:30am Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at Rumson Country Club – Riverhouse

RSVP TO APRIL MEETING HERE

Schedule:

8:30-9:00am Passing

9:30-10:30am Judging and Business Meeting

10:30 a.m. Speaker, Jeff Quattrone

Complimentary Breakfast available at 9:00am

APRIL SPEAKER

"Red Hot Tomato" Jeff Quattrone

Jeff Quattrone is the Founder of
Library Seed Bank, an artist by
accident, and an activist, a NJ seed and
a Jersey Tomato breeding historian by
choice. Jeff strives to expand the
conversation about preserving local
food diversity through seed saving.



APRIL SCHEDULE

PASSERS:

FLORAL DESIGN: TAPHY HARCSAR
DAFFODILS: MAYA SPEELMANS AND ALEX SMITH
HORTICULTURE (CLASS 9-19): BETSY FORD AND MJ O'HARE

CLERKS:

FLORAL DESIGN: KATHRYNE SINGLETON

DAFFODILS: TBD

HORTICULTURE (CLASS 9-19): ROBBYN O'NEILL

JUDGES:

FLORAL DESIGN: MACHIKO MAKI AND BARBARA BATTING
DAFFODILS: ELIZABETH LITTLESTON AND HEATHER ROBINSON
HORTICULTURE (CLASS 9-19): MISSY FALKENBERG AND ELAINE EADON

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)

APRIL SCHEDULE CONT.

FLORAL DESIGN:

The Tranquil Arrangement Ikebana

"The three pointed nature of Ikebana, is used to represent Humanity, the Earth, and Heaven." - Yuuna Morishita

Class 1 Ikebana – using three or more small containers with flowers or branches, not to exceed overall 23" wide & 16" high.

Class 2 Novice. Same as above.

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

HORTICULTURE:

"DO NOT FEAR. THE GARDEN IS YOURS..." - HELEN HOYT

All entries must always be properly identified.

DAFFODILS

Class 1 Three different cultivars, properly identified including the division and 'daffodil code*', to be displayed in a RGC container.

Class 2 Novice. Same as above.

Class 3 Three daffodils of the same variety, properly identified including the division and 'daffodil code*', to be displayed in a RGC container.

Class 4 Novice. Same as above.

Class 5 One single daffodil of choice, properly identified including the division and 'daffodil code*', to be displayed in a RGC container.

Class 6 Novice. Same as above.

Class 7 Three miniature daffodils, properly identified including the division and 'daffodil code*', to be displayed in a RGC container.

Class 8 Novice. Same as above.

THE ELLWOOD - WINMILL DAFFODIL AWARD

To be awarded to the member who garners the most points in the April daffodil show.

THE MARIE APPLEBY SEVERANCE TROPHY

To be awarded to the novice member with the most accumulated points in the April daffodil show.

APRIL SCHEDULE CONT.

HORTICULTURE: CONT.

EARLY SPRING GARDEN BEAUTY

A single stem properly identified, to be displayed in one RGC container.

Class 9 Muscari (Grape hyacinth)

Class 10 Novice. Same as above.

Class 11 Tulipa (Tulip).

Class 12 Novice. Same as above.

Class 13 Other.

Class 14 Novice. Same as above.

HELLEBORE

Class 15 One stem of a blooming hellebore displayed in a RGC container

Class 16 Novice. Same as a above.

FLOWERING BRANCH OR VINE

Class 17 One flowering branch not to exceed 30" in length or width from the lip of the container to the tip of entry. To be displayed in a member's own clear glass container.

Class 18 Novice. Same as above.

Class 19 PAR

A rooted plant of exceptional horticultural merit, which does not qualify for entry elsewhere in the Horticultural Division. Entries in the Par classes must have been owned and grown by the exhibitor for a minimum of six months and can only contain one type of plant. Cut specimens, orchids, hanging baskets, and plants trained as bonsai are not permitted. Discreet stands, stakes and ties allowed. The Par class should not be used as a catch-all class. The entries in a Par class are judged individually against perfection rather than against each other.

*Daffodil code: Daffodils are given a color code to describe both the perianth (petal) color and the cup color. Refer to The American Daffodil Society https://daffodilusa.org/ and also Daff Seek https://daffseek.org/ for more information on classifications of division and color.

Welcome Spring! Fresh bird songs fill the air as our landscapes begin to fill with color. The daffodils, crocuses, hellebores and cherry blossoms have awoken just in time for our upcoming April Show! It's exciting to see all of our Fall plantings coming to life.

Our next meeting will be the last complimentary breakfast meeting of the year at the Riverhouse. Horticulture has opportunities to win two Club Awards – the Ellwood-Winmill Daffodil Award and the Marie Appleby Severance Trophy. Floral offers the chance to show off your Ikebana masterpieces after learning from our very own Machiko Maki's workshop in March. I look forward to seeing you and all your beautiful entries in a few weeks!

We have Jeff Quattrone speaking to us this month about Jersey Tomatoes which is fitting as April is now officially Native Plant Month. Our members will be celebrating natives through education and activities. We also have Tama Wong's book signing coming up on April 9th for her book "Into the Weeds: How to Garden Like a Forager". An event you don't want to miss!

Our Plant Sale is in the works - plants have been ordered, a location set, and now we just need all of YOU to volunteer and spread the word to make it a success! More information to come...

Hope you all had a fabulous Easter with your families and friends. See you on April 16th!

Warm wishes, Susan



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

(See Committee Reports for full details)

April is Native Plant Month!

Wed. Apr 3, 12:30pm - Window Boxes at the library (Civics)

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

Wed. Apr. 12, 10:30am - Monmouth Day Care planting and cleaning beds (Civics)

Wed. Apr. 17, 11am - "Lunch & Learn @ The Javitz Center Rooftop Garden (Visiting Gardens)

Wed. Apr. 17, 6pm - Composting Workshop @ Bingham Hall

Thurs. Apr. 18, 6:30pm - "GCA in the City" Happy Houseplant Hour

Sun. Apr. 21 - Native Plant Nursery Series 2, Tulpehaking Nature Ctr, Trenton (Conservation)

Mon. Apr. 22, 1-2pm - Earth Day Fair, Forrestdale Farm & Greenhouse, 60 Forrest Ave.,

Rumson

Tues. Apr. 23, 9am - Jackson Woods, Long Branch guided tour (Conservation)

Sat. June 1 - RGC PLANT SALE! @ Rumson Borough Hall

FLORAL DESIGN:

Machiko gave us such a wonderful and exciting workshop.

Thank you to those that came and thank you Machiko, we are lucky to have you. If you want to review the workshop, you can find it here. Thank you Avery for recording it for us.

One of the things we learned is that your Ikebana arrangements do not transport well. So we are recommending you do a practice design at home, then arrive at the April 16th meeting at 8:00am to set up your arrangement in your allotted space.

Your three or more container arrangements should not exceed 23" wide or 16" high.

Please reserve your space by letting Taphy Harcsar (732-842-8570) or Susan Sorokolit (732-245-0640) know.

Machiko explained how Ikebana cannot really be judged, since it is your personal expression with the container - flower and design - it is free flowing. So we are all winners when we do Ikebana - let your self flow and show us your results.



RGC members enjoyed another fabulous
Ikebana workshop by
Machiko!

HORTICULTURE:

Spring has sprung and our April show is your chance to share your early blooms! Daffodils are spectacular, but early this year, so please read Maya's helpful hints for saving and identifying your blooms. The Ellwood-Winmill Daffodil Award will go to the member with the most daffodil points and the Marie Appleby Severance Trophy will be awarded to a novice, so please show off those dazzling daffies!

We also welcome your grape hyacinth, tulip, hellebore and flowering branch and vine

entries as well as PAR stars.



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More photos from the Container Garden Workshop at Sickles in February

PHOTOGRAPHY:

The May Photography Show is fast approaching! Time to get out and start snapping photos of the smiling faces of pansies. Or let your imagination run wild with Alice in Wonderland in mind as you envision the characters and their surroundings through your lenses.

CONSERVATION:

Need native plants?! 25,000 are available in an online native plant sale!

Dates: Ordering opens April 1st @ 1:30 pm to April 19th for pickup May 4th @ 1-4 pm

What: 39 individual species OR six Garden Kits of 25 plants: Best Behaved, Deer Resistant, Dry

Sun, Dry Shade, Wet Shade, Wet Sun! Kits include sample garden plans!

How: Quantities are limited, so order early. Choose Montclair or South Orange as pick-up when

you order. More Info and Register Here!

April 9th @ 12 -2 pm 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". Piper is taking book pre orders -- please text or email her (732-859-0734)! Bring all your friends! PLEASE RSVP TO PIPER at piperbrighton@gmail.com by APRIL 5th

April 21st @ 2:00 – 4:00 pm: Native Plant Nursery Series: 2. Spring Seed Sowing and Transplanting Seedlings Workshop. Tulpehaking Nature Center, 157 Westcott Avenue, Trenton NJ 08690. RSVP here

April 23rd @ 9 am: Special guided walk through Jackson Woods, Long Branch!

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. -- assume the books will remain at the library for educational use!

COMMITTEE REPORTS: CONT.

CONSERVATION: (NAL)

In Washington D.C. with cherry blossoms dominating the cityscape, an all time record attendance of 400 gathered to celebrate 100 years of Conservation Advocacy at The Garden Club of America's National Affairs & Legislation Conference from March 17-20. With pride, the attendees were applauded by speakers on the valuable impact that GCA commands as they continue this powerful Conservation initiative. "Gardeners teach others to take care."

During days of educational and motivational speeches, we were encouraged to move the needle forward on Conservation and Climate Change by not presenting doom, and looking to happily promote Nature based solutions. Great resources were given to us to address problems like food waste, changing the toxic cycle of waste production and disposal, native seed distribution, native plant purchase accessibility, and building sustainable and regenerative biodiversity. We were encouraged to "Think Globally, Act Locally," by starting up youth-focused efforts to give kids a conservation cause in protecting their local waterways and promoting a "No Child Left Inside" campaign to promote adventure advocacy. We were updated on the success and growing reality of renewable energy and electric cars, and were present when the President's announcement was made for 2/3 of all cars in America will be electric by 2035!

With horror, we learned the truth about PFAS, the forever chemicals, and that plastic is truly the Fossil Fuel industry primary market interest over gas.

GCA chose 9 pieces of legislation to support. The Zone IV Conservation Reps arranged and met with NJ Legislators to voice concerns and bring awareness to the importance of this legislation. It always is an exhilarating experience to represent GCA's 100 years of dedicated advocacy.

At April's meeting, Joann and I will introduce a construct for RGC to penetrate our community with new Conservation guidelines.

CIVICS:

Civics is planting the window boxes on Wednesday, April 3rd at 12:30ish. On Friday, April 12th at 10:30am, Civics will be at the Monmouth Day Care Center planting and cleaning up the raised beds. Please contact Betsy Ford betsyford72@gmail.com.

VISITING GARDENS:

RGC Travel is on the road to an exciting excursion in NYC. Join us on Wednesday, April 17th for a "Lunch&Learn at the Farm" on the Javits Center Rooftop Farm! Cost: \$95/pp. We are forming carpools and would love some volunteers to help travel into the city. Learn more <u>here</u>. Please contact Robbyn O'Neill at <u>robbynoneill@gmail.com</u> if you are interested in attending.

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"

Update from the Treasurer:

RGC is now accepting "tap to pay" for members and for our upcoming Plant Sale. We will be accepting credit, debit and apple pay payments for visa, mastercard, american express and discovery via our new card terminal. Payments made via the card terminal will be directly deposited into our Lakeland Bank account. Going forward, we will be accepting card payments for monthly meeting lunches, annual dues and other transactions. Cash and check will always still be accepted as well.

Plant Sale Update -

If you have pre-ordered Clethra for our June Plant Sale, please send a check made out to RGC to Rumson Garden Club, P.O. Box 121, Rumson, NJ 07760 or to Christina McNamara Weber, 534 Locust Point Rd, Rumson, NJ 07760 directly. We have already paid-in-full for the plants to the nursery.

PLANT SALE!!!

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR PLANT SALE ON JUNE 1ST. MANY VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR FOUR SHIFTS: FRIDAY AFTERNOON FOR SET UP, SATURDAY MORNING 9-10AM FOR FINAL SET UP, 10-12PM AND 12-2PM FOR PLANT SALE. LOOKING FORWARD TO A FUN FILLED DAY TOGETHER. SIGN UPS AT THE NEXT MEETING IN APRIL! THIS IS OUR MAJOR FUNDRAISER FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS. PLEASE PLAN TO PARTICIPATE. IT WILL BE FUN!

ELAINE & MAYA

RGC FUN THINGS TABLE!

It's that time of year to look through your closets and donate any gently used items for the "Fun Things" table at the plant sale. We would love scarves, jewelry and handbags. As well as garden treasures, cache pots, watering cans or any "Fun Thing" you may have! If you could please bring your donations to the April and May meetings. Also we can pick up your items too!

Thank you!

Please call or text co-chairs Peeka Tildesley 732-208-9854 Gail Van Winkle 732-233-1955

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 <u>here</u> to access the New Jersey

Committee website to make your donation!

Cynthia and Kathleen



MISSION

Stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening

Restore, improve and protect the quality of the environment in the fields of conservation and

civic improvem.

Fund projects that benefit the state of New Jersey



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 Afton Drive
Florham Park, NJ 07932

YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS:

Garden Club of:

Amount of Donation:

Thank you sincerely for your support!

The NEW JERSEY COMMITTEE of the Garden Club of America

The NJ Committee of The GCA



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!



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 you employer has a matching gift program.

Deadline for donations is May 31, 2024.



THE BIRD LADY:

MGRGC Bees and Weeds and the 25%ers.

25% of all pesticides and herbicides users are home gardeners. Yes, a quarter of the population. Between us we manage to kill off a ton of pollinators. Butterflies, moths, all kinds of bees, beetles and many kinds of insects and wild creatures. Is this what we want? Do we realize what we're doing to nature? Our food supply depends on pollinators doing their job. Plant life, directly or indirectly produces our food. The bees transference of pollen is essential to plant life. Animals eat plants, humans eat animals.

If you walk around your yard say, in mid February, you will find small weeds with fairly inconspicuous blossoms. They are hiding modestly hoping you won't find them but hoping pollinators will. They have developed early in the season to capture early pollinators and migrating birds before being entangled competitively with the later blooming perennials. Weeds offer their blossoms when perennials are sensibly hunkering down below soil level and annuals have no thoughtswhatsoever of appearing at this cool time of the season, and no earthly reason why they should.

Weeds are blooming just as bees are emerging from hibernation. These bees are thin, cold and hungry, wandering desperately around, feeling stressed when they find that their food sources have been decimated by those unpronounceable herbicides and pesticides. Weeds can be annoying, boldly springing up where they're not wanted, but what is more annoying is when an emerging insect finds nothing to eat. Now that is truly annoying.

We look at the state of our parsley, stripped down to wimpy stems. We don't reach for the spray can because we know better than to spray poison on something we plan to eat. But we do reach for the spray can on plants that our wildlife plan to eat. Now, should we do that? That parsley plant is the food of choice for the caterpillar of the swallow tailed butterfly. A stripped down milkweed is the plant of choice for the monarch. And birds will find irresistibly juicy caterpillars for their fledglings. All their offspring will delight us during our summer days.

You may see the leaves of some of your beautiful trees have been nibbled and you are aghast at the sight, and think the tree has some dreaded disease. It is just the leaf cutter bees at work. They make perfect semi circles in the leaves and use themto line their nests. The leaf may look slightly unsightly, but those bees are some of the most important pollinators in the garden, farming and agriculture. And your tree will regain its beauty in short order.

THE BIRD LADY:

So instead of spraying poison into your soil, leave the weeds awhile, replace exotics with natives and plant beautiful plants that will capture your heart, nourish bees and all the insects and wildlife that will gravitate to them. And they will be oh so grateful to you.

Some flowers pollinators love:

Coneflower (Echinacea), penstemon, pink muhly grass, turtlehead (chelone), foam flower tiarella, bee balm (monarda), Joe Pye weed (eupatorium), parsley, aster, false indigo (baptisiaaustralis), milkweed (asclepias), black eyed Susan (rudbeckia), cardinal flower lobelia cardinalis, great blue cardinal flower (lobelia siphilitica, columbine (aquilegea), goldenrod (solidago), blazing star (liatris spicata), cup plant (silphium), creeping phlox (phlox subulata), sunflower (helianthus annus), Golden Alexanders zizia aurea), Winterberry (ilex verticillata), sweet spire (itea), sweet bay magnolia (sweet bay Virginiana), mountain laurel (kalmia), Eastern redbud (cercis canadensis), red twigged dogwood (cornus alba), St Johns wort (hypericum kalmanium), and many varieties of oaks (quercus).

Some plants that can deter mosquitoes:

Basil, monarda, calendula, nepeta, citronella grass, garlic, lavender, lemon balm, marigold, mint, nasturtium, oregano, rosemary, tansy, thyme, alliums,

Haiku
Poison in the soil
What do pollinators think?
Oh, I think we know

Jan Glass, Bird lady, March 2024 janbglass13@gmail.com



The Common Eastern bumblebee

Join the Rumson Environmental Commission and Junior Green Team for a

COMPOSTING WORKSHOP

April 17th at 6pm

At: Bingham Hall



What You Will Learn...

- → How to compost from home
- → The Dos and Don'ts of Composting
- → How to reduce food waste
- → Tips from an avid home composter and Rutgers Master Gardener Home Composting Is Easy



Why You Should Compost

- → Returns nutrients to the soil while retaining moisture.
- Reduces runoff of chemical fertilizers into our waterways.

Did You Know?

- → 40% of all food in the United States is wasted!
- → Food waste comprises 30% of your garbage, producing 200lbs of organic waste every year!

Chance to win a free composter after the program!



EARTH DAY FAIR

WHEN: MONDAY, APRIL 22ND FROM 1:00 - 2:00 PM

WHERE: THE FORRESTDALE FARM AND GREENHOUSE 60 FORREST AVENUE IN RUMSON

HOSTED BY: THE AGRICULTURE STUDENTS, GARDEN CLUB, ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB, AND DROP THE BEET



FURTHER DETAILS TO FOLLOW

Maya Speelmans shares these fabulous daffodil tips to ge us ready for our Spring flower shows: April is Daffodil month! We already see many blooming plants, and yes, it seems to be earlier this year than in the past. Here are important and helpful guidelines for saving your blooms, until it's time to exhibit. For identification, division and color code, please use Daffseek.org. It's an invaluable source of information. Good luck to everyone!

Keeping Daffodils in the Refrigerator for an Extended Time

'From Daffodil Society of Minnesota Show Schedule

Daffodils can be kept in a refrigerator for 4-5 weeks if necessary. It is certainly not recommended, but sometimes is necessary if spring comes much earlier that the show.

- 1. Keep the humidity high in a modern frost-free refrigerator. Use trays of water and/or wet towels. Option: create a tent with sticks and a plastic bag around the flowers to retain humidity. The sticks hold the plastic away from the petals.
- 2. Keep temperature in the 34-36 degree range as low as possible without freezing the blooms. A refrigerator thermometer is a must.
- 3. Put blooms in a deep container, covering as much of the stem as possible. Daffodils lose water through their stems, not the petals.
- 4. MOST IMPORTANT: Do not store any fruit or aging produce in the same refrigerator! Gasses from ripening fruit will kill daffodils.
- 5. If a daffodil dies in the refrigerator, remove it as soon as found. If the flower wilts, re-cut the stem to open the pores and replace in fresh water.
- 6. Take out of the refrigerator the day before the show if:
 - *The flower is not fully mature (e.g. color not fully developed)
 - *The flower is not fully open (hooded)
- *The flower is looking downward (and that is not its natural pose) –place a light behind the bloom to get it to raise its head. It is easier to adjust the pose downward but hard to raise the head of the flower. In all cases, make sure it has 6 petals, no nicks in the petals, and that the cup/corona is in good shape.
- 7. Before refrigerating, clean off any dirt or stains. Use a damp Q-tip or soft brush. Look at the back as well as the front of the petals, and inside the cup. Stains and dirt are almost impossible to get off after refrigeration.
 - 8. Pick in the morning if possible.
 - 9. Pick flowers if' temperatures are predicted to go below 22' degrees.
 - 10. Division 6 flowers tend to last the longest in refrigeration.
- 11. Daffodils that have yellow petals/ yellow cups and yellow petals/red cups do not need sunlight to complete their development –they can be picked before they are completely open.
- 12. Flowers that are reverse bicolor, have lemony colored petals, or have pink cups need sunlight to complete development. They must be left on the plant in the ground to completely mature.

(Article copied from daffnet April 5, 2012 - provided by Ethel Smith of the Daffodil Society of Minnesota')

And Heather Robinson shares this video:

https://www.ted.com/talks/rebecca mcmackin let your garden grow wild

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

Email Anne at annejdreiss@gmail.com