



OCTOBER 2024



COMPOST HEAP

An Official Publication of Rumson Garden Club



RGC at SBC 2024!

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

**We look forward to seeing you at our
October Membership (Open!) meeting!
10:00am Tuesday, October 15, 2024
at RCC Riverhouse**

RSVP TO OCTOBER MEETING [HERE](#)

Schedule:

8:00am Passing

9:00am Breakfast Served

9:30am Judging

10:00am Business Meeting

11:00am **SPEAKER, OPEN MEETING**

Please bring \$20 cash or check made out to RGC.

Guests are welcome to join us at 11:00am!

OCTOBER SPEAKER

“The Enhancement and Protection of New Jersey’s Natural Habitats”

Emile D. DeVito, PhD.

Emile has been the Manager of Science and Stewardship at the New Jersey Conservation Foundation since 1989. He educates government officials, advocacy groups, land trusts, teachers and students on forest-interior habitat and migratory stopover needs of Neotropical songbirds. He is a trustee of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance and the NJ Natural Lands Trust. His specialty is the Pine Barrens but has knowledge of all conservation projects in NJ. He helped implement laws put in place under both the Byrne and McGreevy administrations that helped stop overdevelopment.



<https://www.njconservation.org>

OCTOBER SCHEDULE

PASSERS:

FLORAL DESIGN: ANN ROSSBACH, LOUISA RENN, LUCY KALIAN

HORTICULTURE: CYNTHIA LABRECQUE, DEB O'DONOGHUE, SUSAN OLSON

PHOTOGRAPHY: LIZ DUSKO, GAIL VAN WINKLE

CLERKS:

FLORAL DESIGN: NATASHA HALBOUT, LISA ATALLAH

HORTICULTURE: NANCY BOWE, MARION MORAN

PHOTOGRAPHY: LAURA HAAREN, SHEILA EHRENBERG

JUDGES:

FLORAL DESIGN: GCA JUDGES

HORTICULTURE: ALEX SMITH, ELIZABETH LILLESTON

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) or

Mary Brodsky (mary.brodsky@foxroach.com)

OCTOBER SCHEDULE

FLORAL DESIGN

“What genre of music inspires you?”

ELIZABETH DIMOCK KNAPP TROPHY

Open to all members

A silver bowl is awarded to the member with the best Interpretive Design arrangement.

(GCA Judges)

“If music be the food of love, play on.” William Shakespeare

Class 1 Create a floral design in one container of your choosing inspired by your favorite genre of music! Each entry will be displayed on a 42” high black pedestal whose top is 10.5” square or on an approximately 42” high by 30” square high-top table with white tablecloth. If desired, the designer may cover the top of the pedestal or table with a cloth in the color of their choosing to enhance their design. Designs will be viewed from 3 sides. Each entry should not exceed 18” depth by 24” width (i.e. depth is not to exceed 9” from center of the design; width is not to exceed 12” from center of the design.) There is no height restriction. To describe your inspiration, please include a statement of intent of 25 words or less on a 4” x 6” unlined notecard.

Please call or email to register an entry: louisarenn@gmail.com or 732-859-4418

HORTICULTURE

All entries must be properly identified with species and cultivar information.

RITCHIE-MOORE TROPHY

Class 1 *Open to all members.* Any plant propagated since June 2024. Clay or plastic pots are permitted. Pots not to exceed 4” in diameter. Maximum three pots per member. Points from October 2024 and May 2025 exhibits will be combined to award the Ritchie-Moore Trophy in June. Propagation cards are required.

FABULOUS FALL FOLIAGE AND FLOWERS

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

Class 3 Novice. Same as above.

Class 4 One stem of a late blooming perennial or annual to be displayed in a RGC container.

Class 5 Novice. Same as above.

OCTOBER SCHEDULE

HORTICULTURE CONT.

HEADS AND HIPS

Class 6 Three to five different kinds (genera) of seed heads, pods, capsules or hips arranged and displayed in one RGC glass container. To be judged 70% horticultural merit and 30% artistic merit.

Class 7 Novice. Same as above.

SWAYING IN THE WIND (FALL GRASSES)

Class 8 One stem of ornamental grass with inflorescence. Non native cultivars are permitted. Height may not exceed 24” from the lip of container to the tip of branch. Displayed in an RGC container. Class may be divided.

Class 9 Novice. Same as above.

ALWAYS FRESH AND EVERGREEN

Class 10 One evergreen branch (with or without berries or cones) not to exceed 24” in length from lip of container to tip of branch. To be displayed in one RGC container.

Class 11 Novice. Same as above.

Class 12 One native** evergreen branch (with or without berries or cones) not to exceed 24” in length from the lip of the container to the tip of the branch. To be displayed in one RGC container

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. See page 11 of Handbook for definition of PAR.

** 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 those sites to verify the eligibility of your specimens.

PHOTOGRAPHY

**New Jersey
The Garden State
(GCA Judges)**

Class 1 *Bountiful native plants.* Take a color photograph of an individual or group of native plants.

Class 2 Novice. Same as above.

Class 3 *Garden vegetables.* Take a color photograph of garden vegetables, in nature or as a still life.

Class 4 Novice. Same as above.

All entries must be submitted by *October 1st to Gail Van Winkle's home. Follow rules in By-Laws. Four entries per class. Please contact Liz Dusko with questions at ldusko@gmail.com.*

Fall is here with its sunny, warm days and refreshing cool nights. Our gardens are still full – but now with seed heads and pods in addition to their transitioning blooms. Opportunity to enter Hort from your garden still exists! These next couple of months are super busy – filled with workshops for Botanical Arts, Floral Design, and Hort – some hosted by our Club, others hosted by GCA Clubs. Take advantage of all these occasions to learn and get to know your fellow members better. You might discover you are gifted at using tweezers and a glue gun and make a new friend while you are at it!

This October Meeting is our OPEN Meeting – please bring a friend to join us for the Lecture at 11am (just don't forget to add them to the RSVP!). We have a wonderful speaker, Dr. Emile DeVito, from the NJ Conservation Foundation. He will be sharing his extensive knowledge of the Pine Barrens as well as conservation projects throughout the Garden State. Lots for us to learn!

We will have GCA Judges for Floral Design and Photography as well as two Club Award opportunities – the Elizabeth Dimock Knapp Trophy in Floral Design and the Ritchie-Moore Trophy in Hort. We hope to put on a good Show for our GCA Judge visitors, so please enter as much as you can. I'm so proud of our Novices at the September Show for entering almost every Class! Let's do it again!

See you on Tuesday, October 15th!

Cheers,
Susan



During my recent travels to CT visiting my kids, I found a turtle hatchling in the White Flower Farm parking lot. Super cute, but a Snapper isn't a pet. I made sure he made it to the pond across the road.

Be on the lookout for turtle hatchlings right now!!

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

(See Committee Reports for full details)

Oct. 9, Botanical Arts (cat challenge) workshop, Bingham Hall, 11am-1pm (Floral Design)

Oct. 11, Jackson Woods Native planting, 9am-12pm (Partners 4 Plants)

Oct. 18, "Passing for Flower Shows" workshop, Bingham Hall, 10am (Judging)

Oct. 16, NJ Committee Luncheon at Canoe Brook CC, 10am-3pm

Nov. 4, New Members Luncheon at the home of Susan Sorokolit, 11 Tyson Lane, 12:30pm

Nov. 13, "Underwater Floral Design" workshop at Bingham Hall, Evening time TBD (Floral Design)

Nov. 25, Registration opens for Zone IV Flower Show (Floral Design)

Dec. 6-7, Bingham Hall, Christmas Greens!

FLORAL DESIGN:

Congratulations to all 17 members who entered September's "homegrown" floral design challenge. What a great turn out and what beautifully creative designs! The simple mason jar has never looked so good! Next up for floral design is the October Flower Show where GCA Judges will be on site to judge this season's INTERPRETIVE DESIGN Challenge, "What Genre of Music Inspires You?" Exhibitors will be competing for the Elizabeth Dimock Knapp Trophy given to the member with the best Interpretive Design arrangement. We can't wait to see what your design tells us about the kind of music you are inspired by and passionate about! Bring your creative ideas and whatever questions you may have about interpretive design and join us on Wednesday, October 2 for our Interpretive Design Workshop from 1pm – 3 pm at Bingham Hall. To sign up, email Louisarenn@gmail.com or call 732-859-4418.

Wednesday, October 9, Stella Ryan will lead a Botanical Arts Workshop in preparation of January 2025's Botanical Arts "Cat" Challenge. At the workshop, Bonnie Torcivia will distribute the cat statuary to be used for the Class; the cost is \$6, so please bring cash. Stella will demonstrate how to create a jeweled collar and discuss other material options that might be used for embellishment. The Workshop will be held at Bingham Hall from 11 am – 1 pm. Please contact Bonnie Torcivia at bltorcivia@gmail.com or 908-812-6416 to sign up for the Class and Workshop.



Our lovely and talented September Floral Design workshop hostesses!

FLORAL DESIGN: cont.

Zone IV Important Dates:

Attention RGC floral designers, and especially those wintering in the south this year: Consider entering a floral design class at the **GCA Annual Meeting and Flower Show in Ponte Vedra, FL to be held April 27-29, 2025**. Registration is already open. The Show's Schedule and more info can be found on the GCA website or at:

https://www.gcamerica.org/uploads/filemanager/calendarschedule/SHGC%20FLORA%20AND%20FAUNA%20spread_WEB.pdf

The Zone IV Flower Show will be held in Summit this year on May 20-21, 2025. Space at the venue, Reeves Reed Arboretum, is extremely limited so only a few from our Club will be able to show in floral. For any member who might be interested in submitting an entry in floral, please contact Louisa Renn at 732-859-4418 to discuss. The schedule can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gcamerica.org/uploads/filemanager/calendarschedule/GARDENS%20ON%20THE%20HILL-a.pdf>

Registration opens for the Zone Show's floral design classes on November 25 and closes February 25, 2025. And FYI, ownership deadlines for horticulture and propagation are coming up as well, on November 20.

The Wissahickon Garden Club near Philadelphia is hosting a Botanical Arts 101 Workshop on November 7, 2024. Registration is now open for a maximum of 50 participants, so please register ASAP. Cost is \$100. If you have any questions, need travel logistics, or want to register/pay, please email: Jennifer Morello jmorello3@gmail.com or Lisa Walker lwwalker3@gmail.com.

Lastly, for anyone interested in getting into the Zone IV floral design judging program, there will be a **Zone IV "Judging Workshop" on October 23**. Please contact Molly Schneider, Judging Representative for Zone IV, at tmollycs200@gmail.com, for more information about the location, time, and how to register for this workshop.

Happy Designing EVERYONE!



September Flower Show backyard beauties

CONSERVATION:

October “Conservation Corner” events:

How to Create a No-Fuss Wildlife Pond - Webinar. October 9 @ 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm - Virtual.

[Click here to register for this free webinar.](#) Presented by Pat Sutton.

Frogs, toads, and dragonflies all need freshwater ponds for egg-laying to create future generations. Even a tiny pond will attract and support them. Learn what a true wildlife pond is and how simple it is to make – without running water, filters, fish, and all the fuss.

Pat Sutton will share the basics of creating a wildlife pond and, even more importantly, maintaining it. Learn which native plants to add to the pond (and which problem plants to avoid). In a true wildlife pond, expect to attract and watch the amazing life cycle of huge Green Darner dragonflies and count the growing population of Leopard Frogs, Green Frogs, and Gray Treefrogs that find your pond as if by magic. Create it and they will come! Pat Sutton has keenly studied the natural world for over 45 years as the naturalist at the Cape May Point State Park, as the naturalist and program director at NJ Audubon’s Cape May Bird Observatory, and as a writer, photographer, naturalist, educator, lecturer, and wildlife habitat/conservation gardening champion! She and her husband (Clay Sutton) have written several books together: *Birds and Birding at Cape May*, *How to Spot Butterflies*, *How to Spot Hawks & Eagles*, and *How to Spot an Owl*. For more information go to Pat and Clay’s website: www.patsuttonwildlifegarden.com.

Rutgers Master Gardeners Q&A Thyme! Lettuce Help You! October 10, 7:00 PM Virtual.

Monmouth County Library System. Registration Contact: HQ Reference 732-431-7220 x7222 mcl@monmouthcountylib.org. Presented by Master Gardener Diane Larson. Diane Larson, Monmouth County Horticulturist of the Rutgers Master Gardeners, will assist with horticulture and garden questions via Zoom. Please email questions in advance (by October 9 at noon) to Ms. Larson at MonCoLibrary1922@gmail.com. The Master Gardeners are dedicated to educating the citizens of Monmouth County by offering interesting and informative horticultural presentations. Raising awareness in our community ensures that Monmouth County continues to be a beautiful and environmentally green place to live and work. Sessions will be presented on Zoom and are free of charge. Registration and internet access are required. Registration closes on the business day prior to the program at noon; Zoom Access Links will be emailed later that day.

CONSERVATION: cont.

Intro to Native Plant Gardening, October 10, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Monmouth County Library System, Allentown.

Registration Contact: Shannon Foster 609-259-7565, sfoster@monmouthcountylib.org.

Registration will begin on Thursday, October 3, 2024 at 9:00 AM

Jason Goldman, of Flower to the People, will teach you all about the wonderful world of native plant gardening. By learning various principles of ecology and landscape design, you will gain an understanding of how native plant landscapes benefit both humans and wildlife simultaneously. This course will be interactive by including plenty of time for your questions, so you can get started on cultivating your own garden which you can take pride in. Remember, whether you have sun or shade, dry or wet conditions, an entire lawn or just some planter boxes, there's a native plant for every space!

Registration requested as space is limited.

HORTICULTURE:



What a beautiful September show!

PHOTOGRAPHY:

PHOTOGRAPHY

Our first show is this October 15th.

We have the GCA judges coming, so lets fill the classes!
4 classes, 16 photos total

Class 1. Bountiful native plants, either a grouping or an individual plan

Class 2 Novice

Class 3. Garden vegetables. In nature or a still life

Class 4 Novice

If mounting is not your thing, Gail will be glad to help... and if you can't attend the meeting, you can still enter a photo.

thx, Liz and Gail



CIVICS:

Oceanic Library: Fall flowers were planted at the Oceanic Library this past Friday 9/27 with plants from Linwyck Gardens. RGC members Betsy Ford, Lauren (and Jeff) Haaren, Cathy Smith, Karen Robinson, Lisa Attalah, Marian Moran and myself helped out

Rain Gardens: Victory Park and Riverside Park

Karen Robinson has attended both gardens for weeding

Monmouth Day Care Center: Lisa planted cool weather vegetables including kale, swiss chard, carrots in 2 raised beds earlier this month. Betsy Ford repaired one of the raised beds. Watering and light weeding continues weekly

PARTNERS FOR PLANTS:

Jackson Woods Native Garden Planting on October 11th!

Come see our Partners for Plants grant money at work and help plant our native garden at Jackson Woods in Long Branch! Jackson Woods is an oasis for underserved communities surrounding the park and has been lovingly restored by an all-volunteer task force. We will be installing the first round of plants on October 11th from 9-12 and would love your help! Please spread the word to any other folks who might like to lend us some of their time. If you can join us please email Heather at heatheramyrobinson@gmail.com.



Jackson Woods Native Garden rendering

VISITING GARDENS:



RGC enjoys another fabulous trip to the Javits Center!

MORE PHOTOS FROM THE JAVITS CENTER TRIP: 1 2



JUDGING:

Save the date! Maya Speelmans will share her expertise at an upcoming workshop: **“Passing for Flower Shows” on October 18 from 10-11 AM at Bingham Hall.** Everyone is welcome! Anyone interested in attending the workshop on October 18th should RSVP to Elaine Eadon at: elaine.eadon@gmail.com.

Elaine has also shared the following links to help familiarize everyone with Passing and Clerking guidelines:

“P” is for Passing Perfectly: <https://rumsongardenclubnj.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/P-is-for-Passing-Perfectly-2024.pdf>

Passing Guidelines: <https://rumsongardenclubnj.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Passing-Guidelines-2024.pdf>

Clerking Suggestions: <https://rumsongardenclubnj.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Clerking-Suggestions-2024.pdf>

GARDEN HISTORY& DESIGN:

Enjoy the most recent Garden History and Design newsletter:

<https://www.gcamerica.org/uploads/filemanager/common/document/GHandD/GHD%20August%202024%20Newsletter.pdf>

and take a look at recent featured gardens:

September:

<https://www.gcamerica.org/members:news/get/id/4721>

October:

<https://www.gcamerica.org/members:news/get/id/4744>

RGC ON INSTAGRAM!:

Please send Pari Harrison photos of any events, workshops, or any special plants you encounter, including pictures from your garden or others.

Text Pari Harrison @ 732 915-3051

NJ COMMITTEE:

A final reminder to sign up for the **Annual NJ Committee Luncheon at Canoe Brook on October 16**. We will be arranging car pools for those members that would like to ride together. Attached is the link for registration with details about this years interesting speaker, Warrie Price, from the Battery Conservancy as well as the list of boutiques that will be participating. It promises to be an interesting and fun afternoon. For full details to support the NJ Committee and register for the luncheon click below:



<https://secure.givelively.org/event/new-jersey-committee-of-the-garden-club-of-america/2023-millicent-mercier-johnsen-scholarship-campaign/join-us-for-the-2024-fall-luncheon-lecture>

NEW MEMBERS:

All new members are invited to a **New Members Luncheon on November 4th at 12:30 pm at Susan Sorokolit's home, 11 Tyson Lane, Rumson**. Sarah Fleming will speak about how Rumson Garden Club relates to the state and national level of the Garden Club of America. Please RSVP to Susan Sorokolit @ ssorokolit@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS GREENS:

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Christmas Greens 2024 at Bingham Hall in Rumson!

Set-up Friday, December 6th, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Wreath Making & Mason Jar arrangements: Saturday, December 7th, 8 a.m. - noon

More info to follow in the November Heap

We have depleted our collection of pine cones. If you have any or find any on your walks and wish to donate, please contact us and we will pick them up.

Cynthia Labrecque:
917-796-2229
cl331@comcast.net

Teresa Maguire
732-539-2006
tdmag5@aol.com

GCA ZONE IV SHOW INFORMATION AND SCHEDULE:



The GCA ZONE IV Meeting and Show, *Gardens on the Hill*, hosted by Summit Garden Club takes place on May 20-21, 2025. Information about this event can be found [HERE](#).

The ZONE IV Show Schedule is [HERE](#). Please take a look at it and see if there is anything you would like to enter. Registration opens for all divisions except Horticulture on November 25, 2024.

GCA CONSERVATION STUDY CONFERENCE:

Registration is now OPEN for the 2024 Conservation Study Conference on November 6th. It is **FREE** and **VIRTUAL** this year, so you all can enjoy it! More information about the event and the link to register are [HERE](#).



A NOTE FROM THE BIRD LADY:

When I was a little girl I used to walk with my mother to visit relatives in the small coastal town of Weymouth in Dorset, parts of which had been heavily bombed in the war. There was a huge naval presence in nearby Portland which made the town attractive to the enemy. There were bombed out buildings all around. Walls sheered off disclosing living rooms, with the wallpaper still intact. It was an intrusive, uncomfortable look into private places. Desolation all around. No living thing survived. But amid the rubble, the piles of lumber, bricks, stones and plaster, blooming with abandon in all the nooks and crannies were the butterfly bushes. I cannot see a butterfly bush today without being taken back to those times.

When I see bombed out buildings I am reminded of the air raid shelter that my family had in our cellar. It was just a metal cage called an Anderson shelter. Whenever the sirens sounded we would rush down there with my godparents who lived next door. We felt perfectly safe. It wasn't until the war was over did we realize that with a direct hit, the wooden floor of our living room above would have crashed down on top of us. But we survived along with the blooming buddleia in our garden.

I have a large evergreen camellia bush, and nearby are three bird feeders. It becomes an air raid shelter for the birds when the blue jays raise the alarm that a hawk is hovering with malicious intent. The birds scatter into the bush and silence reigns. The silence is complete after the somewhat raucous chorus at feeding time, until some of the braver birds, usually the smaller ones, venture out before the big bold black ones get out there and hog the feeders.

At Christmas time I lay our discarded tree just below the feeders. It becomes a natural shelter from the weather and a hideout from the hungry raptors. And a cozy one, too when it's covered in snow. If you creep up very quietly you can hear them having quite a conversation inside.

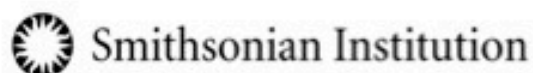
Air raid shelters are for people and birds, and above all we give thanks for the hopeful persistence of the butterfly bush in places of desolation.

Haiku
In bombed out places
Desolation and ruin
Butterfly bush shines



Jan Glass Bird Lady. Janbglass13@gmail.com
September 2024

ENJOY THIS GCA FLASHBACK!



*A Garden History & Design **One Minute Report** from the Archives of American Gardens (AAG)*

The 1920s marked a time of swift economic growth and a rapid rise of motorists, owing to new mass production methods in the auto industry. The influx of automobiles resulted in a road building boom: in 1922 alone three times as many roadways were constructed than ever before through the federal-aid highway program. The presence of more consumers on the road brought new advertising opportunities, and the erection of billboards spread widely along roadsides. The prominence of outdoor advertising was an early concern of the GCA, and in response, founding member Elizabeth Martin organized a billboard committee in 1920.

Taking the High Road: The GCA's Battle Against Billboards



Billboard advertising documented by The Summit Garden Club (N.J.), circa 1920-1935. Glass lantern slides like these were used in lectures to educate the public about roadside beautification and reform efforts.

In 1924 the GCA's Roadside and Billboard Committees were combined, with a mission to protect roadside scenery and restrict billboards to commercial districts. The committee focused on raising public awareness and lobbying for legislation to regulate outdoor advertising. At the 1931 International Flower Show in New York City, a GCA exhibit on the defacement of scenic landscapes by billboards led to the distribution of 20,000 flyers and 7,000 signatures on a petition against billboards on public highways. Other campaign efforts included discussions at club meetings, editorials, and announcements in club bulletins. The GCA also joined forces with other like-minded civic groups such as the American Civic Association, the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, and the American Society of Landscape Architects.

The campaign had limited success, as high-powered outdoor advertising companies won most courtroom cases. Public opinion continued to support billboard restrictions, however, and by the 1930s some roadside advertising legislation was introduced by state legislatures. For instance, six inspectors were added to the New Jersey task force that carried out the licensing and taxing of billboards, and in Maryland 21,000 billboards were torn down by the end of 1931. Despite setbacks, the GCA continued to support the preservation of roadside landscapes and the beautification of highways. Its efforts helped eventually lead to the passage of the Billboard Control Amendment to the Federal Highway Act of 1956 and the Highway Beautification Act of 1965.