



NOVEMBER 2024



COMPOST HEAP

An Official Publication of Rumson Garden Club



RGC ladies attend the NJ Committee luncheon

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

We look forward to seeing you at our
November Membership meeting!

6:00pm Tuesday, November 19, 2024
at RCC Riverhouse

RSVP TO NOVEMBER MEETING [HERE](#)

Schedule:

4:30-5:30pm Passing

5:30pm Judging

5:30pm Cocktails begin

6:00pm Business Meeting

6:30pm Club Holiday Party!

*****Please bring \$30 cash or check made out to RGC.*****

NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

PASSERS:

FLORAL DESIGN: MARY JANE O'HARE, MISSY FALKENBERG

CLERKS:

FLORAL DESIGN: LAURA HAAREN, MARION MORAN

JUDGES:

FLORAL DESIGN: LUCY KALIAN, TAPHY HARCSAR

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)

FLORAL DESIGN

Bounty Overflowing

“Wherefore did Nature pour her bounties forth
 With such a full and unwithdrawing hand,
 Covering the earth with odours, fruits, flocks,
 Thronging the seas with spawn innumerable,
 But all to please and sate the curious taste?” John Milton

Class 1. Create a Thanksgiving-inspired Cascading Design that celebrates the overflowing beauty and bounty of the season. The use of fruit, vegetables, and branches is permitted! Dimensions 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. Entries will be displayed on the 42” high wooden bar at the Riverhouse and will be viewed from 3 sides.

Class 2. Novice. Same as above.

*** GCA defines a Cascade Design as “one which is constructed of layered, loosely trailing plant material which appears to flow; waterfall.”

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

Halloween is behind us, lots of holiday cheer awaits, and it still feels like summer. What an excellent time of year! We have so much to look forward to in the next several weeks --- our November Cocktail Party Fundraiser and Christmas Greens included.

Our November Meeting is meant to be a celebration for our membership – there is no speaker, it's simply a cocktail party for us to mingle and catch up with each other. Of course, we have a brief business meeting and one competitive class, a festive Floral Design Challenge of a cascading floral arrangement. We will also have a little shopping with several fundraising items to purchase – RGC aprons and hats, some unique purses and lots of Christmas décor. It'll be a night to unwind before the Holiday chaos begins. I hope to see you there!

Looking forward to socializing with you all on Tuesday, November 19th!

Cheers,
Susan



Having fun reinvigorating the Ruth Lobdell Garden!!

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Nov. 25 - Registration opens for Zone IV Flower Show (Floral Design)
- Nov. 25, 6:30-8pm - Conservation lecture, Brookdale Community College
- Dec. 6-7 - Bingham Hall, Christmas Greens!
- Dec. 7 - Oceanic Library (Post Christmas Greens) Library window box greening!
- Dec. 12, 3-6pm - GCA Holiday Tea at GCA Headquarters in NYC
- Feb. 11 - "Blooms and Beyond: GCA virtual floral design conference, details TBD

FLORAL DESIGN:

The RGC Floral Design Workshop on “Underwater Arrangements”, originally planned for Wednesday, November 13, 2024, has been postponed. The class will be held nearer to the date of the underwater design challenge scheduled for the April 8, 2025 RGC Flower Show.

October Flower Show Congratulations to all TEN floral designers who inspired fellow club members and judges alike with their Interpretive Design arrangement of their favorite music genre. All entries received the GCA judge’s commendation for their “symphony of creativity!” New member, Laura Haaren, wowed with Psychedelic Music, taking top honors and is this year’s Elizabeth Dimock Knapp Trophy winner. Joan Lynch, Marion Moran, and Louisa Renn also took ribbons.

NEXT UP FOR NOVEMBER - “Bounty Overflowing”

Please consider entering a Thanksgiving-inspired Cascading Design arrangement that celebrates the overflowing beauty and bounty of the season. GCA defines a Cascading Design as “one which is constructed of layered, loosely trailing plant material which appears to flow; waterfall.” Flowering and non-flowering plant material, fruit, vegetables, and branches are allowed. Entries will be placed on the 42” high bar at the RCC Riverhouse and viewed from 3 sides. Design dimensions cannot exceed 24” total width or 18” total depth.

Updated instructions clarifications: In addition to the above-listed dimensions, there is no size restriction on total length of trailing or cascading material. A medium grey background will be located behind all entries so designs can be viewed without the distraction of the working bar behind; If desired, entrants are allowed to bring a different colored backdrop to complement their own design which will be placed in front of the RGC background.

The GCA website and many online images/videos can help you design and construct this very specific and striking style of arrangement. Reach out to members of the floral design committee if you have questions and don’t forget to email Louisa at louisarenn@gmail.com to enter.

PASSING at the November Evening Show is from 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM ONLY. NO EXCEPTIONS! Judging will begin promptly at 5:30 PM.

PASSING TIPS:

- 1). At a show, passers are your best friend. They will help you present your design in the best possible light before being judged. Be kind & respectful to these volunteers.
- 2). Complete your entry cards AT HOME the day before! Download the card from the RGC website. Check that all plants are listed & correctly identified. If needed, ask for help way ahead of time.

FLORAL DESIGN: cont.

- 3) Get to the venue as early as you can. Shows are hectic; running short of time only adds to everyone’s stress level.
- 4) Entries generally need some touching-up day of show. If you can, bring extra flowers/supplies so you have options to deal with wilting or transport damage.

Resources and Inspiration:

If you haven’t signed up for GCA’s BY DESIGN Magazine or any of the other wonderful online GCA publications provided to members, go to GCA website, GCAamerica.org, access the “member’s area,” hit “Publications” box, then click on “manage subscriptions” under the search tab. Each BY DESIGN includes many pictures of floral design and botanical arts show entries and has excellent articles and how-to guides on different floral design styles.

SAVE THE DATES:

Zone IV FLOWER SHOW (May 20-21, 2025)

Dates to Remember:

- Wednesday, November 20, 2024 – 6-month ownership deadline for Horticulture
- Monday, November 25, 2024 – Registration opens for Floral Design & Photography

If you are considering submitting an entry to represent RGC in Floral Design at the Zone IV Flower Show, please let Susan Olson know of your interest as soon as possible. As of this time, RGC can only register one person/team in one floral class due to the limited size of the venue. For more information, go to the GCA website, Zone pages tab. The schedule for the Zone show is on the Zone IV page.

BLOOMS & BEYOND, a virtual floral design conference by GCA, will be held on February 11, 2025. The conference is free to any member, but advanced registration is required. Registration information will be on the GCA website and will be emailed to all members in January. We are so THANKFUL for GCA and Rumson Garden Club! Happy Designing!



Our October “Symphony of Creativity”!



Bingham Hall Botanical Arts workshop

CONSERVATION:

Remember to leave the leaves: As leaves decompose, they add nutrients to the soil!

One of the most valuable things you can do to support pollinators and other invertebrates is to provide them with the shelter they need to survive the winter.

Upcoming Community Events:

Brookdale Community College Monday, November 25, 2024 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Forever Chemicals, Pesticides and Other Contaminants in our Environment: Impact on Human and Wildlife Health

Speaker: Kelly Smalling, MSPH, Research Hydrologist, US Geological Survey, NJ Water Science Center

Description: Kelly Smalling has investigated the presence of forever chemicals in tap water throughout the United States, and has studied the impact of environmental contaminants on the health of humans and wildlife. She will speak about “One Health”, an integrated, unifying aspect of her work that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, wildlife, and ecosystems.

Kelly’s research is focused on the actual versus perceived health risks of contaminant mixtures to human health and the environment (including fish and wildlife).

Registration is not required

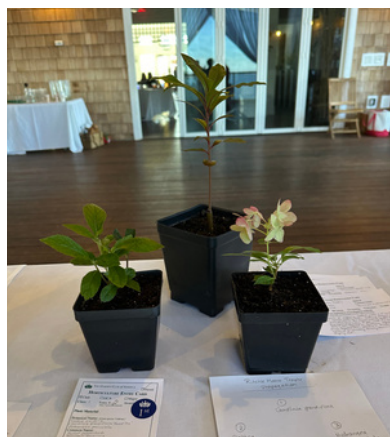
HORTICULTURE:

Please review January's schedule for information about the bulb challenge, for those of you who ordered "First Love" amaryllis bulbs they should arrive soon and I will contact you for pick up. The plan is to plant them the first week of December. If you are forcing other bulbs now is the time to stick them in the fridge.

White Flower Farm has these tips:

https://www.whiteflowerfarm.com/blog/2017/11/21/forcing-bulbs-its-easier-than-you-think/?srsltid=AfmBOoq50Ktd9_1BQ99H7UGizxVL9Rdye27CDKn64rV_o3R2oZm7lWEu&_cf_chl_tk=6QPp8zEr1iD4cwxn97OJWtQebMn_MuasFxK1Ee6qNdo-1730896786-1.0.1.1-yr25f57u3qaEKTvMaThS5WPo4wuUU3USeEr_8k5rv8Y

Also, please contact Betsy Ford betsyford72@gmail.com if you are interested in propagating herbs for the Zone IV show in May. There will be more information to follow and the Zone IV schedule is on the GCA website.



October Hort winners on display!

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Beautiful photos of bountiful natives and vegetables from the Garden State!

CIVICS:

The Civics Committee will be hosting a workgroup to switch out the autumn floral display at the Oceanic Library window boxes Saturday, December 7 following the Christmas Greens morning sessions. As in past years we hope to utilize leftover floral material from the Christmas Greens event. An email message will be sent 1-2 weeks prior to these weekend dates to Civics Committee members noting this activity while requesting members to gather materials from their own yards to add to the library boxes. Any RGC member interested in joining the workgroup and/or have greens to donate to this project should contact Nancy Bowe (nancybowe999@gmail.com) for more information.

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

RGC Ladies!

Our annual Christmas Greens Workshop is right around the corner, December 7th will be here in a blink of an eye! There will be many ways to volunteer and help make this event a success! Heather has graciously set up "Sign Up Genius" for us, so please be on the lookout. Please start looking around your yards for greens that you would like to donate for our wreaths and arrangements! Greens can be dropped off at Bingham Hall on December 6th and the morning of the workshop! We need pine cones! If you have a stash of pine cones hidden away and would like to donate some that would be great! Bring a bag with you on your walks or drives, you never know where Mother Nature has left some for you to find! Also, magnolia seed pods, dried hydrangea, and anything you find interesting would make an interesting arrangement!

Lastly, we may do a pop-up wiring of ornaments and pinecones, so stay tuned!

Cynthia and Teresa

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

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

PARTNERS FOR PLANTS:

Jackson Woods Native Garden installation!

RGC members and the Long Branch community came together for a productive day of digging and planting. The pollinators were happy!



RGC members beautified the Ruth Lobdell Garden at St. George's Church!
RGC members along with parishioners cleaned up the garden and planted natives following the winning Helen Hurd Trophy landscape design by Alex Smith!



NJ COMMITTEE:



Bloomin' Bucks

Perennials Bulbs Books Accessories

Brent and Becky's Bloomin' Bucks program donates 25% of your entire order toward NJC programs.

Please join our fundraising efforts supporting NJC programs including The Growing Fund and the Millicent Mercer Johnsen Scholarship Program supporting summer internships for New Jersey students pursuing studies within the field of horticulture. Thank you for your support!

Follow the steps below to ensure your order will contribute to the NJC:

Online
 → 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

Phone
 → Call toll free at 1-877-661-2852
 → Please inform Customer Service to credit your order to "Bloomin' Bucks" for "NJ Committee of GCA."



RGC members blown away by the luncheon this year!

And with this warm weather there is still time to order bulbs while supporting the NJ Committee Growing Fund...It's a win/win!

RGC ON INSTAGRAM!:

Don't forget to check out Rumsongardenclub Instagram for the latest happenings! And 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

GARDEN HISTORY & DESIGN:

Enjoy a trip to the midwest to visit the November featured garden, The Gardens of KeltonHouse Farm :

<https://www.gcamerica.org/members:news/get/id/4780>

and the October newsletter:

<https://www.gcamerica.org/uploads/filemanager/common/document/GHandD/October%20Garden%20Newsletter.pdf>

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 2024 Holiday Tea!](#)

(Click link above for more information)

On Thursday, December 12th from 3-6pm at GCA Headquarters in New York (14 E. 60th Street, 3rd Floor).

ALL GCA members are welcome! Bring friends, family, and fellow Club members to share in the joyful holiday spirit! Please [RSVP HERE](#)

Click here to see [the gallery of needlepoint ornaments from every GCA Club](#).

See if you can find ours!

“SWALLOWS, CHRISTMAS TREES AND WOODPECKERS”

As the weather cools and the trees turn their gorgeous reds and golds, deepening into mahogany and the sky is varying intensities of blues and grays, and the reeds on the islands have changed to a deep bronze, have you noticed that this is the time of year when swallows gather in large clusters on the utility wires? They look like huge black zippers. Sitting equally at a distance from each other, socializing and chattering loudly, discussing, I expect the route they will take to more exotic climes. Probably trying to sense the air currents that will carry them aloft for great distances. Their forked tails, swooping flight and their beautiful iridescent feathers make them most distinctive among birds. They are a delight as they swoop and dive, catching air born insects that will nourish them on their long flight away from us.

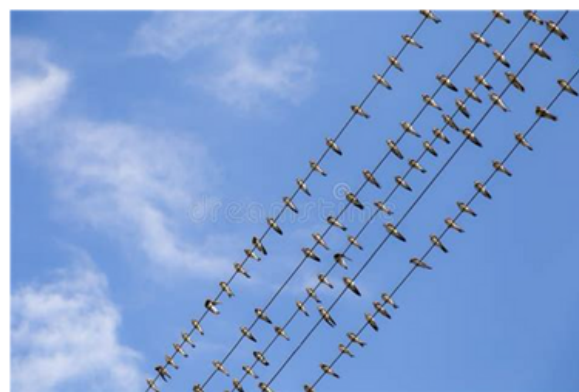
Looks sad, doesn't it? It does for those of us who crave the sun, swimming, sunbathing and long warm evenings. Because it heralds the end of summer. Swallows know instinctively the change of the seasons and plan their escape. Many other birds migrate of course to escape our cold winters with its lack of food, but swallows are community minded, gathering like tourists on a tour bus.

As the season turns, with the swallows gone, along with our other migratory birds and hibernating wildlife, we experience another sad sight. Bedraggled Christmas trees lying by the roadsides, in the gutters, tinsel fluttering forlornly in the cool wet breezes, ready to be picked up by the town and sent who knows where, to some overfilled landfill, maybe.

There is another use for your once beautiful tree. Cut the branches off and place them under your blue flowering hydrangeas. The theory is that the acid from the evergreens will mix with the soil, become absorbed through the roots, and deepen the blue of the blossoms. No need for ferrous sulphate, tin cans, rusty nails, old horseshoes, or other blueing agents. The branches will keep the weeds down, the moisture in, and help prevent the ground from heaving during frosty spells.

But now, what to do with a denuded tree trunk. This you can place in an out of the way area, to decompose and enrich the soil. Hungry woodpeckers will find it. They like nothing better than an old tree to peck away at. And many small creatures will use it as a haven.

Then, the following winter, after it has dried out, (not before or you may have a chimney fire), you can chop it up for firewood. And as you watch the flames you can remember your once beautiful tree and the pleasure it gave you. And you can also ponder the return of the swallows who will, once again, herald the season of warmth and plenty.



Jan Glass. November 2024

Janbglass13@gmail.com (RGCMG)

Enjoy another GCA/Smithsonian “One Minute” garden tip!



Smithsonian Institution

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

These days, many espaliers are designed to accent a garden, providing an intricate visual attraction to visitors. Trees or shrubs are trained on a wall or on a trellis to form different, oftentimes decorative, patterns. But did you know that they serve a functional purpose as well?

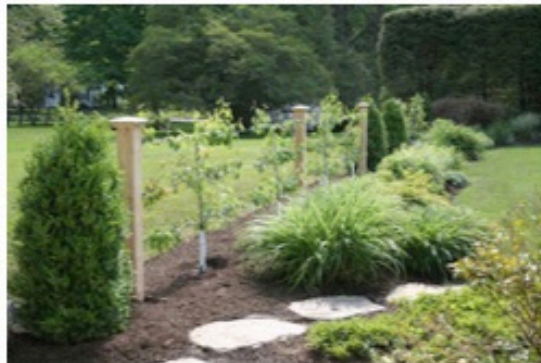
Espaliers

In the 17th and 18th centuries fruit trees were often trained against kitchen walls. Not only did the trees provide an ornamental aspect to the garden but being planted and trained against a warm and sunny spot like a south-facing wall aided in fruit production. The fruit was of a better quality and grew faster because of the warm and sheltered environment. Placing fruit trees along a wall also enabled fruit to grow in a compact space while providing shelter to vegetables growing below.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines *espalier* as 1. a lattice-work or frame-work upon which fruit trees or ornamental shrubs are trained and 2. a fruit tree trained on a lattice, usually of woodwork, or on stakes. While espalier refers to the framework that supports the plant, the term also implies the whole process, the framework, the plant, and the act of training the plant.



La Colline, Philadelphia, PA. May 2008.
Wendy R. Concannon, photographer.



The Patterson Garden, Litchfield, CT. May 2010.
Marla J. Patterson, photographer.

Although it is not used as much, the term *espalier* can also refer to plants trained to create borders. Plants are trained in such a way that they establish a dividing line or defining edge for a garden, much like pleaching but without the extensive work of cutting and grafting the plants. In 1741 English writer and encyclopaedist Ephraim Chambers referred to a ‘British espalier’ as a row of trees planted around the outside of a garden or plantation for its security.

The next time you are wishing that you had apples sooner, consider planting an apple tree right along your kitchen wall...and documenting the results for the Garden Club of America Collection at the Archives of American Gardens!

All images are from the Garden Club of America Collection at the Archives of American Gardens.

By Julie Hunter, AAG/GCA Garden History & Design Intern. August 2012.

Have a tip to share? Email Anne @ annejdreiss@gmail.com