



SEPTEMBER 2025

COMPOST HEAP

An Official Publication of Rumson Garden Club

**A LAST HURRAH FOR THE 2024 RGC PHOTO!*****DON'T STOP READING UNTIL YOU GET THIS MONTH'S MEMBER TIPS!***

**We look forward to seeing you at our
September Membership meeting!**

10:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 16, 2025

at Seabright Beach Club

RSVP TO SEPTEMBER MEETING [HERE](#)

Schedule:

8:30 a.m. Passing

9:30 a.m. Judging

10:00 a.m. Business Meeting

11:00 a.m. SPEAKER, [followed by yearly photo!](#)

12:00 p.m. Lunch Served

(*pls bring check for \$25 made out to RGC or make payment [here](#))

SEPTEMBER SPEAKER

Blackwell Botanicals

Plantswoman Anne Blackwell Thompson preserves foliage and flowers using centuries-old traditions turning her bounty into beautiful, artistic compositions. Their meticulous preservation and artistic presentation are what elevate these found treasures into sophisticated, unique and highly stylized works of art.

www.blackwellbotanicals.com



SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

STAGING: MARIA KOLARSICK, LAURA WALLACH

PASSERS:

FLORAL DESIGN: PARI HARRISON, LOUISA RENN

HORTICULTURE: KATHRYNE SINGLETON, PEEKA TILDESLEY

CLERKS:

FLORAL DESIGN: SUSAN SOROKOLIT, SHEILA EHRENBERG

HORTICULTURE: WENDY WILT, PIPER LEDDY

JUDGES:

FLORAL DESIGN: BARBARA BATTING, TAPHY HARCSAR

**HORTICULTURE: GCA JUDGES (KATHY SHEPPERLY, GRANIA ALLPORT,
HEATHER CANDRANELL (PROSPECTIVE))**

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: Laura Haaren (lahaaren1118@verizon.net) or Lisa Atallah (lisa3atallah@gmail.com)

SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

FLORAL DESIGN

“Summer lovin’, had me a blast. Summer lovin’, happened so fast.” – Grease

- Class 1 **It’s Heating Up with Hand-tied Bouquets** - Design a *hand-tied bouquet**, secured with simple twine, using home-grown and/or native flowers. Entry is to be staged in a clear colorless container of your choosing and placed on a 30" high rectangular table covered with a floor-length white tablecloth. Design is not to exceed 12" in height and 10" width and depth. Each exhibit is allowed a design space of 20" by 20". Viewed and judged from all sides. **(5) Entries**
- Class 2 Novice. Same as above. **(5) Entries**
- Class 3 **Cooling Down those Dog Days of Summer** - Using a vintage or retro container, create a design primarily of shade plant material from the garden of the exhibitor or a friend. Entries are to be staged on a 30" high rectangular table covered with a floor-length white tablecloth. Design is not to exceed 14" width and depth. Each exhibit is allowed a design space of 20" by 20". Viewed and judged from all sides. **(5) Entries**
- Class 4 Novice. Same as above. **(5) Entries**

Pre-registration is required by Sunday, September 14.

Class consultant, Stella Ryan, stellaryan1@aol.com.

Exhibitors may enter one class only.

* *Hand-tied Design*: a small bouquet made while holding the flowers in your hand, rotating the arrangement slightly with each additional flower or piece of plant material that is added.

SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

HORTICULTURE

(GCA Judges)

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

EMILY AND LOUISE GOETZE BOWL AWARD

- Class 1 Open to all members. A silver bowl awarded in perpetuity to a member exhibiting **three different** flowering specimens: two stems of each kind (genera) in **three separate** RGC containers. No branches or vines permitted. Outdoor material only; houseplants excluded. Must be grown outdoors for three months (annuals/biennials included).
This Class may not be subdivided.

ROSA (ROSE) “Love is a Rose”

- Class 2 One stem, disbudded*, with foliage, to be displayed in a RGC container.
Class 3 Novice. Same as above.

- Class 4 One spray with two or more blooms per stem with foliage, to be displayed in an RGC container.
Class 5 Novice. Same as above.

LATE-BLOOMING HYDRANGEA

- Class 6 *Hydrangea Paniculata*, one stem with foliage to be displayed in a RGC container.
Class 7 Novice. Same as above.
Class 8 Any other hydrangea, one stem with foliage to be displayed in a RGC container.
Class 9 Novice. Same as above.

IRMA DERING WHITNEY DAHLIA TROPHY

- Class 10 Open to all members. One single stem with foliage. Dahlia blooms 3” or less MAY be disbudded.* Dahlia blooms over 3” MUST be disbudded and may be displayed without foliage. To be displayed in a RGC container.
This Class may not be subdivided.

Class 11 GARDEN BOUNTY

A display of vegetables and/or fruits grown by exhibitor, arranged in a basket not to exceed 16” in diameter. Herbs may be included as cut specimens and be in water and placed discreetly in arrangement. ***To be judged on the point scale listed below. A 4x6 white key card required. Sample can be found on RGC or GCA website

- Class 12 Novice. Same as above.

SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

HORTICULTURE CONT.

GOING NATIVE

- Class 13 Three different genera of flowering native** perennial specimens, herbaceous or woody. To be arranged in **ONE** RGC container. ***To be judged by point scale listed below.
- Class 14 Novice. Same as above.

SUMMER EXTRAVAGANZA

- Class 15 A container garden of 1 or more plants that have summered outside. May include different genera or species of cultivars of the same species. Pot not to exceed 14". Must be owned for at least 3 months. Annuals and/or perennials are allowed. ***To be judged on the point scale below.
- Class 16 Novice. Same as above.

PAR

- Class 17 A rooted plant of exceptional horticultural merit, which does not qualify for entry elsewhere in the Horticultural Division. Please see page 12 of the Handbook for PAR Definition.

** Disbudded: to remove superfluous or unwanted buds from plant.*

*** 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.*

****Scale of Points by which Arrangement is to be judged:*

<i>Cultural perfection</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>Design</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Diversity</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Key card</i>	<i><u>10</u></i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>

SEPTEMBER 2025 PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Hello Rumson Garden Club and happy September! As the very first leaves begin changing colors and we turn another calendar page it's time to start our 111st year of RGC. I want to start off by once again thanking Susan Olson for her amazing leadership over the past 2 years. And a hearty congratulations to all of our winners from our June awards ceremony (you can find the full list on our website). I'm looking forward to our September meeting where we will hear from Anne Blackwell about pressing flowers, along with our annual group photo. Your committee chairs worked hard this summer on the new handbook which will be waiting for you at check in. This month also brings a number of fun events including a new member meeting, a floral design workshop, a native seed gathering walk, a weeding day at Jackson Woods and a bulb sale! We're off to a great start and I look forward to happily gardening with you all.

Best,
Heather



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

(See Committee Reports for full details)

- Sept. 5: 9 am, Jackson Woods weeding/maintaining (Civics)
- Sept. 8: 9 am, Monmouth Beach Club - New Member Grow & Show Workshop (New Member Committee)
- Sept. 11: 10 am, Louisa's home, 33 Bellevue, Hand-tied Bouquet Workshop (Floral)
- Sept. 18: Shirley Meneice Conference (virtual/see GCA website)
- Sept. 29: 9:30 am Huber Woods, Native plant seed collection walk (Conservation)
- Oct. 8: 11 am, Bingham Hall, Pressed Flower Workshop (Floral)
- Nov. 5: NJ Committee Luncheon (NJ Committee)

President: Heather Robinson
First Vice President: Peeka Tildesley
Treasurer: Christina Weber
Recording Secretary: Stephanie Hoitt
Corresponding Secretary: Kathyne Singleton & Barbara Batting

TRUSTEES

Jeanne Shanley (Class of 2026). Kathyne Singleton (Class of 2027)
Maya Speelmans (Class of 2026). Anne Reiss (Class of 2028)
Susan Olson (Class of 2029)

Awards:	Wendy Wilt, Avery Brighton
Christmas Greens:	Cynthia Labrecque, Teresa Maguire
Civics:	Nancy Bowe, Karen Robinson, Kathy Donnelly
Communications:	Sarah Fleming
Website:	Tilden Wilt
Social Media:	Pari Harrison
Conservation:	Sheila Ehrenberg, Lisa Bitterly
Floral Design:	Louisa Renn, Stella Ryan, MJ O'Hare
Botanical Arts:	Bonnie Torcivia
Horticulture:	Betsy Ford, Piper Leddy
Photography:	Gail Van Winkle, Mary Brodsky
Programs:	Cathy Smith, Mary Heins
Staging:	Laura Haaren, Lisa Attallah
Scholarship:	Ann Rossbach, Marion Moran
Visiting Gardens / Field Trip:	Robbyn O'Neill
Fundraising:	Peeka Tildesley
Plant Sale:	Maya Speelmans, Susan Olson
Garden History and Design:	Cionna Buckley
Historian:	Kathleen Onieal
Handbook / Directory:	Peeka Tildesley
Judging:	Elaine Eadon
New Membership (Admissions):	Maya Speelmans
New Member Liaison:	Taphy Harcsar, Susan Sorokolit
NJ Committee / Founders Fund:	Alexandra Smith
Nominating / Policy:	Peeka Tildesley
Heap:	Anne Reiss

FLORAL DESIGN:

Welcome to the start of the 2025-2026 floral design season!

New this year:

For flower shows when GCA judges are being used, RGC has created a flower show program for all exhibitors and judges which includes the complete monthly schedule plus all rules pertaining to showing – similar to programs for Zone or National GCA shows. Each flower show's program will be found on the RGC website, rumsongardenclubnj.org, and is your “go-to guide” for everything pertaining to exhibiting.

For anyone wanting more information in the floral design area, go to the GCA website, gcamerica.org, open the *Committee Pages* and *Floral Design* tabs to access helpful (and printable) handouts on a variety of design topics.

Floral Design Workshops:

In the upcoming weeks, two floral design workshops are scheduled to inspire, educate, and inform so that entering a design challenge feels less intimidating. All members are welcome to attend.

September 11, 2025 - Hand-tied Bouquets Workshop

10:00 am - noon

The Renn's house, 33 Bellevue Avenue, Rumson

RSVP by September 8 to Mary Jane at ohare.maryjane@gmail.com.

Bring your own clippers and a bucket to hold flowers. Rain or shine.

The floral design team will be sharing tips about creating a hand-tied bouquet for the September show. Members will have a chance to practice making their own bouquet using flowers from the garden. General information about showing in floral design will also be discussed.

October 8, 2025 - Pressed Flowers Workshop

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Bingham Hall, Rumson

RSVP by October 1 to Bonnie at bltorcivia@gmail.com.

Come learn about pressed flower designing from Rumson's own, Kathryn Bauer, of Floret and [floret.rumsonnj](https://www.instagram.com/floret.rumsonnj) on Instagram. Frames, which will be needed for January's pressed flower challenge, will be available for purchase at the workshop. For those who want to start harvesting and preserving their summer and early fall flowers but aren't sure where to start, check out: <https://youtu.be/4rzOz8a6Lss>, a short video called "How to Press Flowers Like a Professional" that Kathryn recommended to us.

FLORAL DESIGN: *CONT.*

Of Note: For the September 16 floral challenges, flowers should be either native plants or grown in a local garden - in other words, not bought from a store or florist. If needed and with permission, feel free to “shop” from a friend’s or neighbor’s garden to obtain additional plant material to complete your design. And on Monday, September 15, from 8:30 am – 10:00 am, Louisa (33 Bellevue Ave.) and Avery (60 Rumson Road) will be opening their gardens to allow exhibitors an opportunity to cut a few extra flowers or stems of greenery to supplement what material they already have available.

HAPPY DESIGNING EVERYONE! Mary Jane, Stella, Louisa, and Bonnie

HORTICULTURE:

Please email Betsy Ford with your bulb order. There are limited quantities and it is first come first serve. The New Jersey committee of the GCA will receive 25% from Brent and Becky’s.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YIhLy8MSDyFfQuryOTdttai_hjTWrPjRbpqpeCWOkWw/edit?usp=drivesdk

Thank you! Betsy and Piper

PHOTOGRAPHY:



OUR FIRST SHOW IS:
October 21th, 2025

America in Nature

Class 1- A color photo of native grasses that create beautiful autumn colors in the garden and across our land

Class 2 - Novice, same as class 1

Class 3- A color photo of a furry, fluffy or slithery friend enjoying nature in our yard or across Monmouth County to the Battle of Monmouth in Freehold

Class 4- Novice, same as class 3

*Deadline: October 7th
please contact gail at gailfvw@gmail.com
if you would like to submit a photo*



CONSERVATION:

We are happy to announce that Jason Goldman, Park Naturalist, Monmouth County Park System has agreed to host our garden club for a garden walk at Huber Woods with a focus on seed collection on Monday, September 29 at 9:30 a.m. Please note that Park regulations prohibit the removal of seeds to protect the native ecosystem, ensure plants can regenerate naturally, and preserve the environment for wildlife and other visitors. Kindly RSVP to sheilaehrenberg@gmail.com by September 22 to confirm you will attend.

Thank you,
Sheila and Lisa

CIVICS:

You are invited to join us:

Friday Sept 5 at 9AM to see/maintain/weed the Rumson Garden Club's native garden area at Jackson Woods.

Located on Rt 36 South opposite Presidents Park in Long Branch.

Bring your own water and a snack if desired. Dress for the weather. Long pants, long sleeves, closed toe shoes and gloves are advised. Tools are provided or bring your own.

No need to RSVP.

NJ COMMITTEE:

**Save the date for the
2025 NJ Committee Luncheon -
Nov. 5th at Canoe Brook CC
Details to come!**



Grant History for RUMSON GARDEN CLUB:

1994 Nature Conservancy, Atlantic Goose Pond

2002 Rumson Water Mapping Brochure

2003 Forestdale School Greenhouse Repair

2007 Habitat Restoration at School Pond

2010 Rutgers University Rain Garden

2012 Reeves-Reed Arboretum - Freeman Medal Winners (w/Summit)

2017 "Seed to Sprout" Window Boxes at Library

2021 Outdoor Classroom at Monmouth Day Care Center

And 25% of your entire order from Brent & Becky's goes to NJC Scholarship!
<http://njcommitteegca.org/bloomin-bucks>

MEMBERSHIP:

Do you know someone who is interested in gardening, flower arrangements or botanical arts, horticulture, conservation or photography? Someone who is interested in community volunteer projects? Well, this could be a potential new member in the Rumson Garden Club! Here is the timeline for proposing new members:

A club member who wishes to nominate someone is encouraged to begin bringing their candidate to RGC meetings and activities. There are specific requirements that have to be met by a candidate, and the more RGC events they can attend, the more they will become familiar with our Club and its members.

In order to be considered for induction the following May, the candidate's name must be submitted to the Membership Chairman, Maya Speelmans, by **October 1**. Once Maya has heard from you, she will help you get the application process started.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me. Cell: 908-433-6407 or email: mayaelisabeth@gmail.com.

NEW MEMBERS:

The new members will be gathering at the Monmouth Beach Bath and Tennis Club for their first meeting, Monday, September 8th at 9 am. Maya Speelmans and Betsy Ford will be our guest speakers. The topic will be passing and clerking. Anyone else interested is welcome to join us just RSVP by September 2nd to taphy.harcsar@gmail.com or 732-842-8570.

Sincerely, Susan Sorokolit and Taphy. Harcsar.

RGC ON INSTAGRAM!:

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

Text Pari Harrison @ 732 915-3051

The Philadelphia Flower Show
will be at the Pennsylvania
Convention Center
from February 28 - March 8,
2026



Click [here](#) for full details:

And take a look at some great **free!** Pennsylvania Horticulture
Society workshops **happening soon** to get ready for it!



Challenge Plants:

[https://tickets.phsonline.org/events/01980a45-3721-3dc0-f9e3-f6bf5031fbd9?
utm_source=Pennsylvania%20Horticultural%20Society&utm_campaign=82d12fb1e1-
FSCC5AUG25&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_490acf3d3f-82d12fb1e1-360475304&mc_cid=82d12fb1e1&mc_eid=79be852d73](https://tickets.phsonline.org/events/01980a45-3721-3dc0-f9e3-f6bf5031fbd9?utm_source=Pennsylvania%20Horticultural%20Society&utm_campaign=82d12fb1e1-FSCC5AUG25&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_490acf3d3f-82d12fb1e1-360475304&mc_cid=82d12fb1e1&mc_eid=79be852d73)

Forcing bulbs:

[https://tickets.phsonline.org/events/01980a63-36ee-135c-bb77-92d8e02a0add?
utm_source=Pennsylvania%20Horticultural%20Society&utm_campaign=82d12fb1e1-
FSCC5AUG25&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_490acf3d3f-82d12fb1e1-360475304&mc_cid=82d12fb1e1&mc_eid=79be852d73](https://tickets.phsonline.org/events/01980a63-36ee-135c-bb77-92d8e02a0add?utm_source=Pennsylvania%20Horticultural%20Society&utm_campaign=82d12fb1e1-FSCC5AUG25&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_490acf3d3f-82d12fb1e1-360475304&mc_cid=82d12fb1e1&mc_eid=79be852d73)

Grooming Tips:

[https://tickets.phsonline.org/events/01980a6a-ae83-e845-7c8c-917029490e3b?
utm_source=Pennsylvania%20Horticultural%20Society&utm_campaign=82d12fb1e1-
FSCC5AUG25&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_490acf3d3f-82d12fb1e1-360475304&mc_cid=82d12fb1e1&mc_eid=79be852d73](https://tickets.phsonline.org/events/01980a6a-ae83-e845-7c8c-917029490e3b?utm_source=Pennsylvania%20Horticultural%20Society&utm_campaign=82d12fb1e1-FSCC5AUG25&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_490acf3d3f-82d12fb1e1-360475304&mc_cid=82d12fb1e1&mc_eid=79be852d73)

Kokedama!:

[https://tickets.phsonline.org/events/01980a6f-0a75-0c08-507d-d73eafabb289?
utm_source=Pennsylvania%20Horticultural%20Society&utm_campaign=82d12fb1e1-
FSCC5AUG25&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_490acf3d3f-82d12fb1e1-360475304&mc_cid=82d12fb1e1&mc_eid=79be852d73](https://tickets.phsonline.org/events/01980a6f-0a75-0c08-507d-d73eafabb289?utm_source=Pennsylvania%20Horticultural%20Society&utm_campaign=82d12fb1e1-FSCC5AUG25&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_490acf3d3f-82d12fb1e1-360475304&mc_cid=82d12fb1e1&mc_eid=79be852d73)

Growing Orchids:

[https://tickets.phsonline.org/events/01980a6d-2982-660b-05fd-8bc66c539ed8?
utm_source=Pennsylvania%20Horticultural%20Society&utm_campaign=82d12fb1e1-
FSCC5AUG25&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_490acf3d3f-82d12fb1e1-360475304&mc_cid=82d12fb1e1&mc_eid=79be852d73](https://tickets.phsonline.org/events/01980a6d-2982-660b-05fd-8bc66c539ed8?utm_source=Pennsylvania%20Horticultural%20Society&utm_campaign=82d12fb1e1-FSCC5AUG25&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_490acf3d3f-82d12fb1e1-360475304&mc_cid=82d12fb1e1&mc_eid=79be852d73)

A NOTE FROM THE BIRD LADY:

It was a quiet lunch by a quiet pond in the Grounds for Sculpture. A low buzz of conversation was suddenly interrupted by a gracefully circling visitor. It came to land with barely a ripple on the water. A great blue heron. Up close its many hues of grayish blue were distinct and clearly reflected in the pool.

It was lunch time, and it was hungry. It slowly stalked among the lily pads. Its' bright black eyes with its yellow rings searched for the slightest movement. It spotted something tasty and swiftly aimed its long sharp dagger like beak into the water. It quickly lifted its head out of the water and as it stretched its long neck, we could follow the bulge as the tasty morsel travelled jerkily down the length of that long sinuous neck. And then with a gulp it was gone. It then followed up with a dainty sip of water to wash it down.

This was just one of the intriguing things we saw here. This is a sculpture garden with over 300 contemporary sculptures sited across its 42 acres. Some of the sculptures and plants were interpretations of paintings by old masters. "The Avenue" by Hobbema depicted as an avenue of dawn red woods. "Luncheon on the Grass" by Manet. "American Gothic" by Grant Wood were just some of the many art depictions we saw as we wandered along the many pathways that meandered throughout the area. Pathways that were filled with lush vegetation, mostly evergreens, and lucious flowers.

As you can see there were some large sculptures, (that is my granddaughter, average height!) You could stash her in that suitcase. Some were made of industrial materials, full of movement and color. Imaginations stretched beyond measure. Some of the pieces in bronze and steel had such shiny reflective surfaces that we could do selfies in them. We watched as a particularly large piece was being installed by a huge crane.

Seward Johnson developed this garden to be used by everyone. He had led a privileged but rather chaotic young life, and this was his way of giving back to everyone the joy and privilege of being immersed in a garden of art.

There is an ever-changing collection of sculptures by Seward and other artists. Something for everyone. The idea is to promote an understanding of contemporary sculpture. So, I came away a little more enlightened.



Photos Jan Glass



Sculpture by Seward Johnson



American Gothic by Grant Wood



9/11 "Doublecheck the Survivor"
by Seward Johnson



Our new president Heather! With some fabulous former RGC presidents!





JUST IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!!