



JUNE 2026

COMPOST HEAP

An Official Publication of Rumson Garden Club



We look forward to seeing you at our

JUNE CLUB AWARDS MEETING

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

at Seabright Lawn Tennis & Cricket Club

Schedule:

6:00pm Cocktails

6:30pm Business Meeting & Club Awards

Wine and hors d'oeuvres

Significant Others/Husbands welcome!

\$30pp

[Payment accepted here](#)

*IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY, PLEASE RSVP TO THE
PAPERLESS POST SENT JUNE 3*

"It was June, and the world smelled of roses." — Maud Hart Lovelace

It was lovely to see many of you at our annual meeting in May and to celebrate our GCA award winners and scholarship recipient. Our photography, horticulture and floral exhibits were well received by the GCA judges, including multiple judges' commendations.

And now we get to enjoy one more meeting at the Seabright Lawn Tennis and Cricket Club on June 16th. We will wrap up the year with our RGC awards, cocktails and nibbles.

Our native plant sale was yet again a success, many thanks to Maya, Susan and Betsy for their leadership and to all our volunteers who chipped in to help! It was a hot day but we sold through over 80% of our order. There are still a few plants available so please reach out to me if you are interested.

Coming up we have more fun with a field trip to the Rutgers gardens to see our refurbished rain garden in action on the 18th. And if you scroll to the end of the heap you will see an invitation from Sarah Fleming to enjoy an afternoon of shopping for willow work garden wares with a percentage going back to RGC on June 20th. On June 22nd Elaine Eadon is hosting a propagation workshop. And RGC will be planting red, white and blue flowers at the new 250th monument in Victory Park in time for the ribbon cutting this Sunday.

When you read Jan Glass' Bird Lady article this month she mentions mosquito dunks as an alternative to spray. We have them linked on our RGC Amazon page [HERE](#). And 2 local dads and their sons have started a business where they will set up and maintain your buckets for you! Check them out at <https://www.nospraynj.com>.

It's been a pleasure serving as your president for my first year, and I look forward another year of gardening with you all!

Keep growing,
Heather



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

June 8, 12 pm, New Members luncheon, McLoone's restaurant, Sea Bright (New Members)
June 18, Rutgers Univ. Rain Garden Road Trip (Visiting Gardens)
June 20, 1-4 pm, Willow Work Fundraiser, Sarah Fleming's home, 102 Ridge Road, Rumson
June 22, 9:30 am, Propagation Workshop, Elaine Eadon's home, 4 Wilson Circle Rumson
(Hort)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FLORAL:

The chairs of the Floral Design Committee are sad to see our term come to an end. We believe that you all are in great hands next year with Betsy Ford and Jane Orr running the show. To recap this year:

September: We kicked off the year with an amazing speaker, Anne Blackwell Thompson. She set the stage for our pressed floral workshop and our membership's pressed floral design entries in the January show! Kathryn Bauer did a wonderful job with our pressed flower workshop.

September's show showcased our "handed-tied bouquets" of flowers from your garden or a friend's garden. Our other class was "Cooling Down Dog Days of Summer." We had a workshop last year regarding a hand-tied bouquet, which helped members get ready to enter! Floral Design had four classes and 13 entries. It was an exciting day with wonderful home grown flowers!

October: Floral Design had 7 members receive points in two classes. It was an "Interpretive Design" for the Elizabeth Dimock Knapp Trophy. The members outdid themselves with their creative talents!

November: This was the meeting of team building! Members showed up at 2:30 pm to prepare and work together for our evening meeting. We had 22 members participating and many points were earned! It was a wonderful event with lots of collaboration and enthusiasm! This is what it is all about - community and encouragement!

January: Pressed Flower designs. Bonnie Torcivia did a wonder job! We had 10 entries in 4 classes.

March: No meeting but a wonderful workshop on Parallel design. A great power point was done by Louisa Renn regarding what GCA judges are looking for in a Parallel design, with samples, pictures and displays!

April: Four classes in Parallel design. 12 entries and 10 members with points!

May: Two classes with 6 entries in each for period design with characteristics typical of a historic period from 250 years ago for the Mary Owen Borden bowl.

All in all the year was fantastic! We had approximately 100 members participating in Floral Design. We gave out points to over 70 members! We believe that the workshops helped build confidence for members to enter in the shows.

We also had approximately 4 members enter into outside shows. This was fabulous for our club to be represented in the Philadelphia Flower show, the Zone IV Show near Princeton at Grounds for Sculpture and other shows.

Our main goal as Floral Design chairs for the past two years: Encourage members to enter and work with each other in a cooperative environment! We hope everyone enjoyed themselves with our workshops and the meetings!

Happy Designing!

Mary Jane O'Hare, Louisa Renn, Stella Ryan and Bonnie Torcivia

COMMITTEE REPORTS

On May 6th, Mimi Carrington hosted Zone IV Floral Design Chairs at Blooming Farms in Far Hills. Attendees brought their own containers, toured the gardens, and enjoyed making their own floral arrangements in the newly renovated barn. Here is Mary Jane's masterpiece!



VISITING GARDENS:

One last field trip on June 18th! See below and please RSVP to Robbyn if you plan to attend at robbynoneill@gmail.com.

Rutgers Gardens Tour

Date: Thursday June 18

Depart: Carpool depart Nativity parking lot 8:30 AM

Guided Tour: 10-11:30

Cost: \$10/pp

Lunch: Please bring a blanket and a picnic lunch! fun!

Rutgers has scheduled horticulturist expert Maxine Marvosa to guide us through the Garden Collections, all of which are demonstration gardens planted to provide "nature based experiences to educate, engage and delight the public." The guided trail will allow us to view gardens of Cut Flowers, Native Plants, Sun&Shade Plants, Evergreen, Hollies and Native Tree Species, as we walk to our destination--The Rain Garden. Our NJ Committee is responsible for sizable funding and scholarships that have supported this garden and the student interns that help with its maintenance. Having this connection makes the Rain Garden that much more special!

We are welcome to have a picnic lunch on the popular lawn surrounded by the Evergreen Collection!

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER:

****Collection of 2026-2027 Annual Dues****

Please bring cash, check or credit card for 2026-2027 Annual Dues to the May meeting or mail a check to P.O. Box 121, Rumson, NJ 07760 made out to Rumson Garden Club.

Dues for the 2026-2027 year will be \$225 for all members and \$75 for Life Member status.

All payments are due by 30 June 2026 to avoid a \$25 late fee. Please contact Christina Weber or Christiane McNamara if you have any questions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HORTICULTURE:

Elizabeth Lilleston will give us a workshop on propagating soft wood cuttings at Elaine Eadon's home, 4 Wilson Circle, Rumson on June 22, 2026 at 9:30 am.

4" pots with humidity domes, soil, stakes and root hormone have been purchased for all members to use. The cost of the workshop is \$15 to cover the cost of these items. Tables will be set up for everyone to propagate their cuttings.

Please bring your cuttings, a pencil, pruners and a tray or box to transport your pots home. If you would like a larger propagation box instead of the pots provided you can find one [HERE](#).

Here are some suggestions for propagating softwood plants:

- Suggested plants: Hydrangeas, clethra, lilac, viburnum and roses.
- The greatest challenge with softwood cuttings is their tendency to wilt and dry out rapidly. Because they possess delicate tissue and functional leaves but no root system to absorb water, gardeners must maintain high humidity around them. This is usually managed by covering the pots with clear plastic bags or using the humidity domes we will provide to build a mini-greenhouse effect. Roots usually establish within 2 to 5 weeks

Remember the important "Ritchie Moore Trophy" is for propagated plants so think about entering in the October and May shows.

Please R.S.V.P. to Elaine if you would like to attend. Elaine.eadon@gmail.com



HANDBOOK:

**** It's that time again! ****

Please send any Handbook changes to Peekka ASAP so our membership Directory will be ready in time for our next meeting in September! A big thank you!

peeka10@aol.com

732-208-9854

SCHOLARSHIP:



May Annual Meeting Rumson Garden Club Scholarship Winner: Katelyn Frappier

NEW MEMBERS:

Our final New Member meeting will take place June 8th at 12 noon at McLoone's restaurant in Sea Bright. Our guest speaker, Kathy Donnelly, will bring us the news from our Civics committee.

RGC ON AMAZON:

RGC's Amazon shop is up and running! Access it through the RGC website, click the product image, or click [here](#) to start shopping! Future shopping suggestions welcome!



***This month's featured products**

RGC ON INSTAGRAM:

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

Text Pari Harrison @ 732-915-3051

RUMSON GARDEN CLUB EXECUTIVE BOARD

President:	Heather Robinson
First Vice President:	Peeka Tildesley
Treasurer:	Christina Weber & Christiane McNamara
Recording Secretary:	Louisa Renn
Corresponding Secretary:	Kathryne Singleton & Barbara Batting

TRUSTEES

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

Awards:	Wendy Wilt, Avery Brighton
Christmas Greens:	Louisa Renn, Stephanie Hoitt
Civics:	Kathy Donnelly, Mary Jane O'Hare
Communications & Website:	Tilden Wilt, Sarah Fleming
Social Media:	Pari Harrison
Conservation:	Sheila Ehrenberg, Lisa Bitterly
Floral Design:	Betsy Ford, Jane Orr
Horticulture:	Elaine Eadon, Amy McCooey
Photography:	Bonnie Torcivia, Natasha Halbout
Programs:	Cathy Smith, Mary Heins
Staging:	Laura Haaren, Lisa Atallah
Scholarship:	Marion Moran, Robbyn O'Neill
Visiting Gardens / Field Trip:	Ann Rossbach
Fundraising:	Peeka Tildesley
Plant Sale:	Cynthia Labrecque, Laura Haaren
Garden History and Design:	Cionna Buckley
Historian:	Kathleen Onieal
Handbook / Directory:	Peeka Tildesley
Judging:	Mary Ann McDonald, Laura Wallach
New Membership (Admissions):	Maya Speelmans
New Member Liaison:	Taphy Harcsar, Susan Sorokolit
NJ Committee / Founders Fund:	Alexandra Smith
Nominating / Policy:	Peeka Tildesley
Heap:	Gail Van Winkle

RGC Board & Committee Meeting Dates

8:30-9:30 AM at Rumson Bingham Hall

August 31, 2026

October 5, 2026

November 2, 2026

January 4, 2027

February 1, 2027

April 5, 2027

May 3, 2027

May 24, 2027

General Membership Meeting Dates

Business Meetings at 11:00 AM

*Evening Meeting at 6:00 PM

**Annual Meeting at 12:00 PM

September 15, 2026 - Seabright Beach Club

October 27, 2026 - RCC Riverhouse

*November 17, 2026 - RCC Riverhouse

December 4 & 5, 2026 - Christmas Greens @ Bingham Hall

January 19, 2027 - Bingham Hall (Open Meeting)

February 16, 2027 - Container Workshop @ Bingham Hall

April 13, 2027 - RCC Riverhouse

**May 18, 2027 - Annual Meeting @ RCC

*June 15, 2027 - EVENING @ Seabright Lawn Tennis & Cricket Club

GCA and Zone IV Dates to Remember

October 20-22, 2026 - Shirley Meneice Conference - San Marino, CA

November 4, 2026 - NJ Committee Luncheon - Canoe Brook Country Club, Summit, NJ

March 14-17, 2027 - National Affairs and Legislation Conference - Washington, DC

April 18-21, 2027 - GCA Annual Meeting - Wilmington, DE

A NOTE FROM THE BIRD LADY: “HELPFUL PLANTS AND SWALLOWTAILS”

9

I love moths, bees, butterflies, and insects of all kinds, except mosquitoes and ticks, of course. But my neighbors have a habit of spraying for mosquitoes and ticks leaving me bereft of my beneficial visitors. So, I looked up to see what plants can hopefully overcome insect pests. I found that there are many useful and beautiful plants that are “plant deterrents” and worthy of a place in your garden. We could try to use these instead of spraying.

Some of them are:

Lavender which repels moths and mosquitoes

Catmint which repels mosquitoes and aphids

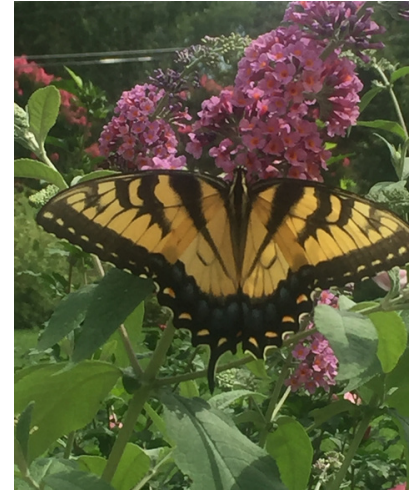
Basil which repels mosquitoes and flies

Rosemary which repels various insects

Mint (which is invasive and best contained in a pot) which repels mosquitoes

Lemongrass or Citronella which repels mosquitoes

Chrysanthemums (which contains pyrethrum) which repels many insects.



I was also intrigued by marigolds as I had heard they repel some pests like nematodes and certain beetles. And they do not strongly repel adult butterflies, Papilionidae. So, the marigolds that I have just bought at the farmers market in Red Bank this morning are going to be my shield against some of our more malignant pests.

I also knew that parsley was the go-to plant for the yellow and black swallowtails. So, I bought some of them, too. In the past they have skeletonized my parsley plants which I was delighted to see. The leaf cutter bee has taken an interest in my eastern red bud sapling leaving neat semi circles on the leaves. Again, delighted to see. I felt the need to nurture the beautiful yellow and black swallowtails, so I plan to buy or start from seed the host plants that swallowtails need for raising their families. Fennel, dill, rue, and members of the carrot family. Fortunately, I have some of their other requirements, butterfly weed, coneflower, bee balm, and phlox. They are attracted to the nectar, a requisite for their young.

I feel strongly that pesticides are working against nature. If we are susceptible to Lyme disease or similar concerns, I think we should spray ourselves not our yards. Alternatively, you can use “Dunks”, a larvicide used to kill mosquito larvae in standing water before they become biting adults. They have naturally occurring BTI. Or, a spray of 1 quart water, 1-2 tablespoons hot pepper sauce or cayenne and a few drops of dish soap.

Caterpillars are essential to birds as it is the predominant food for their young. Without butterfly and moth caterpillars’ birds would have nothing to feed their young and would eventually die off.

A world without birds and beneficial insects? Unthinkable.

Haiku

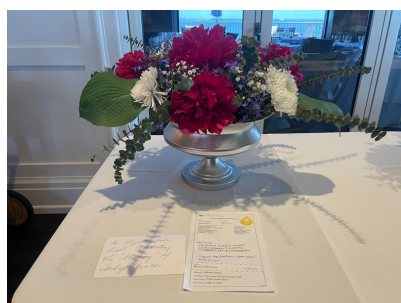
Worlds without bird song

Worlds without the buzz of bees

Spraying will do that



Welcome New Members!





A FUNDRAISER FOR THE GARDEN

*PLEASE JOIN A POP-UP SALE OF THE TILL'S WILLOW WORK
GARDEN WARE: PEONY CLOCHES, VINE TOWERS, ETC.*

JUNE 20TH AT 1 PM TO 4 PM.

102 RIDGE ROAD, RUMSON

*THE TILL
WILLOW SCULPTURE
FOR GARDEN AND INTERIOR
BRITISH TRADITION, US STUDIO
LITCHFIELD COUNTY*

10% OF SALES BENEFIT RUMSON GARDEN CLUB

*RSVP TO SARAH FLEMING AT SRF529@COMCAST.NET
FRIENDS ARE WELCOME*

