RUMSON GARDEN CLUB
1914
THE COMPOST HEAP
SEPTEMBER 2026
Edition 26

HEAD

Rumson Garden Club
September 15, 2026
Seabright Beach Club

Passing 8:00 am - 9:00 am
Passers arrive- 8:00 am
Clerks arrive- 9:15 am
Judging begins- 9:30 am

Horticulture Passers:
(8:00 am)
Kathryne Singleton
Jeannie Shanley

Horticulture Clerks:
(9:15 am)
Gail Van Winkle
Susan Robertson

GCA Horticulture Judges:
(9:30 am)
Annie Bigliani
Kathleen Bourke
Mary Kent

Floral Passers:
(8:00 am)
Joan Lynch
Peeka Tildesley

Floral Clerks:
(9:15am)
Mary Jane O'Hare
Maria Kolarsick

Floral Judges:
(9:30 am)
Barbara Batting
Taphy Harcsar

Staging
Barbara Kirpatrick
Maria Kolarsick



SEPTEMBER 2025 YEARLY PHOTO

September Meeting

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

SEABRIGHT BEACH CLUB
10:00 A.M. BUSINESS MEETING
11:00 A.M. LECTURE
followed by yearly photo
12:00 P.M. LUNCH SERVED

RSVP HERE

Please bring $25 cash or check made out to RGC or pay online HERE



"SUSTAINABLE FLOWER DESIGNS WITH T.J. MCGRATH"

T.J. McGrath is a New Jersey–based floral designer, educator, and speaker. He is known for his thoughtful approach to sustainable floristry and his belief that flowers should reflect season, place, and natural movement.

September Meeting

FLORAL DESIGN

"If vegetables in the garden are the food that fills your body, then flowers are the food that fills your soul"- Kristen Raney

Class 1 Create a modern mass design* incorporating dahlias; the design must use a vegetable as the container. Entry is to be staged on a 30" high rectangular table covered with a white floor length tablecloth. Design should not exceed 12" width or depth. Exhibitors are given a 20" x 20" design space. Viewed and judged from all sides. **(4) entries**

Class 2 Novice. Same as above. **(4) Entries**

Class 3 Create a traditional mass design* using dahlias and other flowers and vegetables in a container of the designer's choice. Entry is to be staged on a 30" high rectangular table covered with a white floor length tablecloth. Design should not exceed 12" width or depth. Exhibitors are given a 20" x 20" design space. Viewed and judged from all sides. **(4) entries**

Class 4 Novice. Same as above. **(4) Entries**

**A modern mass design including groupings of limited varieties of plant material; emphasis on bold design, blocks of color, contrasting forms and textures. (FS&J book 5, pg 22)*

**A traditional mass design usually, a profusion of flowers of various forms and sizes arranged in an oval, triangular or fan-shaped design, a closed silhouette, more solids than voids. (FS&JS book 5, pg 22)*

Pre-registration is required by Sunday, September 13.

Class Consultant: Betsy Ford - betsyford72@gmail.com

HORTICULTURE

(GCA Judges)

All entries must be properly identified with species and cultivar information

MARY OWEN BORDEN AWARD

Class 1 Open to all members. A collection of four different kinds of (genera) of flowering specimens. One stem or branch of each, to be displayed in four RGC containers. A key card with visual diagram and plant list is required. The key card must be a 4" X 6" white unlined card completed in black waterproof medium. A 4" X 6" photograph with identifying numbers may be used. This class may not be subdivided.

Scale of points by which collection is to be judged:
Cultural perfection 40
Distinction 25
Variety 15
Artistic effect 10
Key card 10
Total 100

IRMA DERING WHITNEY DAHLIA TROPHY

Class 2 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.

ROSA (ROSE) "Petals of Love"

Class 3 One stem disbudded*, with foliage, to be displayed in one RGC container.

Class 4 Novice. Same as above.

Class 5 One spray with two or more blooms per stem with foliage, to be displayed in one RGC container.

Class 6 Novice. Same as above.

September Meeting

PERENNIALS IN BLOOM

One stem of a flowering perennial to be displayed in one RGC container.

Class 7 *Hydrangea*, any variety
Class 8 Novice. Same as above.
Class 9 *Asclepias*.
Class 10 Novice. Same as above.
Class 11 Any other blooming perennial.
Class 12 Novice. Same as above.

GOING NATIVE

Class 13 An arrangement of three different genera of flowering native** perennial specimens, herbaceous or woody. To be arranged in one RGC container. A key card with visual diagram and plant list is required. Key card must be a 4" x 6" white unlined card completed in black waterproof medium. A 4" x 6" photograph with identifying numbers may be used.
Class 14 Novice. Same as above. - 17 -

Scale of points by which arrangement is to be judged:
Cultural perfection 40
Design 30
Diversity 20
Key card 10
Total 100

SUMMER ANNUALS

One stem to be displayed in one RGC container.

Class 15 *Zinnia*.
Class 16 Novice. Same as above.
Class 17 One stem of any variety of *Tagetes* (Marigold) with foliage attached.
Class 18 Novice. Same as above
Class 19 Any other flowering summer annual.
Class 20 Novice. Same as above.

GARDEN BOUNTY

Class 21 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. Key card must be a 4" x 6" white unlined card completed in black waterproof medium. A 4" x 6" photograph with identifying numbers may be used. To be judged 70% on horticulture merit, 30% artistic merit.
Class 22 Novice. Same as above.

Scale of points by which a vegetable and fruit collection is to be judged:
Condition 30
Staging and arrangement 30
Variety in kinds shown 30
Key card 10
Total 100

PAR

Class 23 An exhibit of exceptional horticultural merit, which does not qualify for entry elsewhere in the Horticulture Division. Entries in the Par class must have been owned and grown by the exhibitor for a minimum of one year. Cut specimens are not permitted.

** 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.*

President's Message



RGC planting at the new 250th monument at Victory Park in June

Dear Members,

Here we are in September and I am so happy to welcome you all back to another amazing year with garden club! I hope everyone had a relaxing and rewarding summer.

Last year ended with our most successful native plant sale yet- thank you to Maya Speelmans and Susan Olson - and our June awards meeting at Seabright Lawn Tennis & Cricket Club. It was great to see everyone who attended our summer Garden Tour Tuesdays and special appreciation to our hosts - Laurie Bruckman, Alexandra Smith, Louisa Renn, Sarah Fleming, and Monmouth Conservation Foundation!

We have an exciting speaker for this September meeting, T.J. McGrath, who specializes in sustainable floristry right here in NJ. You can check out his Instagram account HERE. And don't forget there are awards this month in horticulture, the Mary Owen Borden Award and the Irma Dering Whitney Dahlia Trophy. Peeka has been hard at work on the handbook this summer and the fruits of her labor will be at the meeting for you to take home. We will take our annual photo at this meeting too so please make sure to join us.

Our website, rumsongardenclubnj.org, continues to be a great resource for our members with many kudos to Tilden Wilt. The calendar feature has all of our upcoming events and can be synched with your own calendar (ask Tilden and she can help you!). We have reorganized our links and now under "Resources" there is an area called "Flower Show Preparation" with all the information needed to enter in a show including links to the latest entry cards, our schedules, guidelines and more. Our site also has past issues of the Compost Heap, meeting minutes, and links to our partner pages and our Amazon shop. Please check it out and remember to upload a photo and check your contact information!

I welcome all of our new committee chairs and look forward to the wonderful energy they bring. Speaking of new things, you will have all noticed our new look for the Compost Heap as Gail Van Winkle brings her graphic design magic to RGC!

I look forward to seeing you all at our meeting!

Keep growing,
Heather

Committee Reports

FLORAL DESIGN

The Floral Design Chairs are excited to start the new RGC year with a...

Floral 101 workshop on Tuesday, September 8th at 1pm.

Avery Brighton has graciously volunteered her barn for us to gather where we will learn a few tips and tricks from our hardworking event florist and flower farmer, Ulana Joslin. Floral Design chairs, Jane Orr and Betsy Ford will create modern mass designs using vegetables as containers. This is a demonstration type workshop so no tools needed. Avery will have dahlias available for sale leading up to the show and she is always excited to lead a tour of her magnificent garden.
The first show is a great opportunity to jump into Floral Design. Read the schedule carefully and let your creative spirit soar! Dahlias and vegetables are quintessential end of summer treats! Please let Betsy Ford know if you are entering and which class. betsyford72@gmail.com

Save the Date: Thursday, October 8th at 11am, Bingham Hall.

Botanical Arts workshop with Stella Ryan. We will learn the basics of Botanical Arts and will have an opportunity to purchase a bird form to embellish for the January show. Stella will show us some of her incredible insects too.

HORTICULTURE

Come join Anne Gates, a Stony Brook Garden Club member and GCA Horticulture Judge as she presents her "Road to the Ribbons Workshop." She'll share insider tips on reading a flower show schedule, choosing your entries, grooming, completing entry cards and a botanical overview. Flowers and plants yearn to go to the show and now the runway is up ahead. Don't be shy, Give it a try!

September 24th at 10:00 am at Bingham Hall, Rumson

CONSERVATION

Morning Bird Walk

Tuesday, September 22 at 9 a.m.

Hartshorne Woods Park - Meet in the Rocky Point section in Highlands.

Join a Monmouth County Park System Naturalist for a laid-back morning bird walk. We'll meander for about an hour and a half to see what birds we can find.
A limited number of binoculars will be available to borrow if needed. Expect to walk a few miles (2-4) on sometimes uneven or muddy terrain.

Registration is required for this free event.
Registration link: https://reg.monmouthcountyparks.com/newuser.aspx

Please contact Sheila Ehrenberg at Sheilaehrenberg@gmail.com or Lisa Bitterly at lisabitterly@comcast.net if you have any questions.

Committee Reports

CIVICS

OUR LOCAL HIDDEN GEM!

Jackson Woods in Long Branch was formed in 2018 by local community members. It is right before Ursula Plaza on Ocean Avenue. It is approximately 13 acres!

Last year, Rumson Garden Club planted a native garden at this location with grant money from GCA's Partners for Plants. This past August we went to Jackson Woods to weed the area and put down mulch with the local volunteers, and to add our plant identification signs. The volunteers work on Tuesday and Friday mornings starting at 9 am. All are welcome!!!

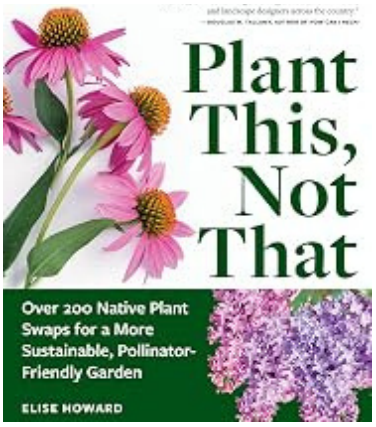
We have also been checking on our rain gardens which are located at the end of Riverside Park and Victory Park. We also put festive red, white and blue plantings at Victory Park for the new 250th monument. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this endeavor!

Monmouth Day Care Center has veggies coming in and the watering system seems to be intact.

Window boxes at The Oceanic Library will be replanted at the end of September. We have checked on the watering system at the library which also is in great working order!!

All and all things are looking good around town and in our community at large! Thank you to everyone who helped with weeding at Jackson Woods! It was much needed but also very rewarding!!





Elise Howard will be speaking at the October 13th meeting about her book
PLANT THIS, NOT THAT.
She will be available to sign copies. If you would like to preorder copies, the link is HERE
Additional books will be on hand at the meeting for those who haven't pre-ordered.

Committee Reports

PHOTOGRAPHY

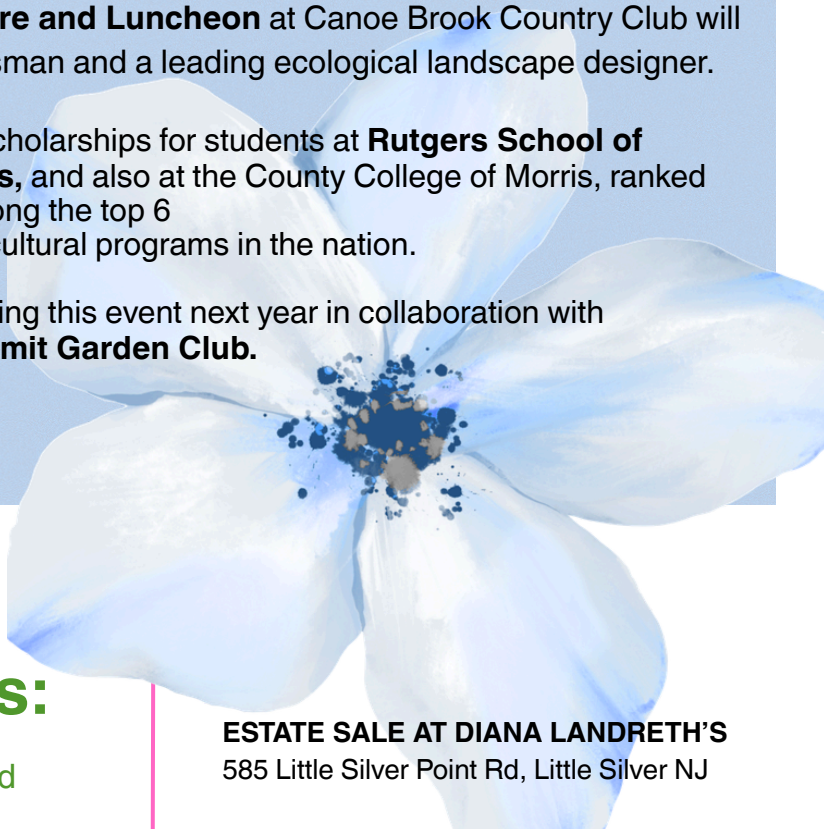
Please take a look at the October photography classes and start taking some interesting color photos portraying the beauty and complexity of roots of any kind or a black and white photo of a resilient plant/tree growing in an unexpected or hard to grow place.
Can't wait to see your submissions
Bonnie & Natasha

The New Jersey Committee of The Garden Club of America Scholarship Lecture and Luncheon

The November 4, 2026 **Scholarship Lecture and Luncheon** at Canoe Brook Country Club will feature Kelly D. Norris, a celebrated plantsman and a leading ecological landscape designer.

Please plan to attend, in support of scholarships for students at **Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences,** and also at the County College of Morris, ranked among the top 6
post-secondary agricultural programs in the nation.

As a reminder, our club will be hosting this event next year in collaboration with **The Summit Garden Club.**



Upcoming Club Events:

9/8 at 10:00 am - New member's luncheon and speakers at Taphy's home.

9/8 at 1:00 pm - Floral design "Flower Showing 101" and "Dalhias" workshop at Avery's barn.

9/22 at 9:00 am - Conservation sponsored naturalist walk at Hartshorne Woods. Pre-registration required.

9/24 at 10:00 am - Horticulture's "How-to-condition and show" workshop with a GCA judge at Bingham Hall.

10/8 at - Stella Ryan & Botanical Art's "Prep for January Show" workshop at Bingham Hall.

ESTATE SALE AT DIANA LANDRETH'S
585 Little Silver Point Rd, Little Silver NJ

Thursday, September 27, 12 pm to 5 pm
Friday, September 28, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm
Saturday, September 29, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm

From Diana as she moves to New York: Thanks again for sending the notice out to our club. There are some lovely marble pots from India, interesting planters, and a very pretty French iron park bench that has been restored to its original color, a stone swan plant stand, and lots of things I have collected over the years.

2026-27

RGC OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

RUMSON GARDEN CLUB EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Heather Robinson

First Vice President: Peeka Tildesley

Treasurers: Christina Weber & Christiane McNamara

Recording Secretary: Louisa Renn

Corresponding Secretaries: 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



FROM JAN GLASS - BIRD LADY

"America As the World Sees Us"

Is America loved or admired? We hear conflicting opinions on this. If media is to be believed. Not so much.
In our travels we have found this not to be true. In so many places we have found evidence of the widespread popularity of American culture.
We were standing on the Charles Bridge in Budapest. A wide bridge with vendors and musicians all along it. Where were the crowds all gathered? Not at the local musicians, nor at the many vendors but at the musicians playing American country and western. Everyone happily singing along and dancing to the music. In Paris, the city fathers look down disdainfully at the crowded MacDonalds on their fashionable Champs Elysees.

In the tropical heat of Borneo, the music that came out of the stores was not the local music which we were longing to hear, but Bing Crosby's White Christmas. In a shopping mall in Dubai abaya clad moms and their kids were all clustered around a MacDonalds. The native food vendors looked really glum. In Seoul in South Korea people were forsaking their traditional green tea shops in favor of coffee at a bustling Starbucks.

In Japan little kids had Disney logos all over their tee shirts, jackets, and backpacks. In Tokyo whilst we were watching a religious street parade people came up to us to ask if they could practice their English. Did we know the Beatles they asked. Have we been to Hollywood. Did we like Elvis Presley. Does the Queen wear her crown in bed.
Everywhere youngsters in Levi's outdid native costumes. Western music was everywhere, escaping from cars, stores, headsets, and boom boxes. Pop songs and jazz were preeminent.
In Hanoi in Viet Nam there was a vibe reminiscent of New York. All hustle and bustle. People dashing around at top speed. If a road was too full, they drove on the sidewalks. To cross a road was like taking your life in your hands. Like New York?
Air personnel arriving at Newark airport with empty suitcases, go home staggering under the weight of tax-free clothing from New Jersey.
When we lived in Dublin, I could see long long lines of people waiting patiently outside the American embassy, very few outside the other embassies in that area. Irish cab drivers told us that they vacationed every year in Boston.
And all the soccer fans visiting here from around the world for the World Cup fell in love with America, and Americans l oved them right back.
People know America.
They want to come here. They know it is a good place to be.



Haiku
Our America
Bustling, alive and thriving
A vast mosaic

Jan Glass Bird Lady.
July 2026
Janbglass13@gmail.com

Photo by Jan Glass

Bulb Order

Descriptions courtesy of Brent & Becky's Bulbs (brentandbeckysbulbs.com)



Ice Baby

Price $8.00 for 5 bulbs

Division – 1-Trumpet

(aka 'Snow Baby') One of our very own hybrids; a tough little pure white, early blooming intermediate daffodil that forces easily; sure to be a winner on the show bench and in your garden; 8/+ cm; 4"-8".



Pacific Rim

Price $12.00 for 5 bulbs

Division 2 – Large-Cupped

Striking narrow red rim on a rich yellow corona and perianth; a longtime blue ribbon winner with great potential as a garden and landscape plant; American-bred; 14"-18"; mid-late spring.



Jamestown

Price $10.00 for 5 bulbs

Division 3 – Small-Cupped

A blue ribbon show flower, long lasting in bloom, with bright white petals and a happy yellow cup; 14"-16"; late-mid spring.



Erlicheer

Price $12.00 for 5 bulbs

Division 4 – Double

A sweet-smelling bouquet on one stem! Little double white flowers with honey-yellow segments interspersed; superb in pots and one of the best for forcing; 10"-12"; early-mid spring. Historic 1934.



Starlight Sensation

Price $8.00 for 5 bulbs

Division 5 – Triandrus

One of Brent & Becky's own hybrids, a sister seedling to the other Sensation varieties; creamy white flowers with a fruity fragrance; 3-5 stems per bulb with 2-4 flowers per stem; great garden or show flower; 12"-16"; mid spring.



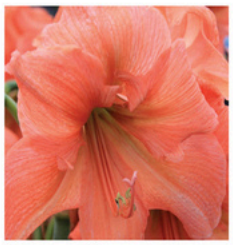
Cragford

Price $11.00 for 5 bulbs

Division 8 – Tazetta

A pre-1930 heirloom with pristine white petals, reddish-orange cups, and a fabulous fragrance; an excellent perennializer that forces with minimal cooling and is great for early container plantings; early-mid spring; 14"-16".

Other Bulbs



Hippeastrum – Rilona

Price $20.00 for 1 bulb



Iris – Dwarf histrioides 'Katherine Hodgkin'

Price $10.00 for 10 Bulbs

Very unusual colors of light greenish-blue and white striped standards with lighter falls blotched with white, yellow, and charcoal spots.

Bulbs will be available for sale at our October meeting with daffodils to prepare for our April show, and Amaryllis and Iris bulbs for our January show. Please reach out to Elaine Eadon or Amy McCooey with any questions.

Garden Tours this Summer



Many thanks to Kathryne Singleton for single-handedly weeding the Lobdell garden at St-George's-by-the-River.

St. George's By the River- courtesy of Alex Smith



Garden Tours this Summer

Laurie Bruckman's



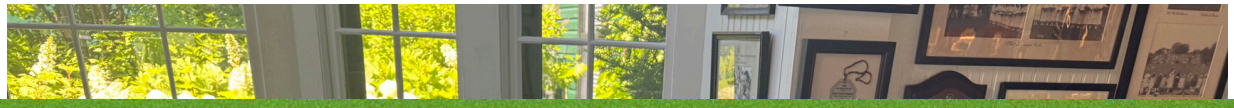


Heather Robinson's









JUNE ANNUAL MEETING









RGC PLANT SALE











