RUMSON GARDEN CLUB
1914
THE COMPOST HEAP
OCTOBER 2026
Edition 27

HEAD

Rumson Garden Club
October 13, 2026 at SBC

Passing 8:00 am - 9:00 am
Passers arrive- 8:00 am
Clerks arrive- 9:15 am
Judging begins- 9:45 am

Horticulture Passers: (8:00 am)
Cathy Smith
Missy Falkenberg

Horticulture Clerks: (9:15 am)
Sarah Fleming
Alexandra Smith

GCA Horticulture Judges: (9:30 am)
Alice Wade
Deborah Agnew
Carol Mills

Floral Passers: (8:00 am)
Maya Speelmans
Judie Oppenheim

Floral Clerks: (9:15am)
Liz Clark - GCA
Amy McCooey

GCA Floral Judges: (9:30 am)
Lisa Gadsden
Stephanie Wedeking
Woodney Wachter

RGC Photography Judges:
Sheila Ehrenberg
Bonnie Torcivia

Photography Clerk:
Theresa Maguire

Staging:
Amy McCooey
Betsy Marx

October Meeting

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2026

Seabright Beach Club

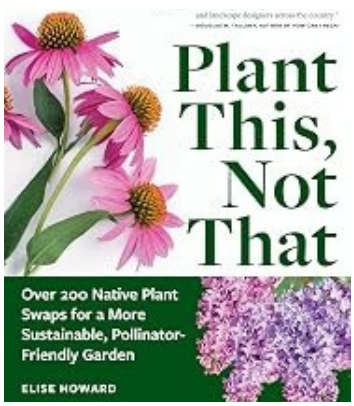
11:00 A.M. LECTURE
12:00 P.M. LUNCH AND BUSINESS MEETING

RSVP by October 8th HERE
Please bring $25 cash or check made out to RGC or pay online HERE



"A CONVERSATION WITH ELISE HOWARD"

Elise Howard is the author of "Plant This, Not That," an informative book about beautiful, beneficial native plantings that can be swapped for some of the most common landscaping plants in our gardens.



She will be available to sign copies. Books will be on hand at the meeting for those who haven't pre-ordered.

October Meeting

DIVISION I
FLORAL DESIGN CLASSES

Art in Bloom - An Interpretive Design*
(GCA Judges)

ELIZABETH DIMOCK KNAPP TROPHY
A silver bowl awarded to the member with the best Interpretive design. The exhibitor awarded Best in Show from among the first-place winners will be designated the winner of the Elizabeth Dimock Knapp Trophy.

"I perhaps owe having become a painter to flowers" - Claude Monet

Class 1 **(6) Entries**

Create a design that interprets one of two paintings curated by Kathy Keating from the Beauregard Gallery collection. Entry is to be staged on a 30" high rectangular table covered with a white floor length tablecloth. Design should not exceed 16" width or depth. Exhibitors are given a 20" x 20" design space. Viewed and judged from all sides. A statement of intent is required.

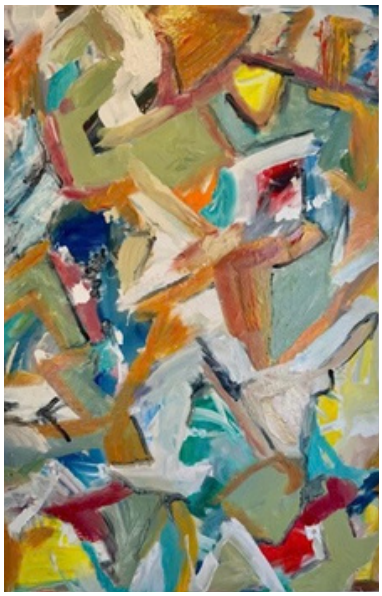
Class 2 **(6) Entries**

Novice. Same as above. Entry is to be staged on a 30" high rectangular table covered with a white floor length tablecloth. Design should not exceed 16" width or depth. Exhibitors are given a 20" x 20" design space. Viewed and judged from all sides. A statement of intent is required.

**Interpretive design: a design in which components are selected and organized to portray a theme, mood, or atmosphere; not a design style. FS&JG, book 5, pg 7*

For judging, the paintings will be displayed on easels near the arrangements. Entrants may use photos of the artwork to aid in the interpretation. The paintings will be displayed in the gallery prior to the show and arrangements can be made to view them two weeks prior to the show.

Pre-registration is required by Sunday, October 11.
Class consultants, Jane Orr, janeorr88@gmail.com and Betsy Ford, betsyford72@gmail.com





DIVISION I
FLORAL DESIGN
GUIDELINES
PLEASE SEE THE
WEBSITE:
HTTPS://RUMSONGARDENCLUBNJ.ORG
OR
Refer to FS & JG Book 4: Judging at Flower Shows, 2026 edition, for guidelines

October Meeting

DIVISION II
HORTICULTURE CLASSES

All entries must be properly identified with species and cultivar information

(GCA Judges)

RITCHIE-MOORE TROPHY

Class 1 Open to all members. Any plant propagated since June 2026. Clay or plastic pots are permitted. Pots not to exceed 4" in diameter. Maximum three pots per member. Points from October 2026 and May 2027 exhibits will be combined to award the Ritchie-Moore Trophy in June 2027. Propagation cards are required and a key card is required if three plants are entered. 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.

FALL EXTRAVAGANZA

Class 2 One stem of ornamental grass with inflorescence. Non-native cultivars are permitted. Height may not exceed 24" from the lip of the container to the tip of the stem. Displayed in one RGC container. Class may be divided.
Class 3 Novice. Same as above.

Class 4 An arrangement of one stem of three to five different kinds (genera) of seed heads, pods, capsules or hips displayed 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 5 Novice. Same as above.

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

HERBS

Class 6 An arranged bouquet of 3 to 5 different kinds (genera) of home-grown herbs to be displayed in member's clear glass unetched 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 7 Novice. Same as above.

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

DIVISION II
HORTICULTURE CLASSES
continued

LATE BLOOMING FLOWERS
One flowering stem to be displayed in one RGC container. Not to exceed 24" in length from the lip of the container to the tip of the stem (lip-to-tip rule).

Class 8 *Chrysanthemum*
Class 9 Novice. Same as above.
Class 10 *Rudbeckia hirta* (black-eyed Susan)
Class 11 Novice. Same as above.
Class 12 *Sedum*
Class 13 Novice. Same as above.
Class 14 Any native flowering stem **
Class 15 Novice. Same as above
Class 16 Any other late blooming stem.
Class 17 Novice. Same as above

PAR
Class 18 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.

DIVISION II Horticulture Guidelines
Please see the website: https://rumsongardenclubnj.org

DIVISION III
PHOTOGRAPHY CLASSES

ROOTS AND RESILIENCE

"It's a quiet job being a root. No one hugs you or praises your intricate ways"
Steve Turner

Class 1 **(4) Entries**
A color photo portraying the beauty and complexity of roots of any kind.

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

Class 3 **(4) Entries**
A black and white photo of a resilient plant/tree growing in an unexpected or hard to grow place

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

DIVISION III Photography Guidelines
Please see the website: https://rumsongardenclubnj.org

President's Message

Dear Members,

What a fabulous start to the year! Big thanks to everyone who made the September meeting a success.

There are many fun events coming up including a botanical arts workshop on 10/8 lead by our very own Stella Ryan, and a seed collection workshop at Huber Woods with Jason Goldman on 10/6. The seeds collected will be brought to the seed exchange at the Shirley Meneice horticulture conference being held later this month in California. And tickets are now available for the NJ Committee scholarship luncheon on 11/4. Let's get a few Rumson Garden Club tables together for this fun and important event - seating is limited and guests are welcome.

For our October meeting we will be back at Seabright Beach Club, and welcoming GCA judges for floral and horticulture and our first photography show of theyear. The Ritchie-Moore propagation trophy and the Elizabeth Dimock Knapp trophy for interpretive floral design are up for grabs!

As I mentioned at the September meeting, we now are allowing 2 entries per class for horticulture as long as they are different species or cultivars. For floral, you are able to enter more than 1 class as long as spaces are still available. Please refer to the revised guidelines in the handbook or in the schedules on the RGC website.

I hope you enjoy these days as our gardens wind down for the season and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Keep growing,
Heather



A surprise visitor at my front door last week!

Committee Reports

FLORAL DESIGN

Botanical Arts Workshop - October 8th, 12:00 PM, Bingham Hall
We have one club show for BA in January. Stella Ryan will lead an informative workshop, demonstrating her talents and techniques to create amazing birds and bugs. The bird will be available for sale at the workshop. $10 each. Please sign up.

October 13th Show "Art in Bloom". *This will be a GCA judged show and the Elizabeth Dimock* Knapp Trophy for best "Interpretive Design" will be awarded. Beautiful Silver Bowl presented to the winner in June. We will be challenged to create an interpretive floral design using two paintings as inspiration. Kathy Keating of Beauregard has chosen two paintings that are available to look at in her studio, located in Rumson on East River Road. She will bring them to the show in October to display alongside the show entries.
6 entries per class. So far, 4 entries for regular and 2 for novice.
Please contact me or Betsy to enter.

November 17, 2026:

Team Challenge Design, 2:00pm at RCC. We will provide all materials. We will be creating "Celestial Toppers".

HORTICULTURE

Bulb Sale – Get Yours While They Last!
Daffodil and Iris bulbs will be available for purchase at our October 13 meeting. Quantities are limited, so bulbs will be sold on a **first-come, first-served basis.**
Amaryllis bulbs will be available for purchase at a later date—stay tuned!

Looking Ahead to Our Horticulture Shows
Planning to participate? Be sure to get your bulbs early!
January Horticulture Show
Forced Bulb Iris Challenge – Classes 9 & 10
Amaryllis Challenge – Class 10-4
April Horticulture Show
Ellwood-Winmill Daffodil Award – Classes 1–8
Maria Appleby Severance Trophy – Classes 1–8
Happy planting, we can't wait to see what you grow!

Grooming Kits – Sold Out!
Our grooming kits were a hit and have officially sold out! If you missed the opportunity to purchase one, please reach out to Amy McCooey at mccooey@verizon.net to be added to our list of interested buyers. If there is enough interest, we'll place another order!

A Little Show-Day Tip:
Please remember to have your entry cards completed before dropping off your beautiful entries at any of our RGC Shows. It helps make check-in quick and easy for everyone!

Committee Reports

CIVICS

Civics has been busy weeding at our town's two rain gardens in Rumson. We are looking to redesign and plant Monmouth Daycare in Red Bank with native plants. This will help our environment and encourage pollinators and goldfinches (our state bird). If any one has ideas for the design of the garden please do not hesitate to contact us! Last but not least a **BIG Thank you goes out to everyone who helped plant the window boxes on Wednesday, September 23rd!** We had a beautiful day after a few days of rain! Great planting weather!











Rain garden in Rumson

CONSERVATION

Seed Collection Workshop - 10/6 at 9:30 AM @ Huber Woods

Join Monmouth County naturalist and friend of RGC Jason Goldman for a seed collection workshop at Huber Woods! Please RSVP to Lisa Bitterly at lisabitterly@comcast.net.

Committee Reports

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Entries Due - 10/6
Photographs and entry cards for the October show are due to Bonnie Torcivia by 10/6. Please email Bonnie at bltorcivia@gmail.com if you have would like to exhibit and have not already reserved your spot.

GCA Annual Meeting Opportunity
Please see the message from our national Photography Chair about two photography classes in the 2027 Annual Meeting which still can be entered. Please inform your clubs about this opportunity and encourage them to enter the show.

Two of the four classes in the Photography Division of the 2027 Annual Meeting currently have openings. This is a juried show. The first 16 photographs will be submitted to the jury. Registration closes on December 1, 2026.

Class 1 is a composed still life class that currently has 11 openings.
Class 2, a novice class, calls for a photograph of a mushroom. There are 6 spots left in this class.
https://www.gcamerica.org/members:calendar/eventdetails/id/22766

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.

PURCHASE YOUR TICKET HERE

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



CHRISTMAS GREENS WORKSHOP
SAVE-THE-DATE
Friday, December 4 and Saturday, December 5

Volunteer Sign ups will be available mid-November! Contact Louisa Renn or Stephanie Hoitt if you'd like to pre-order a $25 wreath or a $20 Barbara Spinelli-style red velvet bow!

RGC REMINDERS

1. Please RSVP for lunch 5 days before the meeting in order to give an accurate head count to RCC and SBC
2. Please bring your entries to be passed from 8am to 8:40 at the latest. All entries close at 9am sharp
3. Please silence your phones and put them away. Members are looking at their phones while the speaker is presenting. And please do not TALK on your phone.

Thank you in Advance!
Politely Peeka

Upcoming Club Events:

October 6, 9:30 am - 10:30 am
Conservation – Seed Collection Workshop

October 8, 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Botanical Arts Workshop

October 13, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
October Meeting

October 19 - October 22
GCA Shirley Meneice Conference

October 23, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
NJ Daffodil Society Bulb Exchange

November 4, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
NJ Committee Luncheon



Welcome to the Rumson Garden Club Kathryn Bauer, Barbara Kirpatrick, Betsy Marx and Colleen Fisher

New Members

Our new members were treated to lunch at the home of Taphy Harscar with Susan Sorokolit co-hosting. They are our new member liasons. The guest speakers were our Judging Chairs, Mary Ann McDonald and Laura Wallach.



They spoke about passing and clerking. Joining our new members were Heather Robinson and our Vice President Peeka Tildesley.

Our next gathering for our new members will be a luncheon on Thursday, November 12th at the home of Susan Sorokolit. Sarah Fleming will speak about the Garden Club of America.

Pictured left: Mary Ann McDonald, Laura Wallach, Heather Robinson, Kathryn Vauer, Colleen Fisher, Barbara Kirpatrick, Betsy Marx, Taphy Harscar and Susan Sorokolit



Sharp-shinned hawk waiting at slinky feeder. Photo Jan Glass

FROM JAN GLASS - BIRD LADY

"A Bird Brain is Quite a Compliment"

It was an early spring morning. The sky a clear blue with a few puffy clouds drifting along, the sun making up its mind about whether to appear behind them or not. The river had faint ripples on its silvery blue surface whilst fishermen sat quietly hoping for a catch. The ducks were burbling away while the geese made "v" trails in the sky. Nearby trees bent and swayed to a gentle breeze and the chipmunks played hide and seek with the dog. Into this calm morning a small crowd of birds were pecking away at the bird feeder, chattering, and complaining amongst themselves, alert but intent on the seed.

Then suddenly there was a raucous screaming, and then with a sudden swoosh all was deathly quiet. Not a tremble of a feather nor a flash of a fin from the river could be seen. Not the faintest cheep or splash of a tail could be heard.

Then, from a nearby old dead tree a pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks (Accipiter Striatus), sadly known as "bird feeder hawks," made their silent appearance. The hawks sat as still as statues, the only things that seemed to be moving were their eyes, watching all around them with great intensity.

Someone had seen them, raised the alarm, and had given the game away.

Silence reigned.

Eventually, feeling rather peckish the hawks took off for lunch in another neighborhood. All day the locals stayed away and the next, and finally after several days they came back to continue their interrupted foraging.

They had lived to fight another day.

A friend took her feeder down for a week to deter her hawk. The deterrence lasted exactly a week before it came on back again.

We have squirrel "proof" bird feeders, perhaps some bright spark will invent a hawk proof feeder.

Or we and the birds will have to adapt.

But they have bird brains, too, so who knows how successfully they can be outwitted before they figure it out. The Town criers of birddom, Blue Jays (Cyanocitta cristata) had sounded the alarm.

So, who can say that a bird brain is not not a compliment.

Haiku
Our clever Blue Jays
A super alarm system
So reliable.

Join us for an introduction to the New Jersey Daffodil Society and Bulb Exchange

Friday, October 23, 2026
1:00-3:00 p.m.

Rumson Garden Club is hosting this special opportunity. Come meet representatives from the American Daffodil Society (ADS) and be in for a special treat of daffodil bulbs. Clay Higgins, the Northeast Regional Vice-President of the ADS and Maya Speelmans, the Northeast Regional Director for N.J. will be there to answer any questions you have. Clay Higgins has been growing and showing daffodils for 30 years, and he will be offering some exciting bulbs, including some that he has hybridized himself. You will be able to get bulbs even if you don't bring any (although it would be very welcome). Find out ways to participate in the New Jersey Daffodil Society.

The event will be held at Bingham Hall, 40 Bingham Avenue, Rumson.
Please RSVP to Maya Speelmans, mayaelisabeth@gmail.com or leave a text on 908-433-6407.

SPECIAL NEWS: After a hiatus of many years, the New Jersey Daffodil Society will be holding a show in Monmouth Beach on April 24, 2027.
More details to follow.

Horticulture Workshop

CA Judge Anne Gates from Stony Brook presented her “Road to Ribbons” workshop about how to enter horticulture shows





Floral Workshop







Floral chairs Betsy and Jane organized a floral design workshop presented by Ulana and hosted by Avery!

September Meeting Entries











September Meeting Entries











September Meeting Entries











