

# RIFGC Speakers for RI Home and Garden Show



## **Sue Redden: Fun With Flowers** **Friday April 6, 1:00-1:45**

Traditional floral design: Conditioning plant material; selecting components- container, mechanics, plant material; planning the design for chosen placement. Sue Redden is an Accredited-Master Judge for National Garden Clubs and Flower Show Schools Chairman for Rhode island Federation of Garden Clubs.



## **Blakely Szosz: Container Gardening** **Friday, April 6, 4:00-4:45**

A container garden can be as simple as a centerpiece for your patio table or it may be a dramatic urn that steals the show. Blakely Szosz has been the head gardener for Rhode Island Country Club for the past 12 years. She graduated from Rhode Island School of Design in 1991 and, having fallen in love with Rhode Island, has been putting down roots here ever since. She is past President of the Barrington Land Conservation Trust and Barrington Garden Club and she currently serves as President of Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs. Her specialty is container gardening as she considers it to be the finishing touch- or jewelry- to any well designed landscape.



## **Candace Morgenstern: Contemporary Nature** **Saturday, April 7, 11:30-12:45**

Candace is an Accredited-Master Judge of National Garden Clubs of Rhode Island, former State President of RI Federation of Garden Clubs, and a leader of the American Delegation of the World Association of Floral Artists (WAFA). Inspired by Friday's RISD/CE program *Hand Dying Fabrics With Plants*, Candace will use her artistry to incorporate yarn, silk, and natural fibers into contemporary floral design.

**Mike and Angelina Chute: Six Simple Steps to Successful Rose Gardening Saturday, April 7, 1:00-1:45**



It's easy to grow beautiful roses in your home garden once you know how. *Six Simple Steps to Successful Rose Gardening* is one of our most popular programs because it appeals to every gardener who wants to successfully grow roses. It explains everything you need to know in six easy-to-follow steps that take the mystery out of rose gardening. We include plenty of tips and personal anecdotes from over twenty years of rose gardening experience that demonstrate how easy it is to grow great roses.

We will be available to sign copies of our books, *Roses for New England: A Guide to Sustainable Rose Gardening* and *Rose Gardening Season by Season: A Journal for Passionate Gardeners* after the program.

**Barbara Blossom: These are a Few of my Favorite Things Saturday, April 7, 4:00-4:45**



An award winning designer and National Garden Clubs Accredited Judge, Barbara Blossom has participated in countless Flower Shows including Newport, Hartford, Boston, North Carolina, and Philadelphia and is bringing her eclectic sense of humor and passion for color to the Flower Show this year. Sharing mechanics for floral arrangements of all sizes you will be sure to bring inspiration and ideas for your own home .

**Julie Christina: Design Inspiration from the Backyard Sunday, April 8, 1:00-1:45**



Julie first fell in love with nature, plants, and all things garden-related as a child exploring in her backyard. She has a Bachelor of Science in landscape horticulture from Ohio State University. Since 2008, Julie has been Education Program Manager at Blithewold Mansion and Gardens in Bristol, where she is continually inspired by the history and the abundant gardens. This past year, she started a boutique floral design business called Christina Flower Co. Julie strives to incorporate local and seasonal flowers and foliage in all of her designs.



**Dan Christina: Topiary Workshop**  
**Sunday, April 8, 2:00-2:45**

If you thought topiary was only for mansions or out of reach for the general public you are in for a treat. Dan Christina, Chief Horticulturist at Green Animals Topiary Garden in Portsmouth will demonstrate just how enjoyable and accessible it can be for your own home and garden! From moss stuffed frames and trimmed boxwoods, to trained ivies and standards, come and be inspired.

Dan Christina has been the current manager of Green Animals Topiary Garden for three years and has worked extensively to continue the tradition of horticultural excellence the garden is known for. Replacing lost garden features, conserving existing topiaries, and introducing new horticultural themes are just some of the ways he has changed the landscape. Before Green Animals, Dan was the Assistant Grounds Manager of Blithewold Mansion, Gardens and Arboretum in Bristol, RI for 10 years. Having always had a love for historic gardens and landscapes, the challenges and rewards of this kind of public gardening keeps him excited about each coming season. His 4 year old son has already started down the garden path with a great affinity for spring bulbs and roses, and a love of gardens and his 10 month old loves to play tug of war with all of the houseplants.

