



Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs

Summer 2021 Newsletter

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

PRESIDENT SHERYL HANSON MCGOOKIN

As I'm sure so many of you are doing, I try to take a break every day to breathe and enjoy my yard and all its diverse natural life. Lately I have noticed that the Pollinators are busy, so busy, as if they too have broken out of a Covid distanced world! In talking with friends, neighbors, and GC members I have realized that I'm not alone as I race along to catch up with the speed of life!

I hope you are all able to take a 15-20 min break to enjoy the contents of this RIFGC July newsletter; pieces of interest include a review about a book on F.L. Olmstead, a bird report on the Common Loon, information on The Pollinator Pathway Project, and photos from 'Back in Bloom', the June flower show at Rosecliff Mansion. Some items to ponder include a class offered by the Connecticut Environmental school and Judy Gray's 'Wet Your Whistle Wednesday', she is looking for your input as she creates the schedule of topics. Also, and in case you missed it, this newsletter contains the RIFGC Annual Luncheon awards and up to date information of the LMG Scholarship criteria.

The RIFGC Calendar has been sent as an accompaniment to the newsletter, it comes as a separate PDF so that you can print it out for your convenience. The LMG luncheon flyer can also be printed out and accompanies the newsletter this month. Lastly, take a peek at the 'Presidents Poll', I would love to hear from you about the goings-on in your own yards.

I am looking forward to working with you all as we continue to make the world a better place through all aspects of gardening and design.

RIFGC CARING & CONNECTING



2021 CALENDAR

09 SEPT.

**LMG Scholarship
Fundraiser
Luncheon**
11:30am at the Dunes
Club, Naragansett

22 & 23 SEPT.

**Water and
Related Issues
Course, CTGCs**
See page 5 of the
Newsletter for more
Information

23 SEPT.

**RIFGC Board
Meeting at
RWP Casino**
Thursdays
10-11am, 9:30-10am
pre-meeting meet up

12 & 13 OCT.

**NEGC Annual
Meeting**
Wells, Maine

28 OCT.

**RIFGC Board
Meeting at
RWP Casino**
Thursdays
10-11am, 9:30-10am
pre-meeting meet up

NOVEMBER

Education Day
Time & Place TBD

2 DEC.

**RIFGC Board
Meeting at
RWP Casino**
Thursdays
10-11am, 9:30-10am
pre-meeting meet up

WEDNESDAYS

**Wet Your
Whistle**
Wednesdays
With Judy Gray every
2nd Wednesday of
each month at 6:30pm,
topics TBD



WET YOUR WHISTLE WEDNESDAY!

*PULL UP A COMFY CHAIR, GRAB YOUR FAVORITE
BEVERAGE AND LET'S GET TALKING.*

This is an open invitation to Club Presidents and representatives to join RIFGC Vice President Judy Gray in an Open Discussion Forum. This Fall, Judy will be hosting a monthly Zoom meeting to provide clubs with an opportunity to exchange ideas on a variety of topics including how to increase membership, submit awards, and ideas for successful programs and events. This is a great opportunity to broaden our spectrum by working together. Judy is looking for topic ideas from the membership, so please email her with any suggestions you have.

Monthly Zoom meeting will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm to 7:15pm

JUDY.GRAY123@GMAIL.COM

(603) 707-7785

SAVE THE DATE!

SEPTEMBER 22-23, 2021

On September 22-23 2021, The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc. will present National Garden Clubs Inc. Environmental School Course 4, Series 3 “Water and Related Issues”. The course will be offered virtually, via Zoom.

In this 2 day course, you will hear from a variety of excellent speakers on a wide range of topics such as environmental science, Earth stewardship, and fresh and salt-water aquatic plants and animals. In addition, the effects of climate change on water, the value of wetlands to the ecology, and how to run environmental educational programs for youth will also be addressed. The course includes 8 one-hour modules presented by academics, environmentalists and industry leaders. In addition you will be able to enjoy a two-hour environmental field trip without leaving the comfort of your home or office, thanks to Zoom.

Environmental School courses are designed to teach participants environmental literacy and an appreciation of the natural world. The courses are open to anyone, whether or not they are garden club members.

PLEASE REGISTER AT WWW.CTGARDENCLUBS.ORG. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT SHARON BENDER AT [203-530-2920](tel:203-530-2920) OR ESCHAIR@CTGARDENCLUBS.ORG

NEWPORT FLOWER SHOW

2021 ARRANGEMENTS & WINNERS



**Sylvan Voices; Seedheads
Garden Stake - 2nd Place
& Judge's Commendation**

Marion Bartkiewicz and
Brenda Johnston of Plum
Beach GC



**Sylvan Voices; Seedheads
Garden Stake - 2nd Place
& Judge's Commendation**

Marion Bartkiewicz and
Brenda Johnston of Plum
Beach GC



**Succulents Redux - Two
First Place Awards**

Brenda Johnston of Plum
Beach GC





**Sylvan Voices; Allium
Garden Stake -
Honorable Mention &
Judge's Commendation**
Fraser Gilbane &
Nancy Compton of
Perennial Planters GC



**Enduring Beauty -
Judge's Commendation**
Brenda Johnston of
Plum Beach GC



**Sylvan Voices; Allium
Garden Stake - 2nd Place
& Judge's Commendation**
Marjorie DeAngelis,
Helen Saulia, Judith Doty
and Linda McHugh of
Rehoboth GC



**Garden Nymphs -
Third Place**
Susan Winter &
Colleen Mahoney of
South County GC



Fireflies - First Place
Julie McGeoch &
Victoria Goulet
of Little Compton GC



**Garden Nymphs -
Honorable Mention**
Barabara Blossom of
Bayberry & Bristol GC



**Harvest Moon - 1st Place
and GCA Certificate of
Excellence**
Judy Gray of
Bayberry GC



Fiddlehead - 2nd Place
Portsmouth GC



Fiddlehead - 2nd Place
Barrington GC



**Fiddlehead - Honorable
Mention**
Cohasset GC



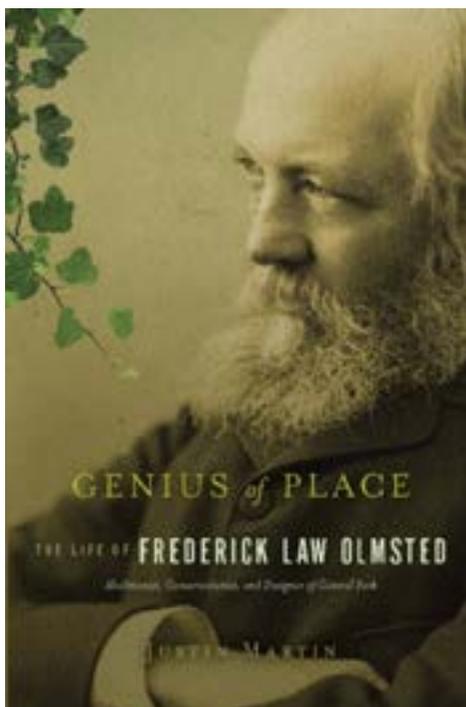
Fiddlehead - First Place
Sasqua GC



**Sylvan Voices; Seedheads
Garden Stake - Honorable
Mention**
Newport GC

BARBARA'S BOOK REVIEW

GENIUS OF PLACE, WRITTEN BY JUSTIN MARTIN



I highly recommend reading *Genius of Place*, The full and definitive biography of Frederick Law Olmsted, influential abolitionist, ardent social reformer and conservationist, and the visionary designer of Central Park. I did not want it to end. I became interested in Olmsted when I read “Devil in the White City” by Erik Larson and learned that in his 70’s, Olmsted had two major projects going on at the same time; the landscape and vision for 125,000 acres that became the Biltmore

Estate in Asheville, NC, and serving as the major planner for the Chicago World’s Fair in 1893.

Olmsted did not study landscape architecture, there was no such profession in his day! He earned the title after many years and many projects, and actually wrote a curriculum to be used for future students. I give this book a FIVE star rating!!!



Frederick Law Olmsted is arguably the most important historical figure that the average American knows the least about. Best remembered for his landscape architecture, from New York's Central Park to Boston's Emerald Necklace to Stanford University's campus, Olmsted was also an influential journalist, early voice for the environment, and abolitionist credited with helping dissuade England from joining the South in the Civil War.

This momentous career was shadowed by a tragic personal life, also fully portrayed here. Most of all, he was a social reformer. He didn't simply create places that were beautiful in the abstract. An awesome and timeless intent stands behind Olmsted's designs, allowing his work to survive to the present day. With our urgent need to revitalize cities and a widespread yearning for green space, his work is more relevant now than it was during his lifetime. Justin Martin restores Olmsted to his rightful place in the pantheon of great Americans.

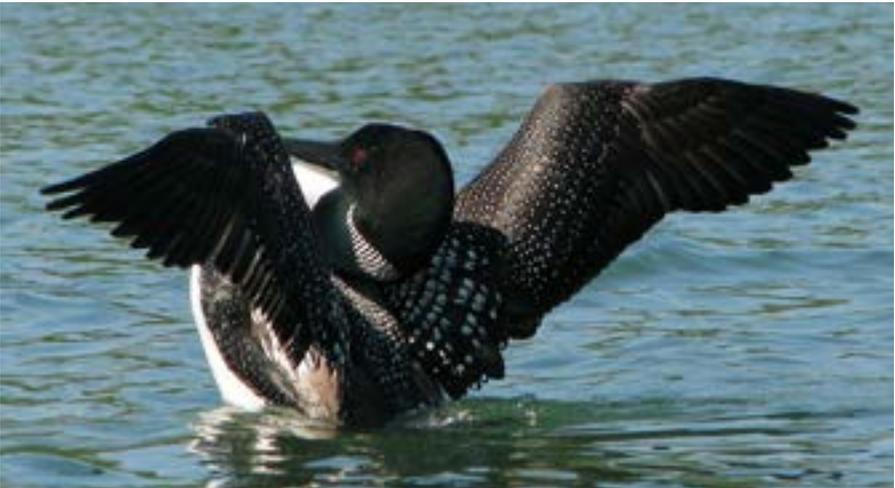
BARBARA CURRY, EDGEWOOD GC

JULY BIRD REPORT

THE COMMON LOON – GAVIA IMMER

The Common Loon is the loon most likely seen in our area. It has a black head with a greenish sheen, red/brown eyes and a checkered black and white back.

Frequenting quiet lakes and usually sleeping on the water, this large bird rarely comes on land except to nest. It must run at least 20 yards across water to gain enough momentum to fly. Winter adults have gray or brown upper parts. They leave the northern lakes for southern habitat in the winter. As soon as ice is 'out' they return with their original plumage. Their calls are certainly recognizable—the *tremolo*, *yodel*, and talking *kwuk*. Common Loons ride low in the water and can dive to 200 feet to catch fish, they are able to stay under water for about 60 seconds.

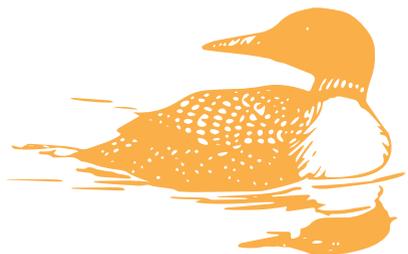




Their nests are always near water as they have difficulty walking on land. Loons typically lay 1 or 2 eggs per nest attempt. Eggs are laid 1-3 days apart and are incubated, on average, for 27 days. The young leave the nest soon after hatching and are fed by both parents. Loon chicks are very often seen on a parent's back while the other parent looks for food. Loons have one brood per year consisting of one or two eggs. The parents are very attentive as loons have many predators such as turtles, mink, eagles, and even other loons.

These large, beautiful birds are fairly common, but in some areas human disturbance and reduced food supply due to acid rain, have resulted in abandoned nests. The good news is that volunteers are protecting nesting areas on some lakes. We have seen a pair of Loons on our lake in Maine. Last year two chicks hatched, but only one survived.

SUE REDDEN, BIRD CHAIR



POLLINATOR PATHWAY PROJECT

POLLINATOR FRIENDLY GARDENING

The Pollinator Pathway project is a growing initiative that was brought to our attention by Mary Gannon, the DEM wildlife outreach coordinator. Mary read an article by local wildlife blogger Todd McLeish (<https://www.ecori.org/natural-resources/2021/5/19/backyard-gardeners-create-native-plant-corridors-to-support-biodiversity-wildlife>) and reached out to us as she was trying to add her Western Cranston ½ acre to the list as a Pollinator Pathway. The program originated from entomologist Doug Tallamy's book "Bringing Nature Home". He recommends people replace their lawns with native plants that best support insects in the area. These insects then support the native birds. Given that pollinators only fly so far, the more properties that are linked up to create Pollinator Pathways the more insects and birds thrive and the greater our biodiversity.

The most difficult part of this can be finding native plants. The article states that Barrington Land Conservation Trust is working to ask local nurseries to stock natives and it plans to hold a native plant sale in the fall. It is also good to request native plants at your local nursery so they will hopefully stock them in the future. A few nurseries that carry true natives or Cultivars are:

- × Blue Moon Farm Perennials- South Kingstown
- × Garden in the Woods Framingham MA
- × August 28th Cranston- Pawtuxet Village Farmer's Market- RI Wild Plant Society Native plant sale

URI has a RI native plant guide that helps you choose the right native plant for your landscape- <http://web.uri.edu/rinativeplants/>

To add your property or a pesticide-free open space in your town to this map of private and public way-stations along the Pollinator Pathway, please go to www.pollinator-pathway.org then click on the (listed on each town's page) link. You will see that Rhode Island is not yet represented which is disappointing as many of us have native plant gardens. Please join this effort by either planting a native garden or putting this sign in your native plant garden for all to see. We can all make an impact with our properties. Even native plants in a window box with the Pollinator Pathway logo displayed will help spread the word and promote this effort.

SARAH LEE, EDGEWOOD GARDEN CLUB



NGC AWARD WINNERS

2019 TO 2021

Barrington Garden Club

- × First Place Award for Historic preservation by a single club
- × First Place Award for Year book in the category of clubs with 100-299 members
- × Certificate of Appreciation Award for Newsletter “BGC News”



Jamestown Garden Club

- × First Place Award for Garden Tour



Hameho Garden Club Garden Club

- × Certificate of Appreciation Award for Newsletter “Hameho Herald”
- × First Place Award for Youth Environmental Education



Western Cranston Garden Club

- × Certificate of Appreciation Award for Decoration of a Historic Building
- × First Place Award (tie) for yearbook in category of clubs with 45-69 members
- × Certificate of Merit for Member Award of Honor - Cheryl Celeste

LIFE MEMBER GROUP

SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABILITY

Our Life Member Group awards scholarship funds annually in February to qualified applicants. It is very important that all of us encourage young people who need financial assistance to submit the application, we all know families whose means are stretched as children pursue higher education! The selected winner is eligible to receive up to \$3,000 (and some years, two individuals have been granted funds). After review by the Life Member Group the best application is forwarded to the National Garden Club for its scholarship of \$4,000.

Eligible candidates must be US citizens with a permanent RI residence, enrolled in any four-year educational institution in the US, have completed at least one year of college, and declared a major in a field relating to the environment. The application deadline for our next review is February 1, 2022 but earlier submissions are encouraged. Candidates need to complete our application and the National Garden Club's simultaneously, both applications are on the Federation's website. Additional documentation includes an official college transcript, letters of recommendation, a brief personal statement, and financial need form. Full guidelines are available on our website.

Enjoy a good Summer and remember, fall arrives all too quickly, so when college students are home is a great time to suggest they look into this excellent grant!

ANN GRALNEK, SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR, LMG, RIFGC

PRESIDENT'S POLL

**Which plant in your
garden attracts the most
amount of Pollinators?**

**SUBMIT YOUR RESPONSE BY
TEXTING IT TO (401) 639-8952**