

NEWS

of the Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Member National Garden Clubs, Inc.

VOL. 57 - No. 2 · JUNE/JULY/AUGUST - 2010

Awards Issue



BARRINGTON GARDEN CLUB

presents

“Bays, Beaches, and Bouquets”

**A Standard Placement Flower Show
and House Tour**

(St. Johns Church and six private homes)

Wednesday, June 9th, 2010

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

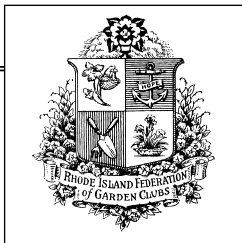
Donation: \$20.00, if ticket purchased in advance
\$25.00 on day of show

For advance tickets call Pat McWey **246-1960**
Email: **pmcwey@cox.net**

Or send check to:
Barrington Garden Club
PO Box 276, Barrington, RI 02806

Further information call Sue Redden **245-8215**
Email: **sueredden@verizon.net**

President's



Message

Isn't it wonderful that winter and the floods are behind us? The daffodils, tulips and forsythia, magnolia and cherry gave us a beautiful showing. Now my garden is springing forth with azalea, solomon's seal, dicentra, hosta, and Iris.

It's hard to believe that it has been a year since this administration began to serve you. We have made some significant changes and will continue to have more. Our efforts to give back to the clubs will continue with our Afternoon Tea, Educational Day, Habitat for Humanity Project and Mentoring Program. A wonderful benefit of membership is the sharing of plants among clubs. These excess plants might have been discarded but we are finding additional uses and new friendships when we share with each other. The same goes for our Speakers Program Directory. When we find a talented, entertaining and informative speaker we want to share the good news with the rest of the membership. We hope that you are using and sharing the Invasives Powerpoint Presentation with anyone interested.

The biggest change will be witnessed in this addition of the "News". In an effort to conserve our forests and "GO Green", we have sent this issue electronically to those of you who have elected it. The benefits to you are receiving the issue two days earlier and being able to print articles of interest or share the issue with potential new members. Saving on the cost of paper, envelopes and postage allows us to do more for you with your membership money.

I continue to be amazed by the accomplishments of our clubs. Seeing what the clubs are doing to help beautify our communities is most impressive. Somerset Garden Club had a "Super" Flower Show in April followed by an Earth Day Landscape planting May 1st. Portsmouth Garden Club had beautiful Flower Show in April and Hameho had an in-house Horticulture Show that was most impressive.

We hope that you enjoyed the Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet April 22nd. Featured floral designer Julia Clevevtt was a huge success and we were proud to present over 50 awards. Thank you to all of the clubs who submitted awards applications. The competition was tough and the award Books of Evidence just keep getting better and better. Special thanks to Priscilla DiMarco and Doris Stephens for a wonderful awards ceremony. A thank you also goes to De Feldman and her committee for all of the hard work they did to make the meeting a success.

The date for our Educational Day, the 80th Anniversary Tea, and our Habitat for Humanity project will be announced within the next week or so.

The Plant Sharing Program will be starting up again. If you have extra plants please contact nearby clubs in an informal basis or post the information on our website. We are continuing with the National Presidents Beautifying Blight, Golden Days and Plant it Pink projects. These events are possible because of the combined efforts of all of our clubs and these activities are also intended to help you increase membership in your clubs.

I love being able to see firsthand what the clubs are doing so I would welcome the opportunity to attend your meeting or event.

Happy Gardening, Vera

RHODE ISLAND FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS NEWS 2009-2011

- President** Vera Bowen 11 Dolly Drive. Bristol, RI 02809
401.254.2034 · kpbowen@att.net
- Editor** Ginny Kenney P.O. Box 365, Saunderstown, RI 02874-0365
401.294.4489 · gkenney1@cox.net
- Assistant Editor** Sally DeSimone 234 Irving Avenue, Providence, RI 02906
401.751.1588 · SALLYRD1@cox.net
- Art Editor** Mary Ellen Dwyer 26 Sunset Road, Bristol, RI 02809
401.253.6427 · dwyme@cox.net
- Circulation** Holly Lippert 45 Side Road, Little Compton, RI 02837
401.635.8874 · hkclip@cox.net
- Advertising** Phyllis K. Mulberry 60 Ellison St., Cranston, RI 02920
401.942.7233 · phylliskayinteriors@msn.com
- Treasurer** Adelaide Clifford 6 Starbrook Dr., Barrington, RI 02806
401.245.0588 · adelaideclifford@cox.net
- NGC President** Renee Blaschke 1412 NE 7th Street, Smithville, TX 78957-1202
512.360.2738 · renee.blaschke@sbcglobal.net
- NER Regional Director** Kathleen Thomas 7 Norfolk Lane, Holliston, MA 01746 (summer)
508.429.2747 · kathymthomas@aol.com
1200 Gulf Blvd, Unit 904 Clearwater Beach, FL 33767 (winter)
727.517.7740

CONTENTS

Presidents' Message	1
Over The Garden Gate	3
A Very Special Award	4
Annual Meeting	4
Thank You	5
Bald Eagles – Newcomers to Rhode Island	7
Awards	8
Rain Gardens	14
NGC Book Review News	15
Natural Disasters	16
Awards Information	19
Remembering Anna Marie Chemel	20
Happenings	22
Classic rewind	23
Hazardous Materials	23-24

Over The Garden Gate



Welcome to the first emailed issue of the Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. *NEWS!* As the *NEWS* goes digital, our club continues its efforts to go green- - AND save a lot of green, too. It was a difficult decision and may take a few issues to eliminate the 'bugs' but it will reduce our carbon footprint considerably. Your club president will receive a copy by email and then distribute to all members of your club by email or hard copy. Nothing else will change. We will continue to provide information relating to all RIFGC activities and events. Please send all articles and 'Happenings' to this editor and I will include them as usual.

Do you realize what eliminating 1 ton of paper saves? 17 mature trees, 7,000 gallons of water, 3 cubic yards of landfill, 2 barrels of oil, 4100 kw of electricity (enough to power a home for 5 months). If every year, Americans recycled 1/10 of newspapers, it would save 25,000,000 trees. Yearly, Americans trash enough office paper to build a 12' wall from Los Angeles to New York City. Emailing four issues annually to 1800 members (7200 copies) with 6-8 pages per issue roughly equals 10-12 reams of paper—maybe not a ton but we will save a few trees!

Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. is celebrating its 80th year. Just think of the important projects member clubs have completed over the years! In addition to the many flower shows in various venues including the Mall, libraries, historic buildings and members homes, the clubs have presented programs emphasizing RIFGC and NGC objectives such as, horticulture, conservation, Arbor Day, civic beautification, litter control, invasive plants, landscaping Habitat for Humanity homes, beautifying our local interstates with daffodils to name a few. We have covered the State! Come join us and celebrate our accomplishments at an afternoon tea and a one-day conference to provide members with information on a few of these topics.

This eighty year lifespan of RIFGC ranges from the Great Depression through World War II, 9/11 and the Iraqi War and also includes such natural disasters as the '38 hurricane and the Blizzard of '78. Who knows how history will remember the Great Flood of 2010? How much worse is run-off where Malls, parking lots and homes have replaced natural vegetation? After the structural changes necessary to reduce flooding have been put in place by the government, our efforts to beautify these areas will provide trees and vegetation to reduce future flooding. Our land will be more environmentally sound--- and prettier!

Fondly,
Ginny

A VERY SPECIAL AWARD

The NGC offers a Special Award to a person who has made extraordinary individual effort in the success of a Flower Show. This Special Award is presented to RIFGC President, Vera Bowen, for her incredible behind-the-scenes effort to assure a successful show. Vera lent her hand to any committee or person that asked, she shared her knowledge and talent, physically assisted in both the pre and post organization, and also wrote the schedule for our very successful 2010 flower show, Everything Old is New Again.

ANNUAL MEETING

The 80th Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon, was held April 22, 2010 at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet. Congratulations to all of the Award winners, all well deserved.

Before lunch, Suzanne Collins was the surprise recipient of the Member Award of Honor for her many years of service to the Edgewood Garden Club and to the Federation.

After a delicious lunch provided by Morin Catering, Julia Clevert presented her program, "There is This and Then There is That". Julia, a Master Flower Show Judge and instructor showed us the differences between traditional design and a more creative concept of the same type of design. Members enjoyed the program and then the designs were raffled off.

Thunder, lightening, hail and torrential rain greeted us as we ended the meeting. A memorable day for everyone!

Thanks go to Debbie Bottomley, Kathleen Diamiani and Candace Morgenstern for helping to make this a successful event.

De Feldman *Chairman*

THANK YOU

I was asked at the Annual Luncheon in April, "Will Federation dues be lowered because the News is going to be e-mailed, not snail-mailed?" a legitimate question addressed to the treasurer of the Federation. My short answer was that, since the News is only part of Federation expenses, "No, dues would not be reduced." The question did, however, make me look at the broader picture and wonder what we get for our money...five dollars a year, less than ten cents a week.

I began by thinking about life before Garden Club when I paid no dues to anyone and was alone in my garden. I worked happily, deriving all the benefits...greeting friendly passers-by, getting out my frustrations pulling weeds, using my creativity planning color combinations and my practical side drawing my garden plans. When we moved to Rhode Island, I found still I had a garden, but no friends nearby. I was truly alone.

One day, my new neighbor saw me working outside and asked if I'd like to join her at a garden club meeting. Thinking that I would at least meet some people, I agreed to try it for an evening. Not only did I meet people from all across our town, but I was exposed to so many innovative ideas for planning and planting in my new environment that I was hooked. When I joined the club, a wider world opened up for me, not only in everyday gardening, but also in what to do with all those excitedly different flowers I had learned to grow...yes, flower arranging. My life had changed for the better.

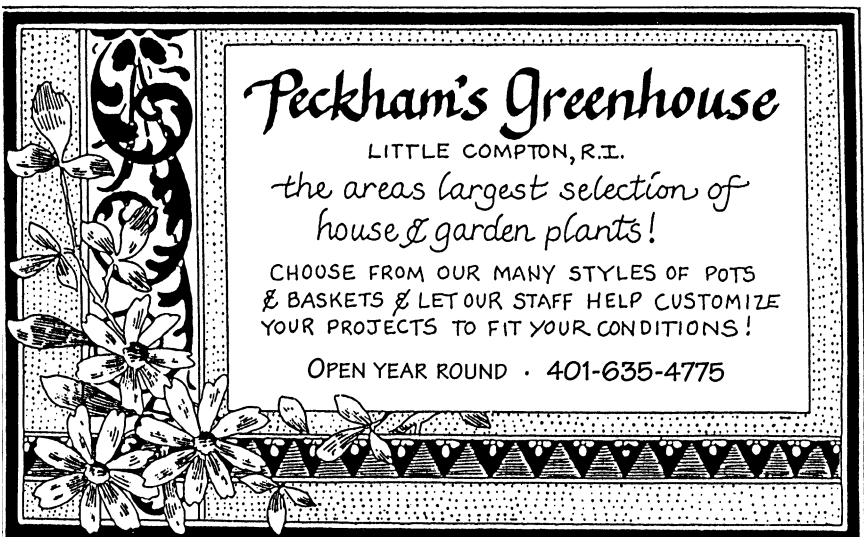
I believe that when a garden club joins a federation, it's like an individual joining a club. You become part of something bigger. You meet people from all across the state with more ideas and greater expertise than you find in your individual club. Federation members are willing to help plan programs and flower shows. They work with Habitat for Humanity to beautify new homes. Members offer Design Study courses for beginning and intermediate flower arrangers. Federation offers scholarships to college students studying horticulture and related fields, including oceanography.

Invasive plants and insects are identified; children at our Zoo are exposed to gardening. Federation has provided plans and plantings for a play area at a local preschool in Providence. Because our Federation is part of National Garden Clubs, Inc., classes are available to us in Landscape Design, Gardening Study, Environmental Studies and Flower Arranging. As members of the Federation, we now have access to a state and a nation full of new thoughts and projects, as well as people who are as devoted as we are to improving our environment.

I say "Thank you" to my neighbor who started me in garden club for broadening my horizons. "Thank you" also to the lady at the Annual Luncheon who asked me her question for making me look again at my world and how it has expanded through Garden Club. I've had a chance to decide that, if you can put a monetary value on friends and ideas, I certainly get my money's worth for only ten cents a week.

Adelaide Clifford *Treasurer*

RI Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



Peckham's Greenhouse
LITTLE COMPTON, R.I.
*the areas largest selection of
house & garden plants!*
CHOOSE FROM OUR MANY STYLES OF POTS
& BASKETS & LET OUR STAFF HELP CUSTOMIZE
YOUR PROJECTS TO FIT YOUR CONDITIONS!
OPEN YEAR ROUND • 401-635-4775

BALD EAGLES – NEWCOMERS TO RHODE ISLAND



The first record of nesting Bald Eagles in Rhode Island occurred in 2002 when a pair of adult Eagles was discovered building a nest in the Scituate Reservoir. It wasn't until the next year that they successfully hatched eggs and raised young eagles from that nest, fledging 12 eaglets since then.

Officially declared the National Emblem in 1782 by our founding fathers, the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) has become a living symbol of our Country's freedom, spirit and pursuit of excellence. It has also become our Country's symbol of environmental disaster and recovery. Numbering 100,000 in the 1700's, their populations fell to only 417 nesting pairs by the early 1960's. Hunting, the pesticide DDT, habitat destruction and contaminated waterways all contributed to the Bald Eagles decline. Strong endangered species and environmental protection laws have brought the Bald Eagle, and other birds of prey, back from the edge of extinction. Listed as endangered in 1976, there are now over 8,500 nesting pairs and nearly 69,000 individuals in the lower 48 states. In 2007 the Bald Eagle was taken off of the Endangered Species List.

Bald Eagles mate for life. Nests made from branches and large twigs are lined with moss, grass and feathers, eventually reaching 10 feet across and weighing several tons. In 2008 the Scituate Eagles nest collapsed under its own weight shortly after the eaglets fledged. That October they rebuilt the nest, making short work of it in only 3 days. Bald Eagles lay 1-3 eggs in February, with eaglets hatching 4 weeks later. Both parents raise the young. Eagles reach full size at about 12 weeks of age. Young eagles leave their nests by the end of summer to be on their own, but only 50% of eaglets survive the first year.

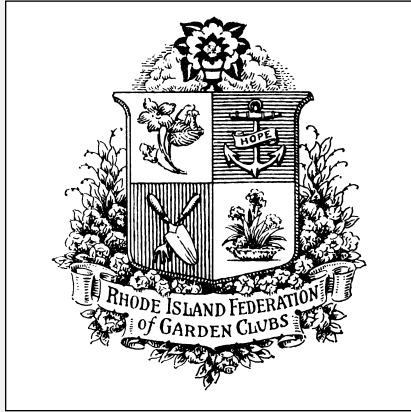
Adult Bald Eagles are dark brown with a distinct white head and tail, and yellow eyes, beaks and feet. Immature Bald Eagles are all dark brown with a brown beak, and do not molt to their full adult plumage until they reach mating age at 4 or 5 years. They are between 29 and 42 inches tall and weigh between 7 and 15 pounds, with a wing span of 6-8 feet, making them one of the largest birds in North America. Bald Eagles have a life span of up to 40 years in the wild.

The primary diet of Bald Eagles is fish, but they may also eat small animals, ducks and carrion. Eagles are at the top of the food chain, making them more vulnerable to toxins in the environmental, are irreplaceable indicators for measuring the health of the entire ecological system and are found almost exclusively in the most pristine waters in the northeast.

Eagles of mating age often return to the area where they were born. While there have been numerous eagle sightings throughout Rhode Island in recent years, no other known nesting pairs exist; however, wildlife officials believe that it's only a matter of time before another mating pair of Bald Eagles make their home in Rhode Island. This year there are 2 eaglets in the nest and hopefully they will return in 5 years with their mates!

Happy Birding! **Cindy Gianfrancesco**

80th Anniversary Awards



2010

President ~ Vera Bowen

Awards Chairmen

Priscilla DiMarco, Doris Stephens

The Rhode Island Federation
of Garden Clubs, Inc

The awards program affords National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. an opportunity to express their appreciation and support for all the club projects that were completed or were in progress during the past year.

By honoring our clubs, we hope to promote growth and stimulate our members to plan their programs and activities for the coming year in accordance with the objectives of our organizations. This year's Books of Evidence attest to the abilities and talents of our clubs.

The Awards Committee congratulates the winners, thanks all who applied for an award this year, and encourages even more clubs to submit entries next year.

These still active clubs were among the
founding members of the
Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs:
Bristol Garden Club
Country Garden Club of Oaklawn
Jamestown Garden Club
South County Garden Club

The RIFGC Awards Committee is pleased to present the following awards:

2. **Bird Award.** For their focus throughout the year on bird habits and habitats, school programs on bird nests and making pinecone feeders, the Bird Award is presented to **Sogkonate Garden Club**.
3. **Jo MacIntosh Memorial Bowl for Conservation Education.** Is presented to **Western Cranston Garden Club** for their work with students, parents and teachers improving, through gardening, a highly visible city elementary school site.
5. **The Portsmouth Garden Club Memorial Bowl for Litter Control** is given to **Sogkonate Garden Club** for their role in collecting litter and debris on their local roads and beaches. In addition, Sogkonate Garden Club actively participated in Earth Day and the International Coastal Clean-Up Day.
6. **The Kathryn M. Sheehan Award** is awarded to the **Plum Beach Garden Club** for their progress in an established program of Civic Beautification in North Kingston, including the landscaping of three neglected traffic islands that form the gateway to Wickford Village.
- 7a. **An Award of Merit For Flower Show Achievement** is awarded to **Gentian Garden Club** for their presentation of a Small-Standard Flower Show, "Artistry and Botany".
- 7a. **An Award of Merit For Flower Show Achievement** is awarded to **Western Cranston Garden Club** for their Small Standard Flower Show "Down by the Sea".

- 7b. **The Preservation Society of Newport County** is awarded a **Certificate of Recognition** for their timely flower show “Glorious Green – the Natural Path.”
- 7b. A **Certificate of Recognition** is given to the **RI Dahlia Society** their flower show “Dahlias Around the World” held during their 44th Annual Dahlia Show.
- 7b. A **Certificate of Recognition** is awarded to the **RI Rose Society** for educating the public with their 11th Annual Rose Show “A Century of Roses.”
- 8a. **The Barbara Spring Lownes Memorial Bowl** is awarded for a flower show whose horticulture is of exceptional quality. This year the award is presented to Gentian Garden Club for their Small-Standard Flower Show “Artistry and Botany.”
9. **The Flower Show Schedule Award** is presented to **Gentian Garden Club** for their Small-Standard Flower Show, “Artistry and Botany.” The schedule honored five former outstanding members of their club.
- 10a. **The Judges’ Council Award for Staging a Small- Standard Flower Show in a Public Building** is awarded to Western Cranston Garden Club for their Small-Standard Flower Show, “Down by the Sea,” which celebrated the beauty of the Ocean State.
- 10c. **The Ruth F. Anderson Award.** For overall excellence in a Small - Standard Flower Show is awarded to **Gentian Garden Club** for their flower show, “Artistry and Botany”.
- 10d. **The MacColl Bowl** is awarded to **Ann Huntoon** for her outstanding blue ribbon design in the RIFGC State Standard Flower Show “Everything Old is New Again....”
11. **The Maryellen Blount Award for Garden Therapy** is awarded to a club sponsoring the most outstanding program of garden therapy, whereby handicapped, disabled, homebound or institutionalized individuals have received noteworthy benefit. This year the award is presented to **Apple Blossom Garden Club** for their flower arranging session with children at Camp Dotty, Hasbro Hospital.
12. **The RIFGC Ways & Means Award** is presented to **Edgewood Garden Club** for supporting RIFGC events by purchasing the greatest number of products and ticket sales.
13. **The Frances M. Potier Membership Award** is given to the club with the greatest percentage of increase in RIFGC dues-paying membership. This year, the RIFGC gratefully presents the award to **Seaside Garden Club**.
15. **The Comprehensive Horticulture Award** is given to the club which had the best comprehensive program emphasizing horticulture throughout their club year. A book on container gardening donated by Sybil Simon, is proudly presented to **Gentian Garden Club**.
17. **The Junior Achievement Award** is given to **Gentian Garden Club** for their involvement with over 200 children in Scituate, Foster and Gloucester in horticulture and design activities. This award is given to a club which does not sponsor an official junior club.
18. **The Junior Gardeners Award of Excellence** is presented to the

Barrington Garden Club for promoting strong community connections with its junior members through multiple conservation and garden therapy activities.

19. **The Mary N. Santopietro Youth Award** is presented for an exceptional youth garden therapy program involving elderly, handicapped, shut-ins, or those living in institutions. The **Sogkonate Garden Club** receives the award for sponsoring the work of school students and adult day care clients in a joint Art and Flower Exhibit.
20. **The Edith Fricker Award** is given to clubs, according to their size, for their well-rounded programs throughout the year.
 - Class 2 – Hameho Garden Club**
 - Class 4 – Apple Blossom Garden Club**
 - Class 6 – Barrington Garden Club**
21. **The Yearbook Awards**

The purpose of a garden club yearbook is to summarize the year's plans and goals and present them in such a way that garden club members are inspired to attend meetings and participate in club activities. For their outstanding yearbooks, we honor the following garden clubs. In their respective categories, the winners are:

 - Class 2 – Hameho Garden Club**
 - Class 3 – Bayberry Garden Club**
 - Class 4 – Bristol Garden Club**
 - Class 5 – Edgewood Garden Club**
 - Class 6 – Barrington Garden Club**
22. **The Carolyn B. Haffenreffer Silver Bowl** is awarded to an exceptionally active garden club whose efforts include: Community Service, Civic Beautification, a Flower Show or a Garden Tour and planned programs on Horticulture and Conservation. This year's recipient is **Gentian Garden Club**.
- 24a. **The Sylvia Street Award** is presented to **De Feldman** for her creative Mono-Botanic Design using the family of orchids at a Judges' Council Meeting.
- 24b. **The Joan E. Pesola Award** is presented to **De Feldman** for her beautiful Traditional Design shown in a demonstration at Rehoboth Garden Club.
25. **The RI Federation Project of Merit Award** is presented to **Plum Beach Garden Club** for its extensive community outreach. The result was the dedication of a Blue Star Memorial By-way Marker and the three beautifully planted traffic islands at the entrance to Wickford Village.
26. **The Silver Trowel Garden Tour Award** is presented to **Quononoquott Garden Club** for its outstanding 60th Anniversary celebration featuring a Garden Tour of eleven diverse gardens. Their book of evidence documented the effective planning of this imaginative tour.

28. The Newsletter Award is awarded for outstanding and informative newsletters. The following clubs are presented this award:
Class 2 – Hameho Garden Club
Class 3 – Rehoboth Garden Club
Class 4 – Gentian Garden Club
Class 5 – Edgewood Garden Club
29. The **Judy and H. Nord Kitchen NEWS Advertising Award** for the most money raised in advertising sales is presented to **Quononoquott Garden Club**.

The **Publicity Press Book Award** is a Regional competition sponsored by NGC and is given for quality, quantity and diversity of coverage in the print media.

- Class 2 – Hameho Garden Club
Class 4 – Gentian Garden Club
Class 6 – Barrington Garden Club

Certificates of Recognition are awarded to the following clubs:

Gentian Garden Club is recognized for their continuing work in Garden Therapy.

Western Cranston Garden Club is congratulated for their support of RIFGC by attending events and the purchase of products sold and promoted.

Sogkonate Garden Club is hereby recognized for their work with juniors.

Western Cranston Garden Club is applauded for their informative, colorful Newsletter.

Commendations:

The RIFGC, Inc. presents a commendation to **Judy Hager** for her hard work and dedication in chairing our State Standard Flower Show “Everything Old is New Again...”

The RIFGC, Inc. presents a commendation to **Cheryl Heroux** for her Power Point presentation at the State Flower Show “Everything Old is New Again...”

The RIFGC, Inc. presents commendations to **Linda Wood** and to **Joanne Benner** for starting a Garden Club in the John Clarke Retirement Center.

Member Award of Honor

RIFGC is proud to honor **Suzanne Collins** as its Member of Honor for 2010. Nominated by Edgewood Garden Club. Suzanne’s dedication and commitment to her club and to RIFGC demonstrates that she is a worthy recipient of this award.

Patronize Our Advertisers • Mention “THE NEWS”

Club Anniversaries

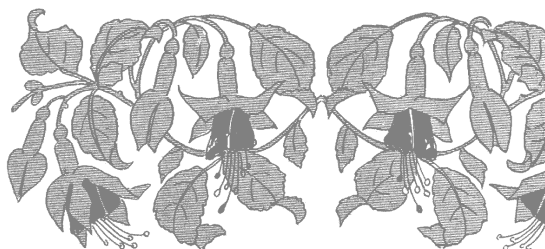
50 years: Gardeners of Westerly

70 years: Middletown Garden Club

70 years: Seaside Garden Club

75 years: Gentian Garden Club

75 years: Country Garden Club of Oaklawn




island

Garden Shop, Inc.

54 Bristol Ferry Road. (Rt. 114)
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Everything to do with plants

Phone: 683-2231 or 1 800 251-2231

RAIN GARDENS

The purpose of a rain garden is to collect water that runs off impervious surfaces, such as a road, driveway/sidewalk, rooftop, or an area where there is a slope. In doing so, the rainwater is captured and seeps into the ground, replacing the groundwater. A rain garden installed along the roadside is also beneficial in that the garden soil filters out contaminants before the water would otherwise reach storm drains or natural water bodies. The water is directed into the garden by making a trench or cutting into a curb.

When planning a rain garden, think of it as the opposite of a raised bed. You want the area to be shaped like a basin, with the edges higher and about six inches deep. A proposed garden that collects rainwater from a rooftop and is diverted from the downspout should be sited at least 10 feet away from the foundation. Also, your rain garden should not be within 25 feet of your well, septic tank or leach field.

- Choose your location.
- Check with your town/city for any underground utilities before digging.
- Do a perc test. This is done by digging a hole, filling it with water and waiting 24 hours to see the results. The area should drain well.
- Outline the area with a hose. For a garden near your house, you can use this calculation to decide on the size if you want to collect 100 percent of the water: $\frac{\text{The square footage of the surface area that the garden is collecting water from}}{\text{the depth of the garden}} = \text{square footage of the proposed garden}$. You can make the garden any shape you want with this approximation.
- Dig the area out and loosen the soil to a depth of about one foot. Backfill with about six inches of topsoil. You may need to amend the soil with compost and/or sand.
- Native plants are perfect choices for rain gardens, as they are accustomed to periods of drought. You can use trees, shrubs and/or perennials. Some suggestions are:

Patronize Our Advertisers • Mention “THE NEWS”

Shrubs

Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia*)

Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*)

Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)

Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)

Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)

Arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*)

High and Lowbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*, *V. corymbosum*)

Pinxterbloom Azalea (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*)

Perennials

Northern Maidenhair Fern

(*Adiantum pedatum*)

Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)

Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*)

Iris (*Iris versicolor*)

Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)

Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)

- Plants may need to be watered until they become established.
- Use about three inches of mulch to cover exposed soil.
- Connect the downspout to the rain garden.

A rain garden is a good idea, especially if you don't like to do all that watering!! Since I have learned about rain gardens, I realize that my former property was the perfect site for a rain garden. Rainwater flowed downhill on the two roads alongside my corner property, then into a brook, which emptied into a pond about a half-mile away. The rainwater is collecting road salt, oil, and any other contaminants, such as fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, and depositing them into the pond where there is wildlife. Take a look at your own property to see where a rain garden would be suitable. You will be helping to keep the groundwater cleaner while helping with your own watering chores.

Websites for more information and suggestions for native plants are: www.uri.edu/ce/healthylandscapes/raingarden, with a link to: www.sustainability.uconn.edu/pdf/raingardenbroch.pdf

Diane Greggerson *Environmental Chair*

NGC BOOK REVIEW NEWS

Marilyn Alaimo, Book Review Chairman for NGC, has received inquiries about Book Reviews. The reviews are available in print in THE NATIONAL GARDENER and on the website at www.gardenclub.org. See Resources/Forms, Book Reviews.

Any questions or information can also be obtained from her at jmalaimo@sbcglobal.com.

NATURAL DISASTERS USA

Rhode Island has suffered the worst flood in our history, affecting private homes, businesses and our communities. Many of our clubs throughout the state support and maintain community gardens, children's gardens, Blue Star Memorial Gardens and city pocket gardens.

The Natural Disasters USA program was started to assist clubs who have suffered a natural disaster caused by floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, ice storms, tornadoes and wildfires. Funds are awarded for the purpose of restoration and replanting of gardens or garden related sites as stated above. The restoration project is to be sponsored by State Garden Club or Member Club/s. A member club may receive up to \$500.00 per disaster. Individual states may not receive more than \$2000.00 per disaster within the NGC fiscal year. For example, if a community garden was struck by a tornado on the east side of town that would be one disaster. However, if the tornado continued on to the west side of town and destroyed the children's garden that would be another disaster – both within the same town and two grants could be applied for.

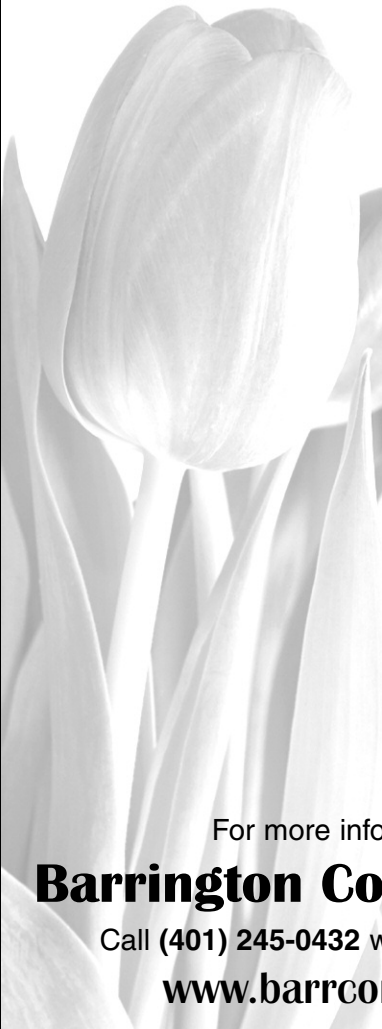
The application process is simple, and can be completed by email. Information that is required: Nature and severity of disaster, location of area to be restored, proposed restoration plan by garden club/s, estimated itemized cost of your project and other funds received toward the restoration project.

All the Natural Disasters information is on the NGC website www.gardenclub.org under Special Projects. Sending the application by email is preferable which can then be sent to the committee members for review. Be sure to include all the information required on the application form; name, garden club, contact information and project chairman.

I would like to thank the generosity of NGC members who have sent contributions towards the Natural Disaster USA fund and to note the continued good will of garden club members throughout the country who persevere in difficult times for the betterment of our communities and environment.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding your project, send application to ms.candace@cox.net

Candace Morgenstern *Natural Disasters USA Chairman*



**Join Barrington Garden Club &
Barrington Community School for
these inspiring, educational and
entertaining trips and tours:**

- **March 4-5:** *Philadelphia Flower Show & Longwood Gardens' spring display*
- **April 12-20:** *Floral Flanders—Visit the Keukenhof Gardens, Het Loo Palace, the Aalsmeer Flower Auction, art museums, Holland's bulb fields in full bloom & the international flower show, "Ghent Floralties" (Call our office for the complete itinerary)*
- **April 26:** *Art in Bloom at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts*
- **May 26:** *Garden Pleasures in New York—featuring Wave Hill and The Cloisters*
- **June 29:** *Summer Sojourn in the Hudson Valley—featuring Stone Crop Gardens and Kykuit, the Rockefeller Estate*

For more information, contact:

Barrington Community School

Call (401) 245-0432 weekday mornings, or visit

www.barrcommschool.com





Generations of Elegance

A Standard Flower Show

*celebrating the 200th Anniversary of
Historic Linden Place*

500 Hope Street (Rte. 114), Bristol, RI

September 15th and 16th, 2010

Wednesday: 2 to 9 P.M.

Thursday: 10 A.M. to 9 P.M.

presented by

Bristol Garden Club, Inc.

Admission: \$13 in advance, \$15 at the door

Call **401-253-1554** or **401-254-9703**

to reserve tickets

AWARDS INFORMATION

Publicity Press Books of Evidence

The Publicity Press Award is an NGC Award which is an exception to other NGC Awards. The Book of Evidence must begin in January and end December 31st. This is why it may overlap club years, but is a complete year of publicity for every garden club. Your next completed book is to be sent to the RIFGC Awards Chairmen by January 25, 2011. Please consider doing a Publicity Press Book of 2010's activities. Save all the published items of your club and/or members related to gardening or any NGC objective.

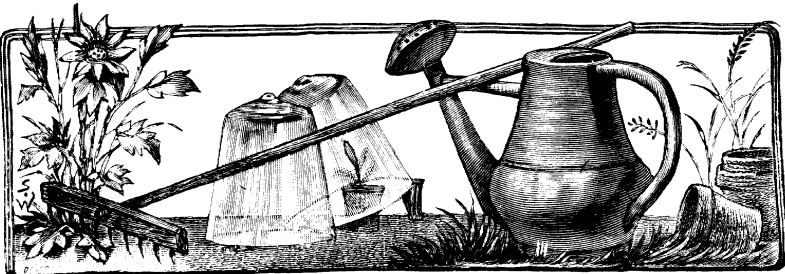
Three books, (one from a Small Club under 29 members, one from a Medium Club 30-99 members, and one from a Large Club of 100 or more members) are chosen by the state awards chairmen and committee and are sent to a special Regional Publicity Press Chairman for judging, who informs NGC of their winners. All books are returned to the garden clubs who submitted the books and are a wonderful way to document your club's activities.

The Book of Evidence, #44 Publicity Press Book, requires a Table of Contents. There is no limit to the number of pages. Please remember to use the NGC Award Application Form.

Underline (with a ruler or other straight-edge) the first use of the name of your club and/or member in each article. Clippings must be evenly cut. All other requirements are listed on p. 40 of *The National Gardener*, Fall 2009 or you may get them on line.

We thank all garden club awards chairmen, who have taken the time and effort to put together Books of Evidence.

Doris Stephens & Priscilla DiMarco *RIFGC Awards Chairmen*



REMEMBERING ANNA MARIE CHEMEL

Anna Marie Chemel, RIFGC Honorary Accredited Judge, passed away on Friday, April 23, 2010 in her 88th year. Anna Marie was born in Pennsylvania, lived in China as a child, went to school in California and graduated from Elmira College before moving to Rhode Island. She joined Edgewood Garden Club in 1975, was a Past President of Edgewood as well as RIFGC Judges' Council and was Editor of the NEWS from 1989 to 1992. She attended the Sogetsu School of Ikebana and was a member of that School and Sogetsu International. She was an avid floral designer and won many top awards for her outstanding creative designs. Annie and I visited many clubs and regaled them with our design program "Annie and Ruthie", featuring oriental designs. We attended many symposia as roommates and I enjoyed her wonderful sense of humor. All those years of friendship leave me with so many pleasant memories of shopping, exhibiting and judging. I visited her often when she was ill and will miss her very much.

A Celebration of her life will be held at her home, 203 Beachmont Avenue, Cranston, RI 02905, on Sunday, June 19, 2010 from 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Ruth Anderson Friend and Fellow Designer



New England's Premier Flower Show

THE NEWPORT FLOWER SHOW

SAFARI FLORA & FAUNA

*Celebrating the Flora
& Fauna of Africa*

June 25, 26 & 27, 2010
at Rosecliff, Newport, RI

Featuring

Marie-Françoise Déprez, Internationally
Acclaimed Designer, Teacher & Author

Tony Avent, Plant Explorer, Breeder & Author

Opening Night Party June 25
Cocktail Buffet & Entertainment

The Preservation Society of Newport County



**NEWPORT
MANSIONS**

Presenting Sponsor
Bartlett Tree Experts

Schedule Available Online

THE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF NEWPORT COUNTY
www.Newport Flower Show 401-847-1000

Happenings

June 9 Barrington Garden Club is hosting a Standard Flower Show and House Tour, "Bays, Beaches and Bouquets" from 10: AM to 4:00 PM. Floral designs will be displayed in six private homes and horticulture, educational exhibits and a boutique will be staged at St. John's Church, 191 County Road, Barrington. Advance sale tickets are \$20; \$25 on day of the show. To order in advance, call Pat McWey at 401.246.1960 or email pmcwey@cox.net. Or send check to Barrington Garden Club, P. O. Box 276, Barrington, RI 02806.

June 24 RIFGC Executive Board Meeting, Roger Williams Park, 9:30 AM. Please check location.

June 25-27 Newport Flower Show.

August 12 Life Member Group Annual meeting at the Dunes Club. Program will be Linda Sutton , freelance photo stylist, who does interior and exterior design set-ups for magazine articles. Her work has been published in Better Homes and Gardens, Renovation Style and Garden Ideas and many more. She will be demonstrating how she puts it all together including flower designs and decorative arrangements. This will be a most entertaining and delightful program. Linda lives in Jamestown and is well known to many Rhode Islanders. Tickets are \$35.00 per person. Cocktails will be served at 11:30 AM with lunch at noon. Make checks payable to Life Member Group and send to Adelaide Clifford, 6 Starbrook Drive, Barrington, RI 02806. Payment must accompany registration.

September 15, 16 Bristol Garden Club will present a Standard Flower Show at Linden Place. See ad on page 18.

September 23 RIFGC Executive Board Meeting at Roger Williams Park. Please check location.

September 27 The Tiverton Garden club presents a special lecture and power point by Mike and Angelina Chute, based on their new book, *Roses for New England: a Guide to Sustainable Rose Gardening*. The lecture will be held at the Amicable Church, 3736 Main Road, Tiverton, RI. Book signing to follow. Free.

October 18, 19 NER Annual Meeting "Going Green" to be held at the Stratton Mountain Club, Stratton, Vermont.

October 28 RIFGC Executive Board Meeting at Roger Williams Park, Please check location.

December 2 RIFGC Executive Board Meeting at Roger Williams Park. Please check location.

CLASSIC REWIND

Here is a new column for the NEWS, made possible by its paperless delivery! Since we are now emailing the NEWS, there is no additional cost for extra pages - and we are still "going green". **Classic Rewind** is a reprinting of articles from previous issues of the NEWS; as we look back we can see current topics from an historical perspective. This article was first printed for the May/June 1987 issue of the News, the last for Maureen Colton's presidency and the first for Ann DeLeo. Note that after 23 years the population of Rhode Island has increased little and the topic (control of hazardous materials) is ongoing. We hope you enjoy our look at yesteryear.

Ginny

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (AUTHOR NOT CREDITED)

When astronauts first landed on the moon, scientists on earth worried that substances brought back with the returning travelers would be harmful to us. An organism foreign to the earth might be toxic. Man might have no natural "resistance" to its effects. A foreign organism might grow well in the earth's atmosphere and lead to a serious epidemic. These very real fears dictated that the astronauts and all moon materials be quarantined until scientists were convinced that our lives were not threatened.

Yet, in the last twenty years, over six million new chemicals not occurring in nature were introduced to this planet. The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) estimates that more than 80,000 chemicals are used industrially in the U.S., and a majority are synthetic chemicals. Just like the moon rocks, we cannot predict the consequences of the use of any of these.

In an effort to protect us and to control some of these chemicals, laws were passed: the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA), The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), and the Hazardous Substances Act (HAS) are among those laws. Under TSCA, selected chemicals are tested by the manufacturer. Results are submitted to the government which then decides whether the substance should be banned, regulated, or left unregulated. All chemical substances predating these laws were 'grandfathered' - allowed to remain in use without testing until sufficient problems were documented against them. The testing system itself is riddled with problems; the number of chemicals overwhelms both testing capacity and regulatory process. Sierra magazine (October, 1985) claims that "2-4 years and \$40,000- \$1 million are required to test each chemical. Only 18% of all food additives, 10% of all pesticides, and 1% of all commercial chemicals have been carefully tested." While different authorities might be more generous in the percentages given, no one maintains that the products we use are guaranteed by anyone to be safe.

The HAS establishes labeling requirements for consumer products containing hazardous substances. The law empowers the Consumer Product Safety Commission to ban substances posing such an extreme hazard that adequate labeling cannot be written, and governs such protective packaging as child-proof containers. Under this law, a hazardous substance is one which is toxic, corrosive, an irritant, flammable or combustible, a strong sensitizer, generates pressure, is radioactive or can cause substantial personal injury or illness.

Pesticides - chemicals used to kill insects, weeds, rodents, fungus, and germs are governed by FIFRA. Farmers are required by law to have a license to spray pesticides, and therefore they are given special information on their use and disposal. Consumers have to rely upon the label to tell them about special uses and precautions. Some insecticides, for example, must not be sprayed directly upon fruit that will be harvested, while others are so corrosive that you must protect equipment from exposure to them to protect the paint on the equipment. Some pesticides used in agriculture are so long-

lived that that no one can enter the field for weeks after they have been applied. While farmers are required to get a permit before using certain pesticides, consumers are able to buy that same pesticide right off the shelf. Most homeowners are unaware of the conditions attached to commercial applications of some pesticides. In addition to causing health problems, some products can do other damage when used improperly or when used to excess. Manufacturers have established the legal right to say that any problem resulting from use of their pesticides that is not in exact compliance with instructions on the label is not their responsibility.

Residential toxic waste is unregulated. There is at present no control over its entry into the environment. Labels on household cleaning agents, automotive products, paint products and pesticides are insufficient, at present, to allow consumers to make informed disposal (or purchase) choices. Any product whose label contains the words "danger", "poison", "flammable", "caution", "warning", "acid", or "pesticide", can be presumed to contain a potentially hazardous material. Many chemicals regulated within industry under TSCA or FIFRA are unregulated for household use or disposal. The theory is that household amounts are so small that their environmental effects would be minimal. Yet, 945,000 Rhode Island residents can create a tremendous amount of household hazardous waste. As liquids leach out from the Central Landfill and threaten groundwater supplies, or hazardous substances pass untreated through sewage treatment plants on their way to Narragansett Bay, the problem becomes more and more severe. Until laws are made more stringent, educating the populace of the state is the only way we have to protect ourselves from careless contamination of our natural resources.

This intent of this article is not to frighten the students/consumers, but to caution them. There are health and environmental risks associated even with proper use of many common household products. Hopefully, an awareness of those risks will lead to either greater self-protection by the user or wiser consumer choices.



Cover: Mary Ellen Dwyer

**To order handbooks, calendars etc., please call Member Services Chair,
Grace Klinger at 401.364.2036 or email gfhk@cox.net**

Official Bulletin of the Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Affiliated with the National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Published four times yearly: Autumn, Winter, Spring, Summer
Printed by Sir Speedy, 969 Park Avenue, Cranston, RI 02910

Annual dues in the amount of \$5.00 shall be payable by each dues paying club member on or before the first day of April of each fiscal year. Subscription to the NEWS shall be included in the dues rate (except for honorary members and non-members, for whom the rate is \$5.00). Names added to the mailing list between April 1 and December 15 are charged the full rate; there is no charge for names added between December 15 and April 1. All checks should be sent to the Federation Treasurer. New names, address changes, and deletions should be sent promptly to the Circulation Manager.

**Copy deadline for the September, October, November issue is July 1, 2010
Please send all information to Ginny Kenney, Editor**

COME SEE WHAT YOU'VE BEEN MISSING!

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND'S
LEADING NURSERY SINCE 1960

For over 30 years southern New England homeowners have looked to Briggs Nursery for professional service and the finest yard and garden products. Whether you require the services of our certified horticulturist, or just a few annuals for curb appeal, beautiful results are guaranteed. Don't forget to visit our extensive display gardens, sure to inspire. So, make a trip to Briggs - setting the industry standard since 1960 - to make your next garden project the best it can be. 🌿

12 ACRES OF THE PRODUCTS YOU WANT

- Shade and Flowering Trees
- Evergreens
- Flowering Shrubs
- Ground Covers
- Annuals & Perennials
- Tropical Indoor Plants
- Cacti & Succulents
- Hanging Baskets
- Garden Tools
- Fertilizers & Grass Seed
- Organic Products
- Weed & Insect Controls
- Soil & Bark Goods
- Bulk Landscape Materials
- Statuary & Garden Accents
- Water Gardening Plants & Supplies

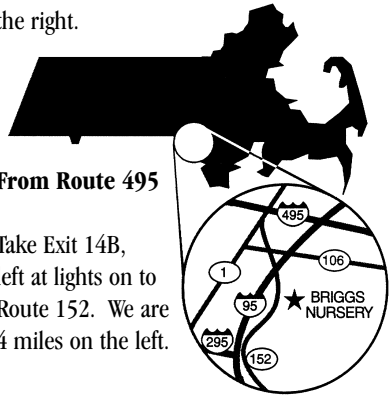
WHERE ARE WE?

From Route 95

Take Exit 5, left off ramp, and left at 1st set of lights onto Route 152 (Kelley Blvd.). We are 2 miles on the right.

From Route 495

Take Exit 14B, left at lights on to Route 152. We are 4 miles on the left.



Briggs

295 Kelley Blvd., North Attleboro, MA 02760

Telephone: 508-699-7421

NURSERY · GREENHOUSES · GARDEN CENTER · FLORIST · LANDSCAPING

briggsgarden.com



Return to:

45 Side Road, Little Compton, RI 02837

Deadline for summer issue is
July 1

Please send all material
to RIFGC editor,
Ginny Kenney,
gkenney1@cox.net

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Warren - RI
Permit No. 32

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

*Summer afternoon, summer afternoon!
To me those have been the two most beautiful words in
the English language!*

Dame Edith Wharton

www.rigardencclubs.org