

# NEWS

*of the Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.*

*Member National Garden Clubs, Inc.*

VOL. 58 - No. 1 · MARCH/APRIL/MAY - 2011



NEW ENGLAND'S PREMIER FLOWER SHOW



# THE NEWPORT FLOWER SHOW

ENTERTAINING  
*Newport Style*

JUNE 24-26, 2011

ROSECLIFF, NEWPORT, RI

FEATURING:

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KEVIN YLVISAKER, *Floral Trend Consultant*

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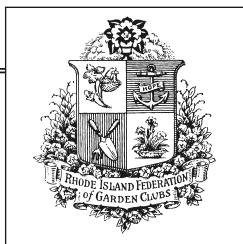
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## President's



## Message

We are now almost two years into our six year plan looking toward the future, building membership, fostering and promoting co-operation with the clubs in an effort to share ideas, projects and growth.

Our Flower Show "Passions of the Heart" was a wonderful event. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Ann Huntoon and her committee for giving us a show to be proud of. The Show is, as many of you know, held annually at the Rhode Island Convention Center as part of the RI Spring Flower and Garden Show. This venue allows us to educate the public and showcase our talents to an audience of over 30,000 people.

We have initiated a program of landscaping, gardening and horticulture training for the Department of Corrections at the Men's Maximum Security Prison. With the help of two wonderful ladies who came to the prison project with similar goals as the RIFGC, we have organized and developed a curriculum. Our first 10 students started classes on Tuesday February 8th. They will design, build and tend a 6,000 square foot flower and vegetable garden within the walls of the prison. The vegetables will feed the prisoners and eventually surplus will be donated to food pantries. Please stay tuned for more on this project!

The Golden Days daffodil project went very well. The clubs helped us Beautify Rhode Island by planting over 6,000 bulbs. Rhode Island will look glorious this spring! We are continuing our "Presenting the Presidents" reports. It's wonderful to hear the Presidents share with the other clubs their club's history, accomplishments, goals and community projects.

At a wonderful luncheon of the Meshanticut Garden Club I was privileged to see what a great job this club does with a number of worthwhile projects. The club, like so many, has an aging population and they feel that they are unable to continue the work that they have done for so many years on one of their community gardens. They are going to contact the nearby clubs to ask them if they would have any interest in taking over this project. If you are contacted please consider helping out. Perhaps we could have several area clubs come together for a joint project.

We will landscape two homes for Habitat for Humanity this spring. This activity is very rewarding and needs your support.

Thanks to RIFGC members Maureen Colton and Sally Di Simone we are the recipients of the "Sage and Roses" Blue Star Byway marker. This marker will be proudly displayed at the Veterans Cemetery in Exeter, RI.

Check out the Presidents Reports in this issue. Aren't our clubs amazing!!

We were so fortunate to have our National President visit with us in December. Renee regaled us with news from NGC and her travels both far and wide. 80 years of teamwork brought us to where we are today. Let's continue this great legacy.

Vera

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As I'm writing this, my last editorial, the trees are covered with snow. The ground is pristine, glowing in the bright sun. And the sky competes with the bay for the bluest of blues. A record snow is forecast, but even so it is a joy to sit by the fire with a cup of tea and admire the storm's beauty. Then the robins arrive and consume all the berries on our precious holly—the chubbiest robins getting even larger before my eyes! The squirrels are roaming the area searching for food, anything not covered with snow. Pure enjoyment, but not accomplishing my task of writing this editorial!

After 6 years as Editor of the NEWS, I have decided to close the latch on the garden gate and encourage someone else to accept the challenge of the production of the next issue of the NEWS. It's really a fun job, and an easy one, taking about 3 days of my time (maybe less if my laptop behaves...). But it's time to move on.

My thanks to all the contributors; to the Presidents who gave me the freedom to create each issue; to Steve Eichhorn, our Graphic Designer, who took the files and magically produced each issue; to Sir Speedy who printed and mailed each issue; to our President who emailed the last few issues to all the members; and, most of all, to the other officers who did their respective jobs so well.

How lucky I am to be part of something that makes saying “so long” so difficult! Sometimes things come into our lives and touch our hearts; afterwards we are never the same. This happened with my tenure as Editor of the NEWS—each issue gave me the opportunity to meet more members of RIFGC and to learn more about the activities of its member clubs.

So now I close the gate, leaving you with this Irish Blessing:

*May the sun shine all day long,  
Everything right and nothing wrong;  
Laughter to cheer you,  
All your friends near you,  
Your life filled with health, love and song.*

Ginny

## FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS

Congratulations to Vera Bowen and Marjorie DeAngelis. Vera, a Student Judge, created the required schedule for a flower show and passed. She can now take the *Handbook* exam in April. Marjorie has passed Flower Show Schools Course I. Course II will be held April 26 – 28 in Taunton MA.

If anyone is interested in attending Flower Show School please let me know. I am happy to answer any questions you might have concerning the schools. We would love to have some new judges in RI.

De Feldman, Candace Morgenstern and I will be attending the Instructors'/Flower Show Schools Personnel Symposium, January 20 – 23 in San Antonio, Texas. We will meet with the NGC Flower Schools Chairman, Jean Ohlmann, who will give us *Handbook* updates. Experienced and new instructors will give presentations on new techniques in Design and Horticulture.

The next New England Region Symposium will take place in Massachusetts in October.

Sue Redden RI FSS Chairman

## GARDEN THERAPY AND YOUTH

Ever notice that the relationship between youngsters and their grandparents is more relaxed than that of children and their parents? Take advantage of that to reward both generations. Encourage youngsters to appreciate gardening. But it's winter, you say. No matter. Teach children to plant seeds in anticipation of spring. Tomatoes, other vegetables, flowers - check packages for seeds that do well. It's your choice. What excitement young ones will experience when they plant their own seedlings. Gardening is a lifetime pursuit that keeps giving back. Not merely a relaxing endeavor, hard work notwithstanding, it provides a release from the cares of the day. Taking care of a garden is taking care of yourself. The produce sustains you; the flowers cheer you with their beauty; the labor keeps you fit. Look around at the meetings. Don't garden clubbers look great and youthful, whatever their age?

Annette Jarvis Garden Therapy and  
Rochelle Kieron Youth

## WHY USE A RAIN BARREL?

In order to survive, every living thing on the planet needs water. Yet, less than one percent of the earth's water is available for human needs and uses. Ninety-seven percent of the earth's water is salt water found in oceans and seas. Two percent is currently frozen.

Rainwater has been collected as far back as 2,000 years ago. In modern times, with the rising costs of municipal water and watering restrictions, one way of preserving this precious resource while managing your landscape is the use of a rain barrel. A rain barrel collects and stores rainwater from rooftops for later use in watering lawns and gardens. By collecting this water, you help the environment by reducing stormwater runoff, which can carry pollutants to storm drains and natural water bodies with this wasted water.

Residential water use increases 40 to 50% during the summer months due to outdoor water use. During these peak summer months, a rain barrel can save approximately 1,300 gallons of water. This collection of water can have a significant impact on your water bill or your own private well. For every inch of rain that falls on 1,000 square feet of roof area, you can collect about 620 gallons of water.

Rain barrels can be used to save water for plants during dry periods or they can be used to slowly release the collected water to areas that can soak up the water, reducing storm water runoff and increasing the groundwater. Rainwater can help improve the health of your plants. It is naturally soft and without chlorine and other chemicals.

Install your rain barrel on blocks for gravity flow. A fine mesh screen top keeps mosquitoes and debris out of the barrel. An overflow hose adapter should be installed so that when the barrel fills up, the overflow water can drain to a nearby garden or lawn and away from the foundation. Rain barrels can be connected to one another by a piece of short garden hose. Rain barrels should be drained and removed and stored for the winter to prevent ice damage.

### Watering Tips:

- Early morning is the best time to water
- About one inch of water is appropriate each week during the summer months
- Vegetables require one to two inches of water each week depending on root depth, growth stage and soil
- Use a rain gauge to measure weekly rainfall
- Use soaker hoses and drip irrigation
- Use less frequent deeper waterings to promote deep root growth

<http://www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com/> is a website that sells rain barrels made from recycled barrels.

Diane Greggerson *Environmental Chair*

## YOU'RE INVITED

Annual Meeting,  
Awards and Installation Luncheon

April 28, 2011 10:00am

\$35.00

Quidnessett Country Club, North Kingstown

**"GONE TO POT".....**

Container Gardening for Porch and Patio

Paul will entertain us with his expertise  
as he plants hanging baskets, window boxes  
and planters, all of which  
will be part of our raffle

**TICKETS AVAILABLE  
AT THE DECEMBER 2, 2010 MEETING  
BUY A TABLE**



## WRENS OF RI – TINY FRIENDS IN THE GARDEN

HOUSE WREN



Wrens are some of the smallest birds around, but you'd never know it by the way they behave. Their overconfidence, bold behavior and beautiful songs have endeared us to them. There are two types of wrens common to our area: House Wrens (*Troglodytes aedon*) and Carolina Wrens (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), and their behavior is very different.

Wrens are plump little brown birds, with a long, pointy beak and a narrow, short tail that sticks straight up as they sit, often bobbing the tail up and down when they are excited. The Carolina wren has a white eye stripe and is a little larger than the House Wren. Wrens sing a very loud song for such a little bird. The House Wren's song is a bubbling musical series of complicated whistled notes and trills, with its call a sharp "chek". Both male and female House Wrens sing. Carolina Wrens song sounds like a repeated series of several whistled notes: "tea-kettle, tea-kettle, tea-kettle." Its calls include a loud chatter and a rising and falling "cheer." Only the male Carolina Wren sings.

House Wrens have one of the largest ranges of any song bird, covering the entire United States and parts of Canada, migrating to the southern tip of South America in the winter. The Carolina Wren, however, has a very limited range, remaining year round east of the Mississippi from Massachusetts to the east coast of southern Mexico.

These energetic little birds have successfully adapted to suburban life and House Wrens will build a nest in just about any cavity, preferring almost any man-made birdhouse. Upon arrival in the spring the male House Wren constructs several nests, each one out of more than 400 sticks. Once he's attracted a female to a nest, she will lay 4 - 10 eggs and incubate the eggs for around 15 days while the male provides her food. The young fledge in 15 days with both parents providing food. House Wrens may have 2 - 3 broods a year with various mates.

CAROLINA WREN



Carolina Wrens, on the other hand, mate for life, remaining in their territory all year. In spring the male builds one nest out of anything he can find: bark strips, dried grasses, dead leaves, hair, feathers, paper, plastic, or string. Nests are rarely higher than 10 feet above ground and the female will lay between 3 - 7 eggs.

Wrens eat a mix of seeds and lots of insects, especially when they are feeding their voracious young, so they are great to have in your garden. If you want wrens to live in your yard, put up any kind of a nesting cavity and they will more than likely move in. One year a male House Wren built a nest in my clothespin bag and I was able to enjoy their antics and beautiful song all summer. These little birds have charmed their way into our hearts and we so look forward to their company in our garden each year.

Happy Birding! **Cindy Gianfrancesco**

## Presidents' Reports



### Apple Blossom Garden Club (Smithfield, RI)

Membership: 44

President: Patricia Isbicki

Theme: *Recycle, Renew and Reuse*

The Apple Blossom Garden Club's theme is "Recycle, Renew and Reuse". We started our program year with two workshops given by garden club members on Compositing and creating a Hypertufa. "Gardening for the Five Senses" followed in October with a lecture on a Barrington Garden. A demonstration was given on Unique Holiday Designs with two other Garden Clubs in November. January's meeting gave us the opportunity to create a floral arrangement in a workshop given by a local florist. February has club members making mini-floral arrangements for shut-ins and local nursing homes. March's lecture on Bees is given by a Gentian Garden Club member. April is a joint meeting with Gentian Garden Club on low maintenance gardening. May is a demonstration/lecture given on tried and true perennials. June finds us enjoying the end of the program year with our annual dinner. Our program includes a horticulture/bird lecture and has a "Recycling Tip" given at each meeting.

Our club continues to maintain an Adopt-A-Spot, make wreaths for the community, Adopt-A-Family for Christmas, Garden Therapy for the elderly in Nursing Homes and Youth Gardening at two local libraries and also at Hasbro Children's Hospital-Camp Dotty. This year we have asked members to bring a non-perishable item to be donated to the Smithfield Food Pantry. Our members are aware that what we do today to take care of our planet will benefit our future generations. We have been a part of the Smithfield Community for over 50 years.



### Bayberry Garden Club

Membership: 34

President: Mary-Ellen Vieira

Theme: *In our own Backyard*

On June 12, 2010, our club held our meeting at Juniper Hill Cemetery in Bristol, RI. Caretaker Chris Fletcher gave us a tour of this historical cemetery. Amongst the old trees and plantings Chris told us the history of the cemetery as we walked through the grounds. We were fortunate that it was a sunny and warm day.



### Barrington Garden Club

Active Members: 67

President: Jeanne Nugent

Theme: *Cultivating Inspiration, Sharing Our Gifts*

The hope of our theme is to share our diverse talents and gifts with each other and our town and thereby inspire more people to apply for membership in our

garden club. The program schedule this year is intended to cultivate interest in our mission. Our monthly meetings are publicized in our local newspaper and the public is always invited. At our November meeting we welcomed over 50 guests to see famed designer Tony Todesco create holiday contemporary designs. Our calendar of events includes many opportunities for community service. We tend our seven beautiful gardens and care for the local nature preserve. Through garden therapy workshops we bring the beauty of nature to home bound friends and Veterans. At the end of November, we hold our annual Greens Workshop where we prepare holiday decorations for our town buildings. Our Junior Garden Club recently decorated two Christmas trees at our public library and their name is proudly displayed on each tree. We hope that these examples of garden club service to the community will inspire interest in membership in our club.



### Bristol Garden Club

Members: 51 B.J. Stephens, President  
Theme: *Working to Beautify Bristol*

Our program this year speaks about our Club's commitment to the theme of Working to Beautify Bristol from a tour of the beautiful trees that line our streets, the dedication of the garden of our founder (Mrs. William Perry) after 3 years of work, water conservation, continuing to educate ourselves in gardening and flower arrangements, birds and the environment. We work steadily on our public gardens and have added daffodils and a Beautify Blight program. The Remembrance Garden at our Library has been in existence since 1962 and following the expansion of our Library last fall the garden needed some reworking. With the help of our Civic Beautification Chair, the Librarian and the Parks and Recreation Director we applied for a grant for a watering system for the garden. This was to eliminate the need for hauling hoses and buckets of water. We won the grant, the system is in and working and the garden is very happy. The difference has been wonderful.



### Cumberland Garden Club

Members: 29 President: Arlene Bussiere  
Theme: *Going Green and Living Healthy*

Our Sept. 2009-June 2010 program year encompassed a study of trees, herbs, water, overcoming stress and becoming aware of how to "go green". The club ventured away from our meeting place for three of our programs. In September we enjoyed a horticulture tour of Swan Point Cemetery. In October we traveled to Seven Arrows Farm for a talk on creating peaceful garden settings. In March we learned about maple sugaring during a visit to Parker Woodland, an Audubon Society property. While all of the monthly programs were very interesting, the horticulture tour of Swan Point Cemetery stood out as a club favorite. The cemetery horticulturist took members on a walking tour of portions of this beautiful garden cemetery pointing out many of its distinctive trees,

shrubs and planted areas. It was obvious that much care was given to the landscape design. Much care continues to be given to maintaining the wonderful trees, shrubs and seasonal plants.



### Edgewood Garden Club

Voting Members: 64 President: Justine Wolferseder  
Theme: *Common Ground, Creating Abundance in Community*

Our most successful offerings to our members have been hands-on workshop. As president, I've enjoyed those activities that have benefited the community; reworking and maintaining the plantings at the Commercial Street playground and cleaning-up the cemetery on Park Avenue. It was very difficult to recruit community help for the cemetery project. I went door-to-door to nearly 60 houses and only managed to get three helpers outside of the garden club. The EGC theme for 2010-2011 is "Common Ground, Creating Abundance in Community". The nature of community has changed; do we need "flash mob" events to appeal to a younger and more diverse population?

Unfortunately, in a changing America, the "bank" of good deeds and basic gardening knowledge which is the foundation of every club will be lost if we don't address those demographic, fiscal and media changes. We need solid guidance from National in developing new methods to meet these challenges.



### Gentian Garden Club

Voting Members: 43 President: Sharon M. Gainey  
Theme: *Educate, Cultivate, Celebrate*

Throughout the year each of our programs focused upon one aspect of our theme—Educate, Cultivate, Celebrate. My favorite activity was our 75th Anniversary Tea—a celebration of everything Gentian. It was held at the Governor Sprague Mansion in Cranston. Everything was donated and/or made by members, and a wonderful time was had by all. We all wore dresses, hats and gloves as I am sure our members did 75 years ago. The food was fabulous, abundant and exquisitely displayed. Floral arrangements were made by Ann Huntoon with assistance from Carolyn Sieczkiewicz, who chaired the event, and Carolyn Hansen. In addition to serving as our photographer, Layanee DeMerchant arrived with a bouquet of Fringed Gentians from her garden. We received Proclamations from the Scituate Town Council and from the House of Representatives. Our newly published cookbook, Pot Luck and Beyond, was also distributed. Both the success of the cookbook and the Tea can be attributed to our hardworking committee members who outdid themselves on both accounts.



### Hameho Garden Club

Voting Members: 27                      President: Marion Fodor  
Theme: *A Little Bird Told Me...*

For the second year Hameho members worked in teams and planned the programs together for the year. We have had a great year continuing to provide workshops for Atria, maintaining town gardens and planting Daffodils for Barrington.

Programs planned include caring for hydrangeas, making Hypertufas in a workshop to be followed up with planting them in the spring, being inspired with ideas for holiday decor, creating a contemporary flower arrangement featuring a Bird of Paradise, preparing our flower beds for spring and receiving tips on how to attract birds with wildflowers.

One of the highlights of this year was learning how to prepare and preserve local produce, featuring a cooking demonstration and sampling of squash recipes by Pam Stone, chef, Master Gardener and purchaser of locally grown produce for Ocean House in Watch Hill.

A little bird told me there is lots to learn and do in Hameho Garden Club and indeed we



### Plum Beach Garden Club

Voting Members: 44                      President: Susan C. Shriner  
Theme: *Renew! Recycle! Rejoice!*

Favorite Program for this year was titled: Bulbs....Beyond Daffodils and Tulips  
Presenter: Niamb Maddock "An Ordinary Gardener"

All the members would agree Niamb was a huge hit. From the beginning of the lecture it was evident how knowledgeable and passionate she was about her bulbs as well as quick witted with her responses. It was a real pleasure for us to witness. Her slide show presentation featured a plethora of her favorites, where to find them, some she was lucky enough to find at Stop and Shop. Also included were several shots of her own garden which we signed on to visit in the spring. I am sure all the local nurseries will be sold out by early spring because everyone wanted to plant her suggestions. We loved her quote when speaking of the bulbs that did not make it: "I do what surgeons do, I bury them away!!"



### Portsmouth Garden Club

Voting Members: 57                      President: Roberta Stevens  
Theme: *Beauty through plants*

Instead of one program we undertook a project. Since there is a World flower show expected in Boston, the president decided to use a flower arranging theme this Club year culminating with a visit to the show. Our speakers have shown new and interesting designs. Also each month (October to May) 7 members of the club are doing an arrangement. During the summer I reproduced 57 works

of art from a variety of ancient to contemporary artists. I mailed to each member an arbitrary work of art for a month with an assigned section of the alphabet from our membership. They were to bring the color Xerox rendition they were sent, paired to their representation in a floral arrangement. At each meeting, I pick-up, from a table where the 7 are anonymously displayed, the 2 parts of the assignment. I call the member forward to describe their design. We discuss, then photograph each individual and also the group. So far the 7 with the last name letters S and J have presented works of Stella, Monet, Mondrain, Picasso, Tissot, Cassatt, Pene du Bois, Morris, Mackintosh and others. It has fostered much



### Quonoquott Garden Club

Active Members: 33                      President: Rita Antine  
Theme: *Everything Old is New Again*

The Quonoquott Garden Club is fortunate to have a number of Master Gardeners, Landscape Designers, and Master Composters and Recyclers in our membership ranks. Through the years we have enjoyed many wonderful programs presented by our members - always outstanding. Our November Program was just that - outstanding! Several of our members have been participants in the Federation's Design Study Group since its inception and were very, very excited to share experiences with us. The program was "Designing Divas" - and divas they were - prepared, practiced, shared, helped, explained, and worked with membership while all having the most fun. The camaraderie was heart-warming and we all left with a beautiful arrangement of our own.



### Somerset Garden Club

Voting Members: 38                      President: Deborah St. Pierre

The Somerset Garden Club can look back with pride at the past club year knowing we exceeded our mission statement goals! Thanks to the dedication and commitment of our entire membership, we enjoyed a wide variety of activities, fundraisers, and celebrations demonstrating the talent and diversity of our club.

Two projects were obvious highlights of the year:  
Our club received two Arbor Day grants that provided us with \$750.00 towards the planting of native trees at our historic Bowers Cemetery. Town selectmen, Daisy Scouts, Boy Scouts of America and the Somerset Library helped us prepare the area, plant and dedicate the plantings.  
My favorite activity was our "Books in Bloom" fundraiser. In April of 2010, we partnered with the Somerset Library, South School Cricket Jr. Garden Club and the Clifton Assisted Living Community to present a special exhibit where loved books were interpreted by impressive works of art and floral arrangements. The preview evening featured refreshments provided by a local culinary school, a

gentleman pianist, and a local poet was in attendance to sign her collections. Ribbons were given to all the participating students. The atmosphere and arrangements were beautiful, but most exciting was the wonderful blend of generations working together toward a common goal.



### Sundial Garden Club

Active Members: 16                      President: Eleanor Giannini  
Theme: *A Garden Tour*

One of our most memorable and enjoyable meetings was held this past June at the beautiful gardens of Barbara and Lloyd Colvin of Scituate. Our members met at Scituate Village and carpooled to the Colvins' home. There we were led on a delightful tour of their glorious gardens. There was so much to observe and enjoy – especially the twenty varieties of peonies in bloom. Just lovely! In the midst of this floral setting was a commemorative square with a granite monument dedicated to Lloyd's great grandfather, who was the last living Civil War veteran from Rhode Island at the time of his death in 1943 – a very touching tribute.

Our gracious hosts answered all our questions about the horticulture specimens abounding there. They were a wealth of knowledge. From their hilltop location, a commanding view of the surrounding woodlands completed a great tour of nature's best!

Back at the village square we enjoyed a tasty luncheon at a local restaurant, ending a very special summer outing.



### Tiverton Garden Club

Voting Members: 59                      President: Leanora Graves  
Theme: *“What is Old is New Again”*

Our theme “What is Old is New Again” was a revival of programs and ideas of the past with a new twist and with some new additions. New – is offering a scholarship to a deserving student in Tiverton, a redesigned yearbook and a restructuring of our committees to inspire and energize our members. Old – yet new again was supplying floral designs for our town libraries, plant swaps and a lovely Tea.

In one program we learned the old technique of creating a standard (topiary) and our creations were judged several months later – to be won by a new member! Floral design team and club members, Kathy Melven and Candace Morgenstern created traditional and creative designs simultaneously using the same flowers in a program “Interpreting Old & New Floral Design Styles”. The raffle of the designs helped support our scholarship.

We continue with our town clean-up, Youth Poster Contest and nature walks for the public.



### Wantaknowhow Garden Club

Active Members: 15                      President: Etta Izzi  
Theme: *Backyard Bounty*

Keeping with our theme this year, we visited our members' gardens. What a delight to visit such a variety of flowers, herbs and vegetables, all so unique in design and size. As always, an exchange of growing tips and some cuttings were exchanged. A leisurely luncheon and discussion on various ideas and upcoming events were shared. Also, members participated in maintaining the flowers and window boxes at the Greene Library. The begonias were still blooming in late October. The plantings added a nice touch for the many who stopped by the Farmers' Market on Tuesday evenings to buy fruit, flowers, vegetables and home baked bread and pies.

At our November meeting, we shared dried flowers and anything we gathered outdoors to make wreaths and centerpieces. Pumpkins and baskets were filled with a variety dried things that the members brought.



### Western Cranston Garden Club

Voting members: 59                      President : Kathleen Damiani  
Theme: *“Embracing Natures Beauty”*

My favorite program this year was our flower box program. In the fall we broke the club up into eight random groups. The assignment was for each group to create a flower box and bring it into the May meeting. Each group was given these instructions; they could buy their plants, use plants from their garden, make their flower boxes or buy them. Each group was allotted \$10.00 from the club and had to come up with a name for their flower box. One member's husband even offered to make the flower boxes and a few of the groups took him up on this offer.

The big meeting day arrived and what a wondrous site it was. There were eight uniquely different boxes. One had a Mexican theme, another a Victorian garden theme, one was herbs, two had a real window as part of its window box, on one of the windows it was made up of several small boxes and not all on the bottom of the window. Each group had to speak about their flower box. The creativity was awesome as well as the team spirit.





Lois LeBeau

The following poem was written by long time Governor Francis Farms Garden Club member Lois LeBeau who passed on this spring. Lois was a very active member of her club, RIFGC and many other organizations wherever she lived. A delightful and organized lady, she would accomplish much in a very short time and with little guidance. We will miss her. The following is a poem written by Lois.

*A Gardener's Prayer*

*Slow me down Lord, I'm going too fast  
I can't smell the flowers, as I rush on past.  
Is the sky still blue above me?  
Is there grass beneath my feet?  
Do the stars glow when I notice, or  
Take time to seek?  
I need more of You, Lord, and a whole  
lot less of me  
Show me where to plant the flowers  
For all the town to see.  
Grant me time to build a friendship  
And to nourish family love—  
To feel the rain, to walk in snow,  
To hear the mourning dove  
Bless each little plot I plant, with flowers green and gay.  
Help me step more slowly, Lord,  
Guide me day by day.*

## National Garden Clubs SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

APPLICATION FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2011-2012

DEADLINE: March 1, 2011

### Details of the Award

- Approximately thirty-five (35) college scholarships are available annually, each in the amount of \$3,500.00. The number of scholarships and their amount for each academic year will be determined after October 15 and posted on the NGC website.
- One-year scholarships are available to juniors, seniors and graduate students pursuing a Master's Degree.
- Sophomores may make application for their junior year.
- College/university must be accredited and listed on the official website of the U.S. Department of Education  
<http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/Search.aspx>

### Applicant Eligibility

Applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- Must be a US Citizen or Permanent Legal Resident of the United States.
- International or Foreign Exchange Students are not eligible.
- Doctoral program students are not eligible.
- Must be attending school full-time as defined by NGC:
  - Undergraduate students must be enrolled for a minimum of 12 graded hours of classes.
  - Graduate students must be enrolled for a minimum of 9 graded hours of classes.
- Study abroad on fellowships or internships are not eligible; funds may be applied to studies overseas provided that the study is a condition of the recipient's degree plan and that payment continues to be made to the accredited U.S. college or university.
- Must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 (on a 4.0 scale).
- Must be planning a career related to gardening, landscape design, environmental issues, floral design or horticulture
- Must be **majoring** in one of the following fields of study:

• Agronomy	• City (Rural & Urban) Planning
• Agriculture Education	• Habitat or Forest/Systems Ecology
• Floriculture	• Environmental Concerns
• Horticulture	(Management: Environmental, Environmental Horticulture Resource/Environmental Behavior
• Landscape Design	• Environmental Conservation
• Botany, Biology	(inc. Engineering, etc.)
• Forestry	• Land Management and/or other
• Wildlife Science	related or allied subjects
• Plant Pathology/Science	

### Selection Criteria

- All applications received by a State Garden Club Chairman will be judged by that Chairman and committee in order to choose one winning application.
- After judging has been completed at the state level, the NGC Scholarship Chairman will receive the applications by April 1 for judging.
- The NGC Scholarship Committee will consider only one application per state. (Exception: Any State Garden Club with a membership of over 10,000 may submit two applications.)
- The following Scale of Points will be used for the evaluation of each application:

Academic Record	40%
Applicant's Letter	30%
Listing of Honors/Extracurricular	
Activities/Work Experience	10%
Financial Need	15%
Recommendations	5%

- Applications are evaluated and winners chosen by the National Garden Clubs Scholarship Committee, which consists of the NGC Scholarship Chairman and the eight Regional Directors of NGC.
- Final judging takes place just prior to the annual NGC Convention.
- Winners are announced during the NGC Convention. The NGC Scholarship Chairman will notify all applicants in writing of the committee's decisions immediately following the judging.

### Description of Funds

- Checks for the winning applicant's scholarship will be mailed in late July from NGC Headquarters to the Financial Aid Office of the institution at which the student is enrolled. No funds will be sent directly to the student.
- All funds will be distributed by the Financial Aid Office according to the particular school's term-system, unless the student has only one term remaining before the completion of the degree.
- In the event of a change in a student's major to one other than those listed above, or if the student withdraws from school; the balance of the funds must be returned to National Garden Clubs.
- The student and Financial Aid Officer will determine how the money is to be spent: tuition, food, housing, books, etc.

### Application Procedure

- The following documents must be submitted:
  1. NGC Scholarship Application Form
  2. Financial Aid Form
  3. Complete official academic transcripts
  4. Letter from applicant
  5. List of extracurricular activities, honors, recognitions received within the last three years

6. Three letters of recommendation
- All of the documents must be mailed by the applicant in **one large envelope**. Do not place the documents in page protectors, in any sort of permanent binder, or staple the pages.
  - Applications must be mailed to the State Garden Club Scholarship Chairman for the **state in which the applicant is a legal resident**, even if the student is attending an out-of-state school. A list of State Garden Club Chairmen is at the end of the application. **DEADLINE: Received by March 1.**
  - No applications should be sent to the NGC Scholarship Chairman.
  - When a student reapplies for a scholarship (whether the applicant is or is not a previous winner), a complete new and updated application must be submitted.

### Instructions for Filling out Application

- All forms must be **typed or computer generated**.

Application Form		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NGC Application Form must be used</li> <li>• All fields completed</li> </ul>
Financial Aid Form		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be complete with all questions answered</li> <li>• Signed by student and Financial Aid Officer</li> <li>• If Financial Aid information is not available before the application deadline, information from the previous academic year may be used with the notation that it is an estimate based on the previous year.</li> </ul>
Transcripts		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Official</b> academic transcripts</li> <li>• Transcripts must include the latest grading period.</li> <li>• Graduate students must include undergraduate transcripts</li> </ul>
Letter	Limit - 2 pages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss background, future goals, financial need, future career goals</li> </ul>
List of Activities	Limit - 2 pages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List to include only items for the last 3 years</li> <li>• Students returning to school after an absence can list work experience and activities</li> </ul>
Letters of Recommendation	Limit - 3 letters Limit - 1 page each	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss scholastic ability, personal character</li> </ul>

National Garden Clubs  
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (Month/Year) \_\_\_\_\_  Female  Male Marital Status \_\_\_\_\_

Home (Legal) Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

College/University \_\_\_\_\_

Department Enrolled \_\_\_\_\_

Major \_\_\_\_\_ Minor \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT GRADE LEVEL AT TIME OF APPLICATION :

- Sophomore       Fifth Year Landscape Architect  
 Junior             Graduate Student  
 Senior

CURRENT CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE \_\_\_\_\_

College(s) Previously Attended \_\_\_\_\_

Dates \_\_\_\_\_ Previous GPA \_\_\_\_\_

When do you expect to graduate? \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Occupational Objective After Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Financial Officer \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

SUBMIT THIS FORM WITH THE OTHER REQUIRED ITEMS TO THE SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN OF YOUR STATE

**DEADLINE: Received by MARCH 1**

**LIFE MEMBER GROUP SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Scholarship Money Available**

**Students of Horticulture, Environment and Related Fields**

The Life Member Group (LMG) of the Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (RIFGC) will offer scholarship aid to college students who are legal residents of Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts communities for the academic year 2010-2011. Full time students of plant science, environmental science, landscape architecture, oceanography (or similar areas of study) are urged to apply. Monetary awards for the LMG Scholarship are in the range of \$2,000 to \$3,000. Scholarship awards are available to full time students in the sophomore, junior and senior years. Students enrolled in graduate programs are also eligible. Doctoral candidates are not, however.

In addition to the Life Member Scholarship, the LMG Scholarship Committee will select one scholarship applicant as Rhode Island's candidate for a National Garden Club (NGC) scholarship in the amount of \$3500. That candidate must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3 as well as fulfill other requirements. Complete descriptions of both scholarship application requirements, as well as the application forms themselves, are available from Scholarship Chairman, Anne O'Neil, 155 Cliff Drive, Narragansett, RI 02882, 401-783-8959

Applications for both scholarships are available on-line and may be downloaded and printed out from the following sites:

For the Life Member Group Scholarship: [www.rigardenclubs.org](http://www.rigardenclubs.org)  
National Garden Clubs Scholarship:  
[www.gardenclub.org/youth/scholarships.aspx](http://www.gardenclub.org/youth/scholarships.aspx)

Interested students should send completed applications to the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, Anne O'Neil at the address listed above. Please note that applications must be received by March 1, 2011.

The RIFGC hopes to have many applicants for our scholarships! For further information or questions phone 401-783-8959. or email: [annierwo@verizon.net](mailto:annierwo@verizon.net)

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CLUB PRESIDENT

Please note the following changes for clubs' next yearbook:

National Garden Club President

**Shirley S. Nicolai**

12325 Hatton Point Road

Fort Washington, MD 20744-7014

Telephone # 301.292.3667

Email: SHIRLEYNICOLAI@VERIZON.NET

**Joyce Kimball**

New England Region Director

23 Hampshire Hills Drive

Bow, NH 03304-4919

Telephone #603.229.1990

Email: JOYCEKIMBALL@COMCAST.COM

RIFGC President:

**Judy Hager**

42 Kensington Road, Edgewood RI 02905

Telephone#: 401.954.3374

## INTERNATIONAL CODE OF BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE

International Code of Botanical Nomenclature Botanical Latin is used for naming plants so that every plant has a unique label and so that it can be identified in any language. The system of binomial nomenclature is a great aid in purchasing the exact plants we want to purchase, or are trying to correctly identify. And it is recognizable anywhere in the world. A common name does not help because a plant may have many common names depending on many situations. It cannot correctly identify a plant. This binomial (two names) system is the foundation of botanical nomenclature. In a binomial plant name the genus comes first and is always capitalized, it is followed by the species name not capitalized. The names are usually written in italics. For cultivated plants it is necessary to add a third name and this is known as the cultivar. It is correctly written in single quotation marks ( ' ' ), capitalized, but not in italics. A genus refers to a group of plants that share certain structural characteristics. The genus name may come from mythology, literature, people, places, or something the plant resembles. The species name usually refers to a plant's appearance, or the name of the person credited with discovering it. Analyzing the flowers and seeds of each plant precisely identifies individual species. The determining criteria might be the number of petals on the flower, or a certain characteristic of the seed. Cultivar refers to varieties that, although they occurred naturally, can only be replicated by asexual propagation and human intervention by cloning. Hybrid refers to new varieties of plants, which were created by humans through cross-pollination of separate varieties. The naming of hybrids is usually done by the creator of the hybrid, and is preceded by an "x".

Examples:

*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*

*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* 'Aurea Densa'

*Juniperus communis*

*Juniperus communis* 'Gold Cone'

*Dracaena dermenisi* 'Massangeana'

*Aquilegia x hybrida* 'McKana Hybrids'

*Aquilegia vulgaris* 'Nora Barlow'

*Digitalis grandiflora*

*Digitalia purpurea*

*Digitalis x mertoniensis* (hybrid cross *D. grandiflora* & *D. purpurea*)



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# Happenings

**March 2** Sogkonate Garden Club's March meeting theme is Get Ready To Garden. Personal trainer Bonnie Phinnie will demonstrate exercises to build strength and flexibility that may enable us to work more efficiently in our gardens. Program will start at 1:30 PM and is open to the public at no charge.

**March 24** RIFGC Executive Board Meeting at Roger Williams Park at 9:30 AM. Please check location.

**March 24** RIFGC Annual Program Seminar to be held immediately following RIFGC Executive Board Meeting. All club presidents and/or program chairs are encouraged to attend. Questions? Contact Emmy Reade at 401.245.0111 or email at [www.emmyann53@aol.com](mailto:www.emmyann53@aol.com)

**April 6** Sogkonate Garden Club will present a Wild Harvest. Speaker Russ Cohen from Arlington, MA is a professional environmentalist and expert forager. Russ is the author of Wild Plant I have Known.. and Eaten and will share his wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm with us. Program will start at 7:30 PM and is open to the public at no charge.

**April 28** RI Federation of Garden Clubs Annual Meeting at Quiddnessett Country Club. See ad on inside front cover for details.

**May 1 to May 2** Portsmouth Garden Club presents "A Few of Our Favorites Things (said in Flowers)" a Flower Show at Atria Aquidneck Place, 125 Quaker Hill Lane, Portsmouth. Hours are 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM both days. Public voting in design and horticulture.

**May 4** Sogkonate Garden Club's May meeting will be a presentation on Rain Water Harvesting and Smart Irrigation by Marc A Domina, owner of Domina's Agway, home of the M.A.D.Horticulturists who specialize in the design, installation and maintenance of water features, lawns and landscapes. Program will start at 7:30 PM and is open to the public at no charge.

**May 21** On Saturday May 21, 2011 the Gentian Garden Club will have its spring plant sale from 9:00 AM to noon at the Community House on Route 116 in historic North Scituate. The plant sale features a wide variety of perennials, wildflowers, vegetables and herbs that are all from members' gardens. It is an excellent opportunity to find plants at reasonable prices to enhance your garden. All money goes to programs that beautify and educate surrounding communities. Please call Cindy at 401-934-9212 if you would like more information.

**May 26** The Portsmouth Garden Club Garden Day to benefit the club's Civic Beautification projects will be held at the Island Garden Shop, Bristol Ferry

Road, Portsmouth, from 9 AM to 5 PM. Members will act as facilitators and free refreshments will be served. Martin Van Hof will give a talk on Window Boxes at 2:30 PM and a container garden workshop will take place at 3:30 PM.

**May 28** Sogkonate Garden Club will host its annual Blossom and Sweets Sale at 7:30 AM in front of Wilbur's Store in Little Compton. This event features a wide variety of perennials, annuals and vegetables along with a delicious assortment of home baked goods. Proceeds from this event are used to fund our local school and community programs.

**June 15 to 19** The 10th World Flower Show – This Glorious Earth – Seaport World Trade Center, Boston. Over 600Floral Exhibits – First time in the United States – [www.waufusa.org](http://www.waufusa.org) for more information. Group tickets available.

**June 2** RIFGC Executive Board meeting at Roger Williams Park Casino.

**June 24 – 26** Newport Flower Show – Entertaining – Newport Style – Rose-cliff, Newport. Check website, [www.newportflowershow.org](http://www.newportflowershow.org) for additional information.

**September 22** RIFGC Executive Board meeting at Roger Williams Park. Please check location.



Cover: Mary Ellen Dwyer

To order handbooks, calendars etc., please call Member Services Chair, Grace Klingler at 401.364.2036 or email [gfhk@cox.net](mailto: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.

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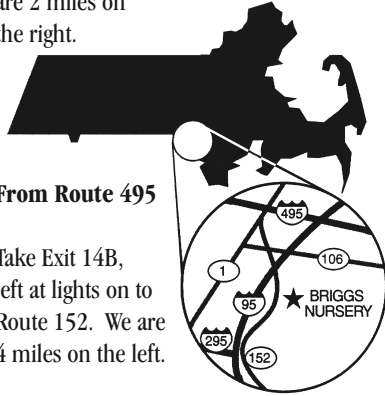
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Ruth Stout

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