

NEWS

of the Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Member National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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Chairman's List Issue





It's so hard to believe that fall is nearly upon us! As I think back over a very busy summer, a favorite memory for me was the Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker dedication ceremony at the Exeter Veteran's Cemetery. Nicki Greene did a wonderful job pulling together the ceremony itself! Many thanks to Sally DeSimone and Maureen Colton for donating the marker and to all who attended the very moving ceremony.

Two other great memories came both in the same week in August. First, the Gardeners of Westerly had a wonderful tea and great speaker at the Ocean House. Then, two days later, the Life Member luncheon at the Dunes Club featured great food, fabulous views and a wonderful presentation by Vera and Terri on the prison garden project.

Now, we head into my favorite time of the year and there is so much to look forward too! The Southside Community Land Trust celebrates 30 years of serving the community with a Harvest Party on September 15th. Our education day (free to all RIFGC members) will be on Friday, October 21st and will feature four workshops on gardening and design. And, last but not least for 2011, on December 1st, immediately following our RIFGC Board Meeting, we will have a holiday luncheon! Open to all RIFGC members, you are invited to attend the board meeting, come to the luncheon and, best of all, shop at our Holiday Boutique! In addition to many wonderful new gift ideas, the boutique will also feature gently worn jewelry and purses donated by our members.

I hope you all will take advantage of all of the upcoming events and enjoy your gardens now before putting them to bed!

Judy

**RHODE ISLAND FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS
NEWS 2011-2013**

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Over The Garden Gate



Autumn will be here before we know it as indicated by the acorns that are falling on my deck. The change of season will bring warm afternoons and an eye pleasing pallet of colors to the landscape to be enjoyed by all. To soon thereafter, we will have to make our plans for preparing our gardens for winter.

For our field trip this past June, the Western Cranston Garden Club enjoyed a day in Boston at the Tenth World Flower Show entitled, "This Glorious Earth", which was held at the Seaport World Trade Center. We hired a tour bus to transport us for a day of artistic excellence. The design, interpretation, use of color, texture, and foliage was nothing short of amazing! All of the entries displayed the passion, immense talent, and skill of the floral arrangers from around the world. Every one of our club members who attended had a wonderful experience!

In this issue of the News, please find a listing of the current chairmen and their e-mail addresses. Also included is a listing of current club Presidents and their mailing addresses. You might want to keep both of these listings in a safe place for easy referral.

Be sure not to miss all of the upcoming projects, Flower Show Schools, happenings and stories that this issue holds. A friendly reminder to all clubs -- two yearbooks are due October 15th for awards.

One last note: please be sure to forward all submissions for the December, January, February issue by October 1, 2011.

Yours in gardening fun,
Cheryl

Flower Show Schools

Congratulations to Vera Bowen who has passed her Handbook Exam and is now an NGC Accredited Flower Show Judge.

Ann Huntoon and Marjorie DeAngelis attended Flower Show School Course II in Taunton, MA in April, both passed their exams. Ann has passed three courses and is now a Student Judge and may be invited to judge flower shows. She has one more course to take, and must write a flower show schedule, plus earn five judging credits and five exhibiting credits before being eligible to take the Handbook exam. Marjorie has passed two courses and is now a Student Exhibitor, she may begin to earn exhibiting credits.

We are hoping to have some more judges in Rhode Island, if you are at all interested in becoming a judge, please contact me for further information. It is a wonderful learning experience as well as so nice to meet judges from other states and countries. In recent years, several of our judges have had the honor of judging and/or helping with some important shows including Philadelphia, Cleveland, Atlanta, Boston, Newport and WFA, as well as smaller state, district and garden club shows around New England.

The next New England Region Symposium takes place in Chelmsford, MA on October 18-20, 2011. Judges, please let me know if you are planning to attend. You do not have to be a judge in order to attend. Anyone is welcome to come to the Symposium for the whole session or just for one day. This symposium will be preceded by the New England Regional Meeting The 2012 Symposium will be in RI at the Marriott Hotel, more information will follow.

Rehoboth Garden Club is planning a Small-Standard Flower Show on October 1, 2011 at the Carpenter Museum in Rehoboth.

The RI Federation of Garden Clubs will hold its Standard Flower Show, in conjunction with the RI Spring Flower and Garden show, February 23 – 26, 2012.

Sue Redden
RI Flower Show Schools/Symposium Chairman, sueredden@verizon.net

Blue Star Memorial



BLUE STAR MEMORIAL BY-WAY MARKER DEDICATION

On Thursday, July 21st , the dedication of Rhode Island's newest *Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker* was held at a most scenic and peaceful site on the grounds of the *Rhode Island Veterans' Memorial Cemetery*. Thanks to RIFGC Past Presidents, Sally DeSimone and Maureen Colton for their efforts in obtaining this marker for our state through the *Sage and Roses Fund of National Garden Clubs, Inc.* (To learn more about that program, please go to NGC website.) Sally and Maureen led the assembled group in the Pledge of Allegiance at the dedication.

We were honored to have the *RI Army National Guard Color Guard* from the Coventry Air Station and Captain Timothy Bourquin, the *RI National Guard State Chaplain* take part in the ceremony. They endured the extreme heat, and we are very grateful for their participation. President Judy Hager gave greetings from RIFGC, introduced several of the RI representatives who were in attendance, and assisted Daniel Evangelista, *Division of Veterans' Affairs* in the unveiling of the marker. The laying of the wreath was done by David Kirchner, *Director of RI Veterans' Memorial Cemetery*, assisted by

yours truly. Mr. Kirchner also talked about the history of the cemetery.

I am grateful to the cemetery officials as well as the wonderful grounds crew who were so helpful during this entire process of the installation of the marker as well as the preparations for the dedication ceremony. This site is a most appropriate setting for a *Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker*, and we should all be proud of RIFGC's connection to it. We have honored and paid tribute to the men and women of the Armed Forces...past, present, and future. I hope our membership that was unable to be there for the dedication takes the time to pay their respects some day on that sacred ground.

This is my final activity after eight years of being *RI's Blue Star Memorial Marker Chairman*. I consider it one of my proudest achievements to be able to show my patriotism and civic pride. I can't help but to always have heartfelt feelings about what we have accomplished. To know we brought back the *Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker* in Westerly means so much. Thank you to Candace Morgenstern and Priscilla DiMarco who enlisted me to come aboard in 2003, and to Vera Bowen who encouraged me to stay on several years ago. I applaud *Raytheon Company IDS Division* for their sponsorship of two markers in 2005 in Portsmouth and Bristol. I also congratulate *Plum Beach Garden Club* for their *By-Way Marker* dedication in Wickford and encourage other clubs to sponsor a marker. Good luck to you all in the future.

Nicki Greene, BSMM Chairman, 2003-2011

RIFGC ADVANCED DESIGN & HORTICULTURE STUDY GROUP

Spread your wings! Practice design styles you may not have tried before. Thinking about entering a flower show but to afraid that you can't compete? This is the study group for you.

A mini flower show schedule of two design classes and two horticulture classes are offered four times a year. Choose one of the designs that challenge you and bring the completed design to the meeting. A very informal, non-judgmental critique follows. Move a flower, add a flower, turn it, add a colored background, questions, and hopefully answers, all to make us better designers. Practice makes perfect! Also, bring something from one of the horticulture classes as well. Judges, these count as an exhibit for credit.

This design group is open to members of the RI Judge's Council, those of you who have previously entered flower shows, and others with a love for flower arranging and the desire to compete.

There is no cost to belong to this group. Sign up and come and have fun learning. Please contact De Feldman by October 15, 2011

Dates:

Friday, October 28, 2011

Locations to be announced

Friday, January 6, 2012

Friday, March 30, 2012

Friday, May 25, 2012

Contact: De Feldman, Chairman
401-253-3236

defeldman6@gmail.com

Plant Sale!

On Saturday September 24, 2011 the Gentian Garden Club will have its fall plant sale from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Community House on route 116 in historic Scituate Village. The plant sale features a wide variety of perennials, native plants, shrubs and herbs that are all from members' gardens. It is an excellent opportunity to find unusual 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.

Southside Community Land Trust

Did you know that garden clubs like yours - from the RI Federation of Garden Clubs - have been involved with Southside County Land Trust since its early days in 1981? These amazing women lent expertise and plants and scores upon scores of volunteers and labor hours into helping our gardens grow.

Thirty years later, we can look around Providence and see the amazing results of that early work – over 37 community gardens in nearly every neighborhood across the city, dozens of farmers markets, and thousands of people building community through growing food. Thank you!

You have helped inspire a whole movement - and now it is time to celebrate. As such, we would love to invite your Garden Club to be **Patron Sponsors** at SCLT's signature 30th Anniversary event, *The Harvest Party: Celebrating 30 Years from Plant to Plate* on Thursday. The celebration will be held **September 15th from 6-8pm** at the tent behind the Botanical Center at Roger Williams Park.

Below is some information about what it means to be a Patron Sponsor.

Why: Proceeds from the 30th Harvest Party support SCLT's core program activities, such as educational workshops and our expansion of the Providence Community Growers Network to help people grow more food, citywide.

What: For a \$500 Garden Club Sponsorship, your group will receive 2 complimentary tickets (\$200 value) and acknowledgement in the Event Program Booklet. In addition, a representative from the Club is invited to join

event sponsors and other notable guests in lighting the 30 candles of the SCLT birthday cake.

Thank you so much for considering our invitation. Please contact Development Director, Susan Sakash, at 401-273-9419 ext 23 or development@southsideclt.org, if you have any questions. We are hoping to have our Patron Sponsors confirmed by August 20th for inclusion in the event program booklet.

Additionally, individual tickets are \$100. If you would like to join fellow garden clubbers at this event, please call or e-mail Doris Stephens at 401-245-6005 or doris@noreastgroup.com

Many thanks for your ongoing support,
Debbie Schimberg and Vera Wayne

Co-chairs of the 30th Anniversary Committee

Beginners' Design Study Group – 6th Year

Meets 4 times a year: **Time:** 9:30 A.M. to 12:00 noon.

1. **September 28, 2011, Wednesday.** “Small Mass Design.”

Presenter: TBA

Location: Scituate

2. **November 2, 2011, Wednesday.** “Holiday Horizontal Design”

Presenter: Lynne Merrill

Location: TBA

3. **January 25, 2012, Wednesday.** “Capsule Table.”

Presenter: Sue Redden

Location: Jamestown

4. **April 4, 2012, Wednesday.** “Transparency”

Presenter: Priscilla DiMarco Location: TBA

Membership Requirements: You must be a member of a NGC Garden Club or NGC Affiliated Club

Fee: \$120.00 for the 4 sessions.

Committee Chairman: Cathy Moore **401-348-8926** Email:
csimplymoore@cox.net

Treasurer: Bernie Larivee **401-345-9792** Email:
BERNIE28L@verizon.net

PRESIDENT'S PROJECT

Photo Archiving of accomplishments

This NGC President's Project provides a new public Flickr® site (or "photostream") at www.flickr.com/nationalgardenclubs. The site is designed to create and nurture a photo archive for garden club members nationwide, as well as our International Affiliates-showcases award-winning gardens, floral designs, conventions, news and projects. Anyone can view the NGC site simply by going to the link listed; you do NOT need to be a Flickr® member. Photographs on the official NGC "photostream" may be used for publicity purposes in the news media as well as by NGC-affiliated clubs.

To join a group and contribute photos and comments to the group pool, you need to have both a Yahoo! Email account (Flickr® is affiliated with Yahoo!) and a Flickr® account. Both are free, quick and easy to set up and accessible on the Flickr® sign-up page at www.flickr.com. Group rules and licensing information are available on the group sign-up pages. Your NGC Flickr® Committee eagerly awaits your participation and will help you be successful. If you place photos that include children, you must have gotten signed permission prior to posting. See what other garden clubs are doing, share your successes, gather ideas for your club projects. Have fun!

Contact Robin Pokorski at: 818-361-7873

robinp@juno.com



Youth Contests

For information about the 2012 Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest, go to www.gardenclub.org then youth/contest/poster contest and **for correct colors**, www.fs.usda.gov/conversationeducation.

Scale: 20% each for originality, design, slogan, artwork, and overall effectiveness of the message. Open to grades 1-5, the posters are due to state chairman by the RIFGC December meeting. They must be on 11x17 inch paper, and the following information must be on the back: artist's name, (address, home phone number is optional), grade level, school name and address, teacher's name, and the name of the sponsoring club. In addition to the poster contest, a poetry contest is open to special education students, English as a second language, and grades K to 9.

Contest rules: 1. Must be typed and titled 2. The following must be on the back: name, address, age, grade, and school, sponsoring club and state federation club name 3. Poems do not have to rhyme 4. Poems may be traditional verse, acrostics, blank verse, cinquains, diamond poems, limerick, or haiku.

Rubric: Title-10, Content-40, Creativity-30, Style-20
Entries are due to state chairman by the RIFGC December meeting.

ROCHELLE KIERON, STATE YOUTH CHAIRMAN

Tales From the Vine

The Portsmouth Garden Club (of which I am President) meets at Atria Aquidneck Place, a Senior Living Facility in Portsmouth. A few years ago, I noticed that some of the residents were growing plants from seed in metal sand pails. They were all on the window sills of our meeting room.

Recently, I was thinking of this and the fact that anyone can grow something somehow. This can be done by a person living on his own or in such a facility as Atria. A caregiver, relative, or friend can find a container, bought or found, and some seeds. Since there would be more seeds than one person can use, this could be a way to make a new friend or renew an old acquaintance. To grow a plant and a friendship, it is a seed of an idea.

Annette Jarvis
Garden Therapy



In February, the Portsmouth Garden Club lost two very important people, George and Mary Mendonca. They were extra special to me and I felt that Mary was my 2nd mother.

George Mendonca was a consultant to our garden club for many years and was a great worker who planned, dug and pruned for us. He is best known for Green Animals in Portsmouth, RI, the Topiary Gardens owned by the Preservation Society of Newport County. Mary's father started the animals and George continued, for 49 years, making more of his own while caring for the others. In his later years, he relinquished his duties because he was 101 years old. He passed away, 19 hours after Mary; they were the true love couple.

I am sure many of you knew Mary from her flower arrangements she did at many shows – the Federation, Newport and numerous others. She won a Blue Ribbon at the very first Newport Flower Show and also a Blue Ribbon last year at the Federation Show when she was a mere 92 years old. She and I did many flower shows during the years, she was well known

for her knowledge of flowers, herbs, dried arrangements and imparted her knowledge to others in her own special way.

Over the years, the Club has worked on many projects with Mary and George and we have witnessed their endless dedication to the creation of horticultural beauty. As an organization, when one of our members passes, we feel such a great loss and wish to honor them by giving a memorial to the town in their name. This was true for George and Mary but with a twist. Mary had the say in the type of tree that would be dedicated to her and her choice was the Dove Tree that was planted in the Portsmouth Playground next to their final resting place. In the coming years, they will be shaded by the pair of these beautiful trees.

They will truly be missed by many and especially by this writer.

Annette Jarvis

President Portsmouth Garden Club

RIFGC Holiday Lunch

Please join us for a holiday luncheon immediately following the December 1st RIFGC Board Meeting at the Roger Williams Casino. The cost is \$25 per person. We will also feature a holiday boutique, offering you the opportunity to shop for holiday gifts while enjoying the company of long-time friends. All RIFGC members and their guests are invited! Please contact Cathy Moore, 401-348-8926, csimplymoore@cox.net to purchase your ticket.

The boutique will feature new merchandise as well as gently worn jewelry and purses. If you would like to donate either jewelry or purses, please send them to the October board meeting with your president or committee chairman.

Member Services

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

RIF&C Committee list

COMMITTEES	NAME	E-MAIL
Annual Meeting	Vicki Iannuccillo	viannuccil@aol.com
Annual Meeting Tickets	Priscilla DiMarco	phd64@verizon.net
Annual Meeting Treasurer	Adelaide Clifford	adelaideclifford@cox.net
Arbor Day	Bonnie Fluck	401-421-8549 (no e-mail)
Awards	Judy Hager	jhager@cox.net
	Sandi Tinyk	satinyk7@yahoo.com
	Vera Bowen	kpbowen@att.net
	Sue Redden	SueRedden@verizon.net
	Holly Lippert	hklip@cox.net
	Kathy Mulkerin	Mulkerin3@cox.net
Blue Star Memorial	Stephanie Parrilla	steph@gunanddiveshop.com
Environmental Awareness	Kathleen Damiani	kdamiani@yahoo.com
Finance	Vera Bowen	kpbowen@att.net
Flower Show & Flower Show Schools		
	Sue Redden	SueRedden@verizon.net
Garden Therapy	Annette Jarvis	jarvisanett@msn.com
Habitat for Humanity	Karen Kestenberg	kkestenberg@cox.net
Historian	Jackie Turner	jltflower@aol.com
Horticulture & Gardens	Suzanne Tait	growall8@aol.com

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Judges Council Advanced Design Study Group		
	De Feldman	Defeldman6@gmail.com
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Life Member Scholarship	Janice Panoff	janicepanoff@post.harvard.edu
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Program Chairman	Judy Hager	jhager@cox.net
Properties	Judy Hager	jhager@cox.net
Youth & Youth Poster Contest	Rochelle Kieron	rckieron@msn.com

NGC, NER, RIFGC Awards Update

There have been many changes to the NGC award process which the awards committee for RIFGC will replicate by revising all of our processes and paperwork to mimic NGC changes. NER will be doing the same over the next year. Here are the highlights of the changes:

- New application form with 3 page maximum limit (NGC exception for Flower Show awards and Award of Excellence; RIFGC will allow a 12 page maximum for the Edith Fricker award)
- No binders or BOE (exception is for Edith Fricker award)
- All applications submitted electronically should be sent to Mulkerin3@cox.net; NGC awards are due on December 1st and RIFGC awards will be due on February 15th.
- Yearbooks will be due by the October 27th board meeting
- Publicity Press books will be due by the January 27th board meeting
- Newsletters – submit THREE sample issues to Kathie Mulkerin, 12 Harbour Terrace Drive, Cranston RI 02905
- The revised NGC and RIFGC awards and applications can be found on the RIFGC website, www.rigardenclubs.org as of September 1st.

ATTENTION CLUB PRESIDENTS

The deadline for the Presidents' Reports is December 1, 2011 The spring issue of the NEWS traditionally features Presidents' Reports.

Please outline your program of your club's past calendar year, including your theme for the year. Select one activity to describe in detail. Send us a brief description. Total words should be between 100 and 200 words. The limit will be strictly enforced!

Whether public service, speaker, fundraiser, workshop, field trip or holiday bash, be sure it includes who, what, when, where, why and how and what made it work.

We will also need the total voting membership information.

Sharing your best program creates a resource for the incoming Program Chairmen, looking for the unique and engaging. Sharing your yearly program will provide a record for your club's history in the NEWS. Please submit (email in a Word document) to the editor in this format:

NAME OF CLUB Total Voting Members (include all classes that vote)

Name of President:

Theme: Description of President's choice of best program:

Limit 150 words. This limit will be strictly enforced. Total words in article must not exceed 200 words.

Please give us the facts, plus your interpretation of what distinguished the program and made it successful. **Your club's inclusion in this issue of the NEWS is vital and it's all up to you. Please email in a WORD program, if possible. Thank you.** Editor's email:cahutch2@verizon.net





- September** A Specialty show by the Dahlia Society. Date and location- TBA
- September 13, 2011** – RIFGC Club Presidents Luncheon, Home of Judy Hager, RIFGC President
- September 22, 2011** - RIFGC Executive Board Meeting, Casino, 9:30 am
- September 22-24, 2011** – NGC Fall Board Meeting, St. Louis MO
- September 28, 2011** – Beginner Design Study, North Scituate Community House
- October 1, 2011** - Rehoboth Garden Club is having a Small Standard Flower Show. Location- TBA
- October 17-18, 2011**- NER Annual Meeting, Chelmsford MA
- October 18-20, 2011**- New England Region Symposium, Chelmsford, Ma. Please note this symposium is preceded by the N.E. Regional meeting. Contact Sue Redden for a brochure.
- October 27, 2011** – Deadline for Yearbook submissions to Awards Committee
- October 27, 2011** - RIFGC Executive Board Meeting, Casino, 9:30 am
- October 28, 2011** – Advanced Design Study, Details TBA.
- October 30, 2011** – Deadline for NEWS edition Dec, Jan, Feb
- November 2, 2011**- Beginner Design Study. Details TBA.
- December 1, 2011** - RIFGC Executive Board Meeting & Holiday Luncheon & Boutique, Casino, 9:30 am.
- December 1, 2011** – NGC Awards to RIFGC Awards Committee Chairman, Judy Hager
- December 1, 2011** – Deadline for President’s Reports to the NEWS editor
- January 6, 2012** – Advanced Design Study, Details TBA.
- January 25, 2012** – Beginner Design Study. Details TBA.
- January 26, 2012** – Deadline for Publicity Press Book Awards to RIFGC Awards Committee
- January 26, 2012** – RIFGC Executive Board Meeting, Casino 9:30am
- January 30, 2012** – Deadline for NEWS edition March, April & May, 2012

Continued:

February 23, 2012 – RIFGC Executive Board Meeting, RI Convention Center, 9:30am.

February 23 to 26, 2012 – Rhode Island Spring Flower and Garden Show.

March 1, 2012 – RIFGC and National Scholarship applications to Life Member Scholarship Chairman.

March 22, 2012 – RIFGC Executive Board Meeting, Casino, 9:30am

March 30, 2012 – Advanced Design Study, Details TBA.

April 4, 2012 – Beginner Design Study. Details TBA

April 26, 2012 – RIFGC Annual Meeting and Luncheon, Location TBA

April 30, 2012 – Deadline for NEWS edition June, July & August, 2012

May 17-20, 2012 – NGC Annual Convention, Buffalo NY

May 25, 2012 – Advanced Design Study, Details TBA.



Habitat for Humanity

In a last minute flurry of activity, two houses became available for us to plant! Both in South Providence and around the corner from each other, they are closing on them on September 9th. So Habitat chair, Karen Kestenberg, and president Judy Hager, met with the Habitat folks, toured the sites and quickly identified the best plants and trees for the houses. Planting will be on August 31st. The next issue of the NEWS will have photos of the plants, trees and finished houses.



Official Bulletin of the Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
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Autumn, Winter, Spring, Summer.

Annual dues in the amount of **\$3.50** 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. 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.

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, October 21, 2011

10:0AM-3:00PM

Botanical Center at Roger Williams Park

RIFGC is sponsoring an Educational Day for ALL Federation members. That means each and every one of you! We'll have four separate workshops conducted by experts in gardening, wildlife, crafts and more to share their skills and inspire our members. You need not attend all four workshops, although everyone is certainly welcome to if they wish. Optional box lunches will be available for purchase by prior reservation.

The best part? It's free! It's our way of saying "Thank You" to all of the clubs for their support and enthusiasm to make the RIFGC such a great organization.

Stay tuned for more details and information on how to sign up.

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

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- Evergreens
- Flowering Shrubs
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- Annuals & Perennials
- Tropical Indoor Plants
- Cacti & Succulents
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- Organic Products
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Controls
- Soil & Bark Goods
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Materials
- Statuary & Garden
Accents

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briggsgarden.com



Briggs



www.rigardendubs.org