

NEWS

of the Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Member National Garden Clubs, Inc.

June/July/August - 2013

Awards Issue



Sandi Tynyk
President, 2013-2015

President's



Message

What a wonderful annual meeting we enjoyed in April, thanks to our creative, thoughtful and detail-oriented Energizer Bunny, Vicki Iannuccillo. She and her committee did an outstanding job, from scheduling events, planning our luncheon, lining up an incredible speaker, and decorating the tables, courtesy of our beginner design class members under Cathy Moore's direction. Vera Bowen's uniquely creative "bee" installation ceremony was thoughtful, funny, and deeply meaningful for those of us who were installed. And of course, Judy Hager, who kept her end of responsibilities running smoothly, with her usual poise, efficiency, grace and thoroughness. Thanks to all who made the day so memorable.

Some of the past presidents have, on being installed, jokingly said, "It's all about the jewelry," in reference to the beautiful president's pin we have worn and will wear proudly. Well... the jewelry is very lovely, to be sure, but they and I know that it's what this pin represents that means so much. I am so honored to have been chosen to serve as your president and to represent the RI Federation, not only here in the state, but on the New England Region and National levels as well. We have much to be proud of. Our little state has achieved wonders in every one of our projects, and we have been recognized for excellence on all levels.

We will continue to work on our goals, as outlined in our 6-year plan; many of them have been met, as outlined by Judy at the meeting, but we still have work to do in increasing membership, adding clubs, and expanding our work in community outreach. Cathy, Blakely and I will be adding to those projects in the coming months, all of which will be forthcoming.

Our theme for the new term is "Sowing the Seeds of Imagination," which refers not only to gardening in a literal sense, but the whole gamut of our activities. We will continue and, in many cases expand upon, our wonderful projects, from landscaping Habit for Humanity Homes, offering Educational Days and Design Workshops, and helping our member clubs with awards, yearbooks and publicity. We'll continue to address environmental issues, birds and trees. We look forward to another successful and beautiful flower show next February, under the capable chairmanship of Sue Redden. We will be stressing Horticulture in the next two years. We are, first and foremost, GARDEN clubs, and you will see an increase in News articles and presentations at board meetings to address these aspects of our total program. Hope, aspiration and imagination are perennial traits of gardeners. Our constant desire to improve upon what we have accomplished, to explore new avenues and techniques, means that we never get bored... there is always something new ahead. Much of that enthusiasm is fed by the ever-increasing range of ideas of our talented and dedicated members. There is no doubt that we continue to face trying times, but I have every confidence that, together, we will continue to successfully contribute to our communities and state in a meaningful way. I look forward to meeting and working with all of you, our dedicated members of our wonderful organization, during my term of office.

Fondly,

Sandi

Over the Garden Gate

Hello everyone!

Many apologies for the delays in my first edition of the NEWS! Technical difficulties, etc. have been challenging me as I moved to a MAC. For me personally, throw in chairing a garden tour/flower show and I have been running very fast but not catching up! That said, I do look forward to preparing the quarterly issue of the NEWS and hope to bring you timely information about RIFGC activities. Please note the following deadlines for information for the NEWS:

September, October, November – Chairman’s Issue due by August 1

December, January, February – Flower Show Schedule Issue due by November 1

March, April, May – President’s Reports Issue due by February 1

June, July, August – Awards Issue due by May 1

Also, please note:

- Please use Calibri 11 font – it is called the green font because it takes less ink to print it (which helps those who still print the NEWS)
- Please, please send everything electronically to me at jhager@cox.net

Happy summer!

Judy Hager

Flower Shows

Edgewood Garden Club held a Garden Tour, *Secret Gardens by the Bay*, and Standard Flower Show, *Sailing Away* on Saturday, June 15 2013. The club wishes to thank the following judges for supporting our effort by judging the flower show:

Vera Bowen	Vicki Iannuccillo	Priscilla DiMarco
Sue Redden	Doris Stephens	Cathy Moore
Ann Huntoon	Marge D'Angelis	Candace Morgenstern
Gisela Rodgers	Lynne Merrill	

In Memorium

It is with great sadness that we learned that NGC Emeritus Master Judge, Ruth Anderson had passed away. She was 87 years old. Ruth was a wonderful teacher and taught numerous classes in floral design and Ikebana. She had a great sense of humor, always good for a joke or two! Ruth became a judge in 1984 and an Accredited Master Judge in 1994. She requested Emeritus status in 2009.

Ruth loved to read Flower Show schedules and made suggested corrections for many clubs. As Flower Shows Chairman, she also helped clubs with their shows. Ruth generously funded an annual award for the best Small-Standard Flower in the state. Ruth's good humor and positive outlook on life carried her through some very tough times, including suffering from cancer for many years and the death of her beloved husband, Andy. Deep sympathy goes to her nephews and niece, to whom she was devoted. Ruth will be sadly missed by all those that knew her.

2013 Awards

Vera Bowen Honored with Ely Medal

The most prestigious award offered by RIFGC, **the Ely Medal of Beauty**, was awarded April 25, 2013 to Vera Bowen. The Ely Medal of Beauty, as described in the policy and procedure manual, is the most prestigious award offered by RIFGC and is not awarded lightly. No more than one medal shall be awarded in any term of a President. This is the RIFGC top award and is awarded to the person who has performed above and beyond the regular RIFGC duties.

The following is a brief history of the Ely Medal of Beauty:

Miss Ruth Ely presented the Ely Medal of Beauty to the Rhode Island Federation of Garden clubs, Inc. in 1938. She commissioned a prominent professor at the Rhode Island School of Design to create a medal which was to be awarded to an exhibit of outstanding beauty in a State sponsored Flower Show. Two garden clubs received the medal two years in a row. The winners were the Dirt Gardeners and the Barrington Garden Club. Many years passed where there were no Standard Flower Shows given by the RIFGC. The Federation participated with various community groups in other ways.

In the early seventies, the Awards Committee, under the wise chairmanship of Edith Glanville, decided to change the focus of "The Award" from a garden club to an individual who was a garden club member.

The recipient of the Ely Medal of Beauty was to have made an OUTSTANDING contribution of Beauty to the community or to the RIFGC-OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS. The term BEAUTY encompasses a unique special service to RIFGC that, in turn, affects the community at large. This award need not be given annually or biannually, but is to be awarded only if the recipient is deemed worthy.

Fourteen honorees have received the medal since 1970. The rules further state that only one Ely Medal of Beauty is awarded at any one time to the person who has performed above and beyond regular garden club duties. The Ely Medal of Beauty committee consisting of the sitting President, First and Second Vice-presidents and four RIFGC Past Presidents selected by the

sitting RIFGC President shall consider all nominees. It shall be a unanimous decision and Past Presidents on this committee should not be from the same club as the nominee.

Vera has been a mentor, coach, role model, safety net and great friend to many of us. She has been a passionate president, a humble leader and a dedicated chair of probably every committee. She has brought a mission and passion to a project many of us wouldn't have tackled. For those reasons, Vera is honored as the 2013 recipient of the Ely Medal of Beauty.

Judy Hager, RIFGC Past President

Member of Honor Award presented to Priscilla DiMarco. Nominated by Hamaho Garden Club for her passion for her club and RIFGC. She is indeed an outstanding honoree.

It was a pleasure to present the following awards at the April 25th Awards Ceremony of the RIFGC. We thank you for your applications and Books of Evidence highlighting all the good work accomplished by garden clubs and individual members and offer our congratulations. Our heartfelt thanks to our mentor and helper, Vera Bowen.

Sue Redden, Vera Bowen, Sandi Tinyk, Holly Lippert, Kathie Mulkerin, Judy Hager

<i>Bird Award</i>	Sogkonate G.C.
<i>Gorham Award for Conservation Excellence</i>	Edgewood G.C.
<i>Portsmouth Garden Club Memorial Award for Litter Control</i>	Sogkonate G.C.
<i>Kathryn M. Sheehan Award</i>	Edgewood G.C.
<i>Award of Merit for Flower Show Achievement</i>	Rehoboth G.C.
<i>Award of Merit for Flower Show Achievement</i>	Hameho G.C.
<i>Barbara Spring Lownes Memorial Bowl</i>	Rehoboth G.C.
<i>Flower Show Schedule Award</i>	Rehoboth G.C.
<i>Jean T. Whitaker Award</i>	Rehoboth G.C.

<i>Ruth F. Anderson Award</i>	Rehoboth G.C.
<i>MacColl Award</i>	Patti Mitchell
<i>Maryellen Blount Award for Garden Therapy</i>	Gentian G.C.
<i>RIFGC Ways & Means Award</i>	Western Cranston G.C.
<i>Francis M. Potier Membership Award</i>	Chatham Village G.C.
<i>Horticulture Program Award</i>	Sogkonate G.C.
<i>Junior Achievement Award</i>	Sogkonate G.C.
<i>Junior Gardeners' Award of Excellence</i>	Barrington G.C.
<i>Mary N. Santopietro Garden Therapy Youth Award</i>	Gentian G.C.
<i>Edith Fricker Program of the Year Awards</i> (based on size of garden club)	Hameho G.C. Bristol G.C. Gentian G.C. Edgewood G.C. Barrington G.C.
<i>Garden Club Yearbooks Awards</i> (based on size of garden club)	Bayberry G.C. Bristol G.C. Apple Blossom G.C. Gentian G.C. Edgewood G.C. Barrington G.C.
<i>Carolyn B. Haffenraffer Award</i>	Gentian G.C.
<i>The Sylvia Street Award</i> (most creative arranger of the year)	Candace Morgenstern
<i>The Joan F. Pesola Silver Tray</i>	Sue Redden

(best traditional arrangement of the year)

RI Project of Merit Award

Western Cranston GC

Silver Trowel Award

Gentian G.C.

Newsletter Awards

Hameho Garden Club

(based on size of garden club)

Gentian G.C.

Edgewood G.C.

Barrington G.C.

The Publicity Press Book Awards

Hameho Garden Club

(based on size of garden club)

Sogkonate G.C.

Barrington G.C.

Certificates of Recognition for Press Books

Portsmouth G.C.

Quononoquott G.C.

Gentian G.C.

Certificates of Appreciation for submissions

Gentian G.C.

Sogkonate G.C.

Western Cranston GC

Presenters of three non-NGC Standard Flower Shows were recognized:

Rhode Island Rose Society

Preservation Society of Newport County

Rhode Island Dahlia Society

Commendations:

Vera Bowen – for leadership in chairing the NER Annual Meeting in Providence

Adelaide Clifford – for her years of support as treasurer

Vicki Iannuccillo – for chairing the 2013 Annual Awards Meeting & Luncheon

Sue Redden – for leadership in chairing the NER Symposium in Providence

Holly Lippert – for her efforts in website development and the use of social media

Catherine Moore – for chairing the spring flower show “Hot Off the Press”

Sandi Tinyk – for all of her support of the president

Citation:

Peter Clifford – for his support of the spring flower show the past 7 years

Special Flower Show Award:

Sue Redden and Priscilla DiMarco

Club Anniversaries:

60 Years – Apple Blossom Garden Club

80 Years – Edgewood Garden Club

85 Years – Bristol Garden Club

Life Member Installation



2013 Installation Luncheon



President- Sandi Tinyk
First Vice President- Catherine Moore
Second Vice President- Blakely Szosz
Treasurer- Bernie Larivee
Recording Secretary- Marnie Sandham
Corresponding Secretary- Lisa Pollack

Judge's Council Officers

May 6th, the Judges' Council proudly installed the Executive Committee for 2013-2015: Chair, Lynne Merrill; Vice Chair, Vicki Iannuccillo; Secretary, Cathy Moore and Treasurer, Ann Huntoon. The Judges' Council is pleased to invite any member of the RIFGC in good standing to attend the Flower Show School classes. The Council is offering reimbursement of the cost for registration after completing any one of the courses offered. The courses do not need to be taken in chronological order. This is a wonderful way to expand one's knowledge of design and horticulture. Contact our RI State Flower Show Schools Chairman, Sue Redden, if you are interested or have questions. Sue can be reached at 401-245-8215. sueredden@verizon.net

Blue Star Dedication



**You are cordially invited to join
The Portsmouth Garden Club
as we dedicate a
*"Blue Star
Memorial Marker"***

**Saturday, August 10, 2013,
2:00 pm
Portsmouth Free Public Library
2658 East Main Road,
Portsmouth, Rhode Island**

**Sponsored by The Portsmouth Garden Club
in cooperation with
the American Legion, - Post 18,
the Veterans of Foreign Wars – Post 5390,
VFW Ladies Auxiliary, Post **5390**, Friends
of Veterans
and the Portsmouth Free Public Library
RSVP: Carolyn Evans-Carbery:
foundersbrook@verizon.net**

Water Conservation

Most people simply take water for granted, until we lose power or our water supply is interrupted by some type of problem. While water is the most abundant compound on earth, we need to understand that water is essential to life on earth. We need water to grow food, keep clean, provide power, control fire, and last but not least, we need it to stay alive!

Why Conserve?

If water is so abundant and is constantly being cleaned and recycled through the earth's water cycle, why do we need to conserve it? The answer is simply that people use up our planet's fresh water faster than it can naturally be replenished. Furthermore, water conservation is the most cost effective and environmentally sound way to reduce our demand for water. Using less water also puts less pressure on sewage treatment facilities and uses less energy for water heating.

Saving Water Saves Energy

Saving water also saves energy. On the flip side, saving energy and using alternative energy saves water—electricity production from fossil fuels and nuclear energy is responsible for 39% of all freshwater withdrawals in the nation. Saving water is good for the earth, your family, and your community.

- When you use water wisely, you **help the environment**. You save water for fish and animals. You help preserve drinking water supplies and you ease the burden on wastewater treatment plants—the less water you send down the drain, the less work these plants have to do to make water clean again.
- When you use water wisely, you **save energy**. You save the energy that your water supplier uses to treat and move water to you, and the energy your family uses to heat your water.
- When you use water wisely, you **save money**. Your family pays for the water you use. If you use less water, you'll have more money left to spend on other things.

What Can I Do?

There are many effective ways to conserve water in and around your home. Look through this list for ways that will work for you. Many of the following tips will not only conserve our precious water supplies, they will also save energy and money for you.

- *25 ways to conserve water in the home and yard*. Retrieved from http://eartheasy.com/live_water_saving.htm
- *100 Ways to Conserve Water*. Retrieved from <http://wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to-conserve/index.php>
- *Water Conservation and Savings Tips*. Retrieved from <http://www.home-water-works.org/water-conservation-tips>

Reference:

JEA (formerly Jacksonville Electric Authority). *Use water wisely*. Retrieved from <https://www.jea.com/community/education/efficiency/wisely/save.html>

For the Love of Birds

It is truly spring when birds are signing and chirping all around us. The wonderful return of seasonal birds; the Robins, Blue Jays, bright red Cardinals and many other wonderful birds are welcomed back to our feeders and birdhouses. It's always pleasurable to watch these lively birds as they plan where to nest for their soon-to-be offspring! There is so much to learn about bird behavior and every spring something new and different happens. Our backyards are a perfect place to wait, watch and listen. Many books are available for those who want to document and/or learn about the many different species of birds, and how to attract them to our yards. Pictures and descriptions are there to help us identify birds. There are even books with bird sounds to help us recognize what kind of birds we are listening to. Oh, don't forget cameras, binoculars and table top telescopes for bird watching and/or recording backyard bird behavior.

Birds need to have clean birdhouses, plenty of food and water to attract them. All birds can make it in the wild, after all, that is what they are – wild birds. However, to be “up close and personal” with our feathered friends, we offer them some ways to hang out near us.

It is also important to help birds have a safe and interesting environment. They will come to our yards when there are some bushes which provide berries, of course trees to fly to and keep safe from predators as well as interesting flowers and plants. Some birds love to take sand baths, so another spot in the yard should have a place for that too.

There is no big investment to make and the enjoyment that they give us is everlasting. So, enjoy the birds and explore ways to have a welcome environment for them. It is well worth it.

I dedicate this page (and others to follow) to Jean Chaston. She wrote a booklet called "For The Love Of Birds" Mrs. Chaston and her husband, Walter, did a program for our garden club twice and they happily taught us so much. He made birdhouses, she painted them and they sold them at craft shows. They visited many garden clubs too. Tragically the Chaston's died in a car accident several years ago in Florida.

Enjoy backyard birding!

Jan Marcello

NGC Annual Meeting Seattle

