

NEWS

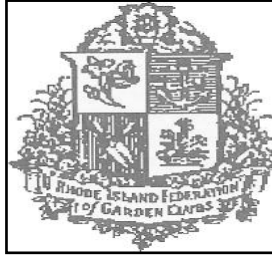
of the Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Member National Garden Clubs, Inc.

June July & August, 2014

Awards Issue





Dear Friends,

Warm and windy, but, thankfully, tornado-free, Norman, Oklahoma served as this year's convention site for National Garden Club's annual meeting, which also celebrated NGC's 85th anniversary. Vera Bowen (who packed her ruby slippers "just in case") and I were honored to represent Rhode Island and to join with other state presidents and NGC board members as we continued to strengthen our ties and learn from each other. It was a productive, informative, and enjoyable event, and, to my delight, most rewarding for Rhode Island. I was very proud to accept many awards on your behalf which represented all of the hard work, dedication and excellence of our clubs. A list of those awards is printed elsewhere in this newsletter. My president's report at NGC will be printed in its entirety, along with those of other NER presidents, in the summer edition of New England Region's newsletter, Northern Exposure, which will be released in July. Suffice it to say that my report emphasized your achievements this year, including but not limited to, our Habitat for Humanity projects and garden calendar, our free, fall Education Day, our Community Projects Awards, Blue Star Memorial markers, and of course, our phenomenal state flower show and educational exhibit focusing on membership. It is important to remember that as the smallest state, we are in competition with states such as Florida, Georgia (which always garners a huge number of awards) and numerous states whose members far excel ours in number, so the very fact of our recognition in so many ways is commendable, indeed.

I would be remiss if I did not voice my gratitude once again to De Feldman and Emily Reade, who tirelessly chaired this year's annual meeting, as well as the very creative Ann Huntoon, who designed the centerpieces, the ever-efficient Darcy Scott, who chaired tickets, and our enthusiastic raffle chairman and relentless raffle ticket seller, Bernie Larivee. What a wonderful meeting, with a great fashion show, a delicious luncheon and the honor of presenting so many awards to our member clubs. While we were disappointed that NGC President Linda Nelson's illness prevented her from joining us, we were delighted to have all but one of the New England state presidents and NER Director, Maria Nahom, as guests. And, I am happy to report that Linda will join us in

December for our holiday luncheon (December 5) so let's make this one extra special!

As you continue to maintain your community and private gardens, please remember to take those photos which we'll need by mid-October for our 2nd garden calendar. So many clubs are offering garden tours, flower shows, plant sales and other activities that it is mind-blowing. I hope to see many of you in these warm weather months and look forward to my second year as your president. This first year has been a wonderful experience and with plans afoot for our upcoming 85th anniversary, we have much to anticipate in the coming year. Meanwhile, dedicated as you all are, please take time for yourselves in this special season in our beautiful state. The roses won't be around forever, so take time to smell them!

Fondly,

Sandi



Over the Garden Gate



Finally! Summer is here and everything is starting to grow as it should.

Reminders for the NEWS – deadlines for content:

Sept, Oct Nov– Issue due by Aug 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 send everything electronically to Sandi. She in turn will forward your articles to Blakely who will be serving as the Editor for the “News”.

Calendar of Events

Sept. 25, 2014 – RIFGC Executive BdMtg, 9:30, Roger Williams Casino

Oct. 9, 2014 – Education Day

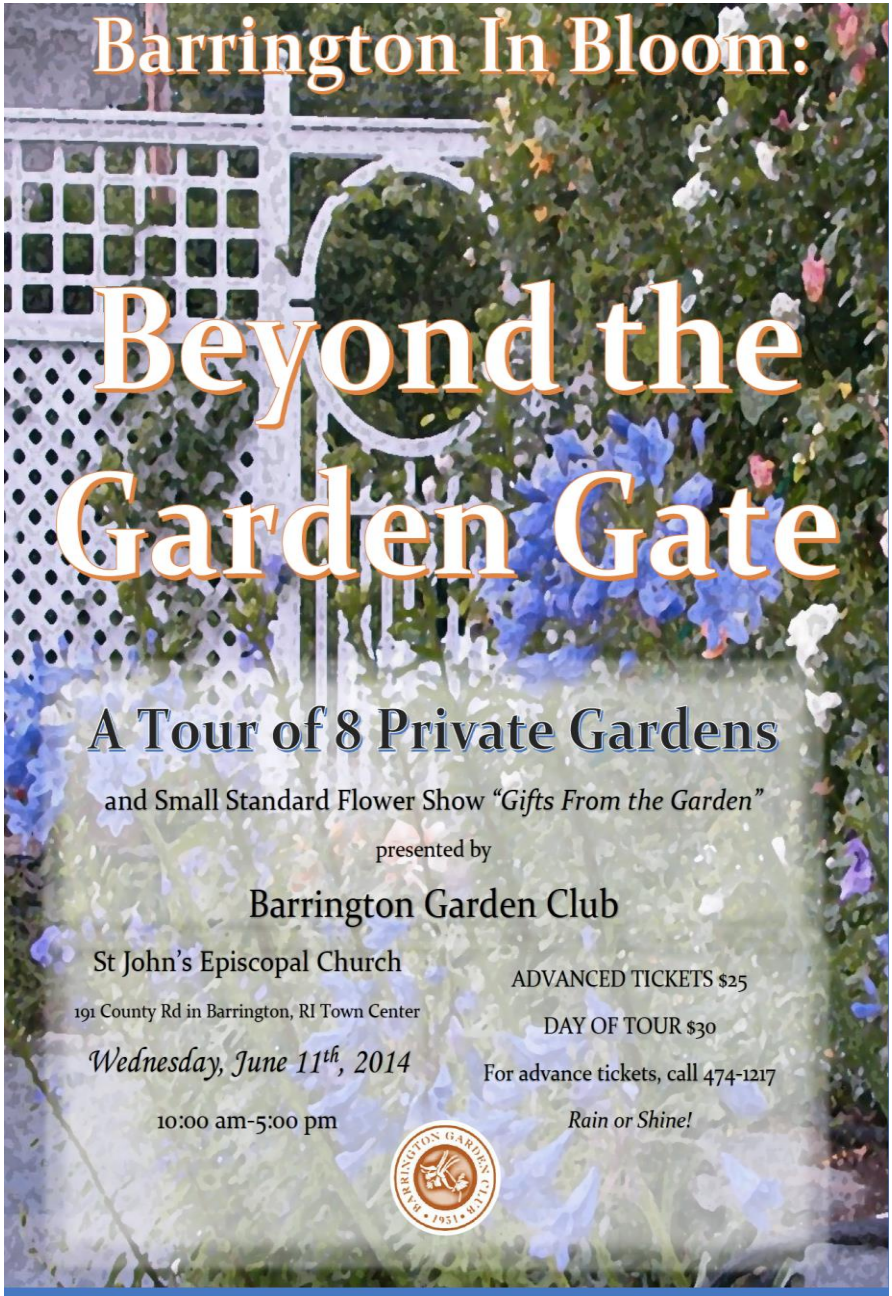
Oct. 23, 2014 – RIFGC Executive BdMtg, 9:30, Roger Williams Casino

Dec. 4, 2014 – RIFGC Executive BdMtg, 9:30 AND Holiday Luncheon, Roger Williams Casino

Jan. 22, 2015 – RIFGC Executive BdMtg, 9:30, Roger Williams Casino

March 26, 2015 – RIFGC Executive BdMtg, 9:30, Roger Williams Casino

April 23, 2015 – RIFGC Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon and Installation of Officers, location TBD



Barrington In Bloom:


Beyond the Garden Gate

A Tour of 8 Private Gardens
and Small Standard Flower Show *"Gifts From the Garden"*
presented by
Barrington Garden Club

St John's Episcopal Church
191 County Rd in Barrington, RI Town Center

Wednesday, June 11th, 2014
10:00 am-5:00 pm

ADVANCED TICKETS \$25
DAY OF TOUR \$30
For advance tickets, call 474-1217
Rain or Shine!



Don't Miss this !!

Flower Show Schools

NEWS, June 2014

Congratulations to Barbara Blossom who has passed Course II Flower Show School. She is now a Student Exhibitor and is eligible to start gathering exhibiting credits in Horticulture and Design.

The next New England Region Symposium is being held in Burlington, Vermont. October 21-23rd, 2014. The Regional meeting precedes the Symposium.

The next series of Flower Show Schools begins in Derby, CT September 10-12, 2014, Instructors are Ann Huntoon, Design, and Sandi Joyce Horticulture and Flower Show Procedure. The MA school is in Milford, MA October 8-10, 2014. Instructors are Design, Kaye Fosburg, Horticulture, Cathy Felton, and Barbara May, Flower Show Procedure. Any one may attend these schools upon payment of the registration fee. Please encourage any possible candidates for becoming judges to attend one of these series of FS Courses. It will be at least two or three years before either state will start a new series of schools. This is a great opportunity to start with Course I.

Flower Shows

Barrington is presenting a Small-Standard Flower Show along with a Garden Tour of 8 private gardens on Wednesday, June 11th. from 10-5:00pm. Tickets are \$25.00 ahead of time and \$30.00 on the day. Contact: barrgardentour@gmail.com or 401-474-1217 for tickets and information.

Sogkonate is also presenting a Small-Standard Flower Show, on June 14 & 15 in Little Compton. This show is free.

GARDEN TOURS

Quononoquott is presenting a garden tour on Saturday June 7th in Jamestown.

Barrington, see above.

Sue Redden, Flower Show Schools Chairman/Flower Shows Chairman.

sueredden@verizon.net

Help Your Landscape Beat the Summer Heat

For many gardeners, summer means heat and issues with watering. This can be hard on gardeners as well as their landscapes. The good news is that there are ways to help plants thrive despite these seasonal challenges. Adjusting landscape care accordingly during the summer months can not only provide relief for lawns and gardens, but also for the gardener.

Keep in mind that plants located near buildings, block walls, or roof tops are subjected to elevated temperatures. Stucco, concrete and roof tops trap and hold the heat which can raise the temperature surrounding your plants by as much as 10°F! Also, plants in pots or containers and those near structures or concrete patios require more water than those in the ground, especially in hot weather.

Here are some low maintenance eco-friendly ways gardeners can keep their landscapes looking their best throughout the summer months, while beating the heat:

- Water at the right time. Just like working out in the sun during the hottest part of the day, the same can be said for when you water. It is best to water in the early morning before temperatures begin to climb.
- Water plants thoroughly to promote deep drought- and pest-resistant roots. Wait until the top few inches of soil are crumbly and moist or footprints remain in the lawn before watering again.

- Avoid light, frequent watering that encourages shallow roots. Shallow roots are less able to tolerate drought and more susceptible to disease and insect problems.
- Spread a 2- to 3-inch layer of shredded leaves, evergreen needles, or shredded bark mulch over the soil in garden beds and around trees and shrubs. Mulching conserves moisture, keeps roots cool and moist, and suppresses weeds.
- Mow lawns high. Taller grass produces deeper roots that are more drought-tolerant. A deeply rooted lawn is also more resistant to insects, disease, and other environmental stresses.
- Always mow lawns often enough, so you remove less than one third the total leaf surface. Leave the grass clippings on the lawn. They add nitrogen, organic matter, and moisture to the soil.
- Use a low nitrogen slow release fertilizer to give gardens and lawns a nutrient boost. This organic nitrogen fertilizer remains in the soil until the growing conditions are right for the plant.
- Remove weeds from garden beds and borders as soon as they appear. These “out of place plants” steal water and nutrients from your desirable garden plants. Plus, they can harbor insects and diseases that are harmful to your garden plants.

Finally, do not forget to take care of yourself while caring for your landscape during the heat of summer. Do not work in the heat of the day! Tend to gardening related activities in the early morning hours or evening when temperatures are cooler and out of the direct sun. Drink lots of liquid, use sunscreen, and work during the cooler morning and evening hours.

The following references contain many tips that may be helpful for your landscape to beat the summer heat:

- <http://info.coronatoolsusa.com/Blog/bid/118440/Tips-to-Help-Your-Garden-Beat-the-Summer-Heat>
- <http://livinggreenmag.com/2013/07/31/home-garden/help-your-landscape-beat-the-heat-this-summer>
- <http://livinggreenmag.com/2013/07/31/home-garden/help-your-landscape-beat-the-heat-this-summer/#RbSPzBjcHaLKI5Cr.99>
- <http://www.thriftyfun.com/tf54684670.tip.html>

Sharon Gainey, Conservation Chair

FOR THE LOVE OF BIRDS

Spring is definitely running late this year but you'd never know it by the birds in your yards. Maybe they are trying to tell all of us that it's time to be ready for spring and be ready for the birds too. Many are doing their mating rituals-you may hear their love songs or the rattle of a woodpecker on a tree or birds strutting their plumage-all to meet a mate and have their offspring. They are looking for places to nest or are busy building their own. We can help by having clean birdhouses for them and at the same time keeping food in the feeders and water in the bird baths.

If you don't own a bird book that is fairly easy to read, then now would be a good time to get one. These books give us a world of information. Many of us know who some of the birds are that go to our feeders just by observing them. What if they don't go to the feeders? Where are their habitats?

In this article, I'm going to name some of our very common backyard birds and tell about where their habitat is, the eggs they lay and some of their habits. There are so many birds that come in and out of our yards it is virtually impossible to name them all-but it's fun to try. Documenting what birds you have in your yard is also an enlightening and fun activity. Many bird books even provide journals in them to discover the birds in your backyard. The following is a common list of birds found in our backyards.

MOURNING DOVE-

Habitat: Often nests in trees and shrubs close to homes. Sometimes they build nests on top of robin and grackle nests. Their nests are mostly made of very fragile looking twigs.

Eggs: Lays 2 creamy white eggs and may have 2 or 3 broods in a season. Both parents share sitting on the nest and feeding the little ones. The fledglings leave their nests in 12 to 14 days after they hatch.

Habits: When they drink they suck the liquid up their bills, horse-like, without raising their heads, unlike most other birds. They will let humans

near and then fly off with the shrill whistle of their wings. Usually they mate for life.

BLUE JAYS-

Habitat: Jays build their nests in deciduous or conifer trees on a large branch or where a limb joins the trunk of a tree. Both parents build a bulky nest using grasses, twigs, string, mosses, rags, and whatever they find that is suitable. The nest is lined with finer material.

Eggs: Lays 3-7 olive, buff or greenish-blueish gray eggs that have gray or brown dots and spots. There are 1 to 3 broods a season. The female sits on the nest and the fledglings leave their nest in 17-21 days after they hatch.

Habits: Clever learners, they will take peanuts from your hand. Though they do get a bad reputation for being annoying to other birds, the Blue Jay is the first to send out loud noises to let all the birds around know that a predator is nearby.

CHICADEE-

Habitat: Both parents will build nests mostly in deciduous trees which might be 4-40 feet from the ground, usually in the cavity of the tree. The cavity is lined with vegetation, feathers, hair and insect cocoons.

Eggs: Five to ten white eggs with reddish-brown markings are laid in only 1 brood per year. The female sits on the nest and the fledglings leave the nest in 14 to 18 days after they hatch.

Habits: They can be seen hanging upside down from trees when they are foraging for bugs. They will hold a large seed down with their feet and peck it open with their beak. The female will "hiss" like a snake when the nest is threatened.

ROBIN-

Habitat: *The female builds bulky nests in deciduous and conifer trees, usually at the fork of a branch. They work grasses, string, cloth, paper and weeds into mud which lines the nest. The inner lining is made with soft grasses.*

Eggs: Six or seven "Robin's egg blue" eggs are laid and there are sometimes 2 broods a year in our area.

The females sit on the nest and once hatched, the fledglings leave their nest in 14 to 16 days.

Habits: The males are very territorial and will often fight each other and even fight themselves if seen in a mirror or from the chrome on a car.

Observing them in a birdbath is quite fun to watch as they seem to be having the time of their lives. But they seem to allow only one at a time.

RED WINGED BLACKBIRD-

Habitat: Though they prefer to breed near fresh and salt water marshes, you will sometimes see them in your backyards. Females build loose nesting cups attached by plant fibers to plant stalks and branches. Their nesting materials may include rushes, grasses, rootlets, cattail strips and mosses which are all lined with mud. The inner lining will have softer grasses, hair and plant down.

Eggs: They lay 3 to 5 pale-blue to green eggs with black, brown and purple spots and some blotches and scrawls on the larger end. There are 2 -3 broods a season. The female sits on the eggs and the fledglings, once hatched, leave the nests in 10 days.

Habits: Males actively drive away predators, other male blackbirds and cowbirds. The dominant males display their colorful stripes but the subordinate males hide their colors. If there are a surplus of female black birds around they will become polygamous .

By learning some background and nesting behavior of birds that we cannot see, it only enhances the experience of what we *can* see. It is very peaceful to sit outside and listen to and observe the birds. After you're out there a few times the birds are less jumpy and don't seem to mind having you around. Some may come near you and others will know that you're there from afar. Listening to them sing and make their distinct sounds can be such a joy. Some say doing this is a great stress reliever. Try it.

I hope that you will want a bird book of your own. Also I hope that you enjoy some of the information I have given you. Spring will finally be here when you read this----so enjoy your gardening, your flower arranging and the birds in your back yard. Have a wonderful summer.

Janice Marcello--Bird chairman

Reference: "BACKYARD BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA" by Fred Alsop III (2003)



Horticulture

Hello gardeners;

We are approaching the summer season which we all enjoy.

It is time to put in action the garden plans we have made during this past cold New England winter.

Whether you plant annuals, perennial flowers, herbs or vegetables there is the chance of pests damaging your plants.

The beneficial insects such as praying mantis, lady beetles, butterfly and of course the honey bees are always welcome in our gardens. However, the bad insects such as aphids, mealy bugs, flies and potato beetles are unwelcome insects in our gardens. I recommend gardeners try to determine what is causing damage to your flowers and or vegetables before jumping to conclusions and blame damage on the insects. Determine and apply an appropriate remedy. If the cause is from “bad” insects first try a nontoxic or the least toxic remedies before toxic. I understand we want to eliminate the pests fast however the toxic may actually kill or sicken the beneficial insect and may worsen nature’s balance. Also, remember you can always call the URI gardening hotline at 800 448 1011 between the hours of 9 am and 2 pm for advice or to help determine the cause of the damage to the plant(s).

If you have determined it is a pesky or bad insect I have a simple home insecticidal soap recipe I found that worked well in my gardens and does minimal harm to the environment.

Mix 1 tsp. liquid dishwashing detergent with 1 cup cooking oil. Shake vigorously.

Add 1 cup rubbing alcohol, then add 2 tsp of this mixture to 1 cup water and shake everything together well.

Pour into a sprayer and spray your plants. Please remember when spraying this soap you do have to spray under the leaves as well as on the top of the leaves and plant.

Enjoy your summer to the fullest and I hope your gardens flourish and bring beauty and joy to your homes.

Linda Alves; Horticulture Chairwoman



Design Study

Here are the dates for the next round of Beginners and Advanced Design Study.

September 17, 2014 Wednesday

November 5, 2014 Wednesday

January 14, 2015 Wednesday

April 1, 2015 Wednesday

The times & format will remain the same.

Locations and instructors will be determined soon.

Cathy Moore and Vicki Iannuccillo will be in touch!!

Four Seasons In Bloom

A Small Standard Flower Show

Presented by
Sogkonate Garden Club



Saturday, June 14, 2014

1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday, June 15, 2014

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Little Compton Community Center

43 Commons

Little Compton, R.I.

Admission Free

Member:

R.I. Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

New England Region

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Awards 2014

National Garden Clubs Awards Presented at the NGC Annual Convention

Life Member Group had an NGC Scholarship winner! \$4000.00 was awarded to Lauren Breen a student at URI.

Publicity Press Books:

2nd place Hameho Small club

2nd place Gentian Medium club

1st place Sogkonate Large club

1st place Barrington Extra Large

Wildflower Awards

Barrington & Plum Beach both receive \$600.00 for their Wildflower Projects

RIFGC received 1st place award for the calendar and Flower Show Achievement plus Rosette

3 Certificates of Commendation were awarded to Bristol, Sogkonate and Barrington for yearbooks

Also Commendation Certificates were awarded to Hameho and Barrington for their Publicity Press Submissions.

State Awards

2. Bird Award For their annual school programs, public club meeting program and maintenance of a bird feeder and bird bath at the historic Brownell House, the **Sogkonate Garden Club** wins the Bird Award.

4. Gorham Award for Conservation Excellence For the ongoing project with the removal of invasives and general restoration of the Osamaquin Nature Trail on 100 acre cove. This award for Conservation is awarded to **Barrington Garden Club**.

5. Portsmouth Garden Club Memorial Award for Litter Control This award for Litter Control is awarded to **Sogkonate Garden Club** for their 20 + year commitment in litter control and Earth Day projects.

7b. Award of Merit for Standard or Small Standard Flower Show is presented to Edgewood Garden Club for their wonderful Standard flower Show, "Sailing Away".

7b. Certificates of Recognition The **Rhode Island Dahlia Society** is recognized for the high quality display of dahlias and designs in their Annual Dahlia Show.

The **Preservation Society of Newport County** is recognized for their impressive Flower Show "Salsa."

The **Rhode Island Rose Society** is recognized for their exquisite display of roses and designs in their show "Symphony of Roses."

9. Flower Show Schedule Award is presented to Edgewood Garden Club for the beautiful creative schedule for their "Sailing Away" Flower Show.

11. Maryellen Blount Award for Garden Therapy is presented to **Gentian Garden Club** for their outstanding commitment to seniors.

13. Frances M. Potier Membership Award is awarded Rehoboth for the greatest increase in RIFGC dues-paying members.

14. The Horticulture Program Award is awarded to **Sogkonate Garden Club** for their informative Horticulture Program that furthers the goals and objectives of RIFGC and NGC.

17. Junior Achievement Award For their outstanding ongoing program and Commitment to the youth in their community, **Sogkonate Garden Club** wins the Junior Achievement Award.

** Certificates of Recognition are awarded to **Gentian & Edgewood Garden Clubs** for their Junior Achievement Award submissions.*

18. Junior Gardeners Award of Excellence The **Barrington Garden Club** receives the Junior Gardeners Award of Excellence for their outstanding, ongoing junior gardeners' activities.

20. Edith Fricker Award Three clubs are the recipients of the Edith Fricker program award for their well-rounded programs:

Class 4 Western Cranston Garden Club

Class 5 Edgewood Garden Club

Class 6 Barrington Garden Club

**A Certificate of Recognition is awarded to Gentian Garden Club for their Edith Fricker award submissions*

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

Class 2 Hameho Garden Club

Class 3a Bristol Garden Club

Class 3b Portsmouth Garden Club

Class 4 Gentian Garden Club

Class 5 Edgewood Garden Club

Class 6 Barrington Garden Club

24a. The Sylvia Street Award For her Creative Design exhibited at the 2013 RIFGC State Flower Show "Hot of the Press". The Sylvia Street Award is presented to **Linda Kirkpatrick**.

24b. The Joan F. Pesola Award For her Traditional Design, entered at the Edgewood Garden Club Flower Show. The Joan F. Pesola Award is presented to **Kathy Lanphear**.

25. R.I. Federation Project of Merit Award.

For their community outreach program the **Sogkonate Garden Club** wins the RI Federation Project of Merit Award.

26. The Silver Trowel Garden Tour Award

Edgewood Garden Club is the recipient of this award for their wonderful garden tour.

28. The Newsletter Award Newsletters are a wonderful way for clubs to keep members updated on National, Regional, RIFGC and club activities. They are a forum to provide more details about future programs, introduce new members, share website links, thank club members for project work and highlight member specialties.

Five clubs are recipients of the newsletter award:

Class 2 Hameho Garden Club

Class 3 Rehoboth Garden Club

Class 4 Western Cranston Garden Club

Class 5 Edgewood Garden Club

Class 6 Barrington Garden Club

The Publicity Press Book Awards

Small Club Hameho Garden Club

Medium Club Gentian Garden Club

Large Club Sogkonate Garden Club

Ex-Large Barrington Garden Club

Commendations:

The RIFGC presents a commendation to **Karen Kestenberg** for her ongoing dedication to the Habitat for Humanity project, bringing the Federation's total of landscaped HFH homes by members to 7.

The RIFGC presents a commendation to **Sue Redden** for her outstanding leadership as chairman of this year's Spring Flower Show,

“It’s All About Time”. Her creativity, dedication, hands-on involvement, and promotion of the goals of RIFGC and NGC made for a beautiful, original and educational show.

The RIFGC presents commendations to **De Feldman & Emily Reade** for their organization and coordination of the RIFGC Annual Awards meeting and luncheon on April 24th 2014 at the Twin River Conference Center. This joint effort has led to the success of this luncheon.

Member of Honor Award - RIFGC is proud to Honor Vicki Iannuccillo as its Member of honor for 2014. Nominated by Bristol & Bayberry Garden Clubs, Vicki’s passion for her two clubs and the RIFGC demonstrate that she is indeed an outstanding honoree.

Two Special Flower Show Award rosettes are presented to Cathy Moore and Vicki Iannuccillo for their outstanding hard work and continuous support of the RI State Flower Show.

Club Anniversaries

50 years: **Hameho Garden Club**

65 years: **Quononoquott Garden Club**

80 years: **Portsmouth Garden Club**

80 years: **Rehoboth Garden Club**

100 years: **Newport Garden Club**



Can you identify this plant?