



NEWS

Rhode Island
Federation of
Garden Clubs,
Inc.

Chairman's Issue

MEMBER NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

SEPTEMBER/ OCTOBER/ NOVEMBER

President's Message *by Sandi Tinyk*

Summer – would it ever arrive? Well, it did, and what a glorious season it turned out to be. After a harsh winter and seemingly endless springtime, summer finally returned, but not without vestiges of New England's difficult winter. Many plants were lost, and those that survived hardly lived up to their reputations. My hydrangeas are in bloom but bear no resemblance to last year's blossoms. One of my two fig trees did make it through, and that one now bears fruit, albeit still in its infant state. I long for their full ripeness, assuming the chipmunks, rabbits, and the deer that made a salad bar of my backyard hostas don't devour them first. Ah, wilderness.

Clubs throughout the state presented inspiring flower shows and garden tours, held plant sales in incredible numbers, and turned their towns into models of what civic beautification should be. Many thanks to all of you who supported Federation and National Garden Club goals in your many projects.

And now we welcome autumn. According to ancient Greek mythology, autumn is that time when Persephone, goddess of the underworld, returns to her husband, Hades. The daughter of Zeus and Demeter, goddess of the harvest, Persephone was such a beautiful young woman that everyone loved and wanted her. One day, when she was collecting flowers on the plain of Enna, (central Sicily) the earth suddenly opened and Hades rose up from the gap and abducted her. Broken-hearted, Demeter wandered the earth, looking for her daughter until she discovered what had happened. Demeter was so angry that she withdrew herself in loneliness, and the earth ceased to be fertile. Knowing this could not continue much longer, Zeus demanded that Hades release Persephone. Hades grudgingly agreed, but before she went back he gave Persephone a pomegranate. When she later ate its seeds, it bound her to the underworld forever and she had to stay there one-third of the year. The other months she stayed with her mother. When Persephone was in Hades, Demeter refused to let anything grow and winter began. This myth is a symbol of the budding and dying of nature, in spring and autumn.

Fortunately for us, the fall and early winter months, while increasingly dark and lifeless, provide much for we garden clubbers to enjoy. Now it's time to roll up our sleeves once again as events, projects and celebrations unfold in our club year. Many, if not all, are evident in these pages, and I encourage you to participate as much as your schedules permit. Learning opportunities, social events, awards deadlines, and long-term planning are on our agenda, and I look forward to working with you and having fun in the process. Of particular importance is our February Standard Flower Show, "The Spirit of Adventure," which I am happy to co-chair with Sue Redden and Vera Bowen. We'll need lots of hands, support, horticulture and imaginative design entries, and hope you will all take an active part. And, don't forget to invite a friend or two to your next club meeting; every club in the country is facing a loss of members, a decrease of over 40,000 nationwide. It's up to us to "make a difference" and promote membership as the wonderful experience we have all come to enjoy. As the old song goes, "See you in September..."

RIFGC WINS NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Sue Redden, Sandi Tinyk, and
Priscilla DiMarco display a prestigious
National award for our State Flower Show
"Hot Off The Press"



Happy Fall Everyone!

Now is the time of year to prepare your gardens and lawn for the winter. These few suggestions will help enhance your gardens in the spring.

You can start by separating those perennials that have grown abundantly throughout the summer, such as phlox, hostas, black-eyed Susans, Shasta daisies, daylilies and coneflowers to name a few. Use a trowel or a sharp knife, such as a dry wall knife, to cut through the roots. Dig around those roots and lift up gently and place in a newly dug area. Don't forget to refresh the disrupted area where you removed those perennials with new soil or compost;

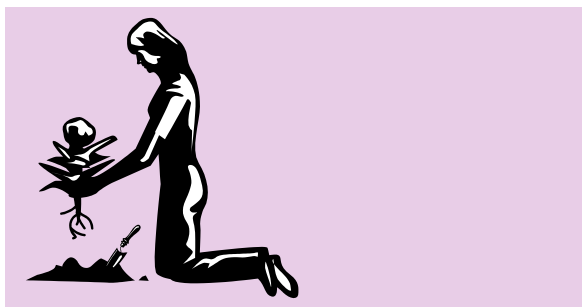
Avoid the temptation of cutting back all of the dead stalks in your flower gardens. Let purple Coneflowers, black-eyed Susans, sunflowers, and other plants with seeds and berries stand. They'll provide hours of enjoyment as you watch birds feed from them in the winter.

Bulbs such as tulips, daffodils and grape hyacinths can also be planted in the fall. Don't forget to add some bulb booster when planting your bulbs. The shrubs such as boxwood, hydrangeas and most pines can be trimmed back in the fall which helps the shrubs rejuvenate easier in the spring.

Fall is also a good time to clean up foliage from roses, peonies, and any other plants when the foliage is diseased. Just make sure those parts are bagged and put out with the garbage to avoid problems in the following growing season. Also, it is very important to spread lime in your gardens and your lawn. This will help to enrich the soil.

Fall is a great time to plant garlic - just be sure to mulch well and the garlic can be harvested the following July. You can also plant garlic near your roses to minimize the aphids from feasting on your roses the following year. I recommend cleaning-up plant containers with a small amount of bleach and warm water then in the spring you are ready to plant again.

I hope these tips are helpful with your fall clean up. Please enjoy the crisp days of fall along with all the vibrant colors this season offers us.



Linda Alves- Horticulture Chairwoman

Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs Life Member Group Scholarships and National Garden Club Scholarships

Members of the RIFGC and the Life Member Group should be very proud of their commitment to funding scholarships for worthy students from Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts! We are all well aware of the increasing expense of college and university tuition. So also are we aware of the critical need to educate future leaders in the field that are of such interest to us. **Thanks to you**, the RIFGC does its part to provide financial aid to these students. The RIFGC partners with our national organization, The National Garden Clubs (NGC), to broaden the possibilities for students from Rhode Island.

NGC is proud of its college scholarship program which offers financial aid to students majoring in fields of study related to horticulture and the environment. Applicant must be planning a career related to gardening, landscape design, environmental issues, floral design, horticulture or related fields. Thirty-five (35) advanced annual scholarships were awarded by the NGC in 2014 for the academic year of 2014-2015, each in the amount of \$4000.00. That's a whopping \$140,000!

Last year (2013), Lauren L'Esperance, then a 2nd semester junior at URI, won the Rhode Island Federation of Garden Club's Life Member Scholarship **and** the NGC National scholarship. This allowed Lauren to spend her junior year in New Zealand doing directed research in her field of study. We were thrilled and proud that our candidate had been successful.

This year, Lauren Breene, also a student at URI, was Rhode Island's candidate for an NGC Scholarship. She too was awarded an NGC Scholarship in the amount of \$4000., in addition to the \$4,000. awarded to her by the RI Life Member Group Scholarship !!! Our Life Member Group Scholarships often can make the difference for a scholar being able to continue his or her studies. At the very least, it helps to ease the heavy burden of college loans that so many young people struggle to repay.

The Scholarship Committee needs your help to promote this critically important scholarship program!

What can YOU do to help?

First, if you are not already a member of the Life Member Group of the RIFGC, **join!!!** Your one time membership dues of \$100 goes directly to the dedicated investment account for Scholarship.

Next, please do YOUR part to spread the word about these scholarships! Mention them to your neighbors. Tell your children! Tell your grandchildren! Ask them to tell **their** friends! We want many applicants for our scholarships!

Complete information on how to apply for a RI Life Membership Scholarship (including application requirements, deadlines, forms and procedures) can be found on public page of the RIFGC website. The NGC web site gives similar information about the national scholarship program and procedures.

THANK YOU for your help in promoting this wonderful program!

Please contact Janice Panoff, Scholarship Chairman, with any questions or suggestions regarding Scholarships. Contact information is: Phone- 401-782-2256 Email – janicepanoff@post.harvard.edu.



Life Member Group Summer Luncheon

Thursday, September 18, 2014

11:30 Cocktails (Cash bar) Noon Luncheon

at

The Dunes Club

137 Boston Neck Road, Narragansett, RI 02882

Go to website for directions: www.thedunesclub.org

Guests are always welcome, Tickets are \$30 per person

Meet our scholarship recipients!

Some of our Favorite Things modeled by garden club members

Reservations by: September 11, 2014- Payment must accompany reservation

Please make checks payable to: Life Member Group and send to

Holly Lippert, 45 Side Road, Little Compton, RI 02837

Any questions: contact Sharon Gainey @ sharon.gainey@cox.net

Flower Show Schools:

with Sue Redden sueredden@verizon.net; 401-245-8215

The next series of **Flower Show Schools** begins in Derby, CT September 10-12, 2014, Instructors are Mary 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 Flower Show Procedure, Barbara May. 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 FSS Courses. It will be at least two or three years before either state will start a new series of schools.

This year's **New England Region Symposium** will be held in Burlington, Vermont on October 21 – 23, 2014. Registration forms may be found on the NER website: www.ngcner.org. Judges, please let me know if you plan to attend, so that your eligibility forms may be sent. Also, I must receive your green (Accredited Judges) or pink forms (Life & Master Judges) by mid- September. The **NER Annual Meeting, October 20/21**, will precede the Symposium.

Flower Shows: The next Standard Flower Show is our own **February show**. Dates are: February 19-22, 2015. The overall name of the show is "Garden Adventures," and our show is named "**Spirit of Adventure.**" The schedule is being written and will be available by the October RIFGC Board meeting. The three Chairmen are: Sandi Tinyk, Vera Bowen, and Sue Redden.

Portsmouth Garden Club is planning its first Small Standard Flower Show in many years. **Bristol Garden Club** and **Gentian Garden Club** are also planning shows for 2015. Sue Redden, RI FSS/Symposium/Credentials Chairman.



Maintaining an Eco-Friendly Garden

by Sharon Gainey Conservation Chair



Most gardens are less than eco-friendly. The pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers are among the biggest causes of a less-than-eco-friendly garden world. Even the type of mulch you use in your garden can put your garden at risk of being less-than-eco-friendly. Then you have to look at how you maintain your garden with mowing, edging, and the type of fertilizer you use. However, you can easily create an eco-friendly garden that truly makes you the model of "sustainable" and friendly toward everything in your garden.

An eco-friendly garden is simply one in which your work with nature instead of constantly battling against it. Sounds simple, but there are some misconceptions regarding eco-friendly gardens. Does it require more work and expense than ordinary gardening? Will you have to abandon your favorite flowers or watch helplessly as slugs and aphids invade your vegetable patch? The answer to all these questions is, No!

Creating and maintaining an eco-friendly garden is straightforward if you look at how your gardening activities affect both your own little piece of the planet, and the wider environment, and always choose the least harmful option.

Make Your Garden a Chemical Free Zone

There are plenty of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers out there, but many of them are not eco-friendly. By going organic, you can still have the same beautiful garden while being safe for the environment and people, as well. Follow nature's example and switch to making your own free organic compost by recycling waste plant material in a compost bin. Tackle pests by encouraging their natural predators into your garden. Remember that weeds are only wild plants growing where you do not want them. Crowd them out by covering bare soil with plants that you do want, and make weeding an easier task by removing them before they set seed and spread.

Use Water Wisely

All plants need water and although chlorinated tap water is acceptable, rainwater is usually preferable. It is also the cheapest option if your water supply is on a meter. Install water butts to collect and store the free water provided by nature. You can also save time and water by only watering those plants that really need it, and using homemade mulches to prevent the soil drying out too quickly.

Choose an Eco-Friendly Design

Whether you are making a new garden, or want to maintain your existing garden in a more eco-friendly way, you should start by looking at the overall plan of your garden. Consider how you want to use your garden and how the different areas can work together. Wherever possible, use local and recycled materials for the hard landscaping features such as paths and raised beds.

Check the soil type and note which parts of your garden tend to be the wettest or driest, which side catches the most sun or if one corner is permanently shaded. You can save yourself work, and get better results, by matching the plants you want to grow with the conditions they prefer. Include nectar-rich flowers to attract beneficial insects, and trees, shrubs or climbers that produce winter berries and shelter for birds.

The following references contain ideas that may be helpful to you if you are interested in an eco-friendly garden:

<http://ezinearticles.com/?How-to-Maintain-an-Eco-Friendly-Garden&id=5943315>

http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=David_G_Smith

<http://www.ways2gogreenblog.com/2013/03/19/maintaining-an-eco-friendly-garden>

<http://www.stargardenstore.com/Build-And-Maintain-An-Eco-Friendly-Backyard-Garden.php>

<http://www.all-recycling-facts.com/green-gardening.html>

<http://www.carbon-footprint-defined.com/planting-a-garden.html>

Blue Star Memorials

Honoring our Service Men & Women

Did you know that Rhode Island was the first state to dedicate a Blue Star Memorial after the program was adopted by National Garden Club in 1947?

What better way is there to honor those who have served in the Armed Services? Many of us have relatives who have served our country; fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, sons and daughters. This very special group, who have protected our freedom, deserve to be honored in each of our communities.



Since World War I, a Blue Star Banner displayed in the window of a home told others that a family member was serving in the Armed Services. Also known as the Service Flag, the blue stands for hope and pride. When service members lost their lives, the blue star was replaced with a gold star representing the sacrifice. At the close of World War II, National Garden Clubs, Inc. was looking for a way of honoring our service men and women. NGC visualized a living memorial ~ one thousand flowering dogwood trees were planted along five miles of highway in New Jersey, which had been dedicated the Blue Star Drive by the legislature. No billboards were allowed on the memorial stretch.

In 1947, Mrs. Frederick R. Kellogg (NGC President 1930-1933) designed a marker which would identify the highways throughout the country. While it originally began to honor WWII veterans, the mission was expanded in 1951 to include all men and women who have served, were serving or would serve in the armed services of the United States.

The process for dedicating a Blue Star marker is relatively easy, however it does take time.

- Garden Club approves to have a Blue Star Memorial Marker
- Decide on a location and contact the local authority for permission.
i.e. Highway Department or local government
- Contact state Blue Star Chair for forms and instructions (candacemorgenstern@gmail.com)
- Other organizations who are interested in civic development may be contacted to help finance, plant and maintain the surrounding garden.
- Allow at least 2 months to have marker made.
 - By-Way Marker - 12" High by 20" wide
 - \$470.00, which can be mounted on a stone or framed
 - Memorial Marker - Overall Height 7'6" - Marker size 41"H by 45"W, includes post
 - \$1410.00
 - Price includes, shipping and handling

There are presently seven markers in Rhode Island, the most recent dedication in 2013 by Portsmouth Garden Club and in 2012 by Tiverton Garden Club. I am very pleased to announce that Sogkonate Garden Club has ordered a By-Way Marker and Gentian Garden Club has received approval and will be ordering soon.

I am available to answer any of your questions and hope each of our garden clubs in RIFGC Inc. will consider honoring the men and women who have served our country and protected the freedom that we enjoy.

Candace Morgenstern
RIFGC Blue Star Chair

Happenings: be sure to save these dates!

- **September 18 RIFGC Board Meeting:** Roger Williams Park Casino. NOTE: change of date and time. The meeting will begin at **9:30**, not 10:00
- **Thursday, Sept. 18: Life Member Luncheon** at 11:30AM at the Dunes Club, Narragansett. Chairperson: B.J. Stephens
- **September 18 Angle Tree Garden Club** Kristin Green as guest speaker. This free program will take place on September 18 at the Sweet Club House, 44 Peck St., Attleboro, MA; refreshments at 9:30 a.m., presentation at 10:00 a.m.
- **September 23-27: NGC Fall Board Meeting** in Des Moines. Iowa
- **October 9: RIFGC Education Day** at the Botanical Center. Attend workshops, have lunch (optional) and visit the garden at this FREE, annual event. Chairperson: Sandi Tinyk
- **October 9:** Deadline to qualify for the "Early Bird" price of our March 9-17, 2015 trip to Costa Rica; after this date, the price increases \$250.
- **October 14: Plum Beach Garden Club Art in Bloom/ Wickford Style**
- **October 15:** Deadline for submission of garden photos for RIFGC 2015 calendar. Digital photos to be sent electronically to Vera Bowen: verabowen9092@gmail.com
- **October 20-21: New England Region of National Garden Club Annual Convention** in Burlington, VT, followed by NER Symposium October 21-23.
- **October 21: Barrington Garden Club** Tuesday, October 21, 12:00 pm, at the Barrington Public Library. Autumn Feast – Seasonal Eating: presented by local Chef Joe Simone: Seasonal recipe tasting and suggestions for wine pairing. All are welcome. Guest fee \$5
- **Thursday, October 30: RIFGC Board Meeting** at 9:30 (refreshments followed by meeting) at the Casino. Note: this is the 5th Thursday of the month!
- **November 1:** Deadline for submissions (articles, photographs, notices) for the next RIFGC Newsletter. Please submit to Sandi Tinyk.
- **November 18: Barrington Garden Club** Tuesday, November 18, 12:00 pm, at the Barrington Public Library. Floral Arrangements for Events and Home: Joyce Holland, of Stoneblossom Floral and Event Design. Stoneblossom will create 5 themed arrangements for raffle. All are welcome. Guest fee \$5
- **Thursday, December 4: RIFGC Board Meeting** at 9:30 followed by Holiday Luncheon at the Casino. Special guest: Linda Nelson, NGC President. Design program, "Balsam and Bling" following the luncheon will be presented by the creative and entertaining Bill Graham.



Plum Beach Garden Club presents **Art in Bloom – Wickford Style** October 14

The Plum Beach Garden Club annual fundraiser, to be held on October 14, will showcase the talents of the club's members and local community artisans. Floral designers will construct arrangements live on stage that reflect a painting or sculpture done by a local artist. The Art in Bloom – Wickford Style luncheon and show will be held at St. Paul's Church **Parish Hall** on Main Street, Wickford at 12:15 PM. The \$15 fee includes a light lunch. Proceeds from the event will be used to fund the club's community beautification projects. To secure a reservation, send checks made payable to Plum Beach Garden Club to Joan Peet, 37 Standpipe Lane, North Kingstown, RI 02852

For more information please contact Barbara Dawson
dawscm@cox.net
Home [401-295-5057](tel:401-295-5057)
Cell [401-345-1007](tel:401-345-1007)



Angle Tree Garden Club Program Event

Angle Tree Garden Club is looking forward to their first program of the 2014-2015 season featuring Kristin Green, interpretive horticulturist at Blithewold Mansion, Gardens & Arboretum in Bristol, RI, and author of *PLANTIFUL: Start small, grow big with 150 plants that spread, self-sow, and overwinter*. Ms. Green will speak on "Gardening with a Generous Nature", stressing that you shouldn't have to spend the earth or quit your day job (unless you want to) to grow a great garden! "Welcome the self-sowers – they plant themselves! Let spreaders fill your garden's gaps, and practice the fine art of editorial control." Kristin Green also writes a regular column called *Down to Earth* for area newspapers and has contributed articles and photographs to *Fine Gardening* and other magazines.



Everyone is welcome to join us and author Kristin Green as she presents her new book *PLANTIFUL* – which will be available for purchase and signing – and shares her favorite plants, tips, and tools for growing an abundant and colorful garden year-round.

This free program will take place on September 18 at the Sweet Club House, 44 Peck St., Attleboro, MA; refreshments at 9:30 a.m., presentation at 10:00 a.m.



Kristin Green first unearthed a passion for gardening while on the West Coast earning degrees in art and painting from the University of Washington. Now back on native soil, she is a full-time, year-round gardener serving as interpretive horticulturist, garden blogger, and photographer at Blithewold Mansion, Gardens & Arboretum, a 33-acre non-profit public garden in Bristol, Rhode Island.