



MEMBER: NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

NEWS: Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

The Flower Show Issue

DECEMBER/JANUARY/FEBRUARY

President's Invitation

From Sandi Tinyk

December 4th 11:30 RIFGC Board Meeting & Holiday Design Luncheon

This is one "not to be missed" event! Entertaining and creative floral designer Bill Graham will be the guest speaker at the Federation's annual Holiday luncheon. His program of holiday designs, "Balsam and Bling," will give you inspiration for your own creations, and his designs will be entered in our "Opportunity Drawing." Our special guest will be NGC President, **Linda Nelson**, so let's give our VIP visitor an enthusiastic and warm welcome! Remember, all club members are always welcome at RIFGC Board meetings. This one, from 10-11:30, (coffee & social time at 9:30) will meet on the first floor of the Casino at Roger Williams Park, and will be followed by a social hour, luncheon, and design program upstairs (2nd floor). Deadline for signing up is 11/28 with \$30 sent to Marnie Sandham. Lunch choice is Veal Short Ribs or Wild Mushroom galette with goat cheese.



Additionally: RIFGC's 2015 12-month gardening calendar with photography by RI club members will be available for sale. Also available will be the NGC calendar, Vision of Beauty.

Tickets will be available to purchase for the April 23rd Annual Meeting from this meeting onward.



Pictures on this page courtesy of
Art in Bloom, Wickford Style

The Plum Beach Garden Club held a fundraiser in October entitled Art in Bloom, Wickford Style. Five local artists - three painters and two sculptors - collaborated with five floral designers from the garden club. The floral arrangements were done "live on stage" in front of an audience of over 160 people. The event was both a financial and public relations success as it exposed the community to the wonderful talent of both local artisans and members of the Plum Beach Garden Club. Floral arrangements were raffled off and proceeds of the event will help fund the club's many civic beautification projects.

President's Message



Dear Friends,

Happily, our warm and colorful fall extended well beyond its normal season this year; autumn foliage in our woods clung tenaciously to branches well into November, but the icy chill in the air these past few days is a reminder that winter is on its way. The fall saw us enjoying the natural beauty we are privileged to have in Rhode Island, as well as the flowering plants which were reluctant to end their season. We worked in our club-sponsored gardens as we continued our mission to beautify our communities and protect our natural resources. And, our Federation held its 4th “annual” Education Day, with programs which addressed our interests and concerns. I am especially grateful to Sue Redden, who stepped in at the 11th hour with a design program to fill in for Candace Morgenstern, who was unexpectedly chosen for jury duty. No matter the situation, we are in the enviable position of having so many talented members who do all they can to “make it work” regardless of roadblocks. New Hampshire Federation President, Michele Mensinger, traveled here to present her popular program on Mason Bees, complete with bee costume! We seem to have been inundated with information lately about the demise of the honey bee, and justifiably so.

I recently learned of a roof garden at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto, which, with a modest investment of \$3,500 in 1998, created a vegetable and herb garden, where they plant staples like basil, parsley and sage, along with lemon balm and spearmint, two pear trees and five cherry trees, right in the heart of the city. Honey bees are housed in hives on the roof, and in addition to pollinating in this garden, they head out to Lake Ontario to forage farther afield. Certainly, the kitchen could purchase herbs and vegetables at a lower cost than the maintenance involved with this garden, but they are to be commended for their dedication to the concept of local produce with zero food miles, not to mention the convenience of constant availability. One of the main projects of NGC President Linda Nelson is the BEE-GAP (Gardeners Aiding Pollinators) Program, which is detailed on the NGC website, along with numerous other projects and useful information. I implore you to take advantage of this, as well as *The National Gardener* and *Keeping in Touch*, the sole purpose of which is to keep us well-informed.

We may deplore the declining temperatures, but we New Englanders truly embrace the season. In November we honor our Veterans and give thanks for our many blessings, and in December, we make the most of the cheer, sparkle and beauty of our winter holidays. We remember our friends who have suffered illness and hardships as well as those who passed away this year, with deep appreciation for what they bestowed on us in time, knowledge and support. Our friends and fellow club members are the recipients of our individual commitments to make the most of our talents and generosity. So much of what we garden club members do is not just a holiday tradition, but a year-round determination to share what we have with others, protect our natural resources and wildlife, instill a respect for nature in young people, and beautify our communities. You have all done so much to contribute to your towns and the state, and we who accept awards and other honors on your behalf are so proud of each and every one of you.

At this beautiful time, we will celebrate the spirit of the holidays at our annual holiday luncheon, this year taking on the special event of Bill Graham’s inspiring and entertaining holiday design program, “Balsam and Bling.” Our special guest will be NGC President Linda Nelson, and I hope many of you will attend and give her a warm welcome. Please plan to join us, as we take a break from our hectic schedules to enjoy just being with each other, to share a delicious luncheon and be entertained. We have selected photographs for inclusion in our 12-month, 2015 garden calendar, which will be available for purchase at the luncheon, along with the NGC publication, *Vision of Beauty*. Thanks to all who submitted their images of private and public gardens throughout the year. Proceeds from the sale of these calendars will be used to replenish our budget for landscaping homes in our Habitat for Humanity future projects, so I hope you will all plan to purchase one, and possibly, additional copies for friends and family, especially those of you whose photos were submitted! Give yourself a little pat on the back while supporting a worthy cause!

Deadlines for awards applications loom, and I hope you will all take the time to submit your good work for the recognition you so justifiably deserve. For many months, our annual February Standard Flower Show has already had many members thoroughly engaged, in designing the schedule, enlisting designers to create beautiful designs, encouraging plant-owners to enter their horticultural gems, and helping our young people to participate. These are the visible tasks, but we will also need many people to work behind the scenes, helping as the show is set up at the Convention Center, to paint, clean, and help stage the show, AND to assist with dismantling it! It is a wonderful opportunity to observe how the entire show comes together, to learn from each other, and to truly feel part of this ambitious project, “The Spirit of Adventure.” See the full schedule elsewhere in this issue of the *News*, and please take note of deadlines to purchase plants for the Horticulture section, the many opportunities available for artistic crafts devotees, and the new Photography division.

Now we enter the season of festive merriment, with energy, creativity, and a long-standing commitment to our communities. For this, I am so honored to represent you, to have your support and to enjoy your friendship. I wish you and your families a wonderful holiday with my very best wishes for happiness, good health, and all the blessings of the season. *Kappy Holidays!*

Sandi Tynyk, President RIFGC

FOR THE LOVE OF BIRDS

*American goldfinch*

Fall is upon us with all its glorious colors. The colorful trees around our state are so beautiful, in my opinion, why travel up north? Some birds have left our area for the winter but many are still around. How are your birds doing? This summer I tried to list all of the birds in my backyard but I've probably missed some. These include:

woodpeckers (hairy and downy), hummingbirds (ruby-throated), northern flicker, titmice, robins, brown-headed cowbird, blue jays, grackles, red winged blackbirds, chickadees, goldfinches, pine siskins, cardinals, mourning doves, sparrows, turkeys, pigeons.

All the birds coming to my yard (or maybe they refer to my yard as *their* yard) are eating at my feeders with gusto. I need to refill most of my feeders almost every two days, but watching all the bird activity has made feeding them worthwhile. I need no radio when I come out on my patio in the morning because the birds are all singing. Even the blue jay's screech is okay because he's letting the others know that there is danger nearby. When a hawk may be in the area, the birds do not make a sound. You really could hear a pin drop.

As the danger passes the birds come out again, first one and then in little groups.

I'd like to highlight a few of the many birds that I see:

Goldfinches- They come to the thistle feeder and to the birdbath. The male's coloring is absolute perfection. They are quite a bright yellow with some perfectly black markings. American goldfinches molt twice a year and in the spring and summer is when they are at their most vibrant color. The female that I see hanging out with her mate looks a more drab greenish.

*Northern flicker*

Sparrows- They come in so many colors (usually with lots of brown) but we tend to lump them altogether. I have just recently been trying to sort them out. I've learned that there are 6 types of sparrows; 1. American Tree Sparrow, 2. Fox Sparrow, 3. House Sparrow, 4. Song Sparrow, 5. White-crowned Sparrow and 6. White-throated Sparrow. The only way to learn which is which, is to first read about what the different markings are and then just watch them. I'm working on that.

Flicker- They can be 13 inches long and a sight to behold as they hang upside-down from the suet feeders. They have a buff breast with black dots, a brown back and wings with a pattern of black stripe-like on both, a red

patch on the back of his head and a long black beak. They are so majestic. Just seeing them come to the feeder makes me smile.

*Wild turkey*

Finally the Wild Turkey-There is nothing that I do to attract these slow moving birds. Once in a while they just appear. One of my feeders drops some extra seed when the other birds are feeding, so occasionally one large turkey will fly in for a snack. Her brood often comes with her. There are two different families of turkeys who are living nearby. Each has a brood of 6 or more young ones. They are such a graceful moving bird. When they are around I just have to watch to see what they'll do. They don't get into any mischief-just have a little snack and ever so slowly they are on their way.

How many birds can you name in your backyard?

Enjoy the rest of this fabulous fall season.

By Jan Marcello Bird Chairman

Dates to Remember

- **DECEMBER: 12/4**
RIFGC Board Meeting & Holiday Design Luncheon.
- **2015:** Happy Birthday RIFGC! It is the Federation's 85th year and events are planned to celebrate it, including a celebratory trip to Costa Rica in March and a special flower show next fall! Stay tuned!
- **JANUARY: 1/22:**
RIFGC Board Meeting, 10:00 at Casino, Roger Williams Park (coffee & social time at 9:30)
- **FEBRUARY: 2/19-22 RI**
Spring Garden & Flower Show. The theme of the 2015 RIFGC Standard Flower Show is "The Spirit of Adventure". Many hands are needed to continue making this show the great success it has always been. If interested in volunteering to work on staging, serve as a clerk or hostess, or in any other way, see Sue Redden or Sandi Tinyk, Flower Show co-chairs, along with Vera Bowen.
- **MARCH: 3/9** RIFGC Costa Rica trip departs
3/15 Deadline for NGC Membership Photography Contest
3/17 RIFGC Costa Rica trip returns
3/26: RIFGC Board Meeting, 10:00 at Casino, Roger Williams Park (coffee & social time at 9:30)
- **APRIL: 4/23** Annual Meeting, Awards Presentation, Luncheon & Installation of Officers at The Imperial Room, One Rhodes Place, Cranston, RI (Next to Rhodes). Tickets: \$35. Luncheon speaker will be floral designer Susan Detjens, who will present "flowerflinging."
- **MAY: 5/12-17** NGC 86th Annual Convention, Louisville, KY



CONGRATULATIONS

Vera Bowen,
Director-Elect of the
New England Region
of National Garden
Clubs, and to Lynne
Merrill, Alternate
Director.

Congratulations are
also in order for 1st
Vice President Cathy
Moore, who is
President-Elect of
RIFGC, effective
October 30, 2014.



At right, Candace Morgenstern's armature design at the NER Symposium in Burlington, VT.

Horticulture

How to Force Flowering Branches

In late January and February when the temperatures outside rise above freezing; this is a good time to cut branches. Select and cut branches with many plump buds to bring indoors to force blossoms.

- Use a sharp blade or pruning shears and be careful not to disfigure the shrub or tree.
- Cut a few more branches than you expect to use because some may not absorb water satisfactorily.
- Carefully split the cut end of the branches, one to four inches.
- Place the cut branches in a container of warm water and re-cut one inch from the base of the stem. This will help prevent air from entering the stem through the cut end which will block the water uptake.
- Remove any buds and twigs that will be under water.
- Place containers of branches away from direct sunlight in a warm room (60-70 degrees).
- Change the water every few days. One can also add a floral preservative to the container of branches to help control bacteria.
- It may take one to eight weeks for the blossoms to open. The closer to their natural bloom time that you cut the branches, the sooner they will open.

Here is a list of local favorites from the garden

Cercis canadensis- **Redbud**

Chaenomeles spp- **Japanese or Flowering Quince**

Cornus florida- **Flowering Dogwood**

Hamamelis vernalis- **Vernal Witch Hazel**

Crataegus spp- **Hawthorn**

Forsythia spp- **Forsythia**

Lonicera spp- **Honeysuckle**

Magnolia soulangiana- **Saucer Magnolia**

Magnolia stellata- **Star Magnolia**

Malus spp- **Apple and Crabapple**

Syringa spp- **Lilac**

Viburnum spp- **Viburnum**



By Linda Alves Horticulture Chairman

Flower Show Schools

Five of our RI judges have extended their 'Good Standing' until 2017 by auditing the NER Symposium in Burlington, VT – Priscilla DiMarco, Janice Panoff, De Feldman, Candace Morgenstern, and Lynne Merrill. Also attending were Vera Bowen, Sandi Tinyk and me.

I think we all agreed that it was an excellent Symposium with wonderful instructors. Lynne, De and Candace created designs for the point-scoring.

Barbara Blossom has passed FSS Course II and is now a Student Exhibitor and is able to earn exhibiting credits.

Congratulations to Marjorie DeAngelis and Ann Huntoon who have passed their Handbook exam.

Flower Shows – Our own state show *“The Spirit of Adventure”* is the next flower show on our agenda. The dates are February 19 – 23, 2015. Judging is on the 18th.

Bristol Garden Club is presenting – *“Blithewold... The Good Life”* April 18 and 19, 2015 to coincide with daffodil days.

Gentian Garden Club's show, *“Quintessential Country... A Study of Flora, Fauna & Fancy”* is May 16, 2015

*Sue Redden,
RI Flower Show Schools
Chairman.*



Awards

Clubs applying for NGC awards must have the applications in to me by **December 15th**. Award information is on the NGC website www.gardenclub.org look under Awards. **An NGC application form must be used to apply for these awards.**

Your club Newsletters are eligible for both National and State Awards, but we need two sets of three months of Newsletters edited by the same person.

Publicity Press Books are also due at the **January Board meeting.**

RI State Awards are due on **February 15.**

All of the above awards should be sent to Sue Redden, electronically, by mail, or bring them to the January 22, 2015 Board Meeting.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Vera Bowen and Sue Redden Awards Co-Chairs. Sue – sueredden@verizon.net Vera- vera9092@gmail.com



Awards Deadlines

There is still time to enter the two awards listed below:

THE SYLVIA STREET AWARD

This Award was established by the Dirt Gardeners Garden Club to be given to the most **creative arranger** of the year, in memory of Sylvia Street an innovative designer for the times. The Design must have been exhibited at an NGC or RIFGC related function, or at an event where the designer represents his/her club or state. (e.g. Newport Flower Show, Art in Bloom.)

THE JOAN F. PESOLA AWARD

This award, offered by the Barrington Garden Club in memory of Former President, Joan Pesola, is awarded to an arranger of the best design in the **Traditional or Oriental** manner. Design must have been exhibited at an NGC or RIFGC related function, or at an event where the designer represents his/her club or state. (e.g. Newport Flower Show, Art in Bloom)

Deadline is January 15, 2015.

Send or email a photograph of the design to **Lynne Merrill, 233 Third Beach Road, Middletown, RI 02842** Lynnemerrill3@gmail.com

On back of entry, using a sticky note, put name, garden club, event at which design was displayed. (Flower Show, Design Study, Newport, Club meeting etc.) Name plant material if possible.

A Wintery Time of Year

Hello Gardeners;

As we approach our winter it is lovely to reflect and remember the balmy, sunny summer days and crisp vibrant days of fall. This summer and fall provided great weather for growing our flowers and vegetables and reflecting how the bees, birds and clean water are so important to every one of us.

The winter months will be in our region along with the holiday seasons with lots of embellishment in our homes. When we bring in branches from outdoors please be certain you examine and rinse the branches of pines, bare branches and berries.

There are a number of pests and I would like to inform you of one in particular; the winter moth, *Operaphtera brumata* L. (Lepidoptera; Geometridae). This is a non-native invasive defoliator from Europe that was discovered in MA in the late 1990's. Winter moth has now been found throughout the eastern half of MA, RI, CT, Long Island, NY, southeastern NH and southeastern ME. The winter moth feeds on numerous species and is a pest of oak (*Quercus*), maple (*Acer*), birch (*Betula*), beech (*Fagus*), ash (*Fraxinus*) and also apple (*Malus*) trees and many other genera. In Europe and British Columbia the winter moth also feeds on spruce (*Picea*).

Winter moth completes one generation per year and overwinters in the egg stage. The eggs typically hatch in April and larvae begin feeding within the expanding buds and later on the foliage for approximately six weeks. These moths can completely strip trees of foliage leaving only the veins. In Europe these moths are cyclical, with 2-3 year outbreaks occurring approximately every 8 to 10 years. But in MA the moth has been consistently observed for more than a decade.

To combat this pest insecticidal control may be helpful in reducing the winter moth populations but timing is important and must be sprayed during the larvae stages and it is critical to spray again as early larvae are protected when feeding within tree buds. *Cyzenis albicans*, is a parasitoid fly that feeds exclusively on winter moths and that was introduced in MA in 2005. As I travel to eastern MA often I can see the damage these winter moths have made and believe it is essential to inform people of this pest, the winter moth. For more information please go to the URI Master Gardener website and click or type in pest alert.

By Linda Alves

Horticulture Chairman



Youth Entries

All entries to the youth contests-- poster, poetry, essay, and sculpture are due to me at the January 22, 2015 Federation meeting.

Further information and helpful hints can be found at

www.gardenclub.org/youth contests

Youth Chairman Rochelle Kieron

683-9470 or rckieron@msn.com

Forcing Bulbs

Hello gardeners;

We are coming to the end of our gardening season outdoors. I would like to give you information on how to force spring bulbs into bloom indoors so you can enjoy the fragrances and colors early in your own home. This can be accomplished by planning ahead during the frigid, dreary months of winter.

Although it's not hard to fool Mother Nature, you can't hurry the process. Forcing most spring bulbs into bloom requires 8 to 15 weeks of chilling, though there are varieties that can be ready for prime time in just 2 to 3 weeks.

- Place as many bulbs as possible in a clean pot, without letting them touch. A 6-inch-wide pot holds up to six tulips, three narcissus (daffodils), or 15 minor bulbs, such as crocuses or grape hyacinths.
- For a thick show, layer more than one kind of bulb in the same pot; place larger bulbs on the bottom and they'll grow around the smaller ones. If the two bulbs you want to combine have different chilling and blooming schedules, plant them first in small plastic containers and combine them once they're in bloom.
- Cover the bulbs with potting mix, leaving their tips showing. Water the bulbs thoroughly. Label with name and date; loosely cover pot with a paper bag. Place in cool (35 to 45 degrees F), dark storage for chilling. Such as a draw in a refrigerator, unheated attic, basement or attached garage. You will have to monitor the temperature if the weather turns extremely cold.
- Check the moisture in pot periodically. Keep soil damp but not wet. When chilling is complete, you'll see roots poking out of the bottom of the pot and green sprouts emerging at the bulb tips. It's time to move the potted bulbs into a warm room. Keep the soil damp. When flowers appear, move the pot out of direct sun to make the blooms last longer.

Below is a time table chart which will help you to determine which bulbs you want to force indoors. I hope you will take up the challenge to force bulbs into bloom; you can always enter this gardening adventure into our **RI Flower show in February**.



Chilling and Blooming Times

- **Daffodils:** 12-15 weeks of chilling; 2-3 weeks to bloom after chilling.
- **Tulips:** 10-16 weeks of chilling; 2-3 weeks to bloom after chilling.
- **Crocus:** 8-15 weeks of chilling; 2-3 weeks to bloom after chilling.
- **Grape hyacinth (Muscari):** 8-15 weeks of chilling; 2-3 weeks to bloom after chilling.
- **Iris reticulata:** 13-15 weeks of chilling; 2-3 weeks to bloom after chilling.
- **Snowdrop (Galanthus):** 15 weeks of chilling; 2 weeks to bloom after chilling.
- **Hyacinth:** 12-15 weeks of chilling; 2-3 weeks to bloom after chilling.

Linda Alves – Horticulture Chairman

2015 RIFGC Standard Flower Show

The RIFGC Standard Flower Show runs concurrently with
The 2015 RI Spring Flower & Garden Show
(Theme: Garden Adventures)

Thursday through Saturday, February 19th -22nd
Providence Convention Center, 1 Sabin Street, Providence, RI.
RIFGC Theme: "The Spirit of Adventure"

Our schedule is complete and is available on our website

www.rigardenclubs.org

Thank you Vicki for an innovative theme!

Priscilla DiMarco is **Design Entries Chairman**: phd64@verizon.net Some classes are almost filled, so hurry and sign up for your preferred class. This year we have a spouse/partner Challenge Class. All components will be given to the exhibitors and a special time will be set aside for them to create their masterpieces.

Artistic Crafts Entries Chairman is Lynne Merrill, lynnemerrill3@gmail.com. Those are filling up fast too!

Youth Artistic Crafts are sailboats this year, these are due back to Cathy Moore at the January Board meeting.

We will need lots of help with staging etc. Sign-up in December and January. Bernie is in charge of our raffle again this year and he would gladly receive donations for the garden, wine, and miscellaneous baskets he creates.

Horticulture: Deadline for purchasing container-grown foliage or flowering plants is **November 22, 2014**. Bulbs must be grown by the exhibitor. Our Youth exhibitors must have their succulents/cacti in hand by **December 20, 2014**.

If you have questions please ask!

Flower Show Co-Chairs: Sandi Tinyk – sandi.tinyk7@gmail.com

Vera Bowen – verabowen9092@gmail.com

Sue Redden – sueredden@verizon.net



Extra! Extra! Extra! Read all about it.....

Awards won by our RI Clubs at the New England Region Awards Program in Burlington, VT.

Barrington Garden Club - The Laura Wetmore Conservation Award for their continuing effort to maintain the pristine Osamequin Nature Trail

Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. - The Mary Louise Marks Smith Flower Show Schedule Award for their challenging Standard Flower Show, "*It's All About Time.*"

The Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. - The Virginia Kenney/Maureen Colton Award Horticulture Award - for the high quality of the 197 horticultural exhibits in their state show "*It's All About Time.*"

The Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc - The Jeanne -Marie Parkes Award - for an innovative Educational Exhibit on Micro-Greens.

Yearbooks - First Place Winners:

Club 20-29 members - **Hameho Garden Club**

Club 30-34 members - **Bristol Garden Club**

Club 70-99 members - **Edgewood Garden Club**

Club 100-299 members - **Barrington Garden Club**

Publicity Press Books: First Place Winners -

Large Club 60-99 Members - **Sogkonate Garden Club**

Extra-Large Club - **Barrington Garden Club**



WILD MUSHROOM HUNTING IN RHODE ISLAND

More and more people are discovering that mushroom hunting is not only easy, but indescribably fun. It is also safe, if done properly. Right here in our little State, varieties that are safe for beginners can be found in abundance if you know where--and when--to look. Ryan Bouchard and Emily Schmidt of Southern New England Mushroom Hunting are on a mission to educate Rhode Islanders about this fascinating hobby. Ryan is the author and photographer of *Gourmet Mushrooms of RI*, the first book about mushroom hunting in the Ocean State; and Emily studies the health and nutritional values of our local mushrooms, as well as the many ways they can be cooked. Together, Ryan and Emily guide their audience into understanding the incredible world of gourmet mushrooms, accompanied by a beautiful slideshow of local mushroom photography. They present many local varieties, focusing on those that are safe for beginners, and discuss their health and nutritional values as well. After the lecture-and-slideshow is over, Ryan and Emily host a Q&A session, and Ryan offers signed copies of the new, expanded *Gourmet Mushrooms of Rhode Island*. This work is simultaneously a gorgeous 2015 calendar and a 44-page book with local recipes and over 140 color photos. The calendar, and the presentation, have been very well-received. Take a closer look at this overlooked but astonishing part of our natural world! For more information contact Ryan (401) 595-6143 or mushroomhuntingcentral@gmail.com

RIFGC President Sandi Tinyk, NER director Maria Nahom, and President Linda Nelson at the New England Region Meeting in Vermont



Barrington Garden Club plants a tree thanks to funding awarded from RIFGC!

RIFGC Photo Album



The RIFGC Education Day Bee Gap program with Michelle Mensinger was enjoyed by all



A creation by NER Symposium featured speaker Julia Clevitt



Sue Redden creates a fall floral arrangement for RIFGC Education Day