

The Rhode Island Federation Insider

RIFGC NEWSLETTER

BARKING UP THE RIGHT TREE

DEB ORT

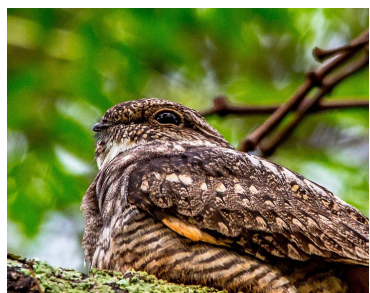
The very first American
Arbor Day occurred
on April 10, 1872,
in Nebraska City!

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RIFGC AWARDS LUNCHEON

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EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILLS PETITE PIED-PIPERS

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PARTY AT BERNIES!

VINO AND VIOLETS,
SEPTEMBER 10TH

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THE BIRDS AND THE BEES

WELL, ALL THE POLLINATORS

Often when we think of pollinators
we think of Bees and Butterflies.
However, as well as the vital job that
Bees and Butterflies perform for us there
are other pollinators who are equally
necessary to the wellbeing of our plants.

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IT'S A WRAP!

OUR WORLD, RIFGC FLOWER SHOW

The RIFGC Flower Show is behind us leaving
behind some fantastic memories and
many new friendships. After what seems
like forever of not being able to meet in
person and inspire each other's creativity,
the stars aligned and we were back!

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FLOWER SHOW IN FULL BLOOM

RIFGC PRESIDENT SHERYL
HANSON MCGOOKIN

Finally! The sun is hot, the rain is letting up, we can get out in the yard with bird song, garden tools, watering cans, iced tea, and a happy heart!

If you are not in the yard surely you are spending time with friends & family as the pandemic restrictions continue to lift; birthday parties and spring graduations, so many plant sales, fundraisers, the RIFGC Horticulture show and Youth Photo contest, Barrington & Sogkonate garden clubs are hosting flower show/ garden tours & one can attend the NEGC fall symposium. The details of these events can be found in this Newsletter.

When you dig deeper into the Newsletter, you will learn something new from Sue Redden's article on the Whip-Poor-Will and Barbara's Book Corner, Barbara was very excited about this spring's reading material.

I hope many of you were able to attend the RIFGC Flower Show at the Convention Center. I

was told by many attendees that this show was one of the best we have hosted to date! Co-chairs Judy Gray & Blakely Szosz did an amazing job, and they would agree that the Rhode Island Builders Association was nothing but supportive and excited to include us as a significant part of their Home Show. The designers put much heart into their entries, both impressive & beautiful! The Flower Show was almost immediately followed by the well-attended RIFGC Annual Luncheon & Awards ceremony. Deb McCartin and Karen Cipriano, rock stars! They put together an enjoyable, friendly event with finishing details worthy of a statewide event. Congratulations to all the clubs whose hard work translated into awards from RIFGC.

As most of you know the RIFGC website is currently a work in progress so please read through the spring newsletter carefully for details of upcoming events including the RIFGC July Polo Fundraiser, the LMG fall fundraiser, and keep an eye on your email and our Facebook page for details about the RIFGC/Providence Art Club art in Bloom event this fall 2022.

We are looking forward to working with you all as we continue to make the world a better place through all aspects of gardening and design.

2022 CALENDAR

- MAY 14 Western Cranston GC Plant Sale
MAY 21 Wantaknohow GC Plant Sale
APRIL 30TH Rosefest 2022
JUNE 02 Judges Council Hort Show
JUNE 04 Portsmouth GC Plant Sale
JUNE 08 Wet Your Whistle Wednesdays
JUNE 18 Gentian GC Plant Sale
JUNE 22 BGC Garden Tour & Flower Show
JUNE 25 & 26 Sokgonate Flower Show
JULY 13 Wet Your Whistle Wednesdays
SEPT 10 LMG Fundraiser at Bernie Larivee's
SEPT 15 Plum Beach Fundraiser
-

WET YOUR WHISTLE WEDNESDAY

RIFGC Award Chairman Cheryl Celeste & Kathleen Damiani rounded out the end of our first year on May 11th with a discussion on Awards available to clubs on the state, regional and national level. The meetings were an opportunity for Pres. and/or Representatives to discuss topics of interest in a zoom format. Where covid decided to grace our presence for another year, the format allows us to be connected with members from across the state from the comforts of our home. We had lively and informative conversations on fundraising, membership, mentoring, insurance and non-profit status, and awards.

We are already planning for next year's topics. We want this to grow into a great tool for members to exchange ideas and bring these conversations back to their clubs. With summer ahead we need your input in order to fine tune how this meeting is formatted, to best suit you as members of RIFGC. Please send me your comments, suggestions, topics of interest, chocolate etc. to judy.gray123@gmail.com

Judges' Council Show

Horticultural show
in coordination with
RIFGC board meeting

BGC Tour & Show

Garden tour and Flower
show on June 22nd,
details to follow. Entry
information on page 6

Plant Sales

Portsmouth Garden Club
June 4th 9-2pm
Portsmouth Free
Library 2658 E Main
Road, Portsmouth RI

Wantaknowhow
Garden Club
May 21st 8am-12pm
Summit Baptist
Church 1176 Victory
Highway, Greene RI

Gentian Garden Club
June 18th 9am-1pm
North Scituate
Meerting House
546 West Greenville Road

Western Cranston GC
May 14th 8:00am - 5:00pm
Stamp Farm, 219
Comstock Pkwy
*Mention the Western
Cranston Garden
Club when you check
out at the register

Rosefest 2022

See flyer on page 10

LMG Fundraiser

See flyer on page 8



GENTIAN GARDEN CLUB



P L A N T S A L E



Saturday, June 18

MOST
PLANTS
\$5

9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

North Scituate Meeting House
546 West Greenville Road



RAIN OR SHINE!





NHFGC is hosting the New England Garden Clubs, Inc., 6th Annual Meeting on October 18 – 19, 2022 (Tuesday and Wednesday) in Nashua at the Event Center/Courtyard Marriott. We have two excellent presenters lined up to both entertain and educate you, Arabella Dane will be coordinating a fabulous photography exhibit, and we will all have the opportunity to reconnect with some of our garden club friends throughout New England that we have been missing. Come enjoy a few days in Southern NH amid the beautiful October foliage and take in all that the area has to offer. We hope to see many NEGC members attending. More details will follow soon.

PLUM BEACH FUNDRAISER

LUNCH AT THE DUNES, SEPTEMBER

The date has been set for the Plum Beach Garden Club fundraiser at the Dunes Club in Narragansett and we hope you will join us for this popular event on Thursday September 15, 2022.

Lunch will be served in the fabulous dining room overlooking Narragansett Bay and will be followed by a presentation of Autumn Inspirations. Sarah Boynton, an award-winning flower show competitor, will create many expressions of Autumn, from simple bouquets to grand-scale arrangements, and will share her secrets for choosing materials, conditioning flowers, selecting tools, and using eco-friendly

alternatives to floral foam. The always-fabulous Raffle of unique items created by members of Plum Beach Garden Club follows and provides an animated high-note to this memorable event.

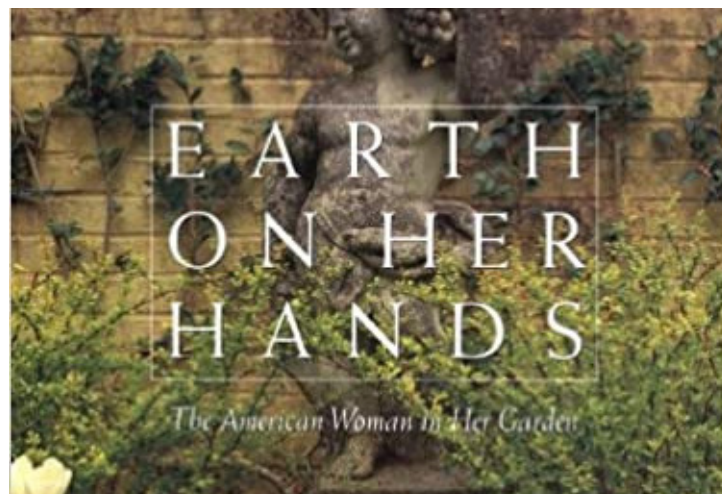
Reservations are limited and sell out quickly. Final details and reservation instructions will be available soon and will be posted on the club's website: plumbeachgardenclub.org. Or send us an email at pbgcluncheon2022@gmail.com and we will send you an email with all the details and a Reservation Form as soon as available.

EARTH ON HER HANDS

BARBARA'S BOOK REVIEW

A wonderful coffee table book! Photographs and interviews lead readers into eighteen outstanding American backyard gardens and introduce them to the women who created them. This is the perfect season for this book as we all begin our spring gardening, planting, pruning, designing... These amazing 18 women will lead you through their garden gates into 18 different worlds...

"We come and go, but the land will always be here. Those people who love and understand it are the only ones who really own it - for a while." - Willa Cather, *O Pioneers!*





Barrington Garden Club

Presents

“Sharing Our Gardens”

**A Tour of Eight Private Gardens
and
A Small - Standard Flower Show**

Wednesday June 22, 2022

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Rain or Shine

St. John's Episcopal Church

191 County Road

Barrington, RI

Contact: BGCTour2022@gmail.com

Advance ticket sales are \$30 - Day of ticket sales are \$40

EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILLS PETITE PIED-PIPERS

SUE REDDEN, BIRD CHAIR

Made famous in folk songs, poems, and literature for their endless chanting on summer nights, Eastern Whip-poor-wills are easy to hear but hard to see. Their brindled plumage blends perfectly with the gray-brown leaf litter of the open forests where they breed and roost. At dawn and dusk, and on moonlit nights, they sally out from perches to sweep up insects in their cavernous mouths. These common birds are on the decline in parts of their range as open forests are converted to suburbs or agriculture. Eastern Whip-poor-wills lay their eggs in phase with the lunar cycle, so that they hatch on average 10 days before a full moon. When the moon is near full, the adults can forage the entire night and capture large quantities of insects to feed to their nestlings.

Eastern Whip-poor-will chicks move around as nestlings, making it difficult for predators to rob the nest. The parent may help by shoving a nestling aside with its foot, sometimes sending the young bird tumbling head over heels. The male Eastern Whip-poor-will often will investigate intruders near the nest by hovering in place with his body nearly vertical and his tail spread wide, showing off the broad white tips of the tail feathers. Eastern and Mexican Whip-poor-wills used to be considered one species, simply called the Whip-poor-will. But in 2011 they were split into two species based on differences in mitochondrial and nuclear DNA. Eastern Whip-poor-wills give faster, higher-pitched whip-poor-will calls and have more colorful eggs than their western counterparts. The Eastern Whip-poor-will may locate insects by seeing the bugs' silhouettes against the sky. Its eyes have a reflective structure behind the retina that is probably an adaptation to low light conditions. In the wild, Eastern Whip-poor-wills have been known to live 13 to 15 years.



SAVE THE DATE

“DAYS OF WINE AND ROSES”

AN EVENING OF WINE TASTING AND FLORAL DESIGNS

INSPIRED FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10

5-8

AT

BERNIE LARIVÉE'S HOME

CRANSTON, RI

PROCEEDS TO SUPPORT LIFE MEMBER GROUP



THE BIRDS AND THE BEES

WELL, POLLINATORS, NOT
JUST BEES & BUTTERFLIES
VERA BOWEN

Often when we think of pollinators we think of Bees and Butterflies. However, as well as the vital job that Bees and Butterflies perform for us there are other pollinators who are equally necessary to the wellbeing of our plants.

Bees, bats, birds and butterflies do us an important service: As they visit flowers to feed on nectar, they carry pollen from plant to plant. This movement of pollen from a flower's male stamen to its female stigma — or that of the next flower — fertilizes plants and produces fruits and seeds. Most of the world's flowering plants and crops depend on the hard-working insects and birds we call pollinators. Without pollinators, we would miss out on many fruits, vegetables and nuts — not to mention chocolate and coffee. But pollinators are in trouble!!

For the past 25 years, many species of bees and other pollinators have experienced large drops in numbers. Among the causes:

Fewer places to feed and breed. Pollinator habitat is shrinking. As roads and developments have replaced meadows and wildlands, pollinators have lost feeding and nesting sites. Remaining patches of prairie and meadow have become more disconnected. That makes it harder for pollinators to reach new breeding sites or find better habitat.

Imported species and diseases. Invasive plants crowd out native ones, reducing food and shelter for pollinators. Disease-causing organisms— including viruses, fungi and bacteria — can spread from non-native to native pollinators. Other stressors, such

as poor nutrition and pesticide exposure, may intensify the effect of diseases.

Pesticides. While pesticides can help control crop pests and invasive species, improper use can harm pollinators and other wildlife. Use pesticides only when necessary. Use the minimum amount required and target the application so that only the intended pest is affected.

Climate change. Flowers are blooming earlier as temperatures warm, costing some pollinators the opportunity to feed. Some insects feed only on specific plants; if these blooms die before insects arrive, the insects go hungry and fewer plants get pollinated.



Rising temperatures may be contributing to a decline in bumblebees. Numbers of North American bumblebees have fallen nearly 50 percent since 1974. The biggest losses have occurred in places where temperatures have risen the highest. Other climate change effects — more flooding, shorter fire cycles and the spread of invasive species — threaten native habitats. This may directly affect pollinators if the host plant that a pollinator needs to survive is overtaken by another plant species. Please help us make people more aware of the vital role played by our pollinators!

ROSE FEST 2022



Rosa Graham Thomas Photo Courtesy of Anaelina Chute

Saturday, April 30, 2022 10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Celebrate Roses!

Find the perfect new rose(s) for your garden!

Find out more about growing roses

Free talks and demonstrations open to the public

Consulting Rosarians available to answer your questions

- 10:00 Welcome: Wildwood Rose Selections**
- 10:15 Planting your Roses**
- 10:45 Pruning your Roses**
- 11:15 Six Steps for Successful Rose Gardening***
- 12:00 Lunch**
- 1:00 Organic Rose Care**
- 1:30 Companion Planting with Roses**
- 2:00 Planting for Pollinators**
- 2:30 Open time/Membership/ CR questions**

Presented by Mike and Angelina Chute, coauthors of *Roses for New England: A Guide to Sustainable Rose Gardening

RIRS members: Remember to bring your RIRS membership card for 10% off roses!
All Others: You are welcome to join the RIRS for \$20 and receive your 10% discount immediately.

Hosted at: WILDWOOD NURSSERIES
659 Frenchtown Road, East Greenwich, RI

For more information, please refer to rirs.org or wildwoodri.com for details.

BARKING UP THE RIGHT TREE

DEB ORT

What does *Arbor* mean in *Arbor Day*? It literally means tree day.

It is a holiday that is celebrated on different days of the year in different parts of the world. In the United States, it is observed on the last Friday of April. In Portugal, it is celebrated on March 21st, and in Germany, it's on April 25th.

The very first American Arbor Day occurred on April 10, 1872, in Nebraska City, Nebraska and was initiated by newspaper editor and Secretary of Agriculture Julius Sterling Morton. On that day, over a million trees were planted in the area.

There are many ways to celebrate Arbor Day. In fact, the celebration is often as diverse as the people and communities hosting them. Here are a few of them:
Clean Up a Public Park-A great way to

celebrate this day is to go to the local park in your community and pitch in with some of your friends to clear up litter.

Plant Trees-An obvious way to commemorate this day is by planting some trees.

Pick ones that are native to your area and ones that won't be invasive

Honor Stewards of The Environment-

Consider honoring the citizens in your community who have made the greatest impact toward the preservation of nature.

These are only a few suggestions, but they should help you brainstorm some creative ideas for celebrating this very important day of the year.

Arbor Day is a special day that is set aside throughout the world to raise awareness of trees and the important role that they play in our environment. People throughout the world take part in tree planting events and other celebrations of trees and the role that they play in our environment.

When people wonder why Arbor Day is important, they must only look at the destruction and long-term damage that deforestation has had on our environment to realize that the issues are as important today as they have ever been. Trees can no longer be taken for granted. It is important that we all learn more about trees and the role that they play to fully appreciate their place in our world.



OUT OF THE LYME LIGHT!

PORTSMOUTH GC FIGHTS TICKS

The Portsmouth Garden Club has received a RI State Senate Legislative Community Service grant from our State Senator. We will spray for lyme ticks at our local beach, Sandy Point Beach.



Sandy Point is a shallow, natural, family beach located on the Sakonnet River. The vegetation and long walkway to the sand has an abundant tick population and presents a public health hazard. Many small children with their families as well as summer camp children use the beach every day.

In addition to four months of spraying (using green products), we will provide instructional information on tick identification, fact sheets concerning Lyme disease prevention and symptoms, and beach signage.

The Portsmouth Garden Club is committed to the health and safety of our community. Our hope is that this important community service initiative will spread to other Rhode Island communities to benefit all Rhode Islanders. For more information contact: Mary Lorusso – DiBara, President (marydibara@gmail.com)

WAM!

SANDI TINYK, PROGRAM CHAIR

Given the task of creating a design to complement an all-white Greek sculpture would surely be a daunting exercise for most of us. But not so for our own RIFGC Vice-President, Judy Gray, who came through with incredible artistry at this year's Flora in Winter at the Worcester Art Museum. Judy's assignment was to interpret an Ancient Greek sculpture was a 400BC Grave Stelle. It depicts a woman holding a jewelry box. Stellae in Ancient Greece were monuments, like our modern tombstones, and were first

made in Athens from the 5th century BC; they often depict the deceased in poses offering a glimpse of everyday life but are always personal representations of departed loved ones.

Judy's stellar design reflects the fact that the surviving piece is, not unlike much of ancient art, headless, which is also why Judy chose not to go higher in her design. Judy created the container from a standard glass one, to reflect typical Greek columns. And white roses represented the color of the piece. An outstanding part of her interpretation was the jewelry box which the woman holds; representing the jewels were numerous plants and berries, including hypericum.

Thirty-five Federation members and guests traveled to Worcester by motor coach, and following the museum visit, enjoyed a delicious luncheon in the city. Thanks for sharing your talent with us, Judy, and inspiring the trip, the first after months of Covid-related isolation.



RIFGC FEDERATION LUNCHEON

PHOTOS FROM THE SPRING AWARDS
SPRING 2022



IT'S A WRAP!

OUR WORLD, RIFGC FLOWER SHOW

The RIFGC Flower Show is behind us leaving behind some fantastic memories and many new friendships. After what seems like forever of not being able to meet in person and inspire each other's creativity, the stars aligned and we were back. The enthusiasm and energy shined vibrantly through our generous volunteers, gracious hostesses, and talent in design.

The fearless leadership of President Sheryl Hanson McGookin and boundless energy of V.P. Judy L. Gray (who seems like perhaps she does not sleep) gave the distinct impression to all that we are in excellent hands for the coming years.

As mentioned before some great friendships are forged in collaborating on an event like this. It couldn't have happened without the many contributions and volunteer hours. We can't possibly mention every club and hostess but hope you felt to be a part of something special as you were the reason that it was.

In particular we would like to acknowledge Kathy Thomas, Paul Nunes, Deb Matson, Vera Bowen, Barbara Blossom, Sue Redden, Catherine Moore, De Feldman, Vicki Iannuccillo, Candace Morgenstern, Kathleen Bessette, Alison Poirier, Sheryl McGookin, Sandi Tinyk, Eileen Dennis, Linda Alves, Kathy Schnabel, Sara Lee, Rhode Island Builders Association, and the many students from across the region that help put together all aspects of the RI Home Show by participating in work based learning initiatives. Truly their guidance, expertise, and commitment to serving our community made all of this possible and likewise where we live a more dynamic and wonderful place to call home.

Congratulations to all of you with sincere thanks and appreciation,
Blakely Szosz and Judy L. Gray
Flower Show Chairs 2022



GARDENS BY THE SEA

SOKGONATE GC FLOWER SHOW

A juried small standard show presented
by the Sokgonate Garden Club
Free and open to the public!

When: Saturday June 25th, 1-4 pm
& Sunday June 26th 10-4 pm

Where: Little Compton Community Center
34 Commons, Little Compton, RI



Want to recognize a dedicated committee that's gone over the top? Need a gift for an environmentally-minded special someone?

HONOR AN INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP WITH A DONATION TO THE LIFE MEMBER GROUP'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

Since 1957, RIFGC's Life Member Group has been awarding scholarships for studies in horticulture, landscape design, environmental science, and related fields. Donations in any amount can be sent to RIFGC Life Member Group, c/o Paul Nunes, 920 County Street, Seekonk, MA 02771



WE'RE HAVING A PARTY!

BARRINGTON GARDEN CLUB PRESENTS

A small standard flower show on **Wednesday June 22**, Open to All RIFGC members.

Horticulture Division I

Section A; Planter

Theme: "Hold Me Tight"

Design Division II

Class 4; Creative Line Design

Theme: "Party Time!"

For Horticulture entries please email Sandi Tinyk sandi.tinyk7@gmail.com

For Design entries please email Kathy LaRiviere knlariv@outlook.com