

The Rhode Island Federation Insider

RIFGC NEWSLETTER



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LORAX LIMELIGHT, AIDAN MCGOOKIN

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BACK TO BUSINESS

RIFGC PRESIDENT SHERYL
HANSON MCGOOKIN

I heard a phrase this past week while attending the NGC Board meeting; “the Cone of Chaos dictates the time and effort one is able to put into one’s daily schedule”. This fall for so many of us, has been a whirlwind of events and accomplishments as we step into another stage of the world post Covid. Not to insinuate that we have totally let our guard down, but it is so wonderful to be face to face, step forward for a hug or to grasp hands.

It is important to realize that although we want to fully return to our busy lives one needs to find time to do the things that keep our hearts happy & healthy. The pace of life this fall is crazy and as we do our best to participate fully, we should also keep expectations reasonable for ourselves and those around us.

The September RIFGC board meeting agenda saw a return to the 9:30-10am tea/coffee, treats

& chatting. Portsmouth GC has volunteered to take on the hostess table for the October board meeting, thank you Rochelle & Annette!

Please enjoy this fall edition of the RIFGC Newsletter and RIFGC calendar; look for Sue’s article on local birds, Vera’s piece on the badly behaved jumping worm, the Lorax writes about an invasive plant species harmful to butterflies, and Portsmouth GC tackles Tick & Lime disease awareness. See photos from the July 2022 Polo Fundraiser, the very recent LMG fundraiser, and look for the Holiday Luncheon flyer with details for December 2022.

A separate digital publication will be forthcoming, a digital gallery of gorgeous photos from the 2022 flower and horticulture shows: RIFGC Flower Show, the JC Horticulture show, BGC Flower Show & garden tour, Sogkonate GC Flower show and Hamemo GC Horticulture Show.

I am enjoying working with you all as we continue to make the world a better place through all aspects of gardening and design.

RIFGC Caring & Connecting.

2022/23 CALENDAR

OCTOBER 8	Orchid Society Event
OCTOBER 15	"Flowers & Fleas" Sale
OCTOBER 19	Design Study & Advanced Study Group
OCTOBER 26	LMG Awards & WYWW
OCTOBER 27	RIFGC Board Meeting
NOVEMBER 6	American Daffodils Society Event
DECEMBER 1	RIFGC Holiday Luncheon & Meeting
DECEMBER 6	JC Workshop
JANUARY 18	Design Study & Advanced Study Group
JANUARY 26	RIFGC Board Meeting
MARCH 30	RIFGC Flower Show
APRIL 27	Luncheon & Induction Ceremony
MARCH 15	Education Day

October LMG

Statement of intent,
Membership, and
Scholarship information

Design Study & Advanced Design Study Group

September, October, and
January, details TBD

Education Day

9:30am-3pm, BYO Lunch!

Wet Your Whistle Wednesday

6:45pm - 7:30pm

Guests: Cathy Moore
& LMG Members

Meeting ID: 579 295 4352

Passcode: Af0GJL

ORCHID SHOW PREPARATION

OCEAN STATE ORCHID SOCIETY

OCTOBER 8, 2022

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Rocky Hill Grange, 1340 S County Trail, East

Greenwich, RI 02818 (entrance at rear of building)

Members will have the opportunity to practice registering/classifying an orchid in preparation for the Massachusetts Orchid Society's orchid show (October 23-25). Please bring an orchid to the meeting. Even if your orchid collection does not have any blooming plants, or you do not intend on showing any orchids, bringing a plant will assure we have plenty of plants to practice the registration process.



Annual Holiday Party

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1 - GRIST MILL TAVERN

Come join us for great meal, great company, and a wonderful floral demonstration done by our very own Judy Gray. We also ask that each club bring a holiday floral design for their table and event drawing. Centerpieces will be made by each club for their table, which we will raffle away before the end of the day, and Judy Gray will be showcasing a creative design during dessert.

All meal choices include vegetables, mashed potato, farmer's salad, cinnamon bread, dessert, and a hot or cold/soft drink. Meal options are Boston Baked Cod, Baked Stuffed Chicken, Pasta Primavera (includes salad only), no veg/potato.

The cost per person is \$48.00. Please send payment to Paul Nunes at 920 Country St Seekonk MA 02771 by November 18th, include your meal choice, GC, & Phone number on the check. Please send before November 18th to ensure a proper headcount!

Business Meeting	10:00am to 11:00am
Social Hour	11:00am to 11:30am
Lunch	11:30am to 1:30pm

MAJORS FOCUSED ON THE ENVIRONMENT SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

LIFE MEMBER GROUP

Do you know a young person, enrolled in undergraduate studies relating to the environment, who needs financial help? If you do, act now and suggest that person pursue this special scholarship.

Offered through the Life member Group of the Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., this excellent scholarship provides up to \$5,000. The selected awardee is further eligible for consideration by the National Garden Clubs for an additional \$4,000 grant. This annual award is granted to students who have finished their sophomore year and have declared major in myriad fields related to the environment, ranging from landscape architecture to marine biology, from forestry to plant biology. Candidates must live in the area served by the RI Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. but may be pursuing studies in any accredited college/university located in the United States.

Please help us identify deserving candidates for this award. All pertinent information, criteria for consideration and downloadable application forms are available at our website at rigardenclubs.org. The process is easy. The reward is great. We need you to spread the word.

MEMBER OF HONOR, 2022



Evelyn Ficorilli has been a member of the Western Cranston Garden for 51 years. She is one of the original members since the clubs inception in 1971. Evelyn is an outstanding member and never ceases to be active in the clubs projects and programs. We are thrilled for her winning the Member Award of Honor it is well deserved!

NGC 2022, ST LOUIS



Left to right, pictured above:

Sheryl Hanson Mcgookin - RI President,
Vera Bowen - RI NGC committee,
Sue Bushnell - Maine NGC Committee
Suzanne McCance - NEGC Director,
Susan Minor - NH President,
Michelle Messinger - NH NGC committee,
Jo Fretz - VT President

BUOYANT BUFFLEHEADS MARINE MATES

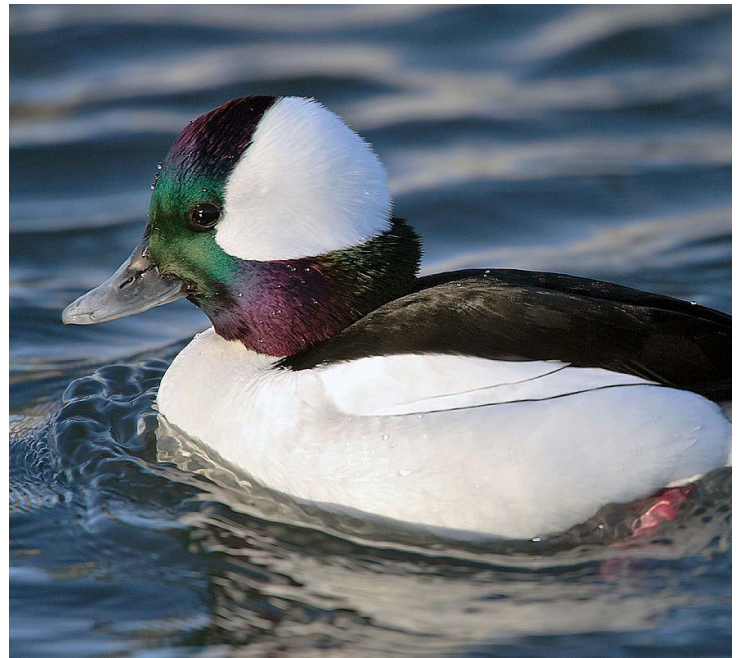
SUE REDDEN, BIRD CHAIR

This small duck is a common sight on lakes, harbors, and bays. In Rhode Island there are numerous sites where these little ducks can be seen. Their nests are found in tree cavities, made by woodpeckers. They dive for fish, crustaceans and insect larvae. They gather in usually in small flocks that sometimes, gather into larger numbers.

Breeding males are strikingly white with a little black. Females are a gray-brown with an obvious white patch on the cheek. Males leave their mates during incubation in order to molt, but return to the same mate multiple years in a row (one of the few duck species in which this is true).

Bufflehead swim buoyantly, dive easily, and take flight by running a short distance on the surface. They fly low over the water and higher over the land. To dive, Bufflehead compress their plum- age to squeeze out air, then give a slight forward leap and plunge powerfully downward. They hold their wings tightly against their bodies underwater and use only their feet to propel themselves. At the end of a dive, they may bob to the surface like a cork.

Throughout the day they alternate between bouts of feeding, swimming alertly, preening, and sleeping. Bufflehead are seldom seen on dry land: females walk only when they lead their ducklings from the nest to the water or when they're forced to switch ponds with their ducklings.



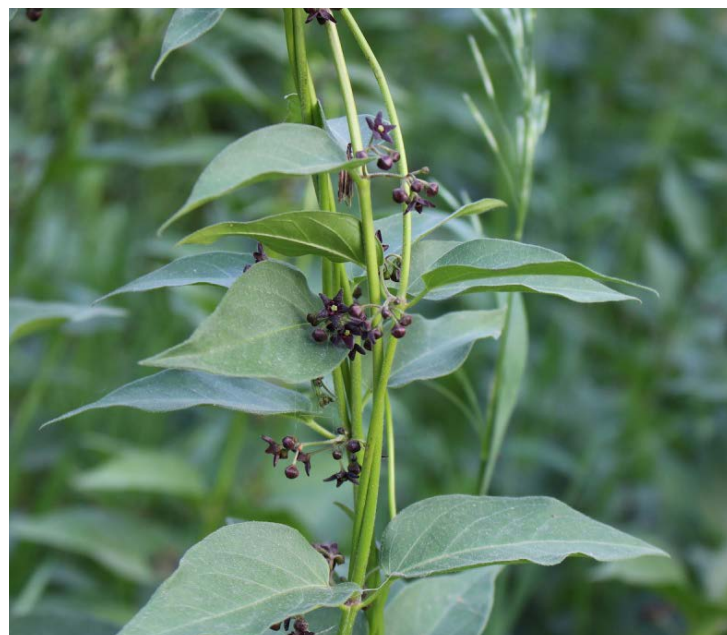
THE BIG, BAD, BLACK SWALLOW-WORT

LORAX LIMELIGHT

AIDAN MCGOOKIN

Black swallow-wort (*Cynanchum louiseae*) is an invasive vine that belongs to the milkweed family. We are all familiar with the big-ticket bad guys; Japanese barberry, buckthorn, honeysuckle, autumn olive, and Asiatic bittersweet. Unfortunately, it's time to add black swallow-wort to the list. Black swallow-wort was cultivated in the Harvard greenhouses in the mid-1800s. In 1864 a local collector warned that the plant had escaped the greenhouses and was naturalizing quite well. Today it has a strong presence in New England and has spread as far north as Maine and as far west as Nebraska.

Monarch butterflies rely on milkweed species to feed and lay eggs as they migrate from the northern US to Mexico via the Great Plains. Their habitat has declined as they lose forest area in Mexico and native grasslands in the Great Plains. Black swallow-wort threatens the butterflies as well. Monarchs do feed on multiple species of milkweed, but unfortunately their baby caterpillars cannot survive on black swallow-wort.



Fortunately, black swallow-wort is easy to spot and stands no chance against all the great gardeners at EGC! Look out for the unmistakable signs of a milkweed family member when you're combing your yard for weeds. The long green seed pods, smooth-edged lance-shaped leaves, and milky white sap that makes common milkweed familiar also defines black swallow-wort. Unlike common milkweed, black swallow-wort grows as a vine and has slender seed pods. Its flowers are clusters of small, dark purple, five-petal stars. They flower in the leaf axils and they have a green or yellow center. Keep a sharp lookout and pull the vines when they're not too established yet. Just like any invasive, prevention is the best medicine. Uproot black swallow-wort before the seed pods dry up and open. This depletes the seed bank in the soil. Black swallow-wort can also root from the vines, so leave your victims up in a tree, or even burn them. You can compost them too! If your compost doesn't get hot enough to kill pathogens you can dry the plants out in the sun first. Fight the good fight EGC!



TICK AND LYME, AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

MARY DIBARA

Portsmouth Garden Club Launches Tick and Lyme Disease Awareness Program at Town Beach

Lyme disease is a common but misunderstood illness that, if not diagnosed and treated early and properly, can cause serious health problems.

PGC President Mary DiBara, who has chronic Lyme and a number of other tick-borne infections explains that, "Less commonly known is the fact that ticks transmit other serious infections other than Lyme. Also, RI continues to be a high incidence state for Lyme disease. It's getting worse because of mild winters, which means that more ticks are surviving the winter."

With funding from a RI State Senate Legislative Community Service grant, Portsmouth Garden Club launched a tick bite prevention and Lyme disease awareness program this past summer at Sandy Point Town Beach. This program is a partnership with the Town of Portsmouth and the RI Dept. of Health.

"While many Rhode Islanders know that summer equals tick season, fewer understand the ticks are found at beaches" Mary explained. "Studies show that Lyme and other infection-carrying ticks are abundant right by the beach. They are most likely to be in dunes covered with beach grass or bushy pathways to the sand."

Deer Tick

Lone Star Tick

American Dog Tick

Rocky Mountain Wood Tick



The program included remediation spraying using "green" products, distributing tick identification and removal materials, facts concerning Lyme disease prevention/treatment, and beach signage. Information packets were prepared for the 65 children who were enrolled in the town's summer recreation camp program. Some materials and signage were provided free of charge by the RI Dept. of Health.

The PGC is committed to the health and safety of our community and hopes that this community service initiative will expand next year. Mary said, "This is only the beginning of a year-round prevention program. It's a promising model of a public-private partnership to alleviate this serious public health hazard. It's also a model that other garden clubs throughout the state can do."

For more information: Mary DiBara, marydibara@gmail.com

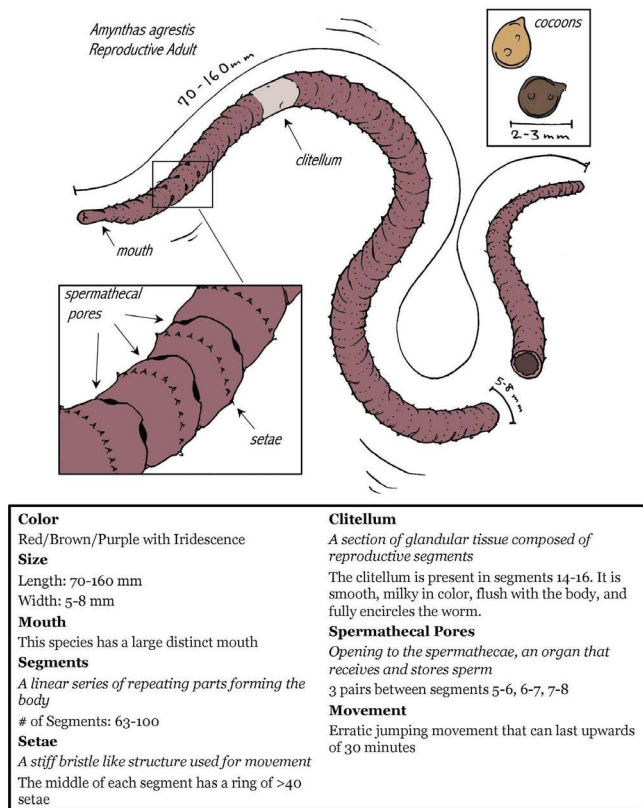
THINGS THAT GO "JUMP" IN THE NIGHT

VERA BOWEN

Beware the Asian Jumping Worms! Gardeners should look for an invasive species. It's called a jumping worm, and they have been spotted all over New England. Tips to help you protect your home from bugs Jumping worms, or snake worms as they're also known, are a type of earthworm. And while they may help the plants in your garden grow, they can hurt the New England ecosystem. Garden centers and mulch led to them expanding. So these worms can be damaging to our forests, like seedlings of native trees, trilliums, and jack-in-the-pulpit.

Turn over rocks or turn over leaves, that's where you're going to find the most of them, especially

IDENTIFICATION | Jumping Worm



when it's wet out. And make sure you don't transport your soils and plants to other homes because then you could potentially spread them.

Derry Garden Club in New Hampshire had a large Plant Sale. Knowing that there were Asian Jumping Worms in the area they removed all of the plants they received from their pots. Cleaned the roots and repotted them with new soil to lessen any risk of spreading them. Way to Go, Derry Garden Club!!!

Currently, there is no pesticide for these jumping worms. You could remove them from your garden, put them in a plastic bag in your trash, or leave them on the pavement when the sun is out.

Asian jumping worms, which include 51 species in the genus *Amyntas* including *Amyntas agrestis* and *Amyntas tokioensis*, are non-native to the United States and feed on leaf litter and mulch, and the soil they leave behind is dry and grainy like coffee grounds, which deprives trees and other plants of essential nutrients. They can deplete soil of nutrients, damage plant

roots and alter the soil's water holding capacity.

Asian jumping worms do not create channels in the soil for plants nor do they recycle nutrients into the soil for plants to use. They can cause invertebrates in the soil to die which can impact wildlife species that feed on them. They can also change the carbon nitrogen ratio in soils which can impact the effectiveness of pesticides in agricultural fields that have been invaded by these worms. When they are disturbed, they thrash violently, slither like snakes and even jump into the air. They are sometime called "Alabama jumper", "crazy jumping worms" or "snake worm" and they can reproduce asexually.

They can be confused with the European earthworm (also known as nightcrawlers which are also non-native to the US). Asian jumping worms are smooth, glossy gray or brown and 1.5 to 8 inches long. They are relatively easy to identify if you take a look at their clitellum (the band around the body of a worm). The clitellum on a jumping worm is milky white to gray-colored, smooth and completely encircles the body of the worm.

In contrast, the clitellum of European earthworms does not wrap entirely around the worm. Also, the European earthworm's clitellum is raised above the body of the worm, not smooth.

It's unclear exactly how the worm, which is native to southeast Asia, arrived in the United States, although most believe that it was brought by boat in a plant shipment and spread from there. They have been sold as bait and can survive more than 20 minutes underwater. They have also been marketed for use for composting.



“Flowers & Fleas”

**A plant and yard sale
and more...**



**Presented
by the
Gentian
Garden
Club**

**Rain
or
shine!**

**Saturday
October 15, 2022
9 AM -1 PM
North Scituate
Community House
546 West Greenville Road**

RIFGC NEWPORT POLO EVENT

NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND



PGC TICK & LYME AWARENESS EVENT

PORTSMOUTH GARDEN CLUB



RIFGC FLOWER SHOW DESIGNS

APRIL 2022 - BEGINNER DESIGNS



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RIFGC FLOWER SHOW DESIGNS

APRIL 2022 - BEGINNER DESIGNS



COMING UP!

WINTER COOKING WITH RIFGC

For a special autumn edition of the Federation Insider, we would like to ask members of the RIFGC and town clubs to send along their favorite fall and winter recipes for our first ever federation cookbook! We ask for comfort foods, family recipes (if you're willing to share), treats, and drinks to help us all stay warm, cozy, and happy this coming cold season.

Now we all get excited about our home cooking, but we kindly ask to keep a one-recipe-per-person rule. If you're really keen on forking over more than one, you can convince Ruby (the goblin who makes this newsletter) to add it to the cookbook by bribing her with the outcome of said "extra" recipe.

When submitting your recipe, please send the following content to Sheryl Hanson McGookin via email:

- Your name + Club Name
- Ingredients list
- Steps for Preparation
- **Optional:** Personal Anecdote/Notes (no more than a paragraph please)
- **Optional:** Images (png or jpeg form, separate from written content)