The Khode Island Federation Insider

RIFGC NEWSLETTER ==





MARY JANE'S FARM "And thus began my mission. My story. The MaryJanesFarm story."... Page 11



RIFGC ANNUAL LUNCHEON PHOTOS

SPRING 2023 Page 22-23

NEW RIFGC PRESIDENT SAYS HI

JUDY GRAY AND HER CREW Page 2

RIFGC DESIGN SPECIALITY FLOWER SHOW

PICTURES GALORE

Page 7



2023 CHELSEA GARDEN TRIP

ENGLAND AHOY!

More details and registration information on *Page 5*



GREETINGS!

RIFGC PRESIDENT JUDY GRAY

Summer Solstice is here, and I am thrilled to see the gardens coming alive. Spring blossoms have come and gone resulting in apples on my Matsu Tree and my blueberries bushes are loaded. Now if I can keep the pests and birds away, I might just enjoy the fruits of my labors.

As vice president I was introduced to how this machine we call RIFGC operates. Transitioning into the position of president was a smooth ride. Ok., it's just been a little over a month, but the energy is positive. We are already busy working on "Growing Together for A Sustainable Future", the theme I have chosen for my Presidency. My goal is to assist in elevating the organization by being open to new ideas, new energy through membership involvement, and building on the foundation that has been the success of RIFGC.

My experience starts from first joining my local garden club where my roots lie in Ashland NH. They were a powerhouse design club with a strong emphasis on community gardens, supporting Educational Scholarships, and the environment. They had me hooked, lined and sinker right off the bat by inviting me to enter a standard flower show. Low and behold, in

a short time I became the next flower show chair. As we know if you raise your hand for a suggestion, you eventually become the vice president and president of the club which I did.

I have a degree in Culinary Arts and later decided to take a part time job weeding on an estate property. Eventually I left the restaurant business after 26 years and went on to own an estate gardening business and on the off season worked as a ski technician at a local ski shop.

I landed in Cranston RI 10 years ago with my son in tow. We embarked on a new life, with new challenges and yes first things first find a garden club. I joined the Bayberry Garden Club in Bristol (yes, I go over the bridge), and this past year I became a member of Edgewood Garden Club in Cranston. Once again, I jumped ship and partnered with my boyfriend Paul in his building contracting business. Started out as a laborer and now I am a glorified laborer with experience in any and everything when it comes to building a house.

My true love is floral design and have been grateful to have the opportunity to compete these 30+ years. Participating in numerous club shows, Boston, Newport, and RIFGC Flower Show. Art in Bloom Shows some of which were held at the Worcester Art Museum, Karl Drerup Art Gallery, and MFA in Boston opening the



creative side of floral design. I am more than honored to have shared the stage with others as of recently by co-chairing and chairing the RIFGC Design Specialty Flower Show. I look forward to the summer months being supportive of club activities, fundraising events which includes the Newport Polo Charity Day for Life Member Group, a trip to Chelsea Flower Show, and of course my hand is already in the pot when it comes to the 2024 RIFGC Design Specialty Flower Show And we are just getting started with plans to host the 2024 New England Garden Club Annual Meeting in the fall.

I love hearing from everyone so please let me know what we can do as an organization to assist your clubs to be successful. There is a pleather of information that RIFGC, NEGC and NGC has to offer. Where else can you play in the dirt, laugh up a storm, smell the roses, spread happiness through nature and make lifelong friendships. Let's shine as individual clubs but as a whole as well. Many hands make all this possible and I am looking forward to all of you being a part of the big picture. The greatest organizations start from the ground up, without a foundation we cannot support one another other.

Please Get Involved, it takes little effort with big rewards. Happy Summer!

Growing Together for A Sustainable Future.

2023-2024 CALENDAR

JULY 16 LMG Newport Polo Fundraiser

SEPTEMBER Art in Bloom

SEPTEMBER 28 RIFGC Board Meeting

OCTOBER 10 & 11 NEGC Annual Meeting Plymouth, MA

OCTOBER 26 RIFGC Board Meeting

DECEMBER 7 Holiday Luncheon

JANUARY 25 RIFGC Board Meeting

FEBRUARY 22 RIFGC Board Meeting

MARCH 6 Environmental/Education Day

MARCH 28 RIFGC Board Meeting

APRIL 4-7 RIFGC Design Speciality Flower Show

APRIL 25 RIFGC Board Meeting

MAY 15-23 RIFGC Gardens of England Chelsea Trip

JUNE 2-5 National Garden Club Meeting

JUNE 13 RIFGC Board Meeting

2023 NEGC PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW

ARABELLA DANE, NEGC PHTO CHAIR

The New England Garden Clubs, Inc, Photo Group is announcing the 2023 photo contest, open to all members of New England's garden clubs.

With already more than 650 garden club members on the photo newsletter list, we invite all other club members to click on the link below to learn more about or current photography show and see what else the NEGC Photo group is up to!

Follow This Link to Learn More!

Board Meetings

The Board Meetings will all be held at the Roger Williams Park Casino, 1000 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI on the 4 th Thursday of the month, 10am

NEGC Annual Meeting

This meeting is being held in Plymouth, Massachusetts October 10-11, 2023. All RIFGC are invited to attend. More information on page 24

Chelsea, England Garden Trip

More information on page 5

LMG Polo Fundraiser

More information on page 17

RIFGC Flower Show

More information coming soon

Envi/Education Day

More information coming soon

Art in Bloom

More information coming soon

2024 CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW TRIP

CHELSEA, ENGLAND

By now, RIFGC members should have received information about a fund-raiser for next spring: a tour of some of England's best gardens and a full day at the Chelsea Flower Show, May 15-23, 2024. Detailed, day-to-day itineraries are available, please contact Sandi Tinyk at **sandi.tinyk7@gmail.com** for a copy or any additional information.

What was not previously announced is the fact that there is a deadline to register with a \$500 deposit by October 1. Reservations after that date will be accepted pending availability. This tour has been designed specifically for members of RIFGC clubs, but after the October 1 deadline, we will open up the trip to non-members to ensure the running of the tour as scheduled.

Hope you decide to join us on this beautiful opportunity to tour outstanding gardens and enjoy a full day at the world's most prestigious flower show, the Chelsea Flower Show, on Members Day!

Tour Landing Page

Online Registration Form

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.



President Elect Judy Gray's design at Flora in Winter at the Worcester Art Museum (Bayberry & Edgewood GC)

RIFGC STANDARD FLOWER SHOW

PHOTOS FROM 2023

























New Hameho officers left to right: Secretary Linda Poole, President Michele Danish, and Treasurer Joan Siva.

Not Pictured here is **VP** Debbi Clickner

PEREGRINE FALCON FALCO PEREGRINUS

SUE REDDEN, BIRD CHAIR



The Peregrine Falcon is a sleek and powerful bird with pointed wings and a short tail. It feeds mainly on small or mediumsize birds, swooping down on them from high spots. It nests on cliff edges or on buildings or bridges in cities. It is a solitary bird with a voice consisting of harsh notes rehk rehk...

I decided to write about the Peregrine Falcon for my last article. I have been watching a pair of peregrines for quite a while. They are nesting high up on the former Industrial Bank Building in Providence. A nesting box was set up a few years ago by the RI Audubon Society and they have a live web cam facing the box, which anyone can view by going to asri.org.

There are four eggs in the nest, the parents began to sit on them after the third egg was laid, then it takes about 30 days before any are hatched. The female seems to sit on the nest for most of the time while the male searches for food and brings it to the female. The first egg was viewed on April 1st, the third on April 2nd and the fourth April 4th. Incubation is 30 – 35 days, so the chicks should be seen about May 4th. However, the web cam

is down as I write this, but hopefully it will be up and running very soon.

The four Peregrine Falcons are now almost fully grown, all have left the nest, but one or two return to it at night. It was amazing to watch them for almost 3 months. All were tagged before they got very big. Three were males and one female. These birds have huge wings, of course they have to remove the baby white fluff from their bodies and wings before they can fly. The parents still bring food, but they just leave it for the young. They no longer feed them as they did when the birds were chicks. This has been a cool experience, watching via the cam from eggs to seeing them learning to fly. They will be gone any day now.





Sue Minor of NH accepting **NEGC Director** 2023-25 position

MARY JANE'S FARM MAGAZINE BARBARA'S BOOK CORNER

BARBARA CURRY

"Thirty-some years ago, when I was a single mom with little children, my lofty dreams for our future seemed permanently on hold as I coped with a series of low-paying jobs, an early 1900 wood-heat-only uninsulated farmhouse, and broken-down "vintage" cars. The floor of my 1958 Rambler station wagon was so rusted through in several places that I covered the biggest hole with the flattened lid of a garbage can. After the children watched me drive over it several times, we patched the hole in the floor. My 8-year-old daughter announced, "There, good as new again." My children were raised without an indoor toilet and other necessities like a television, so my make-do philosophy ended up being part of their DNA also.

The urge to find relief from the ups and downs of such a hardscrabble life finally grabbed me in the middle of the night in the dead of winter. I snagged a pillow and a down sleeping bag I'd sewn when I was in my 20s, and leaving my children sleeping safely in their beds, I went into my backyard.

I made myself a bed on one of those silly, cheap, plastic chaise lounges beneath my children's bedroom windows and settled in, still within earshot. Once the magical warmth of down feathers kicked in and I quit shivering, I noticed my new ceiling: millions upon millions of stars, the whole universe, galaxies and beyond.

Almost immediately, the round-and-round chatter in my head started shifting gears. I remember how beautiful the moon looked. "Good grief," I said to myself, "my problems aren't more important than the moon." I felt

diminished in a way that gave me immediate relief from the small stuff that tends to loom larger than life when you lose perspective and man-made walls and concerns close in on you.

As our lives become more and more hectic, more modern and hi-tech, it becomes increasingly difficult to spend time outdoors in nature's clearinghouse, but outside is a lifeline. Our evolutionary molecules crave it. Children especially need it. It's a simple solution to most of what ails us. It's no wonder people fantasize that someday they'll cash in their chips and buy a farm."

And thus began my mission. My story. The MaryJanesFarm story."





RIFGC BOARD MEETING

PHOTOS FROM JUNE 2023









When It's Okay (or Not) to Feed Birds

As bird lovers, we often look for ways to get closer to birds—or to bring them closer to us. However, knowing what kind of food is okay to supply, and when, and where, can be confusing.

But don't fret. We're here to help you make sense of it all. Here are three simple questions to chew on to help determine whether you're helping—or hurting—birds when you feed them.

Click Here to Learn More!



RIFGC ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION DAY

PHOTOS FROM MARCH 2023























EGC GASPEE PARADE

PHOTOS FROM EDGEWOOD GARDEN CLUB 90TH ANNIVERSARY







New RIFGC officers left to right:
Treasurer Paul Nunes, Vice President Kathleen
Damiani, President Judy Gray, Recording Secretary Pat
Yearwood, Corresponding Secretary Kathy Bassette



NEWPORT POLO'S - ALL CHARITY DAY

SUNDAY JULY 16,2023
GATES OPEN AT 3PM/MATCH STARTS AT 5PM

\$30/TICKET

100% OF PROCEEDS GO TO BENEFIT

LIFE MEMBER GROUP FOR SCHOLARSHIP
IN ASSOCIATION WITH RI FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

Tickets Sales - Paul Nunes:

pbnunes4@gmail.com or 401-529-1419

Checks payable to Life Member Group/RIFGC and mail to:

920 County Street Seekonk, MA 02771

Hat Contest

A Traditional Hat Design and a Most Creative Hat Design.

Voting by popular opinion.

Remember we represent Garden Clubs so fresh and/or dried flowers should be used.

Other Raffle prizes too!

POLO WITH A PURPOSE!

100% of proceeds go to LMG when purchased through us.

Life Member Group raises funds and awards scholarship to students majoring in the fields of
Horticulture, Environmental Science or another related field.

All food, beverages, tables, tents and etc. supplied by the ticket holder.

DISHING THE DIRT IN THE GARDEN HORTICULTURE REPORT

CAROL GLANVILLE

Bulb catalogs are coming in. Order now, by August they'll be gone!

Weeding

The plant curse of the northeast (and a lot of the world) is Japanese knotweed. Always look under your evergreens and hollies and anywhere a weed can hide and get a foothold. Learn what Japanese knotweed looks like because once it has even one root hair in the ground, it is SO hard to get rid of!

The nasty stuff can grow 3 inches a day! In two weeks the fake bamboo has grown over 3 feet tall. The rhizome accounts for 2/3 of the plant entire mass and can travel up to 20 feet horizontally with some accounts of up to 60 feet, and go 6-10 feet deep. I am now trying to eradicate vining vinca/periwinkle that has gone weed; it's invasive and out of control. I've cut it down and am putting wet cardboard and old rugs over it to try to starve it dead. It will take around six weeks to kill it. The lawn doesn't need weeding. Keeping the grass 4 inches tall seems to discourage weeds.

Bugs

Right now, my biggest battle is with red clover mites. They suck the life out of plants and there is a bazillion of them per square foot it seems. I start out using neem oil but then switch to Dawn and water in one of those pump action sprayers. I do this about 2x week. Clover mites will eat your lawn-they love green grass-and they can get into your house. They hide in mulch and in stone walls and in evergreens. And while they have many predators, they breed faster than they are eaten! But they go into hibernation during the heat of dog-days, thank heavens!



Big bugs like Japanese beetles and tomato horn worms are easy to flick into a jar of soapy water. I have holes in my flowers. This is okay because I love butterflies and butterfly larvae feed on plants. So, holes in your plants are sort of a badge of honor. I say "sort of" because I don't do all that gardening just to feed bugs and if they get greedy, invite their friends, and get out of control, I will get out the insecticidal soap.

Keep the neem oil ready for that day you go out and find all of your petunias and geranium petals eaten. I try to find the little worms and flick them off where birds can snack on them, but I just don't see well enough to find them anymore. I never plant the same thing in the same spot so that bugs specific to certain plants, like cabbage worm for instance, will starve away when deprived of their meals. I have peas growing where my leeks were last year but that didn't save them-rabbits ate my peas down to stubs! Thankfully, now that there is netting around the raised beds, I'm seeing new leaves on the plants.

Planting

If you hurry, you can still get your beans, cauliflower, cukes, eggplant, collards, peppers, sweet potatoes, and watermelon in. You can also start late season broccoli, carrots, peas, and kale. Come July you can plant beets, celery, The first week in August set out turnips, and spinach. I plant lettuce any time and all the time. Because it is hot now, water new plantings 2x a day! Reviving potted and hanging flowers. For flowers like petunias this is halfway through their season. They were started way back in spring in hothouses so they would be big enough to attract buyers. That long term fertilizer is good for three months and is used up by now. I use Peters Petunia Food on mine and geraniums like it, too.

Peters Petunia Food has lower phosphorous (the middle number on the fertilizer label) and phosphorous can get in the way of some plants' ability to take in iron. Iron hungry plants like petunias, verbena, vinca, bacopa, and pansies do well with this fertilizer.

I don't fertilize New Guinea Impatiens because I get beautiful leaves and no flowers. Go figure. Again, because we are halfway through the season with hanging plants, it is time to prune them back. Petunias love to be cut back but I never liked that week of leaves and hardly any flowers, so I take half of the long leggy stems and cut them back and then, in a week or so, I go for the others. Go back a third of the way down the stem until you find a new growth branch. Cut just above this. Mandeville also enjoys a trim. Cutting those long skinny and trailing branches back will encourage more blooms.

Pruning

Your tree pruning days are over. That being said I still trim hedges, but I don't cut branches-too easy to let in disease. Wait until next February and March to prune those. I will prune my weigela and deutzia after they bloom. I like chrysanthemums in late October and early November, so I cut mine down twice a season. The first time around 4th of July and then later in August.

THE PRESIDENT'S BLING SHINY!

SANDI TINYK & VERA BOWEN

If you have been justifiably awed and even possibly envious of our RIFGC president's jewelry of late, you're not alone. It's a stunner. Judy Gray will be the guardian of Rhode Island's outstanding President's Pin, as all of her

predecessors have been. In our reluctance to hand it over to a successor, former presidents are given a somewhat smaller version of the pin, minus the diamond, and encouraged to place a gem of their choosing in it. It is expected that all RIFGC former presidents should wear their pins at Federation events.

In 1970, two former presidents, Jean Whittaker and Edith Glanville, who preceded Sybil Simon, suggested that the Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs should have a distinctive and beautiful pin for its presidents to wear At that time, Rhode Island was the only New England state that did not have one. They were inspired by the prestigious Ely Medal, and presented their suggestion, along with drawings, to the Advisory Board. Incoming presidents shared their plans for their coming term, so at a Dutch Treat luncheon, new president Sybil Simon presented her ideas to the Advisory Board, and later to the Executive Board. The idea was enthusiastically accepted, and the president voiced a wish, saying "It would be wonderful if we found a fairy godmother to donate the pin!" One member, Rena Chernick, immediately raised her hand and said that she would be happy to donate the pin and the large diamond which found itself in the center. This would be a lasting memorial to her mother. The pin was created, and Sybil Simon was the first president to wear it.

This incredible pin is admired by everyone, near and far, and we who have worn it with pride are constantly acknowledging its beauty and significance. New England Garden Club and National Garden Club attendees at annual meetings are quick to recognize it and remark on its appearance. Several years ago, at one particular NGC meeting, seven of our former presidents attended and wore their replica pins. Someone asked why they were all wearing the same pin. Without missing a beat, one of them said, "We all had the same husband!" After they recovered, they shared the history of our president's pin.



Now-**President Judy Gray** getting ready to accept RIFGC presidents position at **NGC Convention**

NGC CONVENTION

PHOTOS FROM MAY 2023







RIFGC ANNUAL LUNCHEON

PHOTOS FROM 2023





































Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

Hosted by:

The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts

Marjorie Dienhart, President Theme: "Nurture Nature"

New England Garden Clubs, Inc.

Susan Miner, Director Theme: "Grow Green...Plant America"

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Brenda Moore, President Theme: "Go Green...Plant America"

Hotel 1620 Plymouth Harbor

180 Water Street, Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360

Registration Form revised 6/10/2023

Please complete and return this form with your check made payable to: "2023 NEGC, Inc. Annual Meeting"

MAIL TO: Joscelyn Varieur

98 Messinger St, Plainville, MA 02762
Phone: (774-254-1914)
Email: cousinjos@gmail.com

REGISTRATION DEADLINE October 1, 2023

October 1, 2023	
NEGC Meeting Registration Fee:	
(Required)(After October 5 th , please and	ld a \$10 late fee)
Tuesday Evening Dinner\$ 50.00	
Please indicate your choice:	
Turkey Dinner	
Pasta Primavera (vegetarian) Wednesday Breakfast Buffet\$ 25.00	
Registration Fee & Selected Meals TOTAL \$	
No refunds will be given for cancellate	
Medical diet considerations? Please note:	
Name:	
Address:	
Phone #:	
Email:	
Please note your current me	mber status below:
NGC Board	State President
NGC Life Member	Club President
	Club Member
Past NEGC Director	Speaker

Guest

NEGC Bd Member

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

2:00 – 4:00 PM Registration Hotel Lobby

Afternoon On Your Own:

- Plimoth Patuxet Museums
- Mayflower II
- Plymouth Rock
- National Monument to the Forefathers
- Pilgrim Hall Museum
- Hedge House
- Plymouth Winery Tours
- Shopping in downtown Plymouth

5:30 - 6:30 PM Cocktail Reception

Regency C

In Honor of Susan Miner, NEGC Region Director and her guest, Brenda Moore, NGC President

6:30 PM Dinner Regency AB

7:30 PM Program

Pollinator Pathways: Native Plants of Cape Cod and Massachusetts

Carol Alper is a Master Gardener and the founder of Pollinator Pathways of Cape Cod, a regional initiative to increase pollinator friendly habitats and food sources for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinating insects and wildlife across Cape Cod

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

7:30 – 9:00 AM Breakfast Buffet

8:00 - 9:00 AM Registration

9:00 – 9:45 AM 7th Annual Business Meeting of the New England Garden Clubs, Inc.

Regency AB
Director Susan Miner presiding

10:00 – 11:30 AM Program Mosses, Sticks, Twigs and Stones

Bob Whitney, AIFD, is a 40-year veteran of the floral design industry. He joins us to share his unique, and sometimes hysterical, perspective on design and creativity. He will demonstrate a variety of styles and techniques, focusing on ways to use nature to bring interest to your own designs. The designs will be part of our opportunity drawing.

11:30 AM - 12:15 PM

Social Time & Opportunity Drawing Ticket Sales

12:15 - 1:15 PM Luncheon

1:15 - 2:00 PM Awards

2:00 PM Opportunity Drawing

2:30 PM Adjournment

7TH NEGC Annual Meeting Committee

Chairperson: Carol Hartnett Registrar: Joscelyn Varieur Treasurer: Judith Tarbox

OUR STATE PRESIDENTS

<u>2023-2025</u>

Karin Pyskaty

The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.

Karen Rea

The Garden Club Federation of Maine, Inc.

Marjorie Dienhart

The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc.

Winifred Schmidt

New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Judy Gray

Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Doris Van Mullen

Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont, Inc.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Hotel reservations must be made directly with the hotel.

The 1620 Hotel 508-747-4900

Check in: 3:00 PM Check out: 11:00 AM

Reserved room rate: \$179 per room/per night plus MA taxes.

CODE: GARDEN2023 (online)
Garden Club of MA (phone)

DEADLINE FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS AT THIS RATE: 9/09/2023

NOTE: We have secured this room rate for our members from Monday, 10/9 through Wednesday, 10/11 so enjoy some time on the South Shore of Massachusetts!

PARKING: On site and free of charge.

Plymouth, MA, is the home of Plymouth Rock, a universal symbol of America. It is where the Mayflower came ashore 400 years ago, bringing with it English pilgrims who helped found the nation. The town and county of Plymouth boasts some of the best whale watching, dining, shopping, and cultural activities in a quaint New England setting, much of it nestled along the seashore. It is a history lover's paradise, a family friendly atmosphere, and easy walking as you take in breathtaking sunrises.