

The Rhode Island Federation Insider

RIFGC NEWSLETTER

GALLERY EDITION

PICTURES GALLORE! CHECK OUT WHAT THE CLUBS HAVE BEEN UP TO!

LORAX LIMELIGHT ON HOLD TECHNOLOGY MISHAP

All lorax limelight articles on hold until Aidan gets a new computer...



CREATING A BIRD FRIENDLY GARDEN

SUE REDDEN

Creating a bird-friendly environment is simply a matter of providing the creature comforts we all crave: food, protective cover, and a cozy spot for raising a family.... *Page 17*

2023-2024 RIFGC CALENDAR

LOTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO!
Page 4

SHE'S BEAUTY AND SHE'S GRACE BLAKELY RECEIVES ELY MEDAL OF BEAUTY

At this spring's annual meeting, we witnessed the presentation of the Ely Award of Beauty to former RIFGC president, Blakely Szosz... *Page 20*





FALLING INTO AUTUMN

RIFGC PRESIDENT JUDY GRAY

WOW! Summer has come and gone, and what a crazy summer for gardening. As an estate gardener I dreamt of a small cottage garden that would just take an hour or two a week to keep it flourishing with vegetables, fruits, and flowers. This was not the case this year, as torrential rain and smoke-filled air from the Canadian forest fires kept me out of the gardens when they needed me the most. Every year we grow at least 100 Tomato plants that keep me busy canning most of the late summer months, this was not the case this year. Hard rain knocked down pollen, bees bunked down to stay dry, and soggy tomato roots kept them from providing me with an abundance of fruit. I had a plethora of pests this year in my garden, from a small striped beetle (unidentified), tiny grasshoppers, and small rodents. I surrender, waving a white flag. On another note, I had a high yield of blueberries and just picked my last cucumber for the season. I am a big seed saver, so I am already planning for next year's crop.

Enough about my garden woes. It's all about you, the members. The month of June turned out to be very busy with 8 plant and garden sales hosted by clubs throughout the state. I was able to go to many and thrilled with the abundance and quality of plants. Kudos for all your successes.

Congratulations to Edgewood Garden Club on their 90th Anniversary. Please let me know if your club is having an anniversary this upcoming year 2003-2004.

The prestigious Newport Flower Show was held for the first time at Marble House. Individual designers in floral and botanical design classes, club entries in container gardening, and horticultural entries were well represented by members of the federation. I was over the top thrilled with all the accolades that you all received.

I was graciously invited to the Judges Council Officers Installation Luncheon. Linda Kirkpatrick was installed as the new Chairman for 2023-2025. Life Member Group Officers Luncheon and organizational meeting had a lovely day as guest of Cathy Moore at the Ocean House. Congratulations,



I look forward to working with you all.

Life Members Group held a scholarship fundraiser at the Newport Polo - All Charity Day this summer. Although the weather held us back from participating, proceeds from the event ticket sales were donated to the scholarship fund. Thank you all for your generosity. Kudos to Kathy Bessette, RIFGC Corresponding Secretary and her family for making the effort to attend.

As we move into the fall season, clubs are still hosting plant and garden sales, luncheons, dinner and dance events and design workshops. Please support each other's clubs to make each event successful.

This year's title for the RIFGC Design Specialty Flower Show is, *Rhode Island in Bloom*. It will be held April 4-7, 2004. 30 years ago, 1994 marks the first time the federation held a flower show at the convention center. Anyone who knows me this is where my love lies. Shh! don't tell my family, although I suppose they already know. I couldn't be more excited to feature us once again at the RI Home Show. Please, I employ all of you to make an honest effort to help lend

a hand in one form or another. It takes months of preparation, and every little bit helps.

My ongoing message is that I love hearing from everyone so please let me know what we can do as an organization to assist your clubs to be successful. Don't forget to send pictures or events that are happening in your clubs so I can get it announced on social media and on my weekly email blast. If members aren't receiving my weekly email blast, please gently remind your presidents to forward them to you.

Please be sure to visit RIFGC, NEGC and NGC social media sites as they are constantly being updated. Please apply for the numerous awards and grants that are available to your club by going to rigardenclubs.org.

I am looking forward with great energy to the upcoming year. To lead by example, allowing our membership to shine. Working towards a more sustainable future will guarantee the organization will thrive for generations.

2023-2024 CALENDAR

- OCT 10 & 11 NEGC Annual Meeting, Plymouth MA
- OCT 18 Design study group *Full*
- OCT 26 RIFGC Business Meeting, Roger Williams Casino
- OCT 28 Apple Tree GC Dinner & Dance
- NOV 1 What Cheer Flower Farm art installation, Olneyville
- NOV 1 & 2 NGC Flower Show Symposium, Milford MA
- DEC 7 RIFGC RIFGC Holiday Brunch Santa Maria Di Prata, Cranston
- JAN 24 Design study group *1 Opening Available*
- JAN 25 RIFGC Business Meeting, Roger Williams Casino
- FEB Flora in Winter WAM, Worcester MA
- FEB 22 RIFGC Business Meeting, Roger Williams Casino
- FEB 22-24 CT Flower Show 'Bursting Into Spring'
- MARCH 2-10 Philadelphia Flower Show
- MARCH 6 Educational/Environment Day at Roger Williams Casino
- MARCH 24-9 Working RIFGC Flower Show
- MARCH 28 RIFGC Business meeting, Roger Williams Casino
- APRIL 4-7 RIFGC flower Show 'Rhode Island in Bloom'
- APRIL 25 RIFGC annual meeting, location TBA
- MAY 15-23 Chelsea flower show trip
- MAY 17 & 18 West Cranston GC flower show
- JUNE 1-7 NGC Convention Denver, Sheryl McGookin & Vera Bowen are going!
- JUNE 13 RIFGC Business meeting RWC
- JUNE 21-23 Newport flower show
- OCT 23-24 NEGC annual meeting hosted by RIFGC, Crown Plaza, Warwick

RHODE ISLAND FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS

HOLIDAY BRUNCH BUFFET

MENU: TRADITIONAL BREAKFAST FARE, ENTRÉE, PASTA, SALAD, MUFFINS, COFFEE OR TEA

DECEMBER 7TH 11-4 PM

**SANTA MARIA DI PRATA
29 WALNUT GROVE
CRANSTON**

**ANNUAL CLUB TABLE CENTERPIECE RAFFLE
CHALLENGE DESIGN DEMONSTRATION**

“SOCK IT TO 'EM SOCK DRIVE”

**PLEASE BRING DONATIONS OF NEW SOCKS TO BENEFIT
CROSSROADS FAMILY SHELTER**

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS:

CHECKS ABSOLUTELY NEED TO BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 16.

PLEASE FILL OUT AND ENCLOSE THE BOTTOM HALF OF THIS FORM WHEN YOU SEND YOUR CHECKS **PAYABLE TO RIFGC FOR \$40.00** PER PERSON.

NAME: _____

GARDEN CLUB: _____

EMAIL: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ CELLPHONE: _____

Mail to: **RIFGC, c/o Paul Nunes, 920 County Street, Seekonk, MA 02771-1810**

If you prefer, you may send in one check from your garden club for the total members attending.

The Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs presents

THE GREAT GARDENS OF SOUTHERN ENGLAND

Including the Chelsea Flower Show

May 15 - 23, 2024 | Availability: Open

[BELOW LINK WILL BRING YOU TO ITINERARY AND REGISTRATION](https://www.discovereuropeltd.com/rifgc/240515bcg)

<https://www.discovereuropeltd.com/rifgc/240515bcg>





THE KNOWLEDGE TREE

LMG SCHOLARSHIPS “HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE”

RIFGC’s Life Member Group’s mission is to develop scholarship funds for students enrolled in accredited collegiate programs in horticulture, landscape design, environmental science, and related subjects. Many ways to contribute to the scholarship fund.

- Membership with a one-time fee.
- Donations of any amount are welcome at any time.
- Planning your estate, love to give back to your community with a sustainable donation.

Go to: <https://rigardenclubs.org/members-area/scholarships/>



DESIGN STUDY GROUP

2023-2024

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Ann Huntoon and Candance Morgenstern, Instructors

Location: Barrington United Methodist Church, 230 Washington Rd

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

De Feldman, Instructor

Location: Barrington United Methodist Church, 230 Washington Rd

To Register Please Contact:

Kathy LaRiviere 401-316-5828 knlariv@outlook.com

Mary DiBara 508-320-6511 marydibara@gmail.com

Each session cost \$50 includes all materials.

Beginners to Advance Designers are welcome to participate.



2023 Edgewood Garden Club 90th Anniversary



"Grooving to the Oldies"
With
Angle Tree Garden Club
Dinner Dance Fund Raiser
You're all invited to come enjoy dinner
And dancing to the oldies
Dine to the music of Larry Johnson
Dance to the music of
"Route 6" and "The Barn Boys"

When

October 28, 2023

Dinner at 6:00pm then 'grooving' to the music until 10pm

Where

North Attleboro Elks, Bulfinch St.

Cost

\$40.00 per person

For tickets and more information please contact
Linda Everton at 508-212-1882
Or visit us at the Wednesday Night Farmers' Market
in front of North Attleborough Town Hall





RHODE ISLAND IN BLOOM

NGC DESIGN SPECIALTY FLOWER SHOW

Presented by

Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
President Judy Gray

April 4 - 7 2023

RI Convention Center
Providence RI



- Mayor Roberto DaSilva (East Providence), Judy Gray (Pres. of RIFGC), Barry Zeltzer (Chief Ex. Officer at Hattie Ide Chaffee Home and Co -Pres. of Hattie Ide Chaffee G.C.)
- Barry Zeltzer, Mayor Roberto DaSilva, and Karina DaSilva (Outreach Coordinator The Water Garden)
- Heather Fraga, (Director of Life Enrichment at Hattie Ide Chaffee Home and Co Pres. of Hattie Ide Chaffee G.C. featuring the Medicinal Garden)
- Barry Zeltzer Certificate of Congratulations from the Mayor of East Providence
- A new member of the Sculpture Garden donated by The Steel Yard



Looking for a Fall Experience?

New England Garden Club Annual Meeting

Hosted by the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts

You, as a garden club member, still have time to join us at our annual meeting at the beautiful Hotel 1620 on Plymouth's scenic harbor. Come and meet fellow gardeners from throughout New England. Friends you know and friends you have yet to meet are coming to Plymouth for an exciting two day adventure.

What and when is it happening?

Tuesday, October 10th

Registration begins at 4 pm. Vendor Shopping/Cocktails/Dinner/Program 5:30-8:30 pm
Socialize with cash bar available after evening program until 10 pm

Wednesday, October 11th

Start the day with an optional Breakfast Buffet starting at 7 am
Business Meeting at 9 am and a hilarious floral presentation by Bob Whitney.
Cocktails and lunch at 12 noon with awards and raffle drawing to follow.
Vendor shopping opens at 8 am-1:30 pm

Delicious meals, interesting presentations on topics near and dear to our gardening hearts, and a business meeting to hear what other clubs throughout the New England region are doing.

You will have a chance to share ideas with other garden club members about successful fundraisers, community beautification, flower shows, program topics, gaining new members and so much more.

Do you like to shop?

We will have vendors for gardening, jewelry, handbags, candy, specialty kitchen items and more. You will be able to shop starting at 4 pm on Tuesday thru the close of the meeting on Wednesday.

Do we have your attention? We hope so and now take action!

Complete the attached [registration](#) form and if staying overnight is in your plans call the 1620 Hotel at 508-747-4900 before September 23rd mention Garden Club of MA, to enjoy the group rate. Questions contact Carol Hartnett at 339-793-1266 or carolhartnett@gmail.com



CREATING A BIRD FRIENDLY GARDEN

SUE REDDEN, BIRD CHAIR

Creating a bird-friendly environment is simply a matter of providing the creature comforts we all crave: food, protective cover, and a cozy spot for raising a family.

A diversity of trees, shrubs, and other plants, as well as ground covers and vines, offers a complete package for backyard bird habitation. Invite other birds into your backyard and start enjoying a front row view of nature's winged wonders.

Food

- Sunflower/Safflower seeds: Cardinal, Chickadee, Finch, Junco, Mourning Dove, Nuthatch Sparrow, Titmouse.
- Thistle seed: Finch, Goldfinch, Junco, Pine siskin
- Corn (cracked): Cardinal, Cedar waxwing, Chickadee, Finch, Junco, Mourning Dove, Sparrow, Titmouse.
- Peanuts: Chickadee, Flicker, Finch, Grosbeak, Mourning Dove, Nuthatch, Pine siskin, Sparrow, Woodpecker.
- Suet: Chickadee, Flicker, Nuthatch, Titmouse, Woodpecker.
- Raisins: Cardinal, Grosbeak, Mockingbird, Pine siskin, Thrush.
- Apples: Cardinal Cedar waxing, Grosbeak, Mockingbird, Thrasher, Thrush
- Oranges & Grapefruit: Cardinal, Cedar waxwing, Finch, Grosbeak, Oriole, Pine siskin, Tanager, Warbler.

Seed-eating birds, including goldfinches, chickadees, and towhees, will seek out seed heads from an assortment of flowering plants

and ornamental grasses. Any daisy-like flowers such as sunflowers, asters, and black-eyed Susans, in addition to rudbeckias, zinnias, and echinaceas, would be good choices.

Finches, sparrows, and nuthatches are a few of the birds that will flock to marigolds, cosmos, coreopsis, goldenrod, phlox, and a wide selection of salvias. Hummingbirds are happy with nectar from bee balm, geraniums, veronicas, delphiniums, and penstemons.

Remember, too, that birds are attracted to seasonal food. They will stay longer in your garden if it contains plants that flower or fruit at different times of the year.

Shelter

Plants that provide shelter—a safe haven from predators, protective cover from harsh weather, or a cozy spot, whether to nest or just settle in for the night—appeal to just about any bird, regardless of food preference. But a plant that provides food and shelter says, “Come on in.”

Pine trees provide evergreen shelter that is enjoyed by many birds. They also produce nourishing pine seeds favored by chickadees. Low-growing junipers not only hide birds from imminent danger, but also offer an insect buffet for ground-insect feeders such as wrens, towhees, and juncos, in addition to providing a bevy of berries for titmice and waxwings.

Some vines and shrubs (like Virginia creeper, clematis, service berry, and privet) are also multifunctional plants. Towhees, larks, and sparrows enjoy the seed heads of their spent flowers, while fruit-eating birds such as robins, thrushes, and tanagers gorge on their berries. These vines and shrubs also provide a safe haven.



UNsung HEROES: FLOWER-FLIES

JUDY GRAY



Also known as syrphid or hover flies here are some fun facts about flower flies:

- 413 known species found in Northeastern North America
- Slender and 1/8 to 1 inch (4–25 mm) long, varying by species.
- Able to beat their wings 100x's a second, hence the name Hover Flies.
- Harmless to humans and animals, they do not sting.
- Great Pollinators: Next to bees, flower flies are considered one of the most important pollinator groups and contribute to the pollination of many wild and cultivated plants. Pollen gets stuck to their hairs which allows them to carry out the ecosystem service of pollination.
- Native flowers are an important food source for adults. Seem to prefer small white and yellow flowers. Feed on nectar and pollen.
- Attracted to nearby water sources, where they are not able to retain water.
- They do not nest but sleep on the underside of leaves and in tall grasses.
- Some flower fly larvae are predators,

feeding on soft-bodied insects such as aphids, scales, and thrips, or the eggs and larvae of other species, such as bees and ants.

- Other flower fly larvae specialize on fungi or plant material (including roots, stems, and pollen).
- They also feed on decaying plant and animal material.

TURF LAWN ALTERNATIVES

SARAH LEE

The September 13th New York Times article entitled: A Viable Alternative to Conventional Lawn? Cornell May Have Found One. peaked my interest especially as I listen to the mowers buzzing around my house. It talks about replacing the conventional and non-native fescues, perennial ryegrass and Kentucky bluegrass with low growing native plants that would require mowing around twice a year, tolerate some trampling, and would not need to be watered or fertilized.

The issues of lawn are well known to many of us. There are an estimated 40 million acres of lawn in the United States. Turning even a 10 th of this area back to native plants would increase biodiversity, conserve water, decrease pollution from fertilizer run off, and eliminate burning approximately 80 million gallons of gasoline per year used for weekly lawn mowing. Turf lawns are often wastelands for our native pollinators.

According to the article, for the past 15 years Todd Bittner, a plant ecologist, at Cornell Botanic Gardens has been conducting a quarter-acre experiment to find the acceptable, commercially viable, 85% native alternative

to the traditional lawn. To begin, the turf was removed from the ground along with a good amount of organic matter and sand and limestone dust was added. This worked to make conditions less desirable to turf grass weeds.

In Cornell's search for a convenient seed propagated plant, *Danthonia* was suggested by Krissy Boys, a staff horticulturist there. She saw the low oat grasses under power lines, in parks and cemeteries growing in unimproved soil. As it turned out, the combination of Poverty Oat Grass (*Danthonia spicata*) and flattened Oat grass (*Danthonia compressa*), became the dominant species in quarter-acre.

Over the 15 years of the Cornell Botanic Garden project, there has been natural ebbs and flows of different plants. Bluets, columbine and wild geranium disappeared while hairy beardtongue has done particularly well. Nonnative volunteer plants like white clover and buttercups appeared to provide further diversity and pollinator attraction.

Another option for those who are not interested in having six to eight inch lawns that need to be cut with a weedwhacker is the sedge (*Carex*) lawn. Sedges can be mown



with a traditional lawnmower however they are difficult to propagate from seed and are slow to establish by rhizome. Check out Prairie Moon Nursery for sedge grass seeds and plugs. *Carex eburnea* is an excellent, drought tolerant, native replacement.

A third lawn replacement option is the wildflower meadow. This is a less groomed look that could be bordered with mown paths of say *Carex* sedge or *Dianthus*. URI has recently installed wildflower turf from SODCO around their new engineering building. It looks great is locally available and sustainable.

As Mr. Bittner put it: "Converting turf-grass lawns to something more sustainable is an action every homeowner can take to collectively address the climate crisis and give nature a helping hand."

ELY MEDAL OF BEAUTY

SANDI TINYK, RIFGC HISTORIAN

At this spring's annual meeting, we witnessed the presentation of the Ely Award of Beauty to former RIFGC president, Blakely Szosz. Many of our members, especially those who only recently joined a federated garden club, were unaware of its existence and its significance.

The Ely Medal of Beauty is the most prestigious award offered by RIFGC and is not awarded lightly. This top award is given to the person who has performed above and beyond the regular RIFGC duties.

It has a long history with RIFGC, having been first presented to the Federation by Miss Ruth Ely in 1938. She commissioned a prominent professor at the Rhode Island School of Design to create a medal which was to be awarded to an exhibit

of outstanding beauty in a State sponsored Flower Show. Two garden clubs received the medal two years in a row. The winners were the Dirt Gardeners and the Barrington Garden Club. Many years passed when there were no Standard Flower Shows given by the RIFGC. The Federation participated with various community groups in other ways.

In the early seventies, the Awards Committee under the wise chairmanship of Edith Glanville decided to change the focus



of “The Award” from a garden club to an individual who was a garden club member. The recipient of the Ely Medal of Beauty was to have made an OUTSTANDING contribution of Beauty to the community or to the RIFGC-OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS. The term BEAUTY encompasses a unique special service to RIFGC that, in turn, affects the community at large. This award need not be given annually or biennially but is to be awarded only if the recipient

is deemed worthy.

Only one Ely Medal of Beauty is awarded at any one time to the person who has performed above and beyond regular garden club duties. The Ely Medal of Beauty committee, consisting of the sitting President, Vice-President, and four RIFGC Former Presidents selected by the sitting RIFGC President, shall consider all

nominees. It shall be a unanimous decision via paper ballot and Former Presidents on this committee should not be from the same club as the nominees.

The decision to consider Blakely for this award was based on numerous qualities and her history of superior service to the Federation. These include:

- Blakely served as an officer from 2013-2019 at which point, she became president ex-officio, chaired the nominating committee and continued to participate in RIFGC events, programs, and committees.
- Blakely has participated directly in Education Day as a program speaker and The Standard Flower Show speaker series.
- Blakely was a valuable member of the NGC Plant America Committee while she served as RIFGC president.
- During Blakely’s term in office she was committed to the enormous job of streamlining RIFGC finances. She helped to cut unnecessary costs and was able to nurture a relationship with the Rhode Island Business Association that is still ongoing and continues to be our main fundraiser every year. In her own club,
- Blakely dedicated a tremendous amount of time, energy, and creativity to the Barrington Garden Club’s Flower Show and Garden Tour.
- Blakely continues to serve the membership with her involvement in the enormous job of planning and set-up of the RI Flower Show, chairing the finance committee, and

as a major contributor to our social media platforms. Platforms that she inspired.

- Blakely has been of outstanding help in supporting those who followed her in the RIGHC presidency.
- Blakely instituted the Round Table discussions during her presidency, which we continue today nearly once a month on the Zoom Platform as Wet Your Whistle Wednesday.
- Blakely enhanced the Local Garden Club experience and involvement at board meetings by inviting clubs' suppling refreshments to introduce themselves to the Board members and announce a few special details and/or events currently going on with their members.
- Blakely's enthusiasm is and has always been infectious and she continues to be part of RIFGC events and programs. She is approachable and supportive.

There is absolutely nothing else that could be added to this lengthy list of Blakely's qualifications which have led to the presentation of this unique honor. We are honored to have you among us.



Pat Yearwood, RIFGC Recording Sec., Paul Nunes, RIFGC Treasurer, Judy Gray, Pres. of RIFGC, Linda Alves. W.Cranston Event Chair, Kathy Bessette RIFGC Corresponding Sec., Debra McCartin Event Chair.
Backrow: Kathleen Damiani, RIFGC Vice Pres., Karen Cipriani, Chair(absent)

RIFGC JUDGES COUNCIL

OUR LOVELY LADIES

Linda Kirkpatrick



Cathy Moore



Candace Morgenstern



Ann Huntoon



A recent photo from the Clara Marshal Memorial Garden in Barrington maintained by Hameho Garden Club. The club used a \$300 RIFGC grant to enhance the garden.

Michele Danish, President



Life Member Group member photo from the recent LGM Luncheon

Debra McCartin, Paul Nunes, Sandra Jack, Sandi Tiynek, Cathy Moore
Blakely Szosz, Linda Alves, Judy Gray, Paula Munko (missing)

RIFGC POLLENATORS

CRITTER GALLERY

Junonia coenia *right*, known as the common buckeye or buckeye, is a butterfly in the family Nymphalidae. Its range covers much of North America and some of Central America.

Sandi Tinyk





JUDY'S GARDEN

Monobia bottom left, is a primarily neotropical genus of medium-sized to large potter wasps occurring from the United States to Argentina.

Lucilia Sericata left, The common green bottle fly is a blowfly found in most areas of the world and is the most well-known of the numerous green bottle fly species.

Lon below, is a genus of skipper butterflies found in North and South America.





Editor's Notes:
Is this Tintin
art?? Jealous!

RIFGC Finance Committee busy working or socializing?

Pres. Judy Gray, Finance Chair Blakely Szosz, Candace Morgenstern, Vice Pres. Kathleen Damiani and Treasure Paul Nunes. Behind the lens is host Eileen Moiser. Former Pres Sheryl McGookin unable to make the drive (that's a RI thing), see you next time.



Gentian Garden Club member Diane Milia had a Youth Garden Therapy event at the North Scituate Library in July where she and several children planted a new pollinator garden. Plants were moved from within the library property, dug up and replanted from Gentian Garden Club member gardens, and also purchased — keeping in mind a nice range of bloom times for our local pollinators' sustained enjoyment. The children were terrific, and the result is a beautiful new garden!