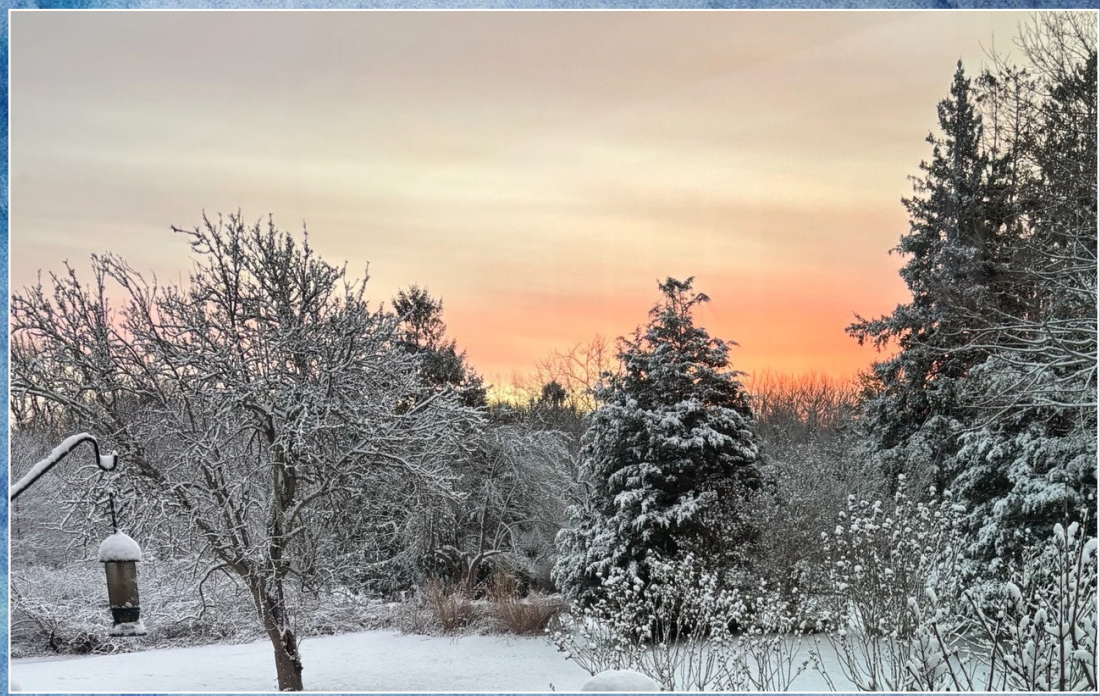


RIFGC 2025 winter Newsletter



Under the Winter Blanket

Coming to a close

Wow, I can't believe how quickly time has flown by; this will be my final newsletter as President of RIFGC. A part of my time was dedicated to creating newsletters filled with photos, because a picture truly speaks a thousand words. Each club's mission conveys a unique story through their meetings, events, presentations, plant sales, community gardens, garden therapy, and so much more.

In October, we had the honor of hosting the NEGC 8th Annual Meeting, with representatives from all six states in attendance. The event kicked off with a reception honoring Susan Miner, the NEGC Regional Director. A New England Garden Club Photography Show titled "Trees are the Poems that the Earth Writes Upon the Sky" was featured, chaired by Arabella Dane, who unfortunately could not attend.

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse and NGC President Brenda Moore served as the evening's guest speakers. Senator Whitehouse discussed the delicate environment we inhabit and the urgent need to address climate change. President Moore presented "50 Shades of Green," highlighting the benefits of being part of the National Garden Club.

The following day, NE State Presidents shared their annual reports. I was honored to present a program titled "Green is the New Black," showcasing sustainable floral mechanics and advocating for the elimination of single-use floral foam. Vera Bowen, the NEGC Awards Chair, along with Sue Redden, announced the awards. Please see the enclosed photo in the newsletter for the list of RI Clubs and their awards. This successful

event would not have been possible without the hard work of all the chairs, committees, and club members who contributed. We should all take pride in this achievement. Thank you! Thank you!

In November, the Life Member Group Scholarship hosted a fundraiser with a twist titled "You Know You Didn't Want to Cook Tonight." Just two days before Thanksgiving, Flatbread Co. in Providence generously donated their space for a fantastic raffle and shared information about the LMG Scholarship as customers entered. A percentage of all pizza sales were also donated. This year's RI recipient, Katherine Ruzzo, was present to receive the NGC Helen S. Hull Scholarship.

The December Holiday Brunch was a wonderful celebration filled with fun games, raffles, delicious food, and more. We collected 329 pairs of underwear for the Emmanuel House, a women's



shelter in Providence. A presentation by Plum Beach Garden Club, featuring Kathy Romeo and Diane Divine, rounded out the day. I affectionately refer to their initiative as 'Bouquets on Wheels', as they prepare floral arrangements twice a year for Meals on Wheels recipients in their area.

I was privileged to represent Rhode Island at the invitation of NGC President Brenda Moore for a webinar titled 'Merry and Green.' I presented holiday designs using sustainable and alternative mechanics, and the session was well attended by over 230 members from across the nation. I love how 'Little Rhody' continues to shine.

Happy New Year 2025! Clubs are resuming meetings after the holidays, busy writing award applications, and planning upcoming fundraisers, events, and spring projects. At the federation level, we are preparing for a new administration. My hope is that you welcome these dedicated members with the same kindness, support, and cooperation that I received. Serving as your president has been a tremendous honor, and I truly enjoyed the experience—it was way easier than I expected. My partner Paul (not Paul Nunes) and my son Kale took a backseat over the last two years as I balanced work, family, and garden club responsibilities. That's why I'm sharing one last photo with the two loves of my life. My achievements would not have been possible without their unwavering love and support. (P.S. Kale has lived in RI for the past 12 yrs, but NH is in his blood 5th generation Benton Farms)

President Judy Gray

Calendar – 2025

February 15

Deadline for RIFGC Awards,
Questions: Contact Cheryl
Celeste or Kathleen Damiani
Email: gardenclubckawards@
gmail.com

February 20

RIFGC Board Meeting New
Date

February 20

RIFGC Board Meeting New
Date

March 13

RIFGC Environmental
Education Day 10:30-2:30
Wm Hall Library Auditorium
Cranston, BYO Lunch Free.

March 13

Hameho GC Mushrooms and
More 6:30 Barrington Cong.
Church 461 County Road
Barrington All Are Welcome

March 27

RIFGC Board Meeting Roger
Williams Casino Voting of
Officers for the 2025-2027
Term

April 1

Deadline to reserve NYBG
Tour Van Gogh: Painting with
Flowers June 17 Trip

April 11

Deadline for April 24 RIFGC
Annual Luncheon

April 10-13

The RIFGC Design Specialty
Flower Show

April 16-17

Bristol GC. Flower Show at
Blithewold Daffodil Day

April 24

RIFGC Annual Meeting and
Awards Luncheon Honoring
95 years Quonset O Club in
North Kingston Installation of
Officers for upcoming 2025-
2027 term

May 7

Sogkonate G.C. speaker
Sean Conway, Tiverton
horticulturist 7:30pm 34
Commons Little Compton
Community Center

Calendar — 2025

May 10

Cindy-Wood Garden Club
Plant Sale 9am St Luke's
Church 99 Peirce Street East
Greenwich

May 17

Apple Blossom Garden Club
Plant Sale 9-2 Blackbird
Farmstand 660 Douglas Pike
Smithfield, RI

May 17

Gentian GC Spring Plant Sale
9-1pm N.Scituate Community
House 546 West Greenville
Road, Scituate

May 17

Wantaknow Garden Club
Plant Sale 8-12pm Summit
Baptist Church 1176 Victory
Highway Coventry, RI Rain or
Shine

May 18-23

NGC Convention North
Charleston, South Carolina

May 24

Sogkonate G.C. Blossoms
and Sweets Plant Sale 7:30 -
11 a.m., outside of Wilbur's
General Store

May 31

Edgewood GC Plant and Yard
Sale more info. forthcoming

May 31

Portsmouth GC Plant Sale
9-1pm Portsmouth Free
Library 2658 East Main
Rd. Annuals, perennials
from reputable institutions,
gardening tools, books etc

June 5

RIFGC Board Meeting with
newly elected Pres. Kathleen
Damiani and officers. All
Members are Welcome!

June 11-12

Judges Council Ruth Anderson
Workshop

June 17

NYBG Van Gogh Painting with
Flowers Save the Date



Save The Date

Tues June 17, 2025

Deadline for registering is April 1st

Find yourself immersed in botanical displays and
large-scale art. You've seen the paintings, now see them
come to life in a way that only NY Botanical Garden can deliver.

February 2025 — 4

Calendar — 2025

June 20-22

Newport Flower Show

June 21

Plum Beach GC Yard Sale
Fundraiser Wickford Village

July 2

Sogkonate GC Robert
Thornson, coordinator of the
Stone Wall Initiative 7:30pm
34 Commons Little Compton
Community Center

September 25

RIFGC Board Meeting RW
Casino

October 23

RIFGC Board Meeting

December 4

RIFGC Holiday Gathering
(Date is not confirmed at this
time.)

February 2025 — 5



Angle Tree GC of North Attleboro



A great day to chase the winter blues away, lunch and a meeting at Briggs Corner Pizzeria. Kathleen won the raffle a plant from Briggs Nursery and Heather won an author signed book. The club is looking forward to a great spring and summer.

New England Garden Club annual meeting

NEW ENGLAND GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

Eighth Annual Meeting

October 23-24, 2024



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

Hosted by:

Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Judy Gray, President

New England Garden Clubs, Inc.

Susan Miner, Director

Theme: "Grow Green...Plant America"

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Brenda Moore, President

Crowne Plaza

801 Greenwich Avenue

Warwick, RI 02886

**New England
Garden Clubs
Annual Meeting
October 23-24,
2024**

Warwick, Rhode Island



**Vera Bowen
RIFGC Chair**



**Senator Sheldon
Whitehouse
"Environmental
Concerns"**



**Judy Gray,
RIFGC
President
"Green is the
New Black"**



**Brenda Moore
NGC President
"50 Shades of Green"**



**Sue Miner NEGC
Director
NGC Pres. Brenda Moore
and Ron Moore**

**Judy Gray RIFGC Pres.
Kathleen Damiani RIFGC Vice Pres.**



**Doris Van Mullen FGCV
Brenda Moore NGC President
Winifred Schmidt NHFGC~Susan Miner
NEGC Director ~Karen Rae GCFM
Karin Pyskaty FGCC ~Judy Gray RIFGC**

New England Garden Club annual meeting



Narragansett Floriculture
Centerpieces NEGC Annual Meeting



Members
of
NHFGC

Susan Hinkel, VT
Joyce Kimball, NH

Dee Mozzochi CT
Bonnie Dinneen, MA



Marge DeAngelis Rehoboth GC
Paul Nunes, Pres of Rehoboth
GC

Michelle Danish, Pres of
Hameho GC
Sue Redden, Hameho &
Barrington GC



Paul Nunes
Ann Huntoon,
Gentian GC
Priscilla
DiMarco,
Hameho GC



Vicki Iannuccillo,
RIFGC FSS Chair
Sue Redden, RIFGC
Bird Chair



Lynne Merrill 2007-2009
RIFGC Pres
Linda Kirkpatrick RIFGC
Judges Council Chair

Andrea Sarrasin Pres. Plum Beach GC



Jill Malcolm, Carol Hartnett
& Janet Roger's GCFM



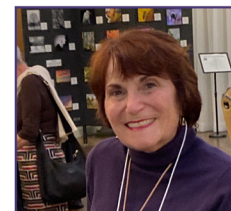
Judy Gray &
Winnie Schmidt
Pres of NHFGC



"Green
is the
New
Black"



Patricia Yearwood,
RIFGC Recording
Secretary



Karen Cipriano



Debra McCartin

Western Cranston GC

New England Garden Club annual meeting



Kathleen Damiani VP Co-Awards Chair of RIFGC, Judy Gray, Pres of RIFGC, Susan Miner NEGC Director presenting to Carol Horta Pres of Gentian GC an award at the NEGC 8th Annual Meeting.



Maria Kallis Pres and Nancy Seadale Awards Chair of Barrington GC being congratulated by Judy Gray Pres of RIFGC at the NEGC 8th Annual Meeting Crowne Plaza Warwick

New England Garden Club annual meeting



RIFGC Awards Chairs
Cheryl Celeste Pres W Cranston GC
Kathleen Damiani, RIFGC VP
W Cranston GC

NEGC Annual Awards 2024

1. The Sears Civic Beautification Award: The Gentian Garden Club, RI
2. The Laura Wetmore Conservation Award Sogkonate Garden Club, RI
- 12A. The Mary Louise Marks Smith Flower Show Schedule Award: Small-Standard Flower Show
- “America the Beautiful” Western Cranston

Garden Club, RI

12B. The Mary Louise Marks Smith Flower Show Schedule Award: State Design Specialty Flower Show

“Rhode Island in Bloom.” The Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs

13. The Virginia Thurston Landscape Design Award: Barrington Garden Club, RI

15A The Virginia Kenney/Maureen Colton Award Western Cranston Garden Club

16. The Nancy Atwell Award: Hameho Garden Club RI

17A. The Jeanne-Marie Parkes Award: Jen Dahler, Barrington Garden Club, RI “Life Cycle of the Black Swallowtail

19. The Lina Wagner Perennial Garden Award: Hameho Garden Club, RI. When she bought her home,

20. The Deanna J. Mozzochi Creative Design Award: Candace Morgenstern, Newport & Tiverton Garden Clubs, RI

24. Excellence in Teamwork Award: An Award of Recognition is given to Hameho Garden Club for its “Art in Bloom” “project at the Barrington Public Library,

Yearbook Awards for 2023-2024

Class 1 under 20 members Hatte Ide Chaffee Garden Club, RI

Class 2 21-29 members Hameho Garden Club, RI

The NEGC and NGC Youth Awards

Sculpture Contest

1st Place 4th Grade: Adelyn Bush
Barrington Garden Club

1st Place 5th Grade Evelyn Ward Barrington Garden Club

Poetry Contest

1st Place 5th Grade: Vivian Vigneault
Barrington Garden Club

Smokey Bear Contest

1st Place 3rd Grade: Vera Vigneault
Barrington Garden Club

1st Place 4th Grade; Adelyn Bush Barrington Garden Club

1st Place 5th Grade: Vivian Vigneault
Barrington Garden Club

NGC Winners Poetry

2nd Place 5th Grade Vivian Vigneault
Barrington Garden Club, RI



LMG Scholarship Fundraiser
Flatbread Co



Katherine
with her
grandmother
Clara Ruzzo
Western
Cranston GC

Katherine Ruzzo recipient
of RIFGC Life Member
Group Scholarship & NGC
Helen S Hull Scholarship
2024. Pictured with her,
RIFGC Pres Judy Gray.



Barrington Garden Club
volunteers met with Hamden
Meadows Elementary School
students to learn about their
unique composting program.
Governor Dan McKee, and First
Lady Susan McKee were on
hand to applaud the students
efforts to build a more
sustainable Rhode Island.



Gov. McKee explores Hampden Meadow
School's Green Team and Composting



An NGC Design Specialty Flower Show
Presented by
**Rhode Island Federation of
Garden Clubs, Inc.**
President Judy L. Gray

April 10-13, 2025

Thursday & Friday April 10 & 11 Noon-9PM

Saturday April 12 10AM-9PM

Sunday April 13 10AM-5PM

RI Convention Center
1 Sabin Street, Providence RI

**Free with admission to the
RI Home Show ticket (\$12)**

Group Rate

10 or more people \$10 per ticket (discounted from \$12 reg.)

Email: Teri Terrien tterrien@fibuilders.org 401-438-7400

Deadline is Tues April 8th

Except all Major Credit Cards over the phone ~ All Sales Final

Still Time to Enter the Flower Show

Contact: Judy Gray Design Entries Chair
judy.gray123@gmail.com 603 707 7785

View Schedule Classes Open 5,6,10,12

Go to <https://rigardenclubs.org/flower-shows/>



Kathleen Damiani, Wester Cranston GC presenting The Ronald McDonald House with collected can tabs.

Please Save and Donate

Western Cranston GC have collected can tabs to donate to The Ronald McDonald House for years. The tabs are recycled to raise money for the organization's programs that help families and children.

Every Bit Helps!

Kathleen Damiani, Pres Elec. would like club to make an effort to collect tabs at your club meetings.

No Amount Is Too Small

Kathleen is happy to collect them. Bring them to the RIFGC Board Meetings.

She will make arrangements with you to pick them up or drop off when meetings aren't in session.

**Do-It-Yourself
Pinecone Bird Feeder**

Students! Gentian Garden Club invites you to take home a **bird feeder kit** to assemble and hang in your yard!

Pick up at North Scituate &

Hope Libraries NOW!

What you will find in your kit:

2 pinecones

string

birdseed

directions

Things you will need:

peanut butter, suet, or shortening

a plate or tray



Hang it from a tree or shrub and watch the birds
enjoy your thoughtful gift!

See if you can spot one of these birds:



Tufted Titmouse



Black-capped Chickadee

We'd love to see your finished projects! Please email your photos, questions or comments to: dbmilia@gmail.com

Holiday Greens Workshop



Holiday greens workshops

Cindy-Wood
Garden Club
Greens
Workshop



Bristol Garden Club
Holiday Table Top Trees
Fundraiser held at Mt
Hope Farm



Bristol
Garden
Club
Christmas
at Linden
Place

Holiday greens workshops



Gentian
Garden
Club



The Gentians have
been busy adding
seasonal greens
throughout town!
Beautiful!



Plum Beach GC & Histwick rally their troops
along with shop owners to string lights on
trees and create hanging baskets of greenery.
The 39th Annual Wickford Festival of Lights.



Holiday greens workshops



Western
Cranston
Garden
Club



Western Cranston
GC
Decembers
'Therapy for Seniors'
Making
arrangements for
the Scandinavian
Home.



Holiday
Greens
Sprague
Mansion



Holiday greens workshops



February 2025 - 17

National Garden Club



National Garden Clubs, Inc
Register and have your outdoor space certified
 as a Wildlife or Pollinator Garden...
 More Info: gardenclubs.org



PLANT AMERICA, FEED AMERICA
 This project is focused on donating the produce that NGC's members have harvested from their own gardens. We want to spotlight how NGC is making a difference across America!



PLANT AMERICA - LANDSCAPE FOR WILDLIFE
 Apply to have your garden registered as a National Garden Club Certified Wildlife Habitat!



PLANT AMERICA - PLANT FOR POLLINATORS
 Apply to have your garden recognized as a National Garden Clubs Certified Pollinator Garden!

Plant-A-Tree (formerly Penny Pines)

Donors can now contribute any amount, starting from as little as \$50.00 to as large as \$10,000.00. Minimum Donation is \$50.00.

CERTIFICATES As of May 31st, 2025, In an effort to "Go Green," we will be offering digital certificates that donors can customize and print out themselves.

DONATING TO SPECIFIED FORESTS When donating, you may choose to have your donation go to where it's most needed or you may select a National Forest; however, the Forest Service reserves the right to utilize funds based on need. *Please note, individual plantings will not be identified per donor (ex: if you donate to a forest, you would be unable to locate a specific tree that you helped donate).

For More Info. Donating online or by check. <http://www.gardenclub.org/plant-tree>





November 2024

Florals for donation

Portsmouth Garden Club Members created 12 floral arrangements to be donated to the Portsmouth Public Library's 'Taste of Portsmouth' Annual Fundraiser.



February 2025 - 19

Holiday Brunch



The room was filled with laughter as the games commenced with Kathleen Damiani, after President Judy Gray's short meeting. Drinks and raffle tickets were sold for the table centerpieces made and donated by clubs attending.

Our presenters of the day were Kathy Romeo and Diane Divine from Plum Beach GC. They discussed their project bringing cheer to the Meals on Wheels Program, including the project conception, the arrangements, transporting, and delivery of the arrangements. Each arrangement has a thoughtful message attached. Plum Beach also donated the designs, along with others, to the raffle of the day.

Paul concluded the day with one of his games, that makes us think. Centerpieces were raffled and good cheer was had by all as we said our goodbyes and well wishes for the new year.

The Emmanuel House, a Women's Shelter for the Catholic Diocese in Providence, was so grateful for the donation of over 329 pairs of new women's underwear that were collected at the brunch. Pres. Judy Gray personally thanks all of you for your generosity.





Nancy Donohue, Pat Morgan, and Joan Moran



Janice Giorgianni



Linda McHugh



Debra McCartin and
Karen Cipriano
RIFGC Annual Meeting
Chairs

Holiday Brunch



Paul Nunes
Pres. Rehoboth GC &
RIFGC Treasurer
Linda Howard
Pres. Portsmouth GC



Deborah Clickner
Pres. Elect Hameho GC



Kathy Bessette
RIFGC Corresponding Secretary



Cindy Wood
GC



Western Cranston GC



Edgewood
GC

Holiday Brunch



Plum Beach GC



Diane Devine



Kathy Romeo



Hattie Ide Chaffee
GC

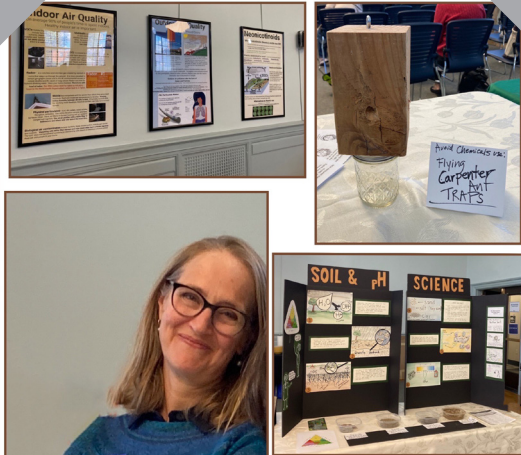


Rehoboth GC



Bristol GC

Environmental Education Day, Oct 2024



Sarah Lee
RIFGC Environmental Chair

RIFGC Environmental Education Day



Jim Studley
Operations Manager
"More Sustainable Ground
Covers."



Beech Leaf Disease: Basic Overview of the Disease and Management



Trevor Moss
Bartlett Trees

Vera Bowen
RIFGC Education Chair

Environmental Education Day, Oct 2024

Kaye Vosburgh
Ikebana
Instructor



Ruth Anderson Workshop



Jenny
Thomasson
Floral Designer



Ruth Anderson Workshop

Linda Kirkpatrick
Judges Council Chair

Ann Huntoon

Candace
Morgenstern



February 2025 - 26

Winter Photos
by Priscilla DiMarco, Hamako HC



February 2025 - 27

Beware!! 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 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 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 nitro-

gen 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", "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.

Incontrast, 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.

Vera Bowen, Bristol & Bayberry HC

EUROPEAN EARTHWORM

Lumbricus terrestris

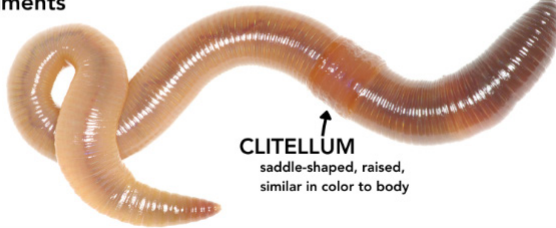
SIZE: 110-200mm x 7-10mm
120-170 segments

pink to brown in color that does not jump when disturbed

no distinct mouth

CLITELLUM

saddle-shaped, raised, similar in color to body



JUMPING WORM

Amyntas agrestis

SIZE: 70-160mm x 5-8mm
63-100 segments

reddish brown iridescent worm that will thrash and jump when disturbed

each segment has a ring of setae

large distinct mouth

CLITELLUM

milky, smooth, flush, annular



Eileen Moser Sogkonate GC brought up the topic of Asian Jumping Worms at our RIFGC Board Meeting in January. Their club has changed their formula and has taken a proactive approach to their plant sale in order not to spread this pest to other gardens.

Please read the article RIFGC is recirculating from 2022, by Vera Bowen

We will be gathering more information, which will be available to all clubs.

Pathway of introduction

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.

Beware the colored mulch

Colored Mulch may:

- + Be made from recycled wood pallets, recycled building materials, demolished buildings, etc.
- + Be Contaminated with toxic CCA
- + Break down more slowly than natural mulches
- + Deplete soil of nitrogen.

CCA and other toxic chemicals have been found in soil where colored mulch had been applied.

Colored Mulch is not recommended unless certified with MSC Certification logo, stating the mulch is free of CCA treated wood.

Look for this label

Founded in 1972, the Mulch & Soil Council (MSC) is the national non-profit trade association for all producers of horticultural mulches, consumer potting soils and commercial growing media.

The mission of the MSC is to define quality products and promote a fair and open marketplace. To assist the industry in achieving these objectives.

Sources

NGC Environmental Concerns and Conservation Committee Membership

<https://www.mulchandsoilcouncil.org/>



Monday Jan 6, 2025

February 2025 — 30



Betsy Hunt
Perennial
Planters GC



Carol Horta and
Edna Duffy
Gentian Garden
Club



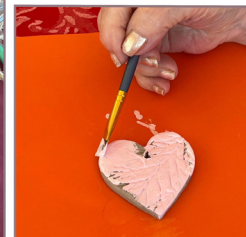
Judy Gray, RIFGC Pres. presents to Candy Hass
Pres. Of Wantaknohow Garden Club
NGC Certificate of Merit for
85th Club Anniversary



Vera Bowen NEGC Awards Chair
Eileen Moser, member of Sogkonate GC
Judy Gray, RIFG President

NEGC 2024 The Laura Wetmore Conservation Award
to Sogkonate Garden Club Little Compton

Hattie Ide Chaffee GC
Christmas Ornament and
Pressed Flower Lanterns
Workshop with students of
The Warren Alpert Medical
School of University of
Brown.





Amaryllis

This is my third year with this amaryllis. Last year it only had one flower stalk and, as you can see, it now has two! Amaryllis is native to South Africa. It blooms in late spring but that is our late fall! So here is how I let it think it is back home in the Southern hemisphere:

1. Cut off the spent flower stalks.
2. Treat the plant as a regular house plant for the next few months. Don't forget to give it a high phosphorus fertilizer. (This is what I did last spring and, since phosphorous promotes flowering, perhaps that is why I have two flower stalks this year.)
3. Plant a bulb in your garden in May and forget about it.
4. In the beginning of September, dig up the bulb and put it in a dark cool place. It must have its dormancy.
5. I put my bulb in a plastic bag in the vegetable bin in the beginning of October to give the plant a bit of winter.
6. At the end of November I plant it $\frac{2}{3}$ deep in potting soil but don't water it. I put it in a nice warm place.
7. When I see the green coming up, I begin watering.

This schedule suits me fine because I like to have flowers in dark, dreary January. You can mess around with your Amaryllis' schedule a bit to try to get it to bloom for Christmas. Good luck.

*Carol Glanville,
RHS Horticulture Chair*

Blue Star Memorials

Honoring our Service Men & Women

Did you know that Rhode Island was the first state to dedicate a Blue Star Memorial after the program was adopted by National Garden Club in 1947?

What better way is there to honor those who have served in the Armed Services?

Many of us have relatives who have served our country: fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, sons and daughters. This very special group, who have protected our freedom, deserves to be honored in each of our communities.

Since World War I, a Blue Star Banner displayed in the window of a home told others that a family member was serving in the Armed Services. Also known as the Service Flag, the blue stands for hope and pride. When service members lost their lives, the blue star was replaced with a gold star representing the sacrifice. At the close of World War II, National Garden Clubs, Inc. was looking for a way of honoring our service men and women. NGC visualized a living memorial ~ 8,000 flowering dogwood trees were planted along five miles of highway in New Jersey, which had been dedicated the Blue Star Drive by the legislature. No billboards were allowed on the memorial stretch.

In 1947, Mrs. Frederick R. Kellogg (NGC President 1930-1933) designed a marker which would identify the highways throughout the country. While it originally began to honor WWII veterans, the mission was expanded in 1951 to include all men and women who have served, were serving or would serve in the armed services of the United States.

There are presently twelve markers in Rhode Island, and it is hoped that other clubs will consider placing a marker in their town. In recognition of the fact some of the smaller clubs are unable to meet this expense, a collaboration between clubs, as was the case between Barrington and Hameho Garden Clubs, would help to ease the restrictions of clubs with fewer financial resources. It is hoped that other RIFGC clubs will consider honoring the men and women who have served our country and protected the freedom that we enjoy.

Additional details: Visit National Garden Club at www.gardenclub.org

*Sandi Jynk, RIFGC
Historian (with thanks to
Candace Morgenstern)*



Blue Star Memorials

Western
Cranston
GC

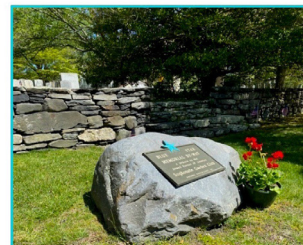


Gentian
GC



Sogkonate GC with a grant from RIFGC in the amount of \$425 and donations from the Town Council of Little Compton the marker was dedicated in May 25, 2015.

It is located at "Pikes Peak" where town members gather each Memorial Day to honor their veterans.



Portsmouth
Garden Club



Spring Newsletter look for more details on how your club or clubs can honor veterans by purchasing a Blue Star Memorial or Marker.



*Who's Who
in RIFGC a
Lover of
Beekeeping
and
Fishing?*

November 2024 newsletter amendments

Page 20:

My deepest apologies for listing Kathy
Oliver. It should've been Kathy *Romeo*,
from Plum Beach Garden club.

Page 13:

Credit was due to Sue Redden with
the yellow warbler.



Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. 2024 Newsletters
Ruby McGookin - Newsletter Editor/Designer