



Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs

DESIGN STUDY WORKSHOPS

With Ann Huntoon and
Candace Morgenstern
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THE BLIZZARD OF 2026

AS DOCUMENTED BY RIFGC MEMBERS

Page 13
Pictures from Sharon Hay,
Blakely Szosz, Judy Gray,
Sheryl McGookin,

APRIL 2026

Spring Newsletter

DISCOVER...

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Kathleen Damiani
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CREATING A BIRD-FRIENDLY GARDEN

Sue Redden,
Bird Chairman
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BEATRIX POTTER'S GARDENING LIFE BY MARTA MCDOWELL

Sandi Tinyk,
Books Chairman
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DID YOU KNOW ABOUT LINDA?

Judy Gray and
Linda Sollitto
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President's *report*

Kathleen Damiani

Wow— what a winter we are having! A blizzard that surpassed the Blizzard of '78 by over nine inches! And this on top of the 18 inches we still partly had on the ground.

Lucky for us, we have Zoom, so we did not miss our February meeting and program with Julie Christina. She joined us and presented an interesting program on the Kinney Azalea Gardens. It sounds like they have done a tremendous amount of work to create a truly mystical garden experience. I am looking forward to touring the gardens myself. Julie mentioned that mid-May is the best time to visit—so if you are looking for something to do, it is a must-see!

According to the new bylaws, our monthly meetings should include a short program. This means I will not be reviewing every committee report unless something is pressing or needs repeating. To recap, in January we had Eileen Moser speak about the Jumping Worm program, and in February we learned about the Kinney Azalea Gardens. In March, we are planning a roundtable discussion on topics such as membership, fundraising, and favorite programs. Please come prepared with ideas to share! It will be fun to hear what other clubs are doing in these areas. This will be an interactive meeting.

Have you ever thought about seeing the tulips in Holland? Aiden from Collette Tours will give a 20-minute presentation at the end of the March board meeting about a river tour scheduled for April 25–May 5, 2027. This sounds like so much fun, and there are 10 seats left for members of RIFGC or their friends. See Sandi Tinyk for details.

The RIFGC Holiday Party was a

huge success. Designers Judy Gray and Blakely Szosz demonstrated two spectacular designs. Everyone was so generous in donating toiletries for the Ronald McDonald House. They were extremely appreciative, as they were running low on those types of supplies.

I had the pleasure of being invited to Quononoquott's holiday party and installation. It was a beautiful luncheon in Jamestown, and I enjoyed conversations with the outgoing and incoming presidents, as well as other club members. It is always such fun to attend these events!

The Design Study Group recently held two outstanding programs. On January 14, Ann Huntoon led a workshop that included leaf manipulation techniques. In February, Candace Morgenstern led the class, with each participant working with an interesting vase. Both classes were well attended, and I hear the energy was wonderful! I am already looking forward to next year's classes. I am so sorry to have missed them, as you always take home valuable information.

That brings me to our next big event: the RIFGC 2026 Specialty Flower Show, "Dearly Beloved...", April 10–12, 2026. After attending one or all three of the design classes, any of you can enter our flower show. Judy Gray and Blakely Szosz have been working hard to make this award-winning show a success! Every journey starts with a first step, a wonderful way to continue your floral design journey. I hope to see your designs!

Our Annual Banquet and Awards Meeting will once again be held at the Quonset O Club on April



23, 2026. We will enjoy a fabulous demonstration by Dennis DelSignore of Stone Blossom Florist. Dennis is a floral designer, event designer/planner, and creative director. He is always entertaining and known for his unique designs. Don't forget your fascinators!

"Pearls of Newport" is the perfect theme for the 30th Anniversary of the Newport Flower Show, taking place June 19–21, 2026, at Rosecliff. This milestone event will feature exquisite floral exhibits inspired by the rare beauty and hidden treasures of the City-by-the-Sea. Tickets will be available in April. I could not find a full schedule yet, so please keep checking <http://www.newportmansions.org/events>. I hope to see some of our talented members' floral designs or horticulture entries at the show!

Back by popular demand, our June 4 board meeting will feature the Judges Council Horticulture Show at the Hattie Ide Chaffee Home in East Providence. All members are welcome to participate. The last show was fabulous! More information will follow, so please watch for the email blast.

Thank you for forwarding my President's email blast to your club members. There is so much important information included in each one. I will send a separate email with details about all the spring plant sales.

While I love snow, I think we have had our share this season! I am looking forward to spring—our flower show should certainly help usher it in.

Warm regards,
Kathleen Damiani
RIFGC President

2026 Calendar

- MARCH 17** • Cindy-Wood GC will hold an Art in Bloom United Methodist Church East Greenwich open to the public 10am - 11:30.v
- MARCH 26** • RIFGC Board Meeting RW Casino 9:30am Social 10:00 Meeting
- APRIL 10-12** • RIFGC Design Specialty Flower Show (worker bees start Monday April 6)
- APRIL 15-21** • RIFGC Paris Tour by Collette Tours
- APRILS 22** • American Daffodil Society Convention see NGC website for information.
- APRIL 23** • Annual Luncheon/Awards Banquet Quonset O Club with Floral designer Dennis Delsignor
- MAY 2** • Rehoboth GC Plant Sale 9-1pm at Francis Farm 27 Francis Farm Rd Rehoboth MA
- MAY 4-6** • NGC Annual Convention St Louis Missouri
- MAY 9** • Quononoquott GC Plant Sale 9am-Noon Fort Getty Pavilion Jamestown RI
- MAY 9** • Cindy-Wood GC Annual Plant Sale St Luke's Episcopal Church parking lot, 99 Pierce Street, East Greenwich RI. 9am to 12noon.
- MAY 15-17** • Hameho GC presents Art in Bloom more information forthcoming.
- MAY 16** • Wantaknowhow GC Plant Sale 8am-Noon Summit Baptist Church 1176 Victor Highway Greene, RI.
- MAY 16** • Gentian GC Plant Sale 9am to 1pm North Scituate Community House 546 West Greenville Road.
- MAY 23** • Sogkonate GC Plant Sale Blossom & Sweets 7:30 am – 11:00am next to Wilbur's General Store at the commons in Little Compton.
- MAY 30** • Portsmouth GC Plant Sale 9-1pm at Portsmouth Free Library.
- JUNE 4** • RIFGC Board Meeting Hattie Ide Chaffee Home 200 Wampanoag Trail Riverside
- JUNE 4** • RIFGC Judges Council an NGC Horticulture Show at Hattie Ide Chaffee Home. Details forthcoming.
- JULY 14** • Cindy-Wood GC Summer Picnic, Installation of Officers, Place TBA.
- JUNE 16** • Cindy-Wood GC 50 Year Anniversary more information forthcoming.
- JUNE 19-21** • The Newport Flower Show "Pearls of Newport" tickets online starting in April. Sells out quickly.
- JUNE 20** • Edgewood GC Garden Tour 'Secret Gardens by The Bay' 2026 Garden Tour
- JUNE 23** • Barrington GC Garden Tour Blooms By the Bay Barrington RI Garden Tour
- SEPTEMBER 13** • Annual Polo Charity Day
- SEPTEMBER 17** • Plum Beach GC Luncheon at Dunes Club. Great fundraising event, details forthcoming.

The happenings *in* Gentian

Gentian Garden Club



Members of Gentian GC toured the Philadelphia Flower Show, this years theme 'Origins of American Gardening'. So Much Fun!



Glenn, Jackie and Maureen members of the Gentian Garden Club led the group at the Scituate Senior Center in floral designs for Valentines.



Gentian Garden Club member Glenn C instructed on how to identify and draw flower and mushroom parts at the Scituate Senior Center.



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
Starting February 7!

What you will find in your kit: **You provide:**

2 pinecones
string
bird seed
directions

Peanut butter OR suet
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:

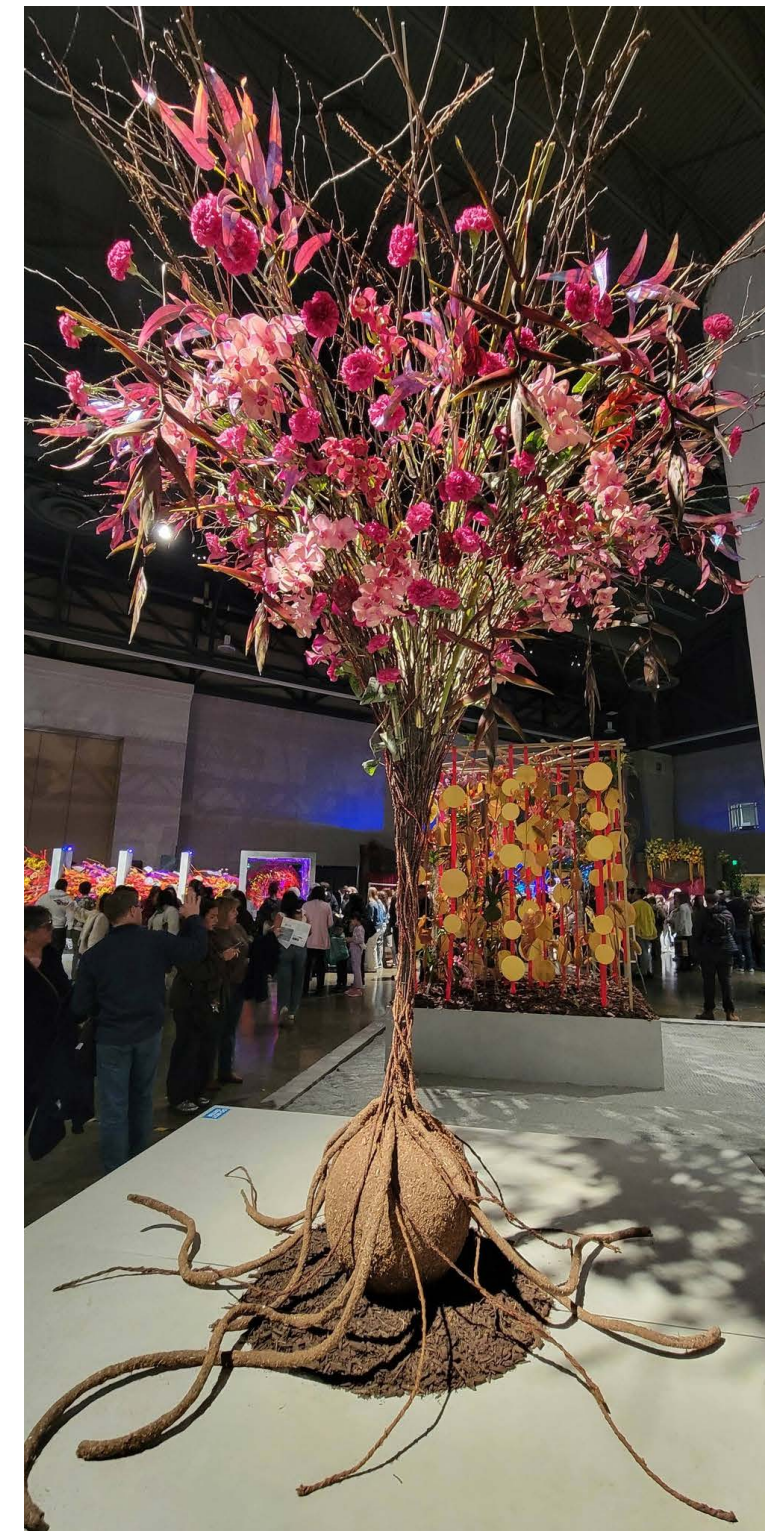


Tufted Titmouse



Black-capped Chickadee

Gentian GC members produce Bird Feeder Kits in February. They were distributed to North Scituate and Hope Library for the community to take one home.



Creating a *bird-friendly* garden

Sue Redden, Bird Chairman

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

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 echinacea's, 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."



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, Tananger, Warbler.

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.

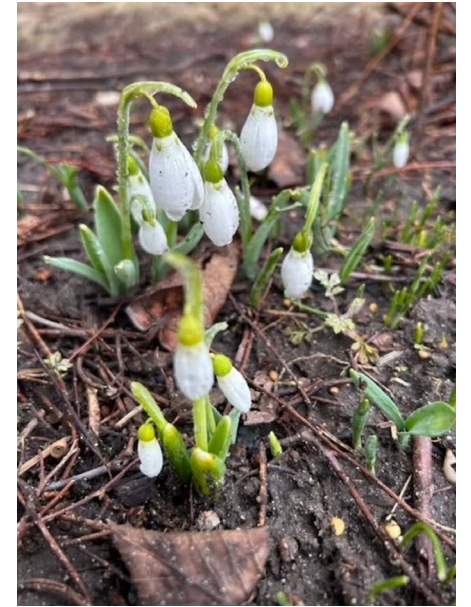
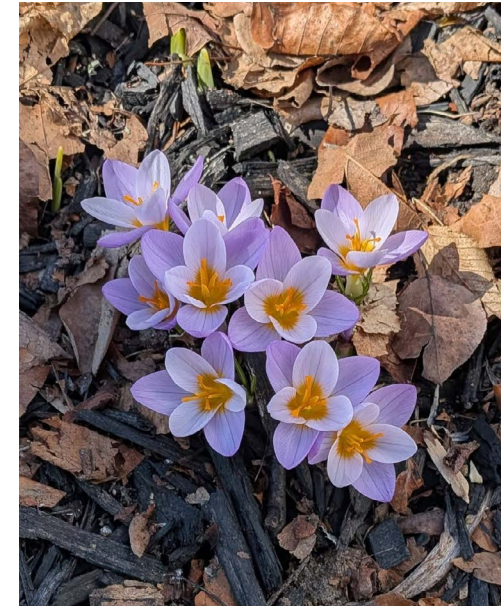
Signs of *spring*

Bristol Garden Club

Have you seen the Signs of Spring?

In Bristol and Portsmouth we're already seeing snowdrops, crocus, and daffodil shoots!

Photos taken by Carol Glanville, Laura Rodriguez, Karen Katin



Driving donations

Bristol Garden Club

Plum Beach Garden Club is pleased to announce at a presentation ceremony held in December a check in the amount of \$2,635 to Kristin Jahne, Manager of the North Kingstown Food Pantry.

Club members generously contributed monetary donations and participated in a canned food drive, which yielded 290 pounds of non-perishable items delivered prior to Thanksgiving.

left to right, Barbara Dawson, Treasurer; Kristin Jahne of the North Kingstown Food Pantry; Sue Jones, President; Ellen Grennan; and Becky Dower, Secretary.



Potpourri in Portsmouth

Portsmouth Garden Club



January Portsmouth GC welcomed Suzan Ballard, club member a demonstration on making Potpourri. She brought many recipes, lessons on drying and each member left with satchel.



Dearly Beloved...

An NGC Design Specialty Flower Show

Presented by

Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

President Kathleen Damiani

April 10-12, 2026

Friday, April 10 10AM-8PM

Saturday, April 11 9AM-8PM

Sunday, April 12 9AM-5PM

Admission Free with ticket to
The Rhode Island Home Show

RI Convention Center
1 Sabin Street, Providence RI

Member:
National Garden Clubs, Inc.
New England Garden Clubs, Inc.

Art gallery tour

Cindy-Wood Garden Club



Marilyn Bollengier, Vice Pres. & Leslie Pires, Pres. of CWGC



Cindy-Wood GC members enjoyed a art gallery tour in Wakefield. Privat collection featured floral art among other pieces of sculptures and paintings.

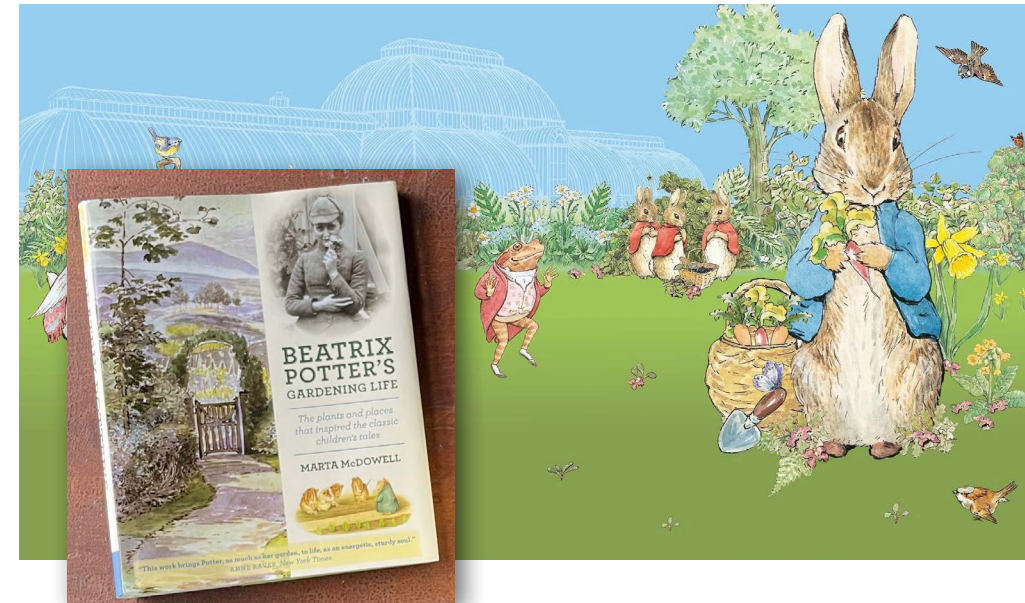
Beatrix Potter's gardening life by *Marta McDowell*

Sandi Tinyk, Books Chairman

Much as bunnies are the bane of our gardening existence, who can deny being enchanted by the likes of Peter Rabbit, Jemima Puddle Duck, and the many other creatures of the natural world featured in the books of Beatrix Potter (1866-1943). There aren't many books as well-loved as *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. Peter and all the other characters exist in a charmed world filled with flowers and gardens.

How did this phenomenon begin? Simply put, in Beatrix's early childhood, from London to the Lake District, which instilled in her a love for gardens, orchards, and the natural world, later providing the settings in her tales. Recognized as an excellent writer, artist and illustrator, many do not appreciate that she was also a scientist fascinated by fungi. During World War I many female horticulturists were employed by London's famed Kew Gardens to replace the men who had joined the war effort. She remarked in her journal on the female gardeners in "knickerbockers tying up flowers", ordered by the Kew's Director to discourage "sweet hearting amongst the staff." Her biography is enhanced by her gardens which also shaped her. She fills her art with accurate details of the flora around her, as well as her interest in fungi.

She grew up in a wealthy family which purchased many properties, including one with an extraordinary



landscape developed by the illustrious garden designer, Capability Brown, in the 18th century. Her family was fond of traveling, and she was impressed by the magnificent gardens she saw on her travels. Although well-traveled, she might be better described as a country girl. She found a kinship in nature, as well as the people who worked in them. This impressive book contains her watercolors, sketches and photos of her, her gardens and her homes, as well as maps of private gardens. With her earnings from her first books, she purchased Hill Top Farm in 1909 in the Lake District. Beatrix met William Heelis, a lawyer, through farm matters and the preservation of rural landscapes and whom she later married. They lived in the Lake District, with Heelis supporting her

“Although well-traveled, she might be better described as a country girl. She found a kinship in nature.”

ALSO RECOMMENDED FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL READERS

Flush by Carl Hiassen. This author's well-known crime fiction set in Florida is a favorite of adult readers, but he has branched out into children's literature. He has recently completed his 6th middle school novel, *Flush*. It opens on Father's Day in a local jail in the Florida Keys, where Noah has come to visit his father, who has just been arrested. His crime: he sunk a floating casino that was secretly dumping sewage into the ocean. Hiassen's sharp environmental observations are key to the book's focus on empowerment.

growing passion for farming and conservation in addition to her writing of over 60 books. When she died, she left everything to Heelis, who later turned it over to the National Trust.

This lovely book is the author's depiction of a year in the life of Beatrix Potter, a self-taught gardener who examined the changing seasons, plants, and her experiences as a gardener. Note: The final chapter relates to the gardens which recreated her methods and designs at Hilltop, villages and other real places which found their way into her writings. The book's vocabulary includes familiar botanical terms like "germination" and "flowering", and a list of plants' common and botanical names which are found in the tales and where they can be found in them. Much research has gone into this endearing work, recommended for lovers of gardening, Beatrix Potter, or both.

An aside: Princess Catherine is VERY distantly related to Beatrix Potter through her father's family. This connection led to Catherine's choosing a Beatrix Potter theme for Prince George's nursery.

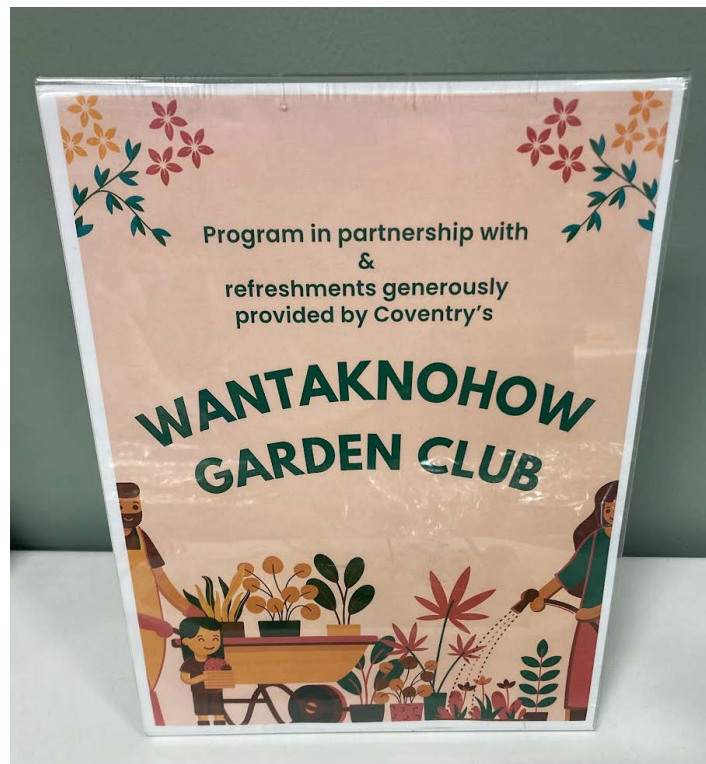
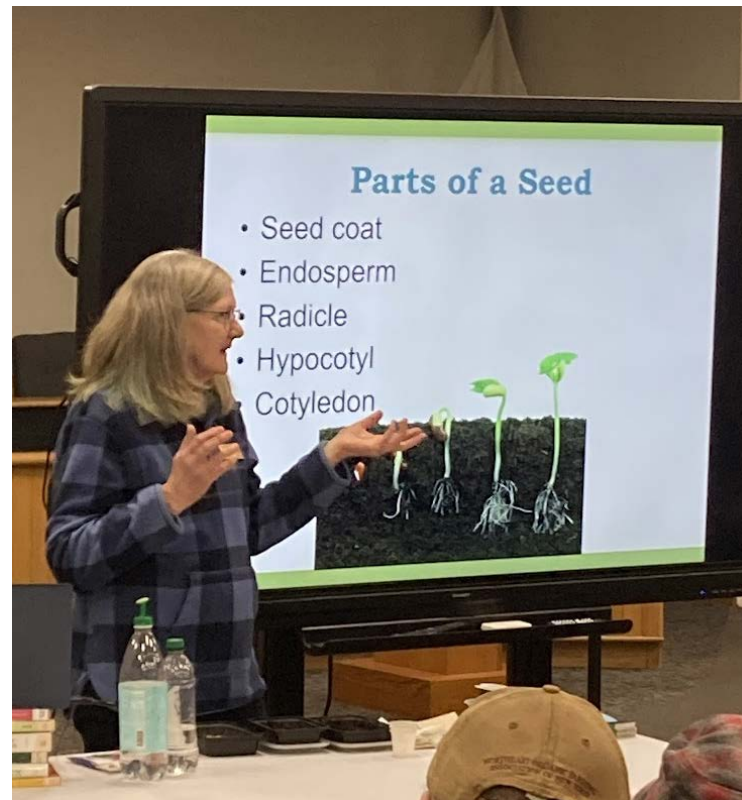


Beatrix Potter

Starting seeds with Susan Scotti

Wantaknow Garden Club

Wantaknow GC hosted 'Seed Starting - URI Master Gardeners with Susan Scotti, Coventry. This was in conjunction with the Coventry Public Library. Thrilled to have over 40 attend this informative event. Plenty of great tips on how to be successful in seed starting. A bountiful of seed packets and information was available.



Welcoming new members

Western Cranston Garden Club



L> R: Melanie Pattinson (Membership Co-Chair), new members Paula Roberti, Elaine Olsen, and Sandy DeCristofano, and co-presidents Linda Alves, Lori Vota, and Sharron Casey.



Tammy Costa, a URI Master Gardener, as our guest speaker at the January meeting. Tammy explained her various methods for collecting and saving seeds. Brought a bountiful to share with members



February meeting Piedade Lemos from our garden club. Walked us through the making of a lovely Valentine inspired table scape. Her presentation was informative, interactive and the table scape was delightful for all in attendance.



Busy in Barrington

Barrington Garden Club



The Barrington Garden Club learned all about hydroponics at the Barrington Farm School.



Farmer Mark and Volunteer Patty, shared all about this growing system and how it works through the winter season.



Thank you! See you at the farm this season!

- Farm stand opens around April 1st
- Organic Plant Sale Opens Mothers Day Weekend
- Tomatoes start coming in around July 4th
- Keep on the lookout for farm tours and workshops!

What a delightful presentation by our friends at Long Lane Farm who shared the joys and challenges of running their "growing" operation. Three Generations looking towards the upcoming season.

ORGANIC NO-TILL FARMING
A DREAM REALIZED

TUES. FEB. 10 @ 1 PM

Update! The blizzard has slowed their efforts suffering heavy damage, all hands on deck for this farming family.

REJUVENATING THE ESTABLISHED GARDEN

TUES. JAN. 20 @ 1 PM

Conservation

Friendship

Education

Gardens

Community

Join us!

Such a great presentation by Laura Trowbridge who shared loads of information and practical advice about designing a garden filled with color and beauty!

Busy in Barrington

Barrington Garden Club continued



How much fun to dig in the dirt at the Barrington Garden Club Milk Jug Planting Workshop!



Seed sowing for summer blooms.

Winter seed sowing

Wantaknowhow Garden Club winter seed-sowing workshop



ANNUAL PLANT SALE
HOSTED BY
WANTAKNOHOW GARDEN CLUB
Saturday MAY 16TH
8AM -NOON

GREAT PLANTS ~ GREAT PRICES
SUMMIT BAPTIST CHURCH
1176 VICTOR HIGHWAY GREENE, RI



Design study workshops

with Ann Huntoon and Candace Morgenstern



Ann Huntoon, Design Instructor. NGC Judge and a member of Gentian GC. Design Study Chairs Maggie Rezendes, Bristol GC and Blakely Szosz Barrington GC



'Creative Floral Artistry' with Candace Morgenstern

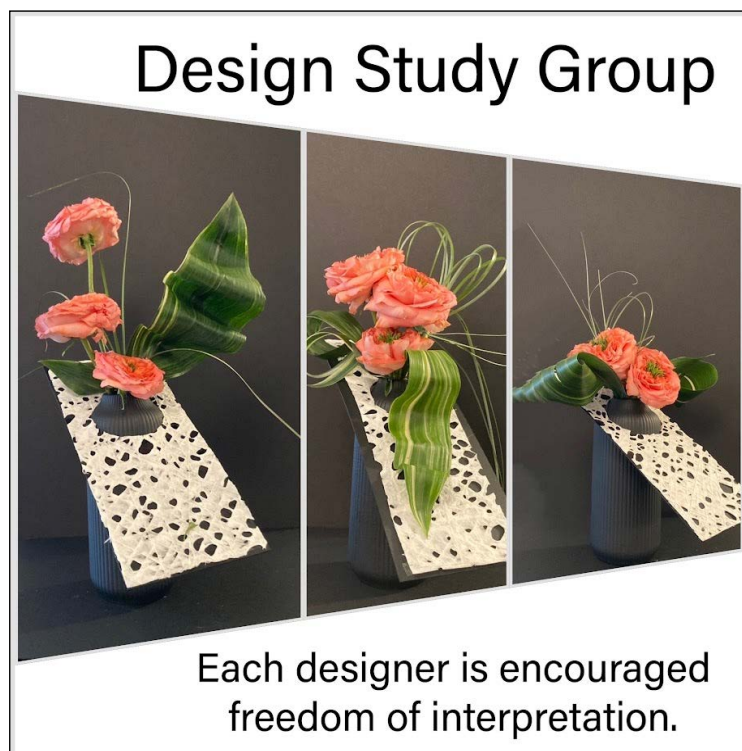


Dee Feldman, Jc Chair assisting new member from Barrington GC.



'Get Your Creative Juices Flowing'

Creative Design with Ann Huntoon



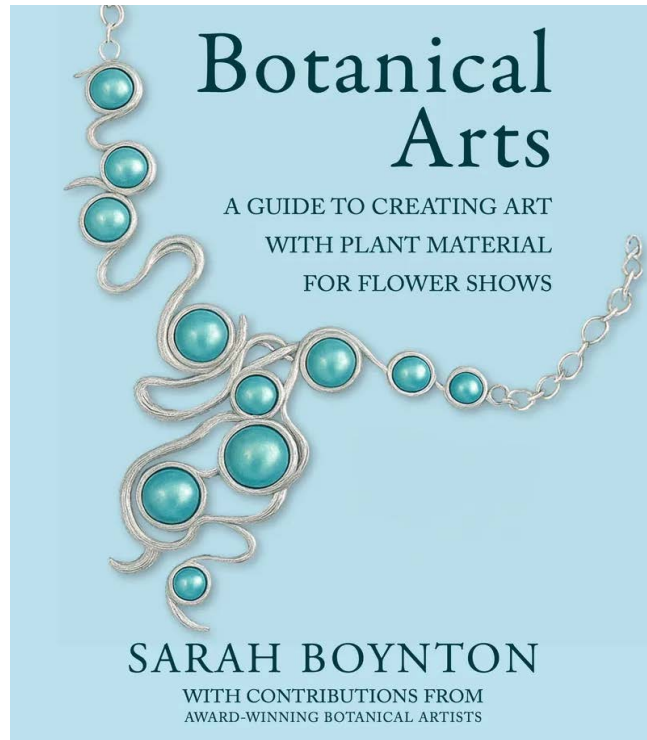
Design Study Group

Each designer is encouraged freedom of interpretation.



Botanicals with Boynton

Sarah Boynton's botanical design



If you have observed Botanical Arts at a major flower show, such as those in Boston, Philadelphia, or Newport, you have likely seen the work of Sarah Boynton.

Sarah is an award-winning Botanical Arts exhibitor, educator, and author whose work celebrates the artistry of plant material in its most imaginative forms. Through international competition, teaching, and writing, she has helped elevate Botanical Arts as both a discipline and an expressive art form.

Sarah is a Master Gardener who finds endless inspiration outdoors. Whether cultivating her garden or walking her dog, she is continually collecting plant materials and discovering new creative possibilities. She is an active member of the Cohasset Garden Club and The Garden Club of Hingham.

Please visit her website for videos, photo gallery, how to, handout links and more,

<https://sarahboynton.net>

Did you know about Linda?

Judy Gray and Linda Sollitto

Linda Sollitto is a member of the Plum Beach Garden Club. Home grown right here in Rhode Island where she has kept her feet planted all these years. Her lifelong experience including being a graduate of the URI Master Gardener Program and an owner of a landscape design business, she without a doubt is a jewel in her community.

When I asked Linda to write about herself, which is not an easy task for anyone she humble responded, 'I'll try'. Her story is exactly why I wanted this article featuring members to be a mainstay in the federation newsletter. As an organization we are made up of members with their own story. Boy, does Linda have a green thumb, possibly two as you will soon read.

SOLLITTO

Her garden club story starts when a long-time member and Plum Beach Garden Club (PBGC) president, invited me to join the club in 1988, I did. It was the beginning of dedicated service to my community. My involvement in PBGC led to my election as its president from 1997 to 1999. As president I opened the door to the club's first male member. During my tenure, I organized and led several gardening presentations for club members in my own gardens.

In the 90s the garden club organized a plant sale at Old Library Park (OLP) in the center of Wickford Village. Its purpose was to raise funds to redo the entire park. I encouraged club members to dig perennials, which we then divided and potted in my yard for a later sale at the park. These plant sales were held each

spring until 2002. The dedication of OLP in 2003, the NGC presented PBGC its highest honor, the Kellogg Award. In the years that followed, we decide to redesign OLP, and planted an allée of six Stewartia trees soon followed by shrubs and perennials. We also had laid a brick walkway for PBGC to sell engraved memorial bricks, a popular club fundraiser to this day.

“With community volunteers, this is an ongoing labor of love that continues to evolve.”

In 1997 PBGC was asked by the family of Anne Wallau, a recently deceased Village merchant, to design and plant a perennial garden in her memory in an additional Village Park. With another club member, we designed and organized volunteers to plant the garden that remains a focal point in Wickford Village.

Village gardens were not my only projects. I was asked to redesign and plant the memorial garden behind Wickford's St. Paul's Church. With community volunteers, this is an ongoing labor of love that continues to evolve.

In 2011, I headed the installation of a new and extensive, mostly native



Linda Sollitto planting flowers at the Old Library Park

plant garden, at the Senior Center at the town beach. I continue to organize volunteers to maintain these frequently visited gardens.

In June 2021 I opened my garden, consisting of many mature trees and shrubs, to the Historic Wickford Home and Garden Tour and hosted a plant sale. In 2025 my gardens were on the Master Gardener Association's statewide tour. Four hundred visitors, over a two-day weekend, strolled the gardens!

RHODE ISLAND FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS
ANNUAL MEETING & AWARDS LUNCHEON
QUONSET O CLUB
200 LT JOHN BROWN RD NORTH KINGSTON
APRIL 23RD, 2026
TIME 10-3:00PM (DOORS OPEN AT 9:45)

AWARDS CELEBRATION ~ MEMBERS MEETING
GOOD FOOD GOOD SPIRITS ~ OPPORTUNITY DRAWINGS
FLORAL DEMONSTRATION WITH DENNIS DELSIGNORE

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS
CHECKS NEED TO BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 10TH
PLEASE FILL OUT AND ENCLOSE THE BOTTOM HALF OF THIS FORM WHEN YOU SEND YOUR CHECKS PAYABLE TO RIFGC FOR \$49.00 PER PERSON

PLEASE CREATE A FASCINATOR FOR THE MEETING
LOOKING FOR CLUBS TO DONATE A BASKET TO BE RAFFLED.

NAME: _____
 GARDEN CLUB: _____
 EMAIL: _____
 PHONE NUMBER: _____
 BAKED SCROD _____
 STUFFED CHICKEN BREAST-BREAD AND SAUSAGE STUFFING WITH MUSHROOM DEMI-GLAZE _____
 VEGETARIAN (ON REQUEST) _____

MAIL TO: RIFGC, c/o SALLY TROUP
10 ANDERSON DRIVE, BARRINGTON, RHODE ISLAND 02806



The *blizzard* of 2026

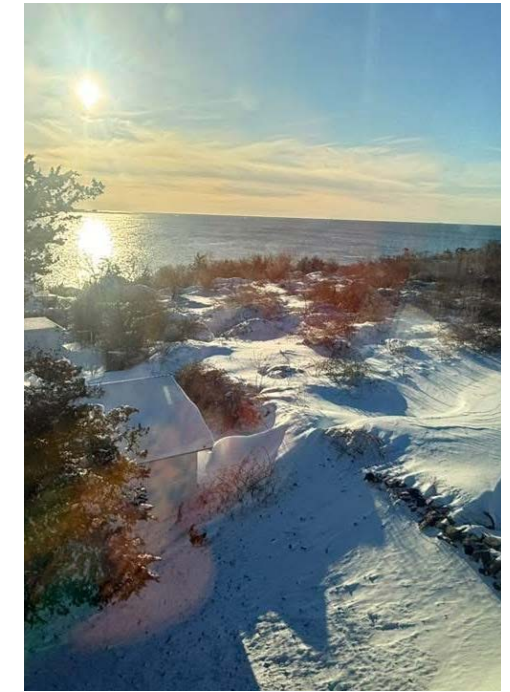
As documented by RIFGC members



Blakely Szosz in Little Compton



Sharon Hay in Jamestown



Sheryl McGookin in Hope Valley



Judy Gray in Cranston

**DONORS CAN NOW
CONTRIBUTE ANY AMOUNT,
STARTING FROM AS LITTLE AS
\$50 TO AS LARGE AS \$10,000**
MINIMUM DONATION IS \$50

Certificates as of May 31, 2025,
in an effort to “Go Green”,
we will be offering digital
certificates donors can customize
and print out themselves.

\$50.00 = 50 SAPLINGS

Donating to Specified Forest
when donating, you may choose
to have your donation go to
where its 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 information, contact
De Feldman, RIFGC Plant-A-
Tree Chair defeldman6@gmail.
com, [http://www.gardenclub.org/
plant-tree](http://www.gardenclub.org/plant-tree). Send Contributions
to Sally Troup, RIFGC Treasurer
sally.troup@gmail.com

RHODE ISLAND FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

Life Member Group Scholarship 2025

Invest In Students Fostering
A Future In The Green Industry

Students enrolled in accredited college/university in the United States,
must be a resident within the areas served by RIFGC, Inc.
Sophomores thru Graduate Studies with a GPA 3.25
horticulture, floriculture, landscape design, conservation, botany, plant
pathology, forestry, agronomy, environmental concerns, city planning, land
management and/or allied subjects.



Members and Non-Members
How to Invest

- Life Member Group Membership Invest
A One Time \$100 Donation
- Donate To Honor A Friend's Passion
(monetary amount)
- Estate Planning

Questions Contact: Judy Gray, EWG Member
(603) 707 7785
judy.gray123@gmail.com

DONATIONS
Make check out to: RIFGC, Inc.
Memo: LMG
Send to: Sally Troup
10 Anderson Dr, Barrington, RI 02806
Email: sally.troup@gmail.com




Flower Show In A Box RI Judges' Council



The Rhode Island Judges' Council is pleased to offer Flower Show in a Box to the
RI Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

We want to encourage clubs to have a Small Standard Flower Show and
Flower Show in a Box will give you tools to execute a show smoothly.
We are here to present this program to garden clubs and be a
mentor throughout the planning process.


Consider having a Flower Show!
Please Contact ~ Cathy Moore csimplymoore54@gmail.com




National Garden Clubs, Inc.
National Headquarters
4401 Magnolia Avenue, St Louis, MO 63110-3492
www.gardenclub.org | 314-776-7574
headquarters@gardenclub.org

NGC is here to help make your club successful.
Contact membership@gardenclub.org


NGC President – Donna Donnelly
State of Residence: South Carolina
ddon21@aol.com



New England Garden Club, Inc.
Director – Polly Brooks
State of Residence: Connecticut
polly.brooks@ctgardenclubs.org



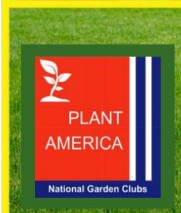


Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
rigardenclubs.org (password: flowers)
President - Kathleen Damiani
kdamiani@yahoo.com | 401-323-5407



National Garden Clubs YOUTH GARDEN CLUB

Handbook

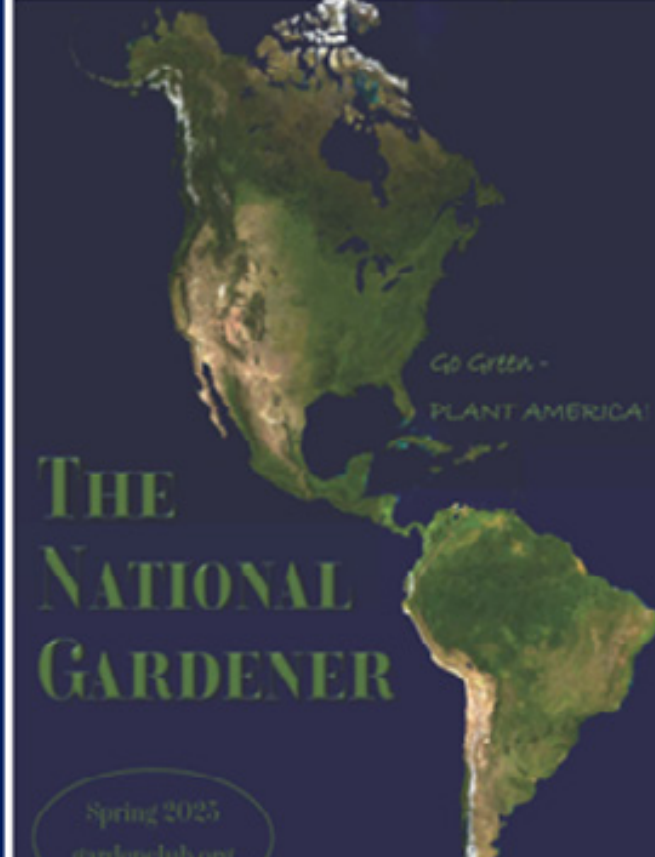




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Donna Donnelly, President of NGC

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<https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2026-02/ngc-youth-handbook-2-1-26.pdf>



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Spring 2025
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The language of flowers

Ruby McGookin's poor financial discipline

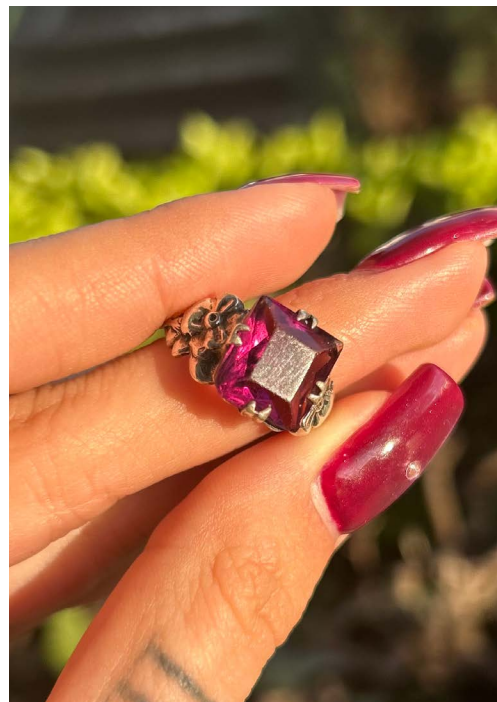
Recently, on an impulse shopping trip, I found myself in an antique jewellery boutique near my house, a place I try to avoid in the interest of my bank account. After a long (20 minutes) period of reflection (mental battle) of my personal discipline (lack thereof) and spending money (I have none), I left the boutique with a brand new ring for my collection (complete system failure). What caused me to trade my electricity bill for a shiny trinket? A 1960's silver ring, gracefully cradling a 1x1cm, square-cut, baked amethyst.

What struck me the most was the large Pansies that make up the silver setting, perfectly framing the deep purple stone between them. I am a sucker for any floral setting and have a decent collection of antique rings with similar band designs. Of the nature-themed pieces I already own, I realised none of them detail a specific flower or plant, rather just undefined and vague plant-motifs. Why was this one different? Why Pansies? My only decent theory is that the ring smith/designer must have been trying to convey an explicit meaning.

Catherine Boeckmann, a master gardener and Executive digital editor of *The Old Farmer's Almanac*, recently published an article about something most of us are already familiar with— the language of flowers.

HISTORY

Scanning her article, it's clear there's more to this "language" than some people maybe realise, and the history of which extends far beyond symbolism in Shakespeare's work. During the 1800's, flower symbolism was used to pass discreet and detailed



messages, sometimes as a hobby, but also to gossip, express sentiments, and make requests, proposals, and express rejections.

The flowers themselves represent emotions, thoughts, wishes, etc, but the delivery of the bouquets or individual flowers, and the condition they arrived in, also lends itself to the overall message.

LANGUAGE

Boeckmann explains that the handing-off of flowers denotes the bulk of the message; if delivered with the right hand, the answer was 'yes', if delivered with the left, the answer 'no'.

Similar to tarot cards (for anyone familiar), the orientation of the bouquet indicates the nature of the meaning. An upright bouquet means that the message being conveyed is done so in the traditional sense, while an upside down bouquet means the message in the inverse of

what was traditionally meant.

A ribbon tied to the left of the bundle means the symbolism or message is applicable to the giver, while a ribbon tied to the right means application to the recipient. Of course, if flowers are wilted or dead, the meaning is obvious.

CHANGE

The meaning behind the individual flowers themselves has changed over time. The most common associations were those made during the Victorian era, but some flowers' meanings have slightly morphed since then. It's easy enough to find concise dictionaries of flower meanings online, no matter the source, but the list available on *The Old Farmer's Almanac* website is particularly accurate.

THE RING

Back to my new trinket. Pansies, like the design in my ring, are associated

with thoughts and remembrance, humility, peace of mind, and the feeling of being in love. The romans tied it to Cupid's ability to get people to fall in love, and in European folklore it represents a stepmother and her biological and step-daughters.

Amethysts represent almost the exact same things as Pansies, as both amethyst and violets (whole family) are both tied to February birthdays. While I'd love to make a Sherlock Holmes type investigation out of this, the correct answer is usually the most obvious, so its most probable that I've bought someone's birthday gift, or a ring designed specifically for February birthdays. As a December baby, this means nothing to me, but as a Capricorn, I'd rather have a shiny ring with no sentimental significance to me, than to go another day without a new ring for my ridiculous collection.

<https://www.almanac.com/flower-meanings-language-flowers>

A message from the newsletter team

To make Judy and Ruby's lives easier, we have a few things we would like to ask of you all to remember when submitting content for the newsletter:

PHOTOS

- **Editor** Any and all photos of club events/activities are welcome.
- **Designer** Please try to take the best quality photos you can, avoid zooming or cropping images as I can do that for you! For anyone writing informational articles, I can source good images if you make a note in your article or to Judy of what image you would like.

ARTICLES

- **Editor** Please use spell check, or other grammar editing to make sure your articles are spelling and grammar iron-clad.
- **Designer** Word or Google documents are the best format for me, the software I use to make the newsletters is most compatible with those file types.

EVENTS

- **Editor** We are happy to print any upcoming/future events flyers and club announcements.
- **Designer** The layout of this newsletter will be the look going forward, for anyone submitting flyers, please bear in mind the look of this newsletter when making your flyers if you want them to match. (Not required, just a suggestion)

JUST A REMINDER

If your file ends with
.png | .jpg | .jpeg
They are *image* files

If your file ends with
.pdf | .doc | .dox
They are *text* files

Please submit images and text separately from each other

If you have any requests for how you want your page to look, feel free to leave a note within your submission or text for Ruby to review. If I can implement it, I will!

NEXT NEWSLETTER CONTENT SUBMISSION DEADLINES

June 1st
September 1st
November 15th
February 15th, 2027

To submit content or questions, email Judy at rifgcnewsletter@gmail.com with the subject line 'Newsletter [Month]'

