



Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs

EST. 1930

THE NEXT GENERATION OF SCHOLARS

RIFGC Life Member Group Scholarship
Recipients 2026

Page 7

DESIGN DOORS OPEN FOR GARDENERS IN NEWPORT

Page 6

2026 Newport
flower show

OCTOBER 2026

Autumn Newsletter

DISCOVER...



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Kathleen Damiani
Page 2

CREATING A BIRD- FRIENDLY GARDEN

Sue Redden,
Bird Chairman
Page 3

LEAFING THROUGH BOOKS

Sandi Tinyk,
Books Chairman
Page 4

THE UNEXPECTED HITCHHIKER

Judy Gray
Page 4

President's *report*

Kathleen Damiani

Happy Fall!

Well, here we are in fall! It's time to put the swimwear away and break out the sweaters. Our gardens will soon take on their beautiful fall colors, with lots of mums, asters, goldenrod, and other autumn favorites adding their seasonal beauty. Some of our clubs are hosting fall plant sales, which are a great way to add a little autumn color to your garden while supporting our local garden clubs.

Fall is also a wonderful time to be out in the garden. It's the perfect season for planting spring bulbs, dividing and transplanting perennials, collecting seeds, cutting back spent plants, and preparing gardens for winter. And don't forget to enjoy the many beautiful fall foliage displays that New England has to offer!

So, grab your sweater, get outside, and enjoy all that fall gardening has to offer!

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Our membership meetings are changing, and your Board has been working hard over the summer to put together some interesting and engaging programs for everyone to enjoy.

The business portion of each meeting will be brief, with only pressing events and important matters being discussed. The majority of our time will be devoted to interesting speakers, hands-on workshops, and educational programs.

We're excited about this new format and look forward to making our meetings more enjoyable, informative, and worthwhile for all of our members.

A complete list of the upcoming



programs will be included in one of my emails as soon as we have all the loose ends tied up.

We're looking forward to seeing you at our new-format meetings!

NEWPORT FLOWER SHOW

This summer, several of our talented designers entered the Newport Flower Show, "Pearls of Newport." We were so proud to see Judy Gray, Blakely Szosz, Vicki Iannuccillo, Maria Kallis, and Patricia Fernandez represented at this wonderful show!

And let's not forget the awesome door designs created by several of our state garden clubs! They added even more beauty and creativity to this wonderful event.

I was lucky enough to catch a beautiful day at the show and thoroughly enjoyed seeing all the gorgeous designs and celebrating the creativity of our members and fellow garden club designers.

PRESIDENTS' GATHERING

In July, I once again had the pleasure of welcoming our current Presidents,

Vice Presidents, and Board Members to my home for a Presidents' Gathering.

It was wonderful to have everyone together in a relaxed setting where we could get to know one another, meet new faces, and enjoy time talking and sharing ideas. Each club shared what they have been working on, as well as their plans for the new garden club year.

It was inspiring to hear about the many exciting programs, projects, and events happening throughout our garden clubs. There is so much enthusiasm and creativity within our clubs, and I'm looking forward to all that the new garden club year will bring!

DESIGN STUDY

Design Study Dates Are Here! Our Design Study team has put together three exciting programs for this term, and I don't know about you, but I'm excited to attend all three!

- November 4, 2026 Blakely Szosz will demonstrate a Pot et Fleur.
- January 20, 2027 De Feldman will

present a Line Design.

- March 3, 2027 Judy Gray will share a Creative Design.

The flyer with all the details and registration information is included in my email blast.

Design Study is a wonderful opportunity to learn new design techniques, pick up helpful tips, and build confidence in your own designs. I hope to see you at all three programs!

CAROL HORTA

I hope you all had a chance to read our very own Recording Secretary, Carol Horta's, book, "Last Seen at the Bridge". It was featured in our last newsletter under "Leafing Through," and it was a wonderful summer read! We are so proud of Carol and her accomplishment. Be sure to pick up a copy if you haven't had the chance to read it yet!

NEWPORT POLO CHARITY DAY

The Life Member Group will be holding a fall fundraiser at Newport Polo Charity Day to help provide scholarships for students studying horticulture, landscape design, environmental science, and related subjects. These scholarships are a wonderful way to support students pursuing their education and future careers in these important fields. We need your support to help the Life Member Group continue providing these valuable scholarships.

We had an awesome time last year and raised just over \$1,000! Let's do it again!

Looking forward to this next year!

Kathleen Damiani
RIFGC President

2026/27 Calendar

SEPTEMBER 18-20

- **140th New England Fall Flower Show** "Growing Together" presented by MA Horticultural Society. The Garden at Elm Bank 900 Washington St. Wellesley, MA

SEPTEMBER 19

- **Gentian Plant Sale** at North Community House

SEPTEMBER 24TH

- **Membership meeting** at Roger Williams Casino. Unveiling of our new web site.

SEPTEMBER 26

- **Edgewood GC Yard Sale** at 9:00am next door to the Pawtuxet Village Farmers Market 60 Rhodes Place, Cranston RI

SEPTEMBER 26

- **Western Cranston GC plant and yard sale** at Sprague Mansion in Cranston 9-2

OCTOBER 9

- **New England Garden Clubs 10th Annual Board Meeting** 10:00am virtual Business meeting – all members are welcome to attend-free <https://www.vermontfgcv.com>

OCTOBER 13-14

- **NEGC Convention** in New Hampshire Killington Grand Resort and NEGC Photo Contest More information in email blast

OCT 22

- **Membership meeting** at Roger Williams. Deana Thomas from the RI Mycological Society will come to discuss fungi/ mushrooms and lead an optional walk in the park

OCT 23-25

- **Tower Hill Flower Show** "Elevated Blooms" an NGC Flower Show. Presented by Central North and Western & Central District of GCFM. N.E. Botanic Garden at Tower Hill 11 French Drive Boylston, MA. Free & Open to the Public with admission to the NE Botanic Gardens

NOVEMBER 4TH

- **First Design Study Workshop** Blakely Szosz is doing a pot-et-fleur at Rhode Island Builders Association, 450 Veterans Memorial Pkwy East Providence

DECEMBER 10

- **Annual Holiday Party** at Roger William Casino, 1st floor

2027

JANUARY 20

2027

- **Second Design Study Workshop** with De Feldman is doing a traditional line design at Barrington United Methodist Church, 230 Washington Rd. Barrington Flyer is coming soon.

JANUARY 28

- **Membership meeting** at Roger Williams a workshop on making Kokedama

FEBRUARY 18-21

MARCH 3

- **Connecticut Flower Show**, more information coming
- **Third Design Study Workshop** Judy Gray is doing a creative design at Hattie Ide Chaffee Home, 200 Wampanoag Trail, Riverside, RI

MARCH 5TH

MARCH 18-21

APRIL 9-11

- **Environmental/Education Day**, place TBD

- **NHFGC Art in Bloom**, more information to come

- **RIFGC Design Specialty Flower Show** in conjunction with the RI Home Show at the RI Convention Center

APRIL 22

APRIL 27-MAY 5

MAY 13-17

JUNE 16-18

- **Annual Banquet/Awards/and Installation**, Quonset O Club

- **Holland and Belgium River Boat Tour.**

- **NGC Convention** in Madison Wisconsin

- **Newport Flower Show** titled, "Notes of Newport"

RIFGC Members Meetings are held at Roger Williams Casino (unless otherwise noted). 9:30 Hospitality, 10:00 Meeting.

Separate sparrows

Sue Redden, Bird Chairman

Have you ever wondered what the differences are between the Song Sparrow and the House Sparrow?

APPEARANCE DIFFERENCES:

Chest pattern

Song Sparrow: Heavy brown streaking across the chest, often forming a dark central spot.

House Sparrow: Plain unstreaked chest. Males have a black bib. Females are buffy & plain.

Head pattern

Song Sparrow: Brown crown with a gray stripe down the middle; a brown eye line.

Male House Sparrow: Gray Crown, chestnut nape, black bib.

Female House Sparrow: Plain brown head with no strong markings.

BODY SHAPE:

Song Sparrow: Slimmer with longer, rounded tail.

House sparrow: Chunkier with a shorter tail.

Coloration

Song Sparrow: Rich brown streaks on white chest; russet and gray tones.

House Sparrow: More uniform brown and gray

VOCAL DIFFERENCES:

Song Sparrow: Rich, musical varied song -often describe as bright and expressive.

House sparrow: Short chirps and cheeps. Not a true melodic song.

Habitat and Behavior

Song sparrow: Native to North America, Prefers brush edges, wetlands,



House sparrow



Song sparrow

stream banks, gardens, weedy fields.

House Sparrow: Introduced species from Europe/Asia. Found near people - cities, farms, buildings, parking lots, outdoor seating. Bold, social, often in flocks, sometimes aggressive toward other birds.

DIET AND NESTING:

Song Sparrow: Primarily insectivorous, also seeds and fruits. Nests in shrubs.

House Sparrow: Omnivorous, also seeds, grains, human food scraps. Nests in cavities, including buildings and roof eaves.

Linda's roses

RI Rose Society Rose Show

Linda Alves, Tri. Pres of West-Lern Cranston GC placed 3rd in Class 36 'Zen Garden- East Asia' in the 27th Annual RI Rose Society Rose Show held

in June. This year's show marks the 27th Annual titled, "I Always Promised You A Rose Garden". The RI Rose Society is an affiliate of RIFGC, Inc.



“A garden is a love song, a duet between a human being and Mother Nature.”

Jeff Cox, American garden writer

Some corrections...

SOGKONATE

My apologies to Sogkonate GC for the omission of the photo of their club receiving awards at the RIFGC 96th Anniversary Awards Ceremony Section in Summer 2026 RIFGC Newsletter.



BOOKS

This newsletters' editing team would like to extend our apologies and correct the misrepresented title of Carol Pierce Horta's title of her book, featured in the Summer 2026 issue of the RIFGC Newsletter. The correct title is *Last Seen at the Bridge*, our incorrect version was the result of a greusome attack at the hands of autocorrect.

Leafing through books

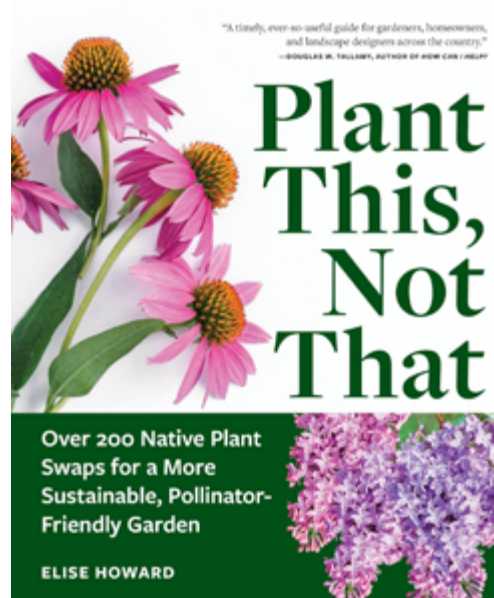
Sandi Tinyk, Books Chairman

We all know that certain plants are no longer desirable, especially barberry and burning bush to name just a few. These plants do not support our pollinators, bees, butterflies and other creatures, while natives are more beneficial. Native plants are more likely to thrive because they evolved as part of the local ecology, and requiring less intensive maintenance without pesticides and fertilizers. We all know what we should do, but how do we get started? This book is a valuable resource, first by identifying what invasives we should eliminate and substitutions for more beneficial and beautiful plants. A list of native plants includes important information about their sun, water and soil requirements, ornamental features (bloom time, color, etc.) and an overview of how native plants contribute to our local ecosystems.

Before the busy holiday season arrives, take some time to indulge in some books of fiction with garden settings.

GASA-GASA GIRL BY HIRAHARA, NAOMI

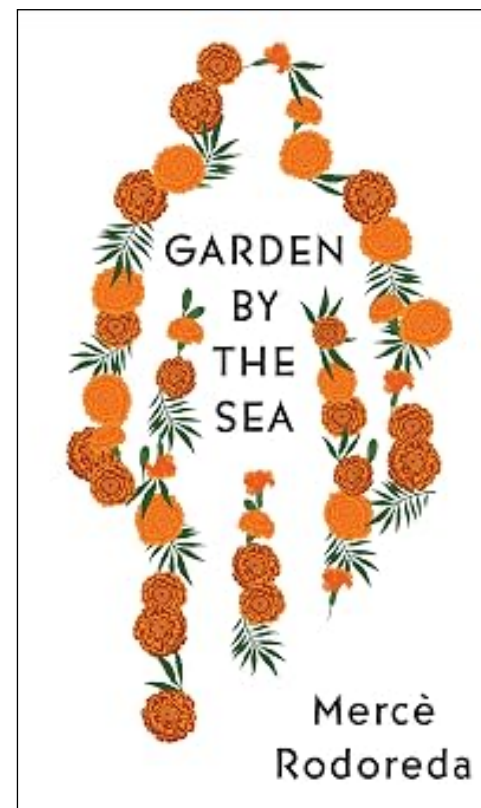
A nifty whodunit featuring an elderly Japanese American Californian man trying to mend bridges with his estranged daughter, Mari, who has invited him to visit her in New York. Her seventy-something Japanese gardener Mas Arai discovers that Mari has taken off, leaving Mas alone with his new son-in-law Lloyd, who is planning to open a Japanese garden. But then Lloyd's boss is found dead in the garden, and when the case threatens his daughter and her family, Mas and his old friend Tug Yamada begin to investigate.



“We all know what we should do, but how do we get started?”

GARDEN BY THE SEA BY RODOREDÀ, MERCÈ

A captivating tale, gently spun, by a renowned modern Catalan novelist. Set in 1920s Spain, Garden by the Sea takes place over six summers at a villa by the sea inhabited by a young couple and their beautiful, rich, joyous friends. They swim, drink, tease each other, and fully enjoy themselves. All the while, the guests are observed by the villa's gardener, a widower who's been tending the garden for several decades. As the true protagonist of the novel, we get to see the dissolution of these magical summers through his eyes, as a sense of darkness and ending creeps in, precipitated by the construction of a new, larger, more glamorous villa next door.



The Unexpected Hitchhiker

Judy Gray

I was quite surprised while driving the other day to discover an unexpected hitchhiker on my side mirror. I promptly pulled over—nearly causing an accident in the process—so that I could photograph this large, green insect, which immediately brought the warning “objects in mirror are closer than they appear” to mind.

The insect, a sword-bearing conehead katydid (*Neoconocephalus ensiger*), grows to approximately 1.75 to 2 inches in length. This individual was identified as a female by her long, sword-like ovipositor, which she uses to pierce the tough stems of tall grasses to safely deposit her eggs for the winter. Because this is a conehead species, the “sword” is slightly smaller than in other varieties, where the ovipositor is typically equal to the insect's body length.

These katydids are granivores (-seed,-eaters) possessing massive, powerful jaws capable of cracking open tough husks. They use their front legs like hands to grasp grass stems; however, if seeds are scarce, they will supplement their diet with grass leaves or small, slow-moving insects. They follow a one-year life cycle of incomplete metamorphosis, meaning they do not form cocoons or chrysalises, but rather hatch as tiny, wingless versions of their adult selves. A single female can lay up to 150 eggs throughout the summer and early autumn. They molt up to seven times over a few months, and following their final molt in July or August, they emerge as fully mature adults, at which point the males begin buzzing loudly to attract females, and the cycle begins anew.



A mansion of winners

2026 Newport flower show



Brenda Johnston, Plum Beach GC, Horticulture Division I: Creative Containers 1st Place Class 2 - Classic Window Box.



Vicki Iannuccillo, Bristol & Bayberry GC's 1st Place Design Class: The Cliff Walk

Newport Flower Show 30th Anniversary titled, "Pearls of Newport" held on June 19-21 at the Rosecliff Mansion



Pat Padula Morgan, Plum Beach GC, Horticulture Division II: Potted Plants 3rd Place Class 39 - Terrarium



Judy Gray, Edgewood GC of Cranston RI, 1st Class: Dancing in the Fountain



Blakely Szosz, Barrington GC, 1st and NGC Award design. Class: String of Pearls



Kathleen Duffy, Edgewood GC of RI, Honorable Mention. Class 11: I DO



Patricia Fernandez, Newport GC 2nd Place Class: Dancing in the Fountain

Doors *open* for gardeners in **Newport**

2026 Newport flower show



Barrington Garden Club 2nd Place & Flower Show Judges Class Commendation



Bristol Garden Club 2nd Place & Flower Show Judges Class Commendation



Newport Garden Club 3rd Place



Portsmouth Garden Club 2nd Place



Plum Beach Garden Club, North Kingstown 3rd Place & Flower Show Judges Class Commendation

Right: Class 1 The Doors of Newport - The 2026 Garden Club Challenge, SubClass: Coastal Cottage

Left: Class 1 The Doors of Newport - The 2026 Club Challenge: Traditional Estate



South County Garden Club in RI, Hope Valley 1st Place and Mrs. Robert M Grace Best in Show Award Horticulture



PBGC members and sisters Jamie Witteveen and Kathy Costello designed this exhibit, along with their mom, Joan Kirwin.

The next generation of scholars

RIFGC Life Member Group Scholarship Recipients 2026

Our life member scholarship fund has supported students entering green industry fields of study—forestry, horticulture, floriculture, urban planning, landscape design—since 1956.

STEPHEN KIELY

North Attleboro, MA (2025 Scholarship Recipient)

“My relationship with the natural world, and plants in particular, began at a young age. Inside our North Attleboro home, my father grew a dozen cacti, several overwintering citrus trees, and a 20 foot long Pothos that ran along the crown molding in the living room; this is why I life to say that I grew up in a jungle inside and out. In our yard, wildflower created sprays of flowers throughout the season and vegetables grew in a small portion of the front yard. My father brought my sibling and I on hikes to local parks and Audubon sanctuaries every weekend. I found a joy of nature....”

Despite connection with nature, Stephen went Boston College to become a history teacher. With his fathers passing he switched his path. Stephen wanted to honor his father and “lean into the joy he had for life” by maintaining the gardens just as he did, but realized he lacked knowledge

- Native Plant Trust (Garden in the Woods in

Framingham) where he served as a Public Programs Assistant and greatly expanded his awareness of growing trends in botany, ecological horticulture, and conservation.

- Recommends topics for upcoming courses based on his own research, like one course on the American Chestnut
- Taught program “Plants, Pollinators, and You” in collaboration with a local library
- Attends a graduate program at the Conway School of Landscape Design in Northampton, MA with a goal of owning a design-build landscape firm to “bring the joy of nature to residential and small public spaces”

TAYLOR SIROIS

Seekonk, MA (2025 & 2026 Scholarship recipient)

Instructor in arboriculture wrote, “Displaying qualities that are increasingly rare among her peers, Taylor shows true interest and passion for the study and art of arboriculture. She seeks out opportunities to develop as an arborist and takes full advantage of learning [She] will make a lasting impact on the industry in the future.”

- Rehoboth Garden Club – won scholarship a couple of years
- Recipient of NGC scholarship in 2025 for RI
- Dual major in Arboriculture and Ecological Forestry

Management with a minor in Entrepreneurial Business

- Attending Paul Smith’s College in the Adirondacks – not only as a student, but mentor, and tutor to her peers and she’s on the Woodsmen Team and the Urban Forestry Micro Crew that maintains trees on campus during the summer.
- GPA 3.94 – Dean’s list

LIAM COTTER

Glocester, RI (2026 Scholarship Recipient)

You might remember Liam as a helper at RIFGC’s flower show. He was a part of Future Farmers of America at Ponaganset High School.

With the goal of making higher quality foods more affordable for the consumer while allowing for a respectable profit for the producer, Liam hopes to tackle the challenge of food insecurity. He is already involved with the campus kitchen’s collection of food waste and distributing excess food throughout the greater community. Liam’s dedicated efforts and hard work have resulted in him being chosen for the University of Kentucky’s Agricultural Leadership Academy.

- Studying Sustainable Agriculture at the University of Kentucky

Oceans around us

NGC Design Specialty Flower Show



Congratulations to Maria Kallis, Blakely Szosz, and Judy Gray for their participation in the GCFM Southeastern District an NGC Design Specialty Flower Show, titled “Oceans Around Us,” held at the Heritage Museum in Sandwich, MA. in July.



“The lesson I have thoroughly learnt, and wish to pass on to others, is to know the enduring happiness that the love of a garden gives.”

Gertrude Jekyll, 1843-1932, arguably the 20th century’s most influential garden designer and author

The *busy* summer bees of *Apple Blossom*

Apple Blossom garden club

The Apple Blossom Garden Club of Smithfield, RI, completed a productive summer schedule. Starting in June Member Wendy Knowlton hosted our meeting at her working farm in North Scituate, focusing on farming operations. Additionally, the club held its Annual Plant Sale, offering over 50 varieties of tomato plants. Member Gail Gallagher hosted an ice cream social in her garden, featuring a display of local flora and bird species. Rounding out the summer Sharon D'Amore presented demonstrations on garlic braiding, floral arrangement, and harvesting techniques using her international collection of garlic species.



Hattie Ide Chaffee hosts horticulture

NGC Horticulture Specialty Flower Show

‘At the Zoo’ an NGC Horticulture Specialty Flower Show was held on June 4 presented by the RIFGC Judges Council, chaired by Catherine Moore, NGC Judge. Garden club members were invited throughout New England along with non-members from our community. The event was hosted by the Hattie Ide Chaffee Home.



Busy Business as usual for *Barrington*

Barrington garden club



BGC executive committee, from left to right: Caroline, Kirsten, Kristen, Jen & Sally

Welcome to the new BGC Executive Committee:

SALLY TROUP PRESIDENT

JEN DAHLER VP COMMUNITY & MEMBERSHIP

KRISTIN SCHARF TREASURER

KIRSTEN PETERSON RECORDING SECRETARY

CAROLYN GREELEY CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

MARIA KALLIS EX-OFFICIO (NOT IN PHOTO)

WANT TO JUST SAY HI OR COLLABORATE? CONTACT BGC@BARRINGTONRIGARDENCLUB@GMAIL.COM

BGC Upcoming Programs:

DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

TIME: 1:00 PROGRAM BEGINS

PLACE: BARRINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

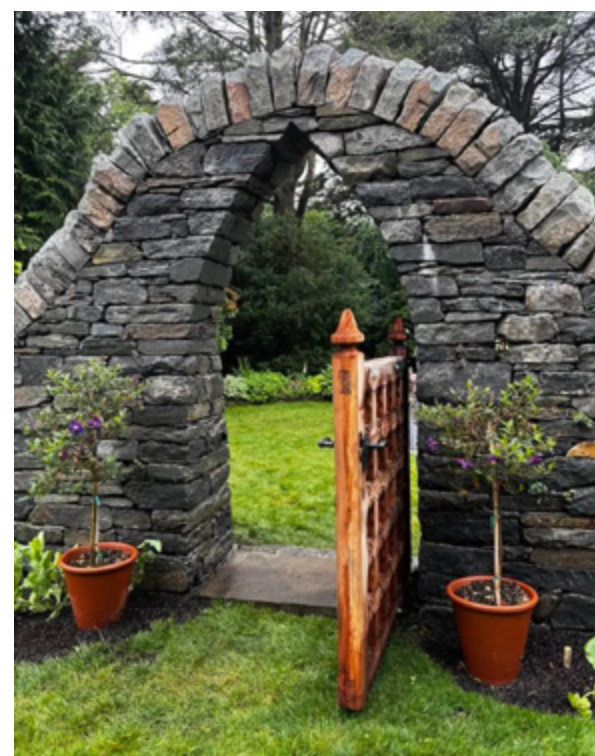
SUBJECT: FALL GARDENING AND CLEANUP TIPS

SPEAKER: JESSICA ZANDER, YOU CAN DO IT GARDENING

Jessica Zander is a professional garden coach and consultant located in the Boston area (Zone 6b), offering virtual consultations across the United States and Canada. With over 30 years of gardening experience, she founded You Can Do It Gardening in 2022 to empower individuals to cultivate their own gardening confidence. Driven by a passion for helping others discover the joys of gardening, Jessica provides education, guidance on plant selection and design, and collaborates effectively with clients to facilitate both minor and significant enhancements to their outdoor spaces.



LEFT: Maria Kallis pictured with Jackson Perron, a sophomore at URI, won the Community Scholarship Fund of Barrington "BGC Award" for the second year in a row



BGC Hosts Blooms By the Bay – June 23rd

BARRINGTON GARDEN CLUB HELD THEIR BLOOMS BY THE BAY – A GARDEN TOUR FUNDRAISER. DESPITE THE STEADY RAIN, CLOSE TO 400 MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY ATTENDED AND THE RESPONSE WAS OUTSTANDING.



The Newport Flower Show; Pearls of Newport

JUNE 19-21, 2026 | ROSECLIFF, NEWPORT HORTICULTURE, DIVISION I - CREATIVE CONTAINERS

CLASS 1: THE DOORS OF NEWPORT | THE 2026 GARDEN CLUB CHALLENGE: COASTAL STYLE

BARRINGTON GARDEN CLUB - SECOND PLACE

BGC MEMBERS: LINDA BAINER, MELANIE KILMER, DEBBIE LEVINE, MARILYN SANTIESTEBAN, AND NANCY SEADALE



Roses and secret gardens for Edgewood

Edgewood garden club

Rosé in the Roses, was held on Thursday, June 11th. This event is a fundraiser for Roger Williams Park, organized by the Conservancy for Roger Williams Park and was held at the Roger Williams Botanical Center. It is a fun event held in the greenhouses, on the grounds and in the rose garden itself. There was lovely music, great food and beverages, live art installations, and the Providence Drum Troop processional through the party guests to end the evening. Myself Tina, and my fellow garden club friends, Maureen, Sarah, Christina and Kathleen of the Edgewood Garden club made 10 beautiful flower bouquets for the high top tables to brighten up the space even more. We really did have a lot of fun learning more about floral arranging and making the bouquets was quite a fun experience. It felt good to be able to donate these 10 centerpieces to a great and worthy cause.

Tina Goodale, EGC



The Edgewood Garden Club had its Secret Gardens By the Bay Tour on Saturday, June 20th. It was comprised of private gardens and 3 public gardens, all designed and maintained by our club members. Just about 400 tickets were sold and the weather was picture perfect. Most gardens hosted hundreds of visitors with every homeowner, greeter and guest enjoying the day. There was so much positive feedback, we are already thinking of our next "Secret Garden by the Bay Tour", in 2028.



Kathy Schnabel's Garden



Teresa Stevens' Garden



L-R Sheryl Hanson, Pres. EWGC & Sandra Jack, Corresponding Sec. of EWGC

Community care and fun in *Hameho*

Hameho garden club

Hameho Garden Club ended the club year with a wonderful program at the Bristol Audubon Center with a program on owls, by Lauren Parmelee, their Senior Director of Education. We even got to meet their rescued Barred Owl! Club members outdid themselves with a magnificent potluck spread. Two of our members crafted assorted felted owls for us and we each took home an Ornamental Oregano plant to enter as a club project in our fall flower show.

End of the year projects were directed at service around Barrington. Club members shared their knowledge of gardening with the young and the young at heart.

Club President, Eileen Dennis led an enrichment program for the St. Lukes School History and Science Teams, adding plants to their pollinator garden and creating printed cards with herbs used in colonial times.

Master Gardener, Joanne Duval, led a planting program in new raised beds, made as a Boy Scout Eagle Project at the Peck Center for Adult Enrichment, by starting off with an entertaining mini hort.

Naomi Kennedy, the club's Garden Therapy Chair, led a group of club members in planting vegetables and flowers in raised beds with the seniors at Atria Bay Spring Village.

Over the summer all members of Hameho work on community gardens and bring floral designs to the Peck Center. The regular meetings may pause but our sharing of time and talents keeps going!

Eileen Dennis, HGC



Hameho members in order Naomi Kennedy, Michele Danish, Linda Poole, Eileen Dennis



One is Lauren Parmelee from Audubon with the barred owl at our June meeting



Our group planting at Atria



the raised beds at the Peck Center that Joanne helped attendees plant_

A stimulating summer season for Jamestown

Jamestown garden club

Once again, the Jamestown Garden Club enjoyed an active and stimulating season of programming.

Set to the theme of “America at 250 - Our Heritage: Fields, Farms and Flowers”, this year’s schedule included the following activities:

August: Member Spotlight

At the JGC’s Annual Meeting and Luncheon, the program includes a Member Spotlight focused on the creative talents of Jamestown Garden Club members. This year the featured presenters were Laura Gregg, who shared beautiful examples of her impressive quilting skills, and Marcy Wemple, who described her basket weaving work and presented stunning samples of her creative output.

Another regular feature of the Club’s Annual Meeting is the Floral Arranging and Photography Competition. This year, the theme centered on American Harmony, in recognition of the country’s 250th birthday and its musical traditions.



July: Ocean Hour Farm, Newport

SUSTAINABLE FARMING

Ocean Hour Farm maintains that everything we do on land impacts the sea - and, in response, it has developed a living laboratory studying the link between farming and ocean health. Through sustainable land stewardship, the integrated systems they have developed connect plants, animals, and people to restore soil, clean stormwater, and sequester carbon. Touring the beautiful property and learning about the Farm’s stewardship programs offered an inspiring opportunity to observe sustainable farming practices at work.



July: ReSeeding Rhode Island

The JGC invited Sue Theriault, Vice President of the Rhode Island Wild Plant Society, to speak on the Society’s exciting and impactful ReSeeding Rhode Island initiative. She described ReSeeding Rhode Island’s efforts to gather seeds and cultivate “ecotype” plants sourced from native Rhode Island plant populations.



June: Field Botany

In June, the program featured a presentation by Nathan Lambstrom, entitled *Know Your Ecosystem: The importance of Field Botany in Grounding Ourselves in Nature*.

Nathan, owner of Lambstrom Garden Ecology and a horticulturist, ecologist, educator and lecturer in the Agriculture Department at URI, spoke on the importance of understanding our local ecosystem through plant identification.



May: Tulip Picking

CLUB MEMBERS MADE A VISIT TO WICKED TULIPS FLOWER FARM IN NORTH KINGSTOWN AT THE PEAK OF THE BLOOMING SEASON.



A summer of botanical bliss in *Portsmouth*

Portsmouth garden club



Portsmouth Garden Club held a private garden tour of four members gardens in July. Ending at the fourth garden with a garden party.



Blue Star Memorial Garden, sponsored by the Portsmouth Garden Club, is all decorated for our Nations 250th Birthday. You can find this gorgeous garden on the property of The Portsmouth Free Public Library.



Botanical bliss

The Portsmouth Garden Club held a horticulture exhibit in June at the Portsmouth Free Public Library, which was free and open to our community.

Co Chairs for this event were Holly Mackenzie and Karen Saucier.



Portsmouth Garden Club maintains four beautiful gardens in Portsmouth. This is one of the four. It is Legion Park in front of our town hall.

Taken in August by J.C.Sattel



Propagation for Quononoquott

Quononoquott garden club

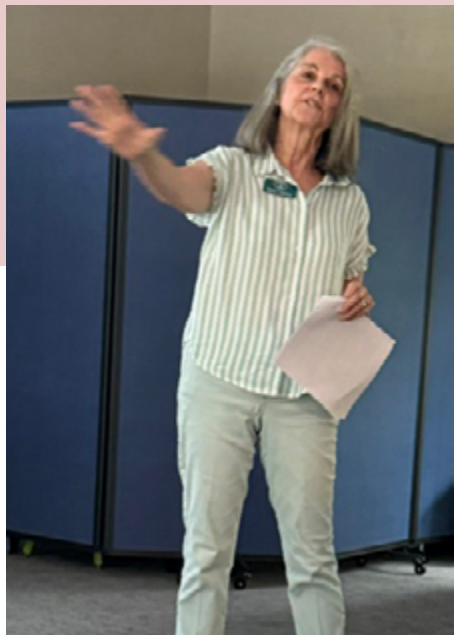
This summer the Quononoquott Garden Club was treated to two wonderful programs led by members.

SUCCULENTS

Our July meeting featured succulents. Member Susan Parson taught us the basics of growing and propagating succulents. She then shared plants she had propagated during the winter so we could all make arrangements.

NATIVE PLANTS

In July, member Martha Vigneault, RI Hall of Fame Master Gardener presented "What's the Buzz about Native Plants". The program addressed the importance of native plants in our gardens and which native plants are effective substitutions for commonly used plants. We also learned how our yards and gardens can support birds and pollinators.



Wantaknowhow's **historial** herbs

Wantaknowhow garden club

The Wantaknowhow Garden Club recently enjoyed a summer field trip to the Nathanael Greene Homestead. During our visit, we met with the caretakers to discuss potential plans for the club to establish a historical herb garden on the property.



Wantaknowhow Garden Club presents a scholarship to Genna Minda.

Sogkonate's art **blooms** in Tiverton

Sogkonate garden club

Sogkonate Garden Club recently collaborated with the Four Corners Gallery in Tiverton on the "Art in Bloom" exhibition on Friday, June 12. This two-day event featured floral designs created by club members, interpreting various works of art. Over 10 designs were displayed, here are a few images.



Designer Nancy Surprenant



Designer Sue Theriault



Designer Donna Pilkington



Sogkonate Garden Club wrapped up our 2025-2026 Grade School Programming this year with an annual 8th Grade floral arrangement workshop at Wilbur & McMahon Schools. The students knocked it out of the park!

A taste of *West Cranston*

Western Cranston garden club

The WCGC made floral arrangements for the Taste of Cranston event held at Sprague Mansion on August 25, 2026.





National Garden Clubs YOUTH GARDEN CLUB Handbook



‘Your leadership will inspire our young gardeners to cultivate not only plants but also a deeper connection with our environment.’
Donna Donnelly, President of NGC

Please view by going to the link below.
‘Let it Grow’

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

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



EDGEWOOD GARDEN CLUB

Plant & Yard Sale

... has been postponed
due to the weather.

The new date is:

Saturday, October 3

- SALE INFO -

Please drop plants off at
79 Strathmore road
For shed drop off, text or call
Martha at 401-440-7309

Coming this Fall!
10th Annual Meeting
New England Garden Clubs
Tuesday & Wednesday October 13-14, 2026
Killington Grand Hotel, Killington, VT
REGISTRATION OPEN: Register online

Direct Link:

www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/negc-10th-annual-meeting

Direct lodging:

<https://www.bookkillington.com/#/room?group=35L2ZK&checkin=10%2F13%2F2026&checkout=10%2F14%2F2026>

Or register through the FGCV website
<https://www.vermontfgcv.com>

Register for the October 9, 2026 - 10am virtual business meeting - all members are welcome to attend - free

OUR NEW ENGLAND!

A PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE NEW ENGLAND GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

OCTOBER 13-14, 2026

KILLINGTON LODGE & RESORT, KILLINGTON, VT

TO ENTER THE PHOTO SHOW;

Please submit your digital photo by filling form by going to
<https://www.jotform.com/build/260437836256160>

Your registration will automatically go to Arabella Dane
arabellasd@aol.com, Please contact her if you have questions.

The photography show schedule will be posted on the New England
Garden Clubs, Inc. Website <https://newenglandgc.org/>

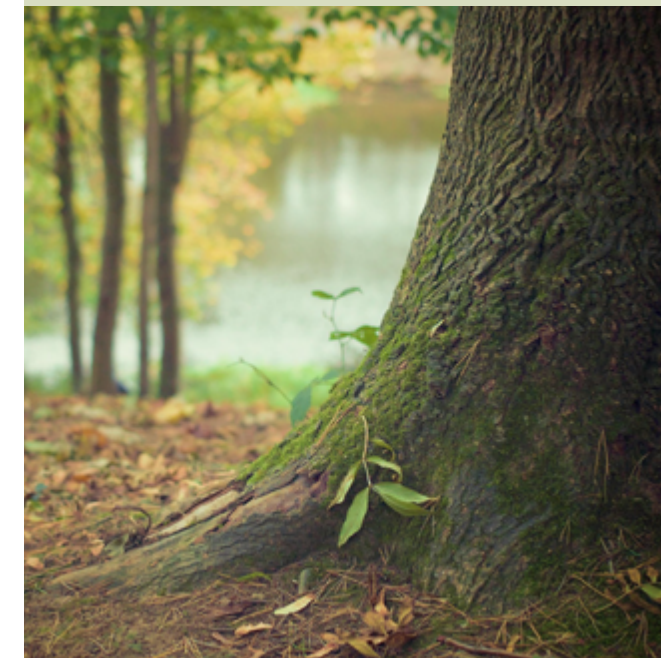
See Photography Show Schedule by reviewing the RIFGC Pres. Email
Blast Dated May 18, 2026 subsequently the schedule will be posted in
RIFGC Pres. Email Blast.

PLANT A TREE

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, 2027, in an
effort to "Go Green", we will be offering
digital certificates donors can customize
and print out themselves.



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>. Send
Contributions to Sally Troup, RIFGC
Treasurer sally.troup@gmail.com

The *language* of flowers

Ruby's poor financial discipline, continued

In my last rambling about shiny things, I shared that I had bought a 1960's silver ring sporting a square-cut amethyst in a silver setting of detailed pansies, and waffled on about the possible hidden meaning behind the use of that specific flower in its design. If you've made it this far into our autumn newsletter, I'm back to talk about another one of my expensive impulse purchases.

As a Christmas gift a few years ago, my family bought me a ring I had been eyeing for a long time, and it's one of my favourites. This ring is made by XXX, who often uses natural motifs in her designs, this one in particular is a cabochon polished star-ruby, bezel set in a silver band intricately detailed with oak leaves.

THE STONE

Star-rubies are a type of ruby with needle-like inclusions of a mineral called rutile. These inclusions change the way light passes through the stone, giving it a star-like pattern and a more opaque, rich colour. The comprehensive guide provided by *The Ruby Company* explains that star-rubies are rare, and thus attributed with mystical properties of protection, fortune, and strength.

THE FLORA

According to *Trees for Life UK*, Oak trees have



been closely associated with Gods, royalty, and military/political power by most European cultures and religions. Oak leaves were worn by Christian kings and Roman commanders as a symbol of divinity, and are still used today in the same way. Oak has consistently been tied to Gods of lightning (Thor, Zeus) but this is likely due to Oak trees being more prone to lightning strikes as a result of their height and high water content.

The *Oak and Claw* blog elaborates that the acorn, symbolising growth, potential, and prosperity, pairs with the rest of the tree to embody the cycle of life. The tree is past and present, the acorn is the future. Symbolism of oak is, in an acorn-shell, a grounded manifestation of what

you care about and what you wish for yourself.

Oak trees are especially significant to Celtic mythology, *Tree 2 My Door* says oak is associated with the 10th of June - 7th of July, people born during this time are known to be strong-minded, they're caring friends, keen to offer their knowledge and comfort to those in need. They're said to be positive, optimistic, and enthusiastically hard-working, while calm, collected, and practical. Oak-babies like stability and community, making them good teachers.

THE RING

Back to the matter on my hand. We know that star rubies represent protection, fortune, and strength. We know that oak represents growth, potential, prosperity, life cycle and past, present, and future. On a spiritual level, oak can be interpreted as a grounding and manifestation of self.

I'm open to other interpretations, but from what I'm gathering here, this ring's components paired together gives this ring a distinct message of a driven, intelligent, and solid sense of self, a positive and confident outlook on potential futures, and a grounded and empathetic reflection of the past. The compounded meaning of strength and protection of both the ruby and the oak makes me think I should be wearing this ring more often...

OTHER SOURCES:

<https://www.almanac.com/flower-meanings-language-flowers> for more info!
<https://treesforlife.org.uk/into-the-forest/trees-plants-animals/trees/oak/oak-mythology-and-folklore/>
<https://www.thornandclaw.com/blogs/news/oak-and-acorn-symbolism>
<https://tree2mydoor.com/pages/information-trees-celtic-tree-calendar-oak-tree-symbolism>
<https://thenaturalrubycompany.com/education/all-about-star-rubies/>

BACKGROUND

During the 1800's, flower symbolism was used to pass discreet and detailed messages to gossip, express sentiments, and make requests, proposals, and rejections. The flowers themselves represent emotions, thoughts, wishes, etc, but the delivery of the flowers, and their condition also lends itself to the overall message.

If delivered with the right hand, the answer was 'yes', if delivered with the left, the answer 'no'. 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. A ribbon tied to the left of the bundle means the symbolism or message is applicable to the giver, while tied to the right means application to the recipient. If flowers are wilted or dead, the meaning is obvious.

The most common associations were those made during the Victorian era, but some flowers' meanings have slightly morphed since then. Check out the first link below for more comprehensive information.

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 indicate 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
in the same email, but **not** in the
same document/file

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

January 1st
April 1st

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

