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President's Message

Greetings Fellow Gardeners,

We certainly enjoyed, what seemed to be, an endless summer with fall temperatures warmer than usual. Some of my daffodils were confused and began to emerge, but with the foliage on the trees turning colors of yellow, orange and red, we could be assured that colder weather was soon to arrive. Fall is my favorite season as the air becomes crisp and there is a glow reflected from the trees that are clothed in autumnal colors. Now we begin the festive holiday season that we can enjoy, once again, with family and friends.

As you know or suspect, I love trees! I wish to remind you that the theme of my presidency and my President's Project is "Plant Trees: Nature's Unsung Heroes."

The Garden Club of New Jersey will be offering six \$1000 grants during my 2021-2023 term to garden clubs that sponsor a project that focuses on the planting of native trees. The recipients of these awards will be announced at the 2022 and 2023 Annual Meetings. Grant information, and how to apply, is available on the GCNJ website homepage. I have received a very positive response to this theme and hope that you will join our organization in planting native trees throughout our state. "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now." (Chinese proverb).

The Garden Club of New Jersey held a virtual Leadership Conference on November 15th for all affiliated club presidents. I decided it would be best to have this year's conference virtually due to the continuing effects of the pandemic. All club presidents were sent a Zoom invitation and asked to register by simply providing their name and email address online. Each registrant received an agenda which listed the conference speakers



L to R Cecelia Millea, GCNJ President; Mary Warshauer, NGC President; Joan Cichalski, GCNJ Blue Star Memorial Chair

and the Zoom link. The virtual Leadership Conference was well-attended and proved to be an informative platform for those in attendance. In addition, the Guidelines for Club Presidents manual was updated and emailed to each president. This document is packed full of valuable information and is available on the GCNJ website under Forms. We must continually be prepared to adapt due to the pandemic, and I am proud to say that, once again, GCNJ did so by hosting a successful virtual event.

The Community Garden Club of Hunterdon County held a rededication ceremony of the Blue Star Memorial marker on Route 22 in Whitehouse Station on October 9th. They are to be commended for hosting a lovely and patriotic event on a perfect fall day. I was honored to have been invited to attend, to represent GCNJ. Mary Warshauer, NGC President, was also in attendance, and spoke about the history of the Blue Star Memorial markers which are a tribute to the men and women who served in the Armed Forces of our nation. Joan Cichalski, GCNJ Blue Star Memorial Chair, was also present and spoke of GCNJ's efforts to have a marker in all 21 New Jersey counties in the near future. We are almost there with only three counties remaining that do not yet have a marker!

Did you know that the Blue Star Memorials were begun by the Garden Club of New Jersey? In the final years of World War II, GCNJ President, Mrs. Lewis Hull, in collaboration with the NJ Highway Commissioner, sought to recognize men and women returning from the war. A section of Route 22 was designated Blue Star Drive, and the first marker was placed in 1946. The concept grew and was supported by NGC which proposed that markers be designated in every state. Three thousand of these markers now dot highways, byways, parks, rest areas and veterans' cemeteries throughout our country.

If the Garden Club of New Jersey was capable of spearheading the placement of 3000 markers across the country to honor our veterans, imagine what we can do to plant trees and encourage others to do so to help our planet, and all the creatures that inhabit it.

Plant trees, invest in the future!

Happy Holidays,
 Cecelia Millea
 GCNJ President
cmillea@msn.com



NEW JERSEY'S "OTHER" STATE TREE

Every fourth grader in New Jersey public schools has learned that our State Tree is the Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*). This native New Jersey tree, stately, strong rooted and structurally beautiful, was selected and resolved to become the New Jersey State tree by then Governor Alfred E. Driscoll and the New Jersey State Assembly on June 13, 1950. The Northern Red Oak has a long life and one in particular can be found still growing after three hundred plus years at Duke Gardens in Hillsborough, New Jersey. It's called "Old Champion."

The Northern Red Oak can grow to a height of 60 to 70 feet, but some have grown even taller given the right growing conditions. There is a Northern Red Oak in Warren County, New Jersey, near the Musconetcong River that has grown to a height of one hundred feet tall by twenty feet wide in circumference. The fruit of the "mighty oak" is the acorn, which for many New Jersey residents, stepping over dropped acorns on sidewalks and trees is synonymous with summer's end and fall's beginning. Most animals do not like the bitter taste of the acorn, which leave many seeds that will open to new shoots the following spring. Native Americans mashed the acorn into flour for food and medicinal purposes.

You may remember collecting acorns as a child, or with your children. Perhaps you still collect the fruit of the Northern Red Oak with your grandchildren or great-grandchildren or create

cute acorn characters or lovely floral designs with acorns in the early fall. Did you know that the New Jersey Forest Service located in Jackson, New Jersey, accepts donations of acorns (usually in a quart topless container) each October for its seedling nursery? The New Jersey Forest Service is the steward of all forests and trees across the State of New Jersey, monitoring and maintaining nearly 840,000 acres of State-owned open space, creating wildlife habitats, preventing



and suppressing pest outbreaks, ecological restoration, and biodiversity. Although New Jersey is the most densely populated state, 40% remains forest and land where residents can find peace and calm, a natural habitat for birds, animals, and many species of plant life.

The "other" New Jersey State Tree is a smaller tree (usually only twenty-five feet in height), less stately, with a shorter life span than the red oak, but deeply colorful in the spring through fall. This native tree, the Flowering Dogwood, (*Cornus florida*) was

well-liked by George Washington, who planted the Flowering Dogwood at Mt. Vernon, and by Thomas Jefferson at Monticello. Early Native Americans made medicinal teas from its bark and Civil War doctors used this tea as a substitute for quinine.

In 1944, the New Jersey Council of Garden Clubs (now GCNJ, Inc.) planted 8,000 Flowering Dogwood trees during World War II in honor of all in our armed services who served our country. A year later in 1945 the National Council of State Garden Clubs (now NGC, Inc.) adopted this project and began a Blue Star Highway System covering thousands of miles across the United States including Alaska and Hawaii.

On January 15, 1951, Governor Driscoll and the New Jersey State Assembly proclaimed the Flowering Dogwood to be New Jersey's State Memorial Tree, and that Flowering Dogwoods be planted along highways, specifically, New Jersey's Memorial Highways, "Blue Star Drives" in honor of all serving our Armed Services. Patriotism was shown by planting Flowering Dogwoods in our many parks and places of remembrance. After September 11, 2001, 750 trees, including this Memorial State Tree and the Northern Red Oak were planted at Liberty State Park in New Jersey to honor the 750 New Jerseyans who died in the attack on the World Trade Center.



The Flowering Dogwood has taken residence outside many of our homes in New Jersey. One of the harbingers of spring with colorful pink or white bracts appearing on its branches, we enjoy the bright green leaves of summer, the red berries appearing in abundance each fall – food for the birds and wildlife – and the crimson-brown leaves as fall turns to winter on the Flowering Dogwood.

To look at a tree is relaxing and healthy. Many hospitals and care-giving facility personnel realize how important trees are to patients and caregivers alike. Poems have been written about trees, songs sung, important decisions made while sitting under a tree, and history passed from generation to generation while the tree looked on. A mockingbird chats from a Flowering Dogwood and watches your every move. Perched on a branch, this unexpected, feathered friend brings humor, peace, and focus. Thank you, tree!

Patricia Polunas
Scholarship Chair
scholarshipgcnj@gmail.com

Plant Trees “Nature’s Unsung Heroes”



Have you heard? Three grants of \$1000 each will be awarded to affiliated GCNJ clubs if you submit an application for a project that focuses on the planting of native trees!

Work with your members to come up with an initiative and submit an application before February 15, 2022. Awards will be announced at the annual GCNJ June 9th, 2022 meeting.

Check out the announcement at <https://www.gardenclubofnewjersey.org> then look under awards to see the application information and fun facts on trees.

Contact Teddie Falcone at tfalcone52@gmail.com or call 908-883-0908 for any questions.

This is a wonderful opportunity to focus on “Nature’s Unsung Heroes” and help your community and our environment. Looking forward to seeing your submissions.

Teddie Falcone
President’s Project Committee Chair
tfalcone52@gmail.com

Upcoming Events



December 7, 2021 – Prize Fight - at 2:00 p.m. EST as two accomplished National Garden Club Accredited Flower Show Judges (notable Blue Ribbon winners) face off against one another in a floral design challenge. For more information: [PRIZE FIGHT | car-sgc](#)

December 8, 2021 - Terra Nova Garden Club will hold their 70th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION dinner on Wednesday, December 8th, 2021 at the Pines Manor, Route 27 South in Edison, New Jersey at 6:30 p.m. For further details, please contact Gloria Dittman at 732-548-9134.

February 15, 2022 – Grant application for Plant Trees “Nature’s Unsung Heroes” due. See page 5 above for more information.

February 15, 2022 - All Club submissions for GCNJ Awards are due. Applications, the Awards booklet and instructions are located on the GCNJ website under AWARDS.

May 15-21 2022 - NGC Annual Convention 2022 in Orlando, FL.

June 9, 2022 - GCNJ Annual Meeting. Registration by May 18th, 2022.

October 12 & 13, 2022 - GCNJ Symposium.

November 1-4, 2022 - CAR-SGC Conference 2022 at Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Somerset County, PA



GCNJ ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE



Thermostat Challenge

Reports of local and global storms, floods, drought, wildfires, etc., seem to be a regular occurrence on the nightly news. There is a growing concern locally over the impact of extreme weather. With this in mind, GCNJ's Conservation Committee suggests a Thermostat Challenge to help reduce the use of fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions.

Join us in turning thermostats down in the winter to prevent overheating your home and turning thermostats up in the summer to avoid air conditioners running too often. An adjustment of 2 to 3 degrees or more will have a positive impact on the environment and your energy bills. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), heating and cooling buildings account for approximately half of the energy use in an average home. These activities are contributors to greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change.

Please help reduce emissions by following several simple steps ... adjust thermostats, insulate your home, plant trees and shrubs to create windbreaks that block winter cold, and provide shade against summer heat. These actions will save energy costs and help protect the environment.

Source: United States Environmental Protection Agency

Eco-Friendly Guidelines for Holiday Shopping Buy Less ... Waste Less



The production and distribution of consumer goods has a huge impact on the environment. Additionally, use of these items also adds to harmful carbon emissions. For example, making one laptop computer can burn the same amount of carbon as driving a car for 1,300 miles. Shipping and use of the goods add even more harm to the environment. So, buying less “unnecessary stuff” is a great way to reduce your carbon footprint. Less demand means less supply and therefore, less harm to nature.

“Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” is a good model to follow. Limiting your number of unnecessary purchases along with reusing consumer goods will reduce your footprint. When you no longer need a product, please consider donating or selling it online, taking items to consignment shops, or having a yard sale. Unfortunately, a vast majority of material still ends up in landfills.

Recycling helps the environment; however, the process still consumes a tremendous amount of energy. For example, recycling a magazine every day for an entire year will save less carbon than the amount emitted from running your refrigerator for one week. Thus, it is best to not consume the raw materials in the first place. Please think carefully about whether you are really going to use something before you buy it.

Shopping for the Holidays is a great time to start being a part of the movement for environmental good and stop unnecessary, wasteful spending.

Eco-Friendly Gift Guide Reduce Your Impact on the Environment

- **Think Before you Buy** – Is this item worth the damage it causes to the environment? Is it really needed, wanted, useful? ... if not, try finding something that will be enjoyed and appreciated while also causing less harm to the planet.
- **Give an Experience** – Don't buy anything ... instead, spend the day enjoying a special activity such as a hike, garden tour, movie, etc.

- **Gift Certificate** – Purchase a certificate to a local shop, spa, restaurant ... even “take out” from a favorite cafe makes a thoughtful gift.
- **Give a Donation** – Honor someone by donating to their favorite non-profit organization ... if they don’t have a preferred group, then consider donating to an organization that supports a favorite activity, or perhaps, a conservation group that works to protect the environment.
- **Gifts for the Gardener:** Rain Barrel, Hand Tools, Gloves, etc. – Rain barrels are getting more attractive and easier to use ... many cities even have rebate programs as they encourage efforts to reduce storm run-off. Newly sharpened pruners, hand tools, and rugged gloves are always useful.
- **Water Bottles** – We all know that we are supposed to avoid using disposable water bottles. There are so many great reusable options available making this a terrific gift for anyone on your list ... check out offerings by Klean Kanteen, Hydro Flask, Yeti or other brands for the latest technology.
- **Trees, Shrubs or Plants** – Nothing says you love someone like gifting a tree or plant. An indoor plant will brighten a home even on the dreariest winter day. When buying an outdoor plant, remember to go native ... perhaps, give a serviceberry that thrives in various growing conditions and is valued both horticulturally and for its benefits to wildlife.
- **Energy Savers:**
 - **Programmable Thermostats** – Installing programmable thermostats is one of the most effective and least expensive tools to combat heating and cooling costs. Not only do they save money, they also reduce energy use and greenhouse gases while adding considerable convenience and comfort to your home. Homeowners can save hundreds of dollars by properly setting their programmable thermostats and maintaining those settings. (See the “Thermostat Challenge” in this Newsletter for more information.)
 - **Energy Monitors** – Electricity monitors provide the “techie” on your gift list with data on how efficiently their electricity is being used and what the costs are. Any reputable monitor gives helpful information needed to save money on energy bills.
 - **Water Saving Shower Heads** – Recent technology has significantly improved these products. This has resulted in a satisfying shower along with less water usage and lower energy bills. These low flow units don't usually cost any more than standard showerheads ranging from approximately \$20 to \$200.

Sources: New York Times and The Nature Conservancy

Beverly Kazickas
Chair, Conservation Committee
kazickas55@aol.com

2021 Holidays at Drumthwacket



Please join us in celebrating the holidays at Drumthwacket, New Jersey Governor's Official Residence, in Princeton, NJ. The Garden Club of New Jersey will once again be decorating this grand house for the holidays.



The clubs participating are Allentown Garden Club, Belvidere Garden Club, Keyport Garden Club, Garden Club of Long Valley, Warren Garden Club and West Trenton Garden Club. There will be several Open Houses scheduled in December.



For further information, visit the Drumthwacket website, www.drumthwacket.org.

Chris Endris

Drumthwacket Chair

chrisendris@gmail.com

Scholarships

\$\$\$ FINANCIAL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS \$\$\$

The early bird (or birds) really does catch the worm ... and it should be noted that students who begin the scholarship application process before the holidays and winter break often get the scholarships!

Sadly, students just getting back to school in late January or early February cannot get all of their application papers together in time for our FEBRUARY 1ST SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE.

This year, the Garden Club of New Jersey awarded financial scholarships in amounts of \$1,500 to \$3,000. We are looking forward to presenting an award to a student that you advise about our scholarships. How wonderful it would be for that student to be on the receiving end of a monetary award for the school year, 2022. Think about recommending someone who can join some of our past recipients:

- **Danielle Dyson** - (below right) who was the National Garden Club, Inc. scholarship recipient for 2021. She attends Stockton University, majoring in Environmental and Marine Sciences.
- **Stephen Myer** - (below middle) who attends the University of Vermont and also majors in Environmental Science.
- **Helena Lam** – (below left) who has received several GCNJ Scholarships over the years and is now a graduate student majoring in Environmental Management at Yale University.

Applications and information about scholarships can be found on the Garden Club of New Jersey website. Any questions about scholarships or your club's donation to our Scholarship Fund may be sent to Trish Polunas, Scholarship Chair, at the following email address: scholarshipsgcnj@gmail.com.

Patricia Polunas
Scholarship Chair
scholarshipsgcnj@gmail.com



JUDGES CREDENTIALS



All GCNJ Judges are eligible to take the October 12-13, 2022, Symposium for credit. The usual total exhibiting and judging credits are not required.

Those Accredited Judges for whom the 2022 Symposium is their final Refresher to become a Life Judge need to submit to me, a Form 13, prior to the Symposium. Dates of their 3 Courses/Refreshers are required. Other Accredited Judges must submit Form 13 indicating any previous Refresher or Course taken towards Life.

Life Judges going to Master status following successfully passing the point scoring for the 2022 Symposium, and for whom it is their second Refresher, must submit a completed Form 14 also showing the date of their first Symposium to Life status.

Master Judges must submit to me a Form 15M stating the date of their last Symposium. No Exhibiting or Judging credits are required.

Credits earned in 2020-2022 can be carried over to the next symposium, taken beginning in 2023.

A reminder will be sent to all GCNJ Judges. All Forms must be sent to me at least a month before the October date of the Symposium.

Jane Bersch
GCNJ Judges Credentials Chairman
janebersch@aol.com

YOUTH CORNER

Here is some timely information for those interested in working with youth

HOW TO REGISTER A YOUTH GARDEN CLUB

One way to ensure gardeners for the future, is to engage youth in gardening or related activities. On the Website for the Garden Club of New Jersey, www.gardenclubofnewjersey, you will find the form to register a Youth Garden Club under "Latest News" or just click on the Youth tab and scroll down to the Youth Club Registration form.



The form requires a youth leader's contact information and the name of an adult garden club who agrees to sponsor the youth club. The adult club serves as the link to Garden Club of NJ resources and the youth leader coordinates the youth club activities.

A youth garden club could focus on one or more activities such as: gardening, ecology/wildlife/ insect/pollinator study, garden therapy, four/five R's, Arbor Day, civic/school projects, children's/school gardens, flower design/shows, composting, nature camps, National Garden Week, and Annual Youth Contests.

To complete the annual registration, \$20 per club is required. A check payable to GCNJ, indicating "Youth Club Dues" in the memo should be mailed with the completed registration form to: Diana Dove; 243 Windmill Ct., Phillipsburg, NJ 08865. If you have any questions, please email dianadove13@gmail.com.

YOUTH CONTEST SUBMISSION DEADLINE is January, 6, 2022.



The GCNJ Website lists rules and requirements for four Youth Contests. All Youth entries are submitted to GCNJ Youth Co-Chair, Bob Markey. Click on the *Youth* Tab and go to *Youth Contests for details and submission instructions*.

Note: Each Youth Club may submit up to three entries, for each grade level for each contest.

1st-5th Grades: NGC Smokey Bear or Woods Owl Poster Contest

Using 11" x 17" paper, choose to draw a Smokey Bear poster with the logo, "*Only You Can Prevent Wildfires*" or a Woodsy Owl poster whoooo says, "*Lend a Hand, Care for the Land.*"

K – 9th Grades: NGC Poetry Contest, "Sing with the Songbirds, Exploring the Glory of Nature" There are three student categories: General Students, Special Education students, or English as a Second Language Students.

4th – 8th Grade: NGC Sculpture Contest

A small sculpture, 8.5" X 11" made of recycled materials. There is a link for the official Sculpture Contest entry form which requires a description and photos of the sculpture.

9-12 Grades: CAR-SGC High School Essay Contest – theme is "What can we do to prevent Water Pollution?"

GCNJ YOUTH ROUNDTABLE- An adult garden club member, who works with a youth activity or has resource information or youth activity ideas to share, is invited to sign up for the YOUTH ROUND TABLE.

Please email your contact info to Youth Co-Chair, Diana Dove, at dianadove13@gmail.com. The Youth Round Table Directory will be available on the password protected GCNJ Directory link of the GCNJ Website listing youth contacts so those who work with youth may network and exchange timely information.

Diana Dove
Co-Chair of Youth
dianadove13@gmail.com

CRAWFORD'S CORNER

Hollies for the Holidays

As you travel about New Jersey in late autumn there are a variety of plants that suddenly leap into the spotlight from the quiet shadows. It is not because these plants are unattractive throughout the remainder of the year, but simply because they serve as a peaceful green backdrop until the cooler weather arrives. Interestingly, two such plants happen to be native to New Jersey: American Holly (*Ilex opaca*) and Winterberry Holly (*Ilex verticillata*). Unfortunately, many gardeners have yet to discover these bird and pollinator friendly plants – an omission we certainly hope to correct!

Ilex is from the Latin for the Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*), a native of the Mediterranean region that has an evergreen leaf. Coincidentally, it shares more than just the name *Ilex* since *Holm* is also Old English for Holly! *Ilex* was officially coined as the genus name in 1753 by the Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778). The American Holly, *Ilex opaca* is native to coastal areas from Massachusetts to Florida, and west to Texas. The species was named in 1789 by the Scottish botanist William Aiton (1731-1793). The epithet *opaca* is from the Latin meaning shaded or dull, referring to the leaf surface. Although plants found in the wild often have dull green foliage, many cultivars were selected for their beautiful glossy foliage. In the wild, plants are found in wooded communities where the shade promotes a more open habit. They also grow perfectly well in full sun where the habit is much denser. Plants naturally develop a very attractive conical habit and look best with the branches left growing to the ground (as pictured above), although Longwood Garden features several attractive selections limbed up into trees. Most plants mature to 40-50' tall by 20-25' wide and flourish in well-drained soils that remain moist and have protection from winter winds.



Aside from the evergreen foliage, the other major asset is the attractive red or golden fruit display. However, not all hollies produce fruit since the plants are dioecious. Dioecious comes from the Greek di-oikos meaning two (*di*) homes (*oikos*). In other words, there are plants bearing only female flowers that yield fruit, and there are plants with only male flowers necessary for pollen production. This is a strategy some plants have developed to ensure plants would not self-pollinate and suffer from inbreeding depression. Thus, if you have a plant that does not produce fruit, you should check the small white flowers in May to determine if they have a prominent ring of male stamens, or a well-developed green central ovary. If your plant is a female without fruit set, most likely there is not a male



plant within a one mile radius or roughly the distance a bee flies.

Ilex opaca has numerous cultivars on the market, many were introduced by Dr. Elwin Orton of Rutgers University. One of Elwin's favorites is 'Dan Fenton' (seen at right). The plant has attractive dark green foliage, good fruit production, and a narrower habit making it ideal for most residential gardens. It might seem odd that a female holly bares a man's name, and Dr. Orton would joke about that on occasion as well. Dan Fenton (1919-1969) graduated from Rutgers in 1940 in the hopes of teaching agriculture and science programs in High School. After returning from the war in 1944 and awaiting a job, Dan asked Clarence Wolf, the President of New Jersey Silica Sand Corporation for a job tending his 50-acre collection of Hollies in Millville NJ. Mr. Fenton was subsequently hired and together they co-founded the Holly Society of America on July 15, 1947. This plant is a very fitting tribute to his many contributions to this genus!



The other very noteworthy Holly that Dr. Orton introduced is 'Portia Orton', named as a living tribute to his wife (pictured at right during a snowy winter). Originally named Portia, the plant was renamed to provide better recognition for the plant. Aside from having deep green foliage, good red fruit set and a defined central leader that makes it much easier to grow for nurseries, the plant has also proven to be taller than 'Dan Fenton' and very attractive! As I write,

Dr. Orton still has an interest in Hollies and Portia drives him back to visit his collection of Hollies at Rutgers.

Unlike American Holly, *Ilex verticillata* or Winterberry Holly is a deciduous shrub, growing 10' tall by 15-20' wide. It is native to moist sites from Ontario west to Wisconsin and south to Florida. Since it is more adaptable to various soil and wind conditions, it is easier to accommodate culturally than the American Holly. It will tolerate light shade, but like its cousin, grows best and densest in full sun. It was named by the famed American botanist Asa Gray (1810-1888) in 1856. The species epithet is from the Latin *Verticillus*, meaning whorled and refers to the spiraled leaf arrangement along the stem. Usually one male plant is adequate for pollinating 10-12 females and the smaller size compared to American Holly makes it easier to incorporate a male plant inconspicuously into the landscape. Also, make certain to include an evergreen backdrop where possible as it enhances the bright red fruits throughout the winter, as seen in the image above.

There are numerous cultivars of Winterberry Holly currently in the trade. For the smaller garden, consider 'Red Sprite' pictured below. It matures to around 5' tall with an equal spread and has large red fruits over ¼" in diameter. 'Jim Dandy' is the ideal male for pollinating 'Red Sprite', since its flowers open at roughly the same time. If you prefer golden fruit, 'Winter Gold' is stunning (pictured at right). It grows to 10' tall and as wide and the later blooming 'Southern Gentleman' serves as a great pollinator.



The fruits of both species are not only attractive, but are beloved by overwintering birds and help to sustain them through the snow and cold. The plants should also be open to view from a window, allowing you to enjoy not only the colorful fruits throughout winter but the activity of our feathered friends. An indispensable part of the garden for feeding both spring pollinators and song birds, these two species will also provide colorful cut stems for the Holidays. There is no time like the present to start planning where several of these plants can find a home in your garden.



Happy Holidays!

Bruce Crawford
Manager of Horticulture, Morris County Park Commission
bcrawford@morrisparks.net

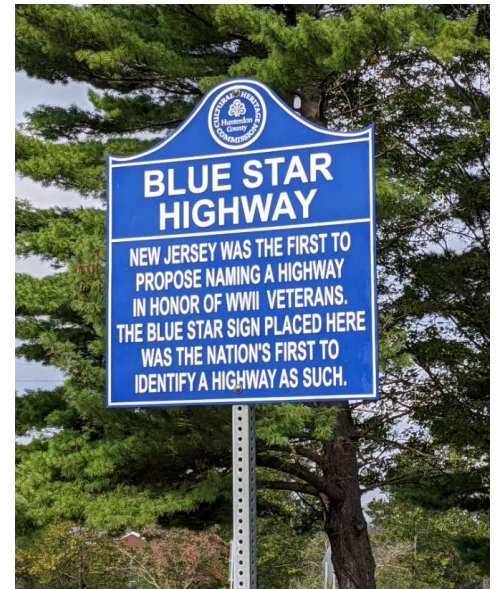
BLUE STAR NEWS

Garden Club of Hunterdon County Re-Dedicates Classic Marker

One of New Jersey's original Blue Star Highway markers was re-dedicated on October 9, 2021 in Hunterdon County.

The marker, located on Route 22 east in Whitehouse Station, has been maintained by the Community Garden Club of Hunterdon County. The Club used a grant obtained through NGC's Plant America program to re-plant the area over the past two years.

Club President Beverly Fusco welcomed guests to the ceremony on October 9. A bagpiper opened the event, which included participation by local barbershop quartet the Hunterdon Harmonizers, Boy and Girl Scouts, and Veterans. Speakers included NGC President Mary Warshauer, Garden Club of Hunterdon County President Beverly Fusco, GCNJ Blue Star chair Joan Cichalski, Lois Johann, Blue Star committee member from the NJ DOT, and Ann Rotunno, representing the Daughters of the American Revolution.



Attendees inscribed small white flags with the names of family members who are or were members of the military and placed around the Blue Star marker.

New Jersey now has more than 35 Blue Star markers, with plans for four more dedications in the coming year. Finally, we hope to place both a Blue Star and a Gold Star marker at Liberty State Park to complete our goal of having at least one marker in each county.

If your club would like to be part of this national project, check out the information on the GCNJ website, or call Joan Cichalski, GCNJ Blue Star Chair (732-977-4477).

Marg Peterson
 District IV Chairperson
margpeterson@comcast.net

Natural Disaster News



Natural disasters in the United States are constantly in the news with New Jersey suffering through its own local floods and fires during 2020-2021. Remember, fires destroyed over a thousand acres in our own Pinelands and in the Lakewood area this Spring while floods threatened to wash away ocean and river shores after each heavy rain. Stunning varieties of climate turbulence all effect our parks, gardens, and open spaces.

While GCNJ cannot control these disasters, we can certainly support our clubs that may be experiencing them by donations from member clubs. The recent COVID ordeal has certainly altered the rhythm of club life but the need for funds to support the Natural Disaster Fund remains the same. Whether your donations are generated through a “pass the jar” process or come directly from your club’s treasury, each donation is special and each is necessary to prepare for another club’s next natural disaster.

If your club needs funding after a natural disaster, please check the Natural Disaster Fund under PROJECTS on the GARDEN CLUB OF NEW JERSEY website, <https://www.gardenclubofnewjersey.org/> or if you would like your club to donate, please contact me at the email address below.

Margaret Esposito
Natural Disaster Fund Chair
Mmesposito@yahoo.com

The Vision of Beauty Calendar

The new 2022 Vision of Beauty calendar is out and available on the NGC website: <https://gardenclub.org>.

On the website, go to MemberResources/Publication/Explore Here/ VOB calendar.

The calendar highlights numerous designs from Traditional to Creative to Botanical Arts, as well as small pocket gardens. It is a great teaching tool to inspire and educate designers on new trends. It is also a wonderful gift to give to members, family, and friends.

Please consider going online and ordering one or more copies of the 2022 Vision of Beauty Calendar. Sales to our members are an important part of your support and the continued success of this beautiful publication.

Florence Leysene
florenceleysene@gmail.com

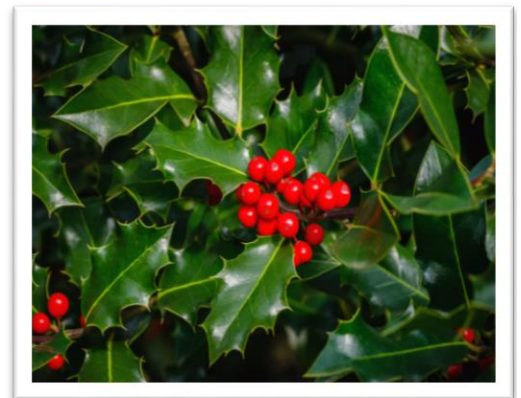


Information for the next issue:

January 1 is the deadline for articles for The Spring 2022 News Leaf as well as listings of upcoming club events and online ads.

Send articles and upcoming events to Karen Eardley at k.eardley@live.com

Go to GCNJ website at www.gardenclubofnewjersey.org for more information or check out Facebook for some informative posts: [\(4\) Garden Club of New Jersey | Facebook](#)



Happy Holidays and Stay Safe!