

SEPTEMBER 2022



Bloomin' Times

Rakeandhoe.org



Summer Clematis

Photograph by

Barb Spellmeyer

(Read about Clematis on page 5.)

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ANNUAL AUCTION

At September's General Meeting

Wednesday, September 14, 2022

Bring those treasures you've downsized.

See page 2 for ideas.

CLUB NEWS

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Thoughts, tidbits and verse through the ages from the Rake and Hoe Archives.....

October 1972

"A thought for a real gardener.....if a weed in my garden has slipped through my grasp, I redefine weed, let it grow, and enjoy it."

May 1975

"I like to make a garden grow,
I'll labor 'till I'm numb,
And when the plants come up I know,
The pest is yet to come."

October 2017

"Autumn is a second spring,
When every leaf becomes a flower."

June 2001

"In his or her garden, every man or women may be his own artist without apology or explanation, Here is one spot where each may experience the romance of possibility."

February 2017

"More grows in the garden than the gardener sows."

Guest Columnist: Richard Pelikan

RHGC ADOPTS MISSION & VISION STATEMENTS

Mission

The mission of the Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield is to provide education, resources and opportunities to nurture the love of gardening, nature and artistic natural design, and to promote related civic and environmental responsibilities.

Vision

1. To study and advance the art and science of gardening, horticulture, floral design, and nature photography for our members and the public.
2. To encourage beautification of community gardens, perform community service projects, and aid in the conservation of our natural resources.
3. To sustain and grow membership by offering educational programs and activities.
4. To raise funds to support the vision and mission of the Club.
5. To maintain a permanent and accessible record of the Club, its history and ongoing activities.
6. To accomplish the Club's mission in the spirit of friendship, fellowship and community.

Adopted by the Board to Standing Rules in June 2022.

SEPTEMBER '22 AUCTION

Need ideas? Think about the variety of items at the Silent Auction. Bring a baked good; Offer to make a food dish for someone's special occasion; Donate a personal service (e.g. weeding). Bring a plant that survived the summer heat. Bring your checkbook!

Contributors

Barb Spellmeyer, Lesley Parness,
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MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

We are sad to have lost some of our most valued members this past year. We thank them for their dedication and for sharing their talents, which have helped make RHGC the outstanding garden club it is.

Resigned: Marianne Murray(2001), Clare Minick(2001), Mary Foley Smith(2007), Penny Dinger(2010), Cyndi Cockren(2015), Karen Massa(2016), Gail Andersson(2017).

Deceased: Jane Gross(1983)

New Associates: Roberta Greco, Karen Jolley-Gates

Membership Total: 70

CLUB NEWS

Horticulture Committee Plans

Hort Workshop

October 24, 2022

“Care and Transplanting
of Peonies”

Home of Inge Bossert

Plant Exchange

Fall-October 6, 2022

Home of Adah Levin

Spring—April 26, 2023

Home of Barb Spellmeyer

Field Trip

May 23, 2023

Peony's Envy
Bernardsville, NJ

Secret Garden Tour

June 6, 2023

Medicinal Plants of the Civil War

Saturday, September 10, 2022
10:30am via Zoom

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/PPLHist2209>

Presented by Lesley Parness
RHGC Member and Garden Historian

Could plants have played a role
in the outcome of the Civil War?

Learn how important plants were
in every aspect of this conflict, on
battlefields and home fronts of
both the North and the South.
Over 30 plants are discussed and
their medicinal properties noted.

HIGHLIGHTS 2022-2023

Mindowaskin Urns



En Plein Air

Floral Designers:

Betsy Chance, Clare Minick

Upcoming Designers:

Fall: Irene G., Beth S.

Winter: Tracy C., Betsy C.

Member Birthdays in September

1st: Joyce Mullen

26th: Sarah Kaiser



Community Projects Committee Plans

September 27

Mobile Meals at Baptist Church

October 12

Write Cards & Decorate Vets Bags
at monthly meeting.

October 18

Planning for Veterans Holiday Bags

October 19

Juniors Vets Cards Workshop

October 27

Workshop for Jardine Ornaments

November 7

Prepare Holiday Bags for Vets

November 8

Transport Vets Bags to Lyons

November 29

Decorate Tree at Jardine Academy

February 7

Mobile Meals at Baptist Church

March 7

Workshop for Jardine Ornaments

March 28

Decorate Spring Tree at Jardine

April 27

Make bows for Jardine Mothers

May 9

Plant Wkshp with Jardine Students

May 18

Mobile Meals at Baptist Church

DECK THE HALLS NEWS



Preview of the
DTH Boutique
“MISTLETOE
MARKET”

Boutique Committee

Co Chairs
Sharon Shiraga
Betsy Chance
Nina Sylvester

- 1 Tula Alhashim
- 2 Maryfran Annese
- 3 Dorothy Camilletti
- 4 Jane Christiani
- 5 Kathryn Ciurczak
- 6 Irene Greenstein
- 7 Joyce Mullen
- 8 Linda Parker
- 9 Lesley Parness
- 10 Lena Peitsinovski
- 11 Natalie Peitsinovski
- 12 Martha Savage
- 13 Holly Schlobohm
- 14 Donna Sevchuk
- 15 Joanne Womelsdorf



GARDEN POTPOURRI

BREWED AND CHEWED



Feverfew
(*Tanacetum parthenium*)

I have recently discovered the joy of herbs, as well as the frustration. The ones that grow best in my garden are the ones planted by the birds: Lemon Balm, Oregano, Mugwort. More about mugwort at a later time.

One of the easiest to grow is Feverfew. When it first emerges, it looks like a weed, *and spreads like one*. In just a few years I was inundated. Unlike mint, it spreads by seed, not by root.

It took a few years of frustration before I came to love them. It turns out they have many attributes, but their biggest attraction is their blooms, clusters of daisy-like miniature flowers that will brighten up your garden and your arrangements. This year I finally saw their potential and let most of them grow. I was rewarded by banks of flowers that made my front yard look like an English garden. Feverfew is an ancient herb that has been brewed and chewed over the centuries and throughout the world, as a cure for migraines and arthritis. One day soon I shall have to brew a cup of Feverfew tea.

jdr

GARDEN LIMERICKS

In the summer my garden impresses with
beautiful phlox
And bountiful visiting wildlife of deer and
fox
But the garden looks best when the
hard work is done
And I rest in my lounge away from
the sun
Enjoying a tall Pinot Grigio on the rocks.

jdr



CLEMATIS PRUNING

Group 1 Clematis (C. alpina, armandii, cirrhosa, macropetala and montana) bloom in early spring. Their buds set the previous season on old wood. They only need a light pruning after flowering to clear out dead wood and keep the stems tidy.

Group 2 Clematis are those cultivars which bloom in May-June, Prune the stems in late winter/early spring just above a pair of healthy buds, removing the spindly or damaged growth above.

Group 3 Clematis bloom on "new wood" (this year's growth) usually in mid-summer and fall - so in late winter/early spring, whack it all down to a healthy bud about a foot from the ground.

Lesley Parness

CLEMATIS PROPAGATION

Lesley Parness and Martha Savage conducted a workshop on 6/16/22. Barb Spellmeyer took a few photos for BT.



Above, facing camera, l-r: Martha Savage, Tracy Criscitiello, Adah Levin, Cathy Becker, Kathryn Ciurczak, Betsy Chance.

Above right, l-r: Inge Bossert, Cathy Becker, Adah Levin, Kathryn Ciurczak, Alice Cowell, Barbara Murphy, Tracy Criscitiello.

Right: Lesley Parness



CLUB PHOTOGRAPHERS

Scaling New Heights



Photograph by Lee Perry

Suppertime



Photograph by Nina Sylvester

Bee-ony



Photograph by Lee Perry

Spring Awakening



Photograph by Barb Spellmeyer

HORTICULTURE SPOTLIGHT

“A Celebrity Rose”

By Lesley Parness

“Won’t you come into my garden? I would like my roses to see you.” – Richard Brimsley Sheridan (1751- 1816, Irish poet).

That’s the way I feel about roses too. So, as my birthday approaches, and I select a rose for my family to surprise me with, I think about my criteria. To be included in my garden, a plant must provide beauty over a long period of time, demonstrate its ecological value, and have an engaging story. As I search for a rose with a story, it’s fun to explore “celebrity roses.” Here are some curated collections currently under consideration as my birthday present.

Part I - The Writers

To honor my love of Shakespeare, three shrub roses bred by David Austin, all about 4’ tall. **Rosa ‘Shakespeare 2000’** offers old-rose fragrance, strong disease resistance, and pointed buds that open to velvety, deep crimson blooms, maturing into a royal purple in consecutive flushes. Its 120 petals are divided into 4 quarters and spread open flat, like an antiquarian book from whence the Bard might emerge.



Rosa ‘Desdemona’s’ deep green foliage serves as the backdrop for big peachy-pink buds that open to pure white, chalice shaped blooms with a pinkish hue. The 52 incurved petals add a 3D dimension. Featuring a long flowering season, Desdemona fills the garden with its strong, almond blossom fragrance.

Rosa ‘Sweet Juliet’s’ apricot, neatly formed rosettes are repeat flowering. With 70 or so petals this reliable, healthy variety has a bushy, upright habit, and glossy, dark green leaves. Its fragrance is delicious – changing from that of a tea rose into a very strong and almost pure lemon.



Part II - The Composers



Music is best enjoyed in a garden, so maybe I should pick a rose for one of my favorite classical composers. Rosa ‘**Chopin**’ was introduced in Poland in 1980. This hybrid tea rose gets its high-centered bloom shape and delicate, translucent petals from its mom, ‘Crêpe de Chine’ and its size (up to 5” across) superior cold resistance, and big leathery foliage from its dad ‘Peer Gynt.’ Its flower is a pale creamy yellow with cerise margins and a haunting scent.

Rosa ‘Mozart’s’ arching habit and shade tolerance make it a good candidate for a small tuteur or pillar in a garden corner and will reach 6’ tall. This hybrid musk, bred in 1936 produces enormous sprays of 1.25”, single deep pink blooms with white centers and dark reddish-pink edges, just 5 petals each. It’s lacking in fragrance, but it has lots of bright orange hips in the fall, perfect for candying for Thanksgiving.



Rosa ‘Tchaikovsky’s’ clustered double, old-fashioned, rosettes of creamy white with a buttery yellow center are beautiful against its dense semi-glossy, dark green foliage. This 6’ tall, vigorous floribunda blooms continuously and offers excellent disease resistance and a pleasant fragrance.

This article continues on the next page.

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HORTICULTURE SPOTLIGHT

“A Celebrity Rose”

By Lesley Parness

As I search for a rose with a story, it's fun to explore “celebrity roses.” Here are some curated collections currently under consideration:

Part III - The Artists

Color comes first, right? And where better to look for fabulous color than roses named for artists?

Rosa ‘**Cezanne’s** hybrid tea petals seem hand-painted, each one unique, in a dusky palette of pinks and pale yellows with splashes of white and ochre. Small and feminine, growing only to 3’, this would be an excellent choice for a container set up close to seating so one can admire its unfolding ruffled edges and take in its cinnamon, raspberry scent. It blooms in flushes of cupped to flat forms throughout the season.



Rosa ‘**Matisse’s** color is a tribute to its namesake with its raspberry pink petals and gay stripes of red and white. As a grandiflora it will reach 6 tall. It's very pretty, double, cupped repeat blooms emit a happy, fruity fragrance. I love a striped rose, especially a flat one with dark, glossy foliage.

Rosa ‘**Monet’s** preference for Zone 7+ means that it will need greater freeze protection. But its large blooms, produced in abundance and featuring charming swirls of white, rose-pink, and yellow splotches coupled with a wonderful perfume make it worth the extra care. Bred in 1996, it grows to 5’ tall and can be either single or double. The single is positively Giverny-esque.



There are so many choices! I'm still deciding. What about you?

There are roses for everyone ...



... from ‘Rosa Dolly Parton’ for country music lovers



... to ‘Rosa JFK,’ for presidential scholars.

If we choose the right “celebrity rose” it will reward us with superstar bloom and an award-winning story to match!

Lesley Parness became a member of RHGC in 2021. She writes a regular column for *Gardener News*. On September 10, 2022, Lesley will be presenting a virtual program from the Plainfield Public Library: **“Beyond the Potted Palm: Victorians and their House Plants.”**

This article was previously published in Gardener News.

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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Protecting Hummingbirds

In their latest newsletter, The Nature Conservancy describes the problems facing America's hummingbirds and their efforts to protect them.

With the loss of habitats due to climate changes and deforestation, it has become critical to support hummingbird migrations. Some of the species migrate from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego. The Nature Conservancy helps develop habitat along the hummingbird migration routes throughout the United States.



Broad-tailed H.

“Broad-tail Hummingbirds are considered ‘philopatry-faithful.’ A Broad-tail will return, year after year, not just to the same region—not just to the same tree—but to the very same branch it nested on the year before. Sometimes they build a new nest atop of their old one.” If the trees have been felled, the birds

have lost their homes.

To protect nature in the scale required to help plant and animal species survive, The Nature Conservancy sometimes buys and owns land. One example is Ramsey Canyon in southeastern Arizona. Most of this area was given to the Conservancy as a donation, after which the Conservancy purchased two additional parcels to add to it over the years.



Calliope H.

“The canyon has a spring-fed stream and high, shade-producing canyon walls that create a moist, cool environment that’s very unusual in the desert southwest. As a result, Ramsey Canyon attracts a remarkable array of wildlife, including hummingbirds. Of the 18 hummingbirds found in the United States, 15 can be seen in Ramsey Canyon, including the occasional ruby-throated hummingbird so well-known on the East Coast.”

jdr

Hummingbirds in the News



Ruby-Throated H.

Scientists have always assumed that hummingbirds do not have a sense of smell, because they do not use their sense of smell to locate food. Researchers have now learned that the birds depend on it to avoid danger, which may be lurking inside nectar flowers. Hummingbirds can detect the sense of “perilous insects” within milliseconds

and fly away.

Hummingbird Trivia

- ◇ They can fly forward, backward, and even upside down.
- ◇ Hummingbirds cannot walk or hop. They have evolved smaller feet to be lighter for more efficient flying. However, they will use their feet for itching and preening.
- ◇ Hummingbirds have 1,000 to 1,500 feathers, the fewest number of feathers of any bird species in the world. This makes them lighter.
- ◇ The wings of hummingbirds flap at 15 to 80 times per second.
- ◇ A 6-inch dollar bill is longer than every hummingbird species in the United States.
- ◇ The Rufous hummingbirds are known for their extraordinary flight skills, flying 2,000 miles during their migratory transits. It is the only main species of hummingbird in New Jersey.
- ◇ Rufous H., Mexican Violetear, Black-chinned H., Calliope H., Allen’s H. and Broad-tailed H. are all considered “accidental visitors” to New Jersey.



Rufous H.