

2025–2026

THE
RAKE & HOE
GARDEN
CLUB, INC.
OF
WESTFIELD,
NEW JERSEY



THE
RAKE & HOE
GARDEN CLUB, INC.
OF
WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY

2025–2026



Members

47 Active Members (incl. 4 Life Members)
11 Associate Members
3 Sustainer Members
2 Friends
1 Honorary Member
12 Junior Members

Affiliations

National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Central Atlantic Region - State Garden Clubs
Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc.,
-District V -

www.rakeandhoegc.org

Organized May 1952
Federated October 1954
Incorporated April 2004

— Volume LXXII —

GENERAL INFORMATION

Board Meetings

First Monday of the month at a board member's home

General Meetings

Second Wednesday of the month at the
Shady Rest Golf & Country Club, Scotch Plains

By-Laws

By-laws are available from the Vice-President, or can be
viewed on the Club website (www.rakeandhoe.gc.org)

On-going Service Projects:

-Community Gardens-

Blue Star Memorial Garden (as needed)

Claire Brownell Memorial Garden (as needed)

Miller-Cory House Museum
(September, May, June-August)

Mindowaskin Park Urns (seasonal plantings)

Shadowlawn Park
(November, March, May, as needed)

-Garden Care by Juniors-

Shadowlawn Butterfly Garden (as needed)

-Community Projects-

Jardine Academy - Seasonal projects
(October, December, March, April, May)

Veterans - Seasonal projects
(October, November, December, May)

Westfield Mobile Meals - Flower arrangements
for Seniors & Home-bound
(October, February, May)

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AFFILIATE CONTACTS



"Plant America for the next 100 Years"

National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC)

4401 Magnolia Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63110-3492
www.gardenclub.org
headquarters@gardenclub.org
President: Donna Donnelly
4494 Mc Cords Ferry Road
Elloree, SC 29047
phone 843-864-7594
dmdonnelly@gardenclub.org



**"Plant America: Gardening for a Healthy Mind,
Body and Soul"**

Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs, Inc. (CAR-SGC)

www.car-sgc.org
Director: Beverly Kazickas
Hawthorn, NJ
cell 201-321-7004
carsgc.regiondirector@gmail.com



"The Importance of Pollinators - Go Native"

Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc. (GCNJ)

Holly House
126 Ryders Lane
East Brunswick, NJ 08816-1331
Office Manager 732-249-0947
www.gardenclubofnewjersey.org
President: Sue Berdhal
72 Beechwood Drive
Shrewsbury NJ 07702
cell 732-6882026
Sue.berdahl@gmail.com

“Let’s Grow Together”

Rake & Hoe Garden Club, Inc. (R&HGC)

P.O. Box 2702

Westfield, New Jersey 07091-2702

www.rakeandhoegc.org

President: Nina Sylvester

R&HGC Mission

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

The following Vision statements strive to meet these goals:

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

Each year, coordinated and complimentary themes are adopted by the four tiers of our affiliated garden club organization. Through close association with the GCNJ (state), CAR-SGC (regional), and NGC (national), Club service projects and activi-ties serve as a means to extend and apply the broader missions of our umbrella organizations.

President

Nina Sylvester
(908) 956-5791



Dear Friends,

I am truly honored and excited to serve as your new president. As we begin a new chapter together, I had a simple idea ***“Let’s Grow Together”***. I have always been excited by the Back to School season, as it was filled with promise, a brand new year bursting with possibilities. A fresh year of garden club is no different

“Let’s Grow Together” reflects more than our love of gardening. It speaks to the spirit of our club – nurturing not only plants but also friendships, knowledge, and our shared commitment to creating beauty. Learning something new helps us grow stronger together.

This coming year you can expect exciting workshops, inspiring guest speakers, garden tours and many opportunities to dig in and make a difference. We will continue to support each other and enjoy the many ways gardening connects us. I am excited to grow with you and can’t wait to see what we’ll create together!

With warm wishes,
Nina Sylvester

EXECUTIVE BOARD



Vice President
Margot Partridge
(908) 403-7670



Treasurer
Betsy Chance
(908) 723-3338



Recording Secretary
Joann Androconis
(908) 444-3714



Corresponding Secretary
Jane Christiani
(908) 358-6496



Director
Sharon Shiraga
(908) 447-2460

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Archives	Vacant
Artistic Crafts	Tracy Criscitiello
Awards	Irene Greenstein, Nancy Smith
By-Laws	Margot Partridge
Communications	Barbara Murphy
Community Gardens	Carmen Skoletsky
Community Projects	Betty Round
Finance	Betsy Chance
Flower Design	Regina Kelley
Garden B's	Beth Hanscom
Horticulture	Inge Bossert , Karen Troiano
Hospitality	Carolyn Seracka
Juniors	Cheryl Rubin, Beth Siano
Long-Range Planning	Margot Partridge
Membership	Margot Partridge
Newsletter	Nina Sylvester
Spotlight	Joe Da Rold
Photography	Mabel Woloj
Programs	Kris Luka
Publicity	Liz Ryan
Yearbook/Directory	Sharon Shiraga

RAKE & HOE GARDEN CLUB COMMITTEES

2025-2026



All ACTIVE members are asked to participate in at least two Standing Committees and one Service Committee (Community Gardens; Community Projects).

***Our club is only as successful as the efforts of
its members - more
participation is always encouraged!***

STANDING COMMITTEES

Archives

Vacant

Artistic Crafts

(Tracy Criscitiello, Chair)

Betsy Chance

Anna Daurio

Beth Hanscom

Diana Kazazis

Joan Kylish

Kris Luka

Mary Lou Nolas

Eileen Morris

Linda Parker

Helen Pasterczyk

Barbara Spellmeyer

Nina Sylvester

Awards

(Irene Greenstein and Nancy Smith, Co-Chairs)

Tracy Criscitiello

Kay Cross

Annie Dai

Beth Hanscom

Gayle Lechner

Margot Partridge

Beth Siano

Karen Troiano

By-Laws

(Margot Partridge, Chair)

Kris Luka

Carolyn Seracka

Nina Sylvester

Communications

(Barbara Murphy, Chair)

Inge Bossert

Diane Genco

Website - Barbara Murphy

Social Media - Diane Genco

STANDING COMMITTEES (cont'd)

Finance

(Betsy Chance, Chair)

Joann Androconis	Eileen Morris
Kay Cross	Nina Sylvester
Kris Luka	

Flower Design

(Regina Kelley, Chair)

Maryfran Annese	Eileen Morris
Sandra Cerchio	Margot Partridge
Betsy Chance	Jeanie Pelikan
Betty Clark	Donna Sevchuk
Tracy Criscitiello	Sharon Shiraga
Kay Cross	Carmen Skoletsky
Alice Cowell	Nancy Smith
Elena Hreczny	Nina Sylvester
Diana Kazazis	Karen Troiano

Garden B's (Bats, Bees, Birds, & Butterflies)

(Beth Hanscom, Chair)

Inge Bossert	Joyce Mullen
Sandra Cerchio	Margot Partridge
Jane Christiani	Lee Perry
Tracy Criscitiello	Lena Peitsinovski
Irene Greenstein	Natalie Peitsinovski
Regina Kelley	Martha Savage
Gayle Lechner	Barbara Spellmeyer

Horticulture

(Inge Bossert and Karen Troiano, Co-Chairs)

Joann Androconis	Joyce Mullen
Tracy Criscitiello	Linda Parker
Kathryn Ciurczak	Margot Partridge
Annie Dai	Lee Perry
Anna Daurio	Cheryl Rubin
Irene Greenstein	Martha Savage
Beth Hanscom	Sharon Shiraga
Regina Kelley	Barbara Spellmeyer
Adah Levin	Mabel Woloj

STANDING COMMITTEES (cont'd)

Hospitality

(Carolyn Seracka, Chair)

Joann Androconis

Diane Genco

Joan Barna

Elena Hreczny

James Dukelow

Adah Levin

Juniors

(Cheryl Rubin and Beth Siano, Co-Chairs)

Joan Barna

Alice Cowell

Betty Clark

Long-Range Planning

(Margot Partridge, Chair)

Tracy Criscitiello

Kris Luka

Beth Hanscom

Mary Lou Nolas

Diana Kazazis

Sharon Shiraga

Gayle Lechner

Nina Sylvester

Membership

(Margot Partridge, Chair)

Kay Cross

Kris Luka

Jane Christiani

Joyce Mullen

Beth Hanscom

Nancy Smith

Regina Kelley

Newsletter

(Nina Sylvester, Chair)

Emma Sylvester

Rake and Hoe Spotlight

(Joe Da Rold, Chair)

Regina Kelley

Karen Troiano

Richard Pelikan

Mabel Woloj

STANDING COMMITTEES (cont'd)

Photography *(Mabel Woloj, Chair)*

Maryfran Annese	Margot Partridge
Inge Bossert	Jeanie Pelikan
Kathryn Ciurczak	Richard Pelikan
Betty Clark	Lee Perry
Alice Cowell	Betty Round
Jim Dukelow	Carolyn Seracka
Irene Greenstein	Donna Sevchuk
Beth Hanscom	Beth Siano
Diana Kazazis	Barbara Spellmeyer
Joyce Mullen	Karen Troiano
Linda Parker	

Program *(Kris Luka, Chair)*

Betsy Chance	Joan Kylish
Diane Genco	Karen Troiano
Beth Hanscom	

Publicity *(Liz Ryan, Chair)*

Yearbook/Directory *(Sharon Shiraga, Chair)*

Betty Clark	Martha Savage
Kay Cross	Nina Sylvester
Betty Round	



SERVICE COMMITTEES

Community Gardens *(Carmen Skoletsky, Chair)*

Claire Brownell *(Sharon Shiraga, Coordinator)*

Kay Cross
Barbara Murphy
Linda Parker

Margot Partridge
Beth Siano

Miller-Cory House Museum *(Betsy Chance, Coordinator)*

Inge Bossert
Kathryn Ciurczak
Tracy Criscitiello
Elena Hreczny

Eileen Morris
Helen Pasterczyk
Nancy Smith
Nina Sylvester

Mindowaskin Urns *(Carmen Skoletsky, Coordinator)*

Kathryn Ciurczak
Annie Dai
Irene Greenstein

Eileen Morris
Betty Round
Barbara Spellmeyer

Shadowlawn Pocket Park *(Adah Levin & Barb Spellmeyer, Coordinators)*

Sandra Cerchio
Alice Cowell
Lee Perry

Sharon Shiraga
Mabel Woloj



SERVICE COMMITTEES (cont'd)

Community Projects *(Betty Round, Chair)*

Jardine Academy *(Maryfran Annese, Coordinator)*

Joann Androconis	Faten Mahran
Jane Christiani	Joyce Mullin
Betty Clark	Mary Lou Nolas
Irene Greenstein	Lena Peitsinovski
Diana Kazazis	Cheryl Rubin
Joan Kylish	Donna Sevchuk
Adah Levin	

Mobile Meals *(Betty Round, Coordinator)*

Joann Androconis	Eileen Morris
Mary Fran Annese	Joyce Mullen
Joan Barna	Mary Lou Nolas
Jane Christiani	Lena Peitsinovski
Kathryn Ciurczak	Jeanie Pelikan
Betty Clark	Richard Pelikan
Alice Cowell	Lee Perry
James Dukelow	Martha Savage
Diane Genco	Carolyn Seraka
Elena Hrezny	Donna Sevchuk
Regina Kelley	Carmen Skoletsky
Gayle Lechner	Nina Sylvester
Adah Levin	Karen Troiano
Kris Luka	Mabel Woloj
Faten Mahran	

Veterans *(Donna Sevchuk, Coordinator)*

Maryfran Annese	Joyce Mullen
Joan Barna	Barbara Murphy
Jane Christiani	Mary Lou Nolas
Betty Clark	Lena Peitsinovski
Beth Hanscom	Nina Sylvester
Regina Kelley	Karen Troiano
Adah Levin	

SERVICE TO STATE AND NATIONAL

Representatives to GCNJ and NGC (ongoing).

Carolyn Seracka is the District V Director for GCNJ.

Margot Partridge helps to maintain the NGC Photography page on Facebook.



SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Community Gardens

Blue-Star Memorial Garden at Shadowlawn Pocket Park (ongoing).

Designed, planted, and dedicated in 2011. The garden is maintained by members as part of the Shadowlawn Pocket Park.

Claire Brownell Memorial Wildflower Garden (ongoing). Members redesigned a native wildflower garden located at the historic Reeve House, restoring and maintaining the back slope with native plants. Located at Mountain Ave. in Westfield.

Miller-Cory House Museum (ongoing). Members maintain period gardens of the colonial era that were designed and planted by the Club in 2004. Located at Mountain Ave. in Westfield.

Mindowaskin Park (ongoing). Members provide seasonal plantings and maintain the flower urns at the entrance of the central town park. Located at East Broad St. in Westfield.

Shadowlawn Park (ongoing). Established, designed, and planted by the Club in 2004, this small public garden serves as home to the Blue Star Memorial marker. It also is home to a certified Butterfly Garden, planted in 2013 by our Juniors, and it continues to be maintained by them. Located at the corner of Shadowlawn and Rahway Ave. in Westfield.

Community Projects

Jardine Academy. Twice annually, a children's book is donated and chosen as theme for holiday tree ornaments made by members. Members decorate the tree with hand-made ornaments, and when possible, interact with the students. Mother's Day planters, seasonal crafts and planting are also done with the students. Located in Cranford.

Veterans. (seasonal & ad-hoc). Over the years numerous club projects have benefited our Veterans. This year we will support Menlo Park Veterans Home. We will plant bulbs in the fall and provide seasonal flowers, in winter and spring. Veterans' Day cards, signed by club members, will be sent to the home in November.

Mobile Meals. (3 times per year). Members make small floral designs to place on meal trays for Mobile Meals delivered to elderly and home-bound Westfield residents. Workshops are at the First Baptist Church on Elm St. in Westfield.



SERVICE TO MEMBERS

A large part of service within our club (and ultimately the community at large) is the education of our members in gardening, flower design, the environment, and community service. This is achieved through monthly programs, certification through courses sponsored by the GCNJ and NGC, recognition awards, and committee activities from the various interest groups within the Club. Annual Recognition Awards encourage club participation, while Education Awards and accreditation through State and National programs encourage members to learn, expand their experience, and share with members.

A favorite, longstanding club tradition is selection of a Bird- and Wildflower-of-the-Year. Members are encouraged to attract or plant these natives to their gardens.

Bird of the Year

Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*)

Once restricted to the eastern and southeastern United States, turkey populations declined from overhunting but have rebounded and are now established well to the north and west of their original range.

Turkeys are birds of open woodland but also can be found in fairly dense forest and scrub. Males are larger than females with a “beard” hanging from their breast. The male size is 46” and the female 37”.

Turkeys feed on the ground on just about anything then return to the trees for their night roosts. The Wild Turkey and the Muscovy Duck are the only birds native to the Americas that have been domesticated and transported worldwide. The male Wild Turkey’s familiar gobble call attracts females from a distance and repels competing males.

Baby wild turkeys are called chicks. They are active right after hatching and can walk within a short time. Within 12-24 hours, they typically leave the nest and can fly short distances after 8-14 days.

Wildflower of the Year

Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

'Butterfly Weed', or *Asclepias tuberosa*, is a native perennial, with widespread distribution in the eastern third of the US, extending west to Texas and Minnesota. In a sunny location, this member of the milkweed family grows in most soils. It is a relatively tall (1-2ft), erect plant that adds both structure and bright orange color to the perennial garden from mid to late summer. In the fall, its attractive seed pods add further interest. *A. tuberosa* can be distinguished from similar members of the milkweed family by its hairy stems and lack of milky sap. *A. tuberosa* has nectar-rich flowers born on wide umbels, an important food source for many pollinators, including butterflies, moths, native bees, wasps, and even hummingbirds.

While not the favorite food source for the monarch, its caterpillars can be raised on the plant. Butterfly weed does not transplant well. Best propagation is by seed, which unlike most related species, does not require stratification to germinate.

Of historical note [from Wikipedia], native Americans and European pioneers boiled the roots and used them to treat diarrhea and respiratory illnesses. Young seed pods were used as food after being boiled in several changes of water to remove toxic substances, and down from the pods was spun and used to make candle wicks.



BackGarden

Plant ID apps abound. Apple has updated iPhone with a plant ID key in photoedit mode. For a list of other free plant ID apps, use www.backgarden.org/plant-identification-apps



Cornell University Ornithology Lab offers a free mobile app for bird identification - both sight and sound (bird calls).

For the link, visit www.cornell.edu

AWARDS & CONTRIBUTIONS

Funds generated by Club activities are used to support GCNJ (state) and NGC (national) objectives, through community service, awards, and contributions. Club recognition awards provide a means to recognize excellence in members who have contributed to these goals. Education awards encourage members to participate in GCNJ courses offered at Holly House. Post-Covid remote courses have provided even greater opportunities to participate in courses offered by NGC.

CLUB RECOGNITION AWARDS

Kay Cross Award

Linda Parker

(Highest rated Blue ribbon winner in Design Division)

Nancy Wallace Award

Betty Round

(Highest rated blue ribbon winner in the Horticulture Division)

Judy Kampe Award

Diana Kazazis

(Popular vote winner- best Artistic Craft in Botanical Arts Division)

Sprout Award

Regina Kelley

(For her great job as Flower Design Chair and always being willing to help)

Barbara Mullin Award for Mentoring and Educating

Nina Sylvester

(For her teaching, encouragement and support)

Agnes Eggimann Award

Carolyn Seracka

(For being Hospitality Chair and all her work for the Flower Show)

Leadership Award

Sharon Shiraga

(For being an outstanding leader)

Presidential Citations

Jeanie and Richard Pelikan- In recognition for their role as the Club Photographers.

Bety Chance- In recognition for once again stepping up to be Treasurer.

Diana Kazazis- In recognition for her inspiration and talents in getting us "Inspired" for the Flower Show.

Beth Siano- In recognition for all her help and wise counsel.

Joe Da Rold- In recognition for his invaluable contributions to the club.

“GET INSPIRED” FLOWER SHOW AWARDS

Division I

Class 4 Artist – Linda Parker
Designer’s Choice and Award of Design
Excellence.
Class 8 Dancer – Carmen Skolesky
Table Artistry Award

Division II

A2 – Inge Bossert; Award of Merit
B9 – Betty Round; Award of Merit
C10 – Regina Kelly; Award of Merit
D14 – Margot Partridge; Arboreal Award
E19 – Betty Round; Arboreal Award and
Horticultural Excellence Award.
F23 – Phil Round; Grower’s Choice Award
G29 – Gayle Lechner; Grower’s Choice
Award

Division III

A1– Karen Fricke; Botanical Arts Artistic
Crafts
B6– Barbara Spellmeyer; Botanical Arts
Photography

Division IV

Youth A1 Design – Margot Betancourt,
Mae Pinger, Lena Siano; Youth Award
B2 Artistic Crafts – Vivienne Betancourt,
Grace Yu, Arabella Morabito
B3 Artistic Crafts – Cecily Betancorp,
Grace Yu, Arabella Morabito
C Hort – Cecily Betancourt, Vivienne
Betancourt

Division V

Education
Sharon Shiraga
Award of Appreciation



Photography Popular Vote

MaryFran Annesse

Other Blue Ribbon Winners

Joann Androconis
Maryfran Annese
Jane Christiani
Kay Cross
Irene Greenstein
Elizabeth Hanscom
Karen Jolley-Gates
Diana Kazazis
Adah Levin
Eileen Morris
Maryann Pietruszki
Cheryl Rose Rubin
Carolyn Seracka
Nina Sylvester
Sharon Tittle
Karen Troiano
Mabel Woloj

EDUCATION AWARDS & MEMBER ACCREDITATIONS

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Flower Show Judge

Kay Cross, Emeritus

Margot Partridge

Nina Sylvester

Gardening Consultant

Beth Hanscom, Master

Margot Partridge, Master

Landscape Design

Beth Hanscom, Master

Margot Partridge, Master

Environmental Study

Beth Hanscom

Margot Partridge

Carolyn Seracka

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County (NJ Agricultural Experiment Station)

Master Gardener

Irene Greenstein, with Gold Pin

Inge Bossert, Tracy Criscitiello, Anna Daurio,

Liz Dwyer, Beth Hanscom, Martha Savage, Nina Sylvester,

Karen Troiano

Master Tree Steward

Irene Greenstein

CONTRIBUTIONS

Donations to Local Elementary Schools:

\$100 for gardening equipment or books to each of the following:

- * Franklin School
- * Washington School

Other Support (membership &/or donations) to:

\$1,250 total

Raptor Trust-\$250

Pinelands Commission-\$500

Rutgers Gardens for student summer internship for \$250

Brightwood Park -\$250

Contributions-in-Kind:

(provided through member hours of community service)

Community Projects 300 hrs.

Community Gardens 125 hrs.

Juniors Activities/Education 108 hrs.

Total Hours of Service: 533 hrs.



GCNJ/NGC CALENDAR 2025-2026

(For most recent up-dates, contact information, and more awards info, see GCNJ website.)

GCNJ Board Meeting- September 22, 2025, Holly House 10:00 am

Judges Council- October 1, 2025

Design Study- November 5 or 6, 2025

GCNJ Board Meeting- November 24, 2025, Holly House 10:00 am

December Luncheon and trip to Drumthwacket TBD

Judges Council- January 20, 2026

GCNJ Board Meeting- January 26, 2026, zoom 10:00 am

Design Study- March 18 or 19, 2026

GCNJ Board Meeting- March 23, 2026, Holly House 10:00 am

Flower Show School- April 6-10, 2026

Judges Council- April 21 or 22, 2026

GCNJ Board Meeting- April 27, 2026, Holly House 10:00 am

National Garden Club, Inc. Conference- May 4-6, 2026,
St. Louis, MO

Garden Club of New Jersey Annual Conference- June 3, 2026-
Old Mill Inn, 225 US 202, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Projects

- A. Plant America Keep America Beautiful
- B. Plant America Red, White and Blue to celebrate
America's 250th Birthday

Poetry Themes

- 2025 Plant for the next 100 years
- 2026 Plant America Red, White & Blue to celebrate
America's 250th Birthday

RAKE & HOE GARDEN CLUB PROGRAMS

2025-2026



*Club Programs support the annual
themes of our parent organizations:*

*NGC (national)
CAR-SGC (regional)
GCNJ (state)*

- 2025 MONTHLY PROGRAMS -

Sept. 10 – Welcome Back Auction!

A chance to showcase your talents. Bring to the auction your best offerings and services, e.g. handmade items, potted plants, floral arrangements, chits for meals and/or desserts, yard work, etc. Bring cash or checkbook. Funds raised go to our December project.

Oct. 8 – “The Changing Seasons of Container Gardening”.

Learn how to create container gardens that will span the seasons with Chris Endris.

Nov. 12 – “ Introduction to Sustainable Floral Design”.

Tania Gindili will introduce us to sustainable floral design - techniques, materials, and flowers - using some locally sourced and native varieties. We will be hosting the Garden Club of Westfield.

Dec. 10 – “Members Only”.

A time to unwind and look forward to the Holidays with a fun project!



- 2026 MONTHLY PROGRAMS -

Jan. 14 - "What's Happening to Our Forests".

Maxine Marvosa will provide a update about pests and diseases that are affecting New Jersey. She will provide an explanation for why we are seeing these changes.

Feb. 11 - "The Tea Story - History and Facts About Tea".

Peter Goggi will teach us about the history of tea and how the global tea business has emerged from the pandemic in a position of strength leveraging its naturalness, great taste and healthful properties.

Mar. 11 - "Creatures of the Night: The Bats of NJ".

Leah Wells will give a presentation about the bats of New Jersey - their health and their importance.

Apr. 8 - "The Beauty Of Bulbs".

A presentation by Bruce Crawford will cover a number of the more popular bulbs as well as many unusual and overlooked bulbs that provide color from late winter until late autumn.

May 13 - "Exploration of Plants in Perfumery".

An exploration and smelling session of the flowers and plants used in perfumery with Doug Falcone.

June 10 - ANNUAL LUNCHEON at the Echo Lake Country Club

SEPTEMBER

- Sept. 8** Board Meeting
Noon at Beth Siano home. (w/Inge Bossert)
- Sept. 10** General Meeting at Shady Rest CC.
Noon "Welcome-Back Auction".
Hospitality Team: Carolyn Seracka*
w/ Joan Barna, James Dukelow, Jeanie Pelikan,
Richard Pelikan
Flower Design: Carmen Skoletsky
- Sept. 15** Community Gardens: Miller-Cory Fall Clean-up.
10 am Meet at Miller-Cory. (*Betsy Chance, contact*)
- Sept. 16** Horticulture: Tour of Two Native Plants Gardens.
10:30 am Designer's Delight, Westfield and Mary's Meadow,
Cranford. Both women are members of the Native Plant
Society of New Jersey.
(*Mabel Woloj, Margot Partridge contacts*)
(raindate- Sept. 18)
- Sept. 17** Juniors: Brightwood Park tour and plein air event.
3:30 pm Tour of the park- discuss importance of natives.
Juniors will sketch the beauty of the park.
- Sept. 19** Community Gardens: Fall planting of urns at
10 am Mindowaskin. (*Carmen Skoletsky, contact*)
- Sept. 25** Horticulture: Plant Exchange at Karen Troiano home.
10:30 am Mini workshop immediately following on composting
by *Karen Troiano, Irene Greenstein and Margot*
Partridge. Feel free to bring a bagged lunch.
- Sept. 29** Garden B's: Hawk Watch trip to Washington Valley.
9 am Meet at Jane Christiani's. (*Jane Christiani, contact*)
(raindate- Sept. 30)

OCTOBER

- Oct. 6**
Noon Board Meeting
at Karen Troiano home. (w/Joann Androconis)
- Oct. 8**
Noon General Meeting at Shady Rest CC.
“The Changing Seasons of Container Gardening” with
Chris Endris.
Nancy Wallace Award competition- Design a flower
arrangement showcasing herbs.
Hospitality Team: Carmen Skoletsky*
w/ Joan Kylish, Gayle Lechner, Faten Mahran, Mary Lou Nolas
Flower Design: Jeanie Pelikan
- Oct. 13**
3:00 pm Garden B’s: Educational Session on use of Merlin and
other phone apps.
(Limit 12 participants) Potluck afterwards.
Meet at Inge Bossert home. (*Inge Bossert, contact*)
- Oct. 14**
1 pm Artistic Crafts: Air Dry Clay Botanicals.
Meet at Mountainside Library. (*Eileen Morris, contact*)
- Oct. 15**
10 am Community Projects: Fall Clean-up and Bulb Planting.
Meet at Jardine. (*Donna Sevchuk, contact*)
- Oct. 15**
3:30 pm Juniors: Shadowlawn clean-up and paint/permanent
markers on rocks.
- Oct. 20**
9 am Community Projects: Mini-arrangements for Mobile
Meals. Meet at Baptist Church. (*Kris Luka, contact*)
- Oct. 21**
1:30 pm Flower Design: Designing Without Oasis.
Workshop demonstrating various ways that designs can
be created using alternatives to Oasis.
Meet at Mountainside Library. (*Karen Triano, contact*)
- Oct. 22**
10 am Community Projects: Holiday tree ornaments for Jardine.
Meet at Cheryl Rubin home. (*Cheryl Rubin, contact*)
- Oct. 28**
10 am Community Projects: Sign cards for Veterans.
Meet at MaryFran Annese home. (*Maryfran Annese, contact*)

NOVEMBER

- Nov. 3** Board Meeting
Noon at Regina Kelley home. (w/Kris Luka)
- Nov. 5** Photography: Still life: Back to Basics Workshop.
1 pm Meet at Mabel Woloj home. (*Mabel Woloj, contact*)
- Nov. 6** Community Projects: Deliver cards to Veterans.
10 am Plant cabbages.
Meet at N.J. Veterans Memorial Home.
(*Donna Sevchuk, contact*)
- Nov. 7** Community Gardens: Shadowlawn Fall Cleanup.
10 am Meet at Shadowlawn.
(*Adah Levin & Barb Spellmeyer, contacts*)
- Nov. 12** Joint Meeting with GCW at Shady Rest CC.
Noon "Introduction to Sustainable Floral Design" with
Tania Gindilis.
Hospitality Team: Nancy Smith*
w/ Betsy Chance, Elena Hreczny, Margot Partridge,
Barbara Spellmeyer, Mabel Woloj
Flower Design: Karen Troiano
- Nov. 19** Juniors: Make a Thanksgiving Centerpiece.
3:30 pm Meet at Beth Siano home.
- Nov. 25** Flower Design: Thanksgiving Centerpiece.
1:30 pm Meet at the Mountainside Library.
(*Tracy Criscitiello, contact*)



DECEMBER

- Dec. 1** Board Meeting
Noon at Nany Smith home. (w/Irene Greenstein)
- Dec. 2** Community Projects: Decorate Holiday Tree at Jardine
10 am Academy.
Meet at Jardine. (*Cheryl Rubin, contact*)
- Dec. 4** Community Gardens: Winter planting of urns at
10 am Mindowaskin.
(*Carmen Skoletsky, contact*)
- Dec. 10** General Meeting at Shady Rest CC.
Noon "Members Only". A Holiday project by and for members. (*Program Committee, contact*)
Hospitality Team: Tracy Criscitiello*
w/ Inge Bossert, Irene Greenstein, Diana Kazazis, Linda Parker, Martha Savage
Flower Design: Betsy Chance
- Dec. 11** Deliver Holiday plants to Veterans.
10 am N.J. Veterans Memorial Home.
(*Donna Sevchuk, contact*)
- Dec. 17** Juniors: Terrarium project.
3:30 pm Meet at Beth Siano home.



JANUARY

- Jan. 5** Board Meeting
Noon at Tracy Criscitiello home. (w/Betsy Chance)
- Jan. 14** General Meeting at Shady Rest CC.
Noon "What's Happening to Our Forests" with Maxine Marvosa.
Photography Popular Vote Contest (Winter Holidays or Back in Time Theme).
Hospitality Team: Karen Troiano*
w/ Joann Androconis, Betty Clark, Eileen Morris
Flower Design: Eileen Morris
- Jan. 20** Artistic Crafts: Decoupage Birdhouses.
1 pm Meet at Mountainside Library. (*Betsy Chance, contact*)
- Jan. 21** By-Laws Meeting
10 am at Margot Partridge home.
- Jan. 21** Long-Range Planning Meeting
11 am at Margot Partridge home.
- Jan. 21** Juniors: Resin project.
3:30 pm Meet at Beth Siano home



FEBRUARY

- Feb. 2** Board Meeting
Noon at Sharon Shiraga home. (w/Jane Christiani)
- Feb. 11** General Meeting at Shady Rest CC.
Noon "The Tea Story– History and Facts About Tea" with Peter Goggi.
Hospitality Team: Sharon Shiraga*
w/ Regina Kelley, Adah Levin, Nina Sylvester
Flower Design: Betty Clark
- Feb. 11** Juniors: Decoupage oyster shells with napkins.
3:30 pm Meet at Beth Siano home
- Feb. 17** Community Projects: Mini-Arrangements for Mobile Meals.
9 am Meet at the Baptist Church. (*Joann Androconis, Gayle Lechner, contacts*)
- Feb. 24** Flower Design: Creating a woodland terrarium.
1:30 pm Sharon Shiraga home. (*Sharon Shiraga, contact*)
- Feb. 26** Community Projects: Make ornaments for spring tree at
10 am Jardine Academy. Meet at Mary Lou Nolas home.
(*Mary Lou Nolas, contact*)



MARCH

- Mar. 2** Board Meeting
Noon at Cheryl Rubin home. (w/Joann Androconis)
- Mar. 11** General Meeting at Shady Rest CC.
Noon "Creatures of the Night: The Bats of NJ" with Leah Wells.
Hospitality Team: Jane Christiani*
w/ Maryfran Annese, Annie Dai, Joyce Mullen, Donna Sevchuk
Flower Design: Diana Kazazis
- Mar. 18** Community Projects: Decorate Spring tree at Jardine.
10:00 am Meet at Jardine Academy. (*MaryLou Nolas, contact*)
- Mar. 18** Juniors: Floral arranging project to be given to a local
3:30 pm nursing home.
Meet at Beth Siano home.
- Mar. 24** Photography: Expressing Emotion Workshop.
1 pm Meet at Mabel Woloj home. (*Mabel Woloj, contact*)
- Mar. 25** Artistic Crafts: Steampunk decorative boxes.
1 pm Meet at Mountainside Library. (*Diana Kazazis, contact*)
- Mar. 30** Garden B's: Potluck Movie Night.
6 pm Meet at Beth Hanscom home. (*Beth Hanscom, contact*)



APRIL

- Apr. 6**
9:30 am Finance Meeting
Meet at Betsy Chance home. (*Betsy Chance, contact*)
- Apr. 6**
Noon Board Meeting
at Mabel Woloj home. (w/Carmen Skoletsky)
- Apr. 7**
10 am Community Gardens: Spring planting of urns at Mindowaskin. (*Carmen Skoletsky, contact*)
- Apr. 8**
Noon General Meeting at Shady Rest CC.
"The Beauty of Bulbs" with Bruce Crawford.
Photography Popular Vote Contest (Frame Your Way or Let It Moss Theme).
Hospitality Team: Betty Round*
w/ Diane Genco, Beth Hanscom, Kris Luka, Barbara Murphy
Flower Design: Sharon Shiraga
- Apr. 14**
1 pm Artistic Crafts: Decorative jars with dried botanicals and fairy lights.
Meet at Mountainside Library. (*MaryLou Nolas, contact*)
- Apr. 15**
3:30 pm Juniors: Project using glass jars and oil to preserve flowers.
Meet at Beth Siano home.
- Apr. 21**
2:30 pm Horticulture Workshop: "How to Garden And Treat Your Body Gently" Demonstration by local physical therapist. Meet at Inge Bossert home.
(If raining, meet at Anna Daurio home)
- Apr. 22**
10 am Community Projects: Bow making for Mother's Day Planters.
Meet at Adah Levin home. (*Adah Levin, Jane Christiani, contact*)
- Apr. 30**
9 am Garden B's: Sandy Hook Birding Trip.
Meet at Beth Hanscom home. (Beth Hanscom, contact)
(raindate- May 1)
- Apr. 30** All Awards recommendations are due to the committee.

MAY

- May 4
Noon** Board Meeting
at Beth Hanscom home. (w/Barbara Murphy)
- May 6
10 am** Community Projects: Mother's Day Planters.
Meet at Jardine Academy. (*Jane Christiani, contact*)
- May 7
10:30 am** Horticulture: Plant Exchange.
Meet at Inge Bossert home. Mini workshop on gardening skills and plant division. (*Inge Bossert, contact*)
- May 11
10 am** Community Gardens: Miller-Cory Clean-up.
Meet at Miller-Cory. (*Betsy Chance, contact*)
- May 12
10 am** Awards committee meeting.
Meet at Irene Greenstein home. (*Irene Greenstein, contact*)
- May 13
Noon** General Meeting at SRCC.
"Exploration of Plants in Perfumery" with Doug Falcone.
Kay Cross Competition- make a posy (nosegay) with fresh flowers.
Hospitality Team: Beth Siano*
w/ Sandra Cerchio, Alice Cowell, Cheryl Rubin, Liz Ryan
Flower Design: Elena Hrenzy
- May 14
1 pm** Horticulture: Private One Hour Rutgers Garden Tour.
(Rain or Shine) (*Joann Androconis, Regina Kelley contacts*)
- May 15
10 am** Community Projects: Deliver Spring Flowers to
N.J. Veterans Memorial Home. (*Donna Sevchuk, contact*)
- May 18
10 am** Community Gardens: Shadowlawn Clean-up.
Meet at Shadowlawn.
(*Adah Levin, Barbara Spellmeyer, contact*)
- May 19
8:30 am** Photography: Walking tour with expert photographer.
Location TBD. (*Mabel Woloj, contact*)
- May 20
9 am** Community Projects: Mini-Arrangements for Mobile Meals.
Meet at the Baptist Church. (*Joann Androconis, Joyce Mullen, contacts*)
- May 20
3:30 pm** Juniors: Teacup etiquette, make a teacup floral arrangement
and have a Tea Party. Meet at Cheryl Rubin home.

JUNE

- June 1** Board Meeting
Noon at Nina Sylvester home. (w/Margot Partridge)
- June 2** Community Gardens: Summer planting of urns at
10 am Mindowaskin. (*Carmen Skoletsky, contact*)
- June 5** Horticulture: Secret Garden Tour.
10 am Details to be announced. (*Joann Androconis, Barbara Spellmeyer, contacts*)
- June 10** ANNUAL LUNCHEON
Noon at Echo Lake Country Club.
with Award Presentations and Members' Photo Exhibit.



CLUB PRESIDENTS

1952 Agnes Eggimann	1987 Carol Wagner
1953 Gertrude Stuntz	1989 Barbara James
1954 Edythe Dugan	1991 Michelle Healy
1955 Ruth Gaven	1993 Linda Parker
1956 Edith Tonnessen	1995 Karyn (Tate) Oros
1957 Pat Hachmann	1997 Colleen Schmidt
1958 Mary Scott	1999 Elizabeth Hanscom
1959 Mildred Warnecke	2001 Linda Winter
1961 Marie Gilson	2003 Kris Luka
1963 Adele Breitenstein	2005 Patty Kreider
1965 Sally Thompson	2005 Pam Kolb
1966 Edythe Dugan	2007 Nancy Smith
1967 Martha Mayer	2009 Maryann Pietruszki
1969 Virginia McElroy	2011 Gayle Lechner
1971 Dora Tribble	2013 Karen Jolley-Gates
1973 Louise Thawley	2015 Diana Kazazis
1975 Pauline Hydock	2017 Pat Wilson
1977 Marian Templeton	2019 Jeanne Marie Ryan
1979 Nancy Wallace	2021 Beth Siano
1981 Jeanne Monaghan	2023 Sharon Shiraga
1983 Kay Cross	2025 Nina Sylvester
1985 Peggy Cruger	

MEETING LOCATIONS

Shady Rest Golf & Country Club

820 Jerusalem Rd., Scotch Plains, NJ
www.scotchhillsgolfcourse.com/shady-rest

The Jardine Academy

75 Rod Smith Pl., Cranford, NJ

Mobile Meals Prep

First Baptist Church of Westfield
170 Elm St., Westfield, NJ

Mountainside Public Library

1 Constitution Plaza, Mountainside, NJ
www.mountainsidelibrary.org

N.J. Veterans Memorial Home At Menlo Park

132 Evergreen Road, Edison, NJ

Gardens

Claire Brownell Memorial Garden

314 Mountain Ave., Westfield, NJ
www.westfieldhistoricalsociety.org

Mindowaskin Park Urns

East Broad St., Downtown Westfield, NJ

Miller-Cory House Museum

614 Mountain Ave., Westfield, NJ
www.millercoryhouse.com

Shadowlawn Pocket Park

Corner of Shadowlawn and Rahway Aves.
Westfield, NJ

NOTES

NOTES

2025-2026 Calendar

July 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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November 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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30						

December 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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January 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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29	30	31				

April 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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26	27	28	29	30		

May 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				