



### This issue:

President's Letter	1-2
Upcoming Events	3
Awards Desk	4-5
Judges Credentials	6
Crawford's Corner	7-10
Club News	11-12
Next Issue Deadline	12

## President's Message

"The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies."  
Gertrude Jekyll

As garden club members we share a love of gardening. We are keenly aware that gardening requires patient labor, attention, and a strong back! We plant, till, and tend and are rewarded when our work yields the beauty and sustenance that we have awaited. The love of gardening endures. Keep gardening, fellow gardeners!

Six hundred and fifty Garden club members and guests from throughout the country attended the National Garden Club's Convention at the Greenbrier Resort in West Virginia from May 1 to May 5. President-elect, Beverly Kazickas, other board Members and I were in attendance as the 2021-2023 NGC President Mary Warshauer passed the baton to 2023-2025 President, Brenda Moore. We extend our thanks and congratulations to Mary for her outstanding leadership of our national organization.



L to R Cecelia Millea, GCNJ President and Mary Warshauer, NGC President



Bob Markey recipient of NGC Award of Excellence

At the Convention's Awards Banquet, an Award of Excellence, NGC's highest honor, was bestowed upon three recipients sponsored by three different states. One of the recipients was Mr. Bob's Garden Foundation for YMCA Campers founded by our very own Bob Markey. Sponsored by the Garden Club of New Jersey, the application for Mr. Bob's Garden Foundation was submitted this past December. The NGC Award of Excellence Committee recognized the outstanding work that the Foundation is doing to promote gardening with young people. Mr. Bob's Garden Foundation teaches YMCA campers how to plant vegetables using the square foot gardening model. The campers not only plant but also tend, harvest, eat, and sell what they have grown. Bob, we are proud of you, your foundation, and the work you are doing with our youth.

The Central Atlantic Region, of which GCNJ is a member, won an Award of Excellence for its 2022 CAR-SGC project. The project called upon each of the seven CAR member state presidents to present a virtual program. Each president did a virtual program about a different topic. My virtual program was, of course, about trees. All programs were interesting and informative. Congratulations to Betty Cookendorfer, 2021-2023 CAR Region Director and Cherie Lejeune, CAR Virtual Resources Chair.

The GCNJ 97th Annual Meeting entitled, "The Garden: A Living Masterpiece", is fast approaching on June 6 at the Bridgewater Marriott. The day will include the presentation of awards, including three President's Project Grants of \$1000 each, the awarding of scholarships, merchandise offered by our vendors, the installation of the 2023-2025 officers and a presentation by our speaker, Dr. Horatio Joyce, from the Garden Conservancy, will share information about and photos of magnificent gardens that can be visited on tours offered by the Conservancy.

I want you all to know how honored I have been to serve as GCNJ's 50th president. Despite challenges presented during these past two years, I was humbled to have been asked to serve and proud to have had the opportunity to lead our fine organization. I have travelled throughout the state to attend local garden club events, meet members, and learn of the ways in which you are supporting the mission of GCNJ. Local garden clubs are the grassroots of our state organization. Your continued support and commitment are essential to the viability of garden clubs on the local, state, and national levels.

Thank you!

Warm Regards,  
Cecelia Millea

"Plant trees, invest in the future."





# Upcoming Events



**June 4, 2023** - The Women Gardeners of Ridgewood presents the 2023 Secret Gardens Tour. The tour will be held on Sunday, from 10 am - 5 pm, rain or shine. Please check our website: [womengardenersofridgewood.com](http://womengardenersofridgewood.com) or our Facebook and Instagram pages for detailed ticket information or email us at [thewomengardenersofridgewood@gmail.com](mailto:thewomengardenersofridgewood@gmail.com).

**June 6, 2023** - The 97th Annual Meeting of The Garden Club of New Jersey will be held on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, at the Bridgewater Marriott Hotel. For more information see [www.gardenclubofnewjersey.org](http://www.gardenclubofnewjersey.org)

**June 8, 2023** - The Garden Club of Westfield will be taking a bus trip to NYC - Cloisters Conservatory Garden/Met Museum. Bus leaves from Westfield parking lot across from Lord & Taylor - 630 North Ave. 8:30 am – 7:00 pm. Please contact Phyllis Pappas for more information at 732-261-7369 or [npappas121@comcast.net](mailto:npappas121@comcast.net).

**June 10, 2023** - The Garden Club of Cranford is holding a “A Peek Beyond the Garden Gate”, A Garden Tour from 1 to 3pm (Rain or Shine). Proceeds from the tour will benefit The Garden Club of Cranford, community-based activities, and the annual Frances Wismer Scholarship. For additional information email: [gardenclubofcranford@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubofcranford@gmail.com).

**June 10, 2023** – Rocky Brook Garden Club will host their “Petals and Palettes” Garden Tour of 8 gardens around Hightstown with local artists painting in the gardens, 10 am – 3 pm. Tickets sold at the ELY House - 164 North Main St., Hightstown. Contact Shirley Olsen at 609-273-2166 for more information.

**June 17, 2023** - Karen Nash Memorial Butterfly Garden GC in Washington Borough, Warren County, is having their Green Fest between 10 am and 5 pm held in the center of Washington Boro on Washington Ave and Broad Street. Contact Diana Dove at (908)763-9648 for more information.

**June 21, 2023** - The Neshanic Garden club will host youth programs from 4 pm – 4:45 pm at the Hillsborough Public Library – 379 Branch Road in Hillsborough. Please call the Children’s Dept of the library to register. All supplies donated by the Garden Club – cost is free. For more information contact Robin Shaw – Publicity Chair, Neshanic Garden Club, 908-874-6465.

## FROM THE AWARDS DESK

### 2023-24 Yearbook Overview

At the time of this writing, we are all excited about our upcoming Annual Meeting at the Marriott Hotel, where among other things, we will be celebrating the amazing accomplishments of our individual clubs in 2022-23. It has been a breakout year where our club members and communities emerged from the miasma of the pandemic. We are indeed Jersey Strong!!!



But today, I'd like to talk about Yearbooks, as once June ends, most of our clubs will begin to turn their focus to 2023-24. So, a few comments about Yearbooks, their purpose, and how they are evaluated.

First and foremost, a club's Yearbook should reflect the goals, objectives, and interests of its members. Its projects and programs should be geared toward what the club members want to hear about, and participate in. It should be a ready reference for members' information, club meeting times and locations, and meeting topics, speakers and their biographies (where appropriate), committee meetings, their meeting times and meeting locations, and where applicable, a particular focus of the club's yearly activities, as stated by the Club's president and executive board. The Yearbook is the club's roadmap for the year. With this accomplished, your club can move on to applying for Yearbook recognition.

Should you decide to apply for Yearbook recognition, here is the process for how your club can apply, and how your Yearbook is evaluated.

First - the process: Once your Yearbook is completed and printed, to apply for recognition, your club must send three copies of the Yearbook to the Awards Chair by September 15, 2023. **THIS IS A CHANGE.** Three copies to the Awards Chair are requested as one copy is provided to the GCNJ President, one copy is used by the Awards Committee to evaluate, and one fresh copy is kept in the event your Yearbook is passed along to CAR-SGC (our Regional group) for further recognition. **THIS YEAR WE WILL BE ASKING THE CLUB PRESIDENTS TO FORWARD A COPY OF THEIR YEARBOOK TO THEIR DISTRICT DIRECTOR SEPARATELY.** This will provide for a more timely receipt of the Yearbook to your District.

Now - the evaluation part: In October the Awards Committee meets to evaluate all Yearbook submissions. The committee is comprised of ten members from both the GCNJ Board and individual clubs. The committee utilizes the NGC Yearbook evaluation form that is located on the GCNJ website under Awards. This evaluation form is a boiler plate to evaluate your Yearbook against a set of measurable criteria agreed to by the National Garden Club, Central Atlantic Regional/State Garden Club and Garden Club of New Jersey. These criteria reflect the general goals and objectives of these three entities. The committee works in pairs and the Evaluation Form is completed and becomes a part of the recognition process. The Evaluation Form is broken down into three major categories: Format, Programs and Projects. Any Yearbook receiving a 95+ score will be awarded a Certificate of Merit with Gold Seal. A score of 85-94 will receive a Certificate of

Merit. ANOTHER CHANGE THIS YEAR: any club receiving a score of less than 85 will receive a Certificate of Recognition.

**Some recommendations:**

- First, no Yearbook should be produced to “win” a certificate. Again, your Yearbook is first and FOREMOST for your club’s benefit. However, if your club wants your Yearbook to be evaluated and subsequently recognized, following the evaluation sheet will help.
- If you review the sheet, you will see that there are three major categories, broken out with specific requirements. Points are established for each requirement. Taken together they will total 100 points.
- The first category - Format, refers to overall ease of use, organization, recognition of National, Regional and State senior leaders and their goals for the year. One place that some Yearbooks lose points is, for example, not putting the Garden Club of New Jersey notation on the front cover. Another is not itemizing National, Regional and State meetings, conferences, educational opportunities (e.g., GCNJ Flower Show School and dates). These usually cost 1/4 point each, deductible from the overall score of 100.
- However, the most important categories for evaluating your Yearbook are the programs and projects your club is planning for the upcoming year. How are they evaluated? Diversity and explanation... to receive the full point accreditation for these categories, your programs should reflect the goals and objectives of the three Senior organizations...civic beautification, environment, community outreach, member, and community education. Speakers’ credentials should be articulated, the more detail, the better. Member involvement in projects should be articulated, the more participation the better. Project outcomes described are a plus.
- Diversity of program formats are noted...presentations, trips, varying venues, hands-on activities for members and communities...these are all evaluated. Again, please let me stress my original point...your Yearbook, projects, and presentations should reflect your club’s priorities...maybe your club’s whole interest and focus is the environment or community outreach, maybe floral design...perfect!!! Obviously, don’t change anything!! Maybe as a change of pace you may want to hold a floral design workshop or plan a meeting/trip to a local park or arboretum... but again, only if it makes sense and engages your members and/or your communities.
- I hope this helps as you begin planning your 2023-24 Yearbook. If you decide to enter the evaluation process, I am happy to help in any way that I can. Good luck and I hope to see you at the Annual meeting in June!

Peggy Morrissey

Awards Chair

[peggymorrissey67@yahoo.com](mailto:peggymorrissey67@yahoo.com)

## JUDGES CREDENTIALS

All judges who refresh in 2023 may use credits earned in 2020, 2021 and 2022. This provision expires at the end of 2023.

**A reminder:** Accredited Judges - Only one excess judging credit earned in the year prior to refreshing, but not used, may be applied toward your next refresher.

The timeframe between refreshers for Accredited Judges has been reduced to every four months if all requirements to refresh are fulfilled (new).



For all judges (From: Judges Chapter 12 – pages 117- 119):  
Regarding Judging Credit - A Horticulture Specialty Flower Show requires one (1) class in Horticulture and five (5) classes in any of the four Divisions (i.e., Horticulture, Education, Youth/Sponsored or Botanical Arts).

A Design Specialty Flower Show requires three (3) classes of Design or two (2) classes of Design and one (1) class in any of the Divisions (Design, Education, Youth/Sponsored Groups or Botanical Arts).

Exception: Photography is not eligible for judging credit.

Serving on an Evaluation Panel as a Life or Master Judge is a Judging Credit.

Accredited and Life Judges who take and pass the point scoring exam at a Symposium earn one judging credit toward the next refresher.

Jane Bersch  
GCNJ Judges Credentials Chairman  
[janebersch@aol.com](mailto:janebersch@aol.com)



# CRAWFORD'S CORNER

## An Old Garden Favorite Now Reborn

There are certain plants that gardeners learn about and adore in their youth and then dismiss as mundane when they begin to garden for themselves. I am not certain why, but perhaps it is the assumption that if our parents grew the plants, they are old fashioned or simply too common. *Monarda* or Beebalm, pictured at right with Queen of the Prairie (*Filipendula rubra*) was one of those plants for me. I recall how the red flowers glowed in my parents' garden, and I enjoyed its ability to attract a variety of bees and pollinators, as its common name certainly confirms. However, when I first started to use it in designs, its aggressive nature and lackluster autumn appearance caused me to dismiss this genus. As is often the case, age and experience has changed my opinion!



*Monarda* is in the Lamiaceae or Mint Family, as is made evident by the aromatic foliage and square stems that are typical to this family. The genus contains around 20 species native to regions throughout North America. Viable seed of this yet unnamed red flowered species was first sent to England in 1744 by the American Botanist John Bartram (1699-1777). The genus name was penned by Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778) in 1753 and honors Nicolás Monardes (1493-1588) who was the physician for King Philip II of Spain, as well as a well-respected botanist. Although Monardes never actually travelled to North America, he wrote



an extensive 3 volume treatise with the volumes published in 1565, 1571, and 1574 respectively, on medicinal plants of North and South America. The information was based upon materials brought back from explorations of the New World by various plant explorers, soldiers, merchants, and royal officials. The plant of my youth, *Monarda didyma* is native from Georgia to Maine and west to the

Mississippi. The species epithet was crafted by Linnaeus from the Latin meaning “in pairs” or “twins”, referring to the stamens that are gathered in pairs under the upper lip of the flower and beneath the protruding style (as pictured above).

Typical to the genus, the flowers of *Monarda didyma* appear in dense terminal clusters of 20-50 atop 24-30" stems that are deep red for this species. The flowers are generally 1-1½" long and are two lipped; the upper lip is narrow and arches upwards, while the lower lip consists of 3 individual parts, with the central lobe the largest. This species is often called



Oswego Tea. The common name reflects the history of how members of the Iroquois Native American Indians, who had settled in Oswego NY, taught the European settlers the medicinal benefits of a tea steeped from the plant's leaves. When John Bartram traveled to Fort Oswego in 1774, he enjoyed a tea made from *Monarda didyma* and from ensuing correspondence with his friends and colleagues, the common name evolved!

This species is also commonly called Bergamot, since the fragrance of the foliage closely resembles that of a Bergamot Orange, a citrus native to Southern Italy. The red flowers are also a magnet for Ruby Throated Hummingbirds and Fritillary Butterflies! The cultivar I knew from my youth was "Cambridge Scarlet", which dates back to 1913 or earlier (as seen in the two images above and in the closing picture). It better endures dryer soils than most, a point I can verify as it is growing in dry regions adjacent to Eastern Red Cedars in my garden. Another good red selection is "Gardenview Scarlet" which is also powdery mildew resistant. Powdery mildew is one of the biggest issues with the foliage of this species during late summer, as seen in the image above, especially in areas with poor ventilation. Otherwise, the plants prefer average to moist, humus enriched soils, are hardy in zones 4-9, and will spread by underground rhizomes.

Although *Monarda didyma* is probably the best-known species, there are numerous other species that are excellent garden-worthy plants. The species that Linnaeus first described

and is the "type" species for the genus to which all others are compared is *Monarda fistulosa* (pictured to the right). The species epithet is from the Latin *fistulosus* meaning narrow duct or passage and describes the tubular shape of the corolla. Native to most of North America, this species is often found in old fields of Northern NJ, but I have also seen it in prairies near the Black Hills of South Dakota, a testament to its



zone 3-9 hardiness! It brandishes light to medium pink flowers in mid-August through September. Unlike its aforementioned cousin, it is less susceptible to powdery mildew and it



grows happily to 3' tall in drier soils! It was also utilized medicinally by the Native American Indians, both as a tea to treat colds and as an anti-septic for minor skin wounds and infections. It was even used as a seasoning in the preparation and cooking of wild game. It too spreads via rhizomes, albeit much slower than its cousin, and throws numerous seedlings, allowing it to colonize large gardens or meadows. However, I would hardly call it weedy! In winter, the dried flower receptacles are a joy to study closely, as the clusters of 5-sided sepals provide an interesting and intricate geometric display, as seen above. The flowers attract large numbers of pollinators, including the Eastern Swallowtail Butterfly and the Hummingbird Clearwing Moth.



Another species that I have discovered in more recent years is *Monarda bradburiana* or Bradbury's Beebalm. John Bradbury (1768-1823) was a Scottish naturalist who explored regions of Missouri and areas surrounding the Mississippi River, areas well within this species native reach of the Central and Southern United States. The plant was named in honor of Bradbury in 1826 by Lewis Caleb Beck (1798-1853), an American physician, botanist, and chemist. This species blooms earlier than those previously described, as it



reveals dense 3" diameter heads of purplish pink to nearly white flowers from late May into June (pictured to the left). The flowers are enhanced by a subtending whorl of leafy purple bracts that appear before the actual flowers begin to open. Clump forming in nature, the mildew free foliage also displays attractive purple and red fall colors, as displayed on the next page, which linger well into November!

Like *Monarda fistulosa*, the plants do well in drier, well-drained soils in full sun or light shade, although they can tolerate short periods of inundation and grow best in zones 5-8. The plants actually grow best in less fertile soils, as fertile soils will cause the plants to flop open in mid-summer and become rather unsightly. As an aside, they do very well on green roofs!

Providing flowers and nutrition for pollinators from May to September, *Monarda* is easily woven into a sunny or part-shade garden composition. Certainly hardy throughout NJ, they look great blended with low and mid-sized ornamental grasses, as well as with various shrubs in a mixed border. The fragrance of the foliage also makes them highly deer resistant, a bonus every gardener can appreciate! As is so often the case, plants of our youth that we so often dismiss as dull or routine are actually phenomenal plants, again proving that age and experience only helps to improve the gardener and the garden!



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## Club News

### Garden Club of LBI: Art in Bloom



Putting flowers together with art are (left sitting) Daniella Kerner, Executive Director of the Long Beach Island Foundation of the Arts, with (center standing) Carol Freas, local artist and chair of the event for the Garden Club, and (right) Michele Farias, President of The Garden Club of LBI.

(Submitted by: Gillian Rozicer)

### Garden Club of LBI helps seniors...GETTING IN THE SPIRIT OF SPRING



With a bright spring sun streaming through their windows and dozens of orchid pink roses everywhere, residents of Genesis HealthCare Center in Manahawkin created beautiful arrangements to share in their rooms and around the hallways.

Ten members of The Garden Club of LBI arrived at Genesis on March 22 with bouquets of roses, peachy pink Peruvian lilies, and snow-white baby's breath. They brought garden clippers and greens from their own gardens. Recreation director Nicole Demeski and her staff brought a dozen residents to the spacious, sun-filled dining room and set up a long table for flower arranging.



The Senior Services Committee of The Garden Club of LBI creates a floral workshop program for senior groups throughout the area, eight times a year. Cathy Sutton of Manahawkin is chair with co-chairs JoAnne McKee and Cathy Ruch of Barnegat Light.

Soon the room was heavily scented with roses and looked like a scene from a spring wedding. Garden Club members guided the seniors in flower choices and helped with stubborn stems.

"Roses are my favorite flower," said Alice, age 88, "I'll take any color." As they prepared to leave with their creations, resident Carol Harris stood and thanked the Garden Club for "fun and good times."

Another resident was heard to say, "I love yellow roses, my husband always sent them....."

(Submitted by Gillian Rozicer)

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### ***Information for the next issue:***

***July 1st is the deadline for articles for The Fall 2023 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](mailto:k.eardley@live.com)



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

***Enjoy your Summer!!***