1996-1997 Annual Reports

PLAINFIELD GARDEN CLUB

MEMBER OF
GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA
GARDEN CLUB OF NEW JERSEY
Another busy year for the Plainfield Garden Club has passed. We are now one of 192 clubs in the Garden Club of America. As GCA grows, so does our club. This year we welcomed Beth Harbaugh of Westfield as a new member. And, we have two zone representatives: Elizabeth Loizeaux, Zone IV Medal Awards Chairman, and Sally Kroll, Zone IV Representative to GCA Public Relations.

Our club continues to support our own and other local flower shows. Nena Weil has ably encouraged our members, providing artistic workshops to help us learn. As a result, members of the Plainfield Garden Club have received many awards. Additionally, Sally Kroll, our horticulture chairman, has planned valuable workshops; many of us are now eagerly watching small seedlings as they mature. And, in the area of conservation, Penny Taylor and Barbara Poon inform our membership and lead us in protecting "our own back yard" as well as enriching it with the new Butterfly Garden at Roosevelt School in Westfield. Barbara Kang has again planned a good and exciting programs.
We, with other GCA clubs, look to the future as we plan for Project 2000, expressing our club's contribution to the New Century. And, we look forward to "Shakespeare in Bloom" when we proudly host our community at the Shakespeare Garden on June 7th.

G.C.A. has announced that it is seeking new quarters in New York City and also that effective July 1, 1998, each member's dues will increase by $10. Lastly, our membership has voted that our club no longer be a member of the Garden Club of New Jersey in order to more fully concentrate in G.C.A. projects and concerns.

It has been a privilege for me to be your president for the last two years. As I pass the gavel in June to Nina Weil, I have every confidence that our club is in wonderful hands.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diana Madsen
PLAINFIELD GARDEN CLUB

Treasurer's Annual Report
May 1, 1996 - April 30, 1997

Operating Account

Balance 5/1/96

RECEIPTS

Dues $3,030.00
24 Active @$70 $1,680.
1 " @ 35 35.
1 " @ 30 30.
5 Sustaining @ $75 375.
14 Affiliate @ $65 910.
Member Party 520.00
Assessment 1999 GCA 697.50
Miscellaneous 51.49

TOTAL RECEIPTS $4,298.99

DISBURSEMENTS

GCA Dues $1,137.50
45 Members @ $25
1 " @ $12.50
GCA Insurance 45.00
GCA of NJ 43 @ $3.25 139.75
Taxes 15.00
Printing Postage 451.96
Program 540.50
Meetings/Conferences 1,140.00
Miscellaneous 10.48
Member Party 66.78
GCA 1999 Annual Meeting 705.00

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS $4,251.97

Balance Checking 4/30/97 $2,461.64
Balance Savings 5/1/96 $2,340.23
Interest 47.17
Balance Savings 4/30/97 $2,387.40
Balance Operating Account 4/30/97 $4,849.04
PLAINFIELD GARDEN CLUB

Treasurer's Annual Report
May 1, 1996 - April 30, 1997

Community Account

Balance 5/1/96 $6,926.44

**RECEIPTS**

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**Balance Community Account 4/30/97**

$3,504.66

$6,329.33

Plant Sale 1996

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Profit $1,241.19
The Plainfield Garden Club

Second Vice-President Report

This year it was decided to have our fund-raiser reflect the community. A special day *Shakespeare in Bloom* will occur June 7, 1997 from 10 - 4. This day the garden will come alive as we host tours and also feature talents and merchandise including plants and topiary by Ken Selody of Atlock Farms (a nationally known topiary expert), garden related items for purchase from Richard Roberts, LTD, fine dried florals from Ferguson and McQuillan plus horticultural our own members supplying gardening assistance advice and sale of some plants and other items.

In addition, we will be entertained with Elizabethan music by Ars Musica Antiqua and Mr. Selody will give a lecture and demonstration on topiaries and container gardening. Refreshments will be available at a nominal cost and gardening questions will be answered.

We have had wonderful cooperation from the Union County parks and recreation staff, the Union County Park Police, the Plainfield Police and so many of our members. We believe that this community inclusive effort will be a very positive influence on the community and public at large.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Turner
Copies of the annual reports were mailed to the affiliate members in June.

The Yearbook inserts were compiled and printed during the summer and were distributed to all members by the end of August.

Postcard reminders were sent to all active and sustaining members preceding the 9 monthly meetings.

The secretary wrote the following correspondence:
   A letter to Mrs. Prince H Gordon (Nancy Kroll) acknowledging her change to affiliate membership
   A thank-you note to Aniello Romano & Son, Inc. for help at the butterfly garden
   A note of sympathy to Mrs. Cynthia MacGonagle upon the death of her mother, Mrs. DeWitt Barlow, Jr

With the addition of one new member, Mrs. Mark Harbaugh and the death of Mrs. Barlow, the membership stands today as follows:

   24 actives
   5 sustainers
   14 affiliates
   2 honorary
   45 total

Respectfully Submitted,

May 14, 1997

Jane S. Burner
May 21, 1997

Plainfield Garden Club
Annual Report
Admissions Committee

The Admissions Committee is pleased to report that Mrs. Mark Harbough (Beth) has accepted our invitation to become a member of our club. Her address is 106 Stanmore Place, Westfield, N.J. 07090.

Respectfully Submitted

Sally Booth
Elisabeth Loizeaux
Harvest Show - September 13-15 - Frelinghuysen Arboretum

**Tussie-Mussie Class**

Bernice Swain made an arrangement of fresh herbs that won a blue ribbon.

For Diana Madsen and Nina Weil, Betty Hackman not only gave us the doilies but also dried herbs from the Shakespeare Garden. We had a workshop at Betty's house. Diana won a blue ribbon and I won a red ribbon in the dried category.

Rumson Show - September 25-26 - "Shore Watch"

Plainfield had to enter two classes in the artistic schedule. Carroll Keating and Nina Weil entered Class II-Right Tern. They received an Honorable Mention. Jeanne Turner was kind to enter Class IV-Hidden Treasure after the class she wanted had been filled. The schedule was difficult and proved to be inexact when we arrived. We definitely need partners to help in every step of the way including carrying and organizing the arrangement and the pick up afterwards.

Joint Meeting with the Garden Club of the Oranges - November 20 - Orange Lawn Tennis Club

"Christmas All Through the House"

The Orange Lawn Tennis Club is a lovely old home and a wonderful one to have a flower show. Sue Swik was head of the Garden Club of the Oranges exhibitions committee and was a delight to work with. There were eight (8) judges for three (3) classes.

**Class I: "Deck the Halls" - A Mass Arrangement On A Pedestal**

**FIRST** Betty Berry - Garden Club of the Oranges

**SECOND** Jeanne Turner

**THIRD** Bernice Swain

**HONORABLE MENTION** Sally Kroll

Hillary Delany

**Class II: "Home for the Holidays" - A Christmas Wreath**

**FIRST** Betty Hackman

**SECOND** Nancy Farley - Garden Club of the Oranges

**THIRD** Barbara Stern - Garden Club of the Oranges

**HONORABLE MENTION** Sally Booth

Mary Kent
Class III: "Joy To The World - Centerpiece

FIRST  Diana Madsen  
        Evie Madsen  
SECOND Mary Ann Gonder  
       Nina Weil  
THIRD  Jane Burner  
       Barbara Peek  

HONORABLE MENTION - Liz Gruen

March 1997 Challenge Class - Flower Arranging

Barbara Bromley from the Princeton Garden Club critiqued our challenge class. There were four (4) arrangements for Barbara to review and discuss. The names of the arrangers were drawn out of a hat. These were:

Sally Kroll  Tucker Trimble  
Elizabeth Loizeux  Jane Burner

Daffodil Show - April 18-19 - Frelinghuysen Arboretum

Jeanne Turner and Nina Weil entered the pedestal class which is judged by popular vote. Our club received first prize. The Plainfield Garden Club's name will be inscribed on the silver bowl at the arboretum.

Flower Arranging Demonstration At Nina Weil's House By Bernice Swain - May 2

Bernice Swain created a mass arrangement for the dining room table that was requested by FOSH for their house tour on May 4. Bernice also made a free form arrangement with driftwood and lilies and two (2) others - one using Sweet William and the other using Tulips.

The members could come and watch or bring their own containers and work on an arrangement for their homes.

Garden Club of Englewood - May 14-16 - Flower Show

Carroll Keating entered Class IV - Spring Song - a free style arrangement to be displayed on a pedestal.

Nina Weil - Chairman  
Betty Hackman  
Jeanne Turner  
Carroll Keating
The two horticulture workshops this year were incorporated into the regular monthly meetings. The first was a propagating workshop. As our aim at the '97 Plant Exchange for the Annual Meeting was to have six different growers (especially novices), a propagating kit, which consisted of a container, soiless mix, instructions for propagating which were taken from the GCA Bulletin, and a list of acceptable plants, was distributed to every member of the club, along with discussion on propagating from experienced members. We achieved the goal of six different growers thanks to Sally Booth, Jane Craig, Sally Kroll, and novice exhibitors Barbara Peek, Jane Burner, and Mary Kent.

The second workshop involved plants grown from seeds. The two plants chosen were Asclepias tuberosa (Butterfly Weed), and Arisaema triphyllum (Jack-in-the-pulpit). The seeds, a starter container, and soil was distributed at the opening Spring clean-up meeting at the Shakspeare Garden. Almost every member participated.

The May membership meeting was the horticulture meeting which involved a garden tour and lecture at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum given by Helen Mageau, director of horticulture there.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Kroll
Horticulture chairman
This year has been particularly active, stimulating and fulfilling. The year began in September with Barbara Peek and I attending the Zone IV Biennial meeting in Sandy Hook, New Jersey. The Conservation Speaker, Ms. Cindy Zipf, Executive Director of Clean Ocean Action, informed us of the tremendous progress made in reducing ocean dumping.

Shortly, thereafter, Anne Klemme, Zone IV Conservation Chairman hosted a meeting for club conservation chairmen. Here it became evident that the most pressing conservation issues were in land use. We later received the GCA Responsible Land Use position statement which is a "Tool Box of Solutions" for land use problems.

Also this month, Barbara Peek, Barbara Lang and I met with Cynthia MacGonagle, a middle school science teacher. We began the plans for our cooperative efforts with the Student Environmental Club to create a Butterfly Garden at the Roosevelt Intermediate School.

Sally Booth donated some of the Butterfly Garden plants she had purchased from the Harvest Show. Barbara Peek arranged for the garden to be turned. Members of the Environmental Club joined Barbara Lang, Tucker Trimble and me after school on six Tuesdays to further prepare the soil, plant and mulch.

October, we continued our work in the Butterfly Garden. The Conservation Club meeting was hosted at Anne Sheppard’s home and Pat Keenan of the NJ Audubon Society spoke on the "Backyard Habitat for Birds". Information was distributed regarding purchasing wildflowers and wild plants that are only from cultivated stock, thus preserving wild sources.

November, the fall planting of the Butterfly Garden was completed. Further plantings will occur in the Spring. Shirley Cameron called and requested telephone calls and letters be written to the US Army Corp of Engineers regarding the Mega Mall Development of the Meadowlands. Calls were made and Anne Klemme and Shirley kept us informed of developments.

December, Shirley Cameron shared with us that the Army Corp had not made a decision as to the Meadowlands and that the EPA, Fish & Wildlife and the Audubon Society had also expressed deep concern. She thanked us for our support, which I conveyed to the Club. Also received and read was the Roosevelt Environmental Club’s thank you note for the fall planting of the Butterfly Garden.
CONSERVATION REPORT

January. Betty Hackman brought to our attention a concern over community gardens in New York City being reclaimed for development. The Zone IV conservation Chairman and Zone III Chairman were contacted. Barbara Sanford contacted me in regard to a massive Army Corp project under construction in Central Jersey, the Greenbrook Flood Control Project. Sally Booth also brought to my attention a well written editorial on the "Greenbrook Project". Anne Klemme sent additional information. Barbara Peek and I continued to research the issue.

February. Chairman Shirley Cameron of Englewood called to inform us the planned "Mall in the Meadowsland" had been delayed 1 year pending an environmental impact study. She again thanked the Club for its’ support. Barbara Peek attended a Zone IV Conservation Chairman Meeting hosted at Anne Klemme’s where Maureen Ogden spoke on the tremendous impact citizens make on public issues. Barbara Peek and I attended a US Army Corp Public Meeting and Exhibit on the Greenbrook Flood Control Project. We were disheartened over the amount of damage to the Wetlands and the Watchung Reservation. And bewildered over the $400 million cost to Federal, State and Local taxpayers. We presented our concerns and information to the Club, gave each member postcards and a list of elected officials and requested they urge the officials to scale down the project to preserve forested, wetlands and open areas, and tax dollars. Members also signed a Club position letter which was sent to all officials.

Barbara Lang hosted a meeting to discuss purchasing a "Songbird Connection" kit for a variety of School Systems. Present were Ramona Ferguson, Barbara Peek, Beth Harbaugh, Diana Madsen and myself. It was decided to move ahead with the purchasing of 4 "Songbird Connection" kits from the New Jersey Conservation Foundation for a Westfield and a Plainfield public elementary school and the private schools of Oaknoll and Wardlaw. Liaisons with the schools were established to provide support and feedback. Beth would be the liaison to the Westfield school, Ramona to the Plainfield school and Oaknoll and Mary Kent to Wardlaw.

An 8" x 10" black and white before photograph of the Butterfly Garden, along with a plant design showing what the Students and Club Members accomplished was sent in as our ECO-exchange Project for the GCA annual meeting in Philadelphia.

March. We were pleased to report Congressman Bob Franks had announced a scaling back of the Greenbrook Flood Control Project and thanked all club members for contacting our elected officials, but added we must remain vigilant in its’ progression. The "Songbird" liaisons had all contacted their schools and were waiting the kit orders. The Budleia at the Butterfly Garden was cut back and fertilized.
CONSERVATION REPORT

April. A personal letter from Assemblyman Richard Bagger was received thanking us for expressing our opposition to the Greenbrook Flood Control Project and informing us the Watchung Reservation portion had been deleted. He reassured us he would keep our concerns in mind. Three Songbird Connection Kits had been received and distributed to the school liaisons.

May. We met with Ms. MacGongle and the School Environmental Club regarding Spring plantings of the Butterfly Garden. After May 15th specific plants which attract butterflies will be planted jointly by the Students and Club Members.

Discussions with Emile DeVito, author of the "Songbird Connection" have begun. He has offered to give his presentation to our Club Members and the Cederbrook Elementary School in the fall. Details are being worked out presently.

Plans for a Conservation Table at the June "Shakespeare in Bloom" Fund Raiser are being made.

Every month the GCA Hotline was contacted and pertinent information from the GCA Conservation Watch was relayed to the Club.

This has been a full and rewarding year for conservation. Many thanks to Barbara Lang, Tuckler Trimble, Sally Booth, Barbara Sanford, Betty Hackman, Ramona Ferguson, Mary Kent and Beth Harbough.

A special thank you and appreciation to my Co-chairman, Barbara Peek.

Respectfully Submitted

Penny Taylor
Conservation Chairman
Plainfield Garden Club  
Program Report  
1996-1997

In September a trip to the Harvest Show at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum was scheduled. There was no meeting and attendance was optional.

The October meeting was held at Anne Shepherd’s house. Lunch was provided by the hostesses. The speaker was Pat Keenan, Director of the NJ Audubon Society who gave a wonderful talk and showed her slideshow “Backyard Habitat for Birds”. This was the Conservation meeting. For Horticulture, members brought their last perennials and/or vegetables.

In November we held a joint meeting with Garden Club of the Oranges at the Orange Lawn Tennis Club. The program was “Christmas All Through the House” by Joan Havens, and a flower show incorporating the Christmas theme was held. There were 3 classes, with 3 entries from each club and 4 Invitational Class entries — 2 from each club. The pre-arranged lunch was purchased by each member and was served by the Orange Lawn Tennis Club staff. This was fantastic since hostesses did not need to worry about providing lunch in addition to setting up two meeting areas and the flower show! In addition, the club lent itself extremely well to the Christmas decoration theme of the flower show. This was our Exhibitions meeting.

In December we took a field trip to GCA Headquarters at 598 Madison Avenue in New York. The program, in addition to seeing the GCA’s Christmas decorations was “A Glimpse of GCA” slides. This provided new members with a good background of the scope of GCA programs throughout the country. Members paid $15 for lunch served by GCA. It was a great day.

The January meeting was held at Crescent Avenue. Guests were invited to attend the meeting and program. Jeanne Will gave a fabulous program showing us her spectacular slides of “Gardens of the British Isles”. She is a wonderful speaker full of enthusiasm and knowledge.

The club brunch was held on Sunday, January 26 at Marty and Ed Samek’s. All members brought something delicious to share.

February’s meeting was held at Crescent Avenue. Sandwiches were ordered. Dr. Bruce Hamilton, Director of Rutgers Gardens and Professor of Landscape Architecture, gave us a very helpful program on “Ground Covers, What are the Options”.

In March at the church, we had a Flower Arranging Workshop and Challenge Class. Four names were drawn from a hat ahead of time and given the same containers
and plant material which they brought in to be critiqued, not judged. All participants were very talented! Members brought forced bulbs and/or branches for horticulture.

April was the spring clean-up at the Shakespeare Garden. Lots was accomplished. Our meeting followed with sandwiches provided by hostesses at Barbara Sandford’s house. We worked extra hard because of the upcoming tour of the garden in June.

May was the Horticulture meeting. We met at the Frelinghuysen for a wonderful garden tour and lecture. We brought our lunch and had our meeting in a room provided by the Frelinghuysen at no charge.

June is our year-end picnic to be held at Bev Reid’s lovely “farm”. We are hoping for a gorgeous day. Diana Madsen and Tucker Trimble will bring pictures of the Annual Meeting in Philadelphia and we will hold a brief meeting.

The budget for the program is $850. We were able to put this program together for approximately $700. Having a joint meeting enabled us to have a more expensive speaker than we would ordinarily pay. Additionally, some speakers will accept only a donation to his or her organization in lieu of payment. Also, being a member of the Frelinghuysen we are entitled to one free program and use of the facility per year.

A special thanks to all the wonderful hostesses and committee chairmen who helped us with program ideas and implementation.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Lang
MaryAnn Gonder
Officers nominated to serve 1997-98

President: Nina Weil
1st VP: Tucker Trimble
2nd VP: Sally Kroll
Treasurer: Anne Shepherd
Recording Secretary: Joan Vivian
Corresponding Secretary: Jane burner

Delegates to the GCA Annual Meeting held in Philadelphia were:
Diana Madsen and Tucker Trimble

The Nominating Committee consisted of Betty Hackman, Sally Kroll and Anne Shepherd.

Respectfully submitted

Joan Vivian, Chairman
May 14, 1997
The Shakespeare Garden

Annual Report 1996-97

A big decision for the management of the Shakespeare Garden was initiated in the spring of '97. This plan calls for the division of the Garden into four sections with members of the club equally divided into each group headed by a chairman. One person remains as overall chairman who will coordinate the planting and horticultural needs of the various sections. She will act as liaison between the Park and the Club. Aside from dividing the work load, one chairman to give it will allow members to become more knowledgeable of the planting within her area. Emphasis will be placed on identification of common and botanical names.

The summer of '96 was a worst one and many herbs were not happy, most especially the lavender heavily out back in April. Two new plants withered and died as did many linum. Moss was found growing so lime was added with plans to add more during the year.

Two new roses were purchased for the circle and the rose Zephirine Drouhin, a beautiful scented plant, was transplanted to the circle from a shady area under the dogwood.
The myrtle garden in which the plants have been slowly dying was tested with no cause found for the decline. It is now being rejuvenated with new soil and myrtle seedlings. Edging with metal strips will replace the unsightly plastic. A slate as a stepping stone will be placed in front of the sundial.

The Medlar Pear came through the winter in better condition than it ever has. New plants were added. The rue green onions does not winter well. Perhaps salt hay will help as it has the teakrum border. The annual globe amaranth made so much color in the fall as was increased the number in each clump. Nasturtiums are colorful but the celosia growth was poor.

The garden is being replenished in anticipation of the Garden Club's 1997 Project and tear "Shakespeare in Bloom". there is much work to do but most everyone is eager to dig and plant so all should be beautiful by June 7.

My sincere thanks for the interest and support of the Shakespeare Committee.

Respectfully,
Evelyn Madsen (ch.)

Bernice Swain
Mary Kent
Peggy Taylor
Jean Nivian

Barbara Sandford
Betty Hackman
Sally Booth
Diana Madsen
SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Plainfield Garden Club heard about each of the nine scholarships available during the year - one was reported on each month. The name of one student from Cook College was submitted to Sue Dyckman, Zone IV Chairman, by The Plainfield Garden Club.

GCA has announced a new fellowship - The Fellowship in Ecological Restoration Fund. It also announced 248 applications were made in 1997-8, and 22 winners were chosen for a total of $81,000. for scholarships, fellowships, awards or stipends.

VISITING GARDENS

Since The Plainfield Garden Club schedule was so full this year, a field trip was not planned. However, we are considering a trip to Matterhorn sometime next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernice L. Swain

Bernice L. Swain