PLAINFIELD GARDEN CLUB

1998 – 1999

MEMBER OF
GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA
PLAINFIELD GARDEN CLUB

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our members have been working diligently both in our club and in Zone 1V. Tucker Trimble, our first Vice President, our newsletter editor, and one of our NJ Committee reps took the Master Gardener’s course at the Union County Extension with Mary Kent and Susan Fraser. Tucker also volunteered on the Decorations Committee for the Annual Meeting.

Sally Kroll, our second Vice President, chaired the Awards Dinner for 600 people at the Annual Meeting. With the help of 8 volunteers from our club the evening was a great success.

Joan Vivian, our Recording Secretary, has kept our minutes and put order into our lengthy discussions.

Jane Burner, our Corresponding secretary, has kept us in touch with our affiliates and put together our directory every summer.

Anne Shepherd, our Treasurer, lets us know where our money goes and how much we can spend.

Diana Madsen and Marty Samek, Co-Chairs of Admissions were extremely successful in bringing in wonderful new members. Diana outdid herself as Zone Chairman working with all 12 clubs throughout the year. She was also our rep to the NJ Committee.

Barbara Sandford and Tucker chaired our new Civic Projects Committee. Barbara’s idea for a window box project with a Girl Scout troop at the Shakespeare Garden is in place. We have made new friends and our relationship with them will continue with community projects next year.

Our Conservation Chairs, Penny Taylor and Diane Carpenter, were invited to breakfast with Governor Whitman for their work endorsing Proposition 1 (preservation of 1 million acres of open spaces). The Conservation Committee worked with Ricky Lang Jr. on an Eagle Scout project removing invasive Barberry plants and replacing them with native trees at the Trailside Nature Center in Mountainside, NJ.

Our Flower Arranging Co-Chairs Jeanne Turner and Carroll Keating organized 2 workshops. One was at Carroll’s home. Betty Hackman refreshed our knowledge of how to prepare for a flower show and Ramona Ferguson helped us create dried flower arrangements. At our second workshop guest speakers Helen Goddard and Ruth Crocker inspired us to create modern floral arrangements. Our members had entries in the Harvest, Daffodil and Summit Show receiving a Yellow Ribbon at the Harvest Show and two Red Ribbons and one Yellow Ribbon at the Summit Show. Carroll and Beth Harbaugh created a beautiful arrangement for “Drumthwacket in Bloom”.

Our Horticulture Co-Chairs, Sally Booth and Mary Kent, organized 2 successful workshops at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. Our members entered the Harvest, Summit, and Daffodil Show receiving Blue Ribbons in all 3 shows and Diana Madsen received the Emily C. Stuart Memorial Trophy at the Daffodil Show. Through Sally and Mary’s efforts our Shakespeare Garden received a grant of $2,500 for a much-needed sprinkler system. Mary has written to the Parks Dept. stating our needs for the Garden and Evie Madsen wrote to the Freeholders explaining the need for additional help from the Parks Dept. to maintain the Garden. Upon receiving a copy of Evie’s letter Mayor McWilliams also wrote to the Freeholders. The Shakespeare Garden received a Historic Preservation Commendation from Union County in 1998. It is our on-going community project and through our Civic Projects Committee work with the Girl Scout troop we have embarked on our Project 2000 which involves using the Garden as an open classroom.

Betty Packman chaired 3 committees this year, all of which were very active. Her Nomination Committee selected our officers for next year. For Garden History and Design Betty documented Beverly Reid’s garden for the Smithsonian Museum. Betty and Elizabeth Loizeaux co-chaired our Program Committee which I am learning involves a great deal of work ahead of time and throughout the year.

Barbara Sandford won the Stafford Award from Scenic America for her lifetime efforts to fight billboards and to preserve natural beauty. Tucker Trimble’s Lady’s Mantle column of advice was featured in the GCA Bulletin.

The Annual Meeting in Parsippany, NJ was an enormous commitment for our club this year and is the reason we did not have our Shakespeare in Bloom or a flower show. Sally Booth was the Medallists Liaison for the Awards Dinner. Every one of our members volunteered in some capacity for the meeting. It was an exciting and rewarding experience and our club was proud to be part of such a successful event.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
# Plainfield Garden Club

## Treasurer's Annual Report

May 1, 1998 - April 30, 1999

### Operating Account

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PLAINFIELD GARDEN CLUB
Treasurer’s Annual Report
May 1, 1998 - April 30, 1999

Community Account

Balance 5/1/98 $5,800.77

RECEIPTS

Interest $52.62
Shakespeare in Bloom 886.93
N.J. Committee (for Shakespeare Sprinkler) 2,500.00
Shakespeare Donations 60.00

Total Receipts $3,499.55

DISBURSEMENTS

Shakespeare Garden $721.88
Butterfly Garden 148.12
Eco Project 185.00
Cedarbrook School 25.66
World Wildlife 25.00
N.J. Audubon 50.00
The Wilderness Society 25.00
Scenic New Jersey 50.00
Friends of Frelinghysen 75.00
Greater Newark Conservancy 100.00
Skylands Assoc.-- 100.00
Raptor Trust 25.00
N.J. Conservation 75.00
Student Conservation 250.00
Great Swamp 50.00
Interchange Fellowship 50.00
Daffodil Society 50.00
Reeves Reed Arboretum 50.00
Miscellaneous 207.80

Total Disbursements $2,263.46

Balance Community Account 4/30/99 $7,036.86

Shakespeare in Bloom - 1998

Income $1,476.76
Expenses 589.83
Profit $886.93
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:
2 letters accepting resignation requests
   Mrs. Richard Lang, Jr.
   Mrs. C. Benson Wigton, Jr. effective April 2000
A note to GCA accompanying a $100 donation to the Library Fund in honor of Helen Goddard and Ruth Crocker for their workshop in January

With the addition of four new members, Mrs. Duncan Alexander, Mrs. Peter Delaney, Mrs. Christopher Fraser and Mrs. L. Patrick Higgins and the reinstatement of Mrs. Mark Harbaugh the membership stands today as follows:
26 actives
   6 sustainers
14 affiliates
   2 honorary
48 total

Respectfully submitted,

Jane S. Burner

Jane S. Burner

May 24, 1999
1999 ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The Admissions Committee is pleased to report that the Plainfield Garden Club has admitted four new members in the past year. They are:

1. Jennifer Higgins (Mrs. L. Patrick Higgins, 206 Watchung Fork, Westfield 07090, 233-8854)
2. Susan Fraser (Mrs. Christopher A. Fraser, 729 Hyslip Ave., Westfield 07090, 232-3802)
3. Phyllis Alexander (Mrs. Duncan Alexander, 1734 Sleepy Hollow Lane, Plainfield 07060, 756-8907)
4. Karen Delaney (Mrs. Peter B. Delaney, 1371 Cooper Road, Scotch Plains 07076, 769-8340)

Also, as mentioned in last year’s report, Beth Harbaugh became an active member again in September.

We are excited that these new members have quickly assumed responsibilities and are already contributing to the club. Furthermore, the general membership has been constantly reminded to be on the lookout for additional prospective members.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diana Madsen
Martie Samek
FLOWER ARRANGING ANNUAL REPORT 1998-1999

The committee name “Exhibitions” was changed to “Flower Arranging”. The committee is responsible for encouraging, learning about and doing flower arrangements and entering flower shows.

The following are the Flower Arranging events we did for 1998-1999.

1. September 18, 19 & 20 Harvest Show “Hoe Down” at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. We had three entries
   • Tucker Trimble & Beth Harbaugh – miniature arrangement
   • Jennifer Higgins & Carroll Keating – barn door arrangement 3rd place
   • Diane Carpenter – arrangement honorable mention

2. November 6 and 7 The Summit Garden Club Flower Show “Women’s Studies”
   • Ramona Ferguson Victorian-flower necklace second place
   • Tucker Trimble arrangement a niche-honorable mention
   • Nina Weil & Jeanne Turner – pedestal arrangement-second place

3. November 23 Informal Workshop at Carroll Keatings. Betty Hackman spoke about preparing for a flower show. Ramona Ferguson taught us how to create small arrangements which Betty donated to the McCutcheon Nursing Home.

4. January 20, 1999 We helped set up a Flower Arranging Workshop program with Helen Goddard and Ruth Crocker.

5. March 13 The Stony Brook Garden Club’s Flower Show “Drumthwacket In Bloom” Beth Harbaugh and Carroll Keating did an arrangement for the event.

6. April 16 and 17 New Jersey Daffodil Society Show-Frelinghuysen Arboratum Sally Kroll and Anne Shepherd did the daffodil arrangement for the Show.


Thank you to all of you for arranging for shows and events and your part in workshops and helpful hints.

Respectfully submitted
Carroll Keating
Jeanne Turner
CONSERVATION ANNUAL REPORT

This year began with continuing support of the Open Spaces Amendment, which will provide funding for purchases of open spaces, farmlands and historic site in the state of New Jersey, also giving some protection on environmental and quality of life issues. We sent our letters to elected officials and newspapers, and thank our members for contacting their officials. Meetings of the coalition were attended including the Governor’s Brunch on Open Spaces at Drumthwacket. Our efforts were rewarded in November with passage of the amendment by a 2-1 margin.

In the Butterfly Garden at Roosevelt Intermediate School, we met with the Environmental Club for clean up and planting. After the fall hurricanes in town that topped many trees, the town arbitrarily spread eighteen inches of the subsequent mulch on the garden’s beds. Some of this we were able to remove. We are now phasing the committee’s hands-on involvement out of this program, although still holding ourselves available for fall and spring planting instructions.

At our club’s Conservation meeting, Betsy Nottingham, Zone Conservation chairman, noted the key national issue this year is water. Sue Lance, our guest speaker, a program associate in Water Quality from Rutgers Cooperation Extension, was particularly helpful in explaining the importance of caring for home environment, and, in turn, our watersheds.

Our Conservation project this year was particularly enjoyable as it involved providing “Lady Power” and the donations of indigenous trees to a local Eagle Scout project. The objective was to rid an area in the Watchung Reservation of the invasive Japanese Barberry plant and to replace them with trees indigenous to the region. Four to six foot shadbush, flowering dogwood and white oak were planted. Each was encircled with a six-foot high chicken wire cage so deer and other herbivores would the young trees. One glorious day Autumn day a photo of members and Scouts working together was taken and displayed in the Eco-exchange this Spring. Also submitted was a “vintage” 1952 news article of our ladies planting a tree in celebration of the Shakespeare Garden. The national committee has recently requested permission to keep this reprint in their files.

We would again like to thank Beth Harbaugh for representing our club at the Annual Conservation Convention in Washington, DC. The three-day long event marked the seventy-fifth anniversary of Conservation in GCA.

Most recently, we have been active in protecting the last natural open space in Westfield – Brightwood Park. Members of the town council and Recreation Commission have been contacted. We thank members who have written to these officials. This issue has not yet been definitely decided, thus we will continue to follow up on this.

Respectfully submitted,

Penelope Taylor
Diane Carpenter
Conservation Committee
Our first activity of the year was collecting, potting, and labeling plants for the Harvest Show at the Frelighuysen Arboretum. We contributed over 40 plants. Our club had 4 Hort. entries, all won ribbons. The show was held in mid Sept.

The first program of the year was a propagation workshop given by Helen Mageau at the Frelighuysen Arboretum on Sept. 23. Our purpose in having this was to propagate cuttings from native plants for the G.C.A. Annual Meeting Plant Exchange.

In Oct. we began preparing for the November flower show given by Summit Garden Club. We had entries in 3 Hort. classes, all won ribbons. In our Nov. Newsletter we gave instructions on what to do with our native plant cuttings.

In Dec. we met with our Zone IV Hort. Chair. We were given our pots and papers for the Plant Exchange. At that meeting, our Zone IV Hort. Chairperson asked if we would be interested in a workshop on seed starting. One was scheduled for Jan. This workshop also included information on light gardening. This workshop was attended by Tucker Trimble and Sally Booth.

In Feb. there was a seed starting workshop given by Helen Mageau at the Frelighuysen Arboretum. All seeds sown were from native plants. Once again, our goal was to grow plants for the Plant Exchange for the Annual Meeting. We also hoped to make our members more comfortable with starting plants from seeds.

Our Mar. program was given by Kent Russell from Russell Gardens. He spoke on “New and Unusual Perennials”. It was a very entertaining and informative Hort. program.

Our first April activity was the Daffodil Show. We had 8 entries in the Hort. section. All entries won ribbons; one member’s double Bloodroot won the Emily C. Stuart Memorial Trophy. We then began to concentrate on organizing growers for the Plant Exchange. Our goal was to have 6 different growers and 6 plants. We were successful in our mission. Two of our growers were novices. We received the maximum 18 points for our entries and all of our plants received a Medal of Merit. We have decided to assign two members to take charge of Plant Exchange entries in the future. They will keep track of growers, distribute papers, information, materials, etc.

Our end of the year activities will be distributing plants and seeds for the “Challenge” classes in the Harvest Show, our “In House Flower Show”, and the Zone IV Flower Show.

Respectfully Submitted
Mary Kent and Sally Booth
Co-Chairs Horticulture
Our work continued in the garden throughout the summer, but the member turnout was disappointing. Our major task over the summer was keeping the garden watered. We removed the Jerusalem Artichokes and the Yucca plants. It was decided that the Yucca was an inappropriate plant for the garden and that the Jerusalem Artichoke was very unattractive and very invasive. We also added some plants to the garden. Our additions included, several Platycodon, a more upright growing Nepeta, a pink variety of Oenothera around the sundial, and a white variety of Nepeta to replace the Erodium, which did not survive the winter.

Due to our poor member participation, it was decided to increase the number of mornings one is required to work at the garden from 4 to 6 from April through October. This does not include days of work before “Shakespeare in Bloom”.

We were encouraged to request funds from the New Jersey Committee of G.C.A. to be used for a sprinkler system. We gave our presentation to the Committee in December and were one of three recipients of funds. From three companies that gave us estimates, we chose Service Pro, owned by Mr. Pat McKenna to do the project.

In March, a letter was written to the Union County Parks and Recreation commission requesting a number of structural repairs to be done and asking for a letter of permission to install a sprinkler system in the garden. Attached are copies of our letter and their reply.

Our spring cleanup was April 21. We have been working every Mon. or Wed. ever since that time. Work began on the sprinkler system (water lines under the grass walkways) the third week in May. The Parks Dept. needs to put in an electric outlet and a water line in order continue the work. They were informed of this on May 19, 1999 (Mr. Edzak by phone) and on May 26, 1999 (Mr. Lou Veltri in person).

Our faithful core group of workers and Shakespeare Garden Committee members met on June 2, 1999 to decide on plants to fill in the gaps left by the removal of the plants mentioned previously.

Our goal this summer is to get the garden in shape for next year’s “Shakespeare in Bloom”. I believe that we should schedule our spring cleanup for an earlier date in April in order to fertilize the beds and cut back the herbs and other plants that require early pruning.

Respectfully Submitted
Mary Kent and Sally Booth

Co-chairs Shakespeare Garden
Program Report
1998-1999

In September, a Horticulture Propagation workshop was planned by Mary Kent and Sally Booth. It was held at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. Members brought sandwiches. Dessert and coffee supplied by hostess.

The October conservation meeting, planned by Penny Taylor and Diane Carpenter was held at the home of Anne Shepherd. Lunch was provided by hostesses. The speaker was Susan E. Lance from Rutgers, She spoke on Water Quality.

November meeting was held at GCA headquarters. A tour of the new headquarters was conducted by a staff member at headquarters and slides were shown, giving the history of GCA. Luncheon was prepared and served by the Hospitality Committee of GCA for a fee of $15.00 per member.

The December meeting was held at the home of Sally Kroll. The program was "Christmas Around the House" a member participation program. Members who participated were Diane Carpenter, who demonstrated gift wrapping. Carroll Keating arranged a lemon tree for the fireplace.
Phylis Alexander explained how to create a dog biscuit wreath. Evie Madsen gave steps in creating her lovely live boxwood wreaths, Tucker Trimble shared a center piece she created with the help of her son. Ramona Ferguson, an expert bow maker taught all of us step by step how to create bows for our Christmas wreath.

The January meeting, which was planned by the Flower Arranging Committee- Jeanne Turner and Carroll Keating, was most successful. Helen Goddard and Ruth Crocker gave a slide program and a workshop at Crescent Ave. Presbyterian Church. Lunch was served by member hostesses.

February meeting, a joint meeting with Summit was held at the Plainfield Country Club. Lunch was served at a cost of $18.00 per person. Barbara O'Brien spoke on "Garden History-The Romantic Garden in America." Summit Garden Club supplied ivy topiary centerpieces, which were sold to members after the meeting.
In March, the meeting was held at Crescent Ave. Presbyterian Church planned by the Horticulture Committee Mary Kent and Sally Booth. Kent Russell from Russell Gardens gave a slide presentation. He was an engaging speaker—and also brought with him a bounty of plants for sale.

The April meeting was our opening spring clean up in the Shakespeare Garden. Lunch was provided and held in the home of Barbara Sandford.

No May meeting was planned because of the involvement of members in the GCA annual meeting being held in Parsippany, N.J. May 16-18.

The June picnic is scheduled to be held at the Shakespeare garden—in case of rain, it will be at the home of Nina Weil. Lunch to be provided.

A special thanks to Elisabeth Loizeaux, co-chairman and to all the gracious and wonderful hostesses.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Hackman

Betty Hackman, Chairman
Nominating Committee                              Annual Report 1998-1999

Officers elected at the April meeting to serve 1999-2000. They are:

President: Tucker Trimble
1st VP: Mary Kent
2nd VP: Jeanne Turner
Treasurer: Anne Shepherd
Recording Secretary: Phylis Alexander
Corresponding Secretary: Jane Burner

Delegates to the Annual Meeting held in Parsippany, N.J. were: Nina Weil and Mary Kent.

The Nominating Committee consisted of Joan Vivian, Nina Weil, Diana Madsen and Betty Hackman.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Betty Hackman, Chairman
May 11, 1999
The purpose of the Garden History and Design Committee is to select and document gardens intended to provide scholars and interested persons visual documentation of American Landscapes, designed landscapes, and cultural or Vernacular landscapes. These are submitted to the Archives of American Gardens at the Smithsonian Institution. At this writing the gardens of Beverly and Bruce Reid are being photographed and documented for the Archives.

An all day meeting and workshop at G C A Headquaters was held on April 29th, and attended by Beverly Ried and Betty Hackman.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betty R. Hackman, Chairman