A Message From The President

Congratulations Plainfield Garden Club for putting on a very impressive Flower Show! It was really first rate and I feel really proud of everyone. There must have been at least 75% participation! Thank you, Tucker, for organizing everything! Thank you to everyone who helped in any capacity.

Kudos to our own Diana Madsen who will begin a two-year term as the Zone IV Director in July 2002. There is one Director for each of our twelve GCA Zones. Those directors representing even-numbered Zones begin their terms of office this year. The primary responsibility is to act as liaison between our Zone IV reps and GCA. This is a wonderful honor and we are so proud to have a member of our club selected to such an important position!

- Mary

Flower Arranging

Many thanks to our members who entered our Flower Show, “A Celebration”. The three Judges all commented on the creativity and talents of our entries. Thank you, too, to Darlene Kasten for clerking for the Judges.

Here are the results: Class I, Breakfast In Bed – 1st place, Kathy Andrews; 2nd place, Darlene Kasten/Nancy Plumeri; 3rd place, Diana Madsen/Elva Busch; Honorable Mention, Jane Burner/Barbara Peek. Class II, Pedestals – 1st, Ramona Ferguson; 2nd, Tucker Trimble; 3rd, Susan Fraser; Honorable Mention, Jeanne Turner. Class III, Niches – 1st Mary Kent/Sally Booth; 2nd, Karen Delaney; 3rd, Phyllis Alexander. Congratulations, ladies! I’m already looking forward to next year’s show!

- Tucker Trimble

Horticulture

Did you come to the propagation class last October? If so, don’t forget those Korean Mountain Ash seeds (Sorbus alinifolia) that are in the refrigerator! These seeds require 3 months cold stratification, so they should have come out of the fridge around January 15th. Place in a cool, bright place and hopefully they will germinate.

We hope to have some good specimens in the rosacea family to select from for the plant exchange.

The Summit Garden Club is sponsoring the Zone IV small flower show on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 21st and 22nd to be held at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts. It’s not too early to begin thinking about entering, so here is the Horticulture schedule:

Class I. 12 entries
3 or more varieties of succulents in a container, no larger than 10”. To be judged 75% on horticultural merit and 25% on artistic merit. 5X 7 key card required.

Class II. Unlimited
Challenge Class – Oxalis regnellii, var. triangularis
12 bulbs in a 5” pot.
Bulbs are available from White Flower Farm catalogue.

Class III. 12 entries
Pelargonium: a mature plant and offspring propagated by cutting by exhibitor. To be shown in separate compatible containers 8” or less.

Class IV. Unlimited
Hosta: three (3) varieties, 1 leaf each. Displayed in a Perrier bottle supplied by the committee.

Class V. Unlimited
Cut specimens:
   A. Hardy herbaceous perennial. Single Stem.
   B. Flowering shrub. One branch not to exceed 24”

Class VI. Unlimited
Par Class: An exhibit of outstanding horticultural merit which does not qualify for entry elsewhere in the horticulture schedule. To be judged against perfection. Rooted material only. No hanging plants, bonsai or orchids. Plants must have been in exhibitor’s possession for at least six months.
   A. Novice
   B. Other

Class Consultants: I, III, and IV - Joyce Schmitz 908-273-2452
   II, V, and VI - Mary Liz Lewis 908-273-9205

Each club is requested to enter Class I and Class III. Do you have a pelargonium that you could take a cutting from for Class III?

Are you familiar with Elizabeth Lawrence’s garden writings? “A Southern Garden”, first published in 1942 is a delightful book, beautifully written, with information for all gardeners, north or south. It’s in paperback and published by The University of North Carolina Press. It would make a great gift for a gardener.

Remember – The wise gardener anticipates June in January.
   - Phyllis Alexander

Admissions
The Admission Committee is very please to welcome to the Plainfield Garden Club a new member: Mrs. Frederick L. Buehler (Judy), 119 Wild Hedge Lane, Mountainside, NJ 07092. (908-233-2647, email: jcbuehler@aol.com). Judy and her husband, Fred, have a daughter Pam, who lives in Manhattan. She has lovely gardens in New Jersey and Martha’s Vineyard. Judy retired from teaching this past June.
Program
Here’s what’s coming up:
March – No meeting.

April 17th – 9:00 am – Lunch
Opening Spring Clean-Up – Shakespeare Garden
Please bring a sandwich
Meeting afterwards at the home of Mrs. Duncan Alexander

May 15th – 9:00 am – Coffee
Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church
Horticulture Show
Steven Kristoph – Indigenous trees and shrubs

May 31st – 7:00 pm – Patrons Party for Shakespeare Garden 75th Anniversary
Plainfield Country Club

June 1 – Shakespeare in Bloom

And Finally…
Diana Madsen sent along these warm (and admittedly corny) thoughts for the New Year:

GARDENING FOR THE NEW YEAR

PLANT THREE ROWS OF PEAS:
1) Peace of mind
2) Peace of heart
3) Peace of soul

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF SQUASH:
1) Squash gossip
2) Squash indifference
3) Squash grumbling
4) Squash selfishness

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF LETTUCE:
1) Lettuce be faithful
2) Lettuce be kind
3) Lettuce be patient
4) Lettuce really love one another

NO GARDEN GROWS WITHOUT TURNIPS
1) Turnip for meetings
2) Turnip for service
3) Turnip to help one another

TO CONCLUDE OUR GARDEN WE MUST HAVE THYME:
1) Thyme for each other
2) Thyme for family
3) Thyme for friends

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow . . .
The Plainfield Garden Club Newsletter

April 2002

A Message from the President

Thank you to everyone who came to work in the Garden on opening day. What a difference there was after a few hours work! It was wonderful to see. Even our hostesses for the meeting came for as long as they could. Lady Mantle would be so proud! Many thanks to Phyllis Alexander for welcoming us into her lovely home, and our other hostesses, Ramona Ferguson, Sally Kroll, and Tucker Trimble. The refreshments and rest were most welcome after a long hot morning.

During the meeting we discussed selecting an alternate day to work in the Garden for those who have conflicts on Wednesdays. It was decided that Monday worked for most members. Just a few reminders of our policies regarding the Garden. We ask everyone to work six days from April to November. This does not include opening day or the week before Shakespeare In Bloom. All members are asked to mark in the book or call me, leave a message etc. If there are any questions please feel free to ask me. We would prefer members not work alone in the Garden. So call each other if your planning to go on a Monday.

Our plant sale is this Sunday, April 28. If you do not remember what time you signed up for call me. I will have my cell phone on all day Sunday. My number is 908-377-5073. I will be able to give everyone the location of the booth after 8:30. Even though we desperately need rain, pray that is doesn't on Sunday. See everyone this Sunday!

Mary

Corresponding Secretary

At its April Meeting the Board accepted with regret the resignation of Penny Hewitt (Taylor) and honored the request of Barbara Peek to change her status from Active to Sustainer.

Jane

Conservation
www.etownwater.com is the web address to check out to learn the latest on the drought restrictions in our area. As you know, this record-breaking drought has caused the Governor to mandate restrictions beginning on March 4th. Use great caution planting your gardens this spring! Drought resistant plants (herbs, etc) are preferable. A hint while shopping: Look for plants with gray/silver/white leaves as they often tolerate dry conditions better. Prairie plants, such as liatris or gayfeather, are other good alternatives. Save the annuals for pots and containers that can be watered with leftover cooking water that has cooled.

Did anyone see the news last Thursday? Cedar Brook Park made headlines as the sudden rise in temperature during the week depleted the pond of oxygen causing a mass fish kill. Park goers and neighbors of the park complained about the awful fish smell as hundreds of dead fish were being cleared by the park service people. Of course, all of us on opening day knew just how hot it was in the Shakespeare Garden. Thank goodness we were spared the smell!

Susan

Civic Projects Committee

We are very pleased that our grant proposal to the NJ Committee of the GCA was approved and our club will receive $4000 for our garden project at Plainfield High School. We have also learned that the Plainfield Foundation has approved our grant proposal for $6000. This enables us to go ahead with the sprinkler system and have the monies available to purchase the plants and trees when the drought restrictions have been lifted.

Nina

From GCA

In GCA President, Ann Frierson's report to the Board of Directors at the March meeting, she mentioned,"A new software system, iMIS, by Advance Solutions, has replaced the old GCA system. A generous gift from the 2001 GCA Annual Meeting helped to provide the funding. Millie Roman is the new Director of Computer Information Services and will be trained after the Annual Meeting. In the future all the clubs' names, addresses, positions, awards etc. will be kept in one place and changes can be made electronically via the GCA Website. The system can handle annual and board meeting registrations online."

Diana

Visiting Gardens
Charleston, SC
from Elva
I recently had the pleasure of visiting Charleston, South Carolina during the best time of year to see it -April. What a treat. My companion was a non-gardener. But by our last day there, we found ourselves in the historic district peering through Charleston's famous wrought iron gates at the vistas of hidden gardens. I took three rolls of film of private gardens that I wasn't invited in to!
Charleston is a combination of the seashore communities of Nantucket and the plantations of the New Orleans area with the wonderful seafood dishes of both.
No trip there is complete without a tour by a local of both the plantation life and the city tour of the historic district. There is so much history there from both the Revolutionary War and the Civil War days.
combined with southern gentility. (The boutiques, art galleries, and antique shops are subjects for another whole article!)

Prior to my visit there, Phyllis Alexander clued me in to a wonderful little book, Mrs. Whaley and her Charleston Garden. It is a delightful treasure whether you are planning a trip to Charleston or not. Emily ("Cheeka") Whaley lived until her late 80's on Church Street in Charleston. Her book is a happy recollection of her rich, full life. It is about southern horticulture, the delights of her personal garden, and her gems about how to live life. I am so glad that Phyllis told me about the book because it enhanced our trip so much. I was compelled to find Mrs. Whaley's home and garden and to learn that her daughter, who was home the day of our visit, is renovating the house for herself and will continue caring for her mother's garden. I feel as if I know Emily Whaley and I know just a bit about her city after my visit there. She cultivated whatever life offered her, just as each of us should learn to do.

The azaleas are just past their prime now, but the landscape in Charleston is very hospitable at this time of year. In fact, it was cooler there in early April than it was in New Jersey! The first two Saturdays in April include the Garden Club of Charleston's famous house and garden tours, with different ones each day. In addition, the local symphony hosts its Showcase House during that time as well. The Historic Charleston Foundation (Mrs. Whaley's husband, Ben Scott, was President of the group for thirteen years) sponsors tours of private and public landscaped gardens and holds receptions every Thursday during their festival each spring.

Charleston and the plantations surrounding it are wonderful walking places. Ballerina roses, Confederate jasmine and parkinsonia are in bloom and oleander is not far behind. The window boxes I saw could have won blue ribbons in the Philadelphia Flower Show; they were so lush and full. Pots of geraniums already looked like mid-summer to us. The smells were intoxicating. I was reminded of the "Hidden Gardens of the Back Bay" in Boston from my New England days.

I will return to Charleston - of that I'm sure.

I know that our club is a well traveled group. I hope that in upcoming issues members will share their garden adventures with us for all our future travels. And I would suggest that a group trip to Charleston next April would be a delight. So many gardens - so little time!

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**Upcoming Events:**

- **Wednesday, April 24**  Shakespeare Garden
- **Sunday, April 28th**  Plant Sale, Westfield
- **Monday, April 29**  Shakespeare Garden, alternative date
- **Wednesday, May 1**  Shakespeare Garden
- **Saturday, May 4**  Plant Sale at the Frelinghuysen
- **Monday, May 6**  Shakespeare Garden, alternative date
- **Wednesday, May 8**  Shakespeare Garden
- **Monday, May 13**  Shakespeare Garden, alternative date
- **Wednesday, May 15**  Horticulture Show, Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, 9 AM Speaker: Steven Kristoph

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**Don't Wait Until the End of the Month!**

Please send all your news at any time to be included in this monthly newsletter. E-mail: SKF729@aol.com. Much appreciation, Susan
The Plainfield Garden Club Newsletter
May 2002

A Message from the President

I am so proud of our "small but mighty" club for putting on a great Hort. show. Thank you to all who entered and/or helped behind the scenes. The plant material was outstanding. Things ran much more smoothly than I ever expected. Thank you Phyllis for putting it all together. Congratulations to all the winners. As far as I'm concerned everyone was a winner at this show. It's never too early to be thinking the next show. Fall is not that far away. Just planting seeds for thought. Pardon the pun.

Back up a bit; I need to thank all those who worked so hard on our plant sale May 5th. Carroll and Sally Booth were our plant purchasers, who had to make more buying trips than expected. Tucker, Susan, Carroll, and Anne were our set up crew. Tucker and Carroll returned for the tear down and cleanup. Susan and Carroll actually spent most of the day in our booth. It would not have been a booth if Joan had not been generous enough to loan us that wonderful tent. Elva that board with all the pictures was so beautifully done. There must have been a hundred people who stopped to ask us about the garden. And last but not least, our members who worked 2-hour shifts as saleswomen: Diana, Ramona, Sally Kroll, Jane, Barbara, Bernice, Karen, and Jeanne. Thank you one and all. Great Job! Great fun!

I went to see Peggy Tyler today. She looked wonderful!!! I was so happy to see her sitting up and looking well. While I was there, she was transferred from I.C.U. to a regular room. A very good sign, I would say. She said her Dr. said she would go home sooner than expected, if she felt up to it. Visiting hours at Muhlenberg are 10-2 and 4-8.

I believe the date for responding for the Somerset Hills Garden Club Tours is the 18th. So get your car pools organized and mail your replies now!!! Better yet, yesterday!!

I will be going to the garden later in the A.M. on Monday. I know some of the
members who signed up to give tours want some briefings. I will bring the old plant lists and we can go over the plant material in the beds. I will try to be there as much as possible between now and S.I.B. Remember we work every day the week before Memorial Day, of course, will be a day off.

Our last meeting is Wed., June 5th. Please try to attend. It's a picnic held in the garden. Dress for comfort, bring a chair, and please bring 3 plants to sell to other members. There are always plants that need dividing at this time of year. Some members bring containers they aren't using anymore. Look in your closets, basements, and garages. Who knows what you may find. It's amazing how much money we sometimes make. One man's junk may be another man's treasure!

I'm off tomorrow A.M. to a graduation. Will be back Sun. nite. Leave me messages by phone or email. I will see some of you on Mon. Anyone who can please join us. Have a great weekend!!

Mary

Shakespeare In Bloom June 1, 2002

Rain or Shine, 10 AM to 4 PM. The garden tours will be from 10 AM to 1 PM and from 2:30 - 4 PM. If you have signed up to give a tour, see Mary for a briefing. We need as many helping hands as possible in the garden May 28 - May 31 to prepare! Please bring two baked goodies to Phyllis by Friday, May 31st to sell at the garden the next day. If you have any questions, call me at 755-2730

Jeanne

We will be celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Garden that evening. Anne Shepherd graciously volunteered her home for this special occasion. Please RSVP to Anne at 232-3696 or e-mail absheps@aol.com.

Flower Arranging

This spring I had the privilege of being asked to judge at the Philadelphia Flower Show. Since I had to check in at 8:30 in the morning on a Wednesday, my husband and I decided to go down the night before and accept the very kind invitation for the judges to have dinner at the Acorn Club. I saw the delightful and exquisite Barbara Hinrichs there and she sent her love to our club. Wednesday morning I arrived and was given a judges ribbon to wear, also a pin designating the same, which I casually kept on long, long after the actual judging was done. (Several people made way for me as I toured the show afterwards, and you would all be proud of how gracious I was!) I was slated to judge with Ruth Crocker and Tony Tedesco, and it was all I could do to restrain myself from bowing when I met this fabled pair. We moved into the large room class and would you believe it, I pretty much agreed with everything they said! Only once I had a small disagreement as to the proportions of the design, but alas, I was in error. It WASN'T too far to the left, as I had thought. All kidding aside, the kindness and thoughtfulness shown me, as a lowly Prospective Judge, still
warms my heart. We had lunch afterwards, and I saw Laurie Appel and Gale Critchlow and Vickie Trainer, all good friends of our club. It was a very special group and it was a privilege being a very small cog in this very big wheel.

Onward to the Zone Show!

Love, Tucker

Horticulture

Congratulations and thank you to everyone who participated in our hort show! The cooperation of everyone, from helping with passing, sharing books, and bringing entries, is what makes our club so special. It was a lot of fun and the judges were impressed with the number and quality of our entries. I helped clerk, and wrote down a few notes that follow.

WHAT I LEARNED FROM THE HORT JUDGES

1. Grooming is really important. The judges have superior eyesight; at any rate they may even use a magnifying glass to spot dead leaves, bugs, etc. One judge mentioned how she prepares her plants for a show. She begins at least two days before a show by putting her plant on a lazy Susan. She slowly turns the plant and examines different sides, using long tweezers to remove unsightly things. Little dead nubs of stems should also be removed.

2. Rhododendron should only have one cup of leaves; remove any additional leaves. Traditionally, rhododendron should not be shown with long stems. The blooms should consist of 1/2 buds and 1/2 flowers; that's when they have their best substance.

3. Those judges know their nomenclature and aren't easily fooled. When in doubt, they look it up. One judge commented that Syringa is often misnamed, even in the nurseries, so double check to make sure your label is correct. The ideal for lilacs is 2/3 buds open, 1/3 budding. Make sure your specimen isn't past its prime or too tightly in bud. The sharp eyes of judges miss very little.

4. If your specimen is large, e.g. Broom, make sure it has enough height in order to be properly staged.

5. Remove any leaves that are below the water.

6. Make sure that wedging isn't too large and doesn't distract from the specimen. The wedging stem shouldn't go too far down in the container. Judges expressed various opinions about their preferred wedging; some like saran wrap, some prefer greens, and some like cotton.

7. Make sure your specimen is in sufficient water. The stems seem to absorb a lot of water, even in the short time of our show.
8. When a plant dies don't just throw it away. Dig it up and examine the roots to see if you can figure out why it died.

We're planning to revise the hort schedule for next spring. One category we would like to add is "Hardy Garden Bulbs". The allium would be included in this category. Let me know if you have more ideas. One of the judges suggested that we decide within our club how to handle multiple entries in one class by the same person. One club has a rule that a person can have up to three entries in one class if they're different species, genera or varieties. Let me know what you think about this.

Thanks again to everyone for helping to make our hort show so much fun.

Here are the "Blue ribbon" entries: Cut Branches: Azalea- Elva Busch, Rhododendron-Elva, Syringa-Mary Kent, Other-Jane Burner (Mock Orange) Perennials: Paeonia "Coral Charm" -Mary Allium-Elva
House Plants: Trained plants- Mary's Hedera helix; Succulents-Phyllis' Sinningia leutricha. Unfortunately I didn't record the second and third places, but all were beautiful! I know I must have forgotten someone; I was so busy writing down comments from the judges. Other favorites were the weigelia, Evie Madsen's viburnum, and Barbara Sandford's Fringe tree. The aquilegia were stunning and Diana Madsen's lovely wild geranium is something I want to find for my garden. Tucker entered my favorite Rasberry swirl begonia, and Karen Delaney also entered a pretty one. Darlene Kasten entered her fragrant Mandrian orange citrus and Nina Weil entered a lovely myrtle topiary, a gift from Betty Hackman. Susan Fraser's Hesperis matronalis or "Dames Rocket" was charming. The judges commented that it self-seeds- something else I'd like for my garden. Mary's bowalia (sp?) entered in the par class was coveted by the judges and she received 95 out of 100 points for this entry. Next time I promise to take better notes. What were your favorites?

We still need entries into the Zone Hort Show next week, May 21st through May 22nd. We are looking for succulents in a container, Pelargoniums, Hostas, Hardy herbaceous perennials, and flowering shrub branches. (See previous e-mail for more details.)

Phyllis

A.P.B. Hedera Helix
The mystery of the ivy has been solved! Thank you everyone for helping me.

Elva

Admissions Report

Welcome two new members to PGC:

Mrs. Kathleen Smythe
300 North Avenue
Fanwood, NJ 07023
Recommended Reading

Steven Kristoph recommended a book in his lecture that many of us own and love:

Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs: An Illustrated Encyclopedia by Michael A. Dirr
Hardcover, 493 pages, often retails for around $120.00. www.Amazon.com was offering the book at $48.97 plus shipping.

Workshops and Field Trips

Nina is organizing a trip to Steven Kristoph's nursery for a workshop and tour (reference previous e-mail titled "Road Trip!") The dates would be either Monday, June 17th or Tuesday, June 18th. Please respond to Nina if you would be interested in going and which day would be better in your schedule. 756-3718 or npweil@aol.com

Garden Club Member To-Do List:

- Sign up to work at Shakespeare In Bloom, call Jeanne Turner
- Distribute your Shakespeare In Bloom flyers (or get them from Jeanne)
- Come to work in the garden May 28 - May 31
- Two baked goods to be delivered to Phyllis, Friday, May 31st
- RSVP to Anne Shepherd for the 75th Anniversary party
- Enter the Zone Hort Show May 21 -22 in Summit, call Phyllis
- Attend the Zone Hort and Flower Show Mary 21 -22 in Summit
- Respond to Nina about a trip to Steven Kristoph's nursery either 6/17 or 6/18
- Mark you calendars for the Harvest Show, September 12 -15
- Start making a shopping list for plants to buy at the Harvest Show

Upcoming Events:

Monday, May 20 Shakespeare Garden
Tuesday, May 21 Zone Show in Summit
Wednesday, May 22 Zone Show in Summit
Shakespeare Garden
Tuesday, May 28 Shakespeare Garden
Wednesday, May 29 Shakespeare Garden
Thursday, May 30 Shakespeare Garden
Friday, May 31 Shakespeare Garden
Two baked goods to Phyllis
Saturday, June 1 Shakespeare In Bloom
75th Anniversary Celebration
Wednesday, June 5 End-of-the-Year Meeting

Note From the Editor

Thank you to everyone who sent in news by the deadline. However, as you all know, I like to spread the latest and greatest happenings as they pop up! If you have anything you would like to share, please contact me and I will "publish" it ASAP.

Susan (SKF729@aol.com 232-3802)
Plainfield Garden Club Newsletter
June 2002

President's Message

Did we not have a perfect day for our Shakespeare in Bloom?! It was a wonderful day, indeed. The "Bard" would have been proud, had he been here.

Thank you Jeanne Turner for all the organization, which you have done so competently for the past few years. Thank you all members who participated in any way. We should be very proud of our club for maintaining this special place for the last 75 years. Good job P.G.C.

Here we are at the end of another year. I feel it's been quite an interesting sequence of events. We've had two Hort. shows, one Flower show, no brunch, a plant sale at the street fair, an after S.I.B. celebration with husbands included, and a very large new civic project. Pretty impressive, if you ask me. We also made more money at the plant sale at our picnic in the garden. Pretty impressive!!!!

Now it's time to take a little rest for the summer. Just a little one, however. You will probably be hearing from us sometime in August when we start preparing for the Harvest Show Plant sale. Until then, work in your gardens, golf, play tennis, enjoy your families, read, most of all rest and relax! Thank you for a wonderful year! Mary

Report from the Zone Meeting:

It was such a pleasure to be able to attend the Zone Meeting last month in Summit. We have these Zone meetings every two years, and rotate among the 12 GCA Clubs in NJ for the honor of hosting them. (Ladies, our turn is slowly approaching!) This year, Diana attended in her capacity as incoming GCA Director, I attended in my role as incoming Zone Vice-Chair, and of course, like all the other clubs, our president Mary attended and her delegate. Our delegate was composed of Susan for the first day, Sally Booth for the Awards Dinner, and Betty for the second day! The first day was the business meeting, and it is always such fun to
see how the other clubs are doing. Speakers form GCA were there, too, telling us about national goings-on; we also heard from the scholarship recipient. We all boarded buses for a tour of the Great Swamp, which was very informative. That evening was the big dinner at Baltusrol, where our dear friend Janet Mills Moon was a big winner. Her recent marriage has only made her more lovely. The second day was the Conservation and Horticulture speakers, ending around noon with a lunch and a tour of the Reeves Reed Arboretum. It is only a day and a half long, but so much gets done in that time. It was so great to see old friends and make some new ones. We are so lucky to have such a close-knit zone. If you ever get an opportunity to attend, please take advantage of it! Tucker

Mary Kent with her blue ribbon entry in the Horticulture class with her prized Baptisia.

Tucker Trimble with her blue ribbon entry in the Miniature Niche Flower Arrangement class.
Phyllis Alexander (not pictured) also took home a blue ribbon in the Zone Horticultural Show. The entry was from Joan Vivian's garden and proved to be a winner! Congratulations to all!

Kate Miller (pictured below) is the new incoming Zone IV Chair for 2002-2003. She is pictured with her award winning entry in the Flower Arrangement Show.

Words from our Horticulture Chair:

The Harvest Show will be here before we know it! Since Plainfield and Morristown Garden clubs will be in charge of the plant sale, we will need help from everyone. First of all, we need four volunteers for scheduled shifts to work at the sale. The dates needed are: Friday, September 13, (sale day) from 2PM to 5PM, two volunteers needed, and Sunday September 15, (sale day) from 2PM to 5PM, two volunteers needed. Please let me know if you can volunteer since I must let Alice Cutler of the Morristown club know who will be helping. If we don't get volunteers I will be calling you! If you are a new member, this is a great way to learn about and find unusual specimens for your own garden.

Everyone is expected to contribute three plants for sale at the show. Please dig and pot your plants well in advance to give them a chance to acclimate to the pot. They can be perennials or houseplants. If you do not have plants from your garden please purchase something to contribute or you may make a monetary contribution.

The GCA website has the revised schedule for the PX 2003. The theme is, "Trees and Shrubs for Public Places". In case you have forgotten, the user name is gcamember and the password is compost. It's not too soon to begin propagating, and hopefully we'll have success at Steven Kristoph's workshop. Thank you to Nina for arranging the workshop.

Congratulations to Joan Vivian for receiving the Evie Madsen horticulture award. Evie is a wonderful hort role model with great enthusiasm and an artistic eye, and Joan has emulated Evie's example. Joan's pink aquilegia won a blue ribbon in the perennial category at the Zone IV flower show last week.
I spoke with Mercer O’Hara today and she will definitely do a terrarium workshop after Christmas. She is going to grow plants for us since they're very expensive to purchase. Start looking for a container that you think would make a nice terrarium.

Do you shop at Atlock Flower Farm? I saw Margaret Williams today (she helps Ken Selody at Atlock) and she reminded me that their open house is next Sunday, Father’s Day.

Please send me an e-mail if you can volunteer at the Harvest Show.

Phyllis

Shakespeare In Bloom

It was a beautiful day for the 75th Anniversary of the Shakespeare Garden. Jeanne Turner, who organized the day, wishes to thank all. We thank you, Jeanne! Diana Madsen took some wonderful photos. Enjoy!

Mary Kent presenting Ted Edzek (the Union County Park Commissioner) with the Suburban Greening Award. To celebrate the garden’s anniversary, Ted chose a Honey Locust tree to plant near the East Border which will offer us a filtered shade throughout the years. In his comments, he praised the P.G.C. and said the garden is in the best condition he has ever seen.

The musicians played . . .
DeDe, Billy and Ann Wigton at the garden. Betty Hackman in the background.

Kathy Andrews, Billy Wigton and Judy Buehler under the pergola.

This beautiful butterfly enjoyed Shakespeare In Bloom on the pergola.
Sally Booth and Mary Kent sell plants and our signature straw hats.

Garden Club members busy selling our wares.

Darlene Kasten and Phyllis Alexander
The peony wheel just about to bloom

The clematis, not yet in bloom, covers the pedestal and sundial. The pinks steal the show!
The Lady's Mantle is always special in the garden

The yew topiaries with pergola in the background
The West Border
Ann and Bill Shepherd hosted the 75th Anniversary Garden Party at their lovely home that evening. A wonderful time was had by all and the evening culminated in a lovely chorus of 'Happy Birthday' to the garden and a cutting of a birthday cake. Dear Ann, thank you so much for all your generous hospitality and for sharing your home with all of us on this special occasion -- Fondly, All your friends in the Garden Club.
Monday, June 17th  
9:30 AM to 11:30 AM  
Steven Kristoph Nursery  
9 Roberts Road  
Englishtown, NJ 07726  
732-446-1440

Tree Propagation Workshop  
$25 each  
Take home a tray of plants, humidity domes, cuttings of Frankliana, Stewartia, Okame and possibly Dogwood

RSVP to Nina at 908-756-3718 or npweil@aol.com

Carpools to Depart from the new Target/old Bradlee’s parking lot on Central Avenue in Clark. Rendezvous time is 8:15 AM. Directions will be passed out that morning.

The merry band of members attending include:

Susan, Nina, Mary, Judy B., Bernice, Pat Gates (guest of Nancy), Jeanne

The members still considering attending (and being merry) include:

Darlene, Valerie, Diana, Betty, Joan, Phyllis, Sally B., Evie

Those that have not RSVPed to Nina or those just not attending know who you are!

**Insiders say to bring cash in case there is something in the offering from the nursery aisles!

**Notes From the Last Meeting**

* Barbara Sanford is to serve as the club’s historian.
* 1977 "Class" of PGC members were honored: Barbara Peek, Jane Burner and Ann Shepherd. Congratulations!

* Mary Kent presented the "ABCD" (Above and Beyond the Call of Duty) Awards:
  - Carroll Keating for being instrumental in the planning and execution of the Spring Plant Sale.
  - Elva Busch for contributions this past year in various ways.
  - Nancy Plumeri and Darlene Kasten for really stepping up in many ways as new members
  - **The Evie Madsen Award for Horticulture** presented by Phyllis to Joan Vivian
  - **The Betty Hackman Award for Flower Arranging** presented by Tucker to Kathy Andrews
  - **The Barbara Sanford Award for Conservation** (given this year for Preservation) presented by Mary to Tucker Trimble
- **The Past President's Award** presented by Sally Booth to Joan Vivian
- **The Silver Trowel Award** presented by Mary to Susan Fraser for her efforts including the planning of the Harvest Show Plant Sale, the High School Atrium Garden Design and taking over the newsletter.

Congratulations to all!

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**Civic Projects**

Nina and Susan met with the Plainfield High School art teacher and four students to discuss the art work for the garden. The students designed paintings for several brick wall columns and in addition, painted all the wood benches within the garden space with a twining ivy design. What was once plain, pine wood slatted benches, are now very decorative works of art! It was great to work with the students and have the entire school excited about the new garden. Due to the drought, planting has been postponed until September, so the art students were able to go first, instead of last in their part of the project. Stay tuned for the installation news!

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Dear Garden Club. Thank you for the darling little flower arrangements, which were presented to Anne, Jane and me. Mine is in the middle of the table where we eat. It makes me smile and feel happy. Fondly, Barbara Peek

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**2002 -2003 Meeting Schedule**

Darlene and Nancy need to put together the hostessing schedule for next year's programs. Please call Darlene (908-322-8933 or e-mail at DKAS@comcast.net) or Nancy (908-889-1942 or e-mail at nancy90@aol.com) ASAP! For the many of you that have already volunteered on certain dates, you may want to just send them a note verifying your chosen day. (And learn with whom you will be sharing the hostess duty!) Many thanks!

**September 18th**
William deCamp, Jr.
Conservation : Save Barnegat Bay
Reedy Creek
Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge Center & Mantoloking Yacht Club
Dress for weather; waterproof shoes; car pool; meeting & lunch at MYC with Seaweeders Garden Club

**October 16th**
Dwight Hiscano
Nature Photography Workshop
Reeves-Reed Arboretum
brown bag lunch: all day includes film; developing and critique

**October 17th**
Propagation workshop woody plants
Frelinghuysen Arboretum

**November 20th**
Sally Humphreys
Table Decorating and Holiday Centerpieces
Plainfield Country Club
raffle off arrangements; Melinda Moritz

**December 18th**
Charity workshop  
Robin Dougherty  
Greater Newark Conservancy  
Crescent Ave. Presb. Church  
bring plant material

**January 15th**
Michael Ruggiero  
Annuals  
PCC  
book-signing; bring a guest

**February 19th**
Ellen Zachos  
Houseplants  
Church Flower show

**April 16th**
Spring Clean up Shakespeare Garden  
Bring tools

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**To Do List for Members**

* RSVP to Nina for the Kristoph trip on Monday  
* Contact either Nancy or Darlene for hostessing next year  
* Mark your calendars with next year’s schedule  
* Call Jane if you have changes for the directory. Everything due by July 1st  
* Officers and Committee chairs owe annual reports to Mary (3 copies)  
* Send ideas or wish list field trip destinations to Mary  
* Contact Phyllis for volunteering at the Harvest Show in September  
* Start thinking back to all the positions you have held within the club . . . we are going to need it for the new GCA database they are putting together!

>From Joan Vivian . . . thanks Joan!

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**MY WIFE, THE GARDENER**

She dug the plot on Monday, the soil was rich and fine  
She forgot to thaw out dinner, so we went out to dine.  
She planted roses Tuesday, she says they are a must,  
They really are quite lovely, but she forgot to dust.  
On Wednesday it was daisies; they opened with the sun  
All whites and pinks and yellows, but the laundry wasn’t done!  
The poppies came on Thursday, a bright and cheery red.  
I guess she really was engrossed, but never made the bed.  
It was dahlias on Friday, in colors she adores.
It never bothered her at all, all the crumbs upon the floor.
I hired a maid on Saturday, my week was now complete.
My wife can garden if she wants, the house will still be neat!
It’s nearly lunchtime Sunday, and I can’t find the maid.
Oh, no! I don’t believe it! She’s out there with a spade!

(from The New Zealand Rose Annual (1995))