**President's Message**

What a great meeting in Sept.!!!! The entries for both classes were wonderful!!! The speaker was really very good. (I've been cutting hydrangeas this week and have been following his tips, so far very good luck keeping them looking fresh.) Weren't those arrangements simply divine????

Wasn't it nice to be with another club??!!! Garden Club of the Oranges also has a small membership; doing a meeting with them meant we could get a really good program without either club feeling a financial strain. It's something to keep in mind for future meetings. It was so good to see everyone after the long cool summer. There are lots of things coming up in the next few months. We need to get ourselves prepared for several shows being sponsored by other clubs and our own club. There is also a Zone Show and meeting this spring. Let's go on. We are most grateful to those of you who worked at the Fall Plant Sale and to all who contributed plants. It was quite successful for a one day sale. Don't forget about the Shakespeare Garden. We generally work into November, weather permitting. We have an exciting meeting coming up in October. See you then!! Mary

**Horticulture**

Thank you to everyone who donated plants and/or helped with work at the Autumn Garden Festival at the Frelinghuysen last weekend. Our club donated many beautiful specimens. I don't know the net profit result, however the sale appeared very successful.

October is going to be a very busy month for horticulture. Here's a quick update of scheduled activities.

A propagation workshop is planned with Pam Wilson at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum on Tuesday, October 21, from 1 to 3 o'clock. We'll be propagating some woody cuttings for the Annual Meeting Plant Exchange scheduled next May. Everyone who attended last year enjoyed the workshop, and many of our plants received merit stakes at the Annual Meeting. Please let me know if you plan to attend; my email address is: palexander42@yahoo.com.

As most of you know, the Garden Club of the Oranges is holding a small flower show, "Jewels" on November 13 & 14. Lindsay Scott, their hort. chairman sent a schedule indicating which classes still have openings. Please think about what you
might have to enter. Lindsay's email is: lindscott@comcast.net, and her phone number is 973-762-5272 if you have questions or would like to sign up in advance for one of the limited entry classes. I have a schedule with descriptions of the classes and entry forms if you need them.

Class I - JEWEL BOX             Closed
Class II - CROWN JEWELS          Closed
Class III - HERBAL ALCHEMY       6 entries needed
Class IV - THE PERFECT SETTING   7 entries needed
Class V - GESNERIAD GEMS        unlimited
Class VI - 24-Karat Gold         unlimited
Class VII - A DIAMOND AS BIG AS THE RITZ unlimited

On Monday, October 27, Mercer O'Hara, Zone IV Judging Representative, and Laurie Appel, Zone IV Flower Show Committee Representative, are planning a JUDGING WORKSHOP. Any member who would like to learn more about the GCA Judging Program is invited to attend. The workshop topics will include point scoring and judging ethics in flower arranging and horticulture judging from an exhibit's unique perspective. The workshop begins at 10:15 and will adjourn at 3:15. The fee of $40 includes lunch. If you would like to attend, please send a check for $40 payable to Mercer O'Hara, 251 Glenwood Road, Englewood, NJ 07631 by October 15th, 2003.

Finally, our Zone IV horticulture chairman, Barbara Stern informed me that a seed propagation workshop, to be led by Susan Deeks of the Garden Club of Morristown, will be held at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum on Wednesday, October 29 from 1 - 3 p.m. Two people from each club can be accommodated, so please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to attend. If more members would like to attend Barbara will keep a waiting list.

Please consider participating in some of these Garden Club fall activities!

Phyllis

From The September Meeting Minutes:
Phyllis Alexander informed the members of an upcoming flower show sponsored by The Garden Club of the Oranges. Entitled "Jewels," the show will take place on November 13th and 14th at the Maplewood Club 489 Ridgewood Road in Maplewood. The topic of annual meeting will be "Trees and Shrubs in Public Places."

Editor's Note: There is an attached document titled "HortRules" which outlines in detail the classes and requirements for the Horticulture Show. If you are unable to download this document, please contact Phyllis for a copy.

Fund Raising Committee

The Committee is now meeting on a weekly basis, and working hard to plan our Autumn Brunch Fundraiser. It will be at Plainfield Country Club on Sunday, November 23, from 11-2 PM. The cost is $75 per couple, or $35 per person. Guests are welcome. The invitations will go out in two weeks, so be checking your mail! We are still looking for some silent auction items, so please see Darlene to get a written contract for your donation, or any of the Committee with any questions. We will have some surprises, too. I understand some of our husbands have rushed to sign up and are extremely excited to participate in a special capacity...come see what they are up to!

The Fundraising Committee: Bernadette Neill, Tucker Trimble, Darlene Kasten, Sally Booth, Mandy Zachariades, Nancy Plumeri, Martie Samek and Betty Hackman.

Editor's Note: There is an attached document titled "SilentAuctionDonationContract" If you are unable to download this document, please contact Tucker for a copy.

Flower Arranging Committee

On November 19, 2003 we will host a flower show at The Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church. The theme for the show is "The Times of Our Lives." Bernice Swain will lead a workshop on Thursday, Oct 9th demonstrating the Oriental Style-class three in the show. See Tucker Trimble for more information. We will publish the names of the "Teacup" competition winners in the newsletter. Congratulations to all who participated.
Flower Arranging

We have some of the slots filled for our November 19 Flower Show. Thank you to all who have signed up. We still need to fill every slot, and every class is still open. Please call me to sign up, or sign up at the October Board/General Membership meeting. The Show will be at the Plainfield Country Club, with the same staging as last year, with some small improvements! (Who knew you shouldn't place arrangements in front of mirrored doors?)

Our Flower Arranging Workshop, here at my home on Thursday, October 9, is filled. Bernice is very kindly going to teach us how to arrange "in the Oriental style." We are very excited about this, and very appreciative to have Bernice's expertise at hand.

Conservation

I was delighted to hear the enthusiastic response to the topic of invasive plants presented at our September meeting. As our club endorses the Code of Conduct on Invasives, we join with all the many garden clubs within GCA in their goal to make a difference in our communities.

By popular request, we are including in the newsletter the various items discussed at the last meeting. Learn what the problem plants are, be on the lookout for them, and educate your families, friends, and neighbors about what to plant. The Conservation committee will meet this fall to begin to develop a local project to implement our position.

Something to Think About . . .

Another result of the problem of urban sprawl - Every year in the state of New Jersey another 18,000 acres or 28 sq. mi. is converted to development. That's an area twice the size of Jersey City! Population growth alone is not to blame. We are consuming land at roughly three times the rate of population growth. How many strip malls do we need?

See you in October for our club's wonderful conservation meeting for the year - Elva

From the September Meeting Minutes:
Valerie Rogers led a discussion of a voluntary code of conduct regarding invasive plants presented in a position paper by The Garden Club of America. Mrs. Rogers distributed a list of invasives and native alternatives to the members. The Plainfield Garden Club passed a motion to endorse the voluntary code of conduct. The intent of The GCA code is to educate others and us about invasives. A possible project for the Conservation Committee would be informing local nurseries about invasive plants.

Editor's Note: There are seven documents attached to this newsletter for the Conservation Report. They are as follows:
Position Paper on Invasives = ConservationForm1
Voluntary Codes of Conduct = ConservationForm2
Native Plant Sources = ConservationForm3 and ConservationForm4
Zone IV Conservation/NAL Newsletter August 2003 = ConservationForm5
List of Invasives in our Area = ConservationForm6 and ConservationForm7

If you are unable to download and open these documents, please contact Phyllis for a copy.

Program

Wednesday, October 15 at 10 a.m.
Hudson Guild Farm - Byram Township
Joint Meeting with the Garden Club of Short Hills
and GCA Zone IV Conservation representatives

AGENDA
10:00 - Slide presentation by Tom Gilbert, Exec. Dir. Of the Highlands Coalition
10:30 - PGC break out for business meeting

11:00 - Walk in the woodlands with NJCF ecologists

12:00 - 12:30 - Lunch

Wear comfortable walking / hiking shoes, pants and socks. Dress in layers, including a waterproof layer. Bring water and a box lunch or you may order a $10 box lunch. RSVP to Nancy Plumeri by October 10.

The trip takes approximately 50 minutes. Please car pool.

Directions to Hudson Guild Farm, Byram Twp from Westfield/Plainfield:
Rt. 24 West to Rt. 287 North to I-80 West to Exit 34B (Rt. 15 North). Drive 5 miles on Rt. 15 to Exit 181 North. Go over Rt. 15 and make 2nd right onto Rt. 181 North for 1.4 miles. Turn left onto Prospect Point Rd. to traffic light (2.8 miles). Turn right at the light. Continue on Rt. 15 (Maxim Dr.) until blinking light (0.8 miles). Turn right at the blinking light on Rt. 605 (Stanhope-Sparta Rd). "The Farm" (0.3 miles) is the 2nd driveway on the right. Follow the road to main house with a red tile roof.

**NOTE**

The original schedule had the club meeting on Wednesday, October 22nd. This meeting has been canceled and the new program date is October 15th.

November Photography Show

We have an exciting show planned for the November meeting. Please plan to sign up at the October Board meeting or at the October business meeting. The schedule is as follows:

Color photographs only. All entries should be single matted in white or off-white, not framed. Overall size with mat, 8" X 10" to 14" X 16".

Class I: "Friend or Foe?"
Gardens provide habitats for many creatures, two, four, six and eight legged. Who has been visiting your favorite garden?

Class II: "A Garden in Season"
Color photograph which captures the beauty of a garden in season. Specify the season.

Dear members -

Ann Tarlton will be running a holiday boxwood topiary workshop at our November meeting. She needs to order the supplies before she leaves for a trip China in October. Could you please let me know if you are planning to attend the workshop? The cost is $10 to cover supplies. If you would like to make additional topiaries for gifts, please let me know that as well and she can order additional supplies.

In addition, please review the following photography schedule for the November meeting. I want to give you another opportunity to be inspired before you are asked to sign up in October and the leaves have all fallen. Thank you. Darlene Kasten

November Photography Show
Color photographs only. All entries should be single matted in white or off-white, not framed. Overall size with mat, 8" X 10" to 14" X 16". Class I: "Friend or Foe?" Gardens provide habitats for many creatures, two, four, six and eight legged. Who has been visiting your favorite garden? Class II: "A Garden in Season" Color photograph which captures the beauty of a garden in season. Specify the season.
Civic Projects

Nina Weil informed the membership of recent developments at the Plainfield High School atrium. Members will be planting and trimming at the atrium throughout the fall.

CALENDAR

October 9
Flower Arranging Workshop "Oriental Style"
at Tucker's Home
with Bernice Swain
Currently "FULL" call Tucker for more info

October 10
Deadline to RSVP to Nancy Plumeri for the
October Meeting

October 15
October Meeting
Hudson Guild Farm - Byram Township
See "Program" for more information

RSVP to Darlene Kasten for the November Meeting
if you are going to participate in the topiary
workshop.

Deadline to RSVP to Mercer O'Hara to attend
the Judging Workshop.

October 21 1:00 - 3:00 PM
Propagation Workshop
Frelinghuysen
Propagate woody stems for the Annual
Meeting Plant Exchange
See "Horticulture" for more information

October 22
** Old Date for the October Meeting **

October 27 10:15 AM - 3:15 PM
Judging Workshop
$40 and Lunch
with Mercer O'Hara and Laurie Appel
See Phyllis for more information

October 29 1:00 - 3:00 PM
See Propagation Workshop
Frelinghuysen
with Susan Deeks
See Phyllis for more information

November 13 - 14
"Jewels" Flower and Horticulture Show
489 Ridgewood Road
Maplewood
See "Horticulture" for more information

November 19
November Meeting
Topiary Workshop
Flower Show (See "Flower Arranging")
Photography Show (See "Program")

November 23 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
PGC Fundraiser
Subj: Plainfield Garden Club October 2003 Newsletter
Date: 10/30/03 9:49:19 PM Eastern Standard Time
From: SKF729
To: Npwell, SKF729, Nancy90, ABSHEPS
To: RABurns70@cs.com, Martie01, dkas@comcast.net
To: CCWGK2000, Ttrimble, Jcbuehler, SBooth1954
To: Peekdawson, BTSandford, Houston460
To: slikroll@comcast.net, madsend@comcast.net
To: nrogger@comcast.net, tedturneqr@msn.com
To: kea1030@comcast.net, familyz@comcast.net
To: jevvan@hotmail.com, ksmythe@whschool.org
To: maryelk612@hotmail.com, palexander42@yahoo.com
To: rbusch@bellatlantic.net, rferguson@pointlegal.com
To: EandPloizeaux@worldnet.att.net
To: BettyHackman3@cs.com, emcrabapple@earthlink.net
To: hunzikerj@comcast.net
Double-click picture(s) to display in picture editor
PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Our trip to Byram Township to visit the restored Hudson Guild Farm was wonderful. We were a small group, due to some unfortunate circumstances. The farm was beautiful. The speakers were eloquent. The hike was not too strenuous. What we saw was exceedingly beautiful!! Imagine being in this farm house when the idea of the Appalachian Trail was conceived!! It really is amazing how many different terrains we have in the state of N.J. Imagine what it will be like if these beautiful spaces are not preserved!!!!

We need to all get out and vote on November 4th. I encourage all members to vote "YES" for Question #1 and encourage all of our friends and relatives to do the same. If you are wondering what "Question # 1" is all about please call Elva or me and we will give you the information.

Please consider entering the "Jewels" show. There are many categories which might be easily entered such as berried branches, a Gesneriad class, or cuttings of herbs. When clubs in our zone have small flower shows, all of the clubs are expected to participate either in the flower arranging classes or hort. classes. (See "Hort" below.)

We will have a board meeting at my house on the 17th of November at 12:30. Please all executive Bd. members try to attend.

Last, but most certainly not least on my agenda for this message: Let us all congratulate Tucker Trimble for her graduation, elevation, levitation, and all the rest to an "Approved G.C.A. Flower Arranging Judge" in the G.C.A. Judging Program. Tucker, we know how much time and effort has gone in to this program. We are so proud of you!!!!!! We thank you for what you have done for our club; workshops, encouraging partners for shows, just everything you do in the way of supporting members with an interest in flower arranging. Thank you and congratulations on your most honorable promotion!!!!!! YOU GO GIRL!!!!!!!!!

Mary

CIVIC PROJECTS

Mr. Watson at Plainfield High School and his science students planted daffodil and tulip bulbs in the garden on September 30th. The garden looks beautiful right now with the chrysanthemums in gorgeous bloom that Mr. Garrahan put in - in case anyone wants to stop by.

Nina

CONSERVATION

Recap of October Meeting
Thanks to Mary, Darlene, Bernadette, Elizabeth, and Phyllis for joining me on the Atlantic Highlands hike and educational meeting on Oct.15. In spite of the extremely blustery day that way predicted, we made our way north and everyone who
attended was delighted that we did.

We heard presentations by Tom Gilbert, Highlands Coalition Executive Director, Michele Byers, Executive Director of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, and Dr. Emile ("Dr. Doom and Gloom") DeVito. We hiked on trails on the site of the magnificent hunting lodge where the meeting was held. We came home much more knowledgeable about many problems such as the monumental task of protecting the Highlands, the extent of the destruction and demise of our wilderness areas from both urban sprawl and the overpopulation of deer, the magnitude of the invasion of nonnative plants in our state, and the difficult task of negotiating the political waters in New Jersey to bring about change.

While we did not have a quorum present to conduct business of the club, an informational meeting and discussion of upcoming club projects did take place that day. Each of us who attended came away challenged to begin the steps needed to make a difference in the environment of our state.

Elva

Plainfield Garden Club Members at the Hudson Guild Farm on October 15, 2003

More from Conservation . . .

New Jersey is leading the battle for the protection of the Atlantic Highlands. Our entire Congressional delegation is supporting the federal Highlands Stewardship Act. During our visit to the Highlands as part of our Oct. meeting, we learned that the loss of the entire undergrowth in our forests by the deer can lead to the demise of our woodlands within the next century. What isn't paved in New Jersey may well look like a prairie of Japanese stilt grass. Deer populations in much of New Jersey have reached the level of 100 deer per square mile. It is predicted that in colonial times, the native deer probably numbered 3-5 per square mile. This is beyond epidemic proportions. Studies show that the contraception methods currently available are not effective because the female deer (85% of the deer population!) must be injected multiple times for maximum effectiveness. The only solution in populated areas is to have the deer killed. The argument that the deer were here first no longer justifies the vast population explosion of the deer. They weren't all here first! I personally think of them as tall rats.

The other issue talked about at our October meeting was that on the effects of urban sprawl. The state's Big Red Map initiatives are being scaled back since the battle between the Governor's plan and developers is such a difficult one to win. However, the public's awareness of this problem has definitely been raised, just as ours as garden clubbers has been. What is alarming is that New Jersey is predicted to be the first state in the union to be fully built-out with no land left for development in the next 30-50 years.

DON'T FORGET THAT TUESDAY, NOV. 4TH IS ELECTION DAY!!!!!!!
VOTE FOR YOUR LOCAL CANDIDATES AND VOTE YES FOR PUBLIC QUESTION #1
It is labeled:
"Increase in Bonding Authority for State's Open Space, Farmland, and Historic Preservation Programs."
(Please review my Consenation Alert e-mail sent earlier to familiarize yourself with this issue.)
Remind your friends and family to vote Yes on this issue as well.

Conservation Committee Meeting
The committee will meet on Wed., Nov. 12 at 9:30 AM at the home of Valerie Roger in Westfield. Any and all interested club members are invited to attend. We will be determining our club's conservation project for the year which we expect will complement our adoption of the GCA Position on Non-native Invasive Plants. Please join us!

FLOWER ARRANGING

On October 9 a group of us had a real treat...our own Bernice Swain gave a workshop on arranging "in the Oriental style." Valerie, Bernadette, Kathy, Jeanne, Darlene, Carroll and Tucker all listened, observed and then created, all under Bernice's very knowledgeable eye. It was a beautiful day and very much enjoyed by all who were able to attend.

The Flower Arranging Committee would also like to thank all those who entered their teacups at the September meeting. Nina received a second place and Tucker a Third, and everyone received a well-deserved Honorable Mention (remember this was...
combined with the Garden Club of the Oranges) and they were all just so pretty. I have misplaced my list (temporarily) so if I leave anyone out, please excuse me... but thank you to Nina, Ramona, Jane, Bernadette, and Darlene for entering. Everyone was thrilled with Nina's beautiful entry.

Our November 19 Flower Show is slowly filling up. It will be at the Church, not the Club as I previously announced. The staging will be the way it usually is, in the Guild Room. We are looking forward to it! (See the schedule below in 'Program."

Tucker Trimble, Chair

Congratulations Tucker! Tucker is now a fully Approved Flower Arrangement Judge. A great accomplishment in such a short time. In the past, to achieve this accomplishment took about five years - Tucker did it in a lot less. Pages 96 to 101 outline the requirements in our Garden Club of America Flower Show and Judging Guide should anyone be interested. We are so proud!

Fundraising Committee

Excitement is building as we close in on our Autumn Fundraiser. Please continue to RSVP to Tucker with your checks to reserve a place. We want everyone to be at what is promising to be the event of the season. You may want to band together with another member (or invited guest) to bid on some of the Silent Auction items, since there are a few that a group could enjoy. We have Giants tickets, Trenton Thunder tickets, Ballet tickets, handmade items by some talented and famous members, a weekend at a private estate on Martha's Vineyard complete with transportation to and from the ferry/airport, some very special wine, baskets of Flower Arranging goodies and Seed Starting necessities, a weekend in NYC at an apartment owned by a Beautiful Person, we have some special antiques, we have chair caning! And that is just a few of our items. There is a rumor, and I usually ignore rumors, but this one seems legit, that there will be a very, very special and exciting offer from our Committee... Now for some details...ladies, YOU MUST HAVE FILLED OUT A CONTRACT from Darlene to contribute to the Silent Auction. Remember, guests are welcome! Please see the Committee with any questions.

Tucker Trimble, Chair
Darlene, Nancy, Sally Booth, Bernadette, Martie, Betty, Mandy, Committee Members

HORT

Thank you to all the ladies who attended the woody plant propagation workshop at the Frelinghuysen. We enjoyed an informative, congenial afternoon and attempted to propagate some outstanding specimens. Among our cuttings and seeds are Cornus sericea -Redosier Dogwood, and Magnolia virginiana-Sweetbay Magnolia. Hopefully we'll have good results! Our goal is to achieve six merit stakes at the annual meeting plant exchange in April.

The Garden Club of Princeton and the Stony Brook Garden Club have invited children ages kindergarten through 6th grade to participate in the Education Exhibit at the GCA Zone IV Meeting in May, 2004. The purpose of the Education Exhibit is to encourage an awareness of horticulture through helping children participate in growing and garden related activities. The theme is, "Restore your Garbage: Propagate." A workshop for children will be held on Sunday, November 9th, 2 p.m. at Terhune Orchards in Princeton. If you would like further information about the workshop please contact Irvine Gaskin - 609-333-1145 princetongaskin@aol.com. I have several "At Home Guides" with directions for propagating and exhibiting in the Youth Class. Please let me know if you would like a copy. Even if you can't make it to the workshop it would be fun to encourage some of our children/grandchildren? to enter.

Are you looking for some plants or garden gifts to brighten the winter months? Atlock Farm in nearby Somerset, NJ will be holding their Fall Open House on Saturday, November 29 from 10:00 to 4:00 p.m. They will have orchids, Seibert and Rice pottery and topiaries on sale. Also, Raymond Rogers and Adam Levine authors of the newly published "The Philadelphia Flower Show: Celebrating 175 Years" will be on site signing copies of their beautiful new book.

Hope you can attend the “Jewels” flower show presented by the Garden Club of the Oranges at the Maplewood Club, 489 Ridgewood Road, Maplewood, NJ on November 13 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm, and November 14 from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

It’s not too early to begin thinking about entering the Zone IV flower show titled “Restoration” this May. Show dates are May 4-5, 2004 at Trinity Church in Princeton. Each club is responsible for one entry in each of the 6 horticulture classes. The show...
is sponsored by the Stony Brook Garden Club and the Garden Club of Princeton. They have a website where the schedule will be listed at www.princetonol.com/groups/zonemeeting.

See you in November,
Phyllis

Excerpt from the September 2003 Newsletter:
As most of you know, the Garden Club of the Oranges is holding a small flower show, "Jewels" on November 13 & 14. Lindsay Scott, their hort.chairman sent a schedule indicating which classes still have openings. Please think about what you might have to enter. Lindsay’s email is: lindscott@comcast.net, and her phone number is 973-762-5272 if you have questions or would like to sign up in advance for one of the limited entry classes. I have a schedule with descriptions of the classes and entry forms if you need them.

Class I - JEWEL BOX
Class II - CROWN JEWELS
Class III - HERBAL ALCHEMY
Class IV - THE PERFECT SETTING
Class V - GESNERIAD GEMS
Class VI - 24-Karat Gold
Class VII - A DIAMOND AS BIG AS THE RITZ

Closed
Closed
6 entries needed
7 entries needed
unlimited
unlimited
unlimited

PROGRAM

Our next meeting is Wednesday, November 19th at the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church – not Plainfield Country Club. We will be having a Photography Show, (see classes below), a Flower Show with the theme "Times of Our Lives" and a workshop on boxwood topiaries by Ann Tarlton. (If you are planning to attend the workshop, it was necessary to contact Darlene Kasten in order for supplies to be ordered for you. So, if you have not done so, please call/e-mail Darlene to let her know you are attending. The cost of the workshop is $10. If you wish to make additional topiaries for gifts, please also let Darlene know that as well.)

Please RSVP to the November hostesses, (Betty Hackman, Sally Kroll or Sally Booth), if you are unable to attend the meeting.

Please feel free to invite a guest to this meeting. We plan to have enough supplies for anyone that wishes to stay and make a topiary.

Photography Show
On November 19, we have our first photography show. Please bring your photographs for passing between 9:00 and 9:30. Judging will begin at 9:30. If you are still interested in entering, please call me or email me and I will add you to the list. The schedule once again is:

Color photographs only. All entries should be single matted in white or off-white, not framed. Overall size with mat, 8" X 10" to 14" X 16."

Class I: "Friend or Foe?" Gardens provide habitats for many creatures, two, four, six, eight legged or more. Who has been visiting your favorite garden?

Class II: "A Garden in Season" Color photograph which captures the beauty of a garden in season. Specify the season.

Flower Show
There is still room in the Flower Show for the November 19th meeting.
The Times of Our Lives

Class I
Hobbies..."something that a person likes to do in her spare time."
A design of fresh flowers to be displayed on a table covered with green material, 29 inches from the floor. Arrangements must
not exceed 20 inches in any direction, including the diagonal. Accessories permitted. Note card with statement of intent required. Four entries.

Class II
Pastimes... "a way of spending time pleasantly."
A design with fresh flowers predominating to be displayed on a white pedestal 42 inches high with a 14 inch square top. Accessories permitted. Note card with statement of intent required. Four entries.

Class III
Games... "any form of play, amusement or recreation using specific rules."
A design of fresh flowers arranged in the Oriental style to be displayed in a 3-sided light gray niche (L20: x H24" x D16"). Background may be changed. Niche to be displayed on a green covered table 29 inches from the floor. Accessories permitted. Note card with statement of intent required. Four entries.

All official GCA Flower Arranging rules will apply. See yellow book.
Questions: Flower Arranging Chair Tucker Trimble 654-5455

Editor's Note: My apologies for losing the Flower Show schedule and the late posting thereof.

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

Mandy Zachariades' phone number is 908 654-0982
an Hunziker's e-mail is hunzikerj@comcast.net

CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 4 Election Day
Wednesday, November 12 9:00 AM Conservation Committee Meeting
Valerie Roger's home
November 13 - 14 "Jewels" Flower and Horticulture Show
489 Ridgewood Road
Maplewood
(See "Hort" for details)
Monday, November 17 12:30 PM Board Meeting
Mary's Kent's home
Wednesday, November 19 9:30 AM November Meeting
Topiary Workshop with Ann Tarlton
Flower Show "Time of Our Lives"
Photography Show(passing 9-9:30 AM)
Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church
Sunday, November 23 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM PGC Fundraiser
Plainfield Country Club
Wednesday, December 17 8:30 AM Board Meeting
Coffee
Mobile Meals on Wheels Workshop
Plainfield Country Club
President's Message

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving!!! I feel the need for vigorous exercise after all the good food. My favorite holiday!! Well I could go on and on about the fundraiser, so I will. It was absolutely wonderful!!!! Not only did we raise a lot of money, but everyone seem to have a good time. members, guests, and even husbands. We will have to forgive a few for longingly looking at the golf course. They were soon roused out of their reverie and back to the business at hand. I am so grateful to Tucker and her hard working committee. You made the event more successful than we ever dreamed it could be.

Thank you to all members who attended and those who brought guests. Please thank your guests for supporting our efforts. After this successful venture, I feel we can do anything!!! Like "the little engine that could."

The flower show was also a great success. Thank you for all those who worked and entered. Obviously Bernice Swains workshop was very worthwhile. Very nice comment from the judges on The oriental style class. It was really a busy month, but one of great achievement. Is it possible that December could seem calm compared to November?????

Mary

Conservation

Invasive Plants

The Conservation Committee met on Nov. 12 at the Plainfield Country Club to discuss our club's project(s) regarding our endorsement of the GCA position on invasive plants. The decision was made to direct our attention in the near future toward self-education about the subject. To that end we will engage in several different avenues this year to better inform the club about what we as individuals and garden club members know and then what we can do to make a difference. We will have more information at the Dec. meeting and anticipate another committee meeting in the early new year.

Phyllis Alexander attended the committee meeting and brought to our attention a wonderful series of booklets put out by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. One that she displayed is called Invasive Plants: Weeds of the Global Garden. The cost is $7.95 and can be obtained on Amazon.com (and many other sources) for as little as $5.00. It will arrive right on your doorstep with no extra trip to the mall required. It includes great photos and extensive information on invasive plants. Please consider making an early Christmas gift to yourself (and a friend!) and buy and read this informative book. Thanks for the tip, Phyllis!

"We begin our fight against invasive plants. As several publications have stated, "An invasive is like a naughty child who sneaks into another's room and trashes it."

November Elections

Congratulations to all who supported Public Question #1 on your ballot. The question passed overwhelmingly (65% to 35%) and helps us in the race for open space. Funding will be allocated to protect more parks, watershed lands, farmlands, and natural areas. All three of the public questions dealt with conservation in one way or another, and all passed. Thanks for your support.
Atlantic Highlands/Coalition
The federal legislation to protect the Atlantic Highlands passed the U.S. House and has been sent to the U.S. Senate just last week. Here on the state level, Gov. McGreevey has created a Highlands Task Force which will make recommendations for New Jersey to preserve our natural resources in our state's portion of the Highlands. The first opportunity for the public to offer comments and recommendations to the Task Force will be held on Thurs., Dec. 4 from 7-9 PM at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. All members of the club are invited to attend and to add your voice to others supporting bold and comprehensive measures to protect our Highlands region.

GCA Conservation Watch (ConWatch)
This is an excellent publication which comes quarterly and is chock full of the latest information regarding conservation issues with input from various GCA leaders and clubs around the country. It is usually about twelve pages in length with no advertising. I would highly recommend that everyone in the club subscribe to this publication. This is a must read for members of the Conservation Committee and many clubs are having all members subscribe. It is $10 for one year, $16 for two years, and $21 for three years. Subscriptions are payable by check made out to GCA Conservation Watch and sent to:
Debbie H. Oberg
P.O. Box 923
York Harbor, ME 03911

"Litter on a Stick"
Thank you to Barbara Sandford, long time member and former chair of the Conservation Committee, for continuing her long struggle to stop billboards from ruining our state's highways. Her participation in Scenic America over the years is most honorable. Thanks to all who attended the Nov. club meeting for writing your postcards in support of Barbara's endeavor. She is indeed the conservation conscience of our club.

Elva

Flower Arranging
We are still patting ourselves on the back and feeling so proud over what the Judges had to say about our November 19 show. They said it was truly remarkable for a club our size to put on a show of this caliber. Class III, the niche class, received a commendation from the Judges. Thanks to the generosity and talents of our members, we had a superb show to offer them. I would like to thank the Flower Arranging Committee, Sally Kroll, Nancy Plumeri, Jeanne Turner, Bernadette Neill and Elisabeth Loizeaux for helping with all the unloading, the setup, the passing, and above all, entering the Show. Here are the results:
Class I
First: Mary Kent
Second: Elisabeth Loizeaux
Third: Phyllis Alexander
HM: Nancy Plumeri/Darlene Kasten
Class II
First: Tucker Trimble
Second: Judy Buehler
Third: Jeanne Turner
HM: Joan Vivian
Class III
First: Sally Booth
Second: Sally Kroll/Diana Madsen
Third: Carroll Keating
HM: Bernadette Neill

-Tucker Trimble, Chair

Fundraising Committee

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All votes are in and the results are this: our Autumn Brunch Fundraiser was an unqualified success! We had 59 attendees, which included 13 guests, all of whom enjoyed the cocktail hour, with the strains of beautiful piano playing in the background. The silent auction produced some friendly bidding wars, with our scholarships, projects and educational programs the beneficiaries. Then we moved into the ballroom for a delicious brunch of eggs Benedict and all the trimmings. Excitement built as MC Joe Plumeri auctioned off the Flower Arrangements of three talented husbands, Carter Booth, Jim Trimble and Telly Zachariades. The final offering was a cocktail party donated by the Fundraising Committee, providing hors d'oeuvres and Cosmopolitans for 25-30 people for two hours. We will be making a formal report at the December meeting, since some checks are still filtering in, but suffice it to say that we exceeded our wildest dreams in the amount that we raised.

I want to thank my Committee for all their hard work and expertise in making this event one for the Archives.

Committee: Mandy Zachariades, Nancy Plumeri, Bernadette Neill, Martie Samek, Sally Booth, Darlene Kasten and Tucker Trimble

Hort

Congratulations and thank you to Jane Burner, Barbara Peek, and Mary Kent for entering Horticulture classes at the recent "Jewels" Flower Show. It was a beautiful show, and as most of you probably know, Mary Kent received the Clarissa Willemsen Horticulture Propagation Award. This award is, "awarded for a horticulture entry distinguished by its prime condition, flawless grooming and difficulty of propagation." Mary's Begonia "Richardsiana," trained into a standard, was truly flawless.

 Hopefully everyone is thinking about entering hort classes at the two upcoming flower shows scheduled this spring. The Zone V Meeting Show, titled "Restoration" will be held in Princeton on May 4-5. Please check the website www.princetonol.com/groups/zonemeeting for the flower show schedule and other information about the zone meeting. Each club is responsible for at least one entry in each of the six horticulture classes.

The Rumson Garden Club is presenting a small flower show at the Monmouth Museum in Lincroft, NJ on Saturday May 22 and Sunday May 23. I have several schedules for this show, and please contact me if you would like one. The schedule will also be available on the GCA website.

A highly recommended book to consider for holiday gift giving (or just a nice gift for yourself) is, "The Philadelphia Flower Show Celebrating 175 Years" by Adam Levine and Ray Rogers. This is a beautifully produced volume with outstanding photographs and valuable information about growing and grooming many of the plant specimens included in the book. Just glancing through the many beautiful photographs will provide inspiration to enter a hort class at one of the spring flower shows!

That reminds me, please don't forget our own in-house show, scheduled for the May 19th meeting; schedule TBA.

Last of all, ladies who attended the propagation workshop at the Frelinghuyzen Arboretum, don't forget to check your cuttings to make sure the soil doesn't get too dry. I was tempted to pull on a few, even though I know Pam Wilson said not to, and I think they may be rooting. Keep your refrigerated seeds out of harm's way during the holidays. They should come out of the refrigerator at the end of January. We hope to have some "merit stake" candidates for the annual meeting PX in April.

Phyllis

Program

Wednesday, December 17
Fairfield Country Club
8:30 AM Board Meeting
9:30 AM Coffee
We will be making the tray centerpieces for the Mobile Meals Charity. Please remember to bring tuna and/or cat food cans along with holiday greens from your gardens. If you have a glue gun, please bring it.

Please RSVP to the hostesses should you be unable to attend
Martie Samek 908-561-8874 martie01@aol.com
President Mary Kent announced the following at the Wednesday, November 19th general meeting:

1. A landscape preservation certification course is available to members. Please contact Mrs. Kent for details.
2. Volunteers are needed in the Cottage Gift Shop at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. Proceeds from sales at the shop fund visitor services.
3. The Reeves Reed Arboretum is sponsoring a Holiday House Tour. Please contact Mrs. Kent for details.
4. The Zone IV representatives meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 16, 2004 with a snow date of January 23rd. We need a member to attend the "Bulletin" representatives meeting.
5. Plainfield Public School calendars are available to members because we selected the artwork included in the calendar. Kathy Andrews read an article about the calendars citing the contributions of Plainfield Garden Club members published in The Courier News.

Mrs. Kent presented a memory book to Betty Hackman who is relocating after many years as an active member of the Plainfield Garden Club. She received a standing ovation from the members.

\ note from Betty:
Due to a two week deadline for our move, I am not able to thank you all for your kind letters properly. Please know - I am deeply touched by your letters - the thought and time that went into them. The warmth of your messages will always stay with me. Please accept my heartfelt thanks.  

Photographs of the November 19, 2003 Topiary Workshop and Flower Show
I want to thank as well as congratulate everyone who participated in our first ever juried photography show on November 19th. Thank you to Tucker, Diana, Phyllis, Mary, Bernadette, Nancy and Elva for your magnificent entries. You rock!

The results of the judging are as follows:

Class I

First - Mary Kent
Second - Darlene Kasten
Third - Tucker Trimble

Class II

First - Darlene Kasten
Second - Elva Busch
Third - Darlene Kasten
Honorable Mention - Tucker Trimble

It is not too early to start thinking about the photo show in May. Take advantage of vacations where you may be visiting gardens or conservatories. The schedule is as follows:

May 2004 Photography Show
All entries should be single matted in white or off-white, not framed. Overall size with mat, 8" X 10" to 14" X 16".

Class I: "Can you feel it?"
A black & white photograph which suggests the texture of the botanical subject.
Is it smooth, rough, hot, cold, wet, parched? Specify the texture.
B&W only.

Class II: "Still Life"
A photograph in which inanimate objects are represented in a garden setting and/or with plant material.
Color only.

There are two other shows which you may want to keep in mind as well. The Zone IV show in Princeton on May 4-5, 2004 has photography component. You can get the schedule on the website as well as the rules:
http://www.princetonol.com/groups/zonemeeting/.

There is also the Rumson Garden Club show May 22 and 23. Their photography schedule is as follows:

Section A - Black and White
Class 1. "Transition" A photograph including a bud and flower of the same plant.
Section B - Color
Class 2. "A Time, A Place" A photograph capturing the beauty of a landscape in one season. Specify the season.
   a. antique
   b. modern

You can find the rules in the show's guide book or call me for a copy.

Thanks.
Darlene

HORT

Seed propagation workshop for the Zone IV Horticulture Show at Darlene's house on January 23 from 10-12. The workshop is filling up, so please contact Darlene ASAP for a spot. We hope this workshop will provide many entries for the following:

The Rumson Garden Club
A Small Flower Show
May 22-23, 2004
Division II Horticulture Class
Section A. New Friends Challenge Class
Class 1. New Hybrid Zinnia "Crystal White", Z. angustifolia
   One plant grown from seed to be exhibited in a clay pot not to exceed 6" with saucer.

Editor's Note: My apologies to Darlene who was the first to send me information for the newsletter which I carefully filed away and forgot!