
Potpourri

News and Information

The Garden Club of Montclair, Inc.

60 S. Fullerton Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07042

Website: www.gardenclubofmontclair.com

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Email: gardenclubofmontclair@yahoo.com

September 2023

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

September 2023

Dear Members and Provisionals,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 Garden Club year. I want to extend a warm welcome to our new Provisionals who are enthusiastically contributing their energy and creative ideas to our Club. We are excited to have you become a part of our community.

The committees and their activities are the backbone of our club and by being active in them you will fulfill the mission of the club which is to educate our members and the public in their knowledge and practice of conservation, horticulture, and the artistic use of plant material while also having a lot of fun and making new friends! To that end, I urge you to attend our first program meeting on September 18th which will be held at Union Congregational Church from 6 pm-8:30 pm. This will be your opportunity to learn what each committee does, see if it aligns with your personal interests, and see what the responsibilities of a committee member are. Perhaps you can add some personal flavor to the committee's activities to keep them relevant to this moment in time! This will be an opportunity to explore and learn and socialize. There is also a SWAP aspect to the evening! See details in the pages of this Potpourri edition.

Thank you so much to the Yearbook Committee and Committee Chairs who have worked so hard to put together a terrific schedule of events and get them published in a timely manner for our Club. Undoubtedly there will be a few changes so please read our email blasts, your Potpourri and consult the website regularly to stay connected.

Lastly, please note that our first meeting will be held at Union Congregational Church, but all other program meetings will be held at Bnai Keshet at 99 S. Fullerton St.

It is going to be a great year!

Sarah



SEPTEMBER WORKSHOPS

Get ready to showcase your horticulture, floral art, and design this upcoming year. Mark your calendars for these upcoming workshops. <https://www.gardenclubofmontclair.com/workshops>

Horticulture 101

Tuesday, September 12th, 5 pm-6:30 pm. Open to all members.

Learn how to select, condition, and present plant specimens. Join Heidi Muschick, NGC Master Flower Show Judge in Avis Campbell Gardens where you will learn essential techniques for participating in the upcoming competition in September. The timely presentation will address the Horticulture classes described in the Schedule.

Basics of Flower Design for Provisionals

Friday, September 22, 2 pm-4 pm

This workshop taught by Debbie Moran, GCM member and NGC Master Flower Show Judge will provide a solid foundation to kick off your Flower Design year. The workshop will present guidance for creating successful arrangements for competition.

OCTOBER WORKSHOPS

Flower Design 101

Friday, October 13, 10 am-noon. Open to all levels.

This demonstration workshop is the first of a two-part series that will focus on the elements and principles of design. Topics include discussion of color, form, texture, balance, proportion, scale, and how these are applied to floral art and design. Presented by Florence Leysse and Debbie Moran, NGC Master Flower Show judges.

Flower Design 102

Friday, October 27, 10 am-noon. Open to all levels.

Flower Design 102 will be a hands-on design session to apply what you've learned in Flower Design 101. More details to come about what to bring and what to expect!

For the workshop(s) you plan to attend, RSVP to celiaradek@gmail.com. We'll know how many to expect and can provide information and updates before the workshop.

PROGRAM MEETING

Cynthia Corhan-Aitken and Karen Fricke, Co-Chairs

**Monday, September 18, 6 pm
Union Congregational Church
176 Cooper Ave, Montclair**

Please join us for the first Program Meeting of the 2023 - 2024 year. This will be an evening meeting and will be held at Union Cong Church at 6 p.m.

Swap and Share:

The Swap: Bring a new or gently used gardening item, container, gardening book, etc. to swap.

The Share: Members, both old and new will learn what each of our hardworking committees do and what they are hoping to accomplish during the upcoming year. We'll share ideas about how to reach those goals, as well as the many ways you can be involved in the club within those committees.

There will be plenty of time to catch up with old friends, meet new ones, and welcome our new Provisionals to the club. Drinks and snacks will be provided.

We look forward to seeing you all then. Enjoy these last weeks of summer.

YEARBOOK

Floss O'Sullivan, Editor

The Yearbook team is thrilled to deliver the 2023-24 edition for your reading and planning pleasure. In support of President Sarah J. Olson's challenge to focus on our Environmental Mission, we are featuring a pollinator: the Eastern Black Swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes*), which is New Jersey's state butterfly, and Garden Phlox (*Phlox paniculata*), which is a native perennial. A tremendous thank you to Claire Stepleton for another gorgeous cover featuring her outstanding photography. For the Presidential Letters we feature additional pollinators and native flowers (monarch butterfly and coneflower) and (bellflower and bee) courtesy of Barbara Baletti and Claire Stepleton respectively.

You'll notice some changes in this year's edition.

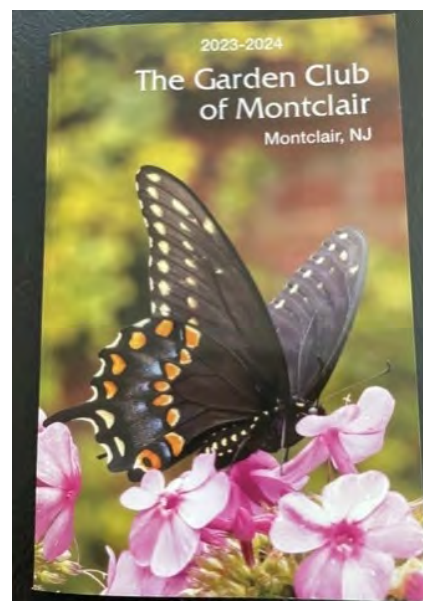
1. The **Calendar** is streamlined to focus on dates, and highlights Program and Workshop descriptions on pages 16-24. Wait until you see all the amazing events planned for the year! Note that the September Program meeting will be at Union Congregational Church, but the rest of the programs will take place at a new location: Bnai Keshet (99 S. Fullerton Avenue).
2. Because of our robust **Flower Design, Horticulture, and Botanical Arts** Competitions, the **monthly schedules** are in their own section of the yearbook on pages 32-43, preceded by rules for each division as well as clerking guidelines on pages 25-31. It promises to be a spectacular showcase of our Club's gardening and designing talents.
3. **Committee Reports** are a little shorter this year, averaging about half a page, and we removed photographs to simplify the look of this section while keeping an informative history of our Club's activities and accomplishments. Thank you to all the Chairs (and some Vice Chairs) for your timely accounts.
4. The **Membership Directory and Provisional List** are current as of 8/1/23. Thanks to members who provided updated information on their contact details prior to going to print.

The Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs accomplished an incredible amount of planning and organization for their respective areas in 7 weeks, securing speakers and workshop instructors, and developing fabulous competition schedules helping us meet an 8/1/23 print deadline.

Additionally, in our efforts to integrate our Communications strategy, Sue Young and I worked to get the Yearbook information posted on the beautifully designed website, so you are fortified with Club information online as well as in print.

The dedicated Yearbook team spent many hours this summer helping to produce an outstanding publication in record time and delivered to you well in advance of the start of our Club year.

Please give your warm thanks to: Fran Ackerly, Janice Benton, Karen DeLuca, Florence Leyssène, Sheila Oakes, Sara H. Olson, Ragna Sloane, Nancy Stroud, Karen Whitehaus, Fran Wong, and Sue Young. It was a delight to lead this marvelous team.



Horticulture Schedule for September 18, 2023, Exhibition

Michelle Trevenen and Karen Whitehaus, Co-Chairs

All Sections eligible for the Best in Show Award

Chairs: Michele Trevenen (michele.trevenen@gmail.com) and Karen Whitehaus (parlonny@comcast.net)

(Note: The complete schedule of classes is available on the Garden Club of Montclair website at:

<https://www.gardenclubofmontclair.com/horticulture>

SECTION A:

Eligible for the Estelle Leibrecht Horticulture Award*

Flowering Annuals – 1 cut stem with foliage unless otherwise specified

Class 1: *Dahlia* – 1 stem, disbudded, with a minimum of 1 set of leaves

Class 2: *Salvia*

Class 3: *Tagetes* (Marigold)– 1 stem with single bloom, or a spray with a minimum of 2 open blooms

Class 4: *Zinnia elegans* ‘Pumila Bordeaux’– 1 stem with 2 sets of leaves if large/medium; 1 set if small

**Eligible for the Estelle Leibrecht Horticulture Award*

Class 5: Any other worthy named specimen – 3 stems if small, 1 stem if large

SECTION B:

Annuals Grown for Foliage – 1 cut stem unless otherwise specified

Class 6: *Caladium*

Class 7: *Plectranthus scutellarioides* (Coleus)

Class 8: *Strobilanthes* (Persian Shield)

Class 9: Any other worthy named specimen – 3 stems if small, 1 stem if large

SECTION C:

Eligible for the Barbara Meyer Rose Award*

Flowering Perennials – 1 cut stem with attached foliage unless otherwise specified

Class 10: *Aster*

Class 11: *Rosa* – 1 cut stem, shown as a single disbudded flower, or as a spray with at least 2 open blooms and several buds in various stages of development, with a minimum of 2 sets of five-leaved leaflets.

**Eligible for the Barbara Meyer Rose Award*

Class 12: *Sedum*

Class 13: Any other worthy named specimen – 3 stems if small, 1 stem if large

SECTION D:

Perennials Grown for Foliage - 1 cut stem unless otherwise specified

Class 14: Fern

Class 15: *Heuchera* – 3 stems if small, 1 stem if large

Class 16: *Hosta* – 1 cut stem

Class 17: Any other worthy named specimen

SECTION E:

Eligible for the Amy Hatrack Herb Award*

Herbs – 3 cut stems if small, 1 stem if large

Class 18: *Ocimum* (basil)

Class 19: *Rosemarinus* (rosemary)

Class 20: *Salvia* (sage)

Class 21: *Thymus* (thyme)

Class 22: Collection of 5 herbs, - **Eligible for the Amy Hatrack Herb Award*

SECTION F:

Vegetables - Entries will be staged on a plate provided by committee

Class 23: *Capsicum* (pepper) – 5 if small, 1 if large specimen

Class 24: *Cucurbita* (squash) - 1 specimen

Class 25: *Solanum lycopersicum* (tomato) – 5 if small with stem attached, 1 if large with stem removed

Class 26: Any other worthy named specimen – check with Horticulture Chairs, as number of specimens varies with size of vegetable – i.e., 10 beans; 1 cabbage

Horticulture Division Rules Exhibition

1. The NGC Exhibiting Policies are printed in the Handbook for Flower Shows, 2017 (HB), Chapter 6, "Exhibiting in the Horticulture Division."
2. The rules for a single species cut specimen are listed in the HB.
3. In order to receive a top award, the exhibitor must identify their entry by its binomial name or currently acceptable scientific designation. Consult the HB, Chapter 6.
4. Entry cards are to be filled out in waterproof black/blue ink or pencil in advance if possible. Refer to HB, p. 57 for correctly filled out entry card. Address labels may be used for exhibitor information. Entry cards are available from the Horticulture chairs, Michele Trevenen and Karen Whitehaus, and at registration.
5. Cut specimens should not have foliage below the water line, except for gladiolas.
6. If a plant is considered a flowering plant, it should be exhibited as a flowering specimen.
7. Specimens with a class designation in the schedule may not be entered in the "Any other worthy named" class.
8. The Horticulture Classification Chair and/or the Horticulture Committee Chairs are free to subdivide classes by color, form, size, cultivar, variety, or other distinguishing characteristics.
9. The Scale of Points for Horticulture is located in Chapter 14, pp. 129-130 of the HB.
10. All plant material must be fresh and have been grown by the exhibitor. Plant material must be in its natural state and may not be altered by application of oil, commercial shine products, etc. that change the natural appearance. No wiring of specimens is permitted. Only foliage and/or flowers naturally grown and still attached to the specimen are permitted. Unattached foliage is never included with a cut bloom specimen.
11. Cut specimens of annuals, biennials and perennials must have been in exhibitor's possession for ninety (90) days and grown from maturity from seeds, cuttings, or immature plants. Bulbous blooms must have been in the exhibitor's possession from planting of bulb/tuber/corm/rhizome or it must have been cared for as a mature plant for ninety (90) days.
12. All entries should be labeled by genus, specific epithet and/or variety, or patented trademark name. Common name additionally may be given.
13. The Horticulture Committee will provide containers and wedging material (i.e., bubble wrap) for cut specimens.
14. Pre-registration with Entries Chair is required via phone or email by September 15.
15. Exhibitor may make more than one entry per class if each entry is a different species, variety, cultivar, type or color.
16. Entries must first be passed by Classification. Placement Committee will place exhibits., with the exception of Section E, Class 22, which must be placed by the exhibitor.

NGC STANDARD SYSTEM OF AWARDING:

FIRST PLACE: Only one first-place (blue) ribbon per class or subclass, must score 90 points or more

SECOND PLACE: Only one second place (red) ribbon per class or subclass, must score 85 points or more

THIRD PLACE: Only one third place (yellow) ribbon per class or subclass, must score 80 points or more

HONORABLE MENTION: One or more honorable mention (white) ribbons per class or subclass, must score 75 points or more

GARDEN CLUB OF MONTCLAIR AWARDS:

Estelle Leibrecht Horticulture Award – one offered to a member of the Garden Club of Montclair in Section A, Class 4. See Yearbook for full description of award.

Amy Hatrack Herb Award – one award offered to a member of the Garden Club of Montclair in Section E, Class 22. See Yearbook for full description of award.

Barbara Meyer Rose Award – one award offered to a member of the Garden Club of Montclair in Section C, Class 11. See Yearbook for full description of award.

Best in Show Award – one award, offered to a member of the Garden Club, for the highest scoring fully and completely named 90+ exhibit in the division.

GARDEN CLUB OF MONTCLAIR SCHOLARSHIP

Montclair High School (MHS) senior, Tiffani Armand, received the Garden Club of Montclair Scholarship in June and will begin her studies at Howard University this fall. The scholarship is awarded to a student interested in promoting, protecting, and maintaining the health and beauty of our natural environment.

As a student in the STEM Project Based Learning Community at MHS, Tiffani performed well in all subject areas, including coursework through a joint program with Montclair State University. She was a member of the Track & Field team, managed the MHS cross country team, and tutored at elementary schools. STEM provided community service opportunities, as well.

My senior year, the small Learning Community, STEM, elected me as Co-Chair for the greenhouse. This is due to the fact that since my junior year of high school, my friend and I decided, on our own, to improve our school courtyard. We raised money to help support our STEM project. That allowed us to plant new and healthy plants, build benches, fix our greenhouse, etc. It's now a safe space where students can study, eat lunch, and enjoy the Outdoors.

To quote her MHS guidance counselor "...she possesses all the qualities that make for a great student and community member".

The Montclair Scholarship Fund is grateful to the Garden Club of Montclair for its support and is pleased to offer the scholarship to a college-bound MHS senior with financial need.

Visit the [MSF website](#) for more information.



BOTANICAL ARTS NEWS

Florence Leyssène and Debbie Moran, Co-Chairs

With the Yearbook for the upcoming year of design and horticulture hot off the presses, as you riffle through its pages you will see a new format (and new creative opportunities!) for the **Botanical Arts Division** for each month.

New format aside – and be sure to **READ** the accompanying descriptions in the Yearbook for participation each month – the committee has worked hard to write classes that include several opportunities to participate in each of the **four** sections of the Botanical Arts (BA) division:

What's included in each section this year?

BA Botanical Horticulture –an arboreal branch exhibited for fall color interest, a dried hydrangea.

BA Botanical Design – a Collage; a Topiary

BA Artistic Craft – a decorated fresh pumpkin; an invitation card; a shoe; a cuff bracelet

BA Photography - one to be a black and white photograph only; a color photograph.



Botanical Arts Necklace created by Cheryl Slutsky for the April 2023 Competition

WHY I JOINED THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The Homegrown National Park movement started by Doug Tallamy is based on this fact: in the US lawns are approximately 40 million acres - national parks are less than 20 million acres. To support environmental diversity the movement seeks to convert parts of our yards to native gardens creating a vast interconnected habitat across the US.



This idea inspires me. Starting in the 2000's we transformed our garden. We have added more native plants, use leaf compost not mulch, use drip irrigation not sprinklers, and diversified our lawn. We simplified fall clean up leaving all the leaves in the flower beds and leaving flower stalks standing thus providing insect habitat, winter food for birds, and fertilizer.

I have learned esthetically to embrace how the native garden moves and changes seasonally and annually and much prefer that to the prior "controlled" landscape. **I love that my yard hums with diverse flora and fauna!**

Decidedly not a purist, I still have non-native bulbs, peonies, lavender, and roses - because I love those. But those plants are not invasive, and they provide high-quality nectar/pollen. The ecological benefit of a plant is now as important to me as flower color.

I joined the Environment Committee because I believe we must support biodiversity by expanding native and natural practices in all our yards and our organization and must also influence change in public spaces. Join in and grow your own slice of the homegrown national park!

-Jacoba Coes

Sites to support your efforts: [Homegrown National Park](#), [Native Plant Society of NJ](#), and [Jersey Yards](#)



The Grapevine

By Barbara Baletti

How Does Your Garden Grow?

I thought you might be interested in learning about what's been going on this summer in the gardens of some of our members, what they are planting, what are the ups and downs. Here's what they had to say:

Maureen Sprong:

"I've often used Scaveola plants, aka Fanflower, in my patio pots because they take the heat well and cascade beautifully in the blues, whites, and pinks commonly offered. A big plus is that there is no deadheading or cleanup needed. The Bacopa I usually favor has been disappointing this year. It can't keep up the level of its early summer bloom. My planters in full sun are filled with Scaveola, Mezoo, Portulaca and Plecranthus aka Swedish Ivy. I've never been disappointed with these choices and have to cut back the Plecranthus because it so happily fills the space with its soft, fragrant variegated leaves. It does not like to share a pot but the Ivy-leaved geranium I've paired it with seems to hold its own.

This season I've tried Scaveola in-ground for the first time. In the bed I maintain at Avis Campbell I've planted several white ones which merge gracefully with the brightly colored plantings. In my home garden, I tried a blue variety touched with white which is doing very well despite being in an area that gets half full sun and half part shade."

Susan Yu:

"When I moved to Montclair, I was excited to have a garden in the suburbs after NYC apartment living. Little did I know about gardening and many of my initial plantings died. Since joining the Garden Club I've learned so much, especially at Avis Campbell and from all the wonderful generous, and knowledgeable bed captains and my fellow volunteers. I am trying to right past wrongs and slowly give my plants more negative space and proper sun or shade exposure and soil requirements so every year I must do a lot of digging and transplanting.

To ease my gardening chores, I've been trying to plant more native flowers, succulents, and perennials. This spring, I got my Felco pruners sharpened at American Hardware at Watchung Plaza, I got a few bags of rich potting soil (green bag) at Bartlett's and Richfield (black "Sunshine" bag) nurseries and tiny pine nugget mulch from Cedar Grove Nursery. I stopped buying Miracle-Gro and Home Depot mulch after some bags added unwanted fungi. I try to follow some of Barbara Meyer's rose workshop advice like pruning and fertilizing. I usually buy too many flowers and herbs at Gasko's in Monroe and Centre Ridge in Nutley (plus Farmers Bumper Crop bags—an amalgam of basically soil amendment and various animals' poo) and love finding a couple of unusual specimens at the Van Vleck plant sale. We removed a few weed trees like Norway Maples and Sumacs and had some beds prepared for shrubs like Beauty Berry, NJ Tea (ceanothus) and Korean Spice Viburnum. Some of my perennials: peonies, tulips, daffodils, monarda, heliopsis, rose campion, red cardinal, liatris, hardy hibiscus, milkweed, sweet woodruff, hostas and ferns. We have a little vegetable patch and have been waging battle with the rabbits, squirrels, and deer, they win a lot à la Caddyshack.

My go to tools: shovel, fishtail weed stick, rake, pruner, and gloves. I spray Neem Oil on most problems like bugs, mold, and mildew. I have had varying success with a tennis canister partly filled with Dawn liquid soap and alcohol for trapping Spotted Lantern Flies. The heatwaves, weeds (especially poison

ivy), wasps, and tiger mosquitos sometimes dissuade me from gardening, otherwise, it's often my happy place and where I keep learning "circle of life" lessons.

Virginia Woo:

"Lambasted groundhogs! As a garden club member, it's no surprise that I would experiment with potted annuals to keep my garden colorful throughout the summer. Unfortunately, instead of honing my artistic potting skills, I'm developing proficiency in providing wildlife buffets and it's those pesky groundhogs doing the most damage. Yes, there are rabbits in my fenced garden as well, but I've seen the groundhogs in action on my pots specifically.

I annually peruse my Cornell University groundhog resistant plant list, which has been on the money. I've had success with hellebores, assorted spring bulbs, peonies, iris, clematis, a climbing rose, hardy geraniums, crocosmia, coreopsis, Japanese anemone, and a few others. But there's nothing like the summer-long color provided by annuals. I've scoured the internet far and wide and taken heed to caution and advice. I've used LaTorres rabbit and groundhog repellent, which is not unpleasant to humans, Bonide Repels All and even skunked myself out of my own backyard once this year by spraying Bobex Deer Repellent in anger, which I normally use elsewhere! I've used red pepper flakes, black pepper etc. All with some success. This year, not so much. Even my Lantana is being eaten - a first. Every flower picked off the calibrachoa and every leaf off the sweet potato vine. Both of which I knew I shouldn't have put at munch level. So, back to the Cornell list next year and these additional annuals, some of which I know to be a safe bet; alyssum, angelonia, wax begonias, coleus, nicotiana, cleome, geraniums, and vinca. And back to putting the tastiest treats in a couple of hanging baskets. I continue to have success with canna and trailing verbena in pots and will try those again next year. Wish me luck!"

Sarah Olson:

"I've had a tough time with deer and what I guess might be a groundhog this year. I do spray regularly for deer and for the past 7 years it has worked beautifully. This year my hostas have taken a beating, not all though; they seem to be a little picky about which ones are tastiest. The deer have also nipped almost all of my caladiums which breaks my heart. The shady, woodland garden that I have really benefits from the shot of color that the caladiums bring but it's a struggle this year. Interestingly the caladiums didn't emerge until about a month later than last year presumably due to fewer really hot days.

The deer/woodchuck nipped off all my tomato buds and green tomatoes as well as all of the zinnias that I planted. I've started over and used a netting around them. The dahlias in my sunniest section are blooming like crazy but have been less prolific in spots where I'm now getting more shade due to the green giant arborvitae growing in so much. Note to self: time to prune those back. Oddly my favorite salvia, Wendy's Wish, had a couple of blooms initially and since then has not bloomed at all. All in all, not my best year in the garden but despite the disappointments the garden still looks pretty."

Tova Narrett:

"Progress Report on my 16-month-old garden: Anything the deer DON'T eat is doing beautifully. For anything the deer DO eat, I found "Deerstopper" repellent, which smells like bleach, instead of rotten eggs. So my garden smells very clean! According to internet research, gaillardia and liatris are supposed to be deer-resistant — LOL, hahaha, they were devoured! So, I hid them in a bed of pungent pineapple mint — they grew back and bloomed!

My biggest 2023 successes are:

1. Gigantic 8-foot-tall Joe Pye stalks, with huge 15" wide pink heads. Happy in a soggy spot, next to a catch-basin drain!
2. Agastache "Blue Fortune", over 4 feet tall, and super-showy! (I have photos I can send you.)

Marilyn Zaret:

"My garden: storage in plain sight. Not what Marie Kondo would recommend, but I realized that my garage clutter of bygone days still sparked joy.

Little by little, these treasures emerged from dusty boxes and found a new life in the garden. Dozens of rejected floor tile samples became borders for beds and blankets for weeds. Rusty chains embraced fragile young trees and metal parts with unknown origins found homes on fences and furniture. Cracked pottery, as

well as anything concave, became a vessel for a plant. Nautical hooks and ropes were used to hang any object made of wire and there were many. Mirrors hung on tree trunks while bolts of old fabric were reimagined as new gazebo curtains.

The garden is now a gallery. These objects will patina and rust and even rot while the plants fade and grow. But they will not die in a landfill or be sacrificed for a dollar at a garage sale. And that...sparks Joy."

Terri Breen:

"The Breen summer garden has been a success in that I stayed ahead of the weeds and all the perennials I planted last year returned. One of my pleasures has been to share my perennials with my neighbors. I was inspired by an English gentleman neighbor 3 years ago who, after I mentioned at the end of that summer that I'd been unable to find any peonies, brought over 3 peonies dug up from his own garden. I was so touched. I brought him some cleome from my garden which is still growing in his garden, as the beautiful peonies are growing in mine."

Debbie Moran:

"This year has been the Year of the Deer for us. Their initial arrival was about 4 years ago in late July to reduce the hostas along our driveway (about 20' of them) to celery sticks. The following year they came earlier, in June to do it again. For the rest of that year, I used a deer repellent spray religiously every 2 weeks, but I would swear that the deer could count, and came the day before to revisit. So I decided this was more of a nuisance than it was worth, especially after I read that one needs to rotate between different sprays...forget that!

So, last year I decided to cover the hostas with black bird netting suspended just above them on green wire plant stakes. The only problem was the wire stakes were a bit flimsy, and one night a deer managed to just lean in and graze at the back. So, THIS year, before the deer arrived, I used wood stakes and ran galvanized wire through them to support the bird netting. It worked perfectly until two nights ago when clearly a deer was determined to do its best to get at the hostas...two stakes were bent, and the wire between them even more bent, but the deer couldn't get through the netting. The strategy worked and survived a deer mugging.

This is the first year that a deer has jumped our fence in the most unexpected spot, behind our garage. I have a number of herbs in containers along the driveway at the back of the house, as well as marigolds, zinnias, salvia, and one container of jalapeño peppers tucked in the middle of them. Not only did the deer chomp on some hostas along the garage inside the fence, but also had the nerve to eat almost all the leaves on the pepper plant, but not a single pepper (it was clear the deer had not even tried to sample one) on the driveway.

With only the pepper plant molested, I came to the conclusion that zinnias are not appealing to deer, as they were growing happily and untouched...until last night - but only a couple of buds and a few leaves on two plants. Revised conclusion - Zinnias may get eaten if nothing else is available. And the fact that this is going on makes me suspect that given the dry spells we have had, deer are having to forage in places they otherwise might not visit.

Regarding new plants, I decided to plant Salvias in my containers on my front steps, because the deer enjoyed the coleus and potato vine I put in last year. I bought a new cultivar of Salvia, 'Rockin' Blue Suede Shoes', for the containers, along with white Bacopa, and the deer have not touched it, which was what I expected since it's a member of the mint family. To my delight, this salvia grows more compactly/tightly but blooms like a maniac, and hummingbirds visit them regularly, so I'm pleased about that. The only downside to salvias in containers is that the stems are brittle, and can snap in strong wind gusts...

That's all I can say about my summer gardening...Until I decide to learn how to shoot a crossbow to take out the deer, I'm going to be dealing with a persistent deer issue."

I would like to thank the gardeners who contributed to The Grapevine this month. Their reports were filled with helpful tips and included both humor and pathos!

Stay tuned for future twists and turns in *The Grapevine*. - Barbara Baletti

OUR CALENDAR

<https://www.gardenclubofmontclair.com/calendar>

*Board Meetings will take place at 60 South Fullerton Avenue in the Garden View Room or via Zoom as needed. For the year 2023-2024, in person **Program Meetings** accompanied by **Flower Design, Horticulture, and Botanical Arts Competitions** will be held at either:*

***Union Congregational Church**
176 Cooper Avenue
Montclair, NJ 07043*

***Bnai Keshet**
99 S. Fullerton Ave
Montclair, NJ 07042*

SEPTEMBER

- | | | |
|----|----|---|
| 12 | T | Workshop: Horticulture 101 @ Avis Campbell Gardens 5-6:30 pm
https://www.gardenclubofmontclair.com/workshops |
| 13 | W | Board of Trustees Meeting @ 60 South Fullerton 10 am |
| 15 | F | <i>Potpourri</i> : October Issue Deadline |
| 18 | M | Competition*: Horticulture Division @ Union Congregational Church.
Drop off 8:15 am-9:15 am
https://www.gardenclubofmontclair.com/horticulture |
| 18 | M | Program Meeting: Swap & Share with Committee Leaders @ Union Congregational Church 6 pm – 8:30 pm
https://www.gardenclubofmontclair.com/programs |
| 21 | Th | Dahlias of ACG: Clip, Sip, and Dip at Avis Campbell Gardens 4-7 pm
https://www.gardenclubofmontclair.com/social-events |
| 22 | F | Workshop: Basics of Flower Design for Provisionals at 60 S. Fullerton 2 pm
https://www.gardenclubofmontclair.com/workshops |

**There are no Flower Design or Botanical Arts Competitions scheduled for September*

OCTOBER

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| 11 | W | Board of Trustees Meeting @ 60 South Fullerton 10 am |
| 13 | F | Garden Therapy: Floral Arrangement Delivery to Mountainside Hospital
8 am Sign-up here: tinyurl.com/25s6bra8 |
| 13 | F | Avis Campbell Gardens Lift Tulips and Plant |
| 15 | Su | Triangle Gardens Lift Tulips and Plant Annuals Meet @ Church Street,
Montclair 9:30 am |
| 16 | M | <i>Raindate</i> : Triangle Gardens Lift Tulips and Plant Annuals Meet @ Church
Street, Montclair 9:30 am |
| 16 | M | Annual Awards Meeting and Luncheon @ Montclair Golf Club |
| 17 | Tu | Avis Campbell Gardens Fall Cleanup 9:30 am-Noon |
| 24 | Tu | Avis Campbell Gardens Fall Cleanup 9:30 am-Noon |
| 27 | F | Workshop: Flower Design 102 @ 60 S. Fullerton 10 am-Noon
This hands-on workshop is a design session to apply what you have learned in
Flower Design 101. Open to all levels |
| 30 | M | Triangle Gardens Fall Cleanup/Prepare Planters at Church Street, Montclair 8:45 am |

NOVEMBER

- 4 S Workshop: Winter Container Gardens@ 60 S. Fullerton 1-3 pm
A hands-on workshop will provide techniques for creating a seasonal planter for front door display. \$20 fee to cover the container and plant material.
- 6 M Triangle Gardens Fall Bulb and Perennial Planting at Church Street in Montclair 8:45 am
- 7 Tu Avis Campbell Gardens Tulip Bulb Planting, Church St, Montclair 8:45 am
- 8 W Board of Trustees Meeting at 60 S. Fullerton, Montclair, 9:30 am
- 13 M Competitions: Flower Design, Horticulture, and Botanical Arts Divisions at Bnai Keshet Drop off 8:15-9:15 am.
See Schedule pp. 36-37
- 13 M Program Meeting: Artistic Flourishes: Pots with Purpose with Dan Benarcik, Horticulturist at Chanticleer Garden at Bnai Keshet 1-3 pm
- 14 Tu Avis Campbell Gardens Tulip Bulb Planting 9:30am-Noon
- 15 W Potpourri: December/January Issue Deadline
- 29 W Workshop: Crane House and Historic YWCA
Holiday Decorating at 108 Orange Rd, Montclair 10 am-2 pm

DECEMBER

- 6 W Board of Trustees Meeting @ 60 S. Fullerton, 9:30 am
- 7 Th Trip: Holiday Shopping at Morris County Farms (Denville, NJ) and lunch at Tabor Road Tavern. For updates: gardenclubofmontclair.com/calendar
- 13 W Holiday Tea at Member's Home 1-3 pm

*There are no Flower Design, Horticulture, or Botanical Arts:
Competitions scheduled in December.*

Potpourri

News and Information

The Garden Club of Montclair, Inc.
60 South Fullerton Avenue
Montclair, NJ 07042

Next issue of *Potpourri*:
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Potpourri Staff

Terri Breen – Editor

Sarah Olsen – President

Marilyn Zaret & Barbara Baletti – Committee

