



# The Cross Estate Gardens

New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation

# NEWSLETTER

Fall 2009

## A Fall Flurry in a Country Garden

Thursday, September 17, from 1 - 4 p.m.

The New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation was established under the auspices of Mr. James Spiniello. Its board is composed of volunteers interested in the preservation, maintenance, and development of public, historical gardens. The Foundation is working with, but not funded by, the National Park Service, U. S. Department of Interior, to preserve the Cross Estate Gardens.

### *The New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation Executive Board*

#### **Founder & Chairman**

James Spiniello

#### **President**

Joan Ryder

#### **Secretary**

Mary Keselica

#### **Treasurer**

Judy Spiniello

#### **Membership Chairman**

Hollace Bowers

#### **Horticultural Advisor**

Carolyn Lydon

#### **Volunteer Chairman**

Janet DiMauro

#### **Members**

Ray Andrews

Marge Hulstrunk

Marta McDowell

Ann Meehan

#### **Advisory Board**

Mary Bartow

Gunnar Berg

Rosalind Cross Dujardin

Jean Pope

Mary Sambrook

Mary Cross Spence

Nancy Strong

Marion Troussoff

Marge Van Ryzin

#### **Non-Board Chairs**

##### **Newsletter and Website**

Ann Campbell

#### **Publicity**

Betty McAndrews

#### **Intern**

Letitia Clark



children's book illustrator. Yolanda will bring a wide range of her vivid and colorful artwork to illustrate her talk. Joining her will be historic preservationist and landscape designer **Marta McDowell**, who will add insights into how nature and gardens through the ages have influenced a myriad of artists.

The Flurry will continue from 2 - 4 p.m. with light refreshments and sale of Yolanda's limited edition prints. Also available for purchase to benefit the NJHGF will be our "Zany Containers" filled with flowers from the Cross Estate Gardens.

Registration is requested. Admission is \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members. All proceeds assist in the preservation of the Cross Estate Gardens. Please register by sending your check, payable to NJHGF, to New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation, PO Box 712, Bernardsville, NJ 07924, with the notation "Fall Flurry."

## Thanksgiving Cornucopia Workshop

Saturday, November 21, from 10 - 11 a.m.

**Marge Hulstrunk**, a popular local floral arranger and NJHGF board member, will conduct a Thanksgiving Cornucopia Workshop in the Cross Estate library on Saturday, November 21, from 10 - 11 a.m. Marge will demonstrate how anyone can create a cornucopia overflowing with seasonal flowers and other natural materials. Each participant will leave with an artistically-filled cornucopia that will stand out as the centerpiece of the Thanksgiving harvest table.



Fee (including cost of materials) is \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members. Please register prior to November 13 by sending your check, payable to NJHGF, to NJ Historical Garden Foundation, PO Box 712, Bernardsville, NJ 07924, with the notation "Cornucopia Workshop."

## **Goldman Sachs Volunteers at the Cross Estate Gardens in May**

The Partners for Parks Program of The Land Conservancy of New Jersey arranged for 14 volunteers from Goldman Sachs to spend last May 12 planting trees at the Cross Estate Gardens. A sincere ‘thank you’ to the Goldman Sachs Charitable Group that donated \$1,060 to NJHGF to purchase 13 trees (Sugar Maple, European Beech, 2 Redbuds, Southern Magnolia, Kousa Dogwood, Black Tupelo, 2 Japanese



Snowbells, Silver Linden, Green Ash, Chastetree, and Chinese Elm). After morning coffee and a brief talk on how to plant trees correctly — first

remove 2-5 inches of soil from the top of the root ball to locate the root flare, then plant the tree so that roots are below ground and trunk, with top of root flare, is above ground — the Goldman Sachs volunteers got to work. Most people plant trees too deeply, but not our Goldman Sachs volunteers! After correctly planting the 13 trees and watering them in, 2-3 inches of mulch was spread around the trees, not touching the trunks. No mulch volcanoes, which cause severe problems for trees. We thank the Goldman Sachs volunteers who truly did a magnificent job in improving the Cross Estate Gardens.

## **Young Volunteers**

We were delighted this past July and August to have two young teenage sisters, Shweta and Aparna, volunteer with us in the Cross Estate Gardens every Wednesday morning. After being dropped off by their mother, they would eagerly get to work weeding and mulching. They are very diligent, willing workers who also help their parents in the family garden. We thank them for all the work they did in the Cross Estate Gardens and hope they will be able to join us again next summer.



## **Bayer Healthcare Volunteers at the Cross Estate Gardens in July**

The Partners for Parks Program of The Land Conservancy of New Jersey also arranged for a dozen volunteers from Bayer Healthcare in Morristown to work at the Cross Estate Gardens on July 17.

In spite of the extreme heat and humidity, these hardy volunteers did a terrific job weeding and putting down 30 yards of wood chips in the area in front of the historic stone water tower.



They also weeded and spread more woodchips in the mountain laurel allée and around the foundation planting, in addition to weeding the side terrace s. We truly appreciate their enthusiasm and excellent results. A big ‘thank you’ also to The Land Conservancy of New Jersey.

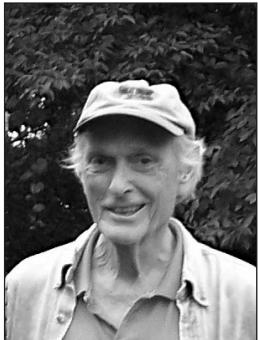


## **Student Conservation Association Volunteers**

We were very fortunate to have the Morristown NHP 2009 Crew of the national Student Conservation Association spend two Wednesday mornings last July working in the Cross Estate Gardens. The dozen high school honor students from all over the country who comprised this crew were a high energy, results-oriented group. Together with our volunteers they weeded, put down a lot of wood chips, and, most important, did most of the work cleaning out the barn – a job that had not been done in years. We thank them for their hard work and wish them much success in the future.

# Volunteer Spotlight on Philip Pitney

Among the volunteers who come weekly to work in the Cross Estate Gardens, there is one man who has a special past with the Cross Estate. That man is Phil Pitney. Not only does Phil have stories about the garden's history, but also the Cross family, including the time he was so fortunate to have tea with Julia Cross on the side terrace. He even talks about how Mrs. Cross was gracious enough to come to a beer party at his home in Bernardsville. "I'm sure she had tea" he says with a smile. That smile has brought a warm welcome to new volunteers and visitors for many years.



After retiring in 1997 from his career as a NYC banker, Phil came across an old Cross Estate Gardens volunteer notice. Excited to embark on a new venture, he began volunteering in the gardens the following spring. Through his 11 years at the Cross Estate, Phil has worn many hats, from garden volunteer to President of the Board of the New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation.

During the annual plant sale Phil has generously donated numerous trees and plants. He spends hours cultivating cuttings from the Cross Estate trees and many from his own property. On one occasion Phil was given a copper beech sapling, by volunteer Steve Palmer. They decided to plant the tree at the Cross Estate, near the "play house". They fondly joke that Steve is the father and Phil is the uncle. Phil continues to care for his favorite tree.

Phil is one of the most dedicated, charming people we have at the Cross Estate Gardens. His generosity has been a great asset to the garden. When asked what his favorite part is, he simply says "the spirit of the volunteers". Phil Pitney is one of a kind and we are enormously grateful to have him.

*Interview and article by Michelle Marchello*

## Join our Volunteers

From early April through the end of November, our hearty group of volunteers meets every Wednesday morning from 9 a.m. to noon to work in the historic Walled Garden, the Native Plant Garden, the kiwi vine and wisteria covered pergola, the Mountain Laurel allée and the other garden areas near the Cross Estate home. Tea/coffee/hot chocolate plus baked treats are provided during our 10:30 a.m. coffee break under the pergola. Please join us every Wednesday morning or whenever your schedule allows.

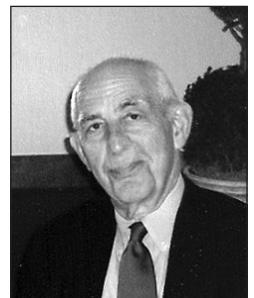
## Marion Bracken on the Mend

Longtime volunteer Marion Bracken broke her thighbone in early June when she fell on her way out with friends to dinner. Recovery has been very slow for Marion, who is used to being very active. Marion has been one of the most regular volunteers on Wednesday mornings and has actively participated in every fundraising effort. She is still in the Pine Acres Nursing/Rehabilitation & Health Care Center at 51 Madison Ave., Room #204, Madison, NJ 07940. Her direct phone # is 973-410-0402, extension #18. Marion would love to hear from her friends.



## Passing of Volunteer Richard Loengard

We mourn the passing of Dick Loengard, who died on May 31 at New York-Presbyterian Hospital of complications following surgery. Dick was a distinguished lawyer for over 50 years. A few years ago he expanded his interests to include volunteering at the Cross Estate Gardens. While claiming total ignorance of gardening, he seemed to enjoy working in the Native Garden and the company of the other volunteers. He shall be missed. Our condolences go to his wife Janet and his family.



## Become a Member

The NJHGF is always looking for new members to support its all-volunteer work in the Cross Estate Gardens. Every dollar donated goes into the gardens. Please become a member today, if you're not already a supporter. Membership rates are as follows:

Individual	\$25	Family	\$40
Friend	\$100	Sponsor	\$250
Patron	\$500		

Please mail your check, payable to NJHGF, to NJ Historical Garden Foundation, PO Box 712, Bernardsville, NJ 07924-0712. Thank you.

## Tours of the Cross Estate Gardens

Tours of the gardens are available every Wednesday at 10 a.m. Tours take approximately one-half hour. If your group would like to schedule a tour of the gardens on another day or time, please contact Joan Ryder at 973-376-0348. There is a suggested donation of \$5 per person for group tours.

## Visit Us Online

Be sure to check out the Cross Estate Gardens website at [www.crossestategardens.org](http://www.crossestategardens.org). It was redesigned in 2006 by our webmaster Ann Campbell and funded by a grant from the NJ Committee of the Garden Club of America. Our sponsor for the grant was the Garden Club of Somerset Hills. We thank all for their generosity.

Ann continues to periodically expand and update the site. If you have any suggestions for more improvements, please use the "contact us" tab on the site.

## Plant Sale a Success

Our Plant Sale last June 6 was very successful. It was a lot of hard work preparing for the sale, but the results were great. Together with our mini Plant Sale on May 28, in conjunction with the Bernardsville Garden Club Garden Tour, in which the Cross Estate Gardens participated, our net profit was \$5,100. Of course, all monies raised are used for supplies and plants for the Cross Estate Gardens.

New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation  
Post Office Box 712, Bernardsville, NJ 07924

The Cross Estate Gardens

