



The Cross Estate Gardens

New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2010

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 of Volunteers
Jean Pope

Founder & Chairman
James Spiniello

President
Joan Ryder

Secretary
Mary Keselica

Treasurer
Judy Spiniello

Committee Chairs
Membership: Hollace Bowers
Horticulture: Carolyn Lydon
Volunteers: Janet DiMauro

Members
Ray Andrews
Kay Compton
Caroline Ford
Marge Hulstrunk
Marta McDowell
Ann Meehan
George Nixon

Honorary Board
Mary Bartow
Gunnar Berg
Rosalind Cross Dujardin
Mary Sambrook
Mary Cross Spence
Nancy Strong
Marion Trousoff
Marge Van Ryzin

Non-Board Chairs
Newsletter/Website: Ann Campbell
Publicity: Betty McAndrews
Intern: Letitia Clark

Cross Estate Gardens Plant Sale

Saturday, June 5

9 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine

Our Plant Sale, held under the pergola in the Cross Estate Gardens, will be filled with divisions from our shady native plant garden and our sunny walled garden, plus donated plants from our volunteers' gardens. In addition to perennials, we will have some small trees and shrubs. All funds raised at this sale will help the volunteers of the NJHGF care for the Cross Estate Gardens. Your support of our Plant Sale is greatly appreciated!

Members' Preview Plant Sale

Friday, June 4

9 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine

Members of NJHGF will be able to shop at the Cross Estate Gardens Preview Plant Sale on Friday, June 4, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Get an early start on our plant sale by becoming a member of NJHGF (see page 4 for membership information). All funds raised will help the volunteers of the NJHGF care for the Cross Estate Gardens. Thank you.

Plant Propagation Workshop

Saturday, July 10

10 - 11:30 a.m.

Back by popular demand, Carolyn Lydon will again conduct a propagation workshop of softwood cuttings taken from some of the Cross Estate's beautiful shrubs as well as cuttings from her garden. The workshop will be held outside the Cross Estate library, where participants will be instructed on various methods of propagation and will take home a flat of planted cuttings with instructions on how to care for them.

Fee: Members \$25; Non-Members \$30.

To register, please send your check, payable to NJHGF, to New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation, PO Box 712, Bernardsville, NJ 07924.

Meet Our Three New Board Members

Kay Compton, Caroline Ford and George Nixon were elected to the NJHGF Board of Trustees at our annual meeting last November. Our three new Board members are regular volunteers in the Cross Estate Gardens with special skills and knowledge that greatly enhance our Board.

Kay Compton retired in 2008 after 25 years with the New Jersey State Park Service. She served as a Ranger at Liberty State Park, Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park, and Swartswood State Park, and as Chief Ranger at Kittatinny Valley State Park. After retirement, she looked for a place to volunteer her time and skills and where she could satisfy her love for the outdoors and gardening. The Cross Estate Gardens was a perfect fit. In addition to a BA in Sociology from Douglass College of Rutgers University, Kay has an associate degree in Landscape Management and Design from County College of Morris. In 2009, she was certified as a Master Gardener in Sussex County. Kay grew up in Chatham, along with her sister and fellow Board member Marta McDowell. Kay now lives in Byram Township with her husband and two sons.



Caroline worked on Wall Street for many years but always found time to garden. While she nurtured the perennial flower garden in the back yard, her husband created a beautiful sculpture and ornamental grasses garden. Upon her retirement in '09, Caroline knew she wanted to be involved with the Cross Estate, a garden sanctuary she loved for years, and became a volunteer. Working with the experienced horticulturalists, corporate sponsor groups, and youth volunteers alongside other dedicated gardeners has been such a rewarding learning experience that she hopes to nurture continued community awareness and involvement in the Cross Estate and its historic garden.

George Nixon, who was born and raised in Morristown, lives in a 200+ year old house in Washington Valley with his wife Linda. George divides his time between working on the house, traveling, cooking and gardening. George grows annuals and perennials so his wife has plenty of flowers to pick for arrangements. However, his real horticultural love is his vegetable garden, where he tries to grow enough food to keep friends happy and freeze enough vegetables to get through the winter.



George went to Rutgers University where he received an AB in Russian Area Studies, and NYU where he received an MA in Russian Linguistics and an MAT in mathematics. George taught mathematics for 30 years and spent two years in the Army — one in Viet Nam where he developed a taste for trying different foods. After retiring from teaching in 1998, George started volunteering at the Cross Estate Gardens. George and past Board President Phil Pitney hold the distinction of being the longest active volunteers in the Cross Estate Gardens.



Caroline Ford moved to New Vernon in 1991 with her husband Roger. They have an 18-year-old son attending Arizona State University interested in studying aspects of environmental science. They also have a Kerry Blue Terrier interested in persuading the wildlife to keep out of their gardens.

Prudential Insurance Company Volunteers

On Wednesday, May 5 The Land Conservancy of New Jersey provided 16 volunteers from Prudential Insurance Company (Roseland office) to work at the Cross Estate Gardens. The weather was spectacular, the volunteers were extremely capable and energetic, and an amazing amount of work was accomplished. The Prudential volunteers were able to cut down two 75 year-old kiwi vines, whose leaves and branches covered about one-third of the 130-foot-long stone-columned pergola.



We will replace the kiwi vines with four Amethyst Falls Wisteria, which is native to our area, and which will join the existing wisteria on the remainder of the pergola. The purple flowers of the wisteria in May are one of the main attractions for visitors at the Cross Estate Gardens.

The Prudential volunteers also potted up 200 divisions of plants from our Native Garden for our upcoming Plant Sale on June 5, in addition to pruning shrubs, deadheading spent daffodils, and putting down eight yards of wood chips in the Mountain Laurel Allée. Great teamwork, Prudential!

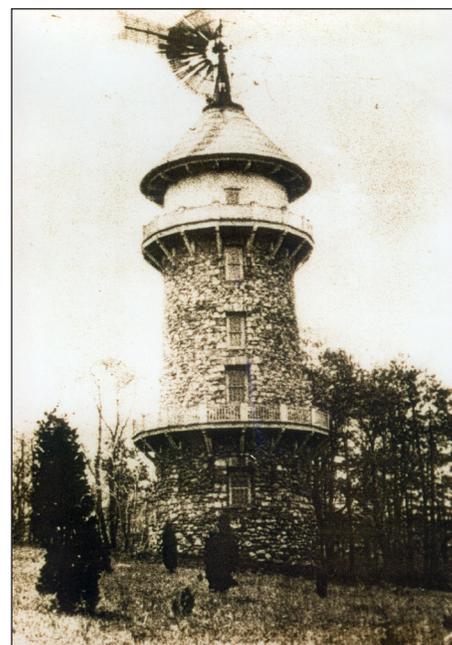
Save the Date: Fall Flurry Thursday, September 23 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Tired of being satisfied with mums in your fall containers and Dwarf Alberta Spruces in your winter containers? Want your containers to look spectacular? Join us at our Fall Flurry where garden guru Kent Russell will show us how to create Fabulous Fall/Winter Containers. Details upcoming on our website. www.crossestategardens.org.

Stone Water Tower: Plans Being Prepared for Restoration

In 1895, the granite stone water tower at the present Cross Estate was erected by the original owners John and Ella Bensel to provide water for their estate "Queen Anne Farm." The water tower was originally capped by a wooden windmill used to pump water. In the mid-1920s the windmill was broken in a storm and replaced by the present electric motor. Two wooden balconies originally circumscribed the five-story structure and have also been removed due to advanced deterioration.

Jim Spiniello, founder and chairman of the NJHGF, is preparing plans for the restoration of some of the deteriorated exterior features of the stone water tower, such as the rotted wooden windows and the missing wooden balconies, plus improvement of the grounds immediately surrounding the water tower. Also being considered is which era the exterior should be restored to (the Bensels' era, i.e. wooden windmill, or the Crosses' era, i.e. no wooden windmill). If anyone is interested in helping Jim with this project, please contact him through our website www.crossestategardens.org.



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 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.

Come to the Plant Sale
June 5, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Members only preview plant sale
June 4, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"The early bird catches the worm!"

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.

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