



The Cross Estate Gardens

New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2016

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.

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Cross Estate Gardens Plant Sale



Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“Come one — come all” to our spring Plant Sale, held in the Cross Estate Gardens. This is a great opportunity to find new plants or replace your plants that didn’t survive this past winter. Our Plant Sale will be filled with divisions from our shady native plant garden and from our sunny walled garden, plus donated plants from our volunteers’ and members’ gardens. In addition to perennials, we will have a selection of 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!



Save the Date! Talk & Tea

Thursday, October 27, 1-3 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon



Photo by Marco Ricca

Save the Date! Talk & Tea on Thursday, October 27 from 1-3 pm at the First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon, 2 Lee's Hill Road, New Vernon.

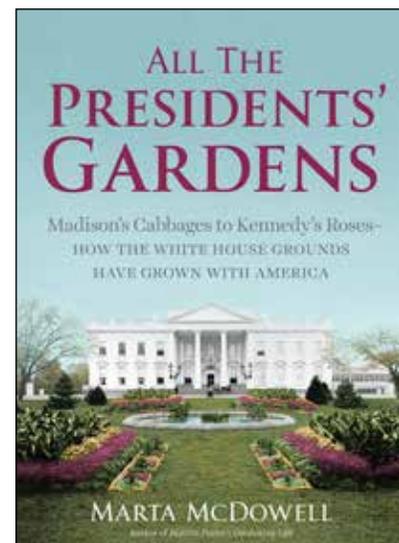
Our speaker will be the very popular **Marta McDowell**, who lives, writes and gardens in Chatham, NJ. Marta teaches landscape history and horticulture at the New York Botanical Garden and consults for private clients and public gardens. She interned at Wave Hill, Frelinghuysen Arboretum, the Royal Horticultural Society's Rosemoor in Devon, England and at the Chelsea Physic Garden. Marta worked as a horticulturist for five years at Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit. A popular lecturer on topics ranging from design history to plant combinations, she has been a speaker at locations ranging from Arnold Arboretum to the Philadelphia Flower Show to the Beatrix Potter Society's Linder Lecture at the Sloane Club in London. Marta is on the board of the New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation, as well as an inspired gardener in the Cross Estate Gardens.

Marta will share with us anecdotes from her latest book, *All the Presidents' Gardens: Madison's Cabbages to Kennedy's Roses—How the White House Grounds Have Grown with America*. Copies of her new book will be available for purchase. Following her talk, the volunteers of the Cross Estate Gardens will serve our superb tea, featuring savories, sweets and tea or cider. Registration is \$25 for New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation members and \$30 for non-members. Registration

checks, payable to NJHGF, may be sent to New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation, PO Box 712, Bernardsville, NJ 07924.

The fascinating story of America's first garden! The eighteen acres that surround the White House have been an unwitting witness to history—a backdrop for soldiers, suffragettes, protestors, and activists. Kings and queens have dined there; bills and treaties have been signed; and presidents have landed and retreated. The front and back yard for the first family, it is by extension the nation's first garden.

All the Presidents' Gardens tells the untold history of the White House grounds. Starting with the seed-collecting, plant-obsessed George Washington and ending with Michelle Obama's focus on edibles, this rich and compelling narrative reveals how the story of the garden is also the story of America. Readers learn about Lincoln's goats, Ike's putting green, the Kennedys' iconic roses, Amy Carter's tree house, and much more. They also learn the plants whose favor has come and gone over the years and the gardeners who have been responsible for it all. Fully illustrated with new and historical photographs and art, refreshingly nonpartisan, and released just in time for election year, this is a must-read for anyone interested in the red, white, and green!



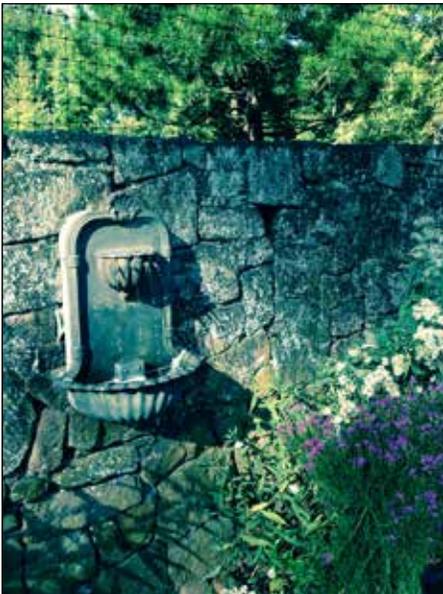
Our Featured Volunteer: Carolyn Lydon

Having grown up in Trinidad with exotic flowers and plants, then living in England with the beautiful gardens, Carolyn had an early grounding in horticulture. When she moved to Summit in the early '70s, she concentrated on her own garden which is mostly plants propagated by her. She then began volunteering at Reeves-Reed Arboretum in the late '70s. Carolyn became the first Director of Horticulture at the Arboretum in 1992 and worked there until 2007 managing the grounds. After retiring from the Arboretum she joined the volunteers at the Cross Estate Gardens and as a Board member in charge of horticulture. She also started a small gardening business operating in and around Summit. When she is not gardening, Carolyn immensely enjoys the antics and company of her two grandsons, 7-year old Robert and 4-year old Charlie, who live with their parents down the shore.



Carolyn (far right) with other NJHGF volunteers in the Walled Garden.

Wall Fountain Restored



The wall fountain, which was installed in the late 1900s in the upper walled garden, used a solar panel as the power source to run a DC pump motor. Unfortunately, the water lines inside the fountain were prone to clogging, resulting in long down times. As a result, the entire solar panel and pump system were removed in the year 2000, but the wall fountain was left in place for visual effect.

During 2015 the wall fountain was refurbished by NJHGF volunteer and board member Steve Fogle to cure the clogging problems. All internal water lines were enlarged, including inlet and outlet openings, tubing and pipe fittings. Special guard plates were added to the inlet and outlet to keep debris out.

Using water flow experiments and calculations, the amount of power required to circulate the fountain water was determined. Using this information, the proper sizes of solar panel, DC electrical pump, storage battery and charge controller were selected, and the items were purchased as a kit.

The solar panel was installed on a tall pole about 50 feet away from the wall fountain and connected to it by underground electrical cable. A large weatherproof wooden cabinet was designed and built to house the kit items as well as a small reservoir tank, valves, switches and a timer. This cabinet was mounted on the outside of the wall behind the fountain.

A special feature of the new system is that the water supply to it is automatically controlled and thus does not require manual refilling. This was achieved by extending an existing underground water supply line by approximately 100 feet to reach the wall fountain location.

Visitors to the walled garden now can enjoy the sight and sound of running water from the newly restored wall fountain.



The Cross Estate Gardens

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

Join our Volunteers

From early April through the middle of November, our hearty group of men and women volunteers meets every Wednesday morning from 9 a.m. to noon to work in the various gardens at the Cross Estate. Refreshments are provided during our 10:30 a.m. coffee break under the pergola. Please join us every Wednesday morning or whenever your schedule allows. All levels of expertise are



welcome. For more information, please call Janet DiMauro at (908) 223-1622 or Joan Ryder at (201) 240-5898, or email info@crossestategardens.org.

Tours of the Cross Estate Gardens

Tours of the gardens are available every Wednesday at 10 a.m., from mid-April through October. 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 (201) 240-5898. 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. You can also visit us on **Facebook**—search for Cross Estate Gardens or go to www.facebook.com/pages/Cross-Estate-Gardens/146692902063110.



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.