



# The Cross Estate Gardens

New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation

## NEWSLETTER

Fall 2014

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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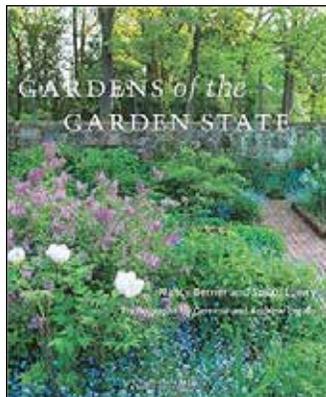
Ann Campbell

## *Fall Gardening Demonstrations at the Cross Estate*

Spend Saturday morning at the Cross Estate Gardens on October 18 from 10 a.m. to noon enjoying the beauty of a historic fall garden. Learn what to plant in the fall and how to get a garden ready for winter with our following demonstrations:

- Garden tool cleaning and sharpening (\$3 per tool, one per visitor, if you'd like our volunteers to sharpen your gardening tool for you); demonstration free.
- Bulb planting — demonstration plus a bag of five assorted spring flowering bulbs to take home with you with your new membership in NJHGF.
- Children's Planting Lesson shows children the correct way to plant an herb or small flowering plant in a pot to take home.
- Cutting down and dividing perennials.
- Garden tours will be available of the historic Walled Garden, the Native Garden, Grace's Garden and the Tower Walk.

Get your hands dirty or just take photos! Fun learning experience for the entire family. Demonstrations and tours free. Demonstrations will be held under the pergola next to the Walled Garden. In the event of rain, demonstrations will be held inside the Cross Mansion. Registration not necessary.



## *An Honor for the Cross Estate Gardens*

The Walled Garden at the Cross Estate Gardens made the cover of a just-published hardcover book by Nancy Berner, Susan Lowry and Gemma Ingalls. We are so proud that our garden was selected to represent public and private gardens of New Jersey.

## What's Happening in the Gardens?



Jean Pope, second from left, and friends from Pennsylvania visit our Plant Sale on May 3, 2014. Jean started the volunteer group at the Cross Estate Gardens in 1977 and remained hard at work here until the early 1990s when Jean and her husband Dan retired to rural Pennsylvania. Our 2014 Plant Sale did very well, netting over \$4,100.



Volunteers Fred Aufschlager, Ron Herold and Ron Bailey cut back the extremely lush growth in the Native Garden, thereby making the paths more passable. Lots of rain in June and July, plus moderate summer temperatures, have resulted in a good growing season this summer. Just what we needed after a spring that was slow to start.

Members of the Green Team of Groundworks Elizabeth moving wood chips to mulch the newly planted Tower Walk. The Green Team has volunteered at the Cross Estate Gardens during August for the past several years. They are great workers that we truly appreciate.



Eleven Student Conservation Association (SCA) volunteers, from a variety of states across the country, are pictured with our horticulturist board member Carolyn Lydon. They helped us once again with a variety of gardening jobs for three weeks in July. A big 'Thank You' to a very willing and able group of students!

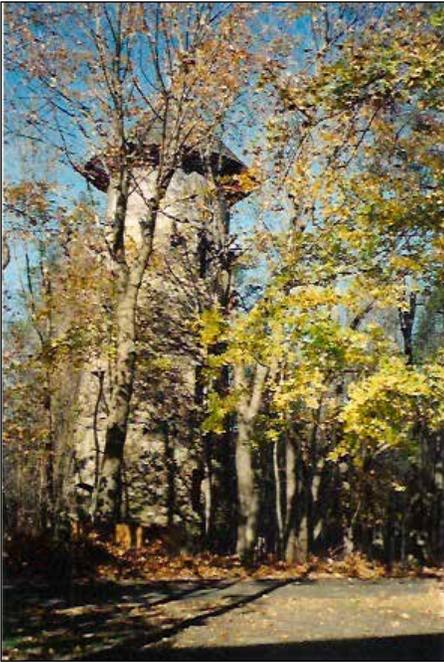


Board member Hollace Bowers weeding in the historic upper Walled Garden.



Board members Janet DiMauro and Caroline Ford having fun while working in the newly revived Grace's Garden behind the Cross Mansion.

## The Tower Walk



The historic Water Tower, constructed in 1905, has been hidden from view for the past century by the various invasive trees that grew up around the tower. While the Water Tower has continually served the very important function of supplying water to the Cross Estate Mansion and the surrounding gardens, its uniqueness and magnificence were lost to visitors. In the early 2000s we opened up the view slightly by cutting down some of the invasive trees and shrubbery, creating a visual path to the Water Tower. In 2014 we obtained a generous grant from the New Jersey Committee of the Garden Club of America, through the Garden Club of Madison, and another generous grant from the Garden Club of Somerset Hills, plus a wonderful donation from Jean and Dan Pope. This funding enabled us to further cut down the invasive trees and shrubs blocking the view of the Water Tower and lay down a 95-foot bluestone path leading the eye towards the tower. We also planted 21 native trees and shrubs — Flowering Dogwood, Shadblow Serviceberry, red and white Eastern Redbuds and Bottlebrush Buckeye — in the cleaned out area around the new Tower Walk.

The Tower Walk during construction in July by Green Path Landcare of nearby Green Village.



Success! The bluestone Tower Walk is finished, the 21 native trees and shrubs are planted and the surrounding area is mulched with wood chips to help suppress further invasive growth. Now visitors can enjoy the magnificent view of the Water Tower.



# *The Cross Estate Gardens*

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

## **Join our Volunteers**

**F**rom 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 (973) 376-0348, or email [info@crossestategardens.org](mailto:info@crossestategardens.org).



## **Tours of the Cross Estate Gardens**

**T**ours 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 973-376-0348. There is a suggested donation of \$5 per person for group tours.

## **Visit Us Online**

**B**e sure to check out the Cross Estate Gardens website at [www.CrossEstateGardens.org](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Cross-Estate-Gardens/146692902063110).



## **Become a Member**

**T**he 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.