



The Cross Estate Gardens

New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2011

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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A Fall Flurry in a Country Garden

Thursday, October 6, 1 to 3 pm

Don't miss our fourth annual Fall Flurry in a Country Garden. We are pleased to present noted speaker Jenny Rose Carey, the director of the Ambler Arboretum at Temple University in Philadelphia. She will take us on a look back at Gardens of the Jazz Age.



CBS-TV said: "It's easy to learn a lot from the fabulously smart and engaging Jenny Rose Carey." Ms. Carey's own four and a half acre gardens, "Northview" have been featured in Green Scene magazine and on the PBS show "The Victory Garden". It has a shade garden, herb garden, xeriscape garden, a cutting garden, water feature, a castle garden, winter walk and a sunset garden.

Ms. Carey was born in London, and grew up in a farming village in Kent. She holds three degrees—in Biology, from the University of Southampton; in Education, from Oxford, and in Horticulture from Temple. Most recently, Ms. Carey was the featured speaker at the Garden Club of Palm Beach, Florida in celebration of its 75th anniversary.

The Jazz Age is the period between World Wars I and II, an exceptionally rich period when gardens became less naturalistic and more architectural in style. This period overlaps the Gilded Age, when many of the opulent mansions of our Morris County/Somerset County area were built and their gardens laid out. Julia Newbold Cross established her garden at this time. Ms. Carey's talk will enhance our appreciation of the garden history of our area.

In describing her talk Ms. Carey said: "I call it a garden history for non-garden historians. There's a bit of social history, women's history in particular, in there, which affected the way gardens looked in the Jazz Age. I hope that those who come to my talk will have a greater appreciation for the time period, as well as an idea of what gardens looked like, and why they came to look the way they did."

Ms. Carey's talk promises to be both educational and entertaining. The talk will be held in the library of the Cross Estate Mansion. Please join us afterwards for our special Country Afternoon Tea and the sale of our hand-crafted dried flower arrangements. Cost of the program is \$25 for NJHGF members and \$30 for non-members. All proceeds benefit our continued effort to maintain and improve the Cross Estate Gardens. Registration is requested. Please clip and send the form on the back cover.

Volunteers from Bartlett Tree Experts

On Wednesday, August 10, Arborist Representative Joseph Oszust from the Lebanon office of Bartlett Tree Experts arranged for two Bartlett arborists, Wayne Warzybuk and Shaun Cahoon, to volunteer for the day at



the Cross Estate. What a lot they accomplished! Shaun and Wayne cut down a dozen scraggly hollies from the front parking area to expose a magnificent Blue Atlas Cedar that

was probably planted by Julia Cross in the 1930s. They also cut down a Sassafras that was way too close to the adjacent Norway Spruce, and posed a threat to cars parked in the front parking area. They were able to do a lot of dead limb clearing, including two smaller dead limbs from the historic Dawn Redwood, that was planted by Julia Cross in 1950 from seed brought back from China. Thank you Bartlett Tree Experts for showing you care about the Cross Estate trees!



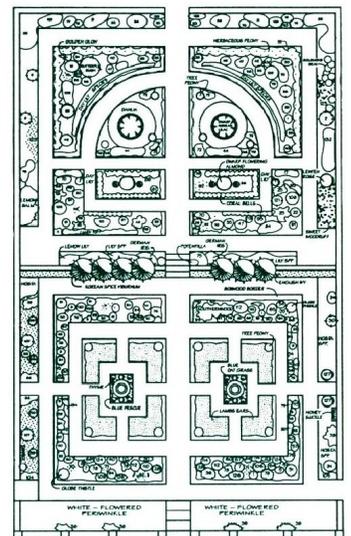
Lower Walled Garden Renovation

Thanks to two generous grants from **The Garden Club of Somerset Hills** over the past two years, we have been able to renovate ten beds in the lower Walled Garden,



providing more color and plant variety in the garden. Further thanks to **The Watnong Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society** for providing two grants for plant labels for our new plantings.

The “bones” of the Walled Garden are outstanding and rarely found in present day gardens. However, the plant material, most of which goes back to the 1970s and 1980s, needed refreshing. With the hard work of our volunteers and corporate volunteers from Toyota Motor Sales in 2010 and Goldman Sachs in 2011, and with the financial support of The Garden Club of Somerset Hills and The Watnong Chapter of NARGS, we have now finished the renovation of the lower Walled Garden. After digging out the beds and amending the soil with 20 yards of compost, the beds were replanted with some of the original plants, plus an additional 175 perennials, flowering shrubs and winter jasmine vines for the two new tutuers. The results are spectacular!



Cross Estate Volunteers



Ann Meehan, Ethan Hogan and Ron Bailey (on ladder)



Nancy Bernosky and Karen Moore



(left to right) 1st row: Lillian Fogle, Mary Keselica, Carolyn Lydon, Gail Biggs, Marta McDowell, Janet DiMauro; 2nd row: Joan Ryder, Missy Graff, Charli Nicholson, Caroline Ford, Hollace Bowers, Kay Compton; 3rd row: George Nixon, Letitia Clark, Steve Fogle, and Phil Pitney. Not shown: Ray Andrews, Fred Aufschlager, Susan Kaufmann, Ron Weissman, and Frank Smith.

Every Wednesday morning from late March through mid-November, our Cross Estate volunteers are busy at work planting, pruning, weeding and mulching in the Walled Garden, the Native Garden, Grace's Garden, the Rhododendron Walk, and the Mountain Laurel Allée, in addition to taking care of the foundation plantings and the courtyard at the side of the Cross Estate Mansion. It is truly a labor of love. We always welcome new volunteers, of all levels of experience and capabilities.

Somerset County Volunteer of the Year 2011

Congratulations to Fred Aufschlager for winning the Somerset County Volunteer of the Year Award for 2011. Fred is shown here with volunteer Missy Graff during a recent Cross Estate volunteers' trip to Fred's backyard bonsai garden, which also features his wife Doris's garden-themed art works. Fred has been a super volunteer at both the Leonard J. Buck Garden in Far Hills and our Cross Estate Gardens in Bernardsville. Fred is a terrific volunteer with extensive horticulture knowledge which he eagerly passes on to others.



Steve's Gate

This past summer Cross Estate volunteer Steve Fogle designed, built and installed a special wooden gate at the entrance to Grace's Garden, making public access to this garden possible. Steve is standing next to his gate, which is truly a work of art and precision. Grace's Garden, which is located to the rear of the Cross Estate Mansion and is enclosed with deer fencing, was named in honor of long-time volunteer Grace Steneck. Grace was one of our original volunteers from the late 1970s who loved to work in this garden until she was in her late 80s. There is quite a bit of special plant material in this garden, including a seven-son tree, several redbuds, fragrant snowbell trees, winterhazel, an American white beautyberry, Siberian arborvitae, clethra, and royal azaleas.



Plant Sale a Success

Our Plant Sale last May 21 was very successful. It was a lot of hard work preparing for the Plant Sale—potting up and labeling hundreds of divisions of plants from our Native Garden and Walled Garden and setting up the sales area under our pergola—but the results were worth it. We made \$3,100 at the event! We could not have done it without all of the generous donations of plants from our volunteers, members and friends. We extend a sincere “Thank You” to all who donated and to all who bought our plants. All monies raised from the Plant Sale are used in the maintenance and development of the Cross Estate Gardens. Be sure to mark your calendars for next year’s Plant Sale on Saturday, May 19, 2012, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Registration for Jenny Rose Carey Presentation and Country Afternoon Tea

Name _____

Address _____

Attending _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

Cost is \$25 for NJHGF members, \$30 for non-members. Mail your check, payable to NJHGF, to New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation, PO Box 712, Bernardsville NJ 07924.

Visit Us Online

Be sure to check out the Cross Estate Gardens website at www.crossestategardens.org. It was 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.



You can also visit us on **Facebook**—search for Cross Estate Gardens or go to <http://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.

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