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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**Fall 2012**

*A Fall Flurry in a Country Garden*

**Thursday, October 4, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Please join us in the Cross Estate Mansion on Thursday, October 4 for our annual Fall Flurry. We are fortunate to have Bernardsville resident **Kathleen Gagan**, founder and owner of Peony’s Envy (www.PeonysEnvy.com), as our lively speaker. Kathleen will entertain us and enlighten us with her power-point presentation on “A Passion for Peonies.” After her talk, peonies will be available for sale, along with a selection of plants from the Cross Estate Gardens. Sweet and savory hors d’oeuvres, finger sandwiches, desserts, and tea will be served. Tours of the gardens will be available after 12:30 p.m.

Reservations are requested. Admission is $25 for NJHGF members and $30 for non-members, who register before October 2. On the day of the event, admission is $30 for NJHGF members and $35 for non-members. Please send your check, payable to NJHGF, to New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation, P.O. Box 712, Bernardsville, NJ 07924.
Volunteers Fred Aufschlager, Ethan Hogan and Ron Bailey join forces to prune the 85-year old mat of wisteria, which has been growing rampantly on top of the historic 130-foot long pergola. Before starting the pruning job, which had never really been entirely done before, Fred went to pruning expert Denman Peniston of Willowwood Arboretum for advice on how to correctly and effectively prune wisteria on a pergola.

Volunteer and Board member George Nixon making plant labels with his newly purchased P-Touch Labeler. Label making is an ongoing task as many labels don’t last more than a few years, due to breakage and removal. However, labels provide an important educational tool for visitors to the gardens who always want to know “What is that plant?”

Volunteer and Board member Caroline Ford has been working hard for the past several years transforming parts of the Native Garden, aka the Natural Garden, into a hosta wonderland. Caroline, with lots of help from our other terrific volunteers, has worked magic taming the ever-expanding plants there into well-tended shrubs and perennials. Looks great!

Thanks to the expertise of David Chopko, President of the Tri-State Hosta Society (shown in his garden), the plants in our recently renovated hosta beds have been labeled. With the help of his wife Roberta, he identified numerous species including Brave Amherst, Piedmont Gold and Carolina Blue. He also shared with us some plants including his ‘Ocean Isle’ and new ideas on gardening with hostas.

Student Conservation Association (SCA) members, representing six different states, returned again this year to volunteer in the Cross Estate Gardens for two Wednesdays in July. They weeded and mulched the gardens in extremely hot and humid weather. What an enthusiastic group of very helpful students!

Three arborists from the Lebanon office of Bartlett Tree Experts during their annual volunteer day in July at the Cross Estate Gardens. The crew was able to further cable the storm-damaged Kentucky Coffeetree and do a lot of crown cleaning and corrective pruning of the small trees in the Native Garden and elsewhere near the Cross Estate Mansion.
Having read somewhere that everyone should have three separate careers, Joan has followed that route. Her first job was as a secondary school mathematics teacher, for five years, at the Frelighuysen School in Morris Township. While teaching, Joan attended Seton Hall University at night and earned an MBA degree in finance. Her second career, for twenty years, was in the investment departments of several financial institutions. She was a vice president at the Home Life Insurance Company on Wall Street for the last ten years of that period. Thanks to a corporate merger and a very generous severance package, Joan has been able to pursue her most delightful career—that of a gardener. For nine years Joan worked at Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit and found many highly motivated gardeners there. In 2003 she discovered the Cross Estate Gardens through two friends who were on the NJHG Foundation board. When her days at Reeves-Reed were over, Joan switched her allegiance to the Cross Estate Gardens, where she became a volunteer and board member. Joan has been the president of the NJHG Foundation since 2006, a position she truly enjoys, with the help of so many friends and fellow gardeners.

Grants for the Gardens

Our volunteers, helped by twenty employees (shown above as a group in front of the Cross Estate Mansion) from Goldman Sachs Community Team Works who volunteered on April 24, have been busy renovating the perimeter beds in the Walled Garden and the interior beds in the upper Walled Garden, which had become overgrown and rather boring with less desirable perennials. We were looking for more variety and color in these much-visited gardens. With the help of two generous grants from Goldman Sachs and The Garden Club of Somerset Hills, we have been able to purchase compost, mulch and lots of colorful perennials. With our hard work we plan to have the renovation of the entire Walled Garden completely finished this fall.
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.

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. 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.