



The Cross Estate Gardens

New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2008

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 the National Park Service, U. S. Department of Interior, to preserve the Cross Estate Gardens.

***The New Jersey Historical Garden
Foundation Executive Board***

Founder & Chairman

James Spiniello

President

Joan Ryder

Secretary

Mary Keselica

Treasurer

Judy Spiniello

Membership Chairman

Hollace Bowers

Horticultural Advisor

Carolyn Lydon

Volunteer Chairman

Ruth Dittmann

Grants Chairman

Steve Palmer

Members

Ray Andrews

Janet DiMauro

Marge Hulstrunk

Craig Johnston

Sonnie Reutelhuber

Advisory Board

Mary Bartow

Gunnar Berg

Rosalind Cross Dujardin

Jean Pope

Mary Sambrook

Mary Cross Spence

Nancy Strong

Marion Trousoff

Marge Van Ryzin

Non-Board Chairs

Newsletter and Website

Ann Campbell

Publicity

Betty McAndrews

Intern

Letitia Clark

Cross Estate Gardens Plant Sale

Saturday, June 7

9:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Please join in the fun at our 4th annual Plant Sale on the first Saturday in June under the pergola in the Cross Estate Gardens. Our Plant Sale will be filled with divisions from our shady Native Plant Garden and our sunny/part shady 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!

Cross Estate Gardens Propagation Workshop

Saturday, June 21

9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Carolyn Lydon will 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 under the pergola, 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 \$12; Non-Members \$15.

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

Thanks to our Celebration Donors!

Last September 23, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the beginnings of the restoration of the Cross Estate Gardens by Jean Pope and her loyal group of volunteers and the 20th anniversary of the founding of the New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation under the sponsorship of James Spiniello. We thank everyone (attendees, donors and volunteers) who participated in this wonderful Celebration. A special thanks goes to Steve Palmer who entertained all of us with his extremely knowledgeable slide show on the history of the Cross Estate.

Special thanks also go out to the following donors who made the Silent Plant Auction a fabulous feature of our Celebration!

- Atlock Farm, Somerset, NJ
- Brock's Farm & Garden Center, Freehold, NJ
- Aimee Browning
- Cicconi Farms, Jackson, NJ
- Four Seasons Nursery, Englishtown, NJ
- Hall's Garden Center, Berkeley Heights, NJ
- Marge Hulstrunk
- Hobensack & Keller, New Hope, PA
- Carolyn Lydon
- Julie McGowan
- Morris County Farms, Denville, NJ
- Peapack-Gladstone Bank, Bernardsville, NJ
- RareFind Nursery, Jackson, NJ
- Russell Gardens Wholesale, Richboro, PA
- Joan Ryder
- Shop-Rite, Bernardsville, NJ
- The Garden Shop at Reeves-Reed Arboretum, Summit, NJ
- Walter's Garden Center, Bernardsville, NJ
- Williams Nursery, Westfield, NJ

Missing

A 14" cut/etched glass heirloom platter belonging to Carolyn Lydon was missing after the Celebration. If you know its whereabouts, please contact Joan Ryder at 973-376-0348. Thank you.

A Fond Farewell

All of us at the Cross Estate Gardens say a fond farewell to longtime volunteer and Board member **Marge Van Ryzin**. After over 35 years of living in Madison, where she and her husband raised nine children, Marge has moved to Maryland to live with one of her daughters in a newly purchased mother/daughter home. We shall miss Marge's cheerful and extremely able help in all she did for the Cross Estate, whether in the gardens or on the Board (especially her putting together our Newsletter these past 20 years). Here are some reminiscences from Marge for all of us to treasure:



It's hard to believe that 23 years have gone by since I joined the Cross Estate Garden Volunteers. Without a

doubt, it was one of the best decisions I've ever made. Now that I am going to move, I realize how much a place defines not only who you are but also who you become.

I barely knew anything about gardening — but I quickly learned a lot about the subject and took home lots of divisions and cuttings expanding my own garden. There was always a generous spirit among the volunteers and I made many new friends in the process. I often think of Grace Steneck who called us all "dirt Gardeners."

When Jim Spiniello established the foundation, Jean Pope looked at me and said "You should be the manager, Marge." I remember wondering if I would know what to do. But I was more than willing to give it a try and with Jean Pope's guidance we got right to work. I developed skills I never knew I had and thoroughly enjoyed the whole process.

So I bid you all farewell — it's been a great experience and I look forward to coming back to visit one day.

Thank you for everything, Marge

Membership Drive

Welcome old friends and new.

Last September the Cross Estate Gardens celebrated the 30th anniversary of its restoration by the volunteers of NJHGF. But restoration, maintenance and growth take time and money. Our loyal band of volunteers meets faithfully on Wednesdays from April through November to weed, plant, mow and prune. Your membership remittances and donations to the New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation provide the money to purchase supplies including tools and plants and even to make some capital improvements, such as deer fencing, to this fine example of an English country garden.

The Cross Estate Gardens are owned by the National Park Service, but receive no funding. All of our funding comes from membership donations and special events.

Please take the time to complete the membership form and return it with your payment in the envelope provided. We appreciate all donations of any amount.

When combined they help maintain a foundation for continued progress. And by doing so, you are a part of the thoughtful community that chooses to support, as well as enjoy, our shared history. Thank you.

—*Hollace Bowers, Membership Chair*

The NJHGF is designated by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization; therefore, your contribution is fully tax deductible. In compliance with the requirements of the IRS Code, the NJHGF certifies that no goods or services were provided in consideration of your contribution.

Meet Our Three New Board Members

Carolyn Lydon, Mary Keselica and Janet DiMauro were elected to the Board of Trustees of the NJHGF at its annual meeting last November. Our three new members are regular volunteers in the Cross Estate Gardens with special skills that greatly enhance our Board.

Carolyn Lydon, newly elected Board Member and Horticultural Advisor to the NJHGF Board of Trustees, retired as Director of Horticulture of Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit last June. She started there as a volunteer almost 30 years ago and became Horticulture Director in 1990. Carolyn, who lives in Summit with her husband Buz, is a member and past president of The Summit Garden Club and was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Summit Historical Society. Presently she is also a member of the Summit Shade Tree Advisory Committee and spends her time working in her garden as well as volunteering at Greenwood Gardens in Short Hills and the Cross Estate Gardens. Carolyn eagerly awaits the birth of her first grandchild this year.



years. Prior to that Mary spent most of her career working for AT&T and Lucent. Three days a week Mary now works as Communications Manager for Van Vleck House & Gardens in Montclair. When she is not in her own garden in Chatham or in the Cross Estate Gardens, Mary can be found traveling throughout the country and the world with her husband John, and of course visiting gardens.

Janet DiMauro, newly elected Board Member with special expertise in plant identification, has been a dedicated volunteer in the Cross Estate Gardens for many years. Janet's passion for gardening began as a child working alongside her father in his vegetable and flower gardens at their home in Connecticut. She continued her love of gardening upon moving to New Jersey, where she raised a family and always found time to tend to her own green spaces. During that time Janet would visit the Cross Estate Gardens and looked forward to the time when she could volunteer. Finally five years ago the time was right, after living in Basking Ridge for over thirty years. Volunteering at the gardens has been an enriching experience for Janet. She now enjoys taking her grandchildren to visit the Cross Estate Gardens and hopes to foster their love of gardening for years to come.



Mary Keselica, newly elected Board Member and Secretary to the NJHGF Board of Trustees, also comes to the Cross Estate from Reeves-Reed Arboretum, where she was Office Manager for several

Visit Us Online

Be sure to check out the Cross Estate Gardens website at www.crossestategardens.org. It was redesigned in 2006 by our webmaster Ann Campbell and 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.

Ann continues to periodically expand and update the site. If you have any suggestions for more improvements, please use the "contact us" tab on the site.

Tours of the Cross Estate Gardens

Tours of the gardens are available every Wednesday at 10 am. 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 contribution of \$50 requested for group tours other than those conducted on Wednesday mornings.



The Cross Estate Gardens

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

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 kiwi vine and wisteria covered pergola, the Mountain Laurel allee and the other garden areas near the Cross Estate mansion. Tea/coffee/hot chocolate plus baked treats are provided during our 10:30 a.m. coffee break under the pergola. Please join us on Wednesday mornings in the garden.

Come to the Plant Sale

June 7, 9:30 a.m. – noon

"The early bird catches the worm!"