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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Spring 2013

Cross Estate Gardens Plant Sale
Saturday, May 4, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“Come one — come all” to our spring Plant Sale, held under the pergola in the Cross Estate Gardens. 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!

“Art in the Garden” Show & Sale
Saturday, May 4, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This year, in addition to our Plant Sale, we’re having an “Art in the Garden” Show & Sale held at the entrance to our Plant Sale. In the event of rain, the Art Show & Sale will be held in the sunroom of the Cross Estate Mansion. Featured will be several local artists who will display, and offer for sale, their pastels, watercolors, acrylics and oil paintings. Part of the proceeds from the art sale will benefit the NJHGF’s volunteer work in the Cross Estate Gardens.
The NJHGF board is in the process of designing and printing a brochure on the historic Stone Water Tower, built in 1905 by the Bensel family, the prior owners of “Queen Anne Farm” which eventually became the Cross Estate. Most of the thousands of visitors who come to the Cross Estate Gardens each year ask “What is that structure?” Well now they can read all about the history and present day use of the water tower. Funding for the project is provided by a grant from the Garden Club of Somerset Hills and a generous gift from Jean and Daniel Pope.

Members of the Cross Family in the Cross Estate Gardens in 1992. Jean Pope (left), who in 1977 organized the volunteers that eventually became the NJ Historical Garden Foundation, poses with four of Julia and W. Redmond Cross’s five children. From left, after Jean, are Mary Cross Spence, her husband Donald Pond Spence (psychologist), William Cross (banker), Thomas Cross (psychologist), Richard Cross (MD), and Sally Cross (wife of William). Mary Cross Spence, who was the youngest Cross sibling, was four years old when her parents in 1929 bought Queen Anne Farm, which they renamed Hardscrabble House, and which we now call the Cross Estate. Mary, who was predeceased by her siblings, passed away at age 87 in Princeton on October 25, 2012.

Cross Family Reunion in 1983
BASF Volunteers at Cross Estate Gardens

Employees from BASF in Florham Park volunteered in the Cross Estate Gardens on September 20, 2012. The energetic volunteers put down 8 yards of pea gravel along the Native Garden paths and under the pergola; weeded the stilt grass and put down 12 yards of wood chips in the Mountain Laurel Allée; and dug up two large beds in the upper Walled Garden, dug in compost, and planted new perennials. A truly great group of hard working volunteers! Thank you all.

Save the Date...

Our Fall “Talk & Tea” will be held in the Cross Estate Mansion on Thursday, October 3, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Popular lecturer Marta McDowell (shown left) will speak on “The Gardens of Beatrix Potter.” We all know Miss Potter for her whimsical animals and her imaginative children’s stories, but she was also an artistic gardener at her Hill Top Farm in the English Lake District. Marta, who has researched extensively in England, will show us this other creative side of Beatrix. After her talk, sweet and savory hors d’oeuvres, finger sandwiches, desserts and tea will be served. Admission is $25 for NJHGF members and $30 for non-members.
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) 766-1699 or Joan Ryder at (973) 376-0348, 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 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.