



# The Cross Estate Gardens

New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation

## NEWSLETTER

Spring 2017

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.

### *The New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation Board of Trustees*

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Newsletter/Website: Ann Campbell  
Part-Time Gardener: Letitia Clark

## Cross Estate Gardens Plant Sale

Saturday, May 6, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### Some native plants you're likely to find:

- Columbine and Obedient Plant
- Solomon's Seal and Garden Phlox
- Little Merry-bells and Bee Balm
- Ostrich and Christmas Ferns
- Canadian Wild Ginger

### Some other plants you're likely to find:

- Iris and Hellebore
- Peony and Primrose
- Hostas and European Ginger
- Hydrangea and Boxwood
- Epimedium and Euphorbia

## Improve your garden...and ours

Plants, plants, and more plants! You, as a visitor to the Cross Estate Gardens, are treated to a wide variety of native and non-native plants every time you come. Throughout the year, you come to see the plants or paint them, to photograph or just be among them. On Saturday, May 6, 2017, the New Jersey Historical Garden Society invites you to come to the Cross Estate Gardens to buy them.

In addition to beautifying your own garden, you'll help keep the Cross Estate Gardens beautiful. Proceeds from the Plant Sale are used to buy new plants, signs, mulch, topsoil, compost, gardening tools, gravel, and deer fencing for the gardens on the estate. The Walled Garden, Native Garden, Grace's Garden, Water Tower Walk, and patio and foundation plantings around the Cross Estate Mansion all benefit from your purchases.



Volunteers working in the Native and Walled Gardens

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## Volunteering at the Cross Estate Gardens

Every volunteer at the Cross Estate Gardens has their own particular expertise. Whether it's horticulture, landscape design, engineering, or just plain old hard work, the contributions are many, and the result is fabulous! In this issue of the Newsletter, we've asked our male volunteers why they chose to volunteer at the Cross Estate Gardens, what kinds of work they do, and what keeps them coming back year after year.

Regardless of gender, love of gardening and gardens draws people to volunteer at the Cross Estate Gardens. Our male volunteers are all retired and active; they enjoy landscaping and being outdoors. For one, the gardens are also a source of bonsai material. They tend to do the jobs that require more "heavy lifting" like pathway and wall reconstruction, fence post removal and replacement, tree and shrub pruning and propagating, spreading gravel and wood chips, repairing water systems, and sharpening tools, though they also weed pathways and inventory plants.

Their own words can tell you best why they keep coming back. Here's what some of them had to say:

*They are a great group of volunteers, and it is always nice to meet new faces.*

*I use it as a way to get exercise, social interaction, and learning opportunities.*

*I see my volunteer work at Cross Estate Gardens as a second career that should continue as long as my services are needed. It gives an additional sense of purpose to life.*

*I enjoy being outside in the beautiful Cross Estate setting. I feel that the National Parks are an important part of the history of our county, and it gives me a feeling of accomplishment to be involved in helping to perpetuate this history.*

*The short break in the late morning for wonderfully prepared, homemade refreshments is also high on the list of maintaining a commitment.*

*There are many tasks that need to be done to maintain the garden's beauty and interest, and the volunteer's gardening skill level and interests are easily accommodated.*

*I think men do gardening and landscaping for the same reasons as women. I would say to others who have time available, it would be difficult to find an activity as rewarding as gardening at Cross.*

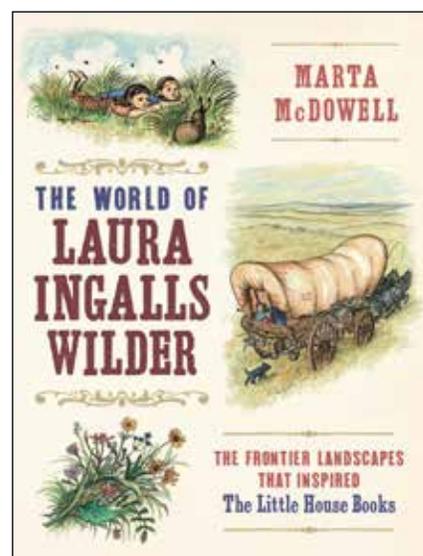
### Save the Date! Talk & Tea Thursday, October 26, 1-3 p.m., The Cross Estate



Photo by Marco Ricca

Come join us for a lively talk and afternoon tea!

Award-winning local author and gardener Marta McDowell will discuss her latest book, *The World of Laura Ingalls Wilder: The Frontier Landscapes That Inspired The Little House Books*.



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## Photo Gallery: *The men who volunteer at the Cross Estate Gardens*



*Phil Pitney, Past President of the  
New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation  
and former volunteer*



*George Nixon*



*Rob Landwehrle*



*Steve Fogle*



*Ron Bailey*



*Ethan Hogan*



*Fred Aufschläger*



*Ron Herold*



*Ray Andrews*

**Join our fantastic group of volunteers!**  
**Learn from our experts, work in the gardens,**  
**and enjoy a social, mid-morning break.**  
***Wednesday mornings from April to November, between 9 and noon.***



# The Cross Estate Gardens

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

## 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) 223-1622 or Joan Ryder at (201) 240-5898, or email [info@crossestategardens.org](mailto: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 (201) 240-5898. 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](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

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	\$50
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.