The Cross Estate Gardens
New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2017

Talk & Tea (& Treats!)
Featuring Marta McDowell and
The World of Laura Ingalls Wilder
Thursday, October 26, 2017, 1-3 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon
2 Lees Hill Road, New Vernon, NJ

A 150th Birthday Talk & Tea

The Cross Estate Gardens is pleased to welcome award-winning, New York Times best-selling, local author Marta McDowell.

Come celebrate the 150th anniversary of Laura Ingalls Wilder’s birthday (February 7, 1867) and hear about the plants, creatures, and landscapes that were so much a part of her beloved stories.

It’ll be a real birthday party for Laura with a lively atmosphere, afternoon tea, and delicious home-baked treats prepared by Cross Estate Gardens volunteers. And, you’ll have a chance to buy a beautiful gift for yourself or a friend, a signed copy of The World of Laura Ingalls Wilder: The Frontier Landscapes that Inspired the Little House Books, just published by Timber Press, September 2017.

Marta McDowell lives, gardens, and writes in Chatham, New Jersey. She teaches landscape history and horticulture at the New York Botanical Garden, where she studied landscape design. Her particular interest is in authors and their gardens, the connection between the pen and the trowel. Her previous books include Beatrix Potter’s Gardening Life, Emily Dickinson’s Gardens, and All the Presidents’ Gardens.
William Redmond Cross (1874-1940), son of Richard James Cross (1845-1917) of England and Matilda Redmond Cross (1847-1883) of New York, bought the former “Queen Anne Farm” in 1929. He and his wife Anne Appleton Newbold Cross (1891-1972) renamed their summer home “Hardscrabble House.” Today, it is owned by the National Park Service and is known as the “Cross Estate Mansion.”

2017 marked the 100th anniversary of the death of Richard James Cross, and about 55 of his descendants gathered in NJ from the United States and England for a reunion. The family members spanned four generations, from Sally Smith Cross, who is in her eighties and is the daughter-in-law of Julia and Redmond Cross (granddaughter by marriage of Richard and Matilda), to a half-dozen great-great-great grandchildren of Richard and Matilda.

Even though Richard James Cross had never seen the Bernardsville house, the family included it in their itinerary, and on the afternoon of Saturday, July 15, visited the Cross Estate Gardens. During their tour of the grounds, they shared memories of visits to the Cross family home in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s. Eight NJHGF volunteers led them through each of the gardens (see photo below right of Walled Garden tour). Especially popular was the site of the swing that used to be attached to an old white oak tree and reached over what is now the rhododendron garden (see photo below left).

All enjoyed the tour and marveled over how terrific the gardens looked!
Thank you, Garden Club of Somerset Hills!

The Garden Club of Somerset Hills, which has been very loyal in its support of the Cross Estate Gardens, granted the NJHGF $750 in 2017 for improving the Native Garden. This grant has been used to purchase and plant 14 native shrubs/perennials plus three native trees.

The native shrubs/perennials were used along the southern section of the deer fencing to create a visual barrier to hide the debris outside the garden. These plants were three *Aronia* ‘Autumn Magic,’ three *Amelanchier* ‘Regent,’ two *Physocarpus* ‘Summer Wine,’ three *Fothergilla* ‘Mount Airy,’ one *Viburnum* ‘Blue Muffin,’ and two *Viburnum* ‘Winterthur.’

In addition to the shrubs, we were also able to purchase and plant three native trees — *Franklinia*, Fringe Tree, and *Halesia diptera var Magniflora*.

A big ‘Thank You’ to the Garden Club of Somerset Hills for making the Native Garden look even better.

Happy Birthday, NJHGF!

Did you know? The New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation, which maintains the Cross Estate Gardens, celebrated its 30th birthday in August. Please consider sending a birthday gift to help keep the Cross Estate Gardens going!
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.

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.

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. 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.

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.

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