



# The Cross Estate Gardens

New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation

## NEWSLETTER

Fall 2018

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*

#### **Founder of Volunteers**

Jean Pope (1931-2017)

#### **NJHGF Founder**

V. James Spiniello (1928 - 2013)

#### **President**

Joan Ryder

#### **Recording Secretary**

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Horticulture: Carolyn Lydon

Membership: Beverly Saadeh

Publicity: (vacant)

Volunteers: Janet DiMauro

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Fred Aufschlager

Ron Bailey

Steve Fogle

Ron Herold

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#### **Honorary Board**

Marta McDowell

Mary Sambrook

Judy Spiniello

Nancy Strong (1927-2018)

#### **Non-Board Chairs**

Website: Ann Campbell

Newsletter: Linda O'Gorman/Ann Campbell

Facebook: Kay Compton

Part-time Gardener: Letitia Clark

### *Talk & Tea & Art*

Thursday, September 27, 2018, 1-3 p.m.

in the Library at the Cross Estate

61 Jockey Hollow Road, Bernardsville, NJ

Tickets: \$30 members; \$35 non-members. To pre-register, mail check to:  
NJHGF, PO Box 712, Bernardsville, NJ 07924

## Learn about Glorious Shade Gardening from Jenny Rose Carey



There's nothing like escaping into cool shade on a blazingly hot day. Ahhh! Glorious!

In this talk, Jenny Rose Carey will share design ideas and horticultural suggestions for gardening in the "glorious shade." With inspirational examples of shade-specific garden designs from places around the world that she's visited and plant suggestions and personally tested shade gardening tips, this talk is one you won't want to miss! No need to take notes, you'll also have an opportunity to buy a signed copy of Jenny's book, *Glorious Shade*, published by Timber Press.

Accompanying the talk will be an afternoon tea with delicious home-baked treats prepared by Cross Estate Gardens volunteers, along with a display of artworks by members of the New Jersey PleinAir Painters, a group of artists that paint in various media (watercolor, oils, pastel, and acrylics) during their weekly trips to different outdoor locales (shore points, arboretums, parks, and wilderness areas).

*Jenny Rose Carey is a renowned educator, historian, and author, and the senior director at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Meadowbrook Farm in Jenkintown. She previously worked at Temple University for over a decade, first in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture and then as director of the Ambler Arboretum. Jenny Rose has been lecturing nationally and internationally for many years. She is an avid, hands-on gardener who has gardened in both England and the United States. Jenny Rose and her gardens have been featured on the PBS series The Victory Garden, in the Wall Street Journal, the Philadelphia Inquirer, Green Scene magazine, and the Pennsylvania Gardener.*



# Here's what's been happening at the Cross Estate Gardens:

## Grants and Plant Sale proceeds make lots of things possible! Thanks!

Have a stroll through the Cross Estate Gardens. Practically everything you see has been acquired with funds from Plant Sales and grants!

This year, the purchase of two Forest Pansy Redbuds and several deer-resistant perennials for in front of the Playhouse were funded by a grant from the Garden Club of Somerset Hills.

And Plant Sale dollars (this year's total was again over \$5,000!) go to buy new plants and propagate from old ones. It's probably best to illustrate rather than list...

### In the Native Garden:



*Lillium superbum*  
Turk's Cap Lily



*Hydrangea arborescent*  
'Annabelle'

### In the Walled Garden:



*Platycodon grandiflorus*  
'Fuji White' Balloon Flower



*Leucanthemum x superbum*  
'Snowcap' Shasta Daisy

### In both:



NJHGF President Joan Ryder at the Softwood Cuttings Propagation Workshop led by Horticulture Committee Chair Carolyn Lydon on July 14, 2018. Twelve volunteers attended, and successful cuttings will find their way into future plant sales, the Gardens, and some home gardens as well.

## Heartfelt thanks to Plant Sale contributors!

With the late snows this year, our volunteers had to pull the Plant Sale together over the Wednesday-Friday before the big day, dividing, potting, and labeling plants from the Cross Estate Gardens as well as their own gardens. Big thanks to all our volunteers!

And, enormous thanks go to several faithful plant donors:

- long-time volunteer and Membership Chair Hollace Bowers, who divided, potted, labeled, and heeled in many, many plants from her garden before moving to South Carolina this past spring.
- Pamela Wilson, who potted up and labeled more than 450 plant divisions from her stunning garden!
- Hall's Garden Center in Berkeley Heights for their donation of half a dozen perennials.



## Memorial donations lead to long-lasting tributes



In addition to the purchase of an Alley Cat variegated leaf redbud for the area in front of the Water Tower, donations in honor of Cross Estate Gardens Volunteers Founder Jean Pope are being transformed into Walled Garden enhancements, because that was her favorite garden. A new Kingsley Bate 6-foot Hyde Park teak bench has been placed under the pergola overlooking the Walled Garden, and some special

plants will be added in Jean's memory.

Special trees are being purchased in Phil Pitney's memory. So far, the area in front of the Water Tower has been enhanced with a second Alley Cat redbud and six viburnums (two leather leaf, two Winterthur, and two Brandywine). Signs for these will be added.



## (Mini) Plant Profile

### *Eryngium* 'Big Blue' Sea Holly

This blue-leaved plant with its thistle-like flowers on two- to three-foot stems is loved by humans and bees alike. It's in the Walled Garden.

While not native, it is relatively problem free in our area.

Choose your location carefully (it doesn't transplant well) and plant in a spot with full sun and dry soil. It'll bloom through the summer.



## In Memoriam

*The New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation lost two devoted and beloved friends this year. Phil Pitney served as President of the NJHGF in 2005, and Nancy served on the NJHGF Board, where she excelled in obtaining grants for the Cross Estate Gardens. They will both be missed.*

*The Cross Estate Gardens Newsletter is grateful to their families for permission to reprint portions of their obituaries.*

### Philip H. Pitney (1933-2018)



Philip H. Pitney passed away from an illness complicated by chronic lyme disease on March 23, 2018, at Morristown Memorial Hospital. 84 years ago, and a half a mile away, he was born in the original Morristown Hospital. He chose to spend most of his life in this area with a great love and

respect for the rich history and beauty of these parts.

He leaves his wife Barbara, his children Douglas Pitney (Linda); Edward Pitney; and Elizabeth Pitney as well as his step-daughters Kirsten Sibia (Patrick); and Keely Loveys (Ralph). His grandchildren added a wonderful dimension: Jasper, John, Django, Wyatt, Chloe and Braydon kept his world in motion.

Philip volunteered at the Cross Estate Gardens in Bernardsville. There he cared for the beautiful gardens which are overseen by the New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation in cooperation with the National Park Service. His green thumb and keen interest soon found him on the Board. He also served for many years on the Bernardsville Historic Preservation Committee and had a short career on the Board of Adjustment.

Self-appointed as the Pitney Family genealogist, he spent years proudly researching and documenting generations of lineage since the 1600s when his family came to New Jersey. Far-reaching in impact, the Pitney legacy can be found from Atlantic City (founded by Dr. J. Pitney) to the halls of the Trenton State House, the Supreme Court in Washington DC to the Morris Aqueduct Company, and from the Winchester Gardens to the Pitney Hardin law firm just to name a few.

The family suggests that in lieu of flowers, donations in Philip Pitney's name are given to: Cross Estate Gardens (NJ Historical Garden Foundation), Bernardsville, NJ; Macculloch Hall, Morristown, NJ; Home Sweet Home Animal Rescue, Denville, NJ; or the First Aid Squad of Bernardsville, NJ.

### Nancy J. Strong (1927-2018)



Nancy Southgate Jones Strong, age 91 years, died on June 23, 2018, at Rolling Hills Care Center, Clinton Township, NJ.

She was retired from the Morris County, New Jersey Park System where she held various positions over the years.

Part of her job as well as volunteerism efforts involved working with

Willowood Arboretum in Bedminster, NJ.

She was a beloved and legendary member of the Garden Club of Somerset Hills (GCSH) since 1970. Affectionately known by many members as the Mother of the Garden Club, her caring and kind nature earned her the nickname of "Nicely." Nancy held the office of President of the GCSH twice, and also held the prestigious national title of Zone Chair.

She co-founded the New Jersey Committee of the Garden Club of America 30 years ago and remained Honorary Co-Chair until her death. This organization still thrives today, having raised close to \$500,000 in funds that have been given out as grants and scholarships.

When speaking about Nancy, one also must reflect upon her love of God and her deep and abiding faith. She was a life member of St. John on the Mountain Episcopal Church in Bernardsville, NJ, and was the first woman to serve on its Vestry.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her former spouses, Charles L. de Rohan and John Van Rensselaer Strong. Surviving are her children and their spouses, grandchildren, great grandchildren, great great granddaughter, extended family members, and many dear friends made throughout the years.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the New Jersey Committee of the Garden Club of America, Attn: Ellen Hochberger, 85 Woodland Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901. In the memo line, please make the notation: "In memory of Nancy J. Strong."



# 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. 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) 455-2907 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.