



The Cross Estate Gardens

New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation

www.crossestategardens.org

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2019



Cross Estate Gardens
Plant Sale
Saturday, May 4, 2019
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Don't Miss Our 15th Annual Plant Sale

Spring is here! Your garden is getting its Spring cleaning—clearing away the dead growth, seeing what didn't survive the bitter cold of winter, and planning for new additions.

Luckily for you, we've got just the thing! With divisions from the Cross Estate Gardens natural and formal gardens as well as from the gardens of our generous members and volunteers, you're sure to find the perfect plant for *your* garden.

Come visit between now and then to see what's in bloom.

And come back on May 4th between 9 a.m and 1 p.m. to shop!

Did you visit the Gardens in March?

No? Maybe next year.

Here are two beauties you might have seen.

The emergence of *eranthis* (winter aconite) and the blooming of *hamamelis* (witchhazel) at the Cross Estate Gardens are favorite signs that Spring is around the corner.



With their yellow blooms, *Eranthis hyemalis* winter aconite and *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Arnold Promise' witchhazel hint at the warmth to come.



Don't miss what April has to offer...

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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NJHGF Board: Hello, Goodbye, Hello again

Since the last issue of the Newsletter, there have been some changes to the NJHGF Board.

Hello, Linda O’Gorman, Newsletter.



Years before Linda began volunteering in the gardens at the Cross Estate, she helped out as a cashier at the annual Plant Sales. Seeing the beautiful gardens and plants and the wonderful community of volunteer gardeners was inspiring, and she joined them in 2015.

In the Spring of 2016, she began writing the *Newsletter*, and last year she accepted the Newsletter Board position. Linda also works part time as an administrator and newsletter layout editor for a non-profit, international scientific organization.

Linda and her husband Larry have two adult daughters and live in Madison with their two dogs (sadly cropped out of the photo above).

Goodbye, Mary Keselica, Recording Secretary.



Mary Keselica has moved to Florida where she is learning to garden in a tropical climate. Luckily her garden club in Chatham provided her with a Guide to Gardening in Florida before she left.

While no group can replace the wonderful volunteers at the Cross Estate, Mary hopes that one of the gardens in her new area will provide an opportunity for volunteering and making new garden friends.

And, of course, Mary and husband John will continue to travel the world.

Hello again, Ethan Hogan, Recording Secretary (formerly Board Member at Large).



Ethan has been a volunteer at Cross Estate Gardens since the summer of 2010. He was elected to the NJHGF Board of Trustees in November 2014.

Ethan is a graduate of Rutgers University. His career as a civil engineer involved the site design and planning of residential and commercial development.

Ethan is a widower with two adult daughters. Kristen resides in Jersey City and Kelly lives in Whippany with her husband Chris and Ethan’s two grandsons, Ryan (5) and Connor (2). Ethan has been a lifelong resident of Morris County, growing up on Schooley’s Mountain and now living in Succasunna for the past 35 years.

Ethan is also a volunteer at Saint Clare’s Denville Hospital and the Thrift Barns of Morris County, also located in Denville.

(Mini) Plant Profile

Stylophorum diphyllum celandine poppy or woods poppy

One of the most popular plants at the annual Cross Estate Gardens Plant Sale, this herbaceous perennial is an early bloomer in our area. A member of the poppy family (papaveraceae), it is native to eastern North America in zones 4 to 9.

Stylophorum diphyllum grows to be one to two feet tall and about a foot wide with one to two inch yellow-orange flowers in April-June. It can be found in the Native and Formal Gardens at the Cross Estate, demonstrating the versatility of its light and water needs (part to full shade, medium to wet soil).



Image by Jan Haerer from Pixabay

SAVE the DATE...



Talk & Tea: *Emily Dickinson's Gardening Life* Thursday, September 26, 2019, 1-3 p.m.

Save the date for our annual talk, featuring Marta McDowell discussing Emily Dickinson's life and love of plants and words. This event will be the launch of McDowell's latest book, which will have just been released by Timber Press in time for our tea. If the topic has a familiar ring, it is because Emily Dickinson's Gardening Life is an expanded, updated, and full-color reworking of her first book, published in 2005 and long out of print.

And, the talk will not be the only treat! Come have some homemade lavender shortbread (recipe below) and other delights prepared by the loving volunteers of the Cross Estate Gardens.

At the last Talk & Tea, several people asked Marta for her recipe for Lavender Shortbread. You can expect to see more Talk & Tea favorite recipes in future issues of the Cross Estate Gardens Newsletter. Meringue Cookies, anyone?

Lavender Shortbread Recipe from Marta McDowell

Ingredients

- 1 c. unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1 c. unsifted confectioner's sugar
- 4 tsp. dried lavender blossoms (Or frozen. I pick the flowers in bud, then pull off the buds and put them in a little jar in my freezer. I usually cut them up a bit with a little scissors before adding them to the dough.)
- 2 tsp. dried mint, crushed (One night when I realized I was out of dried mint, I discovered that the contents of an organic peppermint teabag work perfectly. But I have often used dried mint from the garden.)
- 1/4 tsp cinnamon
- 2 c. flour

Steps

- Preheat oven to 325°F. Line an 8" square pan with foil and spray lightly.
- Cream butter and sugar. Add the rest of the ingredients and blend until crumbly. (I usually use a standing mixer, but have also done it by hand with a pastry blender. I'll bet the food processor would work too.)
- Press into pan. (I use a flat spatula.)
- Bake 25-30 minutes until lightly golden around the edges. (I find in my oven it takes 30 minutes.)
- As soon as you remove it from the oven, lift out by foil onto cutting surface and slice with serrated knife into small pieces.
- Cool thoroughly and store tightly sealed. You can store at room temperature for at least a week, or freeze in an airtight container.



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.



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.

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	\$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.