



The Cross Estate Gardens

New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation
www.crossestategardens.org

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2020

PLEASE NOTE: The Cross Estate Gardens is part of the Morristown National Historical Park (MNHP) of the National Park Service (NPS). Before visiting, please check the NPS website for current park status: <https://www.nps.gov/morr/index.htm>.

What's been happening at the Cross Estate Gardens?

Safety First!

It's safe to say that none of us has ever experienced a year like this one! The coronavirus pandemic closed the park to visitors and volunteers alike until mid-May, resulting in cancellation of the annual first-Saturday-in-May Plant Sale.

The park's reopening was phased. Volunteers began working in limited numbers—masked and socially-distanced. Then visitors were permitted to return, also following safety protocols.

The next event to be impacted was our annual Talk & Tea. But don't worry, you'll get to hear Jane Hurwitz's talk on "Butterfly Gardening and the Cross Estate" at next year's Talk & Tea.

The weather also played some tricks on us this year as TS Isaias tore through the MNHP on August 4th, causing another closure of the park for a few weeks.

Yet, through all of this, our Gardens have provided us with serenity, beauty, and hope for brighter days to come.

Scenes from the Cross Estate Gardens: May to September 2020



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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In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we report the loss of two members of the Cross Estate Gardens Volunteers family, Marge Van Ryzin and Lillian Fogle. Our heartfelt condolences go out to their families and friends.

Margaret Van Ryzin of Gambrills, MD, a former long-time resident of Madison, NJ, passed away on August 8, 2020. She was 91.

Marge was born on February 21, 1929 in Milwaukee, WI. She was the seventh of eight children of Alex Bielinski and Veronica Chucka. In high school, she met her future husband Robert Van Ryzin. The two married in 1950 and had nine children, spending more than 30 years of their life together in Madison, NJ.



Marge was a mother, grandmother, homemaker, volunteer, sister, and friend. She was an avid gardener, both at her own home and as a volunteer with The Cross Estate Gardens in Bernardsville, NJ, and The Frelinghuysen Arboretum in Morris Township, NJ. In 1998, the arboretum planted a tree in her honor to recognize her 13 years of service as president of the board, secretary, and hospitality chair. Marge also was a life-long learner who greatly enjoyed reading, politics, and travel.

More than anything, Marge will be remembered as a kind, generous spirit and the cherished matriarch of an ever-growing family. She valued people, hard work, and family above all, and she shared her optimism, wit, and wisdom with everyone who was lucky enough to know her.

Marge leaves an incredible legacy and is survived by her children Peter, Anne, Helen, Paul, John, Mary, Bill, and Jean, as well as 23 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Marge was preceded in death by her husband Bob, daughter Joan, and granddaughter Lydia.

A memorial service is being planned for October. For details, please email Jean Van Ryzin at jvr32@msn.com. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in Marge's name to the Friends of the National Arboretum at www.fona.org/donate.

Lillian Fogle passed away on April 19, 2020. She was 83 years old.

Born in Columbus, Ohio, to parents Charles and Lillian (nee Kennedy) McNemar, Lillian married Stephen Fogle in 1959. They moved to Mountain Lakes, NJ, in 1962 and lived there until relocating to Mendham, NJ, 29 years ago.

Lillian was a homemaker who also worked for several years as a visiting home health aide, assisting sick and dying patients. In her later years she was a regular volunteer for 20 years at the Cross Estate Gardens in Bernardsville, NJ.

Lillian had a very generous personality, always putting other people's interests first. She also had a love of nature and animals. Lillian also enjoyed camping and vacation travel each year that eventually included almost all of the lower 48 states during the period her children were growing up. Lillian also enjoyed foreign travel. Starting in the 1990's she and her husband toured more than a dozen foreign countries in Europe, Asia and Central America.

At home, Lillian was an avid reader with a wide range of interests. While raising her children, she was an accomplished seamstress and Halloween costume maker.

Lillian is predeceased by her brothers Charles and Ralph McNemar, and is survived by her loving husband of 61 years, Stephen Fogle, sons Martin (Sayrah) Fogle of Oakland, CA, and James Fogle of Palm Bay, FL, and grandchildren Graham Fogle (Jessica), Jessica Yakey-Fogle, and Emma Fogle. She is also survived by infant great-grandchildren Aoife and Benjamin Fogle

A Memorial Service will be held at a later date. Lillian will be laid to rest in a family plot in Diagonal, Iowa, also at a later date.



The Cross Estate Gardens Newsletter is grateful to the families for permission to excerpt and reprint these obituaries.

SAVE the DATES

Cross Estate Gardens Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, May 1, 2021

9 - 10 a.m.: Shopping for NJHGF members

10 a.m. to noon: Shopping for all



Cross Estate Gardens Annual Talk & Tea:

Jane Hurwitz

on

Butterfly Gardening and the Cross Estate

Thursday, September 23, 2021, 1 - 3 p.m.

From the Cross Estate Gardens Newsletter Archives

Cross Estate Gardens Newsletter, Spring 2008 A Fond Farewell

All of us at the Cross Estate Gardens say a fond farewell to longtime volunteer and Board member Marge Van Ryzin. After over 35 years of living in Madison, where she and her husband raised nine children, Marge has moved to Maryland to live with one of her daughters [...]. We shall miss Marge's cheerful and extremely able help in all she did for the Cross Estate, whether in the gardens or on the Board (especially her putting together our Newsletter these past 20 years). Here are some reminiscences from Marge for all of us to treasure:

It's hard to believe that 23 years have gone by since I joined the Cross Estate Garden Volunteers. Without a doubt, it was one of the best decisions I've ever made. Now that I am going to move, I realize how much a place defines not only who you are but also who you become.

I barely knew anything about gardening — but I quickly learned a lot about the subject and took home lots of divisions and cuttings expanding my own garden. There was always a generous spirit among the volunteers and I made many new friends in the process. I often think of Grace Steneck who called us all “dirt Gardeners.”

When Jim Spiniello established the foundation, Jean Pope looked at me and said “You should be the manager, Marge.” I remember wondering if I would know what to do. But I was more than willing to give it a try and with Jean Pope's guidance we got right to work. I developed skills I never knew I had and thoroughly enjoyed the whole process.

So I bid you all farewell — it's been a great experience and I look forward to coming back to visit one day.

Thank you for everything, Marge

Cross Estate Gardens Newsletter, Fall 2008 Volunteer Spotlight: Lillian and Stephen Fogle

Not all of our Wednesday morning volunteers toil in the Cross Estate Gardens — planting, pruning and weeding. A noteworthy exception is the husband and wife team of Lillian and Steve Fogle. The Fogles enhance the effectiveness of the other volunteers' gardening by performing “non-gardening” functions.

For the past 10 years, since Steve retired as professor at County College of Morris, he and Lillian have been faithful volunteers in our gardens. Lillian performs the vital service of supplying and preparing the food and drink for our 10:30 a.m. break under the stone pergola. During the hot summer months Lillian provides us with chilled wedges of freshly cut watermelon and iced tea. During the cooler months it's pastry and coffee or hot chocolate. It's what keeps the volunteers going and provides a good setting for the camaraderie that quickly develops among our volunteers.

Steve acts as our “facility manager”, a man of many talents with a good electrical, plumbing, masonry and building background. No job is too difficult for Steve. For example, when lightning hit our irrigation system, Steve repaired it and got the water flowing again. When the volunteer-installed deer fencing needed bracing at the corners, Steve quickly did that job. As he did with building two compost bins and repairing the stone steps in the gardens. We truly appreciate all Steve and Lillian do so willingly and so well for the Cross Estate Gardens.





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

From mid-April through October, if the MNHP is open, tours of the Gardens are available Wednesdays at 10 a.m. 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.

Please note: tours will be limited to 6 visitors.

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.