



The Cross Estate Gardens

New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation
www.crossestategardens.org

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2022

Thursday, September 22, 2022, 1-3 p.m.

Cross Estate Library

Register early: Members \$30; Non-Members \$35

Mail check to NJHGF, PO Box 712, Bernardsville, NJ 07924

Cross Estate Gardens Annual Talk & Tea:

Marta McDowell

on

Unearthing The Secret Garden

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

Ethan Hogan

Treasurer

Caroline Ford

Committee Chairs

Horticulture: Carolyn Lydon

Membership: Marta McDowell

Newsletter: Linda O'Gorman

Publicity: (vacant)

Volunteers: Janet DiMauro

Members at Large

Rita Alzamora

Fred Aufschlager

Penny Barnes

Joanne Brenckle

Steve Fogle

Ron Herold

George Nixon

David DePodwin

Beverly Saadeh

Honoray Board

Mary Sambrook

Judy Spiniello

Non-Board Chairs

Website: Letitia Clark

Facebook: Kay Compton



The event is the same, the date is the same, the coffee and tea with delicious tea sandwiches and cookies lovingly prepared by the Volunteers of the Cross Estate Gardens are the same. The speaker is different. We look forward to seeing Jane Hurwitz another time while we welcome Marta McDowell back to our stage.

Frances Hodgson Burnett's classic *The Secret Garden* has inspired generations of readers to cultivate their own bits of earth. Marta still remembers the thrill of reading about Mary Lennox turning the key in the door to the locked garden for the first time. This lecture looks at the inspiration for *The Secret Garden* and explores Frances Hodgson Burnett's passion for flower gardening before, during, and after publication of *The Secret Garden* in 1910. It focuses on the three gardens she planted in England, America, and Bermuda.

Signed copies of Marta's book will be available.

Marta McDowell lives, writes, and gardens in Chatham, New Jersey, and teaches landscape history and horticulture at the New York Botanical Garden. She is a regular contributor to David Wheeler's journal, Hortus. As well as Unearthing The Secret Garden, Timber Press has published Emily Dickinson's Gardening Life, The World of Laura Ingalls Wilder, All the Presidents' Gardens, and Beatrix Potter's Gardening Life, now in its eighth printing. Her newest book, about gardening themes in crime fiction, is due out in 2023; it has the working title "Gardening Can Be Murder." She is a recipient of the Garden Club of America's Sarah Chapman Francis Medal for literary achievement. Her husband, Kirke Bent, summed up Marta's biography as "I am, therefore I dig."



Photo: Sarma Ozols

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 and alerts: <https://www.nps.gov/morr/index.htm>.

NJHGF News

A summary of the recent changes within the NJHGF.

A Quick Look: Rita Alzamora and Dave De Podwin were unanimously elected to the Board, as Members at Large through year-end and assuming their responsibilities as Co-Chairs of the Membership Committee on January 1, 2023.

In their own words: getting to know the newest members of the NJHGF Board, Rita Alzamora and Dave DePodwin, Membership Co-Chairs



On June 1, 2013, a hot and sultry day, Jockey Hollow was ablaze with 17-year cicadas. That day our hiking group took a short detour off of the Patriots Path and arrived at the Cross Estate. “Who knew this enchanted place was here!” many of us exclaimed.

Fast forward to now, I find myself newly retired from a career in IT, happily engaged in environmental concerns, animal welfare, gardening and all that is good in the world—like keeping up with my reading list, Wordle and Netflix.

But by far, I most enjoy volunteering at the Cross Estate Gardens. Driving up the driveway every week never fails to elicit that ‘happy place’ feeling in me.

The depth of knowledge and generosity of the other volunteers and their commitment to ensuring that this place continues to be a place of beauty and peace for all visitors makes me proud to belong to NJHGF.

Since April, the northern reaches of the naturalized garden, adjacent to the stately Atlantic White Cedar (just north of the gravel path), have kept me busy.

Working with Beverley, I first began taming the Oakleaf Hydrangea that drapes the far bench, then the Clethra and Itea, and now, everyone’s nemesis: weeds. I’ve also been helping out where needed, especially pruning limbs.

Gardens have always been a part of our family’s life. Wherever we ventured, time with family always included parks, gardens, and historic places. From an early age, we learned how plants grow and were quickly enlisted to work the land, all while enjoying nature.

I am a lifelong conservationist, outdoorsman, and professional business manager turned landscape designer.

To grow my passion for plants and landscape design, I studied at The County College of Morris, earning several certificates. (If curious, search ‘lacecaplandscapedesign’ on Instagram and the web for a glimpse.)

To expand my knowledge, I spent time at Frelinghuysen Arboretum as an intern.

Prior to digging into landscape design, I spent sixteen years in outdoor retail store management, retiring from The North Face in 2017.



Thank you!

Many thanks to the Garden Club of Somerset Hills for their generous grant of \$600. The funds will go toward the bluestone walkway project. This new walkway will be located in the Upper Garden and will go from the bottom of the steps to the entrance to the pergola.

Join our Volunteers:

From early April through the middle of November, our hearty group of 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, email info@crossestategardens.org.



Save the Date:
NJHGF Cross Estate Gardens
Annual Plant Sale: May 6, 2023



And, a report on the 2022 Plant Sale: We are very grateful to all who came out on May 7th despite the cold wind and drenching rain to give us another successful plant sale. We netted close to \$6,000!

A big thank you to all our Plant Sale supporters.

Fond childhood memories

On July 27th, the Cross Estate Gardens had some very special visitors.

The grandchildren of Hugh and Anne McCrae came to the Gardens with their dogs. Their grandfather Hugh McCrae was the gardener/groundskeeper for Mrs. Cross during the 1960s and '70s, and the McCraes lived in the brick Sears house near the road.

Jeff, Kathleen and Kenn Tolle (and their Dachshunds Clara, red, and Daphne, tan, and Jack Russell Emy) enjoyed a walk through the gardens and a stop in this spot in the Upper Garden, where they had a brief chat (and photo) with Volunteer and Board Member, Marta McDowell.

They recalled that they used to play in the garden and had a swing suspended between the two trees behind them. (The cable is still visible way up in the trees.)

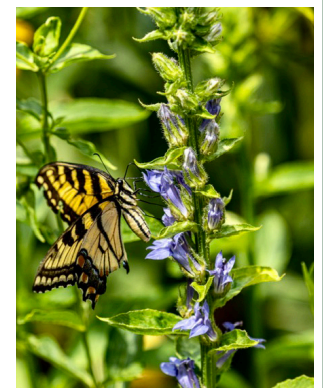
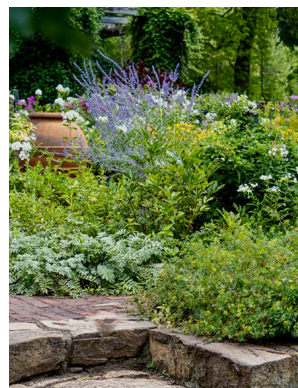
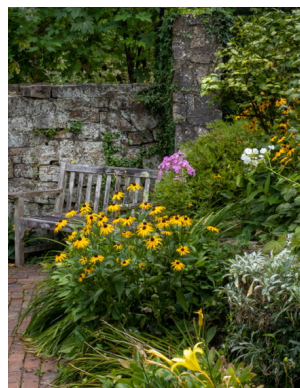
Next time you visit the Gardens, see if you can spot the cable!



Left to right: Jeff, Kathleen, and Kenn Tolle
 Dachshunds Clara (red) and Daphne (tan)
 and Jack Russell Emy

Gorgeous Views of the Walled Garden

by Peg Codey, an award-winning photographer from Madison, NJ





The Cross Estate Gardens

New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation
Post Office Box 712, Bernardsville, NJ 07924
www.crossestategardens.org



Search for Cross Estate Gardens

Become a Member

The Cross Estate Gardens, one of this area's treasures, receives volunteer help but no funding from the National Park Service (who manages the property). We rely upon membership support to pay for the plants and materials for the gardens. Please consider supporting the NJHGF's efforts by joining. Every dollar donated goes into the gardens.

To become a member:

1. Cut this form and send it in with your tax-deductible check, payable to NJHGF (New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation), PO Box 712, Bernardsville, New Jersey 07924. Or
2. Go to the Membership page on our website (<https://www.crossestategardens.org/join/>) and pay via PayPal.

Choose your Membership Category:

- Individual \$25
- Family \$50
- Friend \$100
- Sponsor \$250
- Patron \$500

Tell us about your preferences:

- I prefer to read this Newsletter online
- I like receiving a print copy of the Newsletter in the mail

Would you like to volunteer:

- I'd like to help with the gardening on a regular basis
- I'd like to help with a specific project in the gardens

Tell us who you are:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

email: _____

The NJHGF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.