

Club Calendar At-a-Glance

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Tue Sep 16 | Informal Flower Arranging |
| Wed Sept 17 | Club Meeting and Luncheon: Cocktail Gardens and Hydrangeas |
| Wed Oct 8 | Garden Therapy |
| Wed Oct 8 | Junior Nature Club |
| Wed Oct 15 | Welcome Soirée |
| Tues Oct 21 | Floral Workshop: Design Technique—Pavé |
| Wed Oct 22 | Club Meeting: Pollinator Garden Design and Tour |
| Wed Nov 12 | Junior Nature Club |
| Wed Nov 19 | Club Meeting: Beautiful Floral Designs |
| Mon Nov 24 | Informal Flower Arranging |
| Mon Dec 1 | Holiday Greens Cutting |
| Thu Dec 4 | Club Meeting: Holiday Greens Workshop *NEW DAY* |
| Thu Dec 4 | Holiday Greens Project *NEW DAY* |
| Wed Dec 10 | Garden Therapy |
| Wed Dec 10 | Junior Nature Club |
| Fri Dec 12 | Holiday Cocktail Party |
| Wed Jan 14 | Junior Nature Club |
| Mon Jan 26 | Floral Workshop: Creative Design |
| Wed Jan 28 | Club Meeting: Finding Your Voice in Living Landscapes |
| Wed Feb 11 | Garden Therapy |
| Wed Feb 11 | Junior Nature Club |
| Wed Feb 25 | Club Meeting: Getting Ready for the Spring Garden |
| Thu-Sat Mar 5-7 | Photography Show |
| Wed Mar 11 | Junior Nature Club |
| Wed Mar 18 | Informal Flower Arranging: Tray Table for One |
| Tues Mar 24 | Floral Workshop: Traditional Design |
| Wed Mar 25 | Club Meeting: Thriving Orchids in Our Homes |
| Thu-Sun Mar 26-29 | Charleston Trip: Home and Garden Tour |
| Wed Apr 8 | Garden Therapy |
| Wed Apr 15 | Junior Nature Club |
| Wed Apr 22 | Club Meeting: Container Gardening with M. Erbs |
| Sat Apr 25 | Earth Day Community Clean Up & Celebration |
| Thu May 7 | Plant Sale: Donation Drop-off |
| Fri May 8 | Plant Sale: Set-up and Members' Presale |
| Sat May 9 | Plant Sale |
| Wed May 13 | Garden Therapy |
| Wed May 13 | Junior Nature Club |
| Thu May 14 | Informal Flower Arranging |
| Wed May 20 | Annual Meeting and Luncheon |
| Wed Jun 3 | GCNJ Annual Meeting |
| Wed Jun 17 | Club Trip |
| Wed Jul 22 | Summer Social |





The Garden Club of Mountain Lakes

Mountain Lakes, New Jersey

Yearbook 2025-2026

Board Meeting Calendar

| | | | |
|-----------|---------------|--------------------------|-------|
| Wed Sep 3 | Board Meeting | Cindy Shaw's home | 930AM |
| Wed Oct 1 | Board Meeting | Laura Stuss' home | 930AM |
| Wed Nov 5 | Board Meeting | Donna Chaplin's home | 930AM |
| Wed Jan 7 | Board Meeting | Marilyn Dowling's home | 930AM |
| Wed Feb 4 | Board Meeting | Peggy Galluzzi's home | 930AM |
| Wed Mar 4 | Board Meeting | Margo Gillespie's home | 930AM |
| Wed Apr 1 | Board Meeting | Katja van der Loo's home | 930AM |
| Wed May 6 | Board Meeting | Jessica Mahony's home | 930AM |

The Garden Club Mountain ^{of} Lakes

Mountain Lakes, New Jersey

2025-2026 Yearbook

Membership 69

Member of

The National Garden Clubs, Inc. — Central Atlantic Region
The Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc. — District 3, Lakeland

Founded 1936

Member of The Garden Club of New Jersey, May 1937

P.O. Box 341, Mountain Lakes, New Jersey 07046-0341
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Contents

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Club Calendar At-a-Glance | inside front cover |
| President's Letter..... | 4 |
| National & State Garden Clubs..... | 6 |
| National, State, & Regional Events..... | 7 |
| The Garden Club of Mountain Lakes | 9 |
| Club Objectives..... | 17 |
| Club Projects | 19 |
| Meeting & Membership Information | 25 |
| Constitution & Bylaws | 31 |
| Club Calendar 2025–2026 | 41 |
| Membership Directory..... | 55 |
| Board Meeting Calendar..... | inside back cover |

On the cover: 'Through the Garden Gate'

Photo by Jenn Apito, Concept by Alyce Garver
Roxanne Tavakkol's garden, June 2025

President's Letter

Rooted in our Foundation, Friendships, and Fun

Dear Friends,

Welcome back to an exciting, event-filled new club year!

Thank you all for trusting me to lead our club at such a vibrant and rich time in our history. Reprising my role as president from 2011-2013, I look back fondly on where our club was then and am so excited to see where it is today.

When I first became president, our membership was busy at work with our long-standing projects—our borough gardens, floral workshops, and our annual plant sale among others. We were proudly celebrating our 75th anniversary. We even took a leap and decided to try our skills at decorating a holiday room at Drumthwacket.

Now as we approach our 90th anniversary, with thanks to the many leaders and members since then, our club has more programs and a larger membership than ever. We remain true to our foundation by maintaining all our programs from the past, while also adding so many more. Our calendar is now filled with our lovely garden therapy program, our borough clean-up on Earth Day, and our annual photography show. We even stay in touch over the summer at our festive Summer Social. At a time when many garden clubs are seeing a decline in membership, I stand in proud awe of our club's vitality and robust membership today.

This year promises to bring even more fun, friendship, and learning. We will kick off the year with a dynamic program by Bethanny Naccarato, an accomplished gardener with a large social media presence (@blueacregarden on Instagram.) She teaches her followers best gardening practices along with lots of advice on how to achieve the garden of their dreams. She will be sharing her ideas on planting a cocktail garden, along with tips on growing hydrangeas. Her program promises to have something for everyone.

As many of you may know, under Karen Macleod's leadership, the borough awarded our club a \$5000 grant to use toward our borough gardens. After much consideration, Karen, her committee and the board decided that the best use of the money would be to focus on one major project—a revamp of our garden at the Intervale Triangle.

Throughout the year, we can look forward to hearing more about the plans and watch as the refurbished garden comes to life!

At a time when many garden clubs like ours, have taken a long hiatus from producing flower shows, Cindy Shaw and her team are working diligently to bring back this fundamental garden club tradition with a Standard Flower Show in 2026. This will be a huge and exciting undertaking for our club. For those of you who have never participated in a flower show (and even for those who have), there will be much to learn this year. The committee will be teaching more floral design workshops than ever before—both formal and informal. They will also be bringing design types and horticulture specimens to our monthly meetings to familiarize us with the specific knowledge needed to enter a flower show. By May, we should all be fully ready for 2026. Let the competition begin!

We are taking a truly big step in March as we plan to travel to Charleston, South Carolina to attend the Charleston Home and Garden Tour. Chris Belli suggested this marvelous idea last year and Marilyn Dowling took on the planning for this year. I hope many of you will be able to attend. It should be such a fun-filled time to enjoy spring in the south, be dazzled by the gorgeous homes and gardens, and have fun with your garden club friends!

Our garden club is now so multi-faceted. There is something to ignite every member's curiosity and passion. We learn and share so much together each year. For me, the true beauty of the garden club is in the diversity of the members who might never have met otherwise. A shared passion for gardening and floral design is the foundation that brings us together, but it's the friendship, fun, and enrichment we receive from each other that are the reasons why we stay.

Cheers to a fabulous year!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy". The signature is fluid and personal, with a mix of thin and thick strokes.

National & State Garden Clubs

The National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Plant America for the Next 100 Years!

gardenclub.org

Headquarters 4401 Magnolia Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63110-3492

314-776-7574
314-776-5108 (fax)
headquarters@
gardenclub.org

President **Donna Donnelly**
Ellorree, SC

dmdonnelly@
gardenclub.org

Central Atlantic Region

*Plant America: Gardening for a
Healthy Mind, Body and Soul*

car-sgc.org

Headquarters P.O. Box 693
Millsboro, DE 19966

Director **Beverly Kazickas**

carsgc.regiondirector@gmail.com

The Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc.

The Importance of Pollinators – Go Native gardenclubofnewjersey.org

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gcnj@aol.com

President **Sue Berdahl**

sue.berdahl@gmail.com

District 3 **Rose Wolverton**
Director

rwolvie66@gmail.com

National, State, & Regional Events

This calendar presents the information available when this yearbook went to press (August 2025). More events may be added. For the most up-to-date information on state and regional garden club news and events, please visit the GCNJ website: gardenclubofnewjersey.org.

2025

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| <u>Oct. 20-22</u> | <u>CAR-SGC Meeting</u> | <u>Cambridge, MD</u> |
|-------------------|------------------------|----------------------|

2026

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| <u>April 14-16</u> | <u>Flower Show School IV</u> | <u>Holly House</u> |
|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|

| | | |
|----------------|--|----------------------|
| <u>May 4-6</u> | <u>National Garden Club Convention</u> | <u>St. Louis, MO</u> |
|----------------|--|----------------------|

| | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>June 3</u> | <u>GCNJ Annual Meeting</u> | <u>Basking Ridge, NJ</u> |
|---------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|

The Garden Club of Mountain Lakes

Officers

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| President | Nancy Bigelsen |
| Vice President | Karen Macleod |
| Recording Secretary | Jessica Mahony |
| Treasurer | Donna Chaplin |

Board of Directors

Gail Boertzel
Marilyn Dowling
Peggy Galluzzi
Margo Gillespie
Janet Horst
Maureen McSharry
Cindy Shaw
Laura Stuss
Katja van der Loo

Project Chairs & Committee Members

Awards

Borough Gardens

9/11 Memorial

Birchwood Native
Planters/Boulevard
& Library
Grove Place
Intervale Triangle

Library Community Room

Library Morris Avenue
Tennis Courts

Helen Connell
Memorial Garden

Garden Helpers At-Large

Caladium Sale

Charitable Giving

Charleston Home and Garden Trip

Club Photographer

Club Trip

Liz Festa

Laura Stuss

Mary Breitweiser, head gardener
Louise Davis

Mary Beth Greene, head gardener

Marilyn Dowling, head gardener

Erin Luppi, Alyce Garver, Janet Horst

Alyce Garver, Jackie Bay,
Birgit Bogues, Erin Luppi,
Karen Macleod

Roxanne Tavakkol, Mary Lou Foley,
Margo Gillespie, Jen Scarpati

Sue Marshall, Erin McQuillan

Laura Stuss, Beth Byszewski,
Karen Grove

Louise Davis, Stacy Bush,
Liz Festa, Cynthia Korman,
Dahlia Peyser, Diane Pigden
Jenn Apito, Sandy Batty,
Leslie Cirillo-Plante

Marge Jackson

Jen Scarpati (Co-Chair)

Erin McQuillan

Liz Festa (Co-chair)
Chris Belli, Marilyn Dowling,
Roxanne Tavakkol

Marilyn Dowling

Jenn Apito

Barb Pecca

Project Chairs & Committee Members

Communications

Maureen McSharry

Jenn Apito
Janet Horst
Dana Vatmakhter

Critter Tree

Margie Peacock

Becky Buckley, Layna Kearns,
Diane Pigden, Erin Ramich

Drumthwacket

Nancy Bigelsen

Chris Belli, Susan Buteau,
Donna Chaplin, Celia Flynn,
Cindi Happer, Barb Pecca,
Kathy Rockwell, Katja van der Loo

Earth Day Celebration

Roxanne Tavakkol

Event Hostesses

New Member

Welcome Soiré

Nancy Bigelsen

Holiday Cocktail Party

Phyllis Deering

Annual Meeting & Luncheon

Beth Byszewski

Summer Social

Jen Scarpati

Finance

Donna Chaplin

Leslie Cirillo-Plante, Bonnie Cytron,
Erin Luppi, Karen Macleod

Floral

Katja van der Loo

Lisa Blake, Mary Breitweiser,
Amanda Cali, Liz Festa,
Celia Flynn, Jess Mahony, Barb Pecca

Floral Workshops

Cindy Shaw

Donna Chaplin, Louise Davis,
Celia Flynn, Sue Marshall,
Barb Pecca, Katja van der Loo

Project Chairs & Committee Members

Flower Show Committee

Design Chair

Horticulture Chair

Cindy Shaw

Louise Davis

Sue Marshall

Donna Chaplin, Nancy Coppola,
Marilyn Dowling, Penny Leman,
Randy Shreve

Presentations for Flower Shows

Louise Davis, Sue Marshall,
Cindy Shaw, Susan Buteau

Garden Therapy

Mary Breitweiser

Lisa Blake, Gail Boertzel,
Birgit Bogues, Susan Buteau,
Amanda Cali, Peggy Galluzzi,
Kris Garrison, Mary Beth Greene,
Layna Kearns, Maureen McSharry,
Dahlia Peyser, Jill Sherman

Helen Connell Member Development Fund

Louise Davis

Holiday Greens Workshop

Lisa Blake

Sue Ananian, Stacy Bush,
Susan Buteau, Jane Cyran,
Liz Festa, Erin McQuillan,
Sylvia Rickert, Donna Smithers

Holiday Greens Cutting

Chris Belli

Sandy Batty, Gail Boertzel,
Becky Buckley, Susan Buteau,
Beth Byszewski, Linda Hyson,
Layna Kearns, Cynthia Korman

Greens Project

Kris Garrison

Horticulture

Susan Marshall

Donna Chaplin,
Kris Garrison, Barb Pecca

Project Chairs & Committee Members

Hospitality

Peggy Galluzzi

Birgit Bogues, Susan Buteau,
Jane Cyran, Phyllis Deering,
Mary Lou Foley, Linda Hyson,
Sylvia Rickert, Donna Smithers

Annual Meeting Lead

Sandy Batty

Cocktail Party Lead

TBD

Summer Social Lead

Kathy Rockwell

Junior Nature Club

Jackie Bay

Sue Ananian, Janet Horst,
Linda Hyson, Diane Pigden,
Erin Ramich, Jill Sherman

Membership

Margo Gillespie

Alyce Garver, Cynthia Korman,
Roxanne Tavakkol

Mentors

Margo Gillespie, Jen Scarpati,
Laura Stuss, Roxanne Tavakkol

Memorial Day Wreaths

Marge Jackson

Randy Shreve (Co-Chair)

Nominating

Gail Boertzel

Marilyn Dowling, Margo Gillespie

Photography Show

Roxanne Tavakkol

Jenn Apito (Co-Chair)
Sue Ananian, Leslie Cirillo-Plante,
Erin Luppi, Maureen McSharry

Project Chairs & Committee Members

Plant Sale

Janet Horst

Randy Shreve

Dig & Divide/Procurement

Chris Belli

Roxanne Tavakkol

Sandy Batty, Jane Cyran,
Mary Beth Greene, Karen Grove,
Maureen McSharry, Margie Peacock,
Barb Pecca, Dahlia Peyser,
Sylvia Rickert, Kathy Rockwell,
Jen Scarpati, Donna Smithers,
Cam Tippy

Programs

Marilyn Dowling

Gail Boertzel, Becky Buckley,
Bonnie Cytron, Kris Garrison,
Barb Pecca, Erin Ramich

Sunshine

Cam Tippy

Yearbook

Publisher

Dana Vatmakhter

Cover photography

Jenn Apito

Cover concept

Alyce Garver

State & National Awards Received

| | | |
|------|---|--|
| 2024 | Demarest Garden Club Yearbook Award (Large Club) | for the highest rated yearbook |
| 2023 | Myra Brooks Garden Therapy Trophy | for a garden therapy program for memory care residents of Victoria Mews |
| 2022 | CAR SGC Environmental Concern Award | for Birchwood Native Garden |
| 2022 | Medford Lakes Garden Club Silver Trophy for a Native Garden | for a public garden using predominately native plant material |
| 2021 | Holly Club of Seagirt Trophy | for outstanding youth program, Junior Nature Club |
| 2020 | Hanover Garden Club Trophy | for original Yearbook cover art, Stefanie Menack |
| 2019 | Ringwood Garden Club Trophy | for decoration of a public building, Drumthwacket Front Porch |
| 2018 | CAR SGC Flower Show Schedule Award | Second Place Small Standard Flower Show, 'Enchanted April Garden' |
| 2018 | Elizabeth Garden Club Trophy | for the finest judged Small Standard Flower Show, 'Enchanted April Garden' |

Helen Connell Award Recipients

The 'Garden Club of Mountain Lakes Helen Connell Award' is a silver bowl trophy presented to the blue ribbon winner in a novice division at each of our flower shows.

| | |
|------|-----------------|
| 2017 | Jessica Mahony |
| 2015 | Stefanie Menack |
| 2014 | Paula Anderson |

Past Presidents

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
| Lillian H. Kocher | 1937 | Linda Stansfield | 1989–1991 |
| Jessie Barton | 1938–1939 | Polly Watts | 1991–1993 |
| Mrs. Vance R. Hood | 1940–1941 | Nancy Walters | 1993–1995 |
| Mrs. Curtis Franklin | 1942–1945 | Helen Connell | 1995–1997 |
| Edna Shewhart | 1946–1947 | Beverly Jeck | |
| Jean Van Spanje | 1948–1951 | Sue Ann Sylvester | |
| Elsa Mueser | 1952–1955 | Louise Davis | 1997–1999 |
| Esther F. Moulton | 1956–1957 | Sue Ann Sylvester | |
| Eleanor Shattuck | 1958–1959 | Louise Davis | 1999–2001 |
| Kathleen Parry | 1960–1961 | Mary Virginia Corkle | 2001–2003 |
| Gladys McBain | 1962–1963 | Penny Leman | 2003–2005 |
| Dorothy Doremus | 1964–1965 | Susan Marshall | 2005–2007 |
| Ruth Grunden | 1966–1967 | Peggy Losh | 2007–2009 |
| Mary Battista | 1967–1969 | Nicole Wright | 2009–2011 |
| Helen Jackson | 1969–1971 | Nancy Bigelsen | 2011–2013 |
| Annette Melin | 1971–1973 | Kristin Barlow | 2013–2015 |
| Dorothy Reuter | 1973–1977 | Cynthia Shaw | 2015–2017 |
| Esther Brown | 1977–1979 | Heather Scott | 2017–2019 |
| Carol Mayer | 1979–1981 | Marilyn Dowling | 2019–2021 |
| Pauline Fagan | 1981–1983 | Maureen McSharry | 2021–2023 |
| Cathy Sundius | 1983–1985 | Roxanne Tavakkol | 2023–2025 |
| Jean Hopkins | 1985–1987 | Nancy Bigelsen | 2025– |
| Sue Kalmbach | 1987–1989 | | |

Club Objectives

The club's key objective is to advance gardening interest and knowledge among its members and the community. A commitment to these five goals helps define the projects and programs we offer each year:

Education

- ✓ Present programs to educate members and guests on an array of topics.
- ✓ Offer current and useful information on our website and in our club newsletter.
- ✓ Sponsor the Junior Nature Club, a youth program for third graders.
- ✓ Sponsor Garden Therapy, a program for memory care residents at a local assisted living facility.
- ✓ Provide support to community groups and initiatives that enhance the beauty and environment of Mountain Lakes.

Floral Design

- ✓ Host presentations by floral designers.
- ✓ Monthly presentations showing floral design types and potential horticulture specimens for entry in a flower show.
- ✓ Offer floral design workshops and informal opportunities to practice flower arranging.
- ✓ Present flower shows and photography exhibits featuring botanical and floral design subjects.
- ✓ Create floral arrangements for club events.

Horticulture

- ✓ Advance our knowledge on the science and art of growing fruits, vegetables, flowers, and ornamental plants.
- ✓ Feature horticulture topics at our club meetings and in our club newsletter.
- ✓ Present an annual plant sale with focus on noninvasive and native plants.
- ✓ Foster opportunities for members to share gardening knowledge.
- ✓ Offer trips to local gardens and arboretums.

Conservation

- ✓ Encourage the use of native species and eradication of invasive plants.
- ✓ Plant and maintain borough gardens including our native plant demonstration garden.
- ✓ Feature environmental topic displays at our flower shows and plant sales.
- ✓ Celebrate Earth Day by participating in community clean-up days.
- ✓ Promote composting, recycling, and conservation.

Personal Growth and Friendship

- ✓ Host events that provide a warm environment to strengthen social connections and build friendships among members.
- ✓ Build a welcoming and inclusive club culture through mentorship of provisional members by active members.
- ✓ Nurture the special camaraderie that our members share through our mutual gardening interest that spans multiple generations and perspectives.

Club Projects

Awards

CHAIR: Liz Festa

The Awards committee applies for GCNJ-sponsored awards and grants that recognize and reward the contributions of garden club members to their communities. The committee also applies for local, state, or national grants that support our mission-led projects.

Borough Gardens

CHAIR: Laura Stuss

Club members provide stewardship for many of Mountain Lakes' public gardens. Members design these gardens and perform seasonal clean-up and weeding, divide and plant perennials, and replace bulbs and plant material as needed. These gardens beautify the community and transform otherwise utilitarian areas, such as traffic circles and bus stops, into beautiful planted spaces for the entire community to enjoy.

Our Borough Gardens

9/11 Memorial

Birchwood Lake, end of
West Shore Road

Birchwood Native

Trailside at Birchwood Lake

Boulevard Planter

Boulevard at Briarcliff Road

Grove Place

Grove Place Circle

Helen Connell Garden

Midvale Road at Morris Avenue

Intervale Triangle

Intervale Road at Midvale Road

Mountain Lakes Library

Elm Road at Morris Avenue

Tennis Courts

Powerville Road at Mountain Lakes High School

Charitable Donations

Co-CHAIR: Erin McQuillan and Liz Festa

As a non-profit organization, our club is eager to strengthen our connection to the Mountain Lakes community. The Charitable Donations committee will seek opportunities to provide financial support to local community groups and initiatives that enhance the beauty and environment of Mountain Lakes and reflect the values of our club.

Last year, the club donated digital topsoil testing kits to two Mountain Lakes High School (MLHS) environmental science classes, trellises for the raised vegetable beds in the library's family garden program, a fall porch decorating voucher (to be redeemed in 2025) for the Mountain Lakes Educational Foundation fundraiser, and a monetary donation to the GCNJ Natural Disaster Fund.

Critter Tree

CHAIR: Margie Peacock

The tradition of our 'Critter Tree' dates back to 1966. The club creates a whimsical holiday tree for display in the Mountain Lakes Library during the holiday season. The tree is decorated with original ornaments of natural materials made by club members, inspired by designs originated at the Brandywine River Museum of Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania.

Drumthwacket

CHAIR: Nancy Bigelsen

Our club is honored once again to decorate Drumthwacket, the official residence of the Governor of New Jersey. This year, Nancy Bigelsen, in addition to leading our club's decorating of the mansion's foyer and the wreath in the Van Nuys Barn, will chair the entire Drumthwacket decorating project, coordinating teams from participating GCNJ member clubs. This will be a special year as the holiday décor will nod to the American Revolution to kick off the celebration of the United States Semiquincentennial, the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Visitors may tour Drumthwacket during Holiday Open House dates in December (dates to be posted in November at drumthwacket.org). The open houses are free and open to the public, but visitors must pre-register online. This year, guests will view six first-floor public rooms, along with the newly restored entertaining venue, Van Nuys Barn, all festively decorated by the GCNJ clubs.

Earth Day Community Clean-Up and Celebration

CHAIR: Roxanne Tavakkol

Our club will celebrate Earth Day by fielding a team of members to participate in Mountain Lakes' annual community clean-up day. Members and their families are invited to enjoy some hands-on Earth-friendly effort and fun.

Floral Workshops and Informal Flower Arranging

CHAIR: Cindy Shaw

The Floral Workshop and Informal Flower Arranging subcommittee of the Floral Committee will offer three flower arranging workshops this year in October, January, and March. This year we will offer opportunities to practice arranging at our informal workshops to be held in September, November, March, and May. Both daytime and evening workshops will be offered and will be held in the library community room, unless otherwise noted in the club calendar. Both formal and informal workshops will count towards the provisional requirements for membership.

See the club calendar for workshop topics and registration details.

Floral Design Reference Books

- ✓ *The Handbook for Flower Shows* (2017 edition) is the standard reference for floral designs featured in some of our flower arranging workshops. *The Handbook* governs the conduct of any flower show. The 2017 edition has been updated by the National Garden Club annually from 2020-2025. Members can download the most up-to-date version by creating a Member account at gardenclub.org, select Flower Show Schools, then the Flower Show School resource page.
- ✓ *Designing by Type* describes and illustrates the various types of design.
- ✓ *Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging* is a great book for those interested in exhibiting horticulture.

A reference copy of each book is available in the Mountain Lakes Library. Members can download the *Handbook* as mentioned above. The other two books can be purchased from National Garden Clubs' online store (gardenclub.org/our-store).

Garden Therapy

CHAIR: Mary Breitweiser

Winner of the 2022 GCNJ Myra Brooks Trophy for Garden Therapy, this program enters its fifth year. Our club has partnered with the Victoria Mews Assisted Living community in Boonton Township, New Jersey, to bring a Garden Therapy program to residents in their Memory Care unit. Member volunteers engage participants in hands-on projects that activate the senses and put them in-touch with plants, herbs, and natural materials.

Helen Connell Member Development Fund

CHAIR: Louise Davis

This fund was created in remembrance of Honorary member Helen Connell. Through her decades of service to our club, Helen was a voice of encouragement to fellow members in reaching their potential. The fund offers a financial award to members who obtain credentials through NGC courses or who achieve Master Gardener certification through Rutgers University.

Holiday Greens Workshop

CHAIR: Lisa Blake

Our holiday greens workshop is our club's most popular annual tradition and an enduring highlight of our program year. The greens workshop is held during the first week of December, ensuring a festive start to the season for all. Members create their own seasonal creations using locally grown fresh cut greens harvested by fellow members. A floral designer-led greens project is offered for those who choose to participate. Members may opt to join in a cookie swap and may donate leftover holiday baubles and bows to the 'ornament swap.'

Junior Nature Club

CHAIR: Jackie Bay

The Junior Nature Club is an after-school enrichment program for third graders. Participants engage in a variety of garden and nature-related activities and environmental awareness programs. The club meets monthly during the school year; participants pay a modest program fee. Club members help students with their crafts, new discoveries, and eager questions.

Member Caladium Sale

Co- CHAIRS: Marge Jackson and Jen Scarpati

Members are invited to join in a group purchase of caladium bulbs, affording discounted pricing on a unique selection of bulbs. The sale serves as a small fundraiser for the club.

Memorial Day Wreaths

Co- CHAIRS: Marge Jackson and Randy Shreve

The club decorates and places wreaths in the park on Lake Drive as part of the community's Memorial Day ceremonies.

Membership & Mentoring

CHAIR: Margo Gillespie

Our club is strategically focused on building and retaining membership. The club hosts targeted recruiting events to attract new members and our mentorship program, which pairs an experienced garden club member with a provisional member during their first year in the club, helps support provisional members' integration into the club by making them feel welcome and engaged in club activities.

Photography Show

Co-CHAIRS: Jenn Apito and Roxanne Tavakkol

Our nature photography show is a great community event that highlights another mode of artistic expression with flowers and appreciation of nature. Entry is open to the public and attracts amateur photographers from several surrounding communities. The display features more than 60 framed photographs that are enjoyed by theatre patrons at the ML High School spring musical. Judged by professional photographers, ribbons are awarded in each category. It's a wonderful partnership with the high school visual and performing arts departments and promotes the beauty of gardens and the natural world.

Plant Sale

Co-CHAIRS: Janet Horst and Randy Shreve

Our annual Plant Sale is both a major fundraiser as well as a wonderful community event, as we share our plants and our gardening knowledge with our Mountain Lakes neighbors. We offer several hundred perennials dug from members' gardens, native plants, dish gardens, and fresh floral bouquets.

We recruit community organizations to display information about environmental topics in a Community Education pavilion. All club members contribute plant material as well as their time for set-up, sale, or clean-up to ensure the success of this major fundraising event, which generates more than 50% of our club's operating income.

Meeting & Membership Information

Club Meetings

Date and Time

Meetings are held monthly between September and May, as follows, unless otherwise noted in the club calendar:

- ✓ Board Meetings: first Wednesday 930AM
- ✓ Club Meetings: fourth Wednesday 9AM or 7PM
 - * *For guests: Speaker or program begins ~45 minutes after the meeting start time.*
- ✓ The club follows Mountain Lakes Public Schools' lead for inclement weather: if schools are closed, meeting is canceled; if schools have delayed opening, daytime meetings begin at 10AM.
- ✓ Public Health: The club will monitor and adhere to state and local directives and guidelines regarding Covid-19 or other public health emergencies.

Meeting Place

Club meetings and workshops are held at the Mountain Lakes Public Library, 9 Elm Road, in the downstairs community room, unless otherwise noted in the club calendar.

Guests

Non-members may attend meetings that are open to the public. Guests may not attend the club's annual meeting or the holiday greens workshop. Repeat visitors are encouraged to join our club.

Meeting Program

Each meeting starts with club business and announcements and discussion of a floral design theme and a horticulture theme followed by a bit of social time before the program or speaker begins. Occasionally, a brief presentation on a special topic of interest may be shared.

Floral and Horticulture Themes and Special Topics

- ✓ Floral themes include an arrangement created by a designer from our Floral committee. The designer describes the inspiration, materials, and methods used in creating it. Members are invited to create and share their own projects from club workshops as well.
- ✓ Horticulture themes offer an opportunity for members to practice identifying plants and to learn more about them. A topic moderator presents a botanical specimen that represents the theme and shares information about the plant and its cultivation and uses in the garden. Members are invited to bring cuttings from their own garden to add their knowledge and experience to the discussion.
- ✓ Special topics may include, news from our local seed library, a history of Drumthwacket, a review of our club's photography show, and other topics of interest to our members.
- ✓ Monthly, members of the Flower Show committee will provide flower show education for both floral design and horticulture entries.

| MEETING | THEME/TOPIC | DESCRIPTION |
|------------|--------------------------|---|
| Sep | Flower Show Design | Petite Design |
| | Flower Show Horticulture | Perennial bloom: Montauk Daisy |
| Oct | Floral | Pavé |
| | Horticulture | A branch with fall color, provide cultivar if known |
| | Flower Show Design | Creative Design |
| Nov | Flower Show Horticulture | Perennial bloom: Japonica Anemone |
| | Floral | Fall Color Florals and Veggies |
| | Horticulture | A seed pod or garden cutting that provides winter interest, provide cultivar if known |
| Jan | Flower Show Design | Fresh Foliage |
| | Flower Show Horticulture | Houseplant |
| | Floral | Creative Design |
| Feb | Horticulture | A cutting of holly, provide cultivar if known |
| | Flower Show Design | Traditional |
| | Flower Show Horticulture | Evergreen |
| Mar | Floral | Dreaming of Spring's Colors |
| | Horticulture | A favorite houseplant, provide cultivar if known |
| | Flower Show Design | Spatial Thrust Design |
| Apr | Flower Show Horticulture | Forced Branches |
| | Floral | Traditional |
| | Horticulture | A hellebore, provide cultivar if known |
| May | Floral | Inspiration for Summer |
| | Horticulture | An early spring blossom, provide cultivar if known |
| | Flower Show Design | Artistic Craft |
| Jun | Flower Show Horticulture | Spring Bulbs |
| | Floral | |

Membership

Participation

Members are strongly encouraged to attend monthly club meetings and programs. Each spring, as part of the membership renewal process, members have an opportunity to join committees and to volunteer for positions that support the club's projects and objectives. In addition, all active members are required to serve on at least one committee and to help with one or more club projects. All members are required to donate plants to the Plant Sale and to assist with the sale in some capacity.

Dues

The membership year runs from July 1 through June 30. New members joining after January 1 pay half the yearly dues. Dues for active and provisional members are \$65.00 per year; dues for sustaining members are \$90.00 per year.

Benefits

Club members enjoy discounts at these suppliers and garden centers, upon presentation of a valid GCML membership card:

- ✓ Cerbo's Garden Center, 440 Littleton Road, Parsippany—10%
- ✓ Condurso's Garden Center, 96 River Road, Montville—10%
- ✓ The Farm at Green Village, 403 Green Village Road, Green Village (Chatham Township)—10%
- ✓ G&G Distributors, 275 North Midland Avenue, Saddle Brook—wholesale with \$10 membership fee
- ✓ Metropolitan Wholesale/City Side Flowers, 285 North Midland Avenue, Saddle Brook—wholesale
- ✓ Morris County Farms, 33 Smith Road, Denville—20%
- ✓ Plant Detectives, 45 US 206 Chester – 15%

The club's flower arranging workshops are offered at cost and include expert instruction, and the club occasionally subsidizes member special events.

Provisional Membership

Individuals who wish to join The Garden Club of Mountain Lakes will be accepted as provisional members. Provisional members are expected to explore all of the programs and activities available to members by fulfilling the requirements below. Provisional requirements ideally are completed within one calendar year of joining the club. Once all criteria have been met, the Membership Chair will present the provisional member's name to the Board for ratification as an active member.

- ✓ Borough Gardens: Assist for at least one hour in maintaining our borough gardens.
- ✓ Club Meetings: Attend one or more club meeting.
- ✓ Flower Arranging: Attend one or more club-sponsored floral workshops.
- ✓ Garden Therapy and Junior Nature Club: Assist at one or more sessions of either of these service programs.
 - * A provisional member whose schedule does not permit attending a daytime Garden Therapy or Junior Nature Club session may instead contribute an article to *Spotlight*, the club newsletter, to satisfy this requirement.
- ✓ Hospitality: Assist once or more with set-up, preparation of refreshments, and/or clean-up at a club meeting or other club event.
- ✓ Plant Sale and Club Projects: Fully participate in the Plant Sale fundraiser. Provisional members are encouraged to help with other club projects.

Mentorship

The mentorship program pairs an experienced garden club member with a provisional member during her first year in the club. Mentors support provisional members by making them feel welcome and personally introducing them to fellow members. Mentors answer questions, guide their mentee in fulfilling their membership requirements, and provide individual attention as new members explore their gardening interests.

Communications

Spotlight/Budding News

Spotlight, the club's newsletter, is published quarterly and sent to all members. Throughout the program year, *Budding News* keeps members up-to-date with important messages and reminders about activities and events, or late changes to scheduled events.

Website: gardenclubofmountainlakes.org

The website includes general public information about our club and any public events we sponsor. A restricted-access 'Members Only' section includes the club calendar, bylaws, member directory, member event registration, and other content of interest to our membership.

Yearbook

The *Yearbook* describes the club's goals and projects, includes a full calendar of activities and events for the year, the club constitution and bylaws, and a member directory. Each year, the yearbook cover features artwork by one of our members.

Constitution & Bylaws

The Constitution and Bylaws of The Garden Club of Mountain Lakes were adopted in February 1937 and have been revised as follows:

| | | | |
|-----------|------|-------------|-------------|
| September | 1940 | May | 1983 |
| January | 1947 | November | 1991 |
| September | 1948 | January | 1998 |
| August | 1953 | March | 2003 |
| January | 1959 | May | 2010 |
| October | 1961 | May | 2013 |
| October | 1962 | June | 2024 |

Constitution

Article I Name

The name of the club shall be: The Garden Club of Mountain Lakes.

Article II Purpose

This organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, and in furtherance, but not by way of limitation, of such objectives:

- a)** To further the advancement of gardening interest and knowledge among its members and in the community.
- b)** To do and perform all other acts necessary to carry out the purpose of this organization as a not-for-profit organization in accordance with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Article III Membership

Section 1.

Membership shall be open to adults with an active interest in gardening, floral design, and/or the natural environment.

Section 2.

Membership types include provisional, active, sustaining, and honorary as described in the bylaws. The membership term is annual and subject to payment of dues.

Section 3.

The club is affiliated with The Garden Club of New Jersey. The Garden Club of New Jersey is a federation of garden clubs and is a charter member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Article IV Officers

Section 1.

The officers of the club shall be President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary. The President and Vice President positions can be shared by more than one person as co-officers.

Section 2.

The officers shall be elected at the annual business meeting, for a term beginning at the start of the new membership year (as defined in Article I of the bylaws). The officers shall hold office for two years and shall preferably not succeed themselves.

Section 3.

The President and Vice President shall be elected concurrently in the same year. The Recording Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected in alternate years to the President and Vice President.

Section 4.

At the discretion of the Board of Directors (as defined in the bylaws) modifications may be made to Section 2 and Section 3.

Article V Meetings

Section 5.

There shall be at least seven monthly club meetings per membership year, one of which is the annual business meeting.

Section 6.

There shall be at least seven monthly board meetings per membership year.

Article VI Amendments

The constitution may be amended by an approving vote of two thirds of the active members present in person or via video conference at a business meeting, but not less than one half the membership, provided that notice of the proposed amendment shall have been sent to each member one month before the date of the meeting.

Bylaws

Article I Membership

The term of the membership year is July 1 through June 30, annually.

Section 1. Active Members

a) The Garden Club of Mountain Lakes is a working club; active members are expected to fulfill the following obligations: attend meetings, serve each year on at least one club committee, help with one or more club projects annually, participate in the annual fundraiser(s). All members are encouraged to take courses on floral design, horticulture, landscape design, and/or environmental studies.

b) Active member privileges include the right to vote on club business and to hold office.

c) If an active member is unable to fulfill membership obligations, a leave of absence may be granted for the remainder of the current membership year by the Board of Directors (henceforth, the 'Board'). A member who wishes to take a leave of absence shall submit a written request to the Board for consideration. The member may return to active status during the membership year by approval of the Board. A member on leave of absence will have no voting privileges.

d) An active member who resigns from the club or declines to renew membership and later desires to rejoin may return to the club as an active member with all applicable dues, obligations, and privileges.

e) A member may become ineligible for membership by unanimous vote of the Board for the following reasons: (a) neglecting active member obligations for several years, or (b) serious disruptive or inappropriate behavior.

f) An applicant in good standing, as shown by letter, who desires to transfer from another garden club may, by approval of the Board, be admitted to active membership.

Section 2. Sustaining Members

Sustaining membership is available to a member who has made a significant contribution to the club over a long tenure and is no longer able to fulfill the obligations of active membership. A member who wishes to be considered for sustaining membership shall submit a written request to the Board for consideration. A sustaining member may participate in club events but may not vote or hold office. A sustaining membership is renewable annually.

Section 3. Honorary Members

Honorary membership is a special honor reserved only for a few and is a lifetime distinction. An honorary member must have shown a great love and respect for the Garden Club by providing outstanding service throughout a long membership tenure, serving in club leadership, and consistently demonstrating a commitment to the club's mission.

Any member may nominate a candidate for this distinction, who would then be considered by the Board and, if approved, elected by the general membership. An honorary member is not required to pay dues or participate in club activities. An honorary member may participate in club events but may not vote or hold office.

Section 4. Provisional Members

An individual may apply for provisional membership by submitting a 'New Member Interest' form to the club and, after connecting with the Membership team, may be invited to join. Upon payment of dues, the person becomes a provisional member. The provisional member's name shall be presented by the Membership Chair at the next board meeting and published in the club newsletter.

a) A provisional member is expected to attend meetings and workshops. A provisional member is not entitled to vote or hold office. A provisional member may serve as a committee chair at the discretion of the Board.

b) Before becoming an active member, the provisional member shall serve as follows during her first year: assist with hospitality, assist with the Plant Sale and other fundraiser(s), assist with Junior Nature Club or Garden Therapy, assist with borough gardens projects, and participate in a floral design workshop sponsored by The Garden Club of Mountain Lakes.

c) When the requirements are fulfilled (preferably within one year) the provisional member must be formally promoted to active membership by a majority vote of the Board.

Section 5. Membership Committee

The Membership Committee shall be a standing committee consisting of the Membership Chair and at least two additional active members. The Membership Chair shall be appointed by the President for a term of two years.

a) The Membership Chair shall take an active role in recruitment of members and is responsible for promptly

responding to prospective member inquiries, inviting them to upcoming meetings or events as appropriate, and facilitating their registration as provisional members.

b) The Membership Chair is responsible for management of annual membership renewals and submitting the club roster and dues to The Garden Club of New Jersey.

c) A Membership Committee member shall act as clerk to take attendance at all club meetings and act as hostess to greet members and guests.

Article II Club Meetings

Section 1. Monthly Club Meeting

a) The regular monthly club meeting shall be held on the fourth Wednesday of the month. The Board shall have the authority to change the date of meetings provided that it does so for no more than two consecutive meetings. The Board may call a special meeting of the club at its discretion.

b) Club meetings typically include an overview of current club activities and participation opportunities; a segment on horticulture, floral, and/or a special topic; a social period; and a program or demonstration by an invited speaker.

c) Some club meetings may be offered via video conference. Attendance via video conference satisfies a member's meeting attendance obligation. Members are encouraged to attend in-person as frequently as possible.

Section 2. Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting shall be held the fourth Wednesday of May, for the purpose of electing officers, presenting the budget for the upcoming year, recognizing member achievements, and any other club business.

Section 3. Guests

Non-members may attend the speaker/program portion of monthly club meetings. No guests may attend either the annual business meeting or the Holiday Greens Workshop. Guests may be permitted to attend workshops and trips only when space is available.

Article III Finances

Section 1. Fiscal Year

The term of the fiscal year is July 1 through June 30, annually.

Section 2. Dues

a) Dues of active, provisional, and sustaining members shall be payable by May 1. Annual dues include membership in The Garden Club of New Jersey.

b) An active, provisional, or

sustaining member who has not paid dues by June 1, after due notice, shall be dropped from the membership roll. A fee will be charged for reinstatement.

c) Dues of a sustaining member shall be more than those of an active member. A sustaining member may return to active membership at the time of the next annual renewal.

d) All new members joining after January 1 shall pay half the yearly dues.

e) Any dues paid shall not be refundable after September 1 of the current fiscal year.

Section 3. Other Income

a) The club will conduct one or more fundraisers per year. Any fundraising effort that would commit club members to the sale of tickets shall be approved by a majority vote of the Board.

b) Registration fees may be collected for certain club activities.

c) Club funds may be invested to yield interest upon approval by the Board.

Section 4. Budget

An annual operating budget will be prepared and approved by the Board prior to the start of each fiscal year.

Section 5. Financial Oversight

a) The Treasurer is responsible for club finances, accounting,

and record keeping and will prepare the annual budget.

b) An independent review of club finances shall be conducted annually.

Section 6. Charitable Giving

a) The club will seek opportunities to advance gardening interest in the community through financial support or gifts to local initiatives at the discretion of the Board and in accordance with section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

b) The club may contribute to gardening projects sponsored by local, state, or national garden clubs or to other related projects of interest to the club, at the discretion of the Board.

Section 7. Other Expenses

a) Outside speakers and flower show judges may be entertained at a meal at the expense of the club.

b) The club shall pay the registration fee of official delegates, not to exceed three, to the Annual Meeting and the Fall Conference of The Garden Club of New Jersey.

Section 8. Dissolution

a) Upon the dissolution of this organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of the section 501(c)(3)

of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose, as specified below.

b) After clearing outstanding club financial obligations, any remaining funds shall be presented to the Borough of Mountain Lakes for the maintenance of existing gardens established by The Garden Club of Mountain Lakes.

Article IV Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers as stated in Article IV of the Constitution.

a) With the exception of the Presidency, the Executive Committee is authorized to fill any vacancy of an elected position when there is an unexpired term.

b) All business transactions of the club between Board meetings shall be with the approval of the Executive Committee. It shall be empowered to act in case of an emergency.

Section 1. President

The President shall preside at all meetings of the club, act as Chair of the Board and Executive Committee, have general supervision of the affairs of the club, appoint all

Committee Chairs, serve ex-officio on all committees except the Nominating Committee, and attend State conferences and District meetings.

Section 2. Vice President

The Vice President shall substitute for the President when necessary and assist the President with managing club affairs.

Section 3. Treasurer

a) The Treasurer shall keep the accounts of the club, have charge of all club money, pay all bills authorized by the club, the Board, or the Executive Committee; collect all dues and assessments; file tax and regulatory documents; and shall report to the club or the Board as requested.

b) The Treasurer shall develop a proposed annual budget based on estimated expenses of the committee chairs annually in April, for review by the Board.

c) The Treasurer shall present to the Board a mid-year report on income and spending versus the budget and present a financial report at the annual business meeting.

d) In addition to the Treasurer, the President should be authorized by the bank to disburse and credit funds.

Section 4. Recording Secretary

- a)** The Recording Secretary takes minutes at all board meetings, finalizes the minutes after approval by the Board, and stores them in the club's electronic archives.
- b)** The Recording Secretary undertakes club correspondence on behalf of the club as directed by the Board.

Article V Board of Directors

Section 1. Board Members

a) The Garden Club shall be governed by a Board consisting of its elected officers, who comprise the Executive Committee; appointed chairs of standing committees (Membership and Nominating); the chairs of Borough Gardens, Communications, Floral, Plant Sale, and Programs; and other project or committee chairs at the President's discretion.

b) The Board shall oversee club activities, formulate policy in accordance with club objectives, and administer routine affairs of the club.

c) All members of the Executive Committee shall be active members, and the President shall have served on the Board, preferably for at least two years. Committee Chairs shall be active members unless the Board rules otherwise.

Section 2. Board Meetings

- a)** The Board shall have at least seven monthly meetings a year to be held on the first Wednesday of the month, either in-person or via video conference.
- b)** The Board shall have the authority to change the date of their meetings provided that it does so for no more than two consecutive meetings.

Section 3. Procedure

a) *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, Chapter 16, Procedures for Small Assemblies, shall be the authority for the conduct of meetings of the Board.

b) The quorum of the Board shall be a majority of its members.

c) The President or one Co-President shall vote only in the case of a tie.

Article VI Nominations and Voting

Section 1. Nominating Committee

a) The Nominating committee shall be a standing committee consisting of five members. The Chair, appointed by the President, shall have served on the Board.

b) The Membership Chair shall serve on the Nominating committee. In addition, there will be three active members appointed by the Chair.

c) Among the five members, there should be one member from the previous year's Nominating committee.

Section 2. Slate of Officer Candidates

a) Available officer positions will be published in the club newsletter. Any active member may contact the Nominating committee if interested in being considered for an open officer position. Any member may recommend officer candidates to the Nominating committee and members of the Nominating committee may solicit candidate recommendations from other members.

b) The Nominating committee shall propose a slate of candidates for the annual election.

c) The Chair of the Nominating committee shall report the slate of candidates at the board meeting in April before submitting it to the membership.

d) The slate will be distributed to the membership at least one week before the day of the election.

Section 3. Voting

a) The quorum of the club shall be one third of the active members.

b) An approving vote requires two thirds of the quorum.

c) Voting shall be by show of hands or voice vote, in person or via video conference.

Article VII Committees

a) All chairs shall be appointed by the President and shall serve a one-year term.

b) Chairs are responsible for initiating and overseeing project activities, communicating with committee members, and keeping the Board apprised of project progress.

c) Chairs are responsible for managing expenses and ensuring alignment with the project budget. Any project expenditure of greater than \$100 above a project's budget must be approved by a majority vote of the Board.

d) Before the end of the program year, each committee chair shall submit a written summary of the year's activities with any recommendations for a successor.

e) All chairs and committee members shall be listed in the club yearbook.

Article VIII Bylaws

a) The bylaws may be amended, or any article suspended for a specific time by a simple majority of the Board.

b) Any motion not specifically covered by these bylaws may be passed by a simple majority of the Board.

Club Calendar 2025–2026

» SEPTEMBER «

Tue Sep 16 Informal Flower Arranging

2PM

This informal flower arranging opportunity is suitable for beginners. *All participants must bring their own supplies.* Please bring an appropriately sized container and flowers from a grocery store bouquet, oasis or tape if needed, garden clippers, and Joyce Chen kitchen scissors. Guidance will be provided by committee members, but no formal instruction is planned. Participants will learn by doing.

DESIGN TYPE: Grocery Store Bouquet
(BYO flowers/container)

FEE: None

REGISTRATION: Not required

LOCATION: Mountain Lakes Library

Wed Sep 17 Club Meeting and Luncheon:

'Cocktail Gardens and Hydrangeas'

Meeting 9AM

Luncheon 1130AM

Join Bethany Naccarato, author, educator, master gardener, owner of Blueacre Farm as she shares her knowledge of planting a cocktail garden and her tips on growing hydrangeas. Join your friends at an optional luncheon following the program.

Additionally, Cindy Shaw, Flower Show Chair, will present an example of an American Traditional Petite Design and how to enter a perennial bloom in the Horticulture division of a flower show.

FEE: The meeting is free of charge.

*The optional luncheon is \$40 for members,
Guests may attend the program for \$20,
or both the program and lunch for \$50.*

FLOWER SHOW

DESIGN/HORTICULTURE: Petite Design/Montauk Daisy

LOCATION: Rockaway River Country Club

» OCTOBER «

Wed Oct 8 Garden Therapy

115PM

Our award-winning garden therapy program offers residents of the memory care unit at Victoria Mews Assisted Living an opportunity to create botanical-inspired projects. The residents work with custom project kits and are supported by garden club volunteer helpers and facility staff.

To volunteer to help at a Garden Therapy session, please visit our SignUpGenius. Several helpers are needed at each meeting.

CHAIR: Mary Breitweiser

LOCATION: Victoria Mews

51 North Main Street, Boonton Township

Wed Oct 8 Junior Nature Club: Fairy Houses

3PM

Junior Nature Club participants will build fairy houses outside in the nearby woodland.

To volunteer to help at a Junior Nature Club session, please visit our SignUpGenius.

PROJECT LEAD: Jackie Bay

HELPERS NEEDED: 2

Wed Oct 15 Welcome Soirée

7PM

All provisional members, along with their mentors, are invited to this festive evening get-together. This gathering is a forum to learn about club goals, activities, and events and to start the seeds of new friendships in the club.

Prospective members are invited as well. Club members are encouraged to recommend their friends or neighbors as prospective members. If you know someone who may like to receive an invitation to this event, please let the Membership team know by late September.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: Margo Gillespie

HOSTESS: Nancy Bigelsen

LOCATION: 57 Melrose Road

HOSPITALITY LEAD: Peggy Galluzzi

Tue Oct 21 Floral Workshop: Design Technique–Pavé**7PM**

Cindy Shaw, Floral Workshop Chair, will teach how to use the Pavé design technique in an arrangement. The workshop is suitable for beginners. All plant material and container will be provided. BYO Joyce Chen kitchen scissors and clippers.

DESIGN TYPE: Pavé

FEE: \$55

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: October 7, register online
or with Cindy Shaw

LOCATION: Mountain Lakes Library

Wed Oct 22 Club Meeting: Pollinator Garden Design and Tour**9AM**

Join our own member, past president of the Garden Club of New Jersey, and certified pollinator garden designer, Louise Davis, at her home to learn more about planting a garden to attract pollinators. Enjoy a tour of Louise's beautiful gardens.

Additionally, Louise will present an example of a Creative Design that could be entered into the design division of a flower show and the proper way to display an example of a perennial bloom as a horticulture entry.

FLORAL: Pavé

HORTICULTURE: A branch with fall color

FLOWER SHOW

DESIGN/HORTICULTURE: Creative/ Japonica Anemone

LOCATION: Louise Davis' home
106 Old Denville Road
Boonton Twp.

« NOVEMBER «**Wed Nov 12 Junior Nature Club****3PM**

Junior Nature Club participants will make critter ornaments for the tree at the ML Library.

To volunteer to help at a Junior Nature Club session, please visit our SignUpGenius.

PROJECT LEAD: Margie Peacock

HELPERS NEEDED: 3

Join Sue Roberts, owner and creative director of Cecelia Hill Floral Design in Summit, NJ, as she shares current trends in the floral industry and resources for flowers and supplies. Sue is a certified floral designer through the renowned Flower School NY and has trained with top designers in NYC and around the world. In her presentation Sue will create an inspiring seasonal holiday arrangement and show slides of a variety of her floral designs. She loves working with garden club members because 'they have such an appreciation and love of flowers.' After the program, one lucky member will take home her beautiful creation.

Additionally, Sue Marshall, past president of GCML, will choose a style of design that showcases an all-fresh foliage arrangement for entry in the design division of a flower show. She will also show us how to prepare a houseplant for entry in the horticulture division.

FLORALS: Colors of Fall with Florals and Vegetables

HORTICULTURE: A seed pod or a cutting of a garden plant that provides winter interest, provide cultivar if known

FLOWER SHOW

DESIGN/HORTICULTURE: Fresh Foliage/Houseplant

LOCATION: Mountain Lakes Library

The informal flower arranging opportunity is suitable for beginners. *All participants must bring their own supplies.* Please bring an appropriately sized container and flowers to create a centerpiece for your Thanksgiving table, oasis or tape if needed, garden clipper and Joyce Chen kitchen scissors. Guidance will be provided by committee members, but no formal instruction is planned. Participants will learn by doing.

DESIGN TYPE: Table Centerpiece
(BYO flowers/container)

FEE: None

REGISTRATION: Not required

LOCATION: Mountain Lakes Library

» DECEMBER «

Mon Dec 1 Holiday Greens Cutting

9AM

Help gather plant material for the holiday greens workshop. Members will harvest cuttings from their own gardens and assist at other members' or community properties. The team will go on the hunt for Mountain Lakes' best magnolia, holly, spruce, cypress, boxwood, pine, pine cones and other treasures.

CHAIRS: Chris Belli

BYO: Clippers, shears, loppers, gloves

LOCATION: TBD

Thu Dec 4 Club Meeting: Holiday Greens Workshop *NEW DAY* 9AM

Get those holiday decorations started at our fun and festive greens workshop. Members create their own, greens-based designs using fresh evergreens harvested locally by our members. Register on our SignUpGenius to participate in a members cookie swap. Bring any small holiday accents and ornaments that you're ready to part with, to add to the 'ornament swap' table. Bring your own tools, container(s), and any specialty botanicals or embellishments. The greens workshop is open to Garden Club members only.

CHAIR: Lisa Blake

BYO: Clippers, scissors, tools

LOCATION: Denville Community Church

190 Diamond Spring Road, Denville

Thu Dec 4 Holiday Greens Project *NEW DAY*

9AM

Club member and talented designer, Kris Garrison, will lead a workshop where you can create a special holiday design with greens, embellishments, and your own personal flourishes. Workshop is suitable for beginners. All materials and container will be provided.

CHAIRS: Kris Garrison

BYO: Clippers, scissors, tools

Fee: \$45

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: by November 21, online
or with Kris Garrison

Wed Dec 10 Garden Therapy**115PM**

Garden Club volunteers will lead the participants in creating a botanical craft project.

To volunteer to help at a Garden Therapy session, please visit our SignUpGenius. Several helpers are needed at each meeting.

CHAIR: Mary Breitweiser

LOCATION: Victoria Mews

51 North Main Street, Boonton Township

Wed Dec 10 Junior Nature Club**3PM**

Junior Nature Club will make holiday ornaments from seed pods.

To volunteer to help at a Junior Nature Club session, please visit our SignUpGenius.

PROJECT LEAD: Jackie Bay

HELPERS NEEDED: 3

Fri Dec 12 Holiday Cocktail Party**6-8PM**

Join your club friends and their partners for some holiday cheer! Enjoy hearty appetizers and drinks contributed by our members and holiday ambiance supplied by our party hosts, Phyllis and Paul Deering. Please bring an appetizer, dessert, or beverage to share.

RSVP: on our SignUpGenius

HOSTS: Phyllis and Paul Deering

LOCATION: 8 Oak Lane

HOSPITALITY LEAD: TBD

» JANUARY «**Wed Jan 14 Junior Nature Club****3PM**

Junior Nature Club participants will build birch log bird feeders.

To volunteer to help at a Junior Nature Club session, please visit our SignUpGenius.

PROJECT LEAD: Jackie Bay

HELPERS NEEDED: 3

Mon Jan 26 Floral Workshop: Creative Design**10AM**

Louise Davis, Master Flower Show Judge, will teach us how to create a Creative Design. The workshop is suitable for beginners. All materials and the container will be provided. BYO Joyce Chen kitchen scissors and garden clippers.

Fee: \$55.00

REGISTER: by January 13, online or with Cindy Shaw

DESIGN TYPE: Creative

LOCATION: Mountain Lakes Library

Wed Jan 28 Club Meeting: Finding Your Voice in Living Landscapes 9AM

Join our own member and professional garden designer, Amanda Cali, as she shares her design philosophies and thoughts on planning a thriving landscape.

Additionally, Sue Marshall, member of the Floral Workshop Committee, will present an example of a traditional design for entry in the design division of a flower show. She will also show us how to prepare an evergreen specimen for entry in the horticulture division.

FLORAL: Creative Design

HORTICULTURE: A cutting of holly, provide cultivar if known

FLOWER SHOW

DESIGN/HORTICULTURE: Traditional/Evergreen

LOCATION: Mountain Lakes Library

» **FEBRUARY** «

Wed Feb 11 Garden Therapy**115PM**

Garden Club volunteers will lead the participants in creating a botanical craft project.

To volunteer to help at a Garden Therapy session, please visit our SignUpGenius. Several helpers are needed at each meeting.

CHAIR: Mary Breitweiser

LOCATION: Victoria Mews

51 North Main Street, Boonton Township

Junior Nature Club participants will make a Valentine's surprise.

To volunteer to help at a Junior Nature Club session, please visit our SignUpGenius. Several helpers are needed at each meeting.

PROJECT LEAD: Jackie Bay

HELPERS NEEDED: 3

Wed Feb 25 Club Meeting: Getting Ready for the Spring Garden 9AM

Join Jerry Smith, experienced gardener, to learn all the details about starting vegetables and flowers indoors from seed purchasing to hardening off/planting outdoors and everything else in between.

Additionally, Louise Davis, member of the Flower Show Committee and past blue-ribbon winner, will present an example of a Spatial Thrust design that could be entered into the design division of a flower show. She will also show us the proper way to display a forced branch as a horticulture entry.

FLORAL: Dreaming of Spring's Colors

HORTICULTURE: A favorite houseplant,
provide cultivar if known

FLOWER SHOW

DESIGN/HORTICULTURE: Spatial Thrust/Forced Branch

LOCATION: Mountain Lakes Library

» MARCH «

Thu-Sat Mar 5-7 Photography Show**Time TBD**

Our club will host an artistic show of botanical and nature photos that will be displayed at ML High School in conjunction with the performing arts spring musical. The three categories are Fleeting Moments (Floral Arrangements), Season of Blooms (Perennials and Gardens), and Eternal Beauty (Nature Scenes). Club members and the public may enter, and professional photography judges will award ribbons in each category and an overall winner. Entry details to come.

CO-CHAIRS: Jenn Apito and Roxanne Tavakkol

LOCATION: Mountain Lakes High School

TIMES: TBD

Wed Mar 11 Junior Nature Club

3PM

Junior Nature Club participants will participate in 'Insect Apocalypse.'

To volunteer to help at a Junior Nature Club session, please visit our SignUpGenius. Several helpers are needed at each meeting.

PROJECT LEAD: Jackie Bay

HELPERS NEEDED: 0

Wed Mar 18 Informal Flower Arranging: Tray Table for One

7PM

This informal flower arranging opportunity is suitable for beginners. *All participants must bring their own supplies. Please bring a tray, dishes and napkins for one, an appropriately sized container and small-scale flowers, oasis and tape if needed, garden clippers and Joyce Chen kitchen scissors. Guidance will be provided by committee members, but no formal instruction is planned. Participants will learn by doing.*

DESIGN TYPE: Tray Table (bring your own flowers, dishes, tray, and container)

Fee: \$0

REGISTRATION: Not required

LOCATION: Mountain Lakes Library

Tues March 24 Floral Workshop: Traditional Design

7PM

Sue Marshall, member of the Flower Show Committee and past blue-ribbon winner, will teach how to create a traditional floral design. The workshop is suitable for beginners. All materials and the container will be provided. BYO Joyce Chen kitchen scissors and garden clippers.

DESIGN TYPE: Traditional

Fee: \$55

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: March 10, online or with Cindy Shaw

LOCATION: Mountain Lakes Library

Wed Mar 25 Club Meeting: Thriving Orchids in Our Homes 7PM

Join our fellow member, Barb Pecca, longtime orchid aficionado, as she shares her secrets to keep her orchids thriving and blooming over and over again.

FLORAL: Traditional

HORTICULTURE: A hellebore, provide cultivar if known

LOCATION: Mountain Lakes Library

Thu–Sun Mar 26–29: Home and Garden Tour Charleston, SC

'Charleston, SC, here we come!'

We have dreamt of such a GCML trip and, finally, have planned a fun and exciting visit to the 2026 Charleston Home and Garden Tour. This annual southern tradition features a curated selection of Charleston's most exquisite gardens and architecture. While we don't have the official program yet, you can expect to see vibrant floral displays and beautifully landscaped spaces while enjoying the experience with your current and new garden club friends. Join us as we immerse ourselves in the beauty and fun of celebrating springtime in South Carolina this garden club year!

REGISTER: by January 1, with Marilyn Dowling

» APRIL «

Wed Apr 8 Garden Therapy 115PM

Garden Club volunteers will lead the participants in creating a botanical craft project.

To volunteer to help at a Garden Therapy session, please visit our SignUpGenius. Several helpers are needed at each meeting.

CHAIR: Mary Breitweiser

LOCATION: Victoria Mews

51 North Main Street, Boonton Township

Wed Apr 15 Junior Nature Club

3PM

Junior Nature Club participants will learn about bird migration.

To volunteer to help at a Junior Nature Club session, please visit our SignUpGenius.

PROJECT LEAD: Noreen O'Rourke

HELPERS NEEDED: 1

Wed Apr 22 Club Meeting: Container Gardening with M. Erbs

9AM

Join the talented team from M.Erbs as they teach us how they design their gorgeous containers and adjust the plant material for a full-season show of blooms.

Cindy Shaw, past president of GCML and past blue-ribbon winner, will present an example of an Artistic Craft in the Botanical Arts division and how to enter a spring bulb in the horticulture division.

FLORAL: Inspiration for Summer

HORTICULTURE: An early spring blossom

FLOWER SHOW

DESIGN/HORTICULTURE: Artistic Craft/Spring Bulbs

LOCATION: Mountain Lakes Library

Sat Apr 25 Earth Day Community Clean Up & Celebration

9AM

Club members will participate in the Mountain Lakes community clean-up day in honor of Earth Day. Bring the kids, partners, or grandkids to lend a hand!

Don't forget your gloves, rake and weeding tools, sensible shoes, and sunscreen. Please bring your own refreshments for an informal picnic lunch after the clean-up.

To volunteer to help at the Earth Day Celebration, please visit our SignUpGenius. Many hands make light work.

CHAIR: Roxanne Tavakkol

LOCATION: TBD Clean-up Site

» MAY «

Thu May 7 Plant Sale: Donation Drop-off

10AM, 5PM

All members, active and provisional, are required to donate a minimum of 12 potted, homegrown plants to the sale. Specific transplanting and plant donation instructions, as well as drop-off hours (morning and afternoon/eve) will be posted on the club website and shared with members via *Plant Sale News*.

Please contact the Plant Sale committee if you need help identifying or selecting plants from your property.

LOCATION: St. John's Lodge, 280 Boulevard, ML
(next to Island Beach)

Fri May 8 Plant Sale: Set-up and Members' Presale 330PM, 530PM

Starting at 330PM the setup team will arrange tables and signage and transfer plants from St. John's Lodge to Island Beach with the assistance of student volunteers.

From 530-630PM members are invited to the members' presale, where any member can purchase up to three plants.

LOCATION: Island Beach

Sat May 9 Plant Sale (RAIN or SHINE) 8AM

Our plants sale is both a major fundraiser for our club (accounting for approximately 50% of our operational budget, as well as a wonderful community event, as we share our plants and our gardening knowledge with the Mountain Lakes community. We offer educational displays and exhibits, a youth activity by Mountain Lakes Makerspace, native plants, and fresh floral bouquets for purchase.

To volunteer to help at the Plant Sale, please visit our SignUpGenius. All hands on-deck for the Plant Sale!

LOCATION: Island Beach

Wed May 13 Garden Therapy**115PM**

Garden Club volunteers will lead the participants in creating a botanical craft project.

To volunteer to help at a Garden Therapy session, please visit our SignUpGenius. Several helpers are needed at each meeting.

CHAIR: Mary Breitweiser

LOCATION: Victoria Mews

51 North Main Street, Boonton Township

Wed May 13 Junior Nature Club**3PM**

Junior Nature Club participants will build 'Little Drifter' boats.

To volunteer to help at a Junior Nature Club session, please visit our SignUpGenius. Several helpers are needed at each meeting.

PROJECT LEAD: Jackie Bay

HELPERS NEEDED: 3

Thur May 14 Informal Flower Arranging**10AM**

This informal flower arranging opportunity is suitable for beginners. *All participants must bring their own supplies.* Please bring a container and flowers of your choice, oasis or tape if needed, garden clippers and Joyce Chen kitchen scissors. Guidance will be provided by committee members, but no formal instruction is planned. Participants will learn by doing.

DESIGN TYPE: Arranger's choice of container and materials (BYO flowers/container)

FEE: \$0

REGISTRATION: Not required

LOCATION: Mountain Lakes Library

Wed May 20 Annual Meeting and Luncheon

11AM

Our annual club business meeting, followed by lunch. Please bring an item for the 'friendship salad.' Enjoy beverages and desserts provided by the Hospitality Committee.

RSVP: on our SignUpGenius

HOSTESS: Beth Byszewski

LOCATION: 300 Morris Avenue

HOSPITALITY LEAD: Sandy Batty

» JUNE «

Wed Jun 3 GCNJ Annual Meeting

9AM

LOCATION: The Olde Mill Inn, Bernardsville

Wed Jun 17 Club Trip

TBD

LOCATION: TBD

» JULY «

Wed Jul 22 Summer Social

7PM

Members are invited to Jen Scarpati's home for socializing and refreshments, followed by a friendly floral arranging competition. The Summer Social is a fun way to stay in touch with the Garden Club over the summer and a great opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor who might be interested in learning more about our club.

RSVP: on our SignUpGenius

HOSTESS: Jen Scarpati

LOCATION: 176 Morris Avenue

HOSPITALITY LEAD: Kathy Rockwell

Membership Directory

Active and Provisional Members

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NGC Accreditations and Master Gardeners

Donna Chaplin

Environmental Studies Consultant

Louise Davis

Environmental Studies Consultant

*Garden Club of New Jersey,
Past President*

Master Flower Show Judge

Master Gardening Study Consultant

NGC-Certified Pollinator Garden

Margo Gillespie

Rutgers Master Gardener