

## Club Calendar At-a-Glance

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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 May13	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

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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<sup>of</sup> 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  
mlgardenclub@gmail.com — gardenclubofmountainlakes.org



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***On the cover: 'Through the Garden Gate'***

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



## President's Letter

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### *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!

Nancy

## National & State Garden Clubs

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### The National Garden Clubs, Inc.

*Plant America for the Next 100 Years!*

**[gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org)**

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

314-776-7574  
314-776-5108 (fax)  
[headquarters@  
gardenclub.org](mailto:headquarters@gardenclub.org)

**President Donna Donnelly**  
Elloree, SC

[dmdonnelly@  
gardenclub.org](mailto:dmdonnelly@gardenclub.org)

### Central Atlantic Region

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

**[car-sgc.org](http://car-sgc.org)**

**Headquarters** P.O. Box 693  
Millsboro, DE 19966

**Director Beverly Kazickas**

[carsgc.regiondirector@  
gmail.com](mailto:carsgc.regiondirector@gmail.com)

### The Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc.

*The Importance of Pollinators – Go Native*

**[gardenclubofnewjersey.org](http://gardenclubofnewjersey.org)**

**Headquarters** Holly House Rutgers University  
126 Ryder's Lane  
East Brunswick, NJ 08816-1331

732-249-0947  
[gcnj@aol.com](mailto:gcnj@aol.com)

**President Sue Berdahl**

[sue.berdahl@gmail.com](mailto:sue.berdahl@gmail.com)

**District 3 Rose Wolverton**  
**Director**

[rwolvie66@gmail.com](mailto:rwolvie66@gmail.com)

## National, State, & Regional Events

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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](http://gardenclubofnewjersey.org)**.

### 2025

Oct. 20-22	CAR-SGC Meeting	Cambridge, MD
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### 2026

April 14-16	Flower Show School IV	Holly House
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May 4-6	National Garden Club Convention	St. Louis, MO
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June 3	GCNJ Annual Meeting	Basking Ridge, NJ
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# The Garden Club of Mountain Lakes

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## 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

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### 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

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### 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

Holiday Cocktail Party

Annual Meeting & Luncheon

Summer Social

#### **Nancy Bigelsen**

#### **Phyllis Deering**

#### **Beth Byszewski**

#### **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

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### **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

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### 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

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### **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  
Cover photography  
Cover concept

Dana Vatmakhter  
Jenn Apito  
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	
Ruth Grunden	1966–1967	Susan Marshall	2005–2007
Mary Battista	1967–1969	Peggy Losh	2007–2009
Helen Jackson	1969–1971	Nicole Wright	2009–2011
Annette Melin	1971–1973	Nancy Bigelsen	2011–2013
Dorothy Reuter	1973–1977	Kristin Barlow	2013–2015
Esther Brown	1977–1979	Cynthia Shaw	2015–2017
Carol Mayer	1979–1981	Heather Scott	2017–2019
Pauline Fagan	1981–1983	Marilyn Dowling	2019–2021
Cathy Sundius	1983–1985	Maureen McSharry	2021–2023
Jean Hopkins	1985–1987	Roxanne Tavakkol	2023–2025
Sue Kalmbach	1987–1989	Nancy Bigelsen	2025–

## Club Objectives

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*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

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### 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*

<b>9/11 Memorial</b>	Birchwood Lake, end of West Shore Road
<b>Birchwood Native Boulevard Planter</b>	Trailside at Birchwood Lake Boulevard at Briarcliff Road
<b>Grove Place</b>	Grove Place Circle
<b>Helen Connell Garden</b>	Midvale Road at Morris Avenue
<b>Intervale Triangle</b>	Intervale Road at Midvale Road
<b>Mountain Lakes Library</b>	Elm Road at Morris Avenue
<b>Tennis Courts</b>	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](http://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](http://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](http://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

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

## 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%
- ✓ Concurso'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](http://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

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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	<b>June</b>	<b>2024</b>

## Constitution

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### 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

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### 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

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## » SEPTEMBER «

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<b>Tue Sep 16</b>	<b>Informal Flower Arranging</b>	<b>2PM</b>
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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

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<b>Wed Sep 17</b>	<b>Club Meeting and Luncheon: 'Cocktail Gardens and Hydrangeas'</b>	<b>Meeting 9AM Luncheon 1130AM</b>
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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

**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

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

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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

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

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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** «

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

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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

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**Mon Nov 24 Informal Flower Arranging****7PM**

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



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 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

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** 🌿

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

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

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

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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** 🌿

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**Wed Feb 11 Garden Therapy**

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**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

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**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** «

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**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

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

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**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

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**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

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

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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

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

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'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** «

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**Wed Apr 8 Garden Therapy****115PM**

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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 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

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

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 «

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**Thu May 7      Plant Sale: Donation Drop-off      10AM, 5PM**

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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)

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

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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

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

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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

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**Wed May 13 Garden Therapy****115PM**

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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

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

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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

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

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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

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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

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LOCATION: The Olde Mill Inn, Bernardsville

Wed Jun 17

Club Trip

TBD

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LOCATION: TBD

» JULY «

Wed Jul 22

Summer Social

7PM

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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

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## Active and Provisional Members

---

**Sue Ananian (Alex)**

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---

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## Honorary Member

---

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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*