

Bloomin' Times

May 2024



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CLUB NEWS

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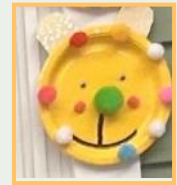
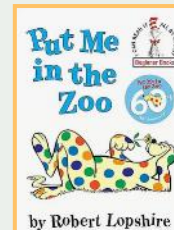


“PUT ME IN THE ZOO”



Jane Christiani, Adah Levin, Gayle Lechner, Faten Mahran,
Marylou Nolas, and Irene Greenstein

Decorations for the Spring Tree at Jardine Academy were created by MaryLou Nolas, based on the book *PUT ME IN THE ZOO* by Robert Lopshire. Ornaments were decorated by the club members. Each student will take home an ornament. 4/11/24.



Rake & Hoe Garden Club of NJ

Sharon Shiraga, President

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Regina Kelley, “Profiles”

Jeanie Pelikan, Photography

Richard Pelikan, Photography; “Jersey Gems”

Mabel Woloj, “Native Plants”

Joe Da Rold, Editor, Photography

“Native Plants,” “Garden Limericks”

May Birthdays!

- 1 Diane Genco
- 2 Richard Pelikan
- 8 Nancy Smith
- 15 Beth Siano
- 18 Linda Parker
- 29 Gayle Lechner



CLUB NEWS

April General Meeting



April Hospitality Team
L-R: Barb Murphy, Barb Spellmeyer, Chair,
Carmen Skoletsky, Annie Dai



2023-2024 Hospitality Chair
Carolyn Seracka



Richard Pelikan, Club Photographer
and Barb Spellmeyer



Newsletter Editor
Joe Da Rold



Betty Clark and Eileen Morris



Alice Cowell and Tracy Criscitiello

CLUB NEWS

Kay Cross Award “Tray Table Design”

Winner: Sharon Shiraga



Sharon Shiraga won the Kay Cross Award at the April General Meeting. The Table Settings were judged by GCNJ members. Sharon will receive her award at the club's Annual Luncheon in June.



Alice Cowell



Joann Androconis



Regina Kelley



Eileen Morris



Carolyn Seracka



Kris Luka



Karen Troiano



Donna Sevchuk



Maryfran Annese

Photos

by

The Pelikans

Blue Ribbon Winners

L-R:

Jeanie Pelikan

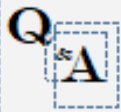
Carmen Skoletsky

Richard Pelikan



NATIVE PLANTS

by Mabel Woloj and Joe Da Rold



Q. Are Dandelions edible?

A. Dandelions are more nutritious than many commonly consumed leafy greens. They have more vitamin A than spinach, more vitamin C than tomatoes and are a powerhouse of iron, calcium and potassium. Historically, dandelions were used to treat vitamin deficiencies. Although they grow best in moist areas in full sun (like your lawn), they can survive in shade and dry conditions.



LOVE YOUR DANDELIONS

By not grabbing the bottle of weed killer, you may be enabling a plant you consider a weed to grow and provide food and shelter for pollinators. Are dandelions the BEST pollinator plant? Probably not. The best plants would be native wildflowers. But most people don't have them in their yards.

In early spring there are not many pollinator plants in bloom. Dandelions will grow pretty much everywhere and pollinators, mostly bees, will utilize them for their nectar. As more flowers open up later in the spring the dandelions will be visited less, so if you plan to remove dandelions from your yard, June or July is a better time to do so, but don't dig up the roots.

Dandelions Help Lawns

Their strong taproots can penetrate hardpan—a layer of compact soil—to extract calcium from the subsoil. That means that dandelions improve soil quality, aerate hard-packed soil and help reduce erosion.

Colorful History

Dandelions originated in temperate and subarctic Eurasia before the last Ice Age. After the Ice Age their populations spread rapidly over the vast exposed landscapes left by retreating glaciers. Ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans enjoyed the flower, and they have been used in Chinese medicine and culture for over a thousand years. World-famous for their beauty, they were a beloved garden flower in Europe and the subject of many poems. There are several native dandelions in North America

Dandelions belong to the Aster Family (*Asteraceae* or *Compositae*). In this family, each “flower” is really a head of tiny flowers (florets) crowded together for show. The florets reflect ultraviolet light which attracts certain insects, including bees, to feed on the pollen and nectar. Amazingly, dandelions do not need to be pollinated to set seed. Instead, the female parts of the flowers develop seeds on their own.



PROFILES

by Regina Kelley

Featuring
Inge
Bossert

Inge remembers as a child helping her mother and grandmother take care of the family gardens. Both were avid gardeners. Inge's family background drew her to gardening. That love of nature is a big part of her life. Today, her back yard is a thing of beauty with four-season interest. Most visitors to her backyard are awed by the variety of birds that flock to her multiple bird feeders. Inge believes that a garden supports birds and wildlife by providing food and protection.

Inge was born in West Germany, in the town of Goeppingen, near Stuttgart. At age three, she immigrated to New Jersey with her mother. They lived near her grandparents in the Newark area until she was six, when they moved to Westfield. Inge attended Westfield schools, except for

her sophomore year in Germany. While a bit daunting at first, she ended up loving her time in Germany. In school her focus was science and Latin. But there were also ski trips to Austria, which added a flair to the experience. Inge returned to America for her junior and senior years and graduated from WHS. Her college majors were in Biology and Chemistry, after which she went to Rutgers for her PhD in Microbiology. Her post-doctorate work was done at NYU.

Inge was a bit of a "spirited" child.

Inge has had a wide range of career goals, from hair-dresser, to brain surgeon, to forest ranger. Although she never became a forest ranger, or a brain surgeon, her love of nature has played an important role in her life. Throughout her career, Inge's focus has been on soil and environmental microbiology, especially the clean-up of contaminated sites. She has edited and co-authored several books in her field, including such "thrillers" as "Dehalogenation - Microbial Processes and Environmental Applications" Cooking is another one of Inge's passions. She is an inventive cook and says she has trouble actually following recipes. She often donates hearty soups and casseroles to ailing friends and her church for special occasions. She puts her love of cooking and gardening together in a technique called "Lasagna Gardening," which she learned about at a Rake & Hoe program. She uses it successfully for weed control and to expand her garden beds. Ask her about it!

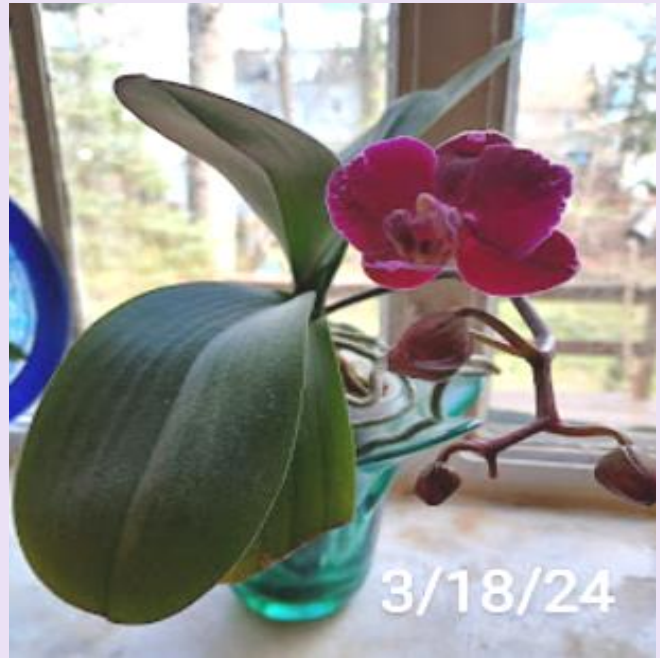
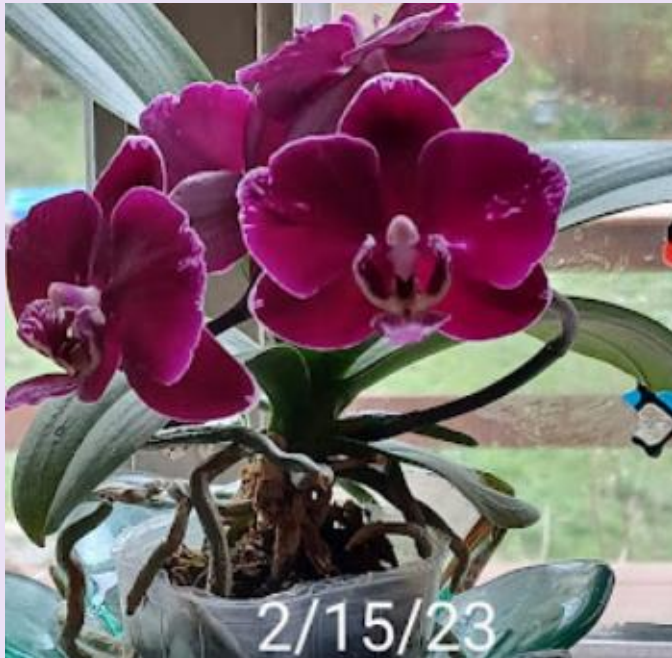
Inge has been very involved in R&H throughout the years. A member since 2000, she will celebrate her 25th anniversary with the club next year. Her contributions have helped expand the club's focus. Between Joe and Margot, Inge edited and published the Newsletter from 2012 to 2017, producing a prize-winning digital document. It was while she was Editor that a contest was held to name the newsletter. (*Bloomin' Times* was the inspiration of Joan Kylish.) Inge has also served multi-year stints as the Yearbook editor. She currently chairs the Yearbook Committee and Horticulture Committee. She introduced garden photography to the club's repertoire and broadened the scope of the Birds committee with a changed name, "Garden B's", recognizing that butterflies, bats, and bugs all play a role in our garden culture. For many years, Inge held gardening workshops in her garden, following the annual Plant Exchange.

Inge says that the best thing about R&H is the camaraderie with other members. She describes members as a friendly and diverse group of individuals who are down-to-earth with no pretensions. And, as she puts it, there is always something new and fun to learn.

AWARDS: Inge is a Master Gardener. She earned the Kay Cross Award in 2012, and was honored with the prestigious Agnes Eggimann Award in 2013. She was honored with the award again in 2019 along with the 18 members of the DTH Boutique Committee, which she co-chaired with Kris Luka. One of her proudest achievements was winning the 1st place award from the National Garden Club for best newsletter nationally.



CLUB PHOTOGRAPHERS



Kay's Dendrobium blooms every year!



The Pelikans



Joe Da Rold

GARDEN POTPOURRI

GARDEN LIMERICKS

NIGHT AND DAY

Daytime flowers are stunningly bright
Nighttime blossoms glow in moonlight
Moonflower vines know how to enchant
Morning Glories try to compare,
but they can't
The vines of the night are a magical sight.

jdr



Nina Sylvester

Beautiful but Bad

You've read that those beautiful Bradford Pear Trees are invasive. Some states have already banned them, and the State of Virginia is undergoing a "trade-in" program. So it may not be long before someone from the State will be knocking on your door, saying your tree has to go.

Will you be ready to select your replacement tree? Arborists recommend you consider one of these native NJ trees that would make a good alternative to the Bradford pear:

- Common serviceberry
- Allegheny serviceberry
- White fringetree
- Flowering dogwood
- Eastern redbud
- Sassafras



Bradford in Bloom.

Go online or visit the library to learn more about these flowering trees, before you are asked to choose. jdr

Bowman Hill Wildflower Preserve

New Hope PA

The Native Plant Nursery

Now Reopened for the Season

Join us for the

Rake & Hoe

Horticulture Field Trip

Monday,

April 29th

Sign-ups required.

Contact:
Mabel or Inge.



CLUB PHOTOGRAPHERS

Entrants for the 2024 Judy Kampe Award



Margot Partridge



Mabel Woloj
2024 Judy Kampe Award



Submitted by Karen Troiano

TOO MANY TREES?

Is there such a thing as too many trees? It might be a surprise to learn that one of the biggest threats to Great Plains grasslands is the advance of the Eastern Redcedar—a tree planted across the region to provide shade, windbreaks, natural fences, and shelter for calves. Unfortunately, native redcedars are now turning prairies into woodlands, setting up an all-hands-on-deck battle to maintain and restore the grasslands that humans and wildlife depend on.

Story by Greg Breining, 2023.

CLUB PHOTOGRAPHERS



Sharon Shiraga

Kenrokuen Garden
Kanazawa, Japan

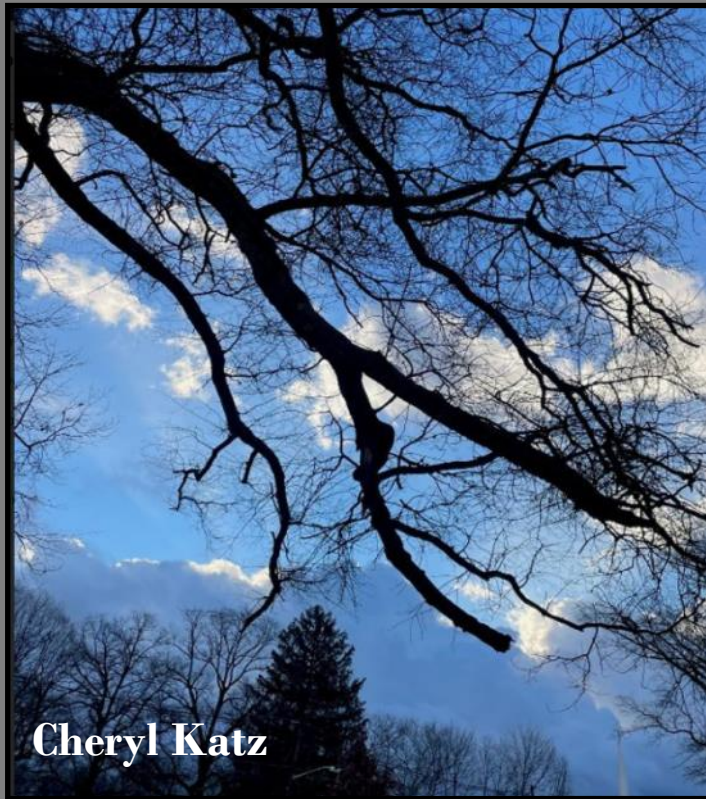


Karen Troiano



Jeanie Pelikan

CLUB PHOTOGRAPHERS



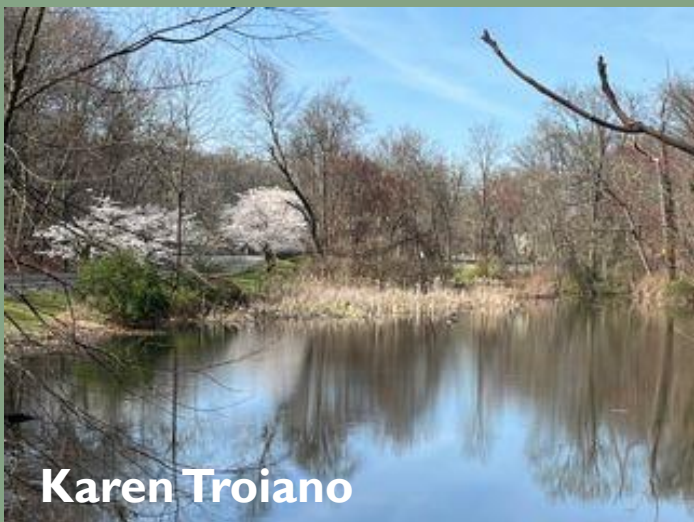
CLUB PHOTOGRAPHERS



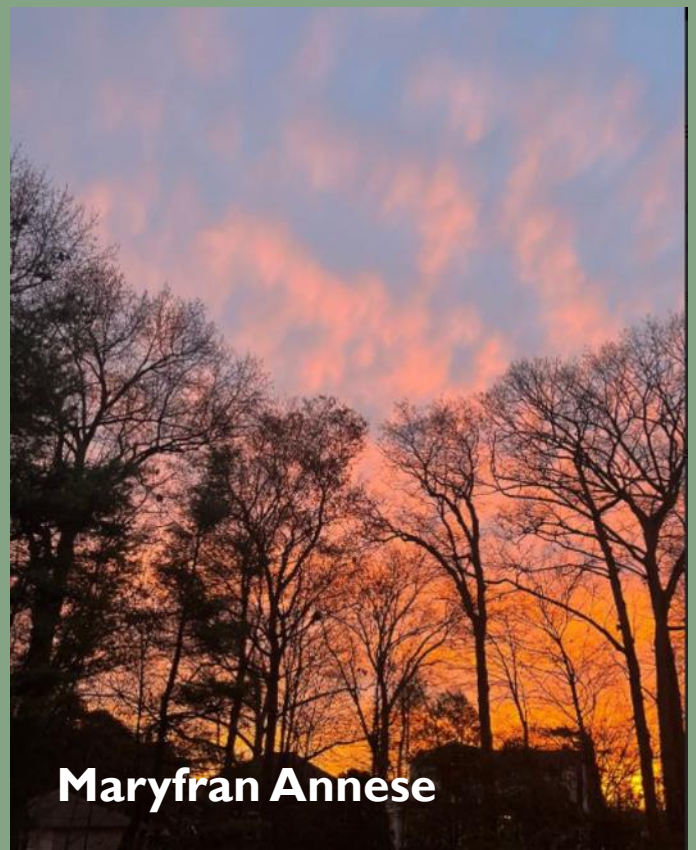
Richard Pelikan



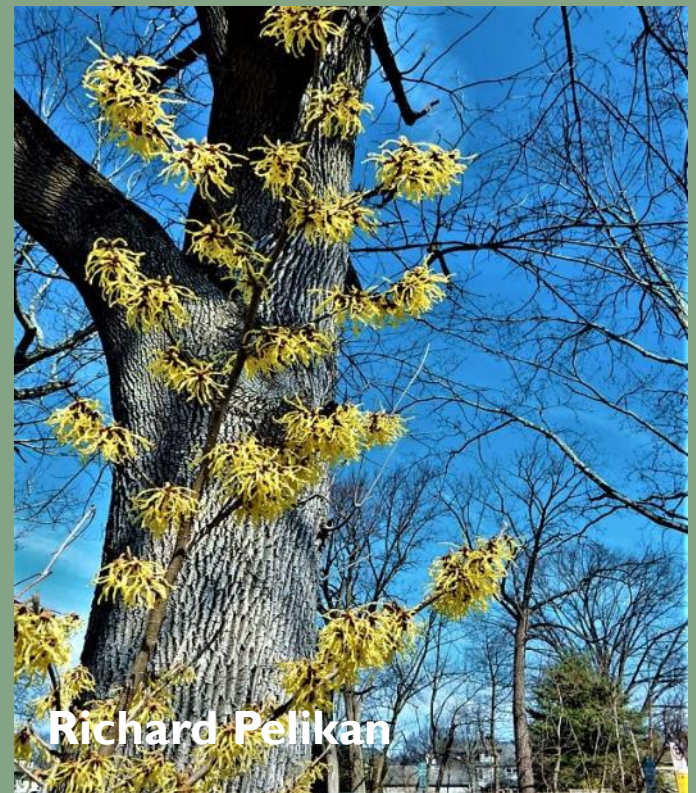
Jeanie Pelikan



Karen Troiano



Maryfran Annese



Richard Pelikan