

THE GARDEN CLUB OF NEW JERSEY



1925 - 1985

DEDICATION

THIS HISTORY IS DEDICATED TO THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE GONE BUT WHO STILL LIVE IN THE HEARTS THEY LEFT BEHIND.

TO THE PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF NEW JERSEY FOR THEIR VISION, UNTIRING DEVOTION, AND LEADERSHIP.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF NEW JERSEY, WITHOUT WHOM THERE WOULD BE NO HISTORY.

TO THOSE WHO FOLLOW, THAT WITH FAITH AND COURAGE THEY WILL CONTINUE TO BE INSPIRED SO THAT THIS ORGANIZATION WILL GROW AND PROSPER ADVANCING THE OBJECTIVES AND IDEALS BEQUEATHED TO US.

**THE GARDEN CLUB OF NEW JERSEY
TWENTY YEARS
IN
REVIEW
1965-1985**



**Compiled and edited by
Mrs. Anthony Bennett**

AFTERGLOW

We remember with love and gratitude those members who envisioned an organization dedicated to the study and preservation of our natural world. They had the vitality and ability to realize their dreams.

We cherish today's members for their new ideas and untiring devotion to Garden Club service.

Our schools bring the excitement of expanding knowledge and inspire us to share that training. The friendships nurtured by working together, laughing together and—yes, crying at times—are a very special part of our lives.

Tomorrow's Garden Club members will face new challenges and share new dreams. We are secure in the knowledge that our banner will be carried proudly by capable hands.

Eleanor Valentine Brightenback
President 1963-1965

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF NEW JERSEY REPRESENT AN EXPANDING POOL OF TALENT AND WISDOM. MANY ARE STILL ACTIVE. THEY HELPED SHAPE OUR HERITAGE.

GCNJ PAST PRESIDENTS

*1925-27 Mrs. Arthur M. Decker	1955-57 Mrs. Francis F. Merriam
*1927-29 Mrs. Frederic R. Kellogg	1957-59 Mrs. Clarence W. Slocum
*1929-31 Mrs. Josiah T. Tubby	1959-61 Mrs. Austin B. Sayre
*1931-33 Mrs. Cyrus H. Vail	1961-63 Mrs. Albert L. Stillman
*1933-35 Mrs. Charles W. Holton	1963-65 Mrs. George Brightenback (Valentine)
*1935-38 Mrs. Frederic W. Goddard	1965-67 Mrs. Elwood S. Snyder
*1938-40 Mrs. Reginald A. Saunders	*1967-69 Mrs. James A. McBain
*1940-42 Mrs. Herman J. Cook	1969-71 Mrs. Robert E. McNeill Jr.
*1942-44 Mrs. Bryon D. Benson (Wallace)	1971-73 Mrs. Willard T. Somerville
*1944-46 Mrs. Lewis M. Hull	1973-75 Mrs. William M. Boyd
*1946-48 Mrs. Laurance N. Wilson	1975-77 Mrs. Anthony Bennett
*1948-50 Mrs. Arthur J. Sullivan	1977-79 Mrs. John R. Evans
*1950-52 Mrs. Chester D. Schomp	1979-81 Mrs. Charles H. Rohmann
*1952-53 Mrs. Francis M. Archibald	1981-83 Mrs. John G. Koelsch
1953 Mrs. Frank D. Adams	1983-85 Mrs. Sidney Litvack
1953-55 Mrs. Vance R. Hood	1985- Mrs. Harry Gilman

*deceased

ACCOLADES

"TO BE IGNORANT OF WHAT OCCURRED BEFORE YOU IS TO REMAIN ALWAYS A CHILD. FOR WHAT IS THE WORTH OF HUMAN LIFE, UNLESS IT IS WOVEN INTO THE LIFE OF OUR ANCESTORS BY THE RECORDS OF HISTORY."

Cicero

History is constantly in the making and as one historian so aptly said "the parts which are left unrecorded sometimes are more important and more interesting than those which are recounted." So it is with the GCNJ history. Highlights of general interest were extracted from those clubs' histories received. One must remember, only events of the past twenty years comprise this history.

Most of the information has been derived from the GCNJ Board Minutes, News Leaf, Green Crusade and records kept by various chairmen. The Editorial Committee cannot be responsible for information which may be found to be incorrect.

I am indebted to those people who, when asked verbally, refreshed my memory about certain happenings.

To our former president Marilyn Litvack who with the Board's approval gave me the support and confidence to undertake this project.

To the Patrons and Sponsors who contributed so willingly towards the cost of this publication.

My grateful thanks to the following, who, each in her own way contributed immeasurably to the writing of this history:

Mrs. Roy E. Cavanaugh
Mrs. Carmine A. Grossi
Mrs. Frederick Hartmann

Mrs. Dean L. Kellogg
Mrs. Gregory J. Listner
Mrs. Edward J. Steele

Mrs. Ralph Warne

To all who sent "bits" of statistical information, too numerous to list.

For SPECIAL contributions by

Mrs. George Bightenback
Mrs. Arthur G. Huson

Mrs. Sidney Litvack
Mrs. Joseph McAlinden

Mrs. Joseph J. Sogan

And to our President, Mrs. Harry Gilman, who waited patiently for this edition of the GCNJ Twenty Year History to be completed.

Grateful acknowledgement goes to Virginia McAlinden for her photographic expertise.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Dedication	Inside Front Cover
Title Page	1
Afterglow	2
Accolades	3
Table of Contents	4
Our Presidents	
Mrs. Edward S. Snyder	5
Mrs. James A. McBain	6
Mrs. Robert E. McNeill, Jr.	7
Mrs. Willard T. Somerville	8
Mrs. William M. Boyd	9
Mrs. Anthony Bennett	10
Mrs. John R. Evans	11
Mrs. Charles H. Rohmann	12
Mrs. John G. Koelsch	13
Mrs. Sidney Litvack	14
Board of Directors and Committees	15
Committees Continued	16
Landscape Design School and Critics' Council	16
GCNJ Pins—Awards	17
Arboretum, Conservation, Trees	18
Blue Star Memorial Highways and By-ways	19
Environmental Education Program	20
Awards—Continued	20
Flower Show School-Symposium	21
Evaluation—Judges Council	21
Horticulture School	22
Hortus Council	23
Life Members	24
GCNJ—Headquarters History	25
Three National Presidents	26
Youth Gardening	27
GCNJ Achievement Medal	28
Club Briefs	29
Club Briefs Continued	30
GCNJ Member Clubs	31-32
Patrons and Sponsors	33
Visions of the Future—Benediction	34
Miss Liberty	35
The Lady of the Violets	36
Reflections—A Time to Remember	Inside Back Cover
GCNJ Districts	Back Cover

OUR PRESIDENTS TWENTY YEARS OF LEADERSHIP

Mrs. Elwood S. Snyder
1965-1967



A happy beginning to the administration of Doris Snyder was the previously granted Tax Exemption status for GCNJ, duly celebrated at Annual Meeting June 15, 1965. Other happenings which brought much pleasure to members were the first Civic Beautification Days and workshops (with Sears Grants) and the very first GCNJ Symposium. As the White House turned to conservation and beautification, our GCNJ programs were doubly appreciated. When Rutgers discontinued courses in Home Horticulture the GCNJ held its first Horticulture School. The creature well-being was fed with a brand new GCNJ cookbook; and Mother Nature led garden club families in a first Conservation weekend at Stokes State Forest, a fun-filled learning outing. The "Spring-Magic Tour" of Morris County area was a gala affair, not to be outdone by GCNJ participation in the first New Jersey State Flower & Garden Show. It was time to reflect on the accomplishment and share the pleasures with a smiling President.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Mrs. Elwood S. Snyder's Administration
- Now — Mrs. Marshall Snyder 1965-1967
- N.J. Divided into eight Areas instead of Ten Zones
- First N.J. Symposium held November 1965
- "PROJECT VICTORY" \$2,450 grants given to clubs from Sears Roebuck & Co.
- IRS informed the GCNJ of Tax Exemption
- First Colored Slide Contest—Beginning of slide library
- General Information Booklet printed about the GCNJ
- Policy initiated that the GCNJ Board present each President Elect with a National Life Membership. The immediate past president Mrs. D. Valentine and Mrs. Snyder were recipients in 1966.
- President served on Delaware Bay Bridge Authority Commission on Beautification (Four GCNJ Board members served on Comm. for Governor's Conference on Natural Beauty)
- First Horticulture School held in 1966—Mrs. Thomas T. Cooke, Chairman
- National Council endorsed the Pine Barrens National Monument
- Beginning of Bulb Sales for Headquarters Fund
- Twenty Five White Pine Trees planted on Highway 28 a Blue Star Memorial Highway
- N.J. invited to participate in the first State Flower and Garden Show sponsored by New Jersey Nurserymen's Flower and Garden Association at West Orange National Guard Armory.
- Silver bowl received from the Alexandria, Egypt Flower Show for our exhibit
- Arbor Day Project Heart—honoring Men and Women in the Service
- First Conservation Weekend April 1966 at N.J. State School of Conservation, Nationally recognized, at Stokes State Forest, May 1967 in Morris County
- Spring Magic Tour
- GCNJ Cook Book published

Mrs. James A. McBain
1967-1969

Gladys always knew that if we would "BE DOERS" in garden club programs our satisfaction would know no bounds. For this President, the goals of increasing the common good of GCNJ lay in leadership with full membership participation. From area workshops to Horticulture, Landscape and Flower Show Schools the accent was on beautifying with Nature. Large attendance at general Area meetings supported top billing for continuing projects such as N.J. School of Conservation, increasing Life Membership, the preservation and protection of the Pine Barrens. There was a new delight—the first GCNJ Skylark—and a repeat performance of the fascinating design gala "International Interlude." Pleasure in growing things spilled over into "Fruit Trees for India" as Gladys saw the needs of others no matter how far distant. She loved what came from most tiny of seeds as exemplified in her work for GCNJ . . . LIVE—L for leadership, I for interior growth, V for vested lands and E for education. And if Gladys did not know an answer she quickly and clearly said "I do not know" and then promptly looked for an answer. No wonder National Council awarded a Presidential Citation to Gladys McBain; never did she lower her standards, nor fail to praise the accomplishments of others—an example for all of us ever after.



HIGHLIGHTS

Theme "LIVE" expanded to LIVE WITH BEAUTY in second year

Aim to increase the roster of N.J. Life Members

- An elective Headquarters Committee established—Florence McNeill (Mrs. Robert) first chairman
- GCNJ presented to National Council a World Gardening Trophy to honor Helen Hull "The Geraldine Dean Trophy"
- First Skylark Tour—May/June 1968 swelled our treasury by over \$5,000.00
- Casino Days Ways and Means project on Slocum Estate May 1968
- October 1968 Route 78 was designated as part of the Blue Star Memorial Highway System
- GCNJ Hostess to Central Atlantic Regional Conference in Atlantic City—Theme: "TIDES AND CRESTS"—National President attending
- The GCNJ sponsored Sao Paulo Garden Club in National Council. An uncut amethyst mounted on mahogany given as gift.
- Horticulture programs on radio given over WMTR, Morristown
- First "International Interlude"—Theater in the round presentation of Creative Floral Designs held at Montclair State College
- Second "International Interlude" "Influence of Light on Life" by John M. Ott
- "Fruit Trees for India"—trees and tools sent through World Gardening program
- Vera Todd Bayles—elected first woman president of the National Chrysanthemum Society
- 28 Horticulture Certificates were awarded to graduates of the first Horticulture Course Series
- Thirteen new Life Members have been added making a total of thirty.
- At the end of this regime there were 42 Life Members.

Mrs. Robert E. McNeill Jr.
1969 - 1971

Building for the future was the essence of the administration of Florence McNeill. An unbelievable calendar of events was laid out to channel GCNJ interests in development of various long-term projects. This date coordination for the years of 1969 to 1971 was truly a masterful accomplishment, gaining much admiration from other state federations and respect for GCNJ. Efforts concentrated on acquiring permanent headquarters for GCNJ, under the guidance of an active committee. While much energy was given to headquarters, no other garden club interest was overlooked: "Hortus Council" became a reality, another progressive step for GCNJ. Youth programs were vastly increased, the Blue Star By-way program was instituted, and again the membership had a wonderful series of design galas and spectacular presentation by George W. Smith at an "International Interlude." Though garden clubbers are true lovers of flora, the GCNJ Board Meetings at Rutgers Floriculture greenhouse treated all to extremes of temperature and other drippy hours, Florence calmly presiding through all. We are grateful for progress in the search for a headquarters and her sincere interest in the future of GCNJ.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Central Atlantic Regional Conference held in Baltimore September 29 - Oct. 1, 1969
- Gift to National Council from CAR Seven States, Memorial to May Duff Walters (Mrs. William J.) Past President National Council 1953-1955 (deceased Oct. 10, 1969) (of Silver Punch Bowl, ladle and tray.)
- GCNJ Gold Medal presented to Mrs. Garrett Smith who designed the Seal and Medal of the GCNJ.
- Seven new trophies presented to GCNJ
 - Garden Therapy trophy in memory of Myra Brooks from Green Thumb volunteers and clubs.
 - Trophy for Myra Brooks for Creativity in Flower Arranging from Mountainside G.C.
 - Junior Garden Club Trophy in memory of Ann DeRoner from the Rolling Hills G.C.
 - Two Trophies for Garden Club State function participation by Mrs. Robert E. McNeill
 - Acceptance of trophy in memory of Dorothy M. Shick—for excellence in Flower Show Staging.
 - Trophy offered by Harold Pletcher—memorial to Lenore, accepted—called NAI Flower Arranging Trophy.
- Certificate of Incorporation amended—Article 5—section a—to increase the maximum number of trustees permitted from 50 to 64 and to include the six members of the Headquarters and Endowment Committee.
- \$2400.00 awarded to N.J. clubs by Sears at Sears Foundation Environmental Improvement Program on April 17th.
- Trailside Garden Club disbanded—Sent \$107.43 as farewell gift for Headquarters Fund.
- Election of Mrs. Elwood S. Snyder as Regional Director.
- Announcement of May Duff Walters bequest in the amount of \$33,374.37 to the GCNJ Headquarters Fund.
- A series of Radio programs given on garden club related subjects.
- GCNJ Gold Medal presented to Mrs. Garret Smith who designed the Seal and Medal of the GCNJ.
- East Brunswick G.C. presented \$115.00 designated for Fruit Trees for India which went directly to Mrs. Wealthy Fisher of the Farmer's Institute in India.
- Scholarship award fund established at Rutgers University by Mrs. R. E. McNeill.
- Watchung Junior Garden Club recipient of the first National Council Junior Award
- Fifty Five (55) Life Members listed
- October 1969—INTERNATIONAL INTERLUDE 111—FLOWER ARRANGING MATINEE.

Mrs. Willard T. Somerville
1971 - 1973



Ruth loved to travel, so GCNJ enjoyed some beautiful trips. A bus outing to Natchez was a lovely spring treat, even if "the Girls" came home a bit frazzled: and the famous "Floriade" had happy garden club Skylarkers. A new project for juniors and World Gardening was "Garden Friends" in which GCNJ youth made pressed flower pictures for far-away children; A "garden club of the air" came into being. Bob Thomas first appeared in New Jersey at a Judges Council meeting with great results for Ways & Means. The mood grew for conservation and a first Environmental Conference was held at Gov. Morris Inn. There were two Area Junior Flower Shows; Arboretum Day at Holton Pavilion in Greenbrook Sanctuary was a huge success. A guide for Flower Show planning—"Who, Where, When and How" was a sell-out Judges Council program. A spectacular GARDEN FAIR DAZE was a "fun" money raising affair in Flemington. Pleasant days were always in the plans of this President forever enriching and increasing member participation.

HIGHLIGHTS

Joint Resolution #9 established Blue Star Memorial By-ways in New Jersey, introduced by Senator Batemen and passed by the Senate.

First Blue Star By-way ground breaking July 1971 at Bloomfield Avenue and Route 23 (New Jersey Project)

Junior Garden Clubs World Gardening project creating pressed flower pictures and sent to children in foreign lands—30 packets of seeds went with each picture.

Radio program series "The People Speak" every week over 35 stations

Area Two Junior Flower Show presented—after which the Juniors were invited to make invitation arrangements in the North Jersey Rose Show

First Environmental Conference held April 1971 at Rutgers

GCNJ sponsored The Garden Club of Caracas—Venezuela

Gold Medal presented to Mrs. Garrett Smith (95 years old) at the Nursing Home—she designed our Seal and GCNJ Achievement Medal

Continuance of Garden Therapy Service Trophy given in honor by both Marguerite and Vincent T. Mulligan.

Announcement of dedication of the May Duff Walters' Ecological Station at Palermo, Maine, instituted by her grandson.

Silver—bronze medals eliminated—THE GARDEN CLUB OF N.J. ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL WILL BE GIVEN TO AN OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL OR CLUB—THE MEDAL WILL BE GOLD IN COLOR.

Mrs. William M. Boyd
1973-1975



This president thought it the perfect time to grasp the "opportunity" to enlarge GCNJ programs. This was a real challenge since fuel shortages forced cancellation of several projects. But a delightful gathering was manged at 1973 C.A.R. Conference at Pocono Manor when Doris Snyder presided as Regional Director. Three spring GCNJ Flower Shows put everyone in the "Moods of Spring," and set the mood for creating a really "New Dimension" Fall Conference at the Playboy Club. Club Special tickets at schools gave "opportunity" for knowledge; the beginning of "Operation Wildflower" spurred members to see the loveliness around our state and to adorn the roadsides for the pleasure of travelers. A skylark safari to Africa returned with fascinating mementos from afar, prompting a renewed interest in saving our own native flora. To encourage member clubs in sharing the wonders of growing and showing, a Minimum Standard Flower Show Award was added to the GCNJ listing. Betty saw opportunity for cooperation throughout the GCNJ and was ably assisted in covering all engagements by the presidential Assistant/chauffeur Mr. Boyd.

HIGHLIGHTS

Second Annual Conservation-Environmental Conference held—Theme "Coordinate and Cooperate"

Eight Blue Star By-ways planted—State Department of Transportation installed markers

\$1,000 bequest from Catherine Schick put in Headquarters fund

New Award accepted, presented by Warren Garden Club in honor of Amelia Stewart

At C.A.R. meeting Helen Hull was presented by the American Korean Foundation with a crystal turtle in grateful recognition of her help and concern

Indian School Children recipients of pressed bookmarks by N.J. Junior Gardeners

1496 Bookmarks made by 57 High Schoolers sent to schools in Alaska and other schools

Acceptance of the "Clara Hunter Garden Therapy" perpetual trophy—donor Florence McNeill in memory of Clara Hunter's devoted service

By-laws change—re: GCNJ dues raised from \$1.25 to \$1.50 per capita became effective May 1, 1975

Reading of the Annual minutes at the close of the meeting eliminated. Two people appointed by the president to approve the minutes instead.

GCNJ on Public Broadcasting Weekly program "Jersey File" topic vegetable gardening

The Board voted for the following adoption:

"Whereas, the Liberty Tree Project Committee of the N.J. Bicentennial Commission has requested the interest and participation of the member clubs of the GCNJ in the Liberty Tree project of the Bicentennial celebration, be it resolved that the GCNJ will cooperate with the Committee to promote the project among its member clubs."

Clubs participated during Bicentennial Year planting Red Oaks on Arbor Day.

Mrs. Anthony Bennett
1975 - 1977

The celebration of 50th Anniversary for GCNJ opened a world of "New Vistas." On the foundation of past accomplishments, a stimulating look for future development was charted. Planting of food trees, energy gardens, expansion of Blue Star programs and an awareness of the need for a strong recycling task kept members happily busy. Over 35,000 trees were planted as "living portraits" of garden club members. A Holly Tree naming contest resulted in the hybrid "Jersey Princess," now planted in the National Arboretum, a tribute to the Bicentennial. Plans for a Museum complex at Rutgers including a headquarters for GCNJ were progressing. **The Pine Barrens purchase of lands over endangered aquifers and treasured wild areas put N.J. in the lead with the American Land Trust program.** The golden "Earth's Harvest" theme carried well throughout these years. A new Life Member Youth Scholarship was created. Arboretum attendance was increased and schools were well attended. Garden Therapy service was freely given. Strong support of the need for Environmental Protection united many in furthering GCNJ objectives. Whence "New Vistas" came full circle, rounding a golden anniversary administration into a garden of knowledge.



HIGHLIGHTS

THEME: LOOK TO THE EARTH AND IT SHALL TEACH THEE"

One of Vi's primary goals was the planting of trees. Her one big unifying tree planting project, by which she hoped to have a tree per member planted, exceeded all expectations. The final count was approximately 33,500 trees and still counting. GCNJ youth participated in a special tree planting project in Vi's honor.

Photographs and letters were included in a special surprise display at the 1977 Annual Meeting.

As a special Bicentennial Tree ceremony at Washington Crossing, New Jersey State Park, a Pin Oak tree was donated by GCNJ and planted. Bob Green polished his shovel, used by President Bennett and Florence Green, to a shiny silver.

As a Bicentennial salute, on January 16, 1976, Florida's Arbor Day, a dogwood tree was planted on Colonial Drive, Pensacola, in the name of New Jersey and bearing the name of New Jersey and the date the Garden Club of New Jersey's entry into the National Federation.

A contest to find the name for a new Opaca Holly, hybridized by Dr. Elwin Orton, of Rutgers, was conducted among senior and junior garden club members. Winner: JERSEY PRINCESS, named by Mrs. Walter J. Clough, of Rumson Garden Club. "It meets all requirements—It is female—easy to pronounce, spell and quote," said Dr. Orton. A Jersey Princess donated by Dr. Orton, was planted at the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. Another, also donated by Dr. Orton, was planted on the lawn at MORVEN, the Governor's residence. The Ceremony, which included greetings from Mrs. Byrne, New Jersey's First Lady, was covered by TV News.

Interstate Route 78 declared a BLUE STAR MEMORIAL HIGHWAY by act of Congress.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR approved plantings to restore gardens around the Ford Mansion in Morristown.

CAR Conference—Cherry Hill Hyatt House—Theme: Reflections & New Vistas—50th Anniversary of GCNJ celebrated at the President's luncheon—Mini 50 year history written by Mrs. Arthur Huson. Regional Director, Mrs. William Bonine; and National President, Mrs. Vernon L. Conner attended.

Garden Center of the Air formulated—both on Radio and TV reporting on various garden related subjects and Youth programs each week.

Special TV Show on Chanel 52 "Jerseyfile" of tree planting by the Moorestown juniors at Middle School giving tips on planting trees as well.

Special list compiled of old historic trees in New Jersey

Continued on page 20

Mrs. John R. Evans
1977 - 1979



Down the garden path meant "Paths to Wider Horizons" to Jean, and well she carried out her thoughts. In full appreciation of the caring expressed in GCNJ Garden Therapy program, a direction that "Love of Growing must be shared" was given to garden club membership. In order for members to be complete gardeners the accent on horticulture for GCNJ Flower Shows was emphasized. **The windup of American Land Trust program found GCNJ a leader through its Pine Barrens purchases.** An inspiring Conference at the Golden Eagle in Cape May lasted three days; a rare treat was delving into the world and history of N.J. glass making, a tour of fascinating Victorian Homes and the lovely fresh soft sea breezes. Attention of all members was placed on an emerging re-cycling program of nationwide importance. Headquarters plans seemed to be progressing well; Arboretum Days were successful; schools were given full support and gardening momentum was at a peak. **But sad days there were for all of us; two wonderful past presidents died, both on Good Friday; Gladys McBain in 1978 and Helen Hull in 1979.** Jean had the courage and understanding to carry GCNJ through that time for which all members are eternally grateful. And through every day of her administration she presided with unfailing good humor, with the concise and direct message of her programming.

HIGHLIGHTS

New Electric Stencil Scanner installed in office

Ornamental Cherry Tree, planted in her garden, presented to Helen Hull as a living tribute for her outstanding contribution to the protection of the environment

Newark Garden Club disbanded in their 50th year. The GCNJ Headquarters fund was recipient of \$1,085 from their treasury

Concrete marker placed to designate the "Jersey Princess Holly" planted at Morven on Arbor Day 1977
Certificates again awarded to Business Establishments for Excellence in Landscape Design as evaluated by our Landscape Critics Council

National Council Handbook for Flower Shows revised—to become effective January 1, 1978

Perpetual Bowl Trophy given in honor of Gladys McBain by Mt. Lakes G.C.

\$5,000 sent to American Land Trust Program. At this time New Jersey was leader in contributions
GCNJ contribution to Flower and Garden Society (Alexandria, Egypt) Flower Show as follows: American Corner Display—\$100 contribution, donation of garden gloves, and ribbons for awards. The U.S. was only foreign country to even be involved in the show, one of the largest in the world—many different types of vegetable and flower seeds distributed which were given by the Burpee Seed Company

Thread Leaf Maple Tree planted in Rutgers Test Gardens on Arbor Day

GCNJ Awarded Certificate to Mr. and Mrs. Anwar Sadat—1978, for participation in World Gardening Program.

John Pierson who received N.J. Life Membership Scholarship in 1977 was awarded \$1,500 from National Council—the first ever received in New Jersey.

National Award was won by GCNJ "The Hubert Owens Trophy for Landscape Critics" evaluating commercial properties throughout the state.

Anonymous donor of \$100 for memorial to Mrs. McBain for Cedrus Atlantica Tree planted in St. Clare's Hospital Garden

Special Programs held in all areas and by individuals for Headquarters Fund

Guidelines established for Councils to manage their own funds under their own accounts with accountability to the Board of the GCNJ

National Council started Gardening Study Courses in 1978

Yellow Flowers were planted throughout N.J. in honor of National Council's Golden Anniversary

GCNJ planted Meta Sequoia Tree on Arbor Day on the grounds of Trenton State College

Sun Day observed April 1, 1979

Mrs. Charles H. Rohmann
1979 - 1981

A spirit of vitality was clear in Marion's thought for the GCNJ. "Let's renew together" said it all, her appeal to every member in every garden club to wholeheartedly support all GCNJ programs. Historic Preservation Day was a reminder of past and present treasures and the need to keep them ever with us. Garden Week came to pass through carefully planned car-pooling among the member clubs, and was a most grateful success. The Plant a Tree program forged ahead while areas of conservation developed along with it. Of most importance to every GCNJ member, was the culmination of years of dreaming and planning—the Dedication of Holly House, Headquarters for GCNJ, on April 27, 1981. It took much devotion on the part of the working committee, as well as the patience and cooperation of the GCNJ President with Rutgers representatives; to achieve this final resolution.



HIGHLIGHTS

GOALS: To carry through the longstanding commitment of a Headquarters Building to realization and to increase membership.

\$10,000 bequest from Helen S. Hull to be used as an endowment to establish a scholarship in her name

By-laws change—Provisional membership category eliminated

Membership dues increased from \$1.50 per capita to \$2.00 per capita
Junior Garden Clubs raised from \$1.00 per club per year to \$3.00 per club per year

Medford Circle Blue Star By-way dedicated December 14, 1979

Lease signed June 1980 with Rutgers for the use and occupancy of "Holly House" (GCNJ Headquarters) after alterations were made

New Policy: a charge of \$10.00 for reinstatement of clubs who have been dropped for non-payment of dues, effective March 30, 1981

GCNJ donated \$200 as World Gardening Project to the Alexandria Flower and Garden Society, Egypt, to be used for landscaping project of 1.7 kilometers on the road to Cairo

General Consul of Egypt presented a Silver Cup honoring the GCNJ for 25 years of participation and support of the Egypt Flower and Garden Society.

First Board Meeting held at "Holly House" March 30, 1981 originally "Horticulture House"

Dedication of "Holly House"—April 27, 1981 for Garden Club Members, May 14, 1981 official dedication by Rutgers

Styrax Tree planted as part of the dedication ceremony

GCNJ joined National in their membership contest "I've Got One" buttons distributed to sponsors of new members representing membership increase.

Mrs. John G. Koelsch
1981 - 1983



A fuller awareness of the many facets of GCNJ membership was the wish of this president. "Understanding through Communication" was the answer, a reaching out to one and all. This was carried out by a monthly letter to club presidents, summarizing salient points of GCNJ organization and program production. Workshops on Award presentation were most helpful; a plea for concentrated search for new members and reactivation of others was highlighted. As hostess state for 1982 C.A.R. Conference, the planning and programming were absolutely TOPS—a most memorable affair. Even afar, GCNJ contributed its best; the Fairbanks, Alaska flower show became an accredited Standard Flower Show—its first—assisted by GCNJ judges on a Skylark Tour. Garden Therapy adopted a new program for hospitalized children and attendance at the various schools remained high. The Areas were renamed "Districts" to conform to the customary term in other states. As Lil so aptly quoted the saying, "Tell me, I'll forget; Show me, I may remember, But involve me and I'll understand," which we did indeed.

HIGHLIGHTS

"Communications Outreach" letter to presidents, a link between Garden Club presidents and the GCNJ Board

Received National Council Wildflower Award of \$1,000

By-laws change "That the eight areas comprising the GCNJ will now be called "Districts" to be in conformity with other states

New Jersey hosted the CAR Conference at Parsippany Hilton Hotel. Theme: "OUR HERITAGE—PAST AND PRESENT" Director Mrs. Alf H. Walle, Jr., and National President Mrs Francis A. Fink attended.

Once again Pressed Flower Bookmarks sent to International Flower Show in Alexandria, Egypt by our youth for distribution to their children.

Arbor Day tree planting at Holly House "Swiss Stone Pine" was attended by members of the GCNJ Board of Directors

By-laws change re: dues of clubs—Clubs joining after January 1st will pay \$1.00 to April 30th which ends our fiscal year.

Governor invited the president to attend the signing of the Arbor Day Proclamation

Policy Manual revised

Mrs. Sidney Litvack
1983 - 1985

Garden club members earnestly hoped to "Sow and Grow for a Better Tomorrow" as this president asked. There have been many undertakings held at Holly House. A sense of belonging has come to the members; our possessions have been collected, our handsome trophies are there to be seen and admired and we have needed club supplies readily available. Despite many obstacles much has been accomplished as providing accommodation for inspiring Environmental program, and constructive workshops. The Fall Conferences were thrilling, the many schools outstanding, maintaining quality services to GCNJ members. Garden Therapy was served faithfully and well; community involvement for better understanding of the great needs of Energy and Environmental concerns was pursued by club membership. For the tomorrow, a very special Energy Tree Award was formulated to encourage plantings throughout our garden state; and an exciting Wildflower Workshop thrilled members and friends, bringing a welcome awareness of our wonderful indigenous flora.



HIGHLIGHTS

AIMS: Plant Energy Trees

"Action Alert" letters sent to Presidents
Blue Star Memorial Highway Program

Three Blue Star Memorial Highways designated—Routes 80, 295 and 95

Zelkova Tree planted on Arbor Day at Holly House

The GCNJ \$1,000 Scholarship—honoring its past presidents was established for a New Jersey student majoring in garden related fields.

Donation of \$100 sent to "State Botanical Garden of N.J." (Skylands)

GCNJ participation in Cosmos '85 International Flower Show in conjunction with National Council Annual Convention in Nashville, Tenn., by contributing the Seal of GCNJ made of stained glass. Many ribbons in horticulture and Third place for Flower Arrangement received.

By-laws change—re: Executive Committee and its function in an emergency.

The first site of the Glen chosen which needed too much work to be completed, now will be called Helen S. Hull Friendship Garden in another spot at National Council Headquarters, St. Louis, Mo.

\$300 was sent to National to cover the cost of a Brass Sundial on a pedestal, its installation and name plate, in memory of Mrs. Lewis M. Hull, NCSGC President 1947-1949

The recommendation made by the president to support The Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island Restoration financially, was approved. At this writing contributions totaling \$3,224.34 from NJ members.

Dedication of Blue Star Memorial Highway at Knowlton Rest Area on Rte. 80, October 12, 1984—additional markers erected on other designated highways

The American Telephone and Telegraph Company donated perpetual rights to a 2,400 acre Wildlife Preserve at Barnegat National Wildlife Refuge

Mrs. Charles H. Rohmann was elected as Central Atlantic Regional Director for 1985-1987

GCNJ Wildflower Napkins as a Ways and Means Project

Mrs. Anthony Bennett and Mrs. Sidney Litvack have been appointed to the Blue Star Memorial Highway Council by Governor Kean

A "Book of Memory" was established in memory of deceased members so that contributions in their name can go into the GCNJ Scholarship Fund

N.J.'s "Horticulture School," now recognized by National Council, will be called "Garden Study Courses"—Our Horticulture Graduates who applied are accepted

Riverview Garden Club established an award for planting Energy Trees on Arbor Day and sponsored by them for the next five years

Patricia Rupell of Washington, Warren County, N.J. received \$3,000 Scholarship from National Council.

Inception of Memorial Service at Annual Meeting in memory of GCNJ members who have passed away.

GCNJ - general information pamphlet updated.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES

Each member on the Board of the GCNJ has a role to play. All chairmanships are equally important, some more active than others. Collectively they carry out the objectives of our organization with distinction. We can always count on lively discussions. It was a happy day when we took occupancy of Holly House. No more searching for a place to hold our meetings. Having the office, sales room, library and properties in the same building, facilitates the smooth performance of our organization.

A short resumé of the functions and events of some of the committees follow: The ADVISORY COUNCIL is composed of past state presidents and two members from the Board. Its function is to aid the President in any problems which may arise.

Everyone looks forward to the ANNUAL MEETING when the state and national awards are presented. At the FALL CONFERENCE, sometimes lasting two or three days, the club presidents are honored. One can always count on exciting informative programs and workshops. On some occasions the National President graced our dais.

CONFERENCES: New Jersey has had the honor to host three Regional Conventions during the last twenty years. The 1975 conference was held at the Hyatt House, Cherry Hill, when at the same time the GCNJ celebrated its FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY. It was at this convention that numbered seating was initiated. Seating was in order of registrations received. The 1982 Regional was held at the Parsippany Hilton. In 1968 Atlantic City was the scene of the CAR. All were spectacular events.

GARDEN INFORMATION CENTERS provide information to the public on horticultural procedures, and gardening activities. Many clubs maintain libraries of books related to gardening, landscape design and flower arranging. Knowledgeable members give their time lecturing and conducting workshops and exhibiting at events. At present there are sixteen Garden Centers and sixty-five permanent centers in New Jersey.

GARDEN THERAPY: Sir James Barrie said "THOSE WHO BRING SUNSHINE TO THE LIVES OF OTHERS CANNOT KEEP IT FROM THEMSELVES." That is what Garden Therapy is all about. To work with the physically handicapped and mentally ill in Veterans' hospitals, institutions and prisons; working with physically and mentally handicapped children, special programs for the blind, and provide flowers for bedsides and chapels in these facilities, gives meaning to our own lives. Garden Therapy was inaugurated by the GCNJ in 1944. Gradually under the leadership of dedicated women this service grew and at present not only those institutions already mentioned, but nursing homes, geriatric hospitals and wherever our services are needed, are visited. The clubs continue to distinguish themselves by their willingness to volunteer.

The first GARDEN STATE FLOWER SHOW was presented in October 1944 to raise funds for War Services. From 1944 to the present date, the state never missed a year exhibiting horticulture and new trends in flower arranging. For the past nineteen years we have been invited by the New Jersey Nurserymen's Flower and Garden Association to participate at their Flower and Garden Show held at the Morristown Armory. Each year the committee has planned exhibitions.

HORTICULTURE: The gardener's plant world is widening in New Jersey. New varieties are constantly being introduced and studied by our schools and councils. Articles are written periodically in *News Leaf* keeping our membership abreast of the new trends in gardening.

Throughout the years the Garden Club of New Jersey has recognized the hybridizer by presenting an award for the new cultivars they labored so diligently to produce.

NEWS LEAF: The earliest publication was the 1927 Year Book reporting the activities of the 31 member clubs at that time. Our own Garden Club Newsletter was published in 1936-37, but was discontinued for lack of subscribers. Enough club support was enlisted to launch its successor in 1940, which has continued without interruption, first with eight issues yearly, now with five. In 1947 the name was changed to NEWS LEAF in order to take advantage of a postal rate not eligible with the word "letter" in its title. The present format of the cover page has been in existence since 1962. No one knows the time spent by the editorial staff in getting an issue

ready for the printers. *News Leaf* has inspired and guided us with interesting and informative articles. The dues which each member pays assures them a copy of each issue. It is our link between the clubs and The Board of the GCNJ. Communication is the key word. It keeps us abreast of all the GCNJ activities.

SCHOLARSHIPS are an important part of the GCNJ objectives. They assist students in the field of Environmental Science, Floriculture, Horticulture, Landscape Design and other related fields. Many students have been recipients of the following:

- Dr. Charles H. Connors Scholarship in Ornamental Horticulture
- Elizabeth B. Merriam Scholarship in Landscape Design
- Gene M. O'Neal Scholarship in Field of Garden Interest
- Florence S. McNeill Scholarship in Landscape Architecture
- Life Member's Scholarship in Environmental Study to a High School Senior
- Helen S. Hull Scholarship for studies in Horticulture or related fields

The hope of the world is our YOUTH. We must continue to educate them. They will shape our future.

WAYS AND MEANS: In order to keep our organization solvent, the various Ways and Means projects provide much revenue to our treasury. The main purpose is bringing to the membership and friends educational and inspirational programs. The proceeds are used for educational, charitable and scientific projects. All contributions are tax deductible. Our SKYLARK TOURS not only bring in much needed income, each traveler enjoys a spectacular trip. Our BULB sales likewise gives pleasure and beauty to the purchaser for when these bulbs are planted and burst into bloom, they present a kaleidoscope of color for everyone to enjoy. THE NEWLY DESIGNED WILDFLOWER NAPKINS and CLUB SERVICES gives the clubs an opportunity to purchase many profit making items.

WORLD GARDENING: The far reaching world of gardening brings understanding through flowers, goodwill through exchange of ideas and fellowship through dedication of service to others.

Through CARE and other organizations, impoverished peoples in developing countries are being taught to help themselves. We supply tools, seeds and modern techniques. The future holds a promise for these people who are instructed how to alleviate hunger by helping themselves. As the old adage goes "Give me a fish and I eat for a day—Teach me to fish and I eat for a lifetime." And so it is with planting seeds.

For many years we have had the "AMERICAN CORNER," an exhibit at the spring flower show of the Alexandria Horticulture Society, in Egypt. Seeds, books and gardening implements were sent to be distributed at the show. Love needs no translation and with our help and friendship, we can reach those less fortunate through our participation.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL AND CRITICS' COUNCIL

The GCNJ presented its first LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL in January 1958—its purpose—to train members to recognize good landscape practice for home grounds and civic improvement.

Our close association with Cook College, Rutgers University, has been the key to the success of our Landscape Design Schools over the years. We have been privileged to have the best instructors and professors as speakers.

Our high standard of excellence produces many outstanding Landscape Design Critics who use their knowledge in evaluating large sites of corporate headquarters which have adapted former land use and natural features to modern maintenance needs. Many smaller grounds are also reviewed and evaluated in this continuing program.

Certificates for Excellence in Landscape Design have been awarded to many corporations. A National Council award was received for this program. LANDSCAPE CRITICS' COUNCIL meets several times a year, furthering their education by taking trips and enjoying programs by outstanding speakers.

THE GARDEN CLUB OF NEW JERSEY PINS



In the early sixties, through the generosity of Mrs. William J. Walters, our President's Gold Pin (one of a kind) was fashioned after the GCNJ seal by a New York artisan. From that time on, each president had the privilege and honor of wearing it during her administration. Mrs. Walters also furnished the funds to have a die made for a smaller replica, the Past President's Pin. This pin, worn with pride, is a gift which represents two years of her time, love, devotion and for her dedicated leadership.

After the installation ceremony, there is always an exciting and emotional moment when the retiring president passes the President's Pin to her successor, but an equally happy moment is when the former president receives hers, denoting that she has served the GCNJ with distinction.

We also have a Club Past President's Pin, a Sterling Silver Spade and Trowel with the New Jersey state flower, the violet, holding the implements together. This pin is made by a New Jersey artisan.

In 1975, the Life Members decided to adapt the Club Past President's Pin with the addition of a filigree circle added to signify New Jersey Life Membership.

Other pins may be purchased from National Council of State Garden Clubs which some of our Garden Club Members wear, such as the President's pin, Director's pin, and National Council Life Member's pin. Many of our members have been asked to serve on the National Board, and they have the privilege of wearing the Board of Director's Pin.

AWARDS

The Garden Club of New Jersey presents many awards and trophies at its Annual Meeting, too numerous to enumerate. Each fall they are described in NEWS LEAF.

Both individuals and clubs are given recognition for their accomplishments and there is always an exciting moment when THE GARDEN CLUB OF THE YEAR award is announced. Since 1965 a number of new trophies and awards have been added. New projects have been promoted, and in acknowledgment of the clubs' achievements, they are rewarded for their efforts.

Again, space limits listing all the awards received by the GCNJ from National Council of State Garden Clubs, but one of the most coveted awards is the KELLOGG MEDAL FOR CIVIC ACHIEVEMENT, donated to National Council by Cornelia Kellogg who was a former New Jersey State President and National Council President. Since 1965, New Jersey clubs have won

ARBORETUM—CONSERVATION—TREES

"Woe unto them that join the house to house
That lay field to field,
Till there be no place
That they may be place alone
In the midst of the earth" . . . Isaiah 5:8

New Jersey's Arboretum, established in Greenbrook Sanctuary, Palisades Interstate Park, N.J. In 1952 is still a place where Garden Clubs occasionally hold their meetings in the Holton Pavilion. Until recently, Arbor Day Celebrations were held there. Each person attending received a seedling of a tree in remembrance of the day. It is still a retreat where nature lovers come from surrounding areas to enjoy the native plants, wildlife and scenic beauty.

We inadvertently lose many endangered plants as the bulldozers make room for condominiums. The Garden Clubs have taken a very active part in using their influence with their state senators and representatives to curb building through legislation which will destroy our wild areas and green acres. Their contributions to the Nature Conservancy has helped to purchase land such as The Great Swamp, The Pine Barrens and other protected areas so that our aggressive neighbors will not have the freedom of destroying it.

During the last twenty years, each administration has made it a part of their program to promote tree planting throughout the Garden State, Bicentennial Trees, Liberty Trees, Memorial Trees, Food Trees and Energy Trees, these were some of the names given to tree projects. The first County Shade Tree Commission was formed in 1926 to protect our highways. Ever since, our Roadside Council, Blue Star Memorial Highway Council together with the New Jersey Department of Transportation have worked effortlessly to keep our highways beautiful, free from billboards and safe for the traveler.



Junior Tree Planting in 1975
Photo chosen at random from the many
received

BLUE STAR MEMORIAL HIGHWAY AND BY-WAYS

When the Blue Star Drive was launched in New Jersey to honor the members of the Armed Forces in 1944 and adopted by National Council in 1945, Route 22 became the first designated Blue Star Memorial Highway in the United States. A network of over 37,000 miles of highway now cross the United States both east and west and north and south. Over 800 Blue Star Memorial Highway Markers have been placed at strategic spots. The design for this marker was the gift of Mrs. Frederick R. Kellogg, former New Jersey President and second President of National Council.

In the last twenty years, there have been more highways designated as Blue Star in New Jersey, Routes 78, 80, 95, and 295, adding up to 238 miles.

The most recent dedication took place at the Knowlton Rest Area on Route 80 on October 12, 1984. Three more markers have been erected at other rest areas.

During the year 1972, Blue Star By-ways were initiated and established by joint resolution of the Senate, as a New Jersey project on areas off-the-beaten path. The intention was to allow the individual clubs to beautify unsightly places in their own areas. As an incentive for the clubs to develop these unsightly areas, the GCNJ has offered financial help by matching any amount up to \$500 for landscaping. In each of the eight districts a site was chosen with the help of the Department of Transportation who were and still are most helpful. Small markers were placed at these beautified spots. National Council also adopted the By-way project as an extension of the Blue Star Memorial Highway program.

New Jersey formed a BLUE STAR HIGHWAY COUNCIL which meets twice a year. The Commissioner of the Department of Transportation, other members of the DOT, and members of the GCNJ appointed by the Governor, discuss roadside problems, maintenance of the landscaped areas on the Blue Star Memorial Highways and keep abreast of all matters pertaining to dedicated highways.



BLUE STAR

Dedication on October 12, 1984 at the Knowlton Rest Area Route 80. From left to right, Mr. Russell Mullen, Mrs. Fred Galione, John P. Sheridan, Jr., Commissioner; Mrs. James Wotherspoon, Mrs. Sidney Litvack, Mr. Robert Myers and Mrs. Anthony Bennett, Blue Star Highway Council Members.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

On April 27, 1972 the first Environmental and Conservation Conference was held at the Goernor Morris Inn, in Morristown. It became a much needed yearly event. Dr. John Kirk and other well-known speakers have been invited. Timely topics covered have been litter, acid rain, recycling, water pollution, clean air, environmental planning and planting, wet lands, off-shore drilling, bird sanctuaries, endangered species, coast erosion, and land preservation just to name a few.

The GCNJ Conservation Scholarship Fund enables many teachers to continue their education in the environmental sciences. The "TRAIN A TEACHER TO TEACH A CHILD" program at the New Jersey School of Conservation, operated by Montclair State College and directed by Dr. John Kirk who is an internationally recognized authority in the field of Environmental Education, provides us with talented and interested teachers.

This school is known throughout the world and is the largest resident center for environmental studies in the western hemisphere and serves over ten thousand students annually. It serves as a beacon for other schools. Our scholarships have often encouraged the teachers to take their graduate degree in environmental studies.

The "Fun in the Forest" weekend is a compliment to our scholarship program. A special weekend is set aside for the members of the GCNJ, their families and friends to visit the school. Environmental forums and workshops are prepared. All who attend have a wonderful learning experience and have an opportunity to meet Dr. Kirk in action.

There is also an International Division—an exchange teacher-student program. At the present time, there are approximately 68 resident Environmental Centers in New Jersey.

We consider the education of teachers to be the most effective way to carry conservation to the children, our future conservationists. Also, enlightened members of a community can be pioneers in preserving our natural beauty.

Bennett Continued from page 11

Mrs. Lewis M. Hull offered the GCNJ two \$1,000 special scholarships to be used for a Bicentennial Salute to our Youth to be awarded to two N.J. High School Seniors—topic of essay Contest "Sing Our Sweet Land."

150 properties evaluated by Landscape Design Critics—21 Corporate Headquarters in New Jersey were awarded certificates for "EXCELLENCE IN LANDSCAPING"

GCNJ gave over \$3,000 to preserve the Pine Barrens to the "American Land Trust—The Nature Conservancy"

GCNJ received \$1,000 Civic Concern awards from National Council for GC of Morristown for Youth Education Program (BRANCHING OUT) and Home GC of Morristown for Victorian Garden Restoration at Acorn Hall.

GCNJ Youth participated in a Nationwide "Garden Friends" exchange—892 pressed flower bookmarks were sent to approximately 35 states—hundreds of friendship letters received in return

A \$500 Life Member's Scholarship, initiated by Mrs. Bennett, given annually to a graduating N.J. High School Senior pursuing a field of study related to the environment was adopted by the Board of Directors. First Recipient John Pierson who ultimately received two national scholarships which enabled him to complete his college training in forestry and landscape design.

Good Neighbor policy through Governor Byrne's office—12 New Jersey Violet plants had been sent to Smithsonian Institution to be used in their landscaping—donated by Tina Coffey

This president was asked to serve on the Green Acres Program of the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection.

Important by-laws change re Elections—President and First Vice President to be elected the same year—Second and Third Vice Presidents in the alternate year.

New Trophy PEWTER PITCHER, accepted by the Board of Directors—VIOLET M. BENNETT ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

The Burpee Seed Co. donated hundreds of packets of Marigold seeds to the Youth who planted them as a Bicentennial Project throughout their states, in Celebration of the Bicentennial.

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL—SYMPOSIUM EVALUATION—JUDGES COUNCIL

Our first FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL under the National Council rules was held January 1946. As of this writing, we have held 62 schools. The Handbook for Flower Shows is a necessity and all judges are required to own one. They must subscribe to *National Gardener* where new directives become effective on publication.

As the years progressed, the cost of conducting the schools have risen because of travelling, speakers fees and places to hold the schools.

At present we have 46 Master Judges, and 46 Accredited Judges, 11 Life and 23 students. Since National Council instituted Judge Emeritus, twenty Master Judges retired from active participation in judging.

Our list of Student Judges keeps increasing. Hopefully in the future we will have enough Standard Flower Shows presented, so that all our judges will be able to keep in good standing. Our students are stimulated, educated and they learn to evaluate.

Our FIRST SYMPOSIUM was held at Hotel Suburban, East Orange, on November 16, 1965. Judges from eight other states attended. Interestingly enough, one of the instructors was our own Helen Hull who spoke on WILD FLOWERS. She was the author of a Wild Flower Book.

In April 1985, we held our 16th Symposium.

Trends in Flower Arranging have changed over the years. New frontiers are opening up. We feel fortunate in obtaining instructors who inspire us to new challenges.

The first JUDGES' COUNCIL meeting was held in 1953, the purpose of the Council is to "maintain among its members the standards of flower shows and flower show judging established by the National Council of State Garden Clubs; to provide opportunities for members to discuss judging problems; to continue the study of Horticulture and Flower Arrangement, and to assist clubs with putting on flower shows."

Schedule Advisors are appointed by the Judges Council Chairman to help assist the clubs in schedule writing.

It is a labor of love for a judge to judge a flower show. They receive no remuneration, nor do they expect any. They are willing to judge, write comments on the exhibits judged and some are asked to evaluate the show.

EVALUATION: This chairman receives requests from clubs to evaluate shows. She assigns judges who are judging the show to fill out an evaluation form. The Evaluation Chairman determines from the forms received the percentage or score. The club receives a letter with comments. Constructive criticism is given when necessary. This will help their Flower Show Committee when presenting their next show. If the club score is 95% or above its application is sent to National Council for an award. All Flower Shows should be evaluated. It is a great learning experience to receive the comments and thereby avoid repeating the same mistake.

AWARDS Continued from page 17

it twice . . . 1979, to the Garden Club of Long Beach Island for stopping severe erosion of a barrier island by planting Pinus Thunberg seedlings—1984, Basking Ridge Garden Club for "The Greening of Basking Ridge," celebrating the town's sixtieth anniversary.

Opportunities to make the ordinary into something extra-ordinary, something unsightly into something beautiful, are limitless. And so we invite all members to "let your light shine so all may see" by applying for awards.

HEADQUARTERS HISTORY Continued from page 25

Consideration is currently being given to finishing the remainder of the basement and the attic of the building.

Other chairmen have been: Mrs. Douglas Valentine, Mrs. Robert E. McNeill, Jr., Mrs. James A. McBain, Mrs. F. Morse Archer, Jr., Mrs. Robert Green, Mrs. Charles Rohmann, and Mrs. Joseph McAlinden.

HORTICULTURE SCHOOL

Prior to today's Horticulture Schools, the GCNJ held schools at the College of Agriculture, Rutgers University. Dr. William E. Snyder, Head of the Floriculture-Ornamentals Department, and Professor Donald B. Lacey, Associate Specialist in Home Horticulture, were among the instructors.

For many years Horticulture Workshops were held throughout the state with great success. But the time had come when more and more members wanted to learn about the Good Earth and growing. It became apparent that we needed a state Horticulture School.

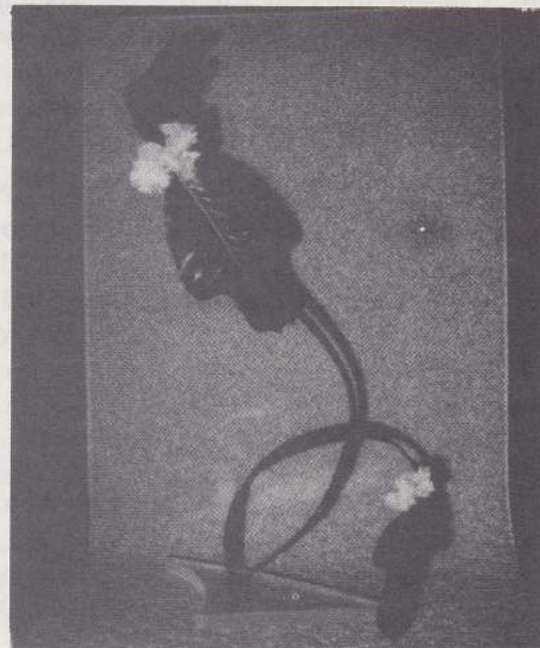
In 1966, the GCNJ established Horticulture School. Series I, Course 1, was held in September of that year with Mrs. Thomas Turner Cooke as the first chairman, Professor Lacey and Dr. Snyder of Cook College, as it is now called, were most helpful in setting up the format. We owe a great debt to Professor Lacey who still advises our chairman and is the liaison between the GCNJ and Cook College.

The first school met in Collins Auditorium at Blake Hall on the campus of Rutgers University. For many years the school had no permanent meeting place and was held in many other locations. When the GCNJ established its headquarters at Holly House, the school was at last assured of a meeting place and held Course 4 of Series VI in 1982.

The fourth course of Series I was held May 1968, and Horticulture Certificates were awarded to 27 graduates, following the completion of the four courses. A countless number of graduates have since received Certificates, and more than fifty students remain in good standing through refresher courses. Through the efforts of an endless stream of hard working committee members, our Horticulture School has grown and continues to attract new students as well as returning graduates.

The subject matter of lectures includes soil structure, climate, insects, diseases, ornamentals, indoor gardening, plant identification, herbs and vegetables, giving a well-rounded basis of horticulture to the student. Point scoring of specimens was included in earlier courses but was discontinued when National Council rejected recognition of the school for this reason.

In 1981, Mrs. Joseph Sogan began correspondence with National Council regarding recognition of the school as part of National's Gardening Study Course. The effort was continued by Mrs. Harvey C. Gibney and Mrs. Edward J. Steele. Shortly before this history went to press, National Council recognized our Horticulture School, awarding the students who applied certification. Now it will be called GARDENING STUDY COURSES and is accredited by National Council of State Garden Clubs.



Abstract design by Eleanor Huson

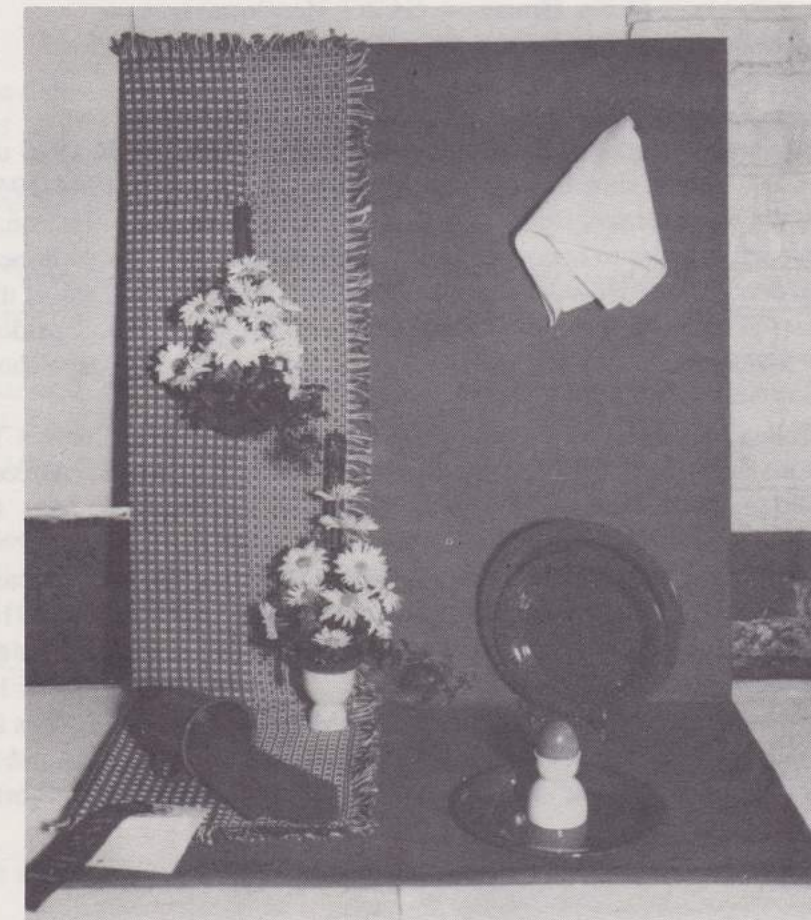
HORTUS COUNCIL

Hortus Council was organized July 1970 under the direction of the Executive Board of the Garden Club of New Jersey and the cooperation of Cook College. It was then called Horticultural Council of the Garden Club of New Jersey. The charter members were dedicated gardeners who set up the following Aims and Purposes. Horticultural Council will follow the general policies of other Councils. It will meet three (3) times a year. Purposes would be to continue studying all phases of horticulture; to assist with the Horticulture schedule, entries, and classification for the New Jersey Flower and Garden Show in Morristown.

April 1971, "Hortus Council" became the legal name of the group, this name being agreeable to both Rutgers and the members. Meetings were held on Cook Campus.

September 1972, it was decided to conduct Horticulture School in the same fashion as Flower Show School and Landscape Design School, requiring that Council members may refresh after three (3) years and must refresh within five (5) years to remain in good standing as a member of the Council.

Since its inception Hortus Council has furthered the knowledge of its members by having speakers who are expert in growing a particular genus. Many plant families have been studied. Trips were taken to the gardens of members for an in-depth study of specific plants. Other trips encompassed public gardens, arboretums and planned communities. All areas and phases of gardening are covered. Hortus Council offers further education to all members in a relaxed atmosphere.



Exhibition Table Setting—Violet M. Bennett



Holly House — GCNJ Headquarters

LIFE MEMBERS

It has been 40 years since the Life Members' Group was initiated in 1945 under the leadership of Mrs. Lewis M. Hull during her term of office as President 1944-1946.

A quote from the *News Letter*, December 1945, by Mrs. Charles W. Holton, past state President, states, "Their willingness to become Life Members encourages me to hope that many more friends of The Garden Club of New Jersey will consider it a privilege to select their pet project." She further states, "your \$100 will buy so much inward satisfaction and pride you will feel it in your paying investment. All the funds were designated towards Scholarships and/or Headquarters."

The initial eleven members were Mrs. Frederick Beineke, Mrs. Charles W. Holton, Mr. Charles W. Holton, Mrs. Vance R. Hood, Mrs. Lewis M. Hull, Mrs. Alfred G. Kay, Mrs. Frederick R. Kellogg, Mrs. Paul Moore, Mrs. Reginald A. Saunders, Mrs. C. Birch Stoner and Mrs. William J. Walters.

Since then we have increased membership to over 150 by building on the past, in the present for the future. Through the years we have grown with pride knowing each \$100 donation has multiplied many times and still working towards the same goals—a legacy for the future of our children and The Garden Club of New Jersey.

Gatherings are held once or twice a year. A Life Member Scholarship was initiated several years ago for a qualified student pursuing a career in Environmental Studies and the latest project is a Life Members "Founders Book" which would include a picture and a short profile of each Life Member.

"To dig one's hand into the fresh fragrant earth, to plant seeds and see them reaffirm the miracle of life, is one of the most soulsatisfying and emotionally stabilizing experiences a man can know."

Norvell Gillespie

THE GARDEN CLUB OF NEW JERSEY HEADQUARTERS HISTORY 1965-1985

When our Garden Club of New Jersey headquarters, "Holly House," was formally dedicated on April 27, 1981, the occasion marked the culmination of a twenty year quest. Mrs. Albert Stillman, when she was president in 1961, conceived the idea of a permanent headquarters and appointed Mrs. William Walters as the first chairman. It was then called Horticulture House.

Moving forward to the period covered by this history, two important events occurred during 1965. The United States Internal Revenue Service ruled that contributions to the GCNJ would be tax deductible, thus paving the way for fund raising; and Dr. Norman F. Childers, Blake Professor of Horticulture at Rutgers University formally invited the GCNJ to consider Rutgers as a site for our proposed headquarters. The negotiations with Rutgers proceeded very slowly. At the same time other sites were being looked at and considered.

During the presidency of Mrs. James McBain from 1967 to 1969 it was decided to have a regularly nominated and elected Headquarters Committee. Mrs. William Walters became the first elected chairman.

During the year 1969 there were two projects that were seriously considered. One was the joint project with Rutgers, as previously mentioned, and the other was the Carriage House on the former Frelinghuysen estate in Morristown, N.J. Both these projects were abandoned because they proved to be too costly in relation to the benefits to be derived by the GCNJ.

In 1971 Rutgers came back with another proposition. This one had to do with an Agricultural Museum to be established on its campus. In 1972 the Headquarters Committee recommended to the Executive Board that the GCNJ take space in the Agricultural Museum for its exclusive use, provided that suitable terms could be worked out. Unfortunately, suitable terms could not be worked out and as a result this project was also abandoned.

The committee continued to investigate possible sites and alternatives.

A fund-raising drive was initiated by the committee chaired by Mrs. Willard T. Somerville. Donation categories were established; "Think GCNJ Headquarters" buttons were sold at the 1977 GCNJ annual meeting; T-shirts with "Put Down Roots for GCNJ Headquarters" were sold and letters were mailed to various businesses and Life Members.

At a committee meeting held March 14, 1978 Mrs. Somerville suggested that perhaps the GCNJ should go it alone and not be concerned about a partner. Discussions on this point went on for some time and finally in 1979 the "go-it-alone" concept was favorably voted on and Mrs. William Boyd became chairman.

Soon after, the attention of the committee focused on a former classroom building in the Cook College test gardens known as "Holly House". This was it!!! Preliminary plans for its renovations were drawn by the architect Robert Green, husband of a long-time GCNJ Board member and member of the Headquarters Committee.

Rutgers architect Bertelsen was to set up the final plans. Renovations to Holly House were expected to run to about \$150,000.

Construction went on during the fall of 1980. The committee, now under the chairmanship of Mrs. Russell Fairbanks, met often to arrange details involved with our moving into our own headquarters.

In February 1981 Rutgers accepted the newly-renovated building. Officials of Rutgers and the GCNJ joined together on April 27, 1981 to celebrate the official opening and dedication of Holly House.

Holly House has become the scene of meetings of the Executive Board, State committees, Life Members' meetings, Landscape Design and Horticulture Schools, the Environmental Conferences and the first Wildflower Conference. Small committee meetings are held in the conference room.

The GCNJ office is in full use, as is Club Sales and the library. The GCNJ properties are now stored in the basement. A trophy case has been placed in the main meeting room where the GCNJ awards won over the years are displayed.

continued on page 21

NEW JERSEY GAVE NATIONAL COUNCIL THREE SHINING STARS

MRS. FREDERICK R. KELLOGG—

The following is a quote from the twentieth year history of National Council by Mrs. Kellogg who was National President from 1930-1933 and upon retirement was made Honorary President. She served as New Jersey's president from 1927-1929.

"There are fundamentally two emphases in our work—that on pleasure and profit for our members and that on unselfish contribution to others. Study of our development seems to show a growing interest in conservation, garden centers and scholarships, etc., and new departures like work with the blind. I am glad to believe that such efforts will influence more and more strongly the meaning and direction of our existence."

MRS. LEWIS M. HULL —

Served National as president from 1947-1949 and president of New Jersey from 1944-1946. We quote from her "Hail and Farewell" address taken from *GCNJ News Letter* April-May 1946.

"Parting from the old road is sweet sorrow, but turning now to glance at the new road ahead we see that it is even brighter than the one we are leaving; there are more flowers, more gardens, the roadsides are neatly protected against erosion. A planting of beautiful trees may be the beginning of an arboretum, and that broad gleam ahead may be New Jersey's first parkway. We cannot see one ugly or perilous sign to prevent the Garden Club of New Jersey from calling, ALL CLEAR AND FULL STEAM AHEAD!"

MRS. WILLIAM J. WALTERS —

Thirteenth National President and Honorary Life President of New Jersey wrote the following for the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of National Council—It holds just as true today.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

DEDICATION CONSECRATION

DEDICATION TO OUR IDEALS

Ever mindful of our pledge and our
Devotion to a future generation
In all we do.
Constantly aware of our debt to
America the beautiful . . . and a sacred duty
To return Service for Freedom.
In all our undertakings, keeping
Our eyes on the stars, but
Never forgetting the grass roots.

CONSECRATION TO THE SOIL . . .

Our strength and inspiration is the earth;
Nature herself is our teacher in
Service and in sharing.
Each watershed, each meadow, each tree, each blade of grass
Commits us evermore, as gardeners, to
Replace, restore and revere the soil.
As we start anew after
This, our twenty-fifth birthday,
In our every effort—every plan.
On national, state or local levels, let us
Never forget that Nature's conservation is mankind's preservation.
Faithfully, always,
May Duff Walters

YOUTH GARDENING

The Junior Gardening Program in New Jersey which was begun more than fifty years ago grew by leaps and bounds. Twenty years ago, in 1965, we had 54 Junior Garden Clubs and 5 High School Gardening Units. Skipping to 1972, there were 79 Junior clubs and 3 High School Units. A full program of horticulture, flower arranging, conservation, flower show experience and nature study reached more than 1300 children. An Honor Roll Certificate was given yearly to each club which participated in these five areas of study. Clubs were formed, not only as after school neighborhood groups, but with 4-H clubs, Girl Scouts, during classroom time in schools and after school. Mini-courses, enrichment classes, and community education courses were sponsored by senior clubs whose juniors had grown up.

Under the direction of outstanding and dedicated Junior Leaders, Area Coordinators helped spread the Junior gardening word. Each of the eight garden club areas were visited annually, meeting with junior garden club leaders, inspiring them with new ideas for their students, planning with them for state projects which all clubs participated in and demonstrating new ideas. They encouraged all juniors and high school youth to enter the state flower shows each year, and guided junior groups in putting on their own area flower shows. Surely this was the golden age of junior gardening.

Among the outstanding activities of the past twenty years are found not only a local interest in "keeping New Jersey Beautiful" and in a growing contest for sunflowers and pumpkins, but also a national interest. Youth from the Hanover High School Unit participated in the Youth Environmental Conference in Washington, D.C. in 1975, and again in Texas in 1979. The Hanover 4-H Juniors won the National Council Award "Keep America Beautiful" in 1977. Pressed flower pictures and bookmarks were sent to American Indian students in South Dakota, Arizona, Alaska, and New Mexico . . . Pen pals corresponded and even visited one another. Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Posters were designed each year in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture and the State Foresters. International interest and concern sent many pressed flower bookmarks and pictures to Brazil, England, Korea, Lesotho, and also to Alexandria, Egypt, where they were given to children visiting the annual international Flower Show.

Twenty years of outstanding junior leadership has produced Junior Garden Club of the Year winners of great quality.



FOUR PATRIOTIC PAST PRESIDENTS

Holly House Dedication

Mrs. George Brightenbach, Mrs. Austin B. Sayre, Mrs. Albert L. Stillman and Mrs. John G. Koelsch.

THE GARDEN CLUB OF NEW JERSEY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

The following were recipients for Special Achievement in advancing Garden Club objectives:

- 1965—Gold—Carl W. Buckheister
Silver—Paramus Garden Club
Bronze—Maplewood Garden Club
- 1966—Gold—Emma S. Slocum
Silver—Richard Goodenough
Bronze—Richard Walter
- 1967—Gold—Marguerite Mulligan
Silver—Dr. William E. Snyder
Bronze—Kenneth S. Gregory
- 1968—Gold—Harold N. Moldenke
- 1969—Gold—N.J. Commissioner Robert A. Roe
- 1970—Gold—Roger Tory Peterson
Silver—David Moore
Bronze—Hema Lechner
- 1971—Gold—Dr. John N. Ott
Gold—Mrs. Garrett Smith
Silver—Eileen L. Donahue
- 1972—Gold—Drs. Murray and Heleh Buell
Silver—Emma Hodkinson Cyphers

In 1973 it was decided by the Board of Directors of the GCNJ that the Silver and Bronze medals be eliminated and that we call our Achievement Medal the Garden Club of New Jersey Medal. It will be gold in color. No more than two to be given in any one year, if warranted.

- 1973—Mrs. Thomas Turner Cooke
Dr. John Kirk
- 1974—Professor Donald B. Lacey
Sears Roebuck & Company
- 1975—Gladys D. McBain
Rebecca Kirchartz
- 1976—David F. Moore
- 1977—Dr. Phillip Alampi
Dr. Norman F. Childers
- 1979—Dr. Elwin R. Orton, Jr.
- 1980—Mr. Gordon Bishop
- 1983—Helen C. Fenske
- 1985—Governor Thomas Kean



The Garden Club of New Jersey
Achievement Medal
designed by Mrs. Garrett Smith

CLUB BRIEFS

ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS GARDEN CLUB make special corsages and boutonnieres for patients at the Atlantic Highlands Nursing Home celebrating birthdays and providing gifts during the holiday season.

BAYBERRY GARDEN CLUB OF BRIELLE supply flower arrangements for Claremont Care Center in Point Pleasant.

THE GARDEN DEPARTMENT OF BROOKDALE WOMAN'S CLUB have for over twenty years given continuous service to Essex County Hospital, Cedar Grove.

CANDLEWOOD GARDEN CLUB members have delighted the patients of the Pineland Nursing Home with potted plants, picture frames and terrariums during each of the four seasons since 1979.

COLTS NECK GARDEN CLUB provide plants and flowers for each season to the Shrewsbury Manor Residential Home.

CRESTWOOD GARDEN CLUB beautified a neglected property by planting evergreens and flowering trees with seasonal plantings also adding two large benches for rest and meditation.

EAST BRUNSWICK GARDEN CLUB celebrated its 25th anniversary, gained fourteen new members in 1985 and enjoyed maintaining the Sylvia Kapp Memorial Garden in their town.

GARDEN CLUB OF FAIR HAVEN has maintained the Harding Bird Sanctuary since 1955.

GARDEN CLUB OF RFD has started a new project working with "special" children. A continuing project brings holiday cheer to a number of local nursing homes during the holiday seasons with gifts and flowers.

GREEN THUMB GARDEN CLUB OF JACKSON provides flowers for the Fort Dix-Walson Army Hospital.

HOLLY CLUB members have been assisting residents of the Geraldine Thompson Medical Home, Allenwood, in making arrangements for their rooms.

HOPEWELL VALLEY GARDEN CLUB has been active in establishing a wild flower trail at the Stoney Brook Millstone Watershed Preserve. A local newspaper column is written by one of their members, "Garden Hints."

LITTLE SILVER GARDEN CLUB enjoys planting flowers for a massive display at the Geraldine Thompson Home during the growing season

GARDEN CLUB OF LONG BEACH ISLAND maintains feeding stations at Southern Ocean County Hospital during the year.

GARDEN CLUB OF LONG BRANCH has been planting window boxes at the Long Branch Library since 1965.

METUCHEN GARDEN CLUB celebrated its sixteth anniversary this year and to mark this milestone they made a gift to the people of Metuchen, planters filled with ivy and flowering plants, hanging from either side of the recently installed Victorial Lamp-posts on Main Street.

MOORESTOWN GARDEN CLUB has established an Arboretum in the Perkins Memorial property introducing new plantings and refurbishing the old areas. Labeling all plantings resulted in a very appealing and educational project.

THE GARDEN CLUB OF MADISON helped provide funds for a wheelchair garden and for beautification of grounds with shade trees at the Chesire Home for physically disabled young adults. They also enhanced the Museum of Early Trades and Crafts with flowering shrubbery and trees.

NAVASINK GARDEN CLUB members bring happiness to King James Nursing Home patients with flowers.

NORTHFIELD GARDEN CLUB celebrated its sixtieth anniversary this year and continues to plant and maintain flower planters at the historic Force Home, and make monthly arrangements for the Livingston Public Library.

OCEANPORT GARDEN CLUB members work with juveniles in need of supervision by donating plants and teaching them how to care for them.

PINES LAKE GARDEN CLUB has planted and maintained for twenty nine years a three acre Pines Lake School Garden, a place for children and residents to study and understand the importance of conservation.

PINELANDS GARDEN CLUB, growing from a very small group to a membership of over 100 at their tenth anniversary reflects the dedication of women with a love for gardening. Their community projects include beautification of the Medford Circle through landscaping and a continuing educational Garden Center at the library.

RUMSON GARDEN CLUB has been providing weekly flower arrangements to the Riverview Medical Center since 1966. Also holiday decorations for Bridgeway House, Monmouth County Youth Detention Center and the John L. Montgomery Home. This club is seventy-one years old.

SEAWEEDERS GARDEN CLUB maintains a MINI PRESERVE for Flora and Fauna at the Kellogg Memorial Island in Bay Head.

SHREWSBURY GARDEN CLUB enjoys planting flowers for a massive display at the Geraldine Thompson Home during the growing season.

RAKE AND HOE GARDEN CLUB among their many projects, their club's Landscape Design Critics planned a landscape design for Mindowaskin Park. Also with the proceeds derived from sale of bird seed purchased a pair of swans as a gift to the town.

THE GARDEN CLUB OF TOMS RIVER has had a seasonal beautification program for the last six years of planting and maintaining flowers in white containers in the town. The club has conducted a Junior Garden Club for handicapped children at the Intermediate School and since 1976 have helped handicapped children at East Dover Elementary School with planting both flowers and vegetables.

TROWEL CLUB OF NEW BRUNSWICK celebrates its fiftieth anniversary in 1985. They have enjoyed working with youth for the past twenty years especially in the pediatric unit of Middlesex General-University Hospital.

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF MIDDLETOWN presents educational programs to Senior Citizens at Daniel Towers and Alice Tomaso Plaza during the year.

GARDEN CLUB OF WATCHUNG have five members serving on its Boro Taffic and Beautification Committee. Special plantings were done at the Watchung Boro Bird Sanctuaries.

WOODBIDGE GARDEN CLUB, in addition to maintaining the Garden for the Blind and Handicapped, they enjoy planting colorful annuals at the historical Parker Press and Woodbridge Township Veterans Memorial Gardens as a yearly event.

DEDICATION CEREMONY



You are cordially invited to attend

The Dedication

of

HOLLY HOUSE

Headquarters, Garden Club of New Jersey

April 27, 1981, 1:30 p.m.

Log Cabin Road, Cook College

Rutgers University

New Brunswick, New Jersey

Mrs. William D. Boyd, Headquarters Chairman, Dean Grant Walton and Mrs. Charles H. Rohmann, GCNJ President.

GARDEN CLUB OF NEW JERSEY MEMBER CLUBS

As they were Organized and Federated

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 1915 Plainfield Garden Club | Cranes Ford Gardeners |
| 1916 Summit Garden Club | Hopewell Valley Garden Club |
| 1918 Garden Club of The Oranges | 1950 Cherry Dell Garden Club of The Plainfields |
| 1920 Garden Study Club of Short Hills | Home Garden Club of Nutley, Inc. |
| 1922 Garden Club of Westfield | Watnong Garden Club of Morris Plains |
| 1924 Bound Brook Garden Club | 1951 Garden Club of Fair Haven |
| Elizabeth Garden Club | 1952 Bridgewater Garden Club |
| 1925 *Basking Ridge Garden Club | Monday Afternoon Club, Garden Dept. — Plainfield |
| Woman's Club of Chatham-Garden Dept. | 1953 Green Thumb Garden Club—Cranford |
| *Clio Club of Roselle, Roselle Park—Garden Dept. | 1954 Garden Club of The Caldwelles |
| *Garden Club of Englewood | Floraphile Garden Club |
| *Garden Club of Essex Fells | Garden Club of Mt. Tabor |
| *Haddonfield Garden Club | North Caldwell Garden Club |
| Home Garden Club of Morristown | The Rake & Hoe Garden Club of Westfield, N.J. |
| *Garden Club of Madison | Somerville Civic League—Garden Dept. |
| Metuchen Garden Club | 1955 The Garden Club of Cedar Grove |
| *Garden Club of Morristown | Edison Garden Club |
| *Passaic Valley Garden Club | Grow & Show Garden Club—Allenhurst |
| Rumson Garden Club | Holly Club of Sea Girt |
| Short Hills Garden Club | Par-Troy Garden Club |
| *Garden Club of Trenton | Rolling Hills Garden Club |
| *Verona Garden Club | The Terra Nova Garden Club |
| *Women Gardeners of Ridgewood | 1956 Green Brook Garden Club of Green Brook Township |
| 1926 Garden Club of Montclair, Inc. | Moorestown Garden Club |
| 1927 Maplewood Garden Club | Northfield Garden Club—Atlantic County |
| Woman's Club of Tenafly—Garden Dept. | Saddle River Garden Club |
| 1928 Allentown Garden Club | Spadenhoe Garden Club |
| The Garden Club of Cranford | 1957 Garden Dept. of the Contemporary Club of Trenton |
| Northfield Garden Club of Livingston | Rockaway Valley Garden Club |
| 1929 Neshanic Garden Club | Short Hills Home Garden Club |
| Garden Club of Somerset Hills | Town & Country Garden Club of Chatham |
| Stony Brook Garden Club | 1958 Dig & Delve Garden Club of Cranford |
| 1930 Bernardsville Garden Club | Scotch Plains Garden Club |
| 1931 Garden Club of Long Branch | Smoke Rise Garden Club |
| South Orange Garden Club, Inc. | The Garden Club of Watchung |
| 1932 Community Garden Club of Hunterdon | 1959 Clark Garden Club |
| Mountainside Garden Club | Dogwood Garden Club of Princeton |
| 1933 Mendham Garden Club | Oakland Garden Club |
| 1934 Trowel Club of New Brunswick | Puddingstone Heights Garden Club |
| 1936 Hanover Garden Club | Warren Garden Club |
| Garden Club of Mountain Lakes | 1960 Bayberry Club of Brielle |
| New Providence Garden Club | Four Seasons Garden Club |
| Sussex Garden Club | Glacier Hills Garden Club |
| 1937 Pines Lake Garden Club | The Garden Club of Long Beach Island, New Jersey |
| 1940 Hunterdon Hills Garden Club | Shrewsbury Garden Club |
| Garden Club of Jersey City | 1961 East Brunswick Garden Club |
| Woman's Club of Caldwell-Garden Dept. | Paramus Garden Club |
| 1941 Garden Club R.F.D., Inc. | 1962 Lawrenceville Garden Club |
| 1944 Crestwood Garden Club of Scotch Plains | The Wyckoff Garden Club |
| Garden Club of Princeton | 1963 West Trenton Garden Club |
| 1946 Kinnelon Garden Club | 1964 The All Seasons Garden Club |
| Washington Valley Garden Club | Lake Valhalla Garden Club |
| 1947 Atlantic Highlands Garden Club | Riverview Garden Club of Greater Wayne |
| Sunny Acres Garden Club | |
| 1948 Kenilworth Garden Club | |
| Navesink Garden Club | |
| Garden Club of Toms River | |

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1949 Brookdale Woman's Club, Garden Dept. | Seaweeders Garden Club |
| 1965 Livingston Garden Club | Garden Club of Florham Park |
| Rocky Brook Garden Club | Woodbridge Garden Club |
| Somerville Spade & Hoe Garden Club | 1974 Pineland Garden Club |
| 1966 Green Thumb Garden Club of Jackson | 1975 Candlewood Garden Club |
| Nottingham Garden Club | Cedar Wood Woman's Club-Garden Dept. |
| 1967 Countryside Garden Club | 1976 Mount Holly Garden Club |
| Garden Club of Milton | Ringwood Garden Club |
| Oceanport Garden Club | Snufftown Garden Club |
| Village Garden Club | 1977 Cherry Hill Garden Club |
| 1968 Chester Garden Club | Garden Club of Demerest |
| Garden Gate Garden Club | 1979 The Happy Workers Garden Club |
| 1969 Rossmore Garden Club | 1982 Women's Club of Little Silver, |
| The Roxbury Garden Club | Garden Dept. |
| 1970 High Point Garden Club | New Vernon Garden Club |
| Mt. Olive Garden Club | Rockaway Boro Garden Club |
| South Brunswick Garden Club | 1983 Packanack Lake Garden Club |
| 1971 Garden Club of West Milford, Inc. | 1984 Ramsey Garden Club |
| Mansfield Garden Club | 1985 Medford Lakes Garden Club |
| 1972 Garden Club of Long Valley | |
| Panther Valley Garden Club | |
| 1973 The Colts Neck Garden Club | |

*Charter Member



SKYLANDS HISTORIC MANOR HOUSE

In March 1984 Governor Thomas Kean officially designated the SKYLANDS GARDENS as the New Jersey State Botanical Gardens. One hundred fifteen acres surround this beautiful Manor unfolding seasonal vistas of color. The GCNJ is a member of the Skylands Association.

FRIENDS OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF NEW JERSEY

Who have aided the publication of this book

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SPONSORS

- All Seasons Garden Club
- Basking Ridge Garden Club
- Brookdale Woman's Club, Garden Dept.
- Cherry Hill Gardeners
- Chester Garden Club
- East Brunswick Garden Club
- Edison Garden Club
- Garden Club of Fair Haven
- The Hanover Garden Club
- Holly Club of Sea Girt, N.J.
- The Garden Club of Long Beach Island
- The Garden Club of Madison
- Garden Club of Montclair, Inc.
- Moorestown Garden Club
- New Providence Garden Club
- Northfield Garden Club of Livingston
- Pinelands Garden Club, Medford
- Pines Lake Garden Club
- The Rake and Hoe Garden Club, Westfield
- Mrs. Charles H. Rohmann
- Rolling Hills Garden Club of Short Hills
- Short Hills Home Garden Club
- Spadenhoe Garden Club of Cranford
- Terra Nova Garden Club
- The Garden Club of Toms River
- Warren Garden Club
- Washington Valley Garden Club
- Garden Club of Watchung
- West Trenton Garden Club
- The Women Gardeners of Ridgewood
- Woodbridge Garden Club
- Wyckoff Garden Club, Inc.

VISIONS OF THE FUTURE

This concludes the review of the last twenty years of service for the Garden Club of New Jersey.

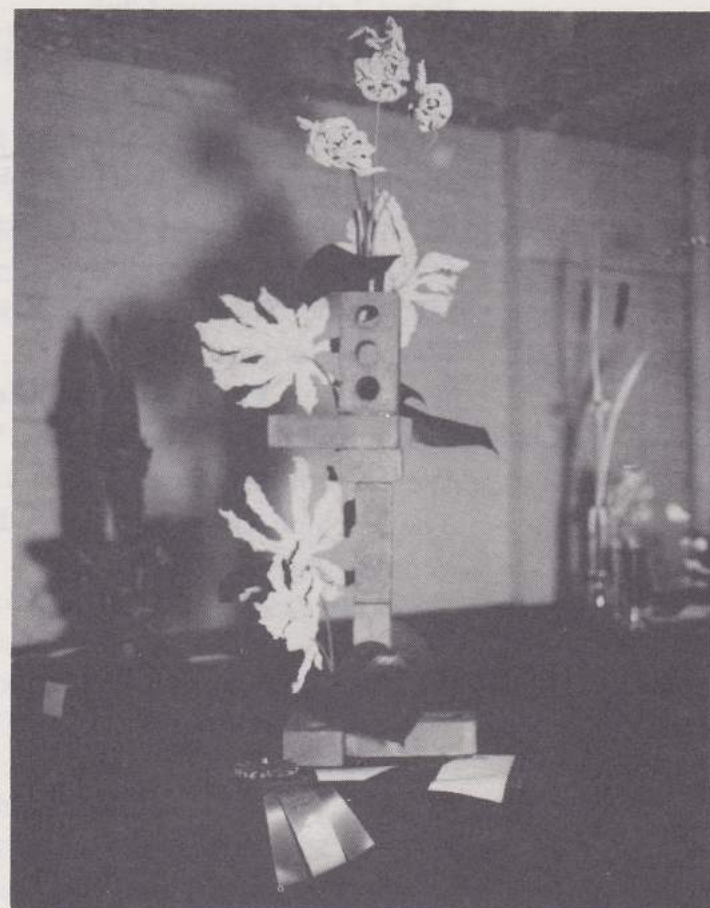
We owe a great debt to the early garden club members who had the foresight and tenacity to start the garden club movement in New Jersey.

We can repay the debt of gratitude to all our leaders and each garden club member, who comprise the mosaic of our federation, by continuing the many programs of conservation, horticultural education and the art of gardening in all its aspects.

Having recorded our yesterdays we push on to better tomorrows—toward the fulfillment of the objectives established by our founders. The love of beauty and nature and the desire not only to enjoy it, but also to open the way for everyone else to appreciate and enjoy this as well.

We can be proud of our gardening heritage. Let us continue to be stewards of our aims and purposes which have been the precious ingredients of the Garden Club of New Jersey since it was founded in 1925.

Marilyn June Litvack
President 1983-1985



THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

The symbol of hope of people from other lands, is being restored. Raising money for this worthwhile cause has been most gratifying. We are glad to have a small part in this National celebration. The New Jersey Garden Club's contributions exceed all expectations. **THE BEACON OF LIGHT WILL SHINE ONCE MORE FOR ALL TO ADMIRE.**



President Mrs. Lyle Johnsrud, National Council President; replica of Miss Liberty, Mrs. Sidney Litvack, GCNJ President; and Mrs. William W. Blake, Chairman, N.J. campaign.

BENEDICTION GIVEN BY MRS. LEWIS M. HULL AT THE ANNUAL MEETING GCNJ, MAY 25, 1977

Dear God, we thank Thee for the beauty of the earth, which has been given us as our dwelling place. Forgive us that we have wasted so much of its treasure and marred so much of its beauty. In penitence we turn to Thee with the prayer that Garden Clubs everywhere will continue to restore our land where carelessly used. O God, we do thank Thee for the beauty of the earth and for the wonder of growing things. We bow in reverence and adoration in the presence of nature's mysteries. May the form of every bud and bloom of every blossom speak to us of the creation and the majesty of the eternal. We have been given fragrance for pleasure and resurgent life in spring as a sign of immortality. As our gardens grow may they reflect the gladness of the earth when given tender care.

This, the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Garden Club of New Jersey, marks an end and a beginning. May the blessing be upon all members of the Garden Club of New Jersey for these past two years, and particularly upon our President who has given almost every waking hour to carry forward the message of appreciation of Thy bounty, the preciousness of growing things in our Gardens, and as the leadership passes to our newly elected President, may she enjoy all our loyalty and the legacy of our efforts to make our state an even more worthy place to be our home.

To all the members of the Garden Club of New Jersey, may you continue your devotion to the principles upon which our organization is founded, and may the grace of God be with you until we meet again.



THE LADY OF THE VIOLETS

This beautiful statue, gift of Mrs. William J. Walters, has found its niche in the library of the GCNJ Headquarters, Holly House.

REFLECTIONS

A TIME TO REMEMBER

This history is a triumph of devoted work by many minds, hands, and hearts. It is with deep humility that I present this volume to you, the reader. Events and facts printed are pure history. Those untold stories will remain with us who, over the years, have had a part in them.

Our minds cannot comprehend all the good things that lie ahead, and as our future goals spur us on to new challenges, the link to the past has already made its connection.

Violet M. Bennett, Editor

*Gratefully
Violet M. Bennett*

The Garden Club of New Jersey Districts



District 1—Ramapo-Pallisades
District 2—South Mountain-Eagle Rock
District 3—Lakeland
District 4—Piedmont Plain

District 5—Watchung Hills
District 6—Foothills
District 7—Delaware Valley
District 8—Shore

From Cape May to High Point, each district has its own inimitable charm. The majestic views from the mountains are breathtaking. Miracles of growing things are seen when walking through the Pine Barrens and other Green Acre areas. One marvels at the acres and acres of farmland planted with such precision, looking as though an artist had used a brush to make the furrows, to have the thrill of catching a speckled trout in the streams and lakes . . . and to enjoy the miles and miles of shoreline, looking over the horizon watching the fishing boats trolling for their catch.

This is New Jersey! These are among the many beauty spots where our clubs are situated.