



Ringwood Garden Club Newsletter

April 2026

President's Message

Dear Members,

Spring has sprung and we can enjoy the welcoming of color and new growth in our gardens and travels. Vibrant bursts of forsythia and daffodils, bellebores, magnolia trees have buds growing just waiting to display the unfolding of soft petals. Ah, the glorious wonder of nature which always brings relief from the winter cold.

I hope the Easter and Passover holiday were meaningful and enjoyable during this time of year.

Our next general meeting is approaching quickly, this month for April we are meeting Tuesday, April 14th at 6 pm in the library. A delightful program will be delivered by Arnie Friedman. Hope you are available to attend and gather for the program.

Looking forward to seeing you next week!

*Warmly,
Pam*



PLANNING & SCHEDULING

APRIL GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 14 AT 6PM
Ringwood Public Library

Presenter: Arni Friedman, MG

Program: Tour of European Gardens

Arnie Friedman is a Master Gardener and certified landscape designer, with formal studies at the New York Botanical Garden. He teaches part-time at NYBG and serves as a guest lecturer for the Rutgers Master Gardener program. He is the former president of the Bergen County Master Gardener Association and spent ten years as Chairman of the Upper Saddle River Shade Tree Commission.

Additionally, he served for five years on the Saddle River Zoning and Planning Board.

Join Arnie Friedman for a captivating journey through some of Europe and England's most enchanting gardens—both grand and intimate—seen through the eyes of two seasoned garden designers. With a deep appreciation for horticultural artistry and an adventurous spirit, these designers explore the enduring beauty of classical landscapes alongside the innovation of contemporary garden design.

Sweet or Savory: Marilyn Fedele

Beverages: Karla Nugent

Floral: Renate Gudat

Friendly Reminder

If you are scheduled to bring **refreshments, beverages or florals** but find yourself unable to attend, please take a moment to reach out to another club member for assistance. Your contribution helps make our gatherings warm and welcoming for everyone!

Thank you for being a thoughtful part of the **Ringwood Garden Club!**

Membership

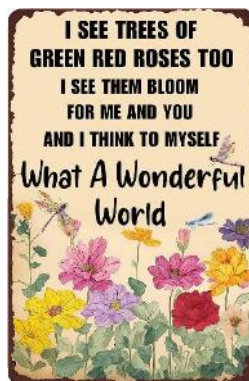
Annual Garden Club Dues 🌿

A heartfelt **thank you** to all members who have already submitted their dues! Your contributions help sustain the vibrant programs and initiatives that make our club special.

How are your dues used?

- 🌸 Support engaging program presenters
- 🎨 Fund supplies for our Holiday Open House
- 📖 Contribute to Library & community outreach projects
- 📰 Cover membership dues for the Garden Club of NJ (which includes a GCNJ newsletter!)

Your participation helps keep our club thriving and ensures an enriching year for all. Thank you for being a valued part of the **Ringwood Garden Club**.



Spring is in the air! Take a picture and share it with the club!
Send your photos to Pam and the photos will be shared in next month's newsletter!

In Renate's Garden



Beautiful Forsythia in Christine's yard



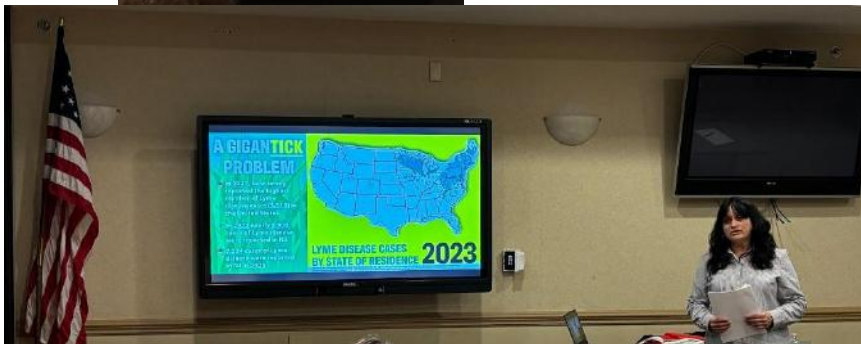
Daffodils and Magnolia about to bloom



Holiday Open House is nearer than you think.... Time to begin the vision of the Botanical Holiday theme for the Study in Skylands Manor. If you are interested in leading the Holiday Open House as Committee Chair, please let Pam or Christel know. Ideally, we will have a meeting mid-summer to brainstorm and prepare for ideas, design, color theme, & orchestration of the set-up and take down this upcoming December.

March meeting review...

The club enjoyed an informative meeting presented by Rashmi Dhenke, MG who provided very helpful information during “the Tick Talk”.



Library Display Case

A beautiful display in the Ringwood Public Library! Jane Nielsen once again has graced the library with a beautifully designed Spring Display. Handcrafted and artistically displayed arrangements welcome all the patrons who visit the library. If you have not seen the display, remember to stop in the library and have a look. Thank you Jane for sharing your wonderful talent and creativity!



Do you have any updated information for the yearbook directory?

The club kindly asks members to update their contact information for the annual printed Yearbook and GCNJ Membership. If you have a preferred cell phone number for club communications, sharing it ensures quick and seamless updates, including important alerts. Please let us know if you would like to provide or update your contact details!

Questions? Reach out to:

☎ **Carol Wrede, Membership Chair** – (cell) 201-341-7588

Email: wredekc@aol.com

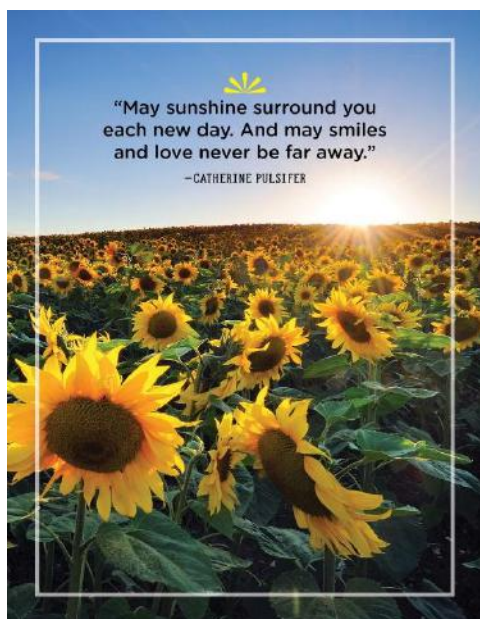
Ringwood Garden Club Volunteers needed.

We are having a few more opportunities this season to share our time with Van Dyk Park Place Assisted Living residents.

April 23 or 24 (TBD)- the community has an ElderGrow raised indoor planter for the residents to use their “green thumbs”. This season we are going to plant a few house plants in the planter and give the residents the opportunity to continue the care and watch the progress of the plantings. If you have small houseplants plants you wish to donate please let Pam know before April 20. We will need approximately 12 plants.

May 27 at 2PM- Herb Garden planting with the members attending Van Dyk Memory Day Care.

June 9 at 2PM- Garden Club Tea Party and miniature flower arrangements.




“May sunshine surround you
each new day. And may smiles
and love never be far away.”
—CATHERINE PULSTER

EVERY GARDEN (CLUB) NEEDS SUNSHINE!

If you know of a club member who is facing illness, grieving a loss, or simply in need of a little sunshine, please reach out to our Sunshine Chairperson, Karen Vieth. She can be contacted at 973-800-4933 or via email at karenyieth@icloud.com. Your kindness will allow Karen to take thoughtful steps to ensure our members feel supported and reminded that their club community cares.

Library Plantings

Let's plant! Our annual planter planting for the season at the Ringwood Public Library back reading garden will take place weather permitting in May. Those interested in helping let Pam know. From past experience we are at the library approximately 2 hours. Pruning, cleaning out some weeds, and old remaining plants from the previous year needs to be completed. Then the new plantings will be planted. We will notify members of a date as we move closer into May. The library staff are so pleased to have the clubs involvement, library staff are willing to maintain the season watering for the club. Hoping to have some members assist!

Home, Gardening and Living info and more:



During the March meeting a request for the name of a herb farm that also sells blends of herbs. Karen and Mark McNierney have gone to this herbalist for years. The owner is Andrea Rizen and the phone number 607-566-2701.

<https://www.healingspiritsherbfarm.com>

Thanks, Karen, for sharing this information!



Anyone up to a planned ride to any of these gardens? If so let me know so we can coordinate the seasonal tours. All three of these gardens are close enough to travel. Depending on interests we may need volunteer drivers! We can make a day trip and include an out to lunch trip or just visit the gardens and return...options are open.

Peony Envy : website: peonysenvy.com

Note: A few members are planning an outing TBD, if interested please let Gerry Shuman know your interest. We are configuring a carpool to take the trip. Cost to enter Peony Envy \$10 per person.

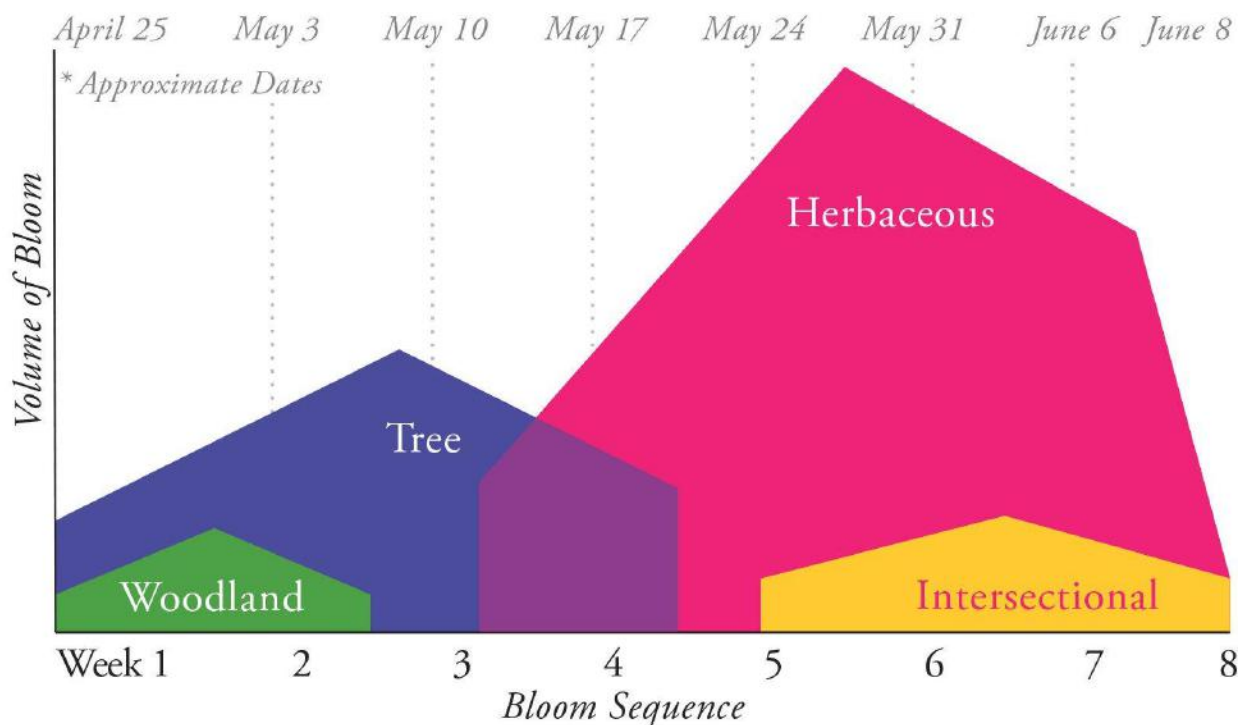
Here is the current information copied direct from the website.

The Four Major Types of Peonies:



[Learn More About the Types of Peonies](#)

Overview of the Bloom Season:



This chart shows how the volume of bloom changes throughout the season.

2026 - Our Best Guess as to What is to Come

WEEK 1 - April 27 through May 1

Tree Peonies in peak bloom!

- **DISPLAY GARDEN** in Bernardsville, NJ open every day 10am-5pm, \$10/person
- **In Bloom:** [Woodland Peonies](#) and [Tree Peonies](#)
- **Shop:** Peony Roots, and Peony Gifts
- **Photography:** If you are looking to take more than a few photos on your phone, visit during our [Amateur Photography Hours](#), 3:30pm-5pm every day \$35/person. [Professional Photography](#) must be booked online in advance.

WEEK 2 - May 2 through May 8

Peak Tree Peony Bloom continues at the Display Garden.

- **DISPLAY GARDEN** in Bernardsville, NJ open every day 10am-5pm, \$10/person
- **In Bloom:** [Suffruticosa Tree Peonies](#), [Gansu Tree Peonies](#), and some remaining [Woodland Peonies](#)
- **Shop:** Peony Roots and Peony Gifts
- **Photography:** If you are looking to take more than a few photos on your phone, visit during our [Amateur Photography Hours](#), 3:30pm-5pm every day \$35/person. [Professional Photography](#) must be booked online in advance.
- **Friday Night Picnic:** May 8, 5:30-7:30pm, adults \$20, children \$10

WEEK 3 - May 9 through May 15

The late Tree Peony Bloom continues and the very early Herbaceous Peony bloom begins. This is the transition week between the two types of peonies.

- **DISPLAY GARDEN** in Bernardsville, NJ open every day 10am-5pm, \$10/person
- **In Bloom:** Late [Gansu Tree Peonies](#) and [Lutea Tree Peonies](#). [True Red Herbaceous](#)
- **Shop:** Peony Roots, Peony Gifts and Cut Flowers
- **Photography:** If you are looking to take more than a few photos on your phone, visit during our [Amateur Photography Hours](#), 3:30pm-5pm every day \$35/person. [Professional Photography](#) must be booked online in advance.
- **Friday Night Picnic:** May 15, 5:30-7:30pm, adults \$20, children \$10.

WEEK 4 - May 16 through May 22

The Peak herbaceous bloom! Rain storms may cause lulls in the bloom but sunshine will revive the garden.

- **DISPLAY GARDEN** in Bernardsville, NJ open every day 10am-5pm, \$10/person
- **In Bloom:** [True Red Herbaceous](#), Coral Herbaceous and [Lutea Tree Peonies](#), [Lactiflora Herbaceous](#) (your grandma's peony)
- **Shop:** Peony Roots, Peony Gifts and Cut Flowers
- **Photography:** If you are looking to take more than a few photos on your phone, visit during our [Amateur Photography Hours](#), 3:30pm-5pm every day \$35/person. [Professional Photography](#) must be booked online in advance.
- **Friday Night Picnic:** May 22, 5:30-7:30pm, adults \$20, children \$10
- **CUT FLOWER FIELDS** in Liberty Corner (Basking Ridge), NJ *might be* open this week. Check that page for details

WEEK 5 - May 23 through May 29

Thousands of peonies in bloom at the beginning of this week. Rain storms may cause lulls in the bloom but sunshine will revive the garden.

- **DISPLAY GARDEN** in Bernardsville, NJ open every day 10am-5pm, \$10/person
- **In Bloom:** [Coral Herbaceous](#), [True Red Herbaceous](#) and [Lactiflora Herbaceous](#) (your grandma's peony). [Intersectional](#) Peony Bloom begins.
- **Shop:** Peony Roots, Peony Gifts and Cut Flowers

- **Photography:** If you are looking to take more than a few photos on your phone, visit during our [Amateur Photography Hours](#), 3:30pm-5pm every day \$35/person. [Professional Photography](#) must be booked online in advance.
- **Friday Night Picnic:** May 29, 5:30-7:30pm, adults \$20, children \$10.
- **CUT FLOWER FIELDS** in Liberty Corner (Basking Ridge), NJ *might be* open this week. Check that page for details

WEEK 6 - May 30 through June 5

The mid and late Herbaceous and Intersectional Peonies put on a show. These are the peonies you know from your childhood. Bloom will begin to fade this week.

- **DISPLAY GARDEN** in Bernardsville, NJ open every day 10am-5pm, \$10/person
- **In Bloom:** [Lactiflora Herbaceous](#) (your grandma's peony) and [Intersectional](#) Peonies
- **Shop:** Peony Roots, Peony Gifts and Cut Flowers
- **Photography:** If you are looking to take more than a few photos on your phone, visit during our [Amateur Photography Hours](#), 3:30pm-5pm every day \$35/person. [Professional Photography](#) must be booked online in advance.
- **Friday Night Picnic:** June 5, 5:30-7:30pm, adults \$20, children \$10
- **Peak Bloom Party** - May 30. Tickets must be purchased in advance
- **CUT FLOWER FIELDS** in Liberty Corner (Basking Ridge), NJ closed.

CLOSING WEEKEND - June 6 through June 7

Final weekend at the Display Garden - The Peony Bloom finishes and we wrap up the season.

- **DISPLAY GARDEN** in Bernardsville, NJ open every day 10am-5pm, \$10/person
- **In Bloom:** A few [Intersectional Peonies](#) and some remaining [Lactiflora Herbaceous](#) (your grandma's peony)
- **Shop:** Peony Roots, Peony Gifts and Cut Flowers
- **Photography:** If you are looking to take more than a few photos on your phone, visit during our [Amateur Photography Hours](#), 3:30pm-5pm every day \$35/person. [Professional Photography](#) must be booked online in advance.
- **CUT FLOWER FIELDS** in Liberty Corner (Basking Ridge), NJ closed.

Anticipated Bloom Season at the Essex County Presby Memorial Iris Gardens

May 15, 2026 - Opening Day – the website will have more details in May

10:00am - 5:00pm

Bloom season begins its annual display starting with our “minis” bearded collection then to our famed tall, bearded irises and ends with our non-bearded irises. The Bloom Room Gift Shop is open. Visitors may purchase potted and bare-root irises from our collection. Check Presby Iris Gardens' website for peak bloom status.



Botanical Garden in Montclair, NJ

21 Van Vleck Street, Montclair, NJ

Seasonal plantings – check website for what is blooming through the season. <https://Montclairfoundation.org>