



June 2026

Maplewood, New Jersey 07040

www.maplewoodgardenclub.org
www.facebook.com/MaplewoodGardenClub



UPCOMING EVENTS

MGC Plant Sale "After-Sale"

The Cronin's Driveway
71 Tuscan Road, Maplewood

Monday, June 1 at 6:30 pm

MGC Awards Dinner

St. George's Church
550 Ridgewood Road, Maplewood

Saturday, June 13, 12 - 4pm

MGC Garden Walk

See inside for details

PLANT SALE 2026

THIS YEAR'S SALE WAS TRULY ONE FOR THE RECORD BOOKS!

The 89th Annual Plant Sale is now part of our history — but its impact will continue to bloom in our gardens and in the gardens of countless friends, neighbors, and new gardeners throughout the community for months and years to come.

Opening Day on Thursday brought our largest turnout ever, with eager shoppers lining up early to get first pick of the spectacular selection of plants. By Friday morning, many visitors were astonished at how much had already sold. The Herb & Veggie tent, usually overflowing with choices, looked remarkably bare by then — a sure sign of just how enthusiastic everyone was about this year's offerings.

continued inside...

~ REMINDER ~

The deadline for the September newsletter is **August 10**.

Send your news and photos to
dianemcollins@yahoo.com



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

JUNE 2026

HAPPY JUNE EVERYONE!!! This will be my last newsletter as president. I hope that you have enjoyed them. I had fun writing them and I have been privileged to be the president for these past two years. We have a great group of Committee Chairs and wonderful members. I have been honored to help with this productive garden club. Get ready to celebrate our anniversary next year! There will be a committee for that, too, don't worry..

OUR GARDENS ARE POPPING and we are all busy planting what we bought at the Plant Sale! What a sale it was! I believe that we broke a few records for sales. Well done Plant Sale Committee! Well done to the many volunteers that helped put it together! We couldn't have done it without you. Unloading and setting up the plants is a really hard job but when you

see everything done as you walk around, it is all worth it. I was euphoric seeing all the

many plants, herbs, veggies, and cacti right before we opened. I had a happy "high" all day long. Again, I want to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who participated in the Plant Sale.

BE SURE TO RESPOND to Ginny Needham-Doyle in reference to our Awards dinner. She and Krystina need to know if you are coming and how you can help. They have planned a lovely dinner for us.

SPRING HAS BEEN rather cool this year. Good weather for gardening. I am looking forward to this year's Members Garden Walk. It is always nice to walk around the gardens and see the interesting, beautiful things that you have done. I have included some photos of my spring garden. Be sure to take some pictures of your gardens over the summer so that you can share them in our terrific newsletter.

REMEMBER, GARDENS are not supposed to be perfect. We want some messy spots for the critters. I welcome the surprise flowers that pop up. Even the dandelions can be helpful. They tell us that our soil needs compost and loosening up. So most of all, enjoy your garden! Have a great summer everyone!

~ Virginia Nordberg

president@maplewoodgardenclub.org



Clematis



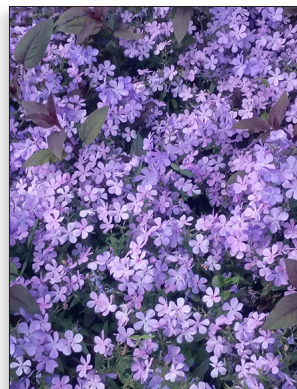
Native green & gold ground cover



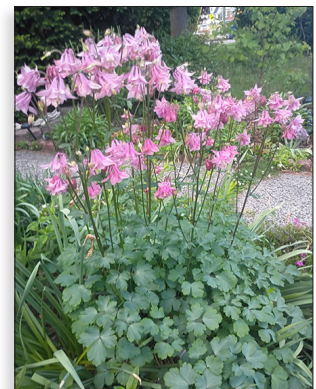
Tree Peony



Native Golden Ragwort



Native Woodland Phlox



Columbine

THE 89TH ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Even with inventory disappearing quickly, customers continued arriving throughout the weekend, filling carts, asking questions, sharing gardening stories, and enjoying the excitement that has made this annual tradition such a beloved community event. By closing time on Saturday, more than 90% of our inventory had been sold. An extraordinary accomplishment — **WELL DONE!**

Beyond the impressive sales numbers, what made this year's Plant Sale so special was the energy, teamwork, and sense of community that could be felt everywhere.

Whether helping customers select the perfect perennial, answering gardening questions, restocking tables, carrying plants to cars, working the register, organizing behind the scenes, or simply greeting visitors with a smile, our volunteers made the event run smoothly from start to finish.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to every volunteer who gave their time, energy, and enthusiasm during the sale weekend. Your willingness to pitch in wherever needed created a welcoming and enjoyable experience for everyone who attended.



And of course, we owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the **Plant Sale Team**. For the past nine months, this dedicated group has worked tirelessly planning, organizing, propagating, potting, labeling, transporting, troubleshooting, and caring

for thousands of plants to ensure we offered a spectacular selection of healthy, thriving specimens. Their commitment, expertise, and countless hours of work are the foundation of the Plant Sale's success year after year.

The 89th Annual Plant Sale was a tremendous success by every measure,

and that success belongs to all of you. Thank you for your hard work, dedication, generosity, and community spirit. We are already looking forward to celebrating our 90th Annual Plant Sale together next year!

~ Lisa Lackey, Plant Sale Chair





THANK YOU CASHIER AND TALLIER VOLUNTEERS!

A big thank you to the Cashier and Tallier Team! You outdid yourselves making the 2026 Plant Sale check out process efficient, friendly, and accurate! Your willingness to come to the trainings, filling in when needed, helping our customers, and looking out for one another made you a gold star team! Thank you, thank you!

~ Christina Ainge



PLANT SALE FOOD THANKS

Thanks to everyone who brought food to the Plant Sale. We couldn't have done it without all those salads, main dishes, cheeses, breads, cookies, and snacks. Our volunteers work hard and we need to treat them right. Your contributions made the difference. We tried our hardest to accommodate any food sensitivities. We always had gluten and dairy free options and labeled things with nuts. If we need to do anything additional next year, please let us know.

We have a couple of plates and a knife (from last year) that were never picked up. Let us know if they are yours.

~ Karen Donovan and Maria Mulkern



PLEASE HOLD THE DATE

**The 2026 Garden Walk will be on
Saturday, June 13 between 12 - 4 pm**

We have several gardeners that are excited to share their gardens with us, with an emphasis on shade.

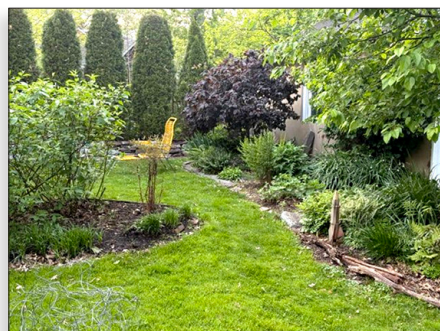
Step into the shade, take a deep breath and take in the cool vibe!

Here are a couple of sample pics to build the excitement, full flyer to come!

Please reach out to Mindy Greenspan with any questions at (201) 704-3064 or mindygreenspan@gmail.com.

Hope to see many Club members at the walk!

~ Mindy Greenspan (201) 704-3064
mindygreenspan@gmail.com



MEMBERS KEEPING IN TOUCH

- Our member, Susan Jacobsen, passed away at the end of March. She was very helpful at the Plant Sale and always had a big smile. We send our sympathy to her family.
- Our long time member, Yukiko Shuya, passed away on April 17th, her birthday, after a long illness. All of her plantings were full of delicacy and grace. We send our sympathy to her husband Bill Thar, her daughters Clare and Ida and her granddaughter Sophia.
- We send best wishes to Juliet Powel after her hip surgery. Walking will be great soon.
- We wish Jane Brick a very fast recovery after a fall and the breaking of three ribs. But, Jane is always cheerful even with pain.
- Joanne Beckerich will be leaving Maplewood for her new home in Manahawkin. Joanne has been a back bone of the Garden Club and Plant Sale for many, many years. Hope that life at the shore will be wonderful. Now, different types of plants will grow in your garden. That will be a joy for you! Good luck, Joanne!
- Congratulations to Louie Collins, son of Diane Collins and grandson of Judy and Dennis Cronin. He is graduating from Saint Joseph's in Philadelphia with a Masters Degree in Applied Behavior Analysis.
- Jack Bharucha, grandson of Evie and Behram is receiving his Masters Degree in International Relations from American University this May. Congratulations.

~ Evie Bharucha (973) 763-6875 bharucha@verizon.net



THE MGC "AFTER-SALE" IS OPEN!

JUDY & DENNIS CRONIN'S DRIVEWAY
71 TUSCAN ROAD, MAPLEWOOD

HOURS ARE SUNUP TO SUNSET

Payment can be made by VENMO, exact cash or checks. It is an honor system and checks and cash can be put in the mailbox attached to the side of the house.

There are veggies and herbs, sun and shade annuals and perennials, and tender perennials!

We have ferns, roses, ginger, hanging baskets, geraniums, ivy, shrubs, petunia, sweet potato vine, and much more!

The Plant Sale is our only fundraiser! Come and check us out and help Maplewood Garden Club give back to our community!

~ Judy Cronin (973) 763-5070 judymcronin@gmail.com





THE 89TH ANNUAL 2026

PLANT SALE





CONSERVATION CORNER

JUNE 2026

While gardening this spring I couldn't help but notice that the soil seemed unseasonably dry in places. I then read an article in The Great Swamp Watershed newsletter that confirmed that NJ is in year two of a statewide drought. State Climatologist and GSWA Board Member Dr. Dave Robinson stated that although last winter was snowy, there wasn't sufficient "liquid" precipitation to recharge our state reservoirs, which are only at about half capacity, versus the necessary 80-85%. He called winter droughts "sneaky" because their impacts are not felt until later in the summer. Droughts are part of climate change, as are floods and extremes of heat and cold. For now, suffice it to say that we should be mindful of planning for a low water summer. Plenty of mulch will help!

With the warm weather comes outdoor evening gatherings, which require outdoor lighting. I've noticed in my neighborhood that more and brighter lighting is becoming quite common. While it's lovely to gather outdoors on a summer night, artificial lighting has a negative impact on many pollinators. This is especially true for our beloved lightning bugs, or fireflies, the numbers of which have dramatically decreased in recent years. Light pollution also can harm nocturnal wildlife, disrupting the roosting and foraging behavior of bats



Summit Farmers Market

(important insect eaters and pollinators) and confuse birds during migration. Downward facing lights and motion sensors can help, as well as turning lights off overnight. Our winged friends will thank you.

One thing that can put a real damper on being outdoors in summer is mosquitoes and ticks. In recent years there's been a proliferation of ads for companies offering pest control services. These companies are generally spraying broad spectrum herbicides that will harm or eliminate all insects. Looking closely at one postcard I received it actually listed ladybird beetles (aka ladybugs) on the list of "enemies"! There is a vast array of beneficial insects that contribute to our complex natural food web—

eliminating them can reduce natural insect predators, food for birds and pollinating insects. Please think twice before subscribing to these services.

Lastly, one major joy of living in New Jersey in the summer is all the local Jersey Fresh produce. These markets have the best of local produce and delicious small batch foods, so support agriculture in the Garden State and visit one, or several, this year. Explore NJ published this extensive list explorenewjersey.org/new-jersey-farmers-market-season-2026. Each market has its own unique character and offering. I try to visit new ones each year.

~ Virginia Lamb virginialamb1@yahoo.com

MGC ANNUAL MEETING & AWARDS DINNER

Monday, June 1, 2026 at 6:30 pm

Sign up by logging on to
www.signupgenius.com/go/MGC2026AwardsDinner

Hope to see you there!

~ Ginny Needham-Doyle (973) 985-1926

REMINDER

**Please don't forget to pay
your **DUES** to the
Maplewood Garden Club!**

MANY THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO:

Helped pot up plants in March — Kathy, Bill, Maria, Karen, Vicky, Sue, Juliet, Ginny N., Ray and Joseph, Peter, Kris, Megan, Debby, Bernadette, Joanne R. and Stephen, Joanne D., Jess, Jane, Julia, PJ, Diane, Lori, Val, Jeanne W., Joanne B., Steven, Carolyn, Robert, Virginia, Christina, Lisa B., Michelle, Carole, Lisa L., Brenda, Terri, Anne Marie, Roz, Terry K. and Nancy, Maureen, Mindy, George, Margo, Mary-Ellen, Aileen, Ann, Jen, Jeanne F., Ginny M., Francine, Gary, Susan, Sheryl, Debbi, Peggy, and Matthew;



Unloaded a truck full of shrubs and perennials in April —

Anne-Marie, Sarah T., George, Terry S., Maria, Susan, Virginia, Rachel, Josie, Lisa L., Kathy, and David;

Loaded plants into vehicles at the greenhouse for toting to the pool in May —

Sarah R., Krystina, Joy, Terry S. and Samantha, Aileen and Dave, Josie and Richard, Sarah T., Peggy, and Camille.

Because of you, preparations for the Plant Sale went very smoothly. My deepest gratitude to you all!

...and in May ready for the Plant Sale!

~ Laura Nial



'Hairy' Veronica Perfectly Picasso at potting up in March...

MOTHER'S DAY BASKETS WERE EXCELLENT!



Because of the efforts of some MGC members who made bows, donated baskets, and prepared bows, the baskets looked fabulous. We made 84 baskets and have zero left! The leads, Veronica and Penelope Demkin-Dick, had help from Judy Cronin, Liz Demkin, Karen Donovan, and Jennifer Richardson, as well as friends, Stephanie Arot, and Kathleen Digiulio, and Jordyn Neverson. Beautiful work, ladies.

~ Liz Demkin

MGC AT MAYFEST

Our Club was again represented at Mayfest this year, and what a day we had!

Thanks to Bill Kolhman for setting up the tent; without it we would have melted, but as it was, we enjoyed a pretty nice breeze in the shade.

We spoke with lots of people who were interested in learning about our mission and activities, which was the primary goal of the day. We handed out lots of brochures and even sold over \$150 worth of plants.

A big thank you goes out to the following folks (alphabetical order) for spending time repping our Club: Liz Demkin, Alex Demkin-Dick, Penelope Demkin-Dick, Veronica Demkin-Dick, Sarah Guardia, Ginny Needham-Doyle, Virginia Nordberg, Juliet Powell, Sue Tully, and Zoe Turnpaugh. They did a great job, with enthusiasm!

~ Liz Demkin



MAY EXHIBIT WINNERS

ARTISTIC DESIGN

Theme: Rain or Shine - Flowers with a Mix of Shapes and Colors

Challenge: Creative Mass Design

1st: Sue Tully

2nd: Vicky Borrone

Intermediate: Framed Spatial Design

1st: Jennifer Richardson

2nd: Christina Ainge

Novice: European Traditional Design - English: Victorian Era
No Entries

Open:

1st: Vicky Borrone

HORTICULTURAL

1. ***Pelargonium* (geranium)**

1st: Jennifer Richardson (red)

2nd: Jane Brick (pink)

2. **Flowering Branch**

1st: Jane Brick – Viburnum

2nd: Vicky Borrone – Pussy Willow

3rd Place: Christina Ainge – Lilac

3. ***Marigold***

No Entries

4. **Open**

1st: Susan Darwin – Iris Germanica (white);

2nd: Jennifer Richardson – Geranium (cut flower)

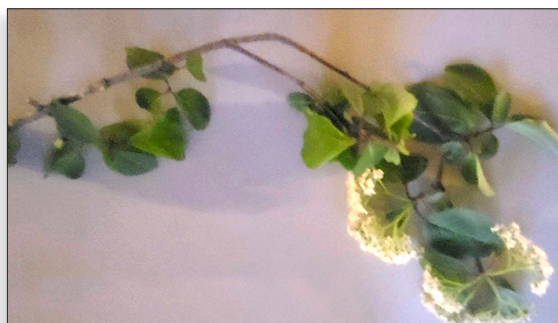
3rd: Jennifer Richardson – Kalanchoe

HM: Jane Brick – Hibiscus (over-wintered)

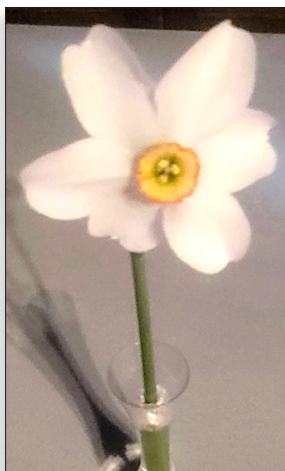
HM: Susan Darwin – *Narcissus poeticus*

For Display Only:

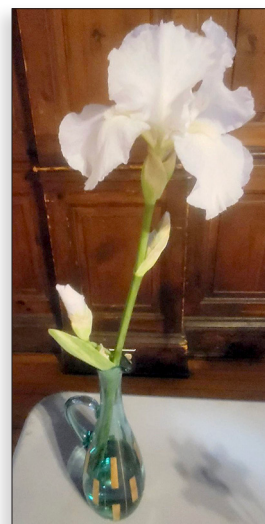
Susan Darwin – Iris (purple)



Jennifer Richardson - 3rd



Susan Darwin - HM



Susan Darwin - 1st



Vicky Borrone - 2nd

EXHIBITORS CORNER

Vicky Borrone and I would like to extend our gratitude to all the members who participated this season in either, or both, of the Exhibit's categories, Artistic Design and/or the Horticulture. We are both stepping down from the monthly Exhibits next season but leave you in good hands with Susan Darwin, who will be taking over the role.

This season proved to be a successful year with members bringing in designs and plants throughout the season, whether they were to be judged or just for educational purposes. Overall, there were 15 members who participated in the Artistic Design Exhibits, according to their level of achievement, and 23 members who participated in the Horticultural Exhibits.

Next season we hope to entice more members to show us their creative sides by introducing the Artistic Crafts, which is part of the Botanical Arts, Chapter 10 of the latest version of the "National Garden Clubs, Inc., *Handbook for Flower Shows*" (revised July 2024) for more detail. The *Handbook* is available on the MGC website maplewood-gardenclub.org under **Calendars** -> **Design Exhibit Schedule** -> **National Garden Club-Handbook for Flower Shows** (blue link).

In September, you will be asked to create a necklace using plant material on all visible areas. For example, you may use wire to form your necklace if all of it, including the clasp and closure, is covered with plant material, fresh or dried, and cannot be seen. Alternatively, you could use only plant materials to make the necklace. Be sure to check the schedule for other items to be decorated each month. So, get out your paint, stain and glue guns and get creative!

~ Sue Tully (862) 266-3991 stullynj@gmail.com

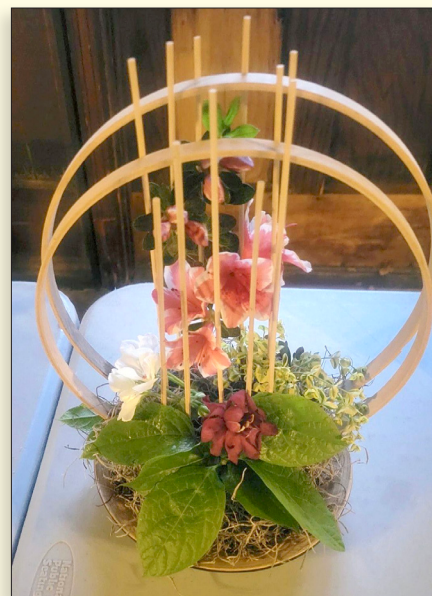
MAY 2026 EXHIBIT AWARDS



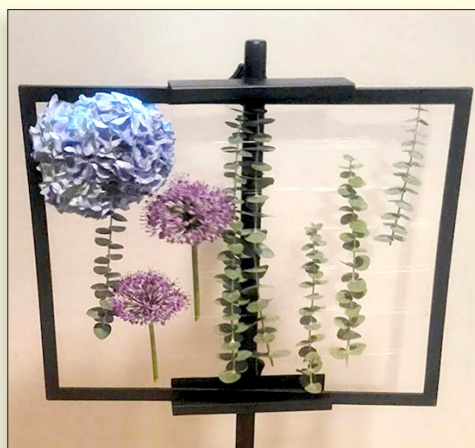
Sue Tully - 1st Challenge



Vicky Borrone - 2nd Challenge



Jennifer Richardson - 1st Intermediate



Christina Ainge - 2nd Intermediate



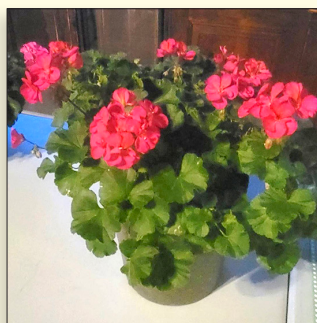
Vicky Borrone - 1st Open



Christina Ainge - 3rd



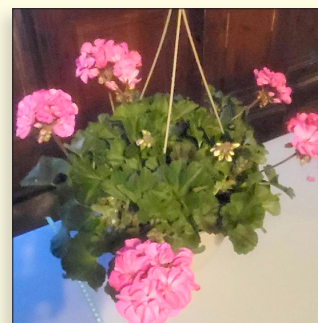
Jane Brick - HM



Jennifer Richardson - 1st



Jennifer Richardson - 2nd



Jane Brick - 2nd

VOLUNTEERS
AT THE 2026

PLANT SALE



2026 MGC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Dear Members,

It is that time of the year again when we renew our memberships with the Maplewood Garden Club. It is important that we get all our renewals completed by April 30th when our membership roster is due to The Garden Club of New Jersey who provides us our insurance policy to which the member roster is critical. So please get your renewals in on time so we can include you on our roster with GCNJ. Any new members who joined after December 1, 2025 are considered already paid for 2026 and do not need to pay again. I will be at the meetings and if members don't want to make any changes, they can leave checks or cash with me.

Thank you,
Christina Ainge
MGC Membership Chair

INDIVIDUAL: \$20.00

FAMILY: \$30.00

Please make check payable to Maplewood Garden Club, and mail along with this form by April 15th to:

Maplewood Garden Club, c/o Christina Ainge, P.O. Box 188, Maplewood, NJ 07040

Name: _____
(please print)

Address: _____
(please print)

Phone #: _____ **Amount enclosed:** _____
(please print)

Note: Email is our preferred method of communication and for those members who give consent email addresses will be printed in the yearbook. *Please print clearly.*

Email: _____
(All email addresses are used for Garden Club business and correspondence only)

Please check boxes:

- ☐ I give MGC permission to also include my email address in the Club's yearbook.
- ☐ I want to "Go Green", please email me my Maplewood Garden Club Newsletters.

All email addresses are for the use of the Garden Club business and correspondence only.

INTERESTS

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Annual Plant Sale | ☐ Community Projects |
| ☐ Durand-Hedden Herb Garden | ☐ Workshops |
| ☐ Monthly Meeting Exhibits | ☐ Nursery Garden |
| ☐ Plant Propagation | ☐ Railroad Station Decorating |
| ☐ Wreath Making | ☐ Youth Garden |
| ☐ Horticultural Therapy | ☐ Green Day |

If your circumstances have changed and you wish to resign your membership, please let us know by sending a note in the enclosed envelope, so that follow-up calls to you won't be necessary.

MAY RAFFLE

We had seven lucky raffle winners in May. **Vicky Borrone** is in for some garden fun with her grandkids planting her new Seed Pops. **Debbi Black** will be reporting our rainfalls with her new rain gauge. **Peggy D'Amato-Freeman's** plants will be looking cute on her new chartreuse plant table. **Jennifer Richardson** will stay clean in the garden with a beautiful flowered kneeler and matching gloves. **Susan Darwin** can carry tools and plants with ease in her new garden tote. **Donovan Collins** will be able to see in his garden at night after lighting his new tiki torches. **Terry Schwarz** was the lucky May Birthday Raffle winner and will trim with ease with some new garden clippers. Happy Birthday to Terry and everyone else celebrating a May birthday.

At every meeting we have FREE raffle of fun items which I try to coordinate with the season or the speaker. If you have something NEW or LIKE NEW that you would like to donate to the raffle, you can bring it to any meeting or drop it off on my front porch. This month, none of the seven raffle gifts were donated, a VERY RARE occurrence.

~ Karen Donovan (973) 762-5484

Maplewood Garden Club



maplewoodgardenclub.org

