maplewood garden club

mgc

October 2026

Maplewood, New Jersey 07040

www.maplewoodgardenclub.org
www.facebook/MaplewoodGardenClub

THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER

LYNNE PROSKOW *presents*

PLANTING FALL, SPRING AND SUMMER BULBS USING CONTAINERS

OCTOBER 5 AT 7:30 PM



Have you heard of the "lasagna" method of planting bulbs? Make some beautiful displays and keep those pesky critters from digging them up so you get to enjoy them. Perennial bulbs planted in the fall are spring-blooming favorites like Daffodils, Crocuses, Hyacinths, Tulips and Alliums. Some summer flowering bulbs like Calla and Canna Lillies and Elephant Ears will also be discussed. This presentation does include a demonstration.

Lynne is a lifelong organic gardener, who is passionate about healthy food, healing nature through eco-restoration, composting and teaching the benefits of regenerative gardening practices. She holds a BA from UMASS in Sustainable Food Systems, holds certificates from Stockbridge School of Agriculture and Rutgers Master Gardener programs, Rutgers Environmental Stewards program, Teaching in Nature's Classroom (Wisconsin School Garden Network, Rooted, Life Lab), UNDP Learning for Nature Ecosystem Restoration course, and the NJ Learns Keystone Program Introduction to Education for Sustainability from the Cloud Institute. She is a member of The Society for Ecological Restoration and NOFA-NJ. She presents talks as a member of the MGBC speaker's bureau and loves sharing her knowledge gleaned over the years with others who are also searching for answers on what they can do for their gardens, the health of their families, and the earth.



MISSING Vicky Borrone is missing the vase that displayed her *Zinnia* flower at last month's meeting. It is a 6" clear glass vase standing on a black wrought iron base molded into six leaves. The iron wraps around the glass as well. If found, contact Vicky at (973) 763-0633 mborrone@hotmail.com. Thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, Oct. 5 at **7:30 pm**
Monthly Meeting
The Woodland
60 Woodland Road, Maplewood

Sunday, October 17
10 am - Noon
Ornament Workshop #1
DeHart Park Community Center,
120 Burnett Avenue



PLANT SWAP

If you have been busily propagating over the summer, or have some plants in need of a new home before the cold weather sets in, please bring them to the **October meeting**. Plants, cuttings, seeds, all welcome. Please make sure to bring home any materials that might be left at the meeting's end.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

OCTOBER 2026

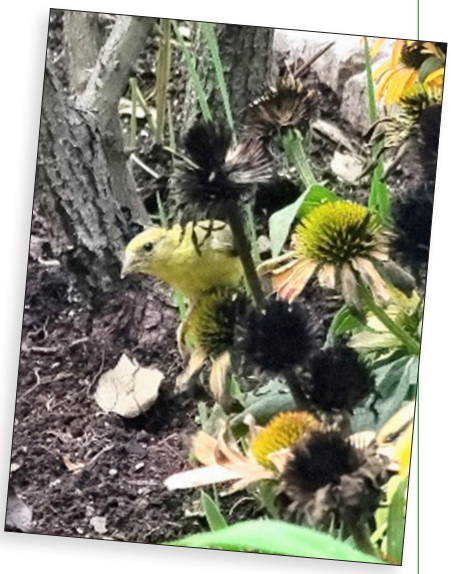


AS WE SLOW ROLL in to Autumn, don't forget the essential tasks to get your indoor and outdoor gardens ready for the cooler weather and shorter days.

IN SEPTEMBER, many of us harvested late summer crops, planted cool-season vegetables (if you were so inclined), and prepared perennials for the coming winter.

IN OCTOBER we don't rest on our laurels. We bring tender plants indoors and give the lovelies a good spray and/or soak to get rid of the critters that hide in the soil and on the leaves and stems to keep them healthy and critter free.

WE CONTINUE TO harvest late-season crops, plant spring-blooming bulbs, divide perennials and shred our fall leaves to use as mulch.



I KNOW MANY OF US are tempted to clean up garden beds before the first frost arrives in late October or early November. A nice tidy garden looks nice, but an untidy garden is better. While it saves time, it also creates a natural sanctuary for wildlife and enriches the soil for next year. Seedheads are a nice food source for our bird friends to carry them into Autumn and through the Winter. Echinacea/coneflower, I am looking at you. →

THIS IS ALSO THE perfect time of year to frolic among the pumpkin patches and corn mazes, to visit the many farms and gardens in the Garden State, to enjoy fall festivals, autumn flowers and foliage, and to pick your own produce.
Apple Picking Anyone?

~ Juliet P. Powell
president@maplewoodgardenclub.org



Fall is proof that change is beautiful. ~ Unknown

Autumn is springtime in reverse. ~ Terri Guillemets

IT'S ORNAMENT-MAKING TIME!



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, FROM 10 AM - NOON
MAPLEWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER AT DEHART PARK, 120 BURNET AVE.

It's that wonderful time of year when we begin creating ornaments for the **Maplewood Station Holiday Tree!**

With forest fires raging across the world, trees have had a particularly tough time of it. This year, we're celebrating trees by giving their beautiful leaves a second life—turning flattened, dried leaves into shimmering holiday ornaments.

Come join us as we paint these natural specimens in **silver and gold**, then add even more color and sparkle with acrylic paint pens. Our finished leaves will shimmer and shine, sparkle and splash with color—a celebration of our love for trees everywhere.

No experience necessary—just bring your creativity and holiday spirit!

~ Lisa Lackey (917) 334-9265 ljlackey@yahoo.com

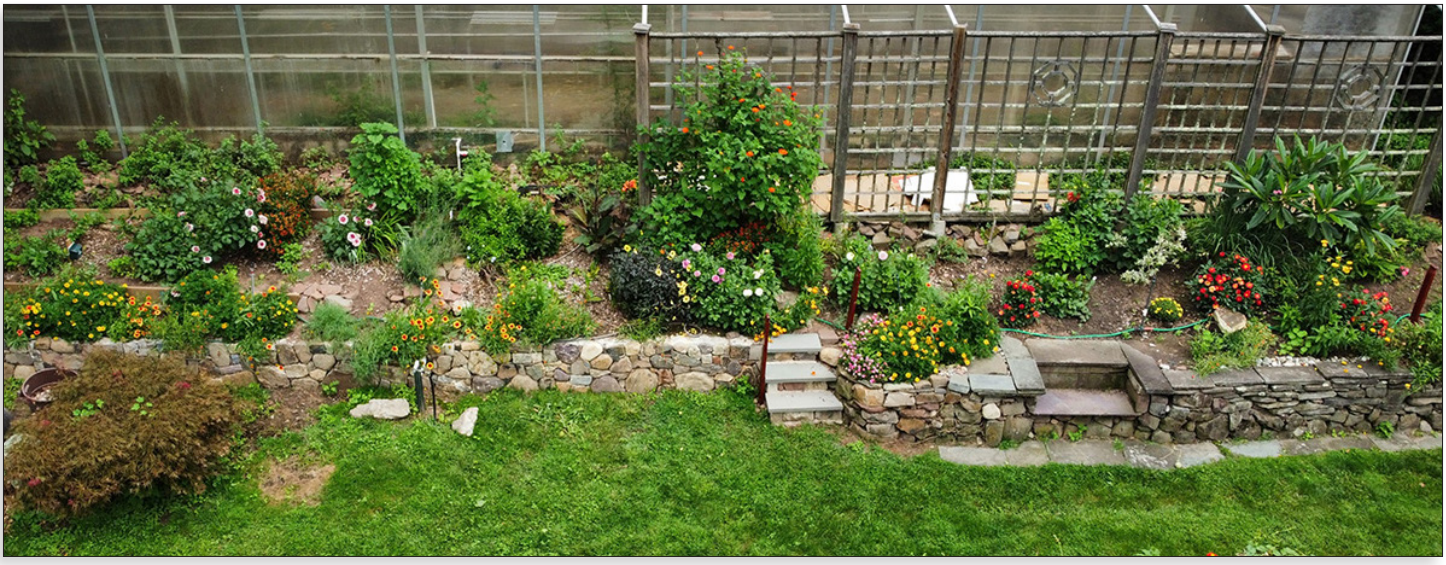
MGC'S MEMORIAL BED!

The renovation/expansion of our Memorial Bed alongside the rental greenhouse is looking wonderful! Great work!

~ David Nial (973) 762-4136 nial590@verizon.net

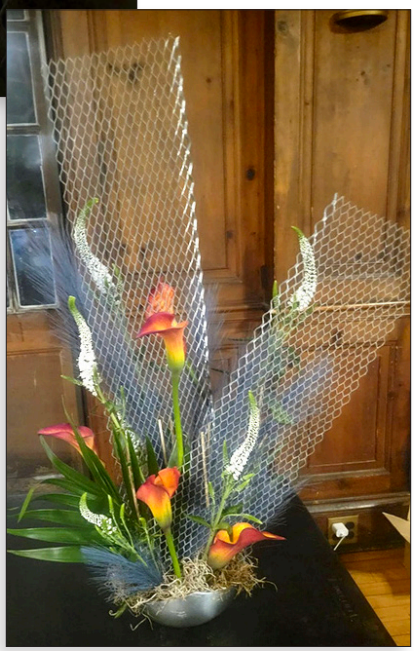








Kathy Kohlman: 1st Challenge



Jennifer Richardson: 2nd Challenge



Vicky Borrone: 3rd Challenge

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Maplewood Garden Club Scholarship Committee is very pleased to present one more thank you note from a 2026 recipient of the Maplewood Garden Club Scholarship.

~ Jen Lieberman

June 7, 2026

Dear Members of the Maplewood Garden Club,

I am incredibly grateful to have been selected as a recipient of the Elizabeth and Karl Ehricke Maplewood Garden Club Scholarship. I sincerely appreciate your generosity and the support you have chosen to provide to students like me at Rutgers University.

Receiving this scholarship means a great deal to me. Pursuing a college education is a significant investment, and your generosity helps make that investment more manageable while allowing me to focus more of my time and energy on my education and future career. It is especially meaningful to know that there are people and organizations willing to invest in the next generation of students and professionals.

As a student studying Landscape Architecture at Rutgers University, I am passionate about the relationship between people, design, and the natural environment. My education has given me the opportunity to explore how thoughtful landscape design can create meaningful spaces while responding to environmental and community needs. I hope to take what I learn at Rutgers and use it to create landscapes that are both beautiful and beneficial to the people and environments they serve.

Your scholarship not only provides financial assistance, but also serves as encouragement to continue pursuing these goals. Knowing that others believe in my education and future motivates me to make the most of the opportunities I have been given.

Thank you again for your generosity and for supporting Rutgers students through the Elizabeth and Karl Ehricke Maplewood Garden Club Scholarship. I am truly honored to receive this award, and I hope that through my education and future career I can make the most of your investment in me.

With sincere gratitude,

Ian Fisher, *Rutgers University School of Environmental and Biological Sciences*









CONSERVATION CORNER

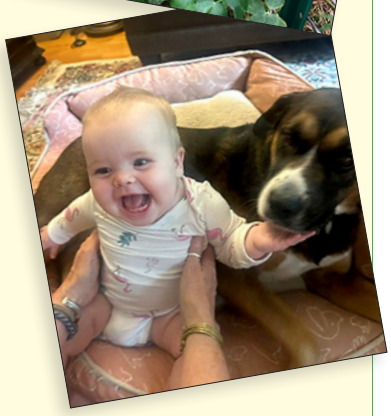
OCTOBER 2026

As I was mulling over possible topics for this month (stormwater, global fertilizer issues, food waste diversion, perennial food crops for home gardeners), I began to think over my summer and looked through the pictures on my phone. I got to do so many wonderful things as part of life on this beautiful planet that I love so much! My highlight list: I made lots of pesto, welcomed babies, helped my youngest move out, made lots of compost, saw beautiful sunrises/sunsets/rainbows, started gardens, harvested my first elderberries and made syrup, taught in education programs, gave my dog ice cream, learned how to graft fruit trees, attracted pollinators, celebrated at weddings, enjoyed my garden produce, and shared time with friends and family. I learned and loved so much.

Life can be so challenging, and we sometimes get so caught up in the strife that we miss the everyday miracles. So, I'm inviting you to take a look through your camera roll and reflect on the wonderful things you've recently done. You might be surprised, like I was, at all the wonderful things. With love,

~ Virginia Lamb virginialamb1@yahoo.com













SEPTEMBER EXHIBITS RESULTS

ARTISTIC DESIGN

Theme: Roaring '20s Swing Movement

Challenge: Creative Transparency Design
1st: Kathy Kohlman
2nd: Jennifer Richardson
3rd: Vicky Borrone

Intermediate: Creative Mass-Line Design
1st: Christina Ainge

Novice: American Traditional Mass Design: Asymmetrical L-Shaped Triangle Design
2nd: Lissy Grey

Open: Designer's Choice
No Entries

HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITS

1. **Tomato**, (maximum 3 varieties per member); if Cherry Tomatoes, must have minimum of 5 of each variety on separate plates
1st: Christina Ainge - Supersweet 100's
2nd: Kristopher Butcher - Harvest Moon
2nd: Kristopher Butcher - Sungold Cherry

2. **One small bouquet of herbs of a single variety**
1st: Kristopher Butcher - White Sage
2nd: Susan Darwin - Rosemary
3rd: Christina Ainge - Thai Basil

2. **(Bonus) Annual**
HM: Jane Brick - *Dahlia*
HM: Jane Brick - *Dahlia*

3. ***Zinnia***, 1 cut stem in a clear glass vase/container
1st: Jess Gordon
1st: Kristopher Butcher
2nd: Kristopher Butcher
2nd: Jess Gordon
2nd: Vicky Borrone
2nd: Kristopher Butcher
3rd: Susan Darwin
3rd: Mike Brick

3. **(Bonus) Perennial**
1st: Mike Brick - Chinese Lantern Branch

4. **Open** (maximum 2 entries per person)
1st: Kristopher Butcher - Marigold
1st: Jane Brick - *Hibiscus*
1st: Virginia Nordberg - Elephant Foot
2nd: Joanna Rich - *Hydrangea*
2nd: Virginia Nordberg - Wrinkle-leaf Goldenrod

Class A: Vegetables
1st: Olapeju Adeniji - Habanero Pepper
2nd: Olapeju Adeniji - Yellow Bell Pepper
3rd: Susan Darwin - Christmas Lima Beans

Class B: Coleus
1st: Mike Brick
2nd: Jane Brick

Class C: Roses
1st: Joanna Rich - "Clare Austen"
2nd: Susan Darwin - "Adolf Horstmann"

Class D: Dalhia
1st: Kristopher Butcher - "Park Princess"
2nd: Jane Julich
HM: Jane Julich

Class E: Potted Plants
1st: Liz Demkin - *Pothos*
1st: Jennifer Richardson - Angel Wing Begonia
1st: Laura Nial - *Davallia fejeensis*
2nd: Jennifer Richardson - Black Pagoda Lipstick
2nd: Liz Demkin - African Violet
2nd: Jess Gordon - *Cattleya Potinara* Little Goldfish Orchid
3rd: Laura Nial - *Aglaonema*


Kris Butcher: 1st


Jess Gordon: 1st


Jane Julich: HM


Kris Butcher: 1st


Kris Butcher: 1st

EXHIBITORS CORNER

We are off and running! September's meeting was filled with **more than 40 entries**, and it was wonderful to see all the beautiful plants growing in our members' gardens and windowsills. Thank you to everyone who participated!

Judging takes time and attention, **so please have everything in place by 7:15**, and then clear a path so our judges have plenty of room to look at and consider each entry. Filling out the cards completely is also important. Not having the Latin name for your entry, for example, could be the tiebreaker between two beautiful, otherwise perfect specimens!

Starting in October, once we're sure each card is filled out correctly, we will Scotch tape the bottom closed so contributor names remain concealed throughout the judging. This should make the winning announcements a little more exciting!

I also want to apologize for an issue with September's newsletter. The horticulture section of the exhibit listing was incorrect. Fortunately, the information was correct on the website, in our member books, and on the judging assignment sheet, so almost everyone arrived with the right items. We sent an email blast with the correction as soon as it was noticed, and Judge Judy Cronin graciously created bonus categories for the extra entries. This month, I'll proof the newsletter more closely. Rookie mistake!

There were a few other small bumps along the way, but I'm sure we'll smooth those out as the year progresses. Olapeju Adeniji (PJ), and I will continue working closely with our judges to ensure an interesting, fair, and fun exhibit presentation for everyone.

Congratulations to all who participated! Every submission represents the joys of gardening and demonstrates that good things grow with time and attention. Thank you for your patience as we come up to speed—and I'm looking forward to seeing what October brings!

~ Susan Darwin (917) 545-5428 mail@susandarwin.com

~ REMINDER ~

The deadline for the November newsletter is **Friday, October 9**.

Send your news items and photos to dianemcollins@yahoo.com

OCTOBER DESIGN EXHIBITS



ARTISTIC DESIGN

Please read "Artistic Division Rules" on page 12 in the current yearbook, as well as the 2017 revised edition of the *Handbook for Flower Shows*.

Theme: 1930-40s Jazz

Challenge: Creative Abstract Design, see *Handbook*, pages 72, 77.

Intermediate: Creative Angular Design: Obtuse Angle, see *Handbook*, pages 72-73.

Novice: American Traditional Line: Mass Design - Vertical Line, see *Handbook*, pages 70-71.

Open: Designer's Choice (one entry per member)

HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITS

Please read "Horticulture Division Rules" on page 12 in the current yearbook, as well as the 2017 revised edition of the *Handbook for Flower Shows*.

1. ***Coleus***, cut stem displayed in a clear glass vase/ container
2. **Squash or Pumpkin**, 1 small to medium sized specimen
3. ***Dahlia***, 1 cut stem displayed in a clear glass vase/ container
4. **Open** (maximum 2 entries per person)

September Exhibit Awards



Christina Ainge: 1st Inter.



Lissy Gray: 2nd Novice



Viginia Nordberg: 2nd



Mike Brick: 1st



Jane Julich: 2nd



Joanna Rich: 1st



Mike Brick: 3rd



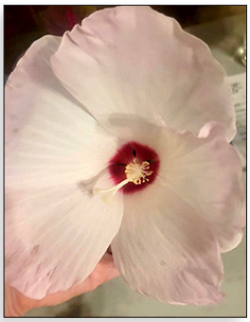
Susan Darwin: 2nd



Jess Gordon: 2nd



Susan Darwin: 3rd



Jane Brick: 1st



Jane Brick: HM



Susan Darwin: 2nd



Kris Butcher: 2nd



Vicky Borrone: 2nd



No Name



Virginia Nordberg: 1st



Jane Brick: HM



Kris Butcher: 1st



Susan Darwin: 2nd



Christina Ainge: 3rd



Mike Brick: 1st



Kris Butcher: 2nd



Olapegu Adeniji: 2nd



Christina Ainge: 1st



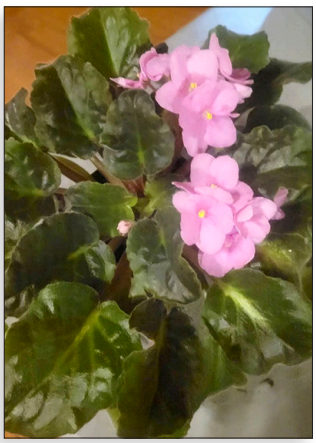
Kris Butcher: 2nd



Olapegu Adeniji: 1st



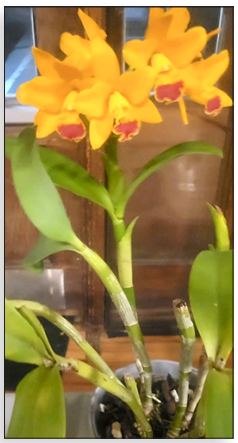
David Nial



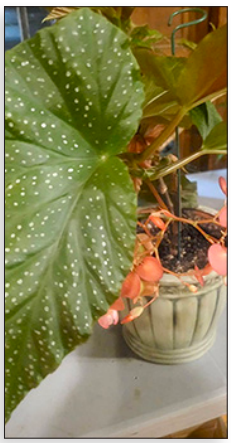
Liz Demkin: 2nd



Jennifer Richardson: 2nd



Jess Gordon: 2nd



J. Richardson: 1st



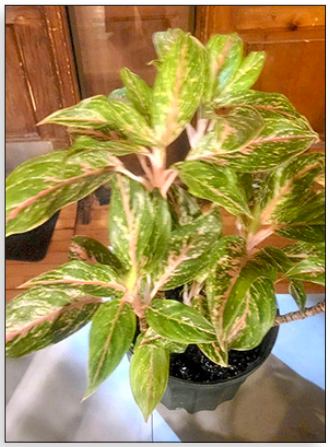
Liz Demkin: 1st



Jane Brick: 2nd



Laura Nial: 1st



Laura Nial: 3rd

SEPTEMBER RAFFLE

In gardening, Water is Life and this month we were flooded with winners each going home with a water-related prize.

Elaine Collins will have a well-hydrated tree using her "Treegator" drip irrigator. A cute little Bud Vase will keep **Josie S.**'s blooms sucking up water. **Ann Turalski**'s houseplants will be fed with a beautiful new Watering Can. **Peggy D'Amato-Freeman** and **Jennifer Richardson** both luckily have new Hose Nozzles because you know those darn things are always breaking. **Valerie T.** has upped her watering game winning a fancy Pocket Hose with all the bells and whistles. **Francine Colon** will be available for consultations on conserving water after reading her new Book. It's not magic but this Watering Wand will keep **Jane Julich**'s garden looking beautiful.

At every meeting we have a FREE raffle of fun items that I try to coordinate with the season or the speaker. If you have something new or like new (a gift you really don't need or an accidental purchase) that you would like to donate to the raffle, you can bring it to any meeting or drop it on my front porch. This month 2 of the 8 prizes were donated. Good luck in October!

~ Karen Donovan (973) 762-5484

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