



# The Riverside Garden Club: Keeping It Fresh

By DEBORAH KRAUTHEIM

How is a 100 year old club finding new ways of keeping gardening interesting and fun while continuing to support community beautification projects?

"We won't let Covid-19 dampen our goal of sharing knowledge and the love of gardening and horticulture among our members" said former president, Amy Butler, of the century old Riverside Garden Club (RGC).

The club was founded in 1919, at the tail end of the Spanish Flu pandemic when founding members enthusiastically got together to begin a tradition which continues today of contributing to the well-being and beautification of Riverside and the greater Greenwich community. But you don't have to be from Riverside to join.

"I love to garden and care deeply about our environment and, as a recent retiree, was looking for a garden club where I could learn more about horticulture and meet people with the same interest as

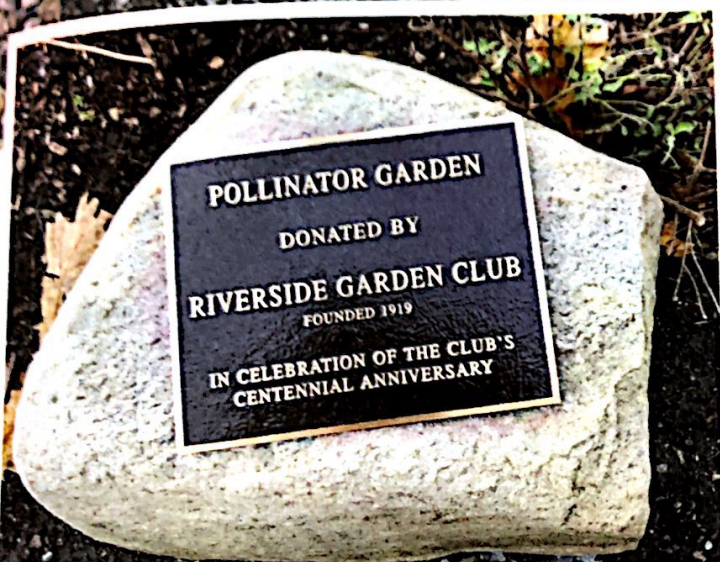
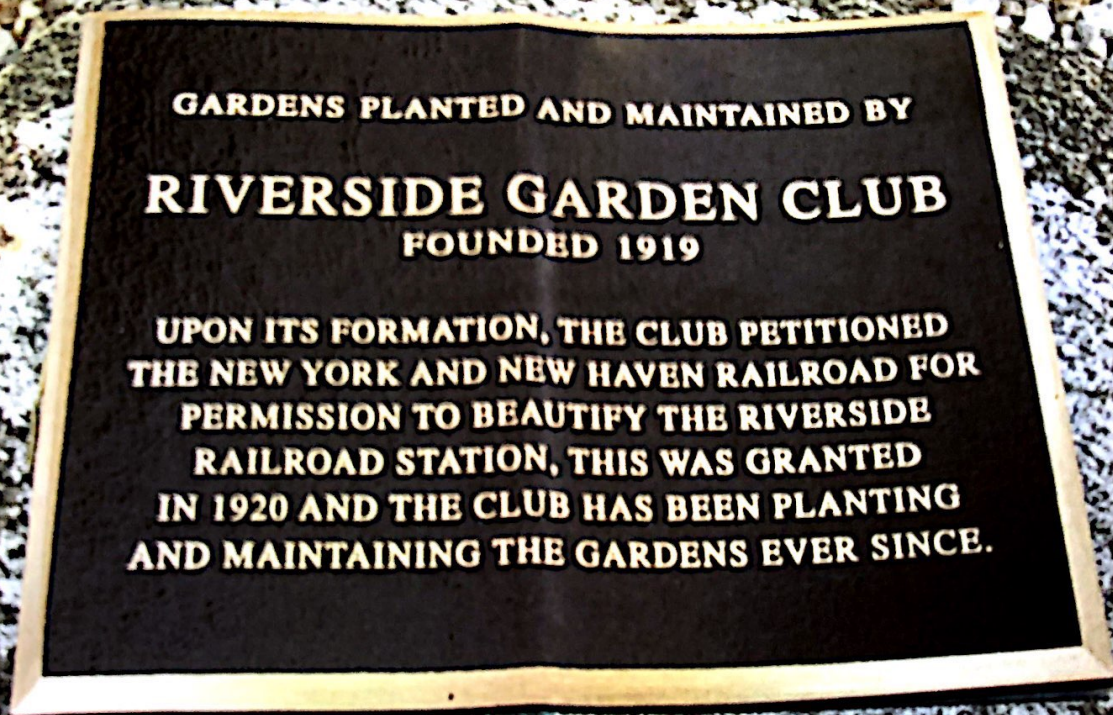
mine", said Debbie Krautheim. "Joining RGC did that for me even though I live in Glenville".

In these days of Covid, the RGC, which used to meet monthly in person, is now meeting via Zoom. Every meeting includes a presentation by an expert in a relative area of interest along with both horticulture and design submissions by members. These submissions are judged by professional horticulture experts and prizes are awarded. Meetings also include some time at the front end for members to connect with each other. This month's program will focus on Updating Your Garden

Program information can be found on the club's newly developed website: [riversidegardenclub.org](http://riversidegardenclub.org) where you can also find a link to a video of the club's September meeting, the first via Zoom - "Easy and Enjoyable Floral Designs From Your Garden" by Cathy Ritch, National Garden Clubs Accredited Judge. Ms.







- Participating in other civic minded programs such as supporting Earth Day efforts at Riverside School and horticulture design projects at the senior center.

In September, the group decided to have an outdoor, socially distanced get-together while the weather was still warm enough. "It was so great seeing all of our members, most of whom attended" said Madeleine DeVries, the club's current co-president. "'We have such a wonderful and energetic group of people" said co-president Susan Foster who added "Although we can't get together in person right now, I'm glad that we have found a successful and fun way to meet each month thanks to Zoom."



Ritch demonstrated new techniques and mechanics to help bring out the best from one's home grown flowers.

Last, but certainly not least, is the work the garden club does in serving the community. Some of the continuing community projects the club has engaged in are:

- Beautifying Riverside Train Station by maintaining three gardens and decorating planters
- Providing Hill House, a congregate home for well-elderly people of low to moderate income, with seasonal planters
- Contributing a lovely floral display each month to Perrot Library
- Conducting a Planting and Garden Therapy workshop at River House Adult Day Care