



Garden Club News

October 2012

PO Box 3253 Teaneck, NJ 07666

www.gardenclubofteaneck.org

Calendar: October 2012

The first meeting of the Garden Club of Teaneck will be Thursday, October 11, 7:30 – 9:00PM, at the Teaneck Rodda Center. Our guest speaker that evening will be Debbie Korwan. She will speak to the club about “Closing and Resting the Garden”.

The first meeting of the Greenhouse Committee will be at 10AM on Saturday, October 6th.

Member News

Message from Debbie Morgan, President

Autumn: Beautiful weather; glorious colors and Election season! Welcome back to all. We missed you at the annual picnic. It was a wonderful mix of people and food and my thanks to all who participated (see pictures). Please come prepared to discuss our Holiday 60th Anniversary Gala including a Keynote speaker. I am open to any and all ideas to make this a very special celebration. I am truly looking forward to seeing everyone on the 11th at 7:30PM. Yours in Gardening, Debbie



Message from Len Schwartz, Greenhouse Director

As almost all of us know by now, the procedure for bringing our plants back into the greenhouse is that they must be brought in

clean, inspected, sprayed and given a yellow seal of approval. All plants must exhibit this inspection seal to qualify to stay in the greenhouse. Plants that actively show infestation cannot be brought back in. The inspection times are Saturday and Sunday (Oct 6th and Oct 7th) from 12 noon to 2PM. If you absolutely cannot make this schedule, please make an appointment with either Joe Papa or me. Any additional plants brought into the greenhouse later in the year must be also be inspected, sprayed and given a yellow seal of approval.

Benches

If you had a bench last year you can keep using it this year assuming you are a member in good standing in the Garden Club. So please pay your membership dues ASAP. All of your plants must fit on or under your benches. Your plants may not block the aisles and must not block the light to your neighbor's plants because yours are too high. There are 48 benches and eight of these are currently unoccupied. These available spaces are indicated in a diagram posted on the bulletin board in the greenhouse. I propose that we hold a lottery for current bench holders who might want to move to any of these open benches. This will be discussed at our first meeting on Oct 6.

Work Group Assignments

This year we will be proposing changes in the time requirements for most Work Groups. We will propose that the Work Groups will only be required to work when they are actually needed, starting in February after the plugs have arrived. We estimate that about 40 hours of participation will be required including the Plant Sale. Certain groups such as the Maintenance Group, will still be needed before February. In addition, those who produce the plants sold during the school program will also be needed before February. Anything grown for the Plant Sale needs be coordinated with Joe Papa. Some of our groups have become

too small to function and may need to be combined. The Work Groups which may need to consolidate are Sunday, Monday, and Thursday morning. Some of these proposals constitute big changes. We don't want to lose any of the good things that we now do, but we need to consider how we can work better. Len

Fall Season Plantings

Joe Papa Horticulture Director

The Fall Season plantings are a wonderful extension of my garden's yield, which provides highly nutritious, pesticide/herbicide free produce. Typically as the summer crops lose their vigor, I start to remove these plants. I compost the carrot and beet tops, kohlrabi and bolting lettuce. I do not compost the squash or Tomatoes plants, because they are prone to fungal disease. I remove all debris and plant growth and till my soil at a depth of 6 to 8 inches, and add dehydrated composted cow manure, bone meal, and chicken manure. The amount of organic fertilizer I add depends on the prior crops, but most of my beds have heavy feeders such as tomatoes and lettuce so I amend. The cycle of the plants (days to maturity) will determine the planting date. My favorites for fall are lettuce, Bok Choy, beets, carrots and Kale. I usually plant between the 21st and 31st of July. It is still quite hot during this period so germination can be difficult and the beds should be watered daily both morning and evening. Once the seedlings are ready for transplanting, I look for overcast days with preferably rain in the forecast. Once they are transplanted, I suspend a row cover over the plants to help in the transition, and continue to water twice daily. I plant close together to inhibit weeds and minimize evaporation. Once the plants are established they are easy to maintain. Weeding is minimal. If I see inhibited growth I top dress with blood meal. The most common pests during this period are the Harlequin Bug and Whitefly. I use Organic sprays to control them. My last lettuce is consumed on or around Thanksgiving using



row covers readily from October 25 to prevent burn. The kale can be harvested throughout the winter. The crops are delicious as the carbohydrates (sugars) which typically migrate through the stem to the roots to fuel growth are inhibited by cold temperatures and remain in the leaves. The Fall is a great time to extend your Garden. Joe

Message from Susan McGibney, VP of Membership

Please send in your membership dues renewal as soon as possible. You may mail your check or money order (\$20 single \$35 two individuals at the same address) to:

Garden Club of Teaneck
PO Box 3253
Teaneck, NJ 07666

I will also be collecting renewals at the October Garden Club and Greenhouse meeting. This is a good time to invite neighbors and friends who share your interest in learning about the amazing world of plants, keeping Teaneck green, learning new skills and having some fun. Susan

Message from Pat Taaffe, VP of Programs

Our guest speaker at our first meeting on Thursday, October 11th will be Debbie Korwan. Debbie is the owner of Mountain Pine LLC, a design and landscape install firm. She has more than 23 years of experience in the horticulture industry. Pat.

Status of the School Program & Memorial Herb Garden **By Olga Newey**

Nancy Cochran and I have some thoughts about expanding the school program to an educational program where we would have a

Garden Club for children. Nancy did a preschool program at the Herb Garden with the children's librarian in which a friend of hers, Kelly, and I assisted. The librarian read a story, the students got to plant something, and then we took them to the Herb Garden and showed them the different herbs, how they smell and how they were used. I think the parents enjoyed it as much as the kids. It was fun. This new program would be in addition to the Hawthorne school program. We would start sometime after January. I'm hoping people will volunteer to help us in this effort.

The Herb Garden group (Nancy Cochran, Miriam Fieulleateau and I made some changes to the Grace Kreigel Memorial Herb Garden. The holly tree was taken down by the Town, and we eliminated some plants that were not herbs. We also decreased the size of the privet bushes. Next year we plan to divide the garden into sections: medicinal, aromatic and culinary herbs to start. We have been researching appropriate herbs and plan to buy them next spring. We are in the process of transferring, dividing and repotting the annual herbs to the greenhouse. The walkways have been redone, and Bob and Len used the old bricks as dividers replacing the black plastic tubing. We plan to trim the fig trees and propagate the cuttings for the plant sale as we did last year. They sold out last year. In fact, one person asked me while I was working at the garden, if we were going to sell fig trees at the plant sale again. Members in her family wanted them. Customers are lining up. We worked hard, but enjoyed it. People tell us that the Herb Garden is starting to really look nice(see pictures below). Olga





Memorial Herb Garden Before Renovations



Memorial Herb Garden After Renovations

Last Word

On the last day of the Plant Sale in May, Marty Steeil and Anna Kurz visited Pat Pacheco to begin taking over the Garden Club of Teaneck's website. The goal was to free Pat from taking care of the GCT website by the time the Club restarted its activities in the fall. That goal has been reached. Our site is now up-to-date. Pat has kindly offered to help us in the future if needed but her involvement is now zero. Everyone is invited to check out our latest efforts at GardenClubofTeaneck.org. If anyone has any ideas on how to make our website better please contact Marty Steeil at msteeil@gmail.com.