



# Garden Club News

## September 2013

PO Box 3253 Teaneck, NJ 07666

[www.gardenclubofteaneck.org](http://www.gardenclubofteaneck.org)

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### Calendar: September 2013

The first meeting of the Garden Club of Teaneck for the 2013 – 2014 season will be our annual picnic on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 – 6:00PM, at the Greenhouse. The club will provide hotdogs, hamburgers, and vegetarian fare. Everyone please bring a pot luck side dish to share.

The first meeting of the Greenhouse Committee will be at 10AM on Saturday, October 5th.

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### Member News

#### Message from Pat Fromm, President

It has been a most unusual gardening season in Bergen County, and through my travels, I've discovered most of the Eastern US has experienced difficult weather as well! Too hot, too cold, too wet, too dry and then there were the cucumber and squash beetles! In spite of it all, our gardens at the greenhouse look fabulous, and are productive as well. As of mid-August, we have donated over 100 pounds of fresh veggies to the Helping Hands Food kitchen. We have a great variety of veggies, herbs, and flowers and if you catch a fellow member gardening, he or she will likely give you a tour. There is a new picnic table on the south west corner, perfect for an evening picnic with your family. All members are welcome!

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Tomato Festival was on August 10<sup>th</sup> and over 30 gardeners from the Garden Club of Teaneck and Community Gardens showed up with a selection of gourmet dishes prepared with fresh ingredients from their gardens. It was a delightful event and we welcomed one new member.

The new executive committee has met twice already. We are making plans for an exciting year ahead! We're looking for a "*few good men & women*" to help out with a couple of positions:

- Ho Wan, had to resign as VP of membership. We need someone who would like to step up and fill this important position.
- We'd like to have trips and tours this year, we are looking for someone to organize a car pool to a nearby garden, park, or event.
- We want to bring back the Home Garden Tours and need members to host the club in his/her garden.
- If you have ideas or suggestions for a workshop or demonstration, Pat Taaffe, VP Programs, wants to know.

Our next event is the Annual Club Picnic on September 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Greenhouse, from 4 pm – 6 pm. EVERYONE is encouraged to bring a friend/partner/spouse and a dish to share and come join the fun. See you at the Picnic! Pat

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#### Message from Len Schwartz, Greenhouse Director

Our first Greenhouse meeting will be on Oct 5<sup>th</sup>. It is still a month and a half away and we can look forward to some lovely remaining weather. However, summer is ending and perhaps we should review our garden status and consider the coming year. For the most part

our outside gardens looked lush and healthy with more wanted plants and fewer weeds than the past two seasons. Congratulations to all of us for working hard to make this happen and especially Joe Papa. All but one of the new mini plots which we established last spring were used and I again encourage full plot holders to consider reducing the area that you garden to fit your time and activity restraints. A well-tended, dense garden is easier to maintain and just as productive as one with wide paths. It was great that many of us made contributions to the food bank and I understand that the Aug 10<sup>th</sup> Tomato Fest was successful. Thank you Pat Fromm and others.

The greenhouse executive board will meet September 25<sup>th</sup>. Topics for discussion will include:

- Start planning for the 2014 plant sale,
- Reconfiguration of some Work Groups, and expectations for Work Groups
- Short and long range greenhouse improvement projects
- Our school program, and evaluations of the Junior Garden Club, Memorial Herb Garden and Native Plant initiatives
- Proposals for greater participation of our members in making our club function.

I remain an advocate for increased integration and cooperation between the Greenhouse Committee and the Garden Club, but I am aware and respect the hesitation of those of us who are concerned about degrading what we have. As of now, I plan to let others push this idea if they so choose. I look forward to seeing everyone at the club picnic on September 8<sup>th</sup>.  
Len

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### **Message from Joe Papa – Horticulture Director**

September is a wonderful month for gardening. There are moderate temperatures, adequate

amounts of water, and fewer garden pests. Our flowers are in full bloom with vibrant colors and textures in their last display as light levels diminish. Migrations of birds begin as a new generation prepares for their arduous trek to their southern overwintering roosts. The fall crops: lettuce, Bok Choi, kale, kohlrabi and carrots have been planted and are robustly growing. I will also be planting garlic and mache in the following weeks and harvesting sweet potatoes.

The Greenhouse must be prepared for the fall and winter. Inoculation of plants will be on a volunteer basis. We will provide the inoculants but it will be up to all members to spray their own plants. We will monitor plants for infestations and quarantine those that are infected. Please clean all debris and plant matter under your benches. Enjoy the balance of the summer. Joe

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### **Final Word**

The following pictures are of our Tomato Fest in August. Marty Steeil



