



Garden Club News

April 2009
Spring

Sale!
Garden Club
Annual Sale:
May 2-May 17
See p. 5-6

P.O. Box 3253 Teaneck, NJ 07666

www.gardenclubofteaneck.org/

Calendar: April 2009

Greenhouse Committee Meeting: April 4th: Sale Kick-off Brunch!

The Greenhouse Committee is convening the **April 4, 2009** meeting at 10:00 AM at the Teaneck Greenhouse, located at the foot of Lindbergh Blvd. Enjoy the atmosphere of a greenhouse with scents of breakfast ---better yet, come and share the repast!

Garden Club Meeting & Program: April 9, 2009 Coal Fields and Plants

Gary Manageri, Secretary, New Jersey Paleontology Club and expert on coal fossils. This topic is unusual---come and learn about the fascinating role plants played in the making of coal, see and examine coal fossils. Think about evolving plants ---and the changes in the land we now cultivate.

May 14, 2009 program: Steven Kristoph, Folklore and Plants.

Garden Club Meetings & Programs: 7:30 PM Rodda Community Center, 250 Colonial Court, Teaneck, N.J., unless noted otherwise.

Aura's Niche: Get a Refill For Your Garden!

Don't miss out on our Annual Spring Plant Sale. We offer a great start on spring/summer planting with a large variety of favorites including annuals, perennials, indoor plants, herbs and much more with many surprises for your garden.

*If you would like to donate your time by helping us with the Grace Kriegel Memorial Herb Garden located at the Teaneck Library, with the annual Teaneck Firehouses planting or with other programs we have during the year, please come down to the Teaneck Greenhouse and give us your name and info, we will be more than happy to have you join one of our groups of volunteers. Thank you in advance for your consideration..... **Aura***



Photo: Philadelphia Flower Show. © Aura Altieri 2009

Reminder: All Greenhouse members must sign up for 2 three hour sessions during the sale.

Plant Symbols for the Holidays

Easter: April 12-Lily. Symbol of spirituality, purity, Resurrection(Christian).

Passover: April 10-herbs on the Seder plate: parsley dipped in salt water reminds one of hyssop dipped in blood: which helped free the Jews. Bitter herbs are used (horseradish), symbolizing the bitterness of slavery.

When did you start gardening? "I didn't start until I got married-1954-And not really until I moved to Teaneck-1960---I grew up in the city." John joined the Garden Club after he retired in 1991, and came into the Greenhouse, in 1992: "Oh, it's been years and years!" He is a Master Gardener, and also spends time with orphan boys and girls, showing them how to catch fish.

...progress with garden? He started vegetable gardening in his yard after moving to Teaneck in 1960, using something the previous owner left behind: " a concrete fishbowl." John removed it, then grew collards, kale and tomatoes in the area. Before long, he was hooked on growing his own vegetables, and expanded the garden to 25'. Then the garden grew to 50' by 25'. He continued with the same vegetables---joined with string beans, swiss chard and experiments, most of which succeeded.

...owe your success to? "I was lucky." Those of us who have observed John's careful planting of seeds in the Greenhouse know there was more than luck involved.

...Special techniques? A previous issue of the Newsletter profiled his practice of covering the vegetable seedlings with row covers, a very lightweight netting that allows rain and sun through, but blocks insects. The cover



Interview: John Lewis

Greenhouse Herb Group Leader

is removed after a couple of weeks to allow for pollination. "Also, fences-I use fences to keep out the animals, and there is no trouble."

...a challenge to grow? "Eggplant---I only got one on a plant-also butterfly bushes."

...Now? "I cut the garden in half---too much". That half equals 25'x25' "I give away my vegetables; my neighbors come up to me and say'where's my vegetables!"

Favorites? What I started with--"Tomatoes, chard, kale, beans."

Member News

Please wish **Irwin Brownstein**-a speedy recovery from open heart surgery. Irwin is an educator in the Greenhouse Children's Program and Thursday Morning leader in the Greenhouse.

The Garden Club extends deep condolences to **Charles Bianchi** and family on the loss of his wife, Jean. The Bianchis had been married for 72 years. She was the mother of two, grandmother of four and great-grandmother of 11.

Garden Club Treasurer **Laura Ponticorvo** has suffered a stroke and gave up the position. **Sara Jones** will serve as temporary Treasurer until another one is elected. Thank you, Laura, for your dedicated service and may your health return to full vigor.

Michael Ponticorvo and **Jacqueline Brikel** joined the Garden Club this month. Welcome!

Despina Metaxatos underwent eye surgery. Wish her a healing recovery..

Montclair Art Museum FIELD TRIP! Art in Bloom: local garden clubs create floral arrangements inspired by a specific work of art from the MAM collection Thursday, May 7th. Car Pool at Rodda Parking Lot 4:00, go to Museum for a docent-led tour of the exhibit.(docent: our own **Pat Pacheco!**). Tour and gallery exploration, followed by a Dutch Treat dinner at **Lalezar, Turkish Mediterranean Restaurant**, www.lalezarcuisine.com (BYOB). Call or email:Pat Libutti, 201-836-6165, libutti@gmail.com.

Events

New Jersey Botanical Gardens (Skylands) www.njbg.org

April 5 (Sunday), 12 noon-4 pm. **Skylands Manor Tours.** Historic tours guided by NJBG docents.

April 25 (Saturday), 10 am-12 noon: **Earth Day Cleanup** Join **Nancy Cochrane** and celebrate the planet and the garden with a little TLC. Bring gloves and small tools. Meet at the Carriage House. Rain cancels.

April 25 (Saturday), 10 am. **Early Spring Wildflower Walk.** Join Check out the early bloomers in the Wildflower Garden! Wear comfortable shoes. Rain or snow cancels.

Brooklyn Botanic Garden: www.bbg.org
Sunday, April 26 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM. **Nature Journaling.** Saturday, April 4 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM. **Herbs for Shady Gardens.**

Wave Hill Riverdale, NY www.wavehill.org:
Apr 2. Garden Walk: **Epiphytes in the Conservatory.** Apr 25 - Apr 15 **Arbor Week Notable Trees Trolley Tour.**

New York Botanical Gardens, Bronx, NY www.nybg.org. *The Orchid Show: Brazilian Modern. February 28 – April 12, 2009.* in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory.

New Jersey Historical Society Newark, NJ www.jerseyhistory.org Opening April 24, 2008. **Feast Your Eyes: The Unexpected Beauty of Vegetable Gardens** traces the visual appeal of vegetable gardens across centuries and cultures.

Woe Be the Wily Woodchuck!

"As I came home through the woods with my string of fish, trailing my pole, it being now quite dark, I caught a glimpse of a woodchuck stealing across my path, and felt a strange thrill of savage delight, and was strongly tempted to seize and devour him raw; not that I was hungry then, except for that wildness which he represented." Henry David Thoreau, Walden. Thoreau was angry at woodchucks: one ate 1/4 an acre of his bean crop. The woodchuck has little reprieve from the wrath of other gardeners. This is a quick review of the methods most often used to curb the woodchuck's enthusiasm for garden areas.



Shooting? There is a \$99 fine for shooting the woodchuck out of season---but there is very little time that is out of season! The season is :Sept.29-Dec. 6, 2008-Dec. 15, 16, and 18-31; 2009, Jan. 1 to Feb. 16, 2009; March 2-Sept. 30. **Live Traps?** Advice from many sources includes the observation that live-trapping chucks and letting them go causes their premature death. Their habits are inflicted on new people. It's also illegal to release a wild animal in NJ. Woodchucks do not appear to be scared by **motion devices**, nor much by a scarecrow. **Sprays and hot sauces** appear to affect them little---and the home gardener much. The amount of time for reapplication and concern about the chemicals on produce was key here. Finally, the use of an **electrified fence** was seen as effective---as is a **fence dug very deep** under the ground. The fence needs to be bent outwards-and hung in a wobbly way so the critter cannot parade on top of the fence in front of you, taunting you with vegetables.

If the effort becomes too much, The New York Times featured a Thoreaurian way of dealing with the woodchuck: a recipe for *Woodchuck au Vin*, as well as a recipe for *Peppery Woodchuck in Wine and Olives* (June 05, 2008.) Thoreau didn't have it so good!

EXECUTIVE BOARD President: Aura Altieri . 1st Vice President: Deborah Morgan . 2nd Vice President: Catherine Lloyd . Acting Treasurer: Sara Jones Recording Secretary: Stella Franco . Corresponding Secretary: Ann Hirsch . Board Member: Elyse Constantin . Board Member: Victor Plummer . Greenhouse Director: Dania Cheddie . Immediate Past President: Pat Pacheco . Newsletter Team: Patricia O'Brien Libutti, Editor, Stella Franco, Circulation.
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Verse: in time of daffodils

in time of daffodils(who know
the goal of living is to grow)
forgetting why, remember how

in time of lilacs who proclaim
the aim of waking is to dream,
remember so(forgetting seem)

in time of roses(who amaze
our now and here with paradise)
forgetting if, remember yes

in time of all sweet things beyond
whatever mind may comprehend,
remember seek(forgetting find)

and in a mystery to be
(when time from time shall set us free)
forgetting me, remember me
--e.e.cummings

Garden Resources: Websites, Blogs and the Like

Get your NJAG Harvest Dates

Availability Chart: <http://www.state.nj.us/jerseyfresh/searches/availability.htm>.

Getting ready to plant? **Rutgers: Garden Information, from aphids to zinnias:** <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/garden/>

What's in Flower in April:

http://www.nybg.org/whats_in_flower/flowering_results.php?month=4

WANTED: Teaneck-Grace Kriegel Memorial Herb Garden Maintainers. Early AM hours.or select a task and hour, spring/summer .Volunteers get to share in the **1st Annual Fig Preserve Feast.** Work : watering, deadheading, weeding, mulching, planting herbs,Call 201-836-6165, leave a message for Pat. Email: libutti@gmail.com

Recipe



Fig Preserves from Sara Jones

When Sara was a young girl, her mother made preserves.Sara observed this method and now passes it on to us.

Wash the figs; pat dry.

**Add an equal amount of sugar-
Do not add water.**

**Let the figs and sugar stand overnight
(24 hours.)**

You can let sit for 48 hours.

Boil at low heat until it is liquid.

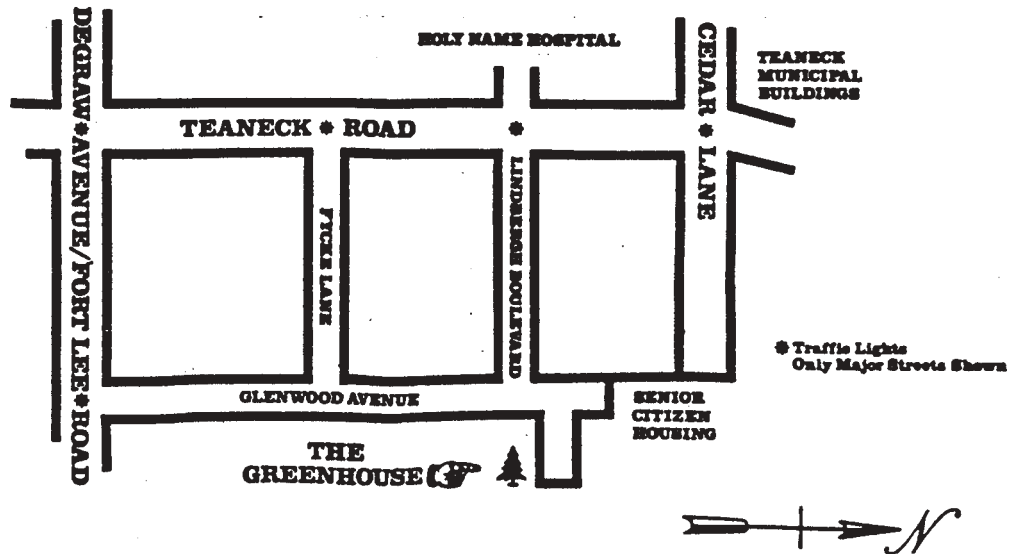
Thicken to taste.

Note from the Editor: Members, we can use your **creativity.** Please send articles, essays, book , website and blog reviews, stories, recipes, event notes, and especially member news to Pat Libutti, libutti@gmail.com or **300 Van Buren Avenue, Teaneck NJ.** It is best by the 10th of the month. If it is past the 10th, and you have member news, **call: 201-836-6165;** I'll do my best to fit in your important materials. Suggestions are welcome.

The Garden Club of Teaneck

Plant Sale

Saturday, May 2 thru Sunday May 17, 2009



Location: Foot of Lindbergh Blvd (Off Glenwood Avenue)

Hours: Saturday and Sunday	9 am to 3 pm
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday	9 am to 12 noon
Tuesday and Friday	Closed

Plants: Annuals, Hanging Baskets, Vegetables, Herbs, Perennials, Houseplants. See reverse side for listing



A Note from the Horticultural Director, Christina Mackensen

The month of March was a very busy one for all involved with the greenhouse. We have successfully completed the very labor intensive task of transplanting the thousands of plugs into 6 packs or bigger pots.

Thanks a lot to the group leaders and their members who helped. A special thanks to Fred Dolch whose advice, recommendations and tireless work are invaluable. Now the plants will be growing and ready for the spring sale.

We have a beautiful assortment of annuals, After an initial short setback, the geraniums look healthy now and I am sure will be top sellers again. In the herbs section, there are over twenty selections. We have a wide variety of tomatoes that will be seeded very soon. We are growing peppers and eggplants and, of course, there will be houseplants available.

I am excited about all that is growing in the greenhouse and hopefully, this will be a very successful season for our Garden Club. ---**Christina**

Annuals

Ageratum
Arrow Plant
Begonias
(Wax, Wing & Tuberous)
Celosia
Dahlia
Coleus
Dianthus
Dusty Miller
Eucalyptus
Gazania
Hypoestes
Impatiens
Marigold
(French & American)
Nicotiana
Petunias
Purple Heart
Salvia
Snapdragons
Sweet Potato Vines
Verbena
Vincas

Herb Garden Baskets:

Parsley, Sage, Rosemary
& Thyme

Geraniums

(red, white, pink, salmon)

Perennials

Cannas
Daylilies
Hostas
Iris

Herbs

Basil (Sweet, Lemon,
Cinnamon and Opal)
Catnip
Coriander
Dill
Lavender (Lavender Lace,
Spanish Lavender)
Nasturtium
Oregano (Cuban, Greek)
Parsley (Curled and Italian)
Rosemary
Sage
Salad Burnet
Scented Geraniums Oak
Leaf, French Lace,
Peppermint)
Spearmint
Sweet Marjor
Thyme (English, others)

From The Grace Kriegel Herb Garden:

Daylilies
Figs

Houseplants

Aloe
Boston Ferns
Kalanchoe
Pregnant Onion
Spider Plants

Hanging Baskets:

Wandering Jew
Swedish Ivy

Tomatoes

Big Beef
Brandywine
Celebrity
Polfast
Ramapo
Rose
Stupice
Sweet Millions

Vegetables

Eggplants
Peppers





**Who: *Master Gardeners & Garden Club Members
of Bergen County***

**When: *Sunday, April 26, 2009 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
(Rain or Shine!)***

Where: *Bill Kolvek Perennial Farm*

267 Schoolhouse Road, Chestnut Ridge, N.Y. 10977

The Master Gardeners of Bergen County and Garden Club members throughout Bergen County are invited to an *exclusive* afternoon gathering at Bill Kolvek Perennials (BKP). BKP is a plant nursery. Native and exotic perennials, grasses, ferns, vines and woody plants are grown and primarily offered for wholesale distribution. Bill aims to offer plants that grow well and are highly recommended for success in our region.

Please *join us* as Bill offers Master Gardeners of Bergen County and Garden Club members and an afternoon at the farm. Bill will conduct tours of the farm operations (so wear appropriate footwear) and share perennial propagation and growing tips. Beautiful plant material may be purchased and refreshments will be provided. See www.bkperennials.com.

Questions, please contact:

Susan Gurak, MG Garden Club Liaison 201.891.0379 susan.gurak@gmail.com

Tracey Fraser, MG Program Coordinator 201.768.1856 tralfra@optonline.net

