



Garden Club News

March 2009
Winter/Spring

P.O. Box 3253 Teaneck, NJ 07666

www.gardenclubofteaneck.org/

calendar: march 2009

Greenhouse Committee Meeting: March 7

The Greenhouse Committee is convening the **March 2009** meeting at 10:00 AM at the Teaneck Greenhouse, located at the foot of Lindbergh Blvd. Enjoy the atmosphere of a greenhouse full of new plants at the beginning of spring.

Garden Club Meeting & Program, "Butterflies in the Garden": March 12

Rick Mikula, from Hazleton, PA, justifiably known as "Butterfly Rick", is from the "Hole in Hand" Butterfly Farm. He has traveled across the United States presenting butterfly lore.

He is widely featured in the media (web, newspapers, TV and magazines) all over the country. His advocacy for all butterflies shows in his efforts to have states adopt a butterfly as their state butterfly (the NJ state butterfly is the Tiger Swallowtail.) Come and welcome a real naturalist-listen and see his stories.



Rick Mikula, Lepitoderist. Butterfly websites: <http://butterflywebsite.com/index.htm> and <http://butterflyrick.com/>

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

Greenhouse Children's' Program: March-April

The annual influx of children to the Greenhouse starts this month! For six weeks, beginning March 9, Hawthorne School students will be coming for classes in *Herbs*, *Garbage Gardening*, and *Plant Propagation*. Each will get the opportunity to buy some plants at the special "child's price." The program was started by Ken and Ethel McCuen district-wide; Lou Schwartz began it at Hawthorne. Grace Kriegel, Helen Bove, Monica Oscarsson, Angie Torierri, and Irwin Brownstein are among those who have taught courses in the program. Call Helen Humphries at 201-836-9268 to be an understudy for an instructor. All members, welcome the children and help ensure life-long gardeners!



Helen with Hawthorne second graders (March 2008.)

St. Patrick's Day. March 17: Faith and begorrah! 'Tis the wee folks that will descend upon us today, bearing the trifoil. Give them the room to work their magic and let your plants have extra sun today. Consider this saying on March 17: "*Maireann croí éadrom i bhfad.*" Translated from Gaelic: "*A light heart lives long.*" - **Patricia O'Brien Libutti, Editor & leprechaun-for-a-day.**

interview:

**Helen Humphreys, Coordinator,
Greenhouse Children's' Program**

...Gardening--early history ?

Helen has *"always had a green thumb ever since I was **this** big"* (motion indicated a child was standing about 3 feet tall.) Windowsill gardening and weeding were specialties---as was following curiosity about all unusual plants: *"You don't find philodendron at my bench!"*

...History of the program?

Lou Schwartz started the Hawthorne program in the early '80s, going to classrooms to see the children. Helen started as a teacher in the program in 1995-96. Her interest in the Garbage Gardening is the many things one learns : *"You don't stop learning--it goes on all through life. I'm not a rocking -chair and TV person."*

...Used in Garbage Gardening?

Helen uses all kinds of plant seeds and roots to generate whole flowering-and fruit bearing plants. A gift of a coffee tree resulted in coffee beans, green, yellow and red ones. Avocado pits, ginger roots, pineapple tops, ugli fruit seeds have all resulted in plants.



Helen: "Don't Throw It-Grow It!"

...A story about the children? *"A boy frantically looked around. "Last year you had it-this year you don't. Something to do with 'canine'.. "Coleus canina"! I said.! So, I gave him two cuttings."*

...Plants the children buy? *"The children buy 3 or 4 plants, something with bright colors, anything with flowers. I try to have something besides Anglo-Saxon plants- Cuban oregano, for instance."*

...Tip for beginning teachers? *"You can't do it well unless you do it your own way."*

...What motivates you the most? *"Children are wonderful and that's what I like."* The Garden Club will always see something new in this program, thanks to Helen.

member news

The Garden Club extends its deepest condolences to **George Tipton** and **Mary Jane Tipton** on the loss of his wife and her mother. The family would appreciate donations to the National Emphysema/COPD Association, 3 River View Rd., Westport, CT or Friends of ISSCR (stem cell research), 111 Deer Lake Road, Suite 199, Deerfield, IL 60015.

Linda Larsen has been ill with pneumonia---wish her a speedy get-well.

Nancy Cochrane is working on a summer Children's Program for Skylands.

Pat Libutti is posting a Want Ad for spring/summer Herb Garden Maintainers. Early AM hours. Volunteers get to share in the *1st Annual Fig Preserve Feast*.



events

brooklyn botanic garden:www.bbg.org

Classes, from "Eating Local in the Big Apple"(herbs) to "Urban GardenDesign".

new york botanical gardens

www.nybg.org

Orchid Show: Brazilian Modern.

February 28 - April 12, 2009. in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory.

Moore in America (Extended through March 15, 2009.) The artist's work looks best here.

new jersey botanical gardens (skylands) www.njbg.org

"March 1 (Sunday), 12 noon-4 pm. **Skylands Manor Tours.** Historic tours guided by NJBG docents. *Donation.* March 21 (Saturday), 10 am **Winter Tree Walk.** Rain/snow date: March 28, 10am.

Rutgers:

<http://njaes.rutgers.edu/garden/>

Classes: Home Gardener's School: March 21: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm www.cpe.rutgers.edu/courses/current/ah0201cb.html for the course descriptions and order form.

Think Spring!

The first day of Spring
is March 20-

*Do you know where
your garden tools
are located?*

gardening tips: *Notice the Noxious Names of Weeds?*

A weed is sometimes called a name it deserves. Look at the names of common weeds: *Redwood Pigweed, Nodding Beggar-ticks, Great Ragweed, Canada Fleabane, Marsh Cudweed, Poverty Weed, Sticky Groundsel, Puncture Vine.* Not all are evocative of the worst, but most are! You might want to look up their Latin names, but the effect will not be the same. The names certainly tell stories. As you prepare your ground for spring planting in March, think about clearing the opportunity for weeds. It would pay to take some time with a weed identifier book, reviewed on the next page. The book shows the seedling stage---excellent as a tool for uprooting unwanted early visitors. Hoes, forks, and a careful eye will help you retain your land for your vegetables. **Online Weed Gallery:**<http://njaes.rutgers.edu/weeds/> **Next Month: *The Wily Woodchuck***

EXECUTIVE BOARD President: **Aura Altieri.** 1st Vice President: **Deborah Morgan.** 2nd Vice President: **Catherine Lloyd.** Treasurer: **Laura Ponticorvo.** 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.** News-letter Team: **Patricia O'Brien Libutti, Editor, Stella Franco, Circulation.**

short reviews: gardening books

Weeds in the Northern U.S and in Canada.

France Royer &
Richard Dickenson
Lone Pine
Publications, 1999
Teaneck Library
581.652 ROY

Foreword by Shafeek Ali, Provincial *Weed Specialist* (Bet that's a job title you haven't seen.)

This is an oldie but goodie, a no-nonsense book about all the weeds we encounter. One of the very best documentation parts of the book is the listing for each weed its dangers for livestock, humans, and waterways, as well as pictures of the plant as seed, seedling, and grown plant. With this volume one you can read the ugly weed names in two languages: English and French.

The Complete Herb Book

By Jekka McVicar
Firefly Books 2008
Teaneck Library:
635.7 MCV

Jekka McVicar has been an herbalist and garden designer for 30 years in Somerset, England, and revised her earlier edition of this book. History and folklore are interwoven with description, cultivation and harvesting. The language used, as well as photographs and recipes to accompany each herb are appealing. A number of herbs are native to the U.K.; the majority grow in North America, also. The design for herb gardens section is worth checking for ideas. Herbs are organized alphabetically by Latin name. This is beautifully written, a joy to read.

What is Growing Now in the Green House?

It is two and a half months before the Annual Sale--growing time! The beginnings of a wide diversity of plants are in seed flats and pots. Many herbs are now in the seedling stage: Greek oregano, parsley, basil, chamomile, lavender, thyme, and salad burnet. Cuttings have flourished: figs, sage, coleus and scented geraniums. The demand for geraniums has been anticipated by plugs of pink, salmon, white and red geraniums. Dianthus, dusty miller, gazanias, pansies, and wave petunias in baskets are now shooting up.

Houseplants, such as ivy and philodendron are growing. Tomatoes of many kinds, including the popular Ramapo Tomato, will be sown soon. Christina Mackensen, Greenhouse Horticultural Director, appreciated the help from groups transplanting these plugs as well as the help in planting the canna rhizomes. Group Members' help is needed again to transplant plugs. Come and work--it is a shot of spring!!



Note from the Editor: Members, we can use your **creativity**. Please send articles, essays, book reviews, stories, recipes, event notes, and especially member news to Pat Libutti, libutti@gmail.com or **300 Van Buren Avenue, Teaneck NJ**. The deadline is the 10th of the month for the next month's issue. 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.