



# Garden Club News

## March 2014

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PO Box 3253 Teaneck, NJ 07666

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

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The next meeting of the Garden Club of Teaneck will be held on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at the Richard Rodda Center. It will start at 7:30pm. Rosemary Carey will talk to the club members and guests about Climate Reality.

The next meeting of the Greenhouse Committee of the Garden Club will be on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am.

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### Philadelphia Flower Show

There are just a few places left on the bus going to the Philadelphia Flower Show on Tuesday, March 4, 2014. Anyone still interested in going please contact Anna Kurz at 201-833-8323. The cost per person is \$62.00.

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### Member News

#### Message from Pat Fromm, President

##### Mission of Garden Club of Teaneck

*“Objective : the objective of the club shall be to stimulate interest in and spread the knowledge of gardening; to assist in the conservation of trees, plants, and birds; to give exhibitions and to encourage home and civic beauty; to assist in educating school children in soil preparation, seeding and developing flowers, plants and gardening skills.”*

As your president, along with the Executive Committee, we're doing our best to carry out the mission of the Garden Club of Teaneck. We have participated in Arbor Day celebrations, we cooperate with the Audubon Society by providing home for many of their native plants as both a food source and environment for the birds, we provide lovely annuals for the Township to landscape the city hall in the spring and we planted some perennial grasses to improve the appearance of the Band Shell at Votee

Park. Our program chair works a year in advance to line up interesting and educational speakers and programs both for members and open to friends and the community at no extra charge. A large part of the Garden Club focus is maintaining the greenhouse for members and to provide educational opportunities to our neighborhood youth. There are also educational opportunities open to all of you, the members of the Garden Club. Maintaining the greenhouse requires hundreds of volunteer man/woman hours of work but also offers a wonderful respite from the layers of snow and ice still in our yards and gardens this dreadful winter. Currently we are ramping up for the big event of the year –The Annual Plant Sale on May 3-11<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't seen our greenhouse in all her full and beautiful glory, you are certainly missing one of the benefits of Membership! Along with the Director of the Greenhouse and the greenhouse committee, we extend an open invitation to all of you to come see what we're doing there and to experience one of

our workshops, or help out on a special planting project. We have various work groups meeting at various times, 7 days a week so there must be at least one of those times you can fit into your schedule, at least once! Even if you cannot commit to weekly meetings, you are welcome to come by and see what we do or participate in a workshop. Look in the newsletter for the schedule and a brief description about what each group does to see what may interest you along with group leaders name and phone contact. We'll also have special plantings and perhaps a few workshops ongoing in this spring that will be announced by email. Come on over to the Greenhouse! It is at the Eastern end of Lindbergh Boulevard. Volunteering for an hour or so is great for health, too! Pat

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### **Greenhouse Workgroups**

The following are the Greenhouse Committee Workgroups:

**Sundays 9:30am**, Nancy Cochrane, 201-837-6519, Herb Garden in Spring & Summer

**Sundays 10am**, Amelia Huser

**Mondays 9:00am**, Pat Fromm, 201-880-6110, Herbs and Vegetables

**Tuesdays 5:00pm**, Cynthia McKay, 201-837-3399, Geraniums

**Wednesdays 9:00am**, Rufus Moch, 201-837-3750, Maintenance for Greenhouse

**Thursdays 9 am**, Caryl Gottlieb, 201-837-7256, House Plants and Succulents

**Thursdays 3:30 pm**, Sarah Jones, 201-833-9053

**Fridays 6:00 pm**, Christina Mackensen, 201-836-7987, Impatiens and Begonias

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### **Message from Len Schwartz, Greenhouse Director**

As the winter starts to end, the conditions in the greenhouse will be changing radically

from day to night to day with temperatures spiking on warmer sunny days. We have already registered 90 plus degrees on Feb. 22 and 23. When this happens the louvers at the top of the greenhouse should be opened manually to bring the temperature down. They must be manually closed again later that same day to maintain our minimum temperatures during the much colder nights. Joe Papa has released a first round of parasitic wasps, which we expect, will control our white fly problems again this year. We wish our wasps good eating. We are in the beginning of preparing for our plant sale and for the start of the expanded Hawthorn School Program. They are both major programs of the Greenhouse Committee and will need our full support.  
Len

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### **Message from Joe Papa, Greenhouse Horticultural Director**

As the snow melted this week my thoughts gravitated to the return of the sun, its warmth and renewal. As of this posting we are approximately 20 days from the Vernal Equinox. Bird migrations begin to coincide with the renewal of plant and insect life. I am anxious to see the rebirth of our newly planted Insectary on the north fence of the vegetable gardens, as it renews it will become a haven for many of the beneficial insects that have overwintered and sustain them until the populations of pests which they prey on begin to emerge. Minute Pirate bugs (Orius Insidious), Lady Bugs (Hippodamia Convergens), parasitic wasps (Encarsia Formosa) to name but a few. There are a host of beneficial insects like pollinators as well as those that prey on many of the pests that plague us in the greenhouse, homes and our gardens. They have evolved in conjunction with the pests and their numbers control and hinder pest populations, all naturally. We as a species during our early agrarian periods had always

maintained this symbiotic relationship with nature, always having great respect for the land and all of its resources. As our populations exploded beyond the capabilities of the land to sustain we too became vulnerable to the imbalances created. Our gardens are microcosms of the greater nature, vulnerable to its vicissitudes and beneficiaries of its bounty. Enjoy the challenge, enjoy the wonder, enjoy the flow of life, enjoy the spring. Joe

### **Hawthorne School Program and Junior Garden Club of Teaneck** **By Olga Newey**

#### **Junior Garden Club of Teaneck**

The Junior Garden Club is starting February 23, 2014. We had to cancel our first session because of the weather. We are starting our group, presently five students, on parts of a plant, what plants need to grow, the purpose of a greenhouse and more. We are planning to approach the three elementary schools with a flyer to publicize this program. When we have our full complement of twelve students, we would welcome the participation of Garden Club members.

#### **Hawthorne School Program**

We have finalized our schedule. Classes will begin on March 18<sup>th</sup> and run through April 30<sup>th</sup> (these include rain dates). See the schedule of classes that follows. If anyone would like to participate for as much or as little time as they like, or just watch, we welcome you all. Olga

#### **Hawthorne School Program Schedule**

##### **First Grade Thursday, 10:00AM**

##### **Stella Franco - Life Cycle of a Seed**

3/20 Ms. Ferreira, 21  
3/27 Ms. Bono, 22  
4/3 Ms. Scro, 23  
4/10 Ms. Reider, 11  
4/24 (rain date)

##### **Second Grade Tuesday, 10:00AM**

##### **Risa - Garbage Gardening**

3/18 Ms. Lindner, 22  
3/25 Ms. Domingoes, 22  
4/1 Ms. Van Horn, 21  
4/8 Mr. Freed, 22  
4/29 (rain date)

##### **Third Grade Wednesday, 10:00AM**

##### **Cynthia - Propagation**

3/19 Ms. McKee, 22  
3/26 Mr. Hernandez, 23  
4/2 Ms. Jose, 22  
4/9 Ms. Blount, 22  
4/23 Ms. Maher/Ms. Greenhouse, 24  
4/30 (rain date)

##### **Fourth Grade Tuesday, 1:00PM**

##### **Pat Libutti - Herbs**

3/18 Ms. Warren-Givens, 18  
3/25 Mr. Henry, 15  
4/1 Ms. Brown, 17  
4/9 (Thur.) Ms. Norris, 18  
4/22 (rain date)

#### **Spring Garden Trip By Robyn Lowenthal**

Spring must be coming sometime soon. So let's make plans to go out and see some gardens. Please join members of the Garden Club of Teaneck for a tour of Rutgers Gardens on Wednesday, May 28, 2014. The tour will be led by Bruce Crawford, director of Rutgers Gardens.

Rutgers Gardens is comprised of a series of horticultural collections arranged in garden settings and spread over fifty acres. These collections and garden areas, the oldest of which dates back to 1927, feature a diverse variety of landscape plants with origins that span the globe. We will be able to see and learn different methods of combining plants that will provide four seasons of color, texture and form. On our tour through the Garden, we will see the perennial and annual

gardens, featuring All America Selections® flower and vegetable winners, one of the largest collections of American Hollies in the US, the Shrub Garden, a Rhododendron and Azalea Garden, the Evergreen Collection, a Water Conservation Garden, The Gardens for Sun & Shade, and a Bamboo forest. In addition, we will visit the field trials, where Rutgers does comparisons of various cultivars to see which do best in the growing conditions of central New Jersey. In accordance with the Garden's mission to promote and provide accurate information about the art of horticulture with an emphasis upon the relationship between plants, human health and nutrition in designed and natural landscapes, our tour will include the ethno-botanical and anthropological connection between plants and people.

The cost of the tour is \$10.00 per person. Plan to bring your lunch, as we will be able to picnic on the Garden grounds. We will be leaving the Greenhouse around 9:30 AM. Our tour will last about two hours. The tour is limited to 20 people, so please contact Robyn Lowenthal at 201-287-1970 or [Catboat3@gmail.com](mailto:Catboat3@gmail.com), by May 20, if you would like to join us. Please send a check for \$10.00, made out to the Garden Club of Teaneck, to Robyn Lowenthal 576 Martense Avenue Teaneck, NJ 07666. Since Rutgers Gardens is about an hour away, carpooling is a great option. Please let me know if you can offer a ride to others, need a ride, or prefer to drive by yourself.

For more information about Rutgers Gardens, check out their website, [www.rutgersgardens.edu](http://www.rutgersgardens.edu).

## **Help Wanted**

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The following is an appeal from our President for help:

A senior facility in Closter houses approximately 65 developmentally disabled adults the clients /patients who live at this site and call it "home". Most are confined to a wheelchair and live here because they require medical supervision around the clock. However, they thoroughly enjoy gardening and doing so gives them a sense of pride and builds self esteem.

The facility has a 12'X18' greenhouse attached off of the recreation room. In addition, 2 portable wheelchair accessible horticulture working stations and a 4 tier shelf with lights are available for the program. Money has been allocated in the budget for this program. The money can be used for seeds, pots, soil or anything else necessary to make this program successful.

The program did have a horticulturist who headed up this program until a couple of months ago. He had to relocate and unfortunately he could no longer help run the program. There are 2 full time recreation staff available to assist in carrying out this program. Also, there are 5 – 8 direct care staff to assist as well. What is sorely missing from this program is a person with the knowledge, expertise and heart to help bring it back to life.

The director suggests one hour per week but is flexible and will offer a small salary for the right person. If you have questions or would like more details, please call Pat Fromm at 201-880-1660.

## **Final Word**

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Enclosed please find the 2014 Garden Club of Teaneck Membership List. Marty Steil