



# Garden Club News

October/November 2009  
Autumn



P.O. Box 3253 Teaneck, NJ 07666

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

## Calendar: November 2009

**Greenhouse Meeting: November 7, 2009, 10 AM** at The Greenhouse, at the foot of Lindbergh Blvd. **Please check p. 3** for important messages from Greenhouse officers.

**Garden Club of Teaneck: November 12, 2009 at 7:30 PM**

**Cyrus Hyde, Well-Sweep Farms: "The A to Z of Herbs"**

**205 Mt. Bethel Rd., Port Murray, NJ 07865-4147 908-852-5390 website: [www.wellsweep.com](http://www.wellsweep.com)**

*Cyrus Hyde comes to The Garden Club of Teaneck with a deep knowledge of herbs, having been recognized by the American Herb Society ( Nancy Putnam Society Award for excellence in horticultural), as well as by the International Society for Herbs (contributions to the profession of herb growing.)*

*In 1966, Cyrus and Louise Hyde bought an old run down house in Warren County. With a background in farming and a passion for gardening, the two developed Well-Sweep Herb Farm and it grew into a national attraction. It does have an array of herbs from A (for Acanthus molis) to Z (for Zatar), totalling 1,864 varieties. Come and see a slide presentation on herbs from the grower's perspective. This family owned business has 40 years' experience in the distinct properties of herbs. The Farm has medicinal, perennial, rock, butterfly and herb gardens, worth a visit after the lecture---they are breathtaking!*

**Garden Club meetings & programs are at 7:30 PM at the Rodda Community Center, 250 Colonial Court, Teaneck, N.J., unless noted otherwise.**

**Wishes for a Speedy Recovery Extended to Dr. Alexander Fitzburgh, Speaker for September**

As members who attended the last Garden Club meeting know, the speaker broke his arm while coming into the Rodda Center. Dr. Fitzburgh was to give a lecture on Propagation, which was eagerly anticipated by those working to multiply scented geraniums, witch hazel, figs, houseplants and herbs for the upcoming Spring Sale. Dr. Fitzburgh, of Wayne, is recovering and looking forward to resuming his active schedule of speaking and plant propagation. We also await such a resumption, and look forward to seeing him. 🌿

**Scholarships from Greenhouse and Garden Club Awarded to Students in June, 2009**

The Community Fund of Teaneck recognizes many fine students every year with scholarships. The Garden Club has a part in these awards from interview screening to actual awards. **Jenika Parson** was awarded the Greenhouse Scholarship (\$1,000 ) and is now at Smith to study Biomedical Engineering. Her ultimate goal is to use her education to design and build prostheses. The Garden Club award of \$500 is being used by **Yoheliz Parea** to study Nursing at The College of New Jersey, Ewing Township. We wish the best to these socially minded youngsters. Helen Humphreys has participated in the scholarship award process for "about 15 years." 🌿

## Interview: George Tipton

**George Tipton**, who just last month turned **95**, has had a life enriched by contact with growing and nurturing plants. Originally from Knoxville, TN from a family of twelve with a nursery business, he knew greenhouses long before he came to the Teaneck Greenhouse. *“The greenhouses were there in 1914. They were made of panes that overlapped; each pane was 14’ by 12”;* each pane cost 10 cents in those days. *Would cost a dollar nowadays. The glass was placed so that the upper glass panes overlapped the lower ones. There wasn’t any plastic in those days.”*

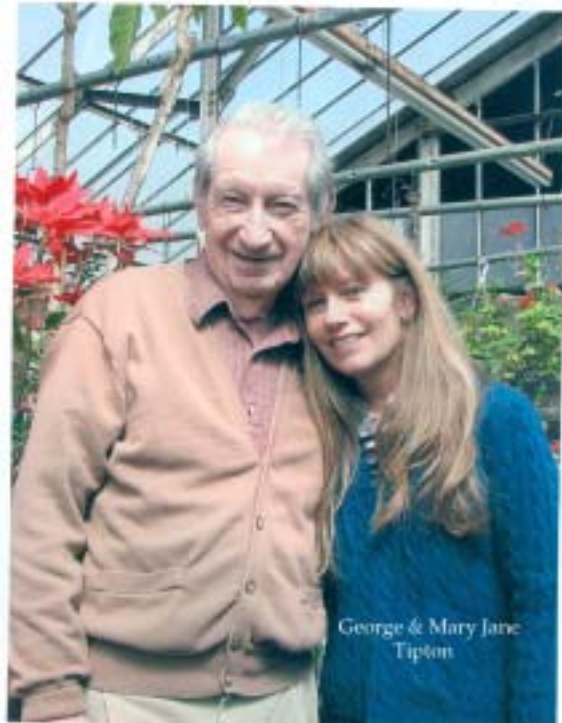
Heating the greenhouses with steam heat was an area George knew. *“The thermostat was not yet invented. Coal cost \$3.00 a ton, and it cost \$18 a year to heat three greenhouses in those days. I used a vertical board to shovel the coal into the boiler. The boiler has a water init, heated water rises and steam heat for the greenhouse is made. When the water cooled, it condensed. Coal mines were nearby—horses pulled the coal out of the mountain. George remembered a person making a greenhouse in an abandoned mine and heating it from the underground. It was about 70 degrees underground all the time.*

He went to school at the same time as he was working firing the greenhouse boiler. George describes high school as a time when he would snore and fall asleep in study hall—he had a schedule that not many others had. He also remembers grafting different kinds of apple trees. On one tree, there were *“green, yellow and red apples.” with rose blooms (type of bloom, not color.)* Following that, the apple tree bloomed in the regular way. *“It was just a freak of nature. It made the front page of The Knoxville Sentinel.”*

George also remembers his work experience during the Great Depression (*“It took ten years to clear that up.”*) His father would assign sections of the greenhouses for the children to sell *“When you reached a certain age, what you sold, you kept.”* Popular flowers in the twenties and thirties were petunias, geraniums and chrysanthemums. He had a wagon and loaded it to sell to the public.

He came North after high school and worked in Wright Aeronautical, with airplane motors and cylinders. He married Hedda, lived in NYC, then Englewood. When he got to Englewood, he grew *“tomatoes, peppers, okra, (chop and fry) and pumpkin—the usual thing—I was always interested in gardening, always interested in the way I did the gardening.”*

He joined the Garden Club and Greenhouse seven years ago. Mary Jane, his daughter, is also a member. Recently, the



two raised a large pumpkin, which was pictured (with Mary Jane) in both *The Suburbanite* and *The Record*. The Pumpkin is on the front lawn on Oct.30; seeds will go to Fred Dolch, supplier of the original seeds, after it is cut open. The Pumpkin is on p.1., masthead.

The interview concluded with tips on conditioning soil for gardening. **Quality of soil:** *most soil doesn’t have enough nutrients. In your garden, take the weeds out, bury them—plants that took nutrients, give them back. In the South, they plant winter rye and plow it under and turn it to fertilizer for plants. Also try in the Fall, layering soil, leaves and soil in your garden. There will be nutrients in the soil by Springtime.*

**Starting seeds** that are very small can be hard. Try this tip: sow the seeds in a flat (box filled with smoothed dirt. ). Don’t put dirt on top of the seeds---instead, spray charcoal over the surface of the seeds, The charcoal will hold the seeds for germination.

**Propagating Rose of Sharon.** The Rose of Sharon is a late blooming plant. To propagate, it, take budded branches in March, place in 4”pots and remove it to the greenhouse. Keep an eye on them for 4-6 weeks, and then transplant to the ground outside. 🌱

## **Greenhouse News    Dania' Cheddie, Director of the Greenhouse, Garden Club of Teaneck**

On Monday, October 5th, a few of us from the Greenhouse, Lou Schwartz, Nancy Cochran, Fred Dolch, Len Schwartz, and I, met with the Township Manager, William Broughton. The meeting was generally a productive one. Manager Broughton shared with us the Town's primary concern, the budget, and how they are looking at every town agency and organization for possible modifications to how the town supports them. He stressed that the Greenhouse was not being singled out, but that it would be important to demonstrate how we are an asset to the Town, grow more flowers for the Town, and how we are reducing costs.

Our highest expense at the Greenhouse is heating. We discussed ways that we can reduce heating costs and increase our revenues. We mentioned looking into grants, and we currently have a committee looking into that. We're also looking into doing an energy audit, which Fred Dolch is coordinating. Manager Broughton would like the Municipal area's landscape improved, as he feels that it does not truly reflect Teaneck's beauty. He would like us to take on this project. Mary Topolsky, garden designer and Garden Club member, and I have met, discussed shrub and plant selections, and will meet with the Manager as soon as we have firmed up the plan. Nancy Cochran is working on the Herb Garden, and will be creating a plant border around it. By the next newsletter, I should have additional information from the other committiees that are looking into how wecan reduce costs, and increase our revenues. 🌿

## **Aura's Niche Aura Altieri, Garden Club President**

*The Fall clean up depends on the kind of garden you are growing. If you are growing herbaceous peonies, is time to cut the stems about two inches above the ground and add some compost around the stems not on the plant. If you are thinking about growing/starting new plants from any of your woody shrubs, it is almost impossible to start a new plant from an old hardwood branch. New growth roots quicker than older growth; so is best if you select cuttings from young wood and enclose the 6" pot with plastic to create a miniature greenhouse. Remember that gardening projects are best when you share them with friends... Please come to the next meeting and share your cuttings/stories with us. 🌿*

## **A Note from Christina Mackensen, Horticultural Director, Greenhouse**

1. We have to make sure that the plants we bring into the greenhouse are free of pests. Every plant should be sprayed with insecticidal soap.
2. Let's get this greenhouse in tip top shape. That means cleaning underneath the benches. There are still numerous benches that have weeds growing under them and all kinds of debris stored underneath. It doesn't take much effort to get them clean, but the reward is a clean, pleasing environment.
3. I have contributed many ferns and other plants that are ready for propagation and used for next year's sale. Keeping the township's cost-cutting in mind, any plants that we propagate , grow from our own and sell don't cost us anything. In light of this, every group is expected to help out with this task. 🌿

*New email address:  
ChrisGelsMack@gmail.com*



hAns.: Gorge Tipton

*Who is the 6 yr. old with the rooster perched precariously on his head in the photo?*



## Chronicles of the Garden Club: The Original Herb List for the Garden


This list of the original herbs first planted in the Herb Garden was by Grace Kriegel in her handwriting, found by the editor in the Library's vertical file.

Common Name	Use	Latin Name	Type
Sneezewort	M	Achillea ptarmica	HP
Bear's Breech	—	Acanthus mollis	TP
Anise Hyssop	C	Agustache foeniculum	HP
Lady's Mantle	Dec	Alchemillea mollis	—
Garlic Chives	C	Allium tuberorum	HP
Dill	C	Anthenum graveolena	A
Chamomile (German)	M	Anthemis carpetica	HP
Butterfly Weed	M	Asclepias tuberosa	HP
Pot Marigold	Dye	Calendula	HP
Carolina Allspice	Scent	Calycamthus	—
Feverfew	M	Chrysanthemum parthenium	HA(P)
Lemon Grass	C	Cymbopogton ambiguus	TP
Elfin Herb	Dec	Cuphea hyssopifolia	TP
Scotch Broom	C	Cytisus scoparius	HP
Queen Anne's Lace	M	Daucus carota	HB
Purple Coneflower	M	Echinacea purpurea	HP
Globe Thistle	Dec	Echinops ritro	HP
Our Lady's Bedstraw	C	Gallium verum	HP
Baby's Breath	Dec	Gypsophila paniculate	HP
Indigo	D	Indigo fera	HH
Sweet Bay	C	Laurus nobilis	TP
Lavender	Scent	Lavendula	HP
Lovage	C	Levisticum officinalis	HP
Lemon Balm	M + C	Melissa officinalis	HP
Bee Balm/Oswego Tea	M	Monarda didyma	HP
Greek Oregano	C	Origanum	HP
Russian Sage	Dec	Perovskia	HP
Italian Parsley	C	Petroselinum swativum	HB
Curley Leaf Parsley	C	" " crispum	HB
Salad Burnet	C	Poterium sanguisorba	HP
Lungwort	M	Pulmonaria officinalis	HP
Rue	C	Ruta graveolena	HP
Soapwort	—	Saponaria officinalis	HP
Lamb's Ears	M	Stachys byzantina	HP
Comfrey	M	Symphaticum officinalis	HP
Germander	Dec	Teucrium chamaedrys	HP
Lemon Thyme	C	Thymus praecox	HP
Mullein	Dec	Verbascum	—

M=Medicinal, C=Culinary, Dec.= Decorative, HP= Hardy Perennial,

TP= Tender Perennial, A=Annual, HA= Hardy Annual

### EXECUTIVE BOARD of the Garden Club, Teaneck, New Jersey

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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## MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

The Garden Club of Teaneck is a long established organization (1932) whose main purpose is to promote and pursue horticultural interest.

The scope of the Club's activities is defined by a set of published by-laws.

The Club meets in the Rodda Center at the south end of Votee Park in Teaneck on the second Thursday of each month from September through June. Usually there is a guest speaker at each meeting, except for a winter holiday party in December, and a Spring luncheon in June.

Each member is entitled to receive a monthly newsletter, to participate in any regularly scheduled general meeting (or executive meeting on request), to be elected to office and to share in the Club's activities as noted below.

Anyone may join the Club, or renew his/her membership therein, as long as they have paid their dues and remained in good standing. There are two types of membership: honorary and regular. Honorary membership is both earned through outstanding service to the Club and based upon election by the general membership.

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Please send the bottom portion of this form and a check or money order for the appropriate amount made payable to the Garden Club of Teaneck, and mail to the

**Membership Chairperson: Deborah Morgan, 288 Maitland Avenue, Teaneck, NJ 07666**

**NAME (print)** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**HOME PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**CELL PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

*- rest of membership form, over-*

You may become a regular member by completing this registration form and sending in your dues. Those members designated as honorary hold life-time membership in the Club and are no longer required to pay dues.

Dues for the year are set by the Club at its May meeting. The amount for 2009-2010 is \$20.00 per member. For two people living in one household and receiving one newsletter, dues will be \$35.00. If you want two separate newsletters, dues will be \$20.00 for each person.

The Club publishes a monthly newsletter which is sent to all members in good standing and to all honorary members. It contains a schedule of events and items of horticultural interest.

Greenhouse and related activities are according to Club by-laws conducted by a Greenhouse committee, and are based upon a set of written rules. Because the Club is obliged to supply the Township with its annual need for flowers, the Greenhouse committee is active from September through early June. Groups with special horticultural interests meet one day a week in support of Greenhouse operations.

The Greenhouse committee has a regularly scheduled business meeting on the first Saturday of each month from October through June.

Certain privileges are available to residents of Teaneck who participate in Greenhouse operations, provided that they are members in good standing of both the Garden Club and the Greenhouse committee, and have complied with all the published rules. These privileges are limited to the use of assigned space both within the Greenhouse and in the garden plots which lie near it on the eastern spur of Lindbergh Boulevard.

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Major horticultural interests \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***I would be interested in working on the following committees:***

Firehouse planting \_\_\_\_\_ Holiday Party \_\_\_\_\_

Greenhouse \_\_\_\_\_ Spring Luncheon \_\_\_\_\_

Chinese auction \_\_\_\_\_ Hospitality \_\_\_\_\_

Philadelphia Flower Trip \_\_\_\_\_ Herb Garden \_\_\_\_\_

Car trips \_\_\_\_\_ Web site \_\_\_\_\_

Fundraising \_\_\_\_\_ Programming \_\_\_\_\_

School activities \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_