



Garden Club News

November 2014

PO Box 3253 Teaneck, NJ 07666

www.gardenclubofteaneck.org

The next meeting of the Garden Club of Teaneck will be held on Thursday, November 13th at the Richard Rodda Center. The meeting will start at 7:30pm. That evening our guest speakers will be Paul Kubarych and Tom Bender of Rohsler's Allendale Nursery and Florist. They will speak to us on deer resistant plants.

The next meeting of the Greenhouse Committee of the Garden Club will be on Saturday, November 1th at 10:00 am at the Greenhouse.

Member News

**Message from Pat Fromm,
President**

You are invited to the Greenhouse!

Please join me in the greenhouse Saturday November 1st for an introduction to the greenhouse committee work groups, the work we do, and a look at the greenhouse facility at 10:00 am at the east end of Lindbergh Blvd.

The work done at the greenhouse to produce the annual plant sale provides funds for the educational programs for Hawthorne School, outreach to the Jr Garden Club, The Library Herb Garden, the Library Memorial Garden and scholarships to Teaneck High School Seniors. It subsidizes the speakers and programs we have monthly at the Rodda Center, and helps defray the costs of our monthly newsletter. The members that belong to the Greenhouse Committee are the **Muscle** of the Garden Club of Teaneck. They are a diverse group of professionals with interesting backgrounds and experiences. From the thirty some-things to the Centenarians (yes, we have two!!), they

have some great stories and gardening knowledge to share.

We'll start at 10 am and we should be finished by 10:30. If you'd like to stay for the business meeting that follows, you are welcome or simply come have a look and meet some of the fellow members. The greenhouse is at the eastern end of Lindbergh Blvd. If the weather is nice, come early and take a walk through the gardens! Pat

**Message from Len Schwartz,
Greenhouse Director**

Most of us have brought in our plants and have, of course, pre-sprayed the foliage and the surface soil with the insecticide from the sprayer on the big desk. You may have to also fill the sprayer, using the pre-measured concentrate which is also on the desk. The greenhouse is in operation, the heat is on, and we will soon be weatherproofing the fan openings. Groups should start meeting in November with the same days as last year. At our November 1st meeting, this Saturday, group leaders will introduce their group and make very short remarks about what they do, so we should all attend. At the end of the

meeting Fred and Carol Dolch's benches will be lotteried off, so anyone wanting to change their bench should attend. At the meeting we will also be considering a motion to enhance work group attendance throughout the year by requiring that absences be made up, so anyone who wants to have input on this motion should attend. Finally we will be assigning monthly greenhouse "up keep" responsibilities, including hospitality, so please come to the meeting even if you would rather not find out all the up-keep tasks. As we probably all know Joe Papa has resigned as horticultural director. He did an outstanding job for the past two years and we all thank him for his leadership, ideas dedication and the immense amount of time he put into making our plant sales so successful. Joe may still be able to play a reduced role, but if the plant sale is to continue, someone or some group of us members will have to assume a much more involved, responsible, role. This is a major agenda item for the November meeting. Len

A Visit with Carol and Fred Dolch By Joe and Annemarie Papa

We spent last weekend with Carol, Fred and Jessie. We left on Friday and drove almost six hours to the small village of Newbury, Vermont population 1,995 adjacent to the Connecticut River (a great eastern native trout river). They have a majestic view of the mountains to the east, populated with deer, fox, coyote and moose. They have a beautifully restored home with lots of collectibles and curios and of course it is impeccably maintained. The foliage was changing and many trees were brilliant in their display. We caught glimpses of flocks of migrating Flickers and even spotted a Pileated Woodpecker in flight.

We visited a The Four Seasons Farm and bought fresh Cauliflower and potatoes, then drove around the property and admired their

herd of Highlander Scottish Cattle a hearty breed that can weather the Vermont climate. Fred claims if you put them into a field of brush and small trees they will clear cut it in no time.

The farmer who owned, worked the farm was easily identified for his earthen skin, loving connection to the soil, and the animals he raised. They exude a sense of self-reliance and great knowledge of the land. They are all the same worldwide as from my wife's farming village in Germany. They all have that look, that affinity to the soil, to the elements, their livestock and their wonderful and rich life. They are of the land.

We visited an orchard and vineyard and did some wine tasting. Saturday night we went to Arianna's, a farm to kitchen (using local produce) for a superb gourmet dinner.

I cannot forget to mention Jessie, what a wonderful dog, he is quite content in his new digs. He has vast areas to roam with Fred, groundhogs to chase, grouse to flush and a warm hearth to nap by. He is one of the best dogs I have met in my lifetime.

Fred, Carol and Jessie send their kindest regards to all and although they miss us all they have developed some nice relationships in Newbury. Now I am thinking about doing some Fly fishing there in the spring. Joe and Annemarie

Message from Aura Altieri VP of Membership

Your 2014-15 membership dues are due by November 1st.

Please remit by check, made payable to Garden Club of Teaneck and mail to

Garden Club of Teaneck
PO Box 3253

Teaneck, NJ 07666

ATTN: Aura Altieri, Membership Chair

ALL MEMBERS WHOSE DUES HAVE NOT BEEN PAID BY NOVEMBER 20TH SHALL BE REMOVED FROM THE MEMBERSHIP LIST. Aura

Herb of Month - Patty Libutti

From the UrbanHerban's Notebook:

Herbs in the Midnight Garden of Good and Evil? Bewitch and Beware the Whole Year

The setting for Behrendt's novel is Savannah, with noted squares and graveyards; but the gardens are pictured as dark, very dark. Could this toxic herb have been part of the eerie settings? All three outlined below live in Georgia---and New



Jersey--- It might have been.

The Thornapple (Datura stramonium) is also known as Moonflower and Locoweed. It is both poisonous and medically useful, as are its relatives in the nightshade

family, Belladonna (*Allotrope belladonna*) and Mandrake (*Mandragora officinarum*).

If you handle the Thorn apple's seed pods carelessly, you will get pricked painfully. But when the pod opens, the seeds do their dastardly work. Toxic reactions are due to alkaloids that cause vision distortion, hallucinations, and can be fatal. Such is true with Belladonna and Mandrake as well. These are not plants to display in a garden club show and tell! Many of the parts of the plants are toxic; check your local poison plant directory.

The medicinal uses of these nightshade members are surprising: Datura was formerly an asthmatic medication,

Belladonna is an eye medication, and Mandrake was used for stomach ills. Cornell notes their debilitating effect on livestock, USDA lists them as 'noxious plants'; and Native Americans from long ago used them as hallucinogenic aids for ceremonies. You will find an exhibit in the Cloisters herb gardens in their "Magical Herb" section. There are many others which could have been part of the same Garden, such as Foxglove and Mayapple - but this will wait till another Halloween.

(Sources (some) U. Michigan: Native American Medical Plants Database. FDA: Poisonous Plants Database, A Modern Herbal, Cornell University's Ag Extension publications, USDA Plant maps.)