

# Garden Club News

## May 2014

PO Box 3253 Teaneck, NJ 07666

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

The next meeting of the Garden Club of Teaneck will be held on Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at the Richard Rodda Center. The meeting will start at 7:30pm. That evening Nancy Slowik, the Director – Naturalist of the Greenbrook Sanctuary will speak to the club about native plants.

The annual Greenhouse Committee Plant Sale will start on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> and run until the following Sunday May 11<sup>th</sup>. (See flyer at the end of the newsletter). The final meeting of the Greenhouse Committee of the Garden Club will be on Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.

**There will be a special Members Only Night on Friday, May 2 from 5pm to 8pm. All members of the Garden Club are invited. There will be a 10% discount for all purchases of \$100.00 dollars or more.**

### Member News

#### Message from Pat Fromm, President

Life too busy these days for wordy president's messages! Hope you all are excited as I am about the upcoming plant sale! Many of us have worked very hard to insure another fabulous sale for the community! We will have an event in June, still working on details, but SAVE the DATE – June 14<sup>th</sup>! See you all at the plant sale! Pat

#### Message from Len Schwartz, Greenhouse Director

This is the best week to be in the greenhouse, just before the sale, when the entire place is green and flowering. At last night's executive board meeting we went over final considerations and hopefully we will have a very successful sale. If you have still not signed up for your weekend sale duties, please do. Remember that members

pre-sale night is May 2, 5 to 8 PM only. Only customer parking will be allowed inside the fence on Lindbergh Blvd, our access street, for both Saturdays and both Sundays of the sale. You may drive through and park on the east side lawn behind the greenhouse. Please attend the briefing session that Joe is planning for next week to better know about what we have produced. If you are interested in joining the scholarship committee, which determines whom among some of this year's very deserving Teaneck high school seniors, will be helped by our \$ 2500 yearly gift, please contact me. Lilly Chen has donated a goodly number of bluebell bulbs, which are sitting in two tubs outside the door of the greenhouse. Bluebells come up early, extend a shoot with many small pretty blue, bell shaped, flowers which smell sweet. Take as many as you want. This year's greenhouse cleanup will involve removing everything from the top and from under your bench including the weeds. Our last

greenhouse meeting will be on Saturday May 24<sup>th</sup>. We will be evaluating the sale, celebrating our accomplishments, honoring some people, electing old officers (and one new one) and of course, eating. Please attend. Len

---

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

Spring is upon us and many of us are grooming our flower and shrub beds for the peak growing season. Every three to four years I add compost to my beds and with the exception of my flower beds I mulch with wood chips. Shrubs and trees need the nourishment of the compost; the wood mulch not only inhibits weeds but also prevents evaporation during the hot summer months. This is great time to divide hosta and control the beautiful but aggressive iris. When dividing hosta I generally use a spade or a drywall cutting blade, divide the plant as needed, wash the roots in a pail and replant. I always amend the soil for all new plantings with compost, bone meal and chicken manure to give them a good head start. Normally I prune my trees and shrubs in the autumn or in early March. For those of you who have various pine trees there is an insidious pest, the wooly adelgid (looks like small tufts of cotton) which if not controlled will desiccate these trees. They can be controlled with horticultural oil sprayed in late May and early June when the next generation of nymphs are most vulnerable.

The work in the vegetable garden intensifies, amending beds, planting and transplanting lettuce, setting up for the wonderful bounty. I generally plant my tomatoes the third week of May, trying as usual some new Heirlooms. We can't wait for the highly prolific Korean Squash (Early Bulum) to start producing. Enjoy the balance of the spring. Joe

---

### **Earth Day 2014**

On Earth Day, April 22, 2014, the Environmental/PET club and Thomas Jefferson Middle School celebrated the opening of the "Michelle Obama Interdisciplinary Outdoor Garden", connecting science, art, math, social science, technology, language arts and World Language. The Interdisciplinary Outdoor Garden will provide opportunities for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) related projects that foster environmental and public interest.

Garden Club of Teaneck's liaison, Bob O'Brien helped with the planning, plant selection and advised how to plant the garden. Bob's daughter, Maria, sophomore at Teaneck High School, chose the Environmental/PET club as her community service project and dedicated many after school hours to the club and the garden. From all of us at GT, **Thank you** Bob and Maria! Everybody is encouraged to stop by the school to see the garden and the plaque with special thanks to Garden Club of Teaneck.



**The Dedication Team**

---

### **May Garden Club Speaker**

Nancy Slowik, the Director- Naturalist of Greenbrook Sanctuary for more than two decades, will speak about native plants to the Garden Club of Teaneck on Thursday

evening, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30. She cofounded a pilot program initiating the restoration of native plants in Staten Island for NYC Parks Department, using great perseverance and ingenuity (when funds were short, she introduced goats to keep grass growth down). She has been teaching natural history (NY Botanical Garden, Bard College, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs/S.I. High Rock Park, Interpretive Naturalist for National Parks Service-Gateway NRA, others) programs and leading guided walks more than 30 years. Ms Slowik is also the author of two books on local flora.

---

### **Rutgers Gardens Tour May 28<sup>th</sup>** **By Robyn Lowenthal**

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. 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

---

### **The School Program** **By Olga Newey**

The Hawthorne School Program ended this past Wednesday, April 23, 2014. We had 17 classes, from grades one through four, and altogether 345 students plus teachers, aides and parents. We sold approximately \$600 worth plants. They always love this part of the greenhouse experience. We explained to the students that the plants they were buying were propagated by the members of the greenhouse from their own plant collection and it was a way of passing part of the plant

to them. This was especially meaningful to the third graders because propagation was their topic. We spent under \$200 for supplies, posters, copies, fruit and veggies, etc.

Stella Franco, first grade teacher, created a beautiful lesson about the life cycle of a plant with emphasis on the seed - its parts and how it grows. Stella had posters made to illustrate this. She also collected a variety of seeds (from coconut to pine cone seeds) to illustrate the variety of seeds, and expanded this with another poster of different kinds of seeds. Then the students examined and identified the parts of the seed (the seed coat, cotyledons, embryo) with magnifying glasses of lima beans that Stella soaked beforehand. The culminating activity was planting a lima bean to take home. And the plant sale.

Risa Marlen did a beautiful job illustrating the different edible parts of a plant. For example, roots - carrots, stems - celery, leaves - lettuce, flowers - broccoli. The students did not realize that these common vegetables were the different parts of plants. They got to taste all the parts, too. Sarah Jones lent us her papaya tree to show, the students got to taste the fruit, and their culminating activity was planting the papaya seeds (from the fruit they ate) to take home. What fun. And then the plant sale. Unfortunately, Risa is moving to Florida and won't be able to continue teaching this program. We need another second grade teacher. Don't miss out on the fun. Volunteer!

Cynthia McKay is our third grade teacher. Propagation is her specialty. Cynthia demonstrated different methods of propagation: seed, division, stem, leaf, plantlets, air layering and bulbs. Plants exemplifying the different methods were demonstrated. They really understood the

concept and got to do seed propagation with nasturtiums. And then the plant sale. All the grades had four classes except for the third that had five. Cynthia taught an extra class. Hooray for Cynthia!

"Herbs, Herbs, Herbs" were Pat Libutti's bailiwick. Pat had the students smell different kinds of herbs from her very extensive collection. Definition and uses of herbs were discussed. The students then planted nasturtium seeds to take home. And, of course, the plant sale. I think the different scents lightened their mood because they left with a smile on their face. Was it the lemon verbena?

The students, teachers, aides and parents all seem to have had a good time and learn something. Ms. Van Horn's second grade class sent us letters thanking us for the session, telling us what they learned with pictures of the greenhouse. They really got the concepts. You have to see them. They are in the greenhouse on the desk and on the bulletin board nearest the door. You also have to see their faces as they are working. It really gladdens your heart. Teachers commented that the lessons were

appropriate and enriched the science curriculum. The kids really seem to enjoy the experience and said they would like to come back.

our donated seeds should have been kept in cool, dry place for storage.

### **Garden Club Tid Bits**

**By Pat Libutti**

"Once, a while back, Lou Schwartz was asked: "When did the Plant Sale begin?" "Oh, I don't know", he said. "it was here before I came here." His son, Len Schwartz, did the math. "He came here when he was 65, he had just retired." Since he is 101, the Plant Sale was around before 1978.

### **Final Word**

There is a saying: "To be appreciated is to be loved." If that is true than the Garden Club is especially loved by the children and young adults of Teaneck for their smiles say it all. Please enjoy these pictures of the Hawthorne School Program and the Junior Garden Club of Teaneck. Marty Steeil

## **Hawthorne School Program**





## The Junior Garden Club of Teaneck





## Thank You Notes Posted In The Greenhouse

at home I'm going to  
take good care of the two  
plants for you. The green  
house is the best place I've ever been to.

greenhouse. I learned that  
carrots are roots. When I  
grow up I want to own a greenhouse  
too!

I think the green  
house is very interesting. It  
has a variety of plants. I want  
to come back some day.  
So fun and a lot  
to learn. It is a great  
place.

Thank you for  
making us  
when I was  
the plant  
I was plant.



Come to the  
Green house

a plant. I picked 2  
great plants. I am so happy  
and so will my mom because  
I brought my mom a flower.  
It is a surprise for my  
mom. It is a pretty  
flower. I can't wait to  
show my mom the flower.

Dear Mrs Newey  
I like when  
you put seeds on the  
ground and put a

Mrs Newey Tuesday  
The green house was amazing  
and the plants. They were  
so fun to plant. I was  
so happy to go again and learn  
about plants.

4/1/11  
Dear Mrs Newey  
Mrs. Marlen  
I liked the  
greenhouse a lot!  
Buying the plants  
was the most fun.  
I can't wait to come back soon.

# Garden Club of Teaneck\* PLANT SALE



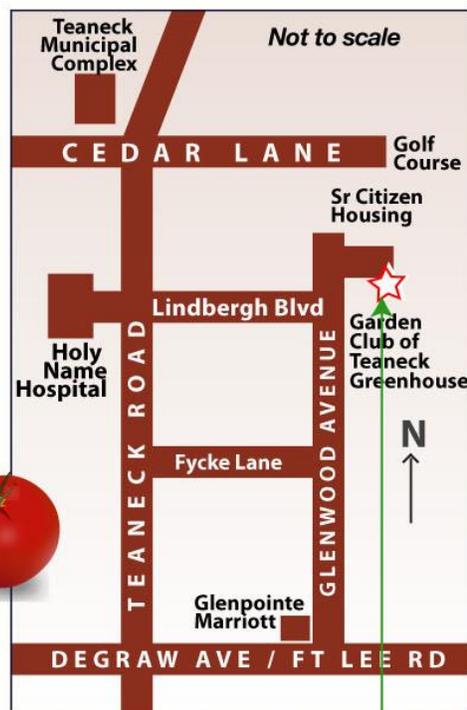
Saturday, May 3  
thru Sunday, May 11, 2014

Sat/Sun.....9 - 3 pm

M, W, Th.....9 - noon

T, Th, Fri.....5 - 8 pm

- annuals • tomatoes and vegetables • herbs
- house plants • hanging baskets



\* at the foot of Lindbergh Blvd., off Glenwood Ave.



*Prices reflect our nonprofit status*