



# Garden Club News

## March 2016

PO Box 3253 Teaneck, NJ 07666

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

### GARDEN CLUB OF TEANECK MEETINGS: MARCH 2016

**Sat., Mar. 5th**, 10 AM, Greenhouse. This is a Special Meeting for all members to vote on the bylaws mailed to each member. See p.2.

**Thurs., Mar. 10th.** Garden Club of Teaneck meeting. Refreshments, 7 PM. Announcements: 7:20 PM. 7:30, Regina Carlson will speak on "Gardening with Passion, Conscience, & Good Sense". Rodda Center, Room 2B (2nd Floor), 250 Colonial Ct., Teaneck, NJ 07666. The public is welcome.



#### **Regina Carlson on "Gardening with Passion, Conscience and Good Sense" March 10, 7:30 PM**

*(Regina Carlson in the David Austin Rose Gardens, Wolverhampton, West Midland. Photo: Ken Carlson)*

Regina takes center stage on March 10 with a lecture on "how-to practices that are sparing of effort, time, money, and the environment". It will cover design, construction, and maintenance, including techniques and tools."

Regina is a speaker, gardener, and environmentalist; she is self-taught in garden design. She has visited more than 500 gardens, mostly in England. She designs, makes, and maintains a quarter-acre garden, which has several thousand square feet of flower and shrub beds. The garden is included by the National Garden Conservancy in its Open Garden Days Program ("entrée to America's best private gardens"). The garden is also the site of benefit tours for the Reeves-Reed Arboretum, Summit.

She is graciously substituting for Andy Brand, our scheduled speaker, who unfortunately cannot be with us at this time. The Garden Club of Teaneck will welcome him in the future.

### MEMBERS' WORKSHOPS

#### **Plant Propagation Workshop**

Robyn Lowenthal

March 12, 2016

10:30 AM – 12 Noon



We will examine the "how" and "why" of sexual and asexual methods of plant propagation. These methods include seeding, cuttings (stem, leaf and root); dealing with corms, tubers and rhizomes; plantlet propagation, plant division, and air layering. We will discuss methods for dealing with "hard to propagate" plants. This is a hands-on workshop, so bring clippers, trowel, and any plant you might wish to propagate. The workshop is limited to 10 participants. Contact Robyn Lowenthal to register: 201-287-1970 or [catboat3@gmail.com](mailto:catboat3@gmail.com).

#### **"The Good, the Bad & the Ugly: Pest Management" Joe Papa.**

*Rescheduled from Feb. 20*

*to Saturday, April 9, 12 noon,  
Rodda Center*

This presentation will be about the identification of beneficial and pest insects in the garden, their interrelationships, and tips on organic techniques in their management.





### A Letter from Pat Fromm, GCT President

Last May, a committee was formed to consider a new structure for The Garden Club of Teaneck and the Greenhouse Committee. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee consists of 8 members who represent our club: Hawthorne School Program, Jr. Garden Club, Greenhouse management, Horticulture/Plant Sale, Programs, Landscaping, and Administration. They are all active in the Greenhouse, with 5 of the 8 currently serving on the Greenhouse Executive Committee and 4 of the 8 currently serving on the Garden Club Executive Committee.

The Committee has submitted a single new *Constitution and Bylaws* for your vote. You should have received, by US Post or by email, a copy of the proposed *Constitution and Bylaws of the Garden Club of Teaneck*. Please review this proposal, and if you have any questions, you may contact any of the Bylaws Committee members. Those names and contact numbers are included with the document you received.

There will be a Special Meeting of the Garden Club of Teaneck on March 5th to vote on the new *Constitution and Bylaws*. Prior to the vote there will be an open discussion. The Greenhouse meeting will start at 10 AM and the Special Meeting will follow.

When we have the new *Constitution and Bylaws* in place, there will be a single Executive Board, allowing us to make better use of our limited volunteer resources. The monthly business meetings (Oct – June) will be at the Greenhouse and public educational programs will continue at the Rodda Center.

Following a voted acceptance of the revised *Constitution and Bylaws*, the Garden Club of Teaneck will be able to move forward with the 501(c)3 organization approval process, enabling us to apply for grants to support many of our outreach programs.

I look forward to seeing all of you on March 5th at the Greenhouse.



### A Letter from Len Schwartz, Greenhouse Director

STATUS: Things are working well, we are ready to receive baby plants for the sale. The renovation of the bathroom is finished, except that we need to purchase and install an on-demand hot water heater. We are working on improving the lighting and heating at the cuttings/seeding trays. Please put a sign with your name on any plants you put on the trays.

#### NEW PROPOSED CONSTITUTION:

At the March 5 general meeting we will be considering proposed changes to the *Garden Club/ Greenhouse Constitution*. Hopefully, all members will have received copies of the proposals in sufficient time to read them before the meeting.

This is my understanding of the major changes:

1) We will combine our current two sets of officers into a single set: President, Vice President, Program Director, Treasurer, Secretary, Communications Director, Greenhouse Director, and Horticultural Director, who will all be elected together for first time in May of this year.

2) The treasuries of both groups will be combined.

3) We will have only one general membership meeting for the whole Club each month, and it will be held on the first Saturday morning of each month at the Greenhouse. Similarly, there will be only one Executive Board.

These meetings will be chaired by the President. The second Thursday of each month evening meetings at the Rodda Center will continue, but will be only educational and community directed.

4) A not very obvious implication of these changes, in my opinion, is that the existing Greenhouse, which has 80% of our members and is the core of our club, is, on paper, being swallowed up by the smaller piece that is the current Garden Club. I hope that in practice this concern is unfounded.

Since this proposal is a major change in our *Constitution*, it will require a 2/3 vote of those present and eligible to vote in order to pass. Abstentions count as negative votes. The voting will be by secret ballot.

I hope we all attend.---Len

**From the Horticultural Director: Joe Papa**

As you know, we take heed in our pest management of the Greenhouse, inoculating plants before entry, monitoring with yellow sticky traps and introducing parasitoids to control whitefly and aphids. Rarely have I talked about some of the beneficials that are in our garden. I will discuss a beneficial (pollinator and predator) that graces our landscapes each year. That is the Syrphid fly or Hoverfly. The adult winged insect (below) is seen hovering and often immersed in flowers, feeding on nectar and pollen. They are considered the second most important group of pollinators after wild bees. Their markings replicate wasps, which help repel predators, but they do not sting.

I have always been intrigued with their “stop, hover and go” flight patterns. Many are insectivores and have a great appetite for aphids. The females lay their eggs amongst them, having been attracted by honeydew emitted by the aphid. Their larvae, called maggots, is a voracious hunter and feeds on other soft-bodied insects as well, such as cabbage worm, scales, thrips and a variety of other caterpillars. The mature fly is attracted to buckwheat, bachelor button, sweet alyssum, oregano, chives, and catnip.

**The Hoverfly:  
an adept flyer  
and even  
better  
beneficial.**



On Saturday, April 9th, I will be giving a presentation at the Rodda Center at 12:00 noon entitled “The Good, The Bad and the Ugly”. It is about the identification of beneficial and pest insects in the garden, their interrelationships, with tips on organic techniques in their management.

**March Madness** is upon us as we take in the bulk of our plants for the Sale and as the vernal equinox approaches.---Joe

**Hawthorne School Program: March 14-31, 2016****Mon, 4th Grade, Pat Libutti, *Native American Plants and Their Uses***

3/14 Norris, 1 PM, 18 students

3/21 Brown, 9:45 AM, 18 students

3/28 AM Warren-Givens, 9:45 AM, 21 students

3/28 Henry, 1 PM, 20 students

**Tues., 2nd Grade, Sydelle Postman, *Plant Structure and Function***

3/22 Nunez, 10 AM, 20 students

3/22 Domingues, 1 PM, 21 students

3/29 Lindner, 10 AM, 19 students

3/29 Rieder, 1 PM, 9 students

**Wed., 3rd Grade, Mark Penchinar, *Propagation***

3/23 Blount, 9:45 AM, 22 students

3/23 Thomas, 1 PM 24 students

3/30 Cardone, 9:45 AM, 25 students

3/30 Doris & Maher, 1 PM, 20 students

**Thurs., 1st Grade, Stella Franco, *Seeds***

3/24 Bono, 10 AM, 20 students

3/24 Puso, 1 PM, 20 students

3/31 Ferreria, 10 AM, 21 students

3/31 Hernandez, 1 PM, 20 students



The Sale is coming---it is only 60 days away! The Thursday Group (Anna Kurz, Robyn Lowenthal, and Dania Cheddie) is preparing. (Out of camera range: Sara Jones)



## Plan for the Skylands Manor Holiday Open House



## Explore the Garden of the Garden State

Once a year, historic Skylands Manor, in the New Jersey State Botanical Garden, hosts a Holiday Open House, when rooms are filled, floor to ceiling, with extravagant displays of seasonal décor. In keeping with the botanical surroundings, the lush holiday décor features abundant live and dried plants and flowers, elegant appointments, and displays created to appeal to young and old.



*The decorating theme is changed annually. For 2016, the theme is "A Gardeners' Holiday".*

The rooms and halls are decorated by scores of volunteers from northern New Jersey garden clubs, Master Gardener programs and local companies, as well as NJBG members.

And the Garden Club of Teaneck has been invited to participate by decorating a room! We will need your help. Do you have lots of creative ideas? Can you help make decorations? Help with the physical decoration of the room? Volunteer time as a docent in our room? Help take down the decorations at the end of the event? Do you have holiday decorations you no longer need, and would be willing to donate?

The Holiday Open House will take place from December 1 - 4, 2016. NJBG is located on Morris Road in Ringwood, NJ. Contact Doug, Robyn or Dania for more information.

### Garden Club of Teaneck Newsletter

March 2016 © Garden Club of Teaneck

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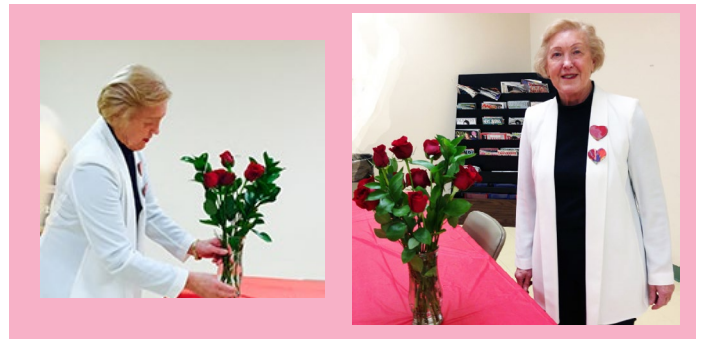
Article deadline: 20th of the month..

*From the delicate shades of a tiny wildflower to the vibrant colors of massed annual plantings, Skylands is a place of beauty in any season. Here you can wander amid the elegance of formal gardens, or along gentle paths winding through the woods.*

The Garden Club of Teaneck is a member of New Jersey Botanical Gardens in Ringwood, New Jersey. As an organization member we are entitled to 4 (four) passes, each for One Free Admission to the Skyland Manor Tours. These passes will be available until all are used. You may request one pass per member by emailing [gardenclubofteaneck@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubofteaneck@gmail.com) or call 201-880-6110 to request a ticket. Call at least 5 days in advance of the date of the tour. You may check for times and dates of tours at the Events Calendar at [www.njbg.org](http://www.njbg.org) or call 973-962-9534. ---Pat Fromm

### Shade Tree Advisory Board Presents Position to Council

The Shade Tree Advisory Board (STAB) members (Ellen, Sandy and Anna) attended the February 11th Council Budget meeting to advocate for tree replacement funding of \$150,000. They showed a PowerPoint presentation, which stated the reasons for replacement planting. In the past three years, 826 trees were removed due to disease, storms, or damage, none were replaced. The presentation was favorably received; there was no decision made on funding at that meeting.



At the 2/11 GCT meeting, Christina Mackensen demonstrated how to arrange roses. *Thank you, Christina!*



## You Are Invited to a Pot Luck Luncheon

In honor of  
**Warren Diercksen**  
Saturday, April 2,  
12 noon  
At the Greenhouse

Bring a dish to share!

**Warren Diercksen** has been active in the Garden Club of Teaneck longer than anyone in recorded Garden Club history. Warren retired from the Club last year after many years of service. Warren will be married 67 years as of April 10th, one week after our Pot Luck Luncheon honoring him.

He joined the Club in 1961, and then the Greenhouse, and then became President in 1968. He said that his banking background served him well in keeping the accounts in the black.

Warren remembers that Plant Sales were regularly held, out in the open. They were scheduled to last for or one day; plants were placed on long tables in front of supermarkets. Also there was a newsletter; he did not remember it being named "The Greenhouse", but that was in the Fifties.

Warren was active in the Seventies in the Garden Club Flower Shows. In 1974, he was named the General Chairman of the show.

Roses were always Warren's passion---he grew floribundas, miniature tea roses, climbers---and many others, amassing over 100 bushes at his house, which Warren exhibited often. In 1985-86 he was the President of the Garden State Rose Club, and in 1995-96, served another term. In

March 2000, he gave a lecture at our Club on "How to Enjoy Roses". He is a lifelong registered Rosarian, serving other rose growers via hotline calls from Shreveport, LA headquarters of the American Rose Society. He suffered a setback with his beloved roses four years ago. The bushes were decimated by an airborne virus, reducing the collection to a mere 14 bushes.

Warren is, however, happy that these species have survived, and continues his fascination with roses into the present. He noted: "Time went so fast." When asked about his most lasting memories of the Garden Club, he replied: "The people".

### To Warren Diercksen

*The Garden Club of Teaneck recognizes you  
for your active constructive participation  
over the past fifty-five years.*

*You are a past president, a teacher, an expert  
on roses, a source of knowledge, skill  
and wisdom  
and a friend to many.*

*You will be missed.*

*--Len Schwartz*



## (Herbal) Tea Party in the Greenhouse

A workshop, "Hot Herbal Tea for Cold Times" had an encore on Feb. 22, shared by Pat Libutti with the Monday Herb Group. Each member brought a mug; Bob O'Brien shared pastries, which enhanced the ambiance even more. Different herb teas were discussed (mints: Moroccan, peppermint, spearmint, as well as several lavender blends). What makes a good cup of tea? Some factors are the right herb(s), temperature of the water, methods used to prepare the tea, and the use of sugar (no) and milk (sometimes). Healing properties found in teas depends on the herb's chemical composition. There are over 53 chemical compounds found in spearmint; some are held to be healing, according to Duke University studies. British scientists hold that the hot water in tea alone helps heal colds, (as does seven day's rest). Members used tea sacks with loose-leaf teas to make their own.

**Herb Tea links and recipes:**  
[urbanherban.blogspot.com](http://urbanherban.blogspot.com)



Doug Raska, Sal Lagattuta, Pat Libutti measuring precise amounts of Moroccan mint tea leaves.

Doug making his own brew from the teas offered.



Nancy Lichtenstein and Joe Papa with a cuppa.



**AFTERWORDS:**  
**"Native Plants and  
Butterfly Gardens"**  
**by Dr. Hubert Ling**  
**2/11/2016**



"Every plant supports ten animals," Dr. Ling said. We immediately became aware that a butterfly garden is essential for wildlife survival. He told us anecdotes, jokes and facts, all pointing at the decline of plant and insect populations. He displayed macrophotos of many of the 150 plus butterfly species in NJ, paired with the Native plants that they favor, showing plant and insect interdependence.

What can you do to save butterflies? Try planting the right plants to attract them. One in extreme peril is the Monarch; there is a lack of ordinary milkweed as well as the Swamp milkweed, pictured above.

Dr. Ling quizzed us: *What is the state bird?* ("Goldfinch"). *What is the state flower?* ("Violet") *Do you know the state butterfly?* ("Black Swallowtail", voted in by the NJ legislature on Dec. 30, 2015). Very few members knew that the Black Swallowtail is our State Butterfly.

The plant and butterfly listings Dr. Ling distributed can be found on the Native Plant Society of NJ ([www.npsnj.org](http://www.npsnj.org)).

You can search by title: Native Butterfly Host Plants and Native Butterfly Nectar Plants.

You can get his handouts from the Editor: email [pat.libutti@aol.com](mailto:pat.libutti@aol.com). You will get a reply with an attachment of handouts in PDF form.

Soon, the handouts will also be available on our GCT website:

<http://gardenclubofteaneck.org>.



L-R: Doug Raska, Mark Penchinar, Nancy Lichtenstein, Joe Papa, Pat Libutti, Anne Ediger, Sal Lagattuta. (Out of camera range: Bob O'Brien, Denise George, Pat Fromm, Bill Loughlin. Photos: Pat Fromm.)