



# Garden Club News

## April 2016

PO Box 3253 Teaneck, NJ 07666

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

### GARDEN CLUB OF TEANECK EVENTS: APRIL 2016

**Sat., April 2,** 10 AM, Greenhouse. There will be a Potluck Luncheon in honor of Warren Dierksen at 12 noon, following the Greenhouse meeting.

**Sat., April 9,** 12 Noon, Rodda Center. Presentation by Joe Papa: "The Good, the Bad & the Ugly: Pest Management."

**Thurs., April 14th,** 7:00 PM: Meeting of the Garden Club of Teaneck. Refreshments, 7 PM. Announcements: 7:20 PM. At 7:30, Dr. Randi Eckel will speak on "Spring: A New Beginning". Rodda Center, Multipurpose Room 2B (Second Floor), 250 Colonial Ct., Teaneck, NJ 07666. The public is welcome.

**Thurs., April 28,** Greenhouse. Presale for members only: 5-8 PM.

**Sat., April 30-Sun., May 8:** Greenhouse. Garden Club Annual Plant Sale.



### "Spring at Last: A New Beginning"

Dr. Randi Eckel  
April 14, 2016

On Thursday, April 14, 2016, the public is invited to hear Dr. Randi Eckel ask us, "Will we start seeds, share seeds, learn to recognize seedlings, remove invasive species, or re-dedicate ourselves to (gently) spreading the word about natives? How will we move forward this year?" Randi is the owner of Toadshade Wildflower Farm, a mail order nursery in Frenchtown, NJ that specializes in nursery-grown and nursery-propagated perennial plants native to northeastern North America. She happily gives presentations and workshops on native plants, native plant propagation and related topics. Randi received her Ph.D. in Entomology from North Carolina State University, giving her the expertise for addressing interactions between native species and insects. Her easily navigable website ([www.toadshade.com](http://www.toadshade.com)) is rich with plant and gardening information.

## Garden Club of Teaneck\* PLANT SALE

Saturday, April 30  
thru Sunday, May 8, 2016

Sat/Sun.....9 - 3 pm  
M, W.....9 - noon  
T, Th, Fri.....5 - 8 pm



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

[www.GardenClubofTeaneck.org](http://www.GardenClubofTeaneck.org)  
Prices reflect our nonprofit status



**ONLY THIRTY MORE DAYS!**



## President's Message

Pat Fromm

Last month we had a special meeting and vote to change the Bylaws and Constitution for the Garden Club. The vote passed, and now the real work begins to find the new committee to lead the Club into a successful 2016-17!

The nominating committee will recommend the Executive Committee for the next two years. They will make their recommendation to the club at the April 2nd meeting at the Greenhouse and we will vote for the new officers at the May 21 meeting at the Greenhouse.

We've all heard the old proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child." I think it takes a village to support a quality club. The nominating committee may come knocking on your door to fill one of the positions on the Executive Board. The job isn't always easy, and it does require some additional work and attending some planning meetings, but it can be rewarding. Our club has many talented and creative members, and I hope you will say "yes" if asked to contribute.

Whatever your skill or talent, the committee would like to hear from you, regardless of how many or how few spare hours you can give. Remember, it takes a village, and together, we are a village of like-minded gardeners and people who love gardening or want to learn about gardening. The more each of us gives, the more each of us will be rewarded.

### Annual Celebration and Handover Dinner!

This special event will celebrate the work and success of the plant sale, show appreciation for the outgoing committees, and will officially welcome the new committee. Please mark your calendar for this fun and tasty event, and join the fun, June 2nd, 6:30 PM, at Rose's Englewood Restaurant. Contact Joe Papa, (jp4@optonline.net) or Pat Fromm (fromm\_pat@yahoo.com) to register. The cost is approximately \$30.00 p/p, BYO. The deadline to register is May 21st.

## Volunteer Opportunity at Teaneck Creek Conservancy's Spring Fest May 15th 11:00 AM– 5:00 PM

The Garden Club of Teaneck has been invited to participate in the community event at the Teaneck Creek Conservancy's Spring Fest. This is a great opportunity to speak to residents about our Club, the Jr. Garden Club, the Greenhouse, summer events like Harvest Fest, as well as answering gardening questions and soliciting new members! It's a fun way to spend an hour or two, so please sign up to help out sometime throughout the day. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Greenhouse on the members' board, or call/email me to let me know what times you can be there. Thanks!

Aura Altieri (201) 692-0034

## Bergen County African Violet Society 59th Annual Show and Sale "African (Violet)

Adventures. "April 15 3-9, Sat, April 16, 9 AM-3 PM Old North Reformed Church. Also, the April meeting of the Bergen County African Violet Society will be held on April 28th, 7:45 PM also at the Old North Reformed Church, 120 Washington Ave., Dumont. The speaker will be Susan Gruben, retired Associate Professor of Horticulture and Botany at Bergen Community College. She will be discussing the pests and diseases that can ruin our plants, what we can do to get rid of them and keep them from coming back! No cost for either meeting or show.

---Info: Sharon Lynch: violetmom@optonline.net



Reminder: Potluck Luncheon April 2 at the Greenhouse, 12 noon in honor of Warren Dierksen. Don't forget your dish!



**Greenhouse  
Director's Report**  
Leonard Schwartz

We are in the middle of potting up our plants for the sale, but as we all know, that is just the first step. Joe's watering assignment by group gives each of our groups a lot of flexibility to decide how to meet each type of plant's needs best.

Soon, if not now, and for the next six weeks, each group will be responsible for keeping its plants healthy (and happy). Please start thinking of your group's plants as if they were your own. Saturday April 30, six weeks away, is the start of our 2016 plant sale. Between then and now there is only the April 2 general meeting. There is a lot of stuff to do, but the routine will be familiar. Plant sale sign-up sheets, proposed pricing, members' pre-sale opportunity, new officer nominations, and a BYO buffet luncheon honoring Warren Diercksen make this meeting a "must attend".

The outside plot area needs clean-up work. Shouldn't all of us with gardens be putting in a fair portion of the effort? Our goal in these gardens is to have the greatest number of people gardening with the smallest number of unused plots. We now have one full-sized and one 30%-sized garden free. There will be a lottery following the April 2 meeting for the available space. The water company turns on the water. This is being delayed by the need to do some work at the valve--time frame not known.---Len

### **Garden Club of Teaneck Newsletter April 2016**

Editor: Patricia O'Brien Libutti.  
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Email your article to pat.libutti@aol.com.

### **POST TALK:**

**"Gardening with Passion" by Regina Carlson**  
Mark Penchinar, Program

Our speaker on Thursday, March 10, was Regina Carlson. Displaying an easy and relaxed manner, she led us through a tour of effort-saving tools, ideas, tips and tricks of gardening. She demonstrated her ideas using her renowned home landscape by walking us through a slide presentation. One of her tips was a solution to mowing under and around borders and under structures. By mulching under those areas, you make your life easy. It was an "AHA!" moment if ever there was one. Another tip was to use hose guides to prevent a hose from trampling flower beds or getting caught in the shrubs. Did you ever forget the exact location to place your sprinkler? If you mark the spot on your lawn, you can find the spot every time. These ideas are only a sampling of many more.

I enjoyed and profited from Regina's talk and hope you did, too.

### **Rededication of Grace Kriegel Memorial Herb Garden Set for Sunday, July 17, 11 AM**



The Garden Club of Teaneck has maintained the Grace Kriegel Memorial Herb Garden for forty years. Current members of the Herb Garden Group are Nancy Cochrane, Chair, Myrian Filleteau, Peter Goldman, Peggy Hazard, Robin Jackson, and Olga Newey. The history of the garden will be one focus of the rededication.



**Plant of the Month:**  
**Pulmonaria**  
 Robyn Lowenthal

There are few plants quite as interesting in the spring woodland garden as the pulmonaria or lungwort. Native to Europe and Russia, Pulmonaria, members of the Boraginaceae family, are perennial plants that grow from a deciduous basal rosette, usually no more than 6-10" tall with a spread of up to 2'.

Pulmonaria flower in late winter/very early spring, some often beginning around the end of February. The funnel-shaped bluebell-like flowers, most of which usually emerge in either pink or violet, typically change to blue as they age.

The flowers are borne in corymbs on short stalks that reach just above the foliage. Lungwort is often more valued for its attractive foliage than for its flowers. The name Pulmonaria arose from the foliage, which is often hairy and green, with white spots or splotches, resembling a diseased lung ... hence the common name lungwort ... and the Latin translation, Pulmonaria.

They generally retain their foliage until late winter, becoming mostly deciduous just before the new season's flowering and regrowth begin. Although there are 16 species of Pulmonaria, only 8 are being cultivated. Most garden centers nowadays are selling lovely hybrid plants.

Pulmonaria are best grown in cool, organically rich, evenly moist but well-drained soils in part shade to full shade. Some morning sun is appreciated. Soils must not be allowed to dry out and locations in full sun should be avoided to prevent leaf scorch. They are intolerant of wet, poorly-drained soils.

Pulmonaria spread very slowly by creeping roots, but are not invasive. Divide plants in fall if they become overcrowded. There are no serious insect or disease problems. Most problems, such as powdery mildew, root rot and leaf desiccation, are a result of improper cultural conditions.

Pulmonaria are quite easy to propagate, either by division or by root cuttings. They will also self-

sow in the garden in well-prepared, organic soil, so watch closely and you may discover something unique. Pulmonaria are an excellent bold-textured woodland perennial that contrasts well with other early season plants such as hellebores, ferns, dicentra, iris cristata, and other spring ephemerals.

You would think that these durable early spring bloomers with attractive foliage would be grown everywhere, but alas no. Perhaps with a name like lungwort, it's no wonder that few folks put these in their plant grocery carts.

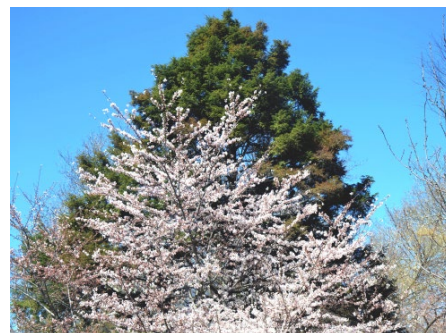
## SPRING CELEBRATIONS

**Leonard Buck Garden** Spring Plant Sale and Earth Day Celebration Sat., April 23, 10am – 5pm and Sunday April 24, 12pm – 5pm. 11 Layton, Far Hills, NJ. 908-234-2677. [somersecountyparks.org](http://somersecountyparks.org). Help us celebrate Earth Day. Weekend highlights include a plant sale featuring many choice selections of perennials, ferns, and woody plants, as well as hypertufa planting troughs. There will be garden lectures and guided tours of this naturalistic rock garden. This event is co-sponsored with the Watnong Chapter North American Rock Garden Society. Suggested donation.

**The New York Botanical Garden** is showing **A Million Daffodils!** The NYBG, celebrating its 125th anniversary, has planted a million daffodils. Earth Day activities for young and old alike are on April 22 in the Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Blvd., Bronx, NY 10458 <http://www.nybg.org/>

**Branch Brook Park**, 212 Clifton Ave., Newark, NJ. The first county park in the country was designed by the Frederick Olmstead firm in 1895. The gift of 28 species of cherry trees came from the Bamberger family years later. Bloomfest is on Sun. April 24. The park's architecture (Beaux Arts) can be seen on a leisurely walk [Essex-countyparks.org](http://Essex-countyparks.org)

*One of Branchbrook Park's cherry trees poised against a pine tree beginning to bloom on March 29, 2016*





Exploring the propagation of ferns.



Olga Newey helping students decide which plant to buy.



Mark Penchinar teaching about propagation.

Below: Just having fun in the Greenhouse.



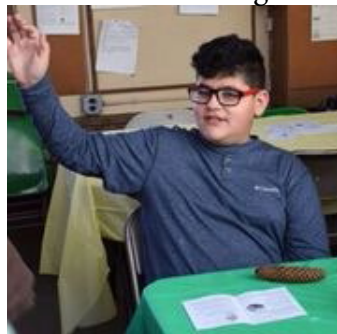
Tubs of dirt plus pots plus plants equals a plant to go.



Pondering the flower: a red geranium



Concentrating...



"What IS an acorn, anyway?"

## Hawthorne School Program 2016

"I know!"



Hawthorne students studied plants and considered which to buy as their "take home." They have learned about "Seeds" (Stella Franco), "Parts of the Plant" (Sydele Postman), "Propagation" (Mark Penchinar) and "The Oak & The Acorn" (Pat Libutti).