



Garden Club News

April 2012

PO Box 3253 Teaneck, NJ 07666

www.gardenclubofteaneck.org

Calendar: April 2012

The Garden Club of Teaneck will meet on Thursday, April 12th at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the Rodda Center at 250 Colonial Court. Our guest speakers that evening will be Sharon Lynch and Barbara Church. They will give the club a hands-on presentation on African Violets.

The annual Greenhouse Committee Luncheon meeting will be held at the Greenhouse on Saturday, April 7th at 10:00 am. The annual plant sale will be the main topic of discussion.

Member News

Message from Debbie Morgan, President

Greetings to all! It is April and summer is coming! By now you have planned your garden this year and are anxiously awaiting our annual spring plant sale at the end of the month. I promise you, you will not be disappointed.

Please be prompt for meeting time as we have a few items to discuss and decisions to be made. One of these items is: Do we want to make a donation and/or participate in the Annual Cedar Lane Family Festival to be held on Monday, May 28th, 2012 from 11:00am to 6pm? There will be performances, eating contests, food vendors and a nonprofit area. It would be nice to have the Garden Club of Teaneck represented at this event. I look forward, as always, to sharing your company. Yours in gardening, Debbi

Message from Len Schwartz, Greenhouse Director

There is a very full agenda for the April Greenhouse Committee meeting:

Plant Sale

The executive board will be proposing the following procedures for this year's plant sale.

- The sale will **start Saturday May 5** and will **end Sunday May 13**
- On the weekends we will be open from 9AM to 3PM and during the week we will be open from 9 to 12 noon if you are in a morning work group and from 5 to 8 PM if you are in an evening group.
- All members are expected to work three assignments of three hours each, which will normally be two week end time slots (AM or PM) and one mid-week time slot.
- When you sign up, you will be able to select an assignment of either front room check out (similar to last year) or assisting customers on the greenhouse floor.
- We are considering having a "Members Only", full price, pre-sale on a selected date and time (to be determined) before the May 5th date. This will be the only time when members will be able to purchase plants before the start of the regular sale.

- Prices will be essentially the same as last year.

Executive Board Nominations

The nominating committee will present its nominations for Director, Assistant Director, Horticultural Director, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Secretary. At that point nominations from the floor will be taken for any of these positions. The Nominating process will then be closed. Our elections will be conducted at the May/June meeting.

By Laws

The proposed changes to our By Laws have been posted at the greenhouse since the March meeting and a ratification vote will be conducted, requiring a two thirds approval to pass.

Greenfest

The first Teaneck Greenfest is scheduled for April 29 at the Greenhouse and around Teaneck. We need volunteers, to make this effort a success. Please see Nancy Cochrane.

Annual Greenhouse Luncheon

Caryl Gottlieb will be hosting the annual Greenhouse Committee Lunch after our meeting. Len

Message from Susan McGibney, VP of Membership

Welcome to our newest member, Bob O'Brian. Bob has also decided to join the Greenhouse Committee.

I must give many thanks to Ana Kurtz and Olga Newey for their tireless efforts in promoting the Teaneck Garden Club. I have been getting phone calls after the news articles appeared and many have materialized into memberships. My thanks to both of you for making my job easier! During April, Garden Month, talk with 3 people about gardening and what we are doing in the club. Invite them to join and participate.

We need more hands to keep Teaneck green. Sue

Message from Christina Mackensen, Greenhouse Horticultural Director

Once again, we greenhouse members have worked very hard to produce healthy, beautiful plants for our annual sale. There is a wide assortment of planting material available to satisfy the discerning tastes of our township and community customers. I am asking everyone to spread the word about our upcoming plant sale. Happy and successful planting to you all. Christina

Message from Pat Taaffe, VP of Programs

At the April Garden Club Meeting, Sharon Lynch and Barbara Church will give the club a hands-on presentation on African Violets.

Sharon Lynch has been a member of the Bergen County African Violet Society for over 20 years, as well as the African Violet Society of America. She has won awards, for design, presentation and propagation of African Violets for over a decade.

Barbara Church is a member of the African Violet Society of America. She has been an AVSA judge, and a member of the Bergen County African Violet Society for many years.

The African Violets program was started this September with the planting of the leaves. It continues with the two ladies showing and teaching the Hawthorne school children all about African Violets on Thursday morning at the Greenhouse. The students will be taking home a terrarium of African Violets as a Mother's Day present. They will be giving an African Violets planting lesson at our meeting. Everyone that participates will take home their own African Violet plant.

Also, about 300 Native Plants were planted on the left side of the Greenhouse on Thursday 3/29 in partnership with the Audubon Society. Plans for summer workshops are being organized and many fun activities around the greenhouse and in the gardens are in the works. If any member has an idea for an activity they are always welcome to contact me by email at programstgc@gmail.com

GreenFest & Outside Gardens

By Nancy Cochrane

I would like to remind everyone about the first annual Teaneck Greenfest on April 29th from 2 - 4 pm at the Greenhouse. I still need volunteers to show people the Greenhouse.

New rules have been approved and are posted by the Outside Garden Plot map in the Greenhouse. There are still a few garden plots available. Please contact Nancy Cochrane, Garden Administrator, at 201-837-6519 or msnancycochrane@yahoo.com if you are interested in a garden plot or would like to change your current plot. Thank you all, Nancy

Ask Sara

Our "Ask Sara" question this month is: How do you take care of Rex Begonias?

If the leaves have white or gray powdery patches the plant may have been overwatered and have mildew. If leaves curl and become brittle the position of the plant is too hot and dry. Move the plant to a cooler location. If leaves drop off in winter move the plant to a warmer spot. Rex Begonias like indirect sunlight, rainwater if possible, and temperatures in the 70 degree range. They like their soil to be moist in summer. In winter water them about every 10 days. Spring is the best time to repot Rex Begonias. Repot Rex Begonias in a mixture of loam and peat to which leaf mold and sand have been added.

Lettuce –Lactuca Sativa

By Joe Papa

One of our favorite vegetables is lettuce. We eat copious amounts of this wonderful plant throughout the year. It is easy to grow; high in fiber and nutritional values; has few pests (primarily slugs) and is a beautiful display of texture, color and dimension. There are five types of lettuce: Leaf, Romaine/Cos, Butterhead, Summer Crisp/Batavia and Iceberg.

Planting & Growing

I have a cold frame so I get a head start by starting germination the first weekend in March. Generally you can direct seed in April or as soon as the ground can be worked. The soil in my garden is amended with either dehydrated cow manure (20 lbs. for 3'X 3' bed) or compost. I put generous amounts of Bone meal (ten to fifteen hand trowels for 3'x3' bed) which promulgates root growth and although Lettuce is a heavy feeder you do not need to fertilize again through the harvest season. Plant the seed ¼ inch depth. I use a paint trim guard to create the seed lines, separate each line by 8 inches, pinch the rows to cover and cover with ¼ inch of potting medium. Cover the seed with a row cover or an old screen for the foraging birds also love lettuce. Water gently and keep moist but not wet. Germination takes about a week, then remove the row covers. Continue to water. I like to grow my plants in close proximity (maximizes yield and minimizes weeding). Check the seed packs for distance. Lettuce loves water. I water heavily every other morning. As the summer progresses you should water every day. Cultivate or pick any weeds that appear and I use Sluggo (iron phosphate) to control slugs. Apply after a good watering and do not water for three days. Soon you will be eating, and as my Grandmother would say "Delizioso" homegrown lettuce.