



# Garden Club News

## May 2012

PO Box 3253 Teaneck, NJ 07666

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

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### Calendar: May 2012

The Garden Club of Teaneck will meet on Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the Rodda Center at 250 Colonial Court. Our guest speaker that evening will be Don Torino, President of the Bergen County Audubon Society. Don will speak to us about the Habitat Restoration Project: The Bergen County Audubon Society Butterfly Garden at Overpeck.

The first annual Teaneck Greenfest will be held at the Greenhouse on Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 2pm – 4pm.

There will be no Greenhouse Committee meet this month. The annual Greenhouse Plant Sale will be from Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup>.

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### Member News

#### Message from Debbie Morgan, President

It is hard to believe that it is May and the 2011/2012 Garden Club of Teaneck season is coming to a close. A few reminders: Greenfest, at the Greenhouse, on Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, our regular club meeting on Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, and our Spring luncheon on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Amorone Ristorante at 12:00 noon (see the menu at the end of the newsletter). We hope to have a special program and lots of door prizes. Price per person is \$26.00. Please give your check/cash to me or Christina Mackensen our Treasurer. Lastly, the annual Plant Sale will begin on May 5<sup>th</sup> and run just one week. I urge you to buy early.

I want to thank everyone for their contribution to our organization. Your hard work and personal sacrifices make a huge difference on how this club operates. I know how important it is and I thank you again. I want to wish a very special thank you to the outgoing Greenhouse Horticultural Director, Christina Mackensen. As many of you know, Christina has been a

tireless worker in the Greenhouse. I know it was truly a labor of love. We have been very fortunate to have had someone of Christina's caliber and experience. She will be missed! Lastly, I want to wish everyone a wonderful summer and planting season as I plan my garden. Yours in Gardening, Debbi

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#### Message from Len Schwartz, Greenhouse Director

This year's plant sale will start on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> and conclude Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. We have all signed up for 2 weekend time slots. In addition, we are also selling during the week at our normal group's meeting time. Please try to arrive early and park in the back of the greenhouse by the wood chip pile and leave the close parking spots for our customers. When you arrive you'll be asked to join either a check out group up front, traffic control, helping customers bring their purchases to their car, or working the greenhouse floor assisting customers in their plant selections. We should all plan on being active and try to see where needs exist. Please bring your lunch with you

if your commitment is all day. There will be a member's only pre-sale on Thursday May 3 from 9AM to noon and from 5 PM to 8 PM. Please do not attempt to take any plants before this date. We have produced an excellent array of beautiful plants for this year's sale. It should be a good one! Len

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### **Message from Christina Mackensen, Greenhouse Horticultural Director**

Our annual Plant Sale is approaching rapidly and once again there are beautiful plants, herbs, vegetables and tomatoes for sale. I hope everyone will participate at the sale and also purchase some of their favorite items.

This will be my last column as Greenhouse Committee Horticultural Director. I am happy to report that I was able to step in four years ago when the club needed it. During this time, many new and unusual plants have been introduced and I believe that word has spread around in this community and beyond that the Teaneck Greenhouse has excellent plants for sale. I wish the new team continued success and "Happy Gardening" to everyone. Aufwiedersehn, Christina Mackensen

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### **Message from Pat Taaffe, VP of Programs**

The May Garden Club meeting will feature Don Torino, President of the Bergen County Audubon Society. Don will speak to the membership on Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm on the Habitat Restoration Project: The Bergen County Audubon Society Butterfly Garden at Overpeck. The presentation will detail how native plants can improve the environment almost overnight and we will learn how critical Native Plants are to our wildlife.

Our 2012 Summer program is in its final stages of development. A few of the workshop topics being discussed are composting 101, planning your garden, container gardening, square foot

gardening, the perfect soil, and growing tomato's successfully. For children we are looking to have a workshop on scarecrow and terrarium making. All your suggestions are always welcome. If any members are interested in doing a workshop or seminar please contact me at programstgc@gmail.com. See you in the garden, Pat

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### **Greenhouse School Program By Olga Newey**

The Spring School Program at the Greenhouse finished for Hawthorne students. Twelve classes were taught: Helen Humphreys taught Garbage Gardening to second graders, Susan McGibney taught propagation to third graders and Olga Newey taught herbs to fourth graders. After students finished the lesson they had a few minutes to buy plants. These plants were especially propagated by the members of the Greenhouse for the students. Some of the plants they bought were aloe vera, succulents, geraniums, and herbs. Almost \$400 were collected in sales. The students also learned about the Hawthorn tree outside of the Greenhouse which is the name sake of their school. The students were given a flyer about information on the forthcoming Greenhouse Committee Plant Sale to take home. The students and the teachers like the program. One of the classes wrote beautiful letters thanking the Greenhouse for the opportunity to visit. This was in response to Susan McGibney's program on propagating African Violets. Another teacher said that the program was wonderful and the plants offered the students were varied and healthy. The program also had a positive write up in "The Suburbanite" newspaper. I am looking to expand the school program in the future. I thank you all for your participation in this very special program.

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## **Squash –Cucurbita Pepo**

### **By Joe Papa**

A favorite on our summer table is the summer squash. The term squash comes from the Indian word skutasquash meaning “green thing eaten green”. The origin was in the Mesoamerica region (South and Central America) some 10,000 years ago. It was a major food source for Native American Indians. Christopher Columbus introduced it to Europe. The Italians having an ideal warm climate were quick to developed innumerable varieties. My Sicilian Grandmother called it “Cucuzz,” and she introduced me to its propagation and many wonderful recipes for both the fruit and the flowers.

### **Growing**

This is an easy plant to grow during our increasingly hot summers. I usually plant the seed at or around our last frost-free date, which for our region is now around May 7<sup>th</sup>. I also purchase seedlings from Korean Markets of a unique Vining variety which is akin to a winter squash but less prone to the squash vine borer infestation. I plant my bush varieties 3 feet apart on mounds of soil rich in organic matter. I add to the soil dehydrated chicken manure (any good organic works well), a shovel full of dehydrated cow manure, and hand trowel of bone meal. Plant six to eight seeds per mound, thin to the best two or three, and hand cultivate any weeds that grow up around the base of the plant. Water consistently in the mornings, for squash like water; as the plant begins to produce (squash are heavy feeders) add fish emulsion to the soil every two weeks.

### **Major Pests**

Squash vine borer: It is very hard to control this wasp like moth. I generally plant a second crop the second week of June when the borer cycle is complete. Squash bug: Hand pick or spray with horticultural oil, crush egg clusters. I never compost squash vines.

Squash, a great summer plant, high yields, with colorful fruit, bold flowers and a delicious taste to enjoy throughout the summer. Bon-Appetit!

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## **Greenhouse Committee Elections**

### **By Carol Dolch**

At the last general meeting of the Garden Club of Teaneck Greenhouse Committee the following 2012 – 2014 slate of Officers was proposed:

Director:	Len Schwartz
Asst Director - Benches	Rufus Mock
Asst Director –Horticulture	Joe Papa
Treasurer	Sara Jones
Asst Treasurer	Marty Steeil
Setetary	Pat Fromm

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## **Last Word**

Christina Mackensen has been a contributor to the Garden Club of Teaneck Newsletter since I became Editor. I will miss her words, her willingness to share her experience, and her broad horticultural knowledge. Thank you!

# Amarone Ristorante

## Party Menu

63 Cedar Lane  
 Teaneck NJ 07666  
 Phone (201) 833 1897 Fax (201) 837 7883

[www.amaroneristorante.net](http://www.amaroneristorante.net)  
[Amaronetaneck@aol.com](mailto:Amaronetaneck@aol.com)

## First Course

### SALAD

*Mixed green lettuce in a light  
 champagne vinaigrette dressing*

## Main Course

*(you may choose item from any entree)*

### PENNE ALLA MOZART

*Pasta with shallots, green sweet peas  
 and light cream tomato sauce*

### POLLO AL CAPARI

*Breast of chicken sauteed with shallots  
 artichoke hearts in a white wine capers  
 sauce*

### EGGPLANT PARMIGIANA

*Fresh eggplant breaded, mozzarella  
 cheese & tomato sauce*

### TILAPIA OREGANATO

*Broiled filet of fish with bread crumbs  
 oregano in a wine garlic sauce*