



# Garden Club News

April 2017

PO Box 3253 Teaneck, NJ 07666

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

## GARDEN CLUB OF TEANECK CALENDAR April 2017

**Saturday, April 1, 2017, 10 am:** Meeting of the Garden Club of Teaneck at the Greenhouse.

**Thursday, April 13, 2017, 7 pm: Rodda Center,** Teaneck. Refreshments, free. Speaker: Dr. Edith Wallace. See details below.

### Learn About Unusual Flowering Trees

The Garden Club of Teaneck invites the public to hear Dr. Edith Wallace's talk on:

*"thinking beyond flowering cherries and magnolias to more unusual but no less beautiful flowering trees as epaulette, flowering ash, or evodia."*



Dr. Wallace began by earning a Ph.D. in zoology at Rutgers University and retired as William Paterson University's Chair of the Biology Department. Since then, she earned certificates in field botany, plant classification, and ornamental horticulture at Bergen Community College and the New York Botanical Garden.

She is a past president of the Glen Rock Garden Club and of the Passaic County Master Gardeners, coordinator of the Lilac Garden Restoration Project at Skylands, and a member of the Garden State Garden Consortium. She frequently visits gardens, arboreta and nature centers in the NY metropolitan area to enjoy and photograph their flowers, shrubs and trees.

The event is on Thursday, April 13, 2017 at 7 pm at the Rodda Center, Multipurpose Room 2B, 250 Colonial Court, Teaneck, NJ. Enter from Palisade Avenue. Handicap parking/access is from the lot up the hill, all the way at the back. There are no stairs to climb if you are using the door near the parking lot. More: <http://www.gardenclubofteaneck.org/graphics/Wallace-13iv17.jpg>



### A Letter from Robin Jackson, GCT President

Dear Garden Club Members,

Have you been to the Greenhouse lately? In addition to all of the beautiful plants on members' benches, seedlings are sprouting up under the lamps and beautiful plants are filling up the benches for the upcoming plant sale! It provides a lush green experience for us throughout the fall, winter, and well into the spring. Just as important, it also provides a space to host important educational programs for children and adults, and as members, to actively engage in gardening indoors when doing so outside is not feasible.

Group members and volunteers play a pivotal role in keeping the Greenhouse in good condition. Thank you all for efforts to care for this great treasure. Our new Saturday group is taking the lead on maintaining the grounds and east gardens. For members who have garden plots, please adhere to Garden Plot Rules and keep your plots and assigned pathways maintained during the gardening season. While it's sometimes difficult to keep up with fast-growing weeds, it is a challenge and responsibility that we take on as gardeners.

During the upcoming gardening season, in accordance with our rules, plots will be routinely checked and holders will be notified of non-compliance with Garden Plot Rules. If you receive a notice, please take it for what it is – a non-personal reminder to review and adhere to the rules for the benefit of the entire community! If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with one of the club officers.

Lastly, look at the new sections in this month's newsletter: "In Remembrance", p. 4, and "Events", p. 5. I look forward to seeing you at the Greenhouse or at the Rodda Center for our April 13, 2017 speaker series event.

Robin



**Report from  
Len Schwartz,  
Greenhouse Director**

We have constructed a large shelf in the meeting room as a place to store boxes, gathered from local stores, to be used for during the plant sale. We are trying to save money by not purchasing all of our boxes new and we are recycling old ones. Please continue bringing in boxes no deeper than 4 or 5 inches.

The plant sale starts May 6, a mere six weeks from now. We are still potting up this year's purchased plugs, finding the space to bench them (we are very tight) and most importantly, nurturing them to sellable quality. We have a lot to do, but we are hoping that this may be a bonanza year.

About a week after the Hawthorne school program finishes on April 7, the sign-up sheets for the sale will be available on the high counter in the meeting room. As in previous years, members must participate in six hours of weekend plant selling time and three hours of midweek plant selling time.

The schedule will be: Sat. & Sun., 9 am to 3 pm, May 6/7 and 13/14, Mon. & Wed., 9 am to 12 noon; and Tues., Thurs., & Fri., 5 pm-8 pm.

Groups which meet on weekends must contribute an additional three hours. Please maintain group UPKEEP assignments during April and May.



*Springtime  
in the  
Greenhouse*

Photos: Denise George



**From the Desk of the  
Horticultural Director  
Doug Raska**

A short note this month because actions speak louder than words. I'm writing this on the day I will pick up eighteen flats for us to plant up for our plant sale.

You have all done well in helping get plants ready for the kids' program and the plant sale. Keep up the good work as we get closer to the finish line- and all will be well.

Thank you, all.



*Members-only Pre-Sale*

**Thursday, May 4th, 5-8 pm**

A chance to get the first pick of the plants.

**BONUS: ONE plant in a 4 ½" pot  
WITH PURCHASE**

Check your email for details

*Gardener's Resource*

Check out the *table of seeds that need stratification & seeds that do not*. It was prepared by Anna Kurz and is on our website under "Garden Club of Teaneck links" or <http://www.gardenclubofteaneck.org/links.html>

From *A Letter to the Hawthorne School Teachers*  
By Olga Newey, School Program Coordinator

Dear Teachers:

We at the Greenhouse are eagerly awaiting your visits. We especially welcome the Kindergarteners. This will be the first time they have been a part of the Hawthorne School Program. We have been preparing by propagating plants from our collections since the fall, in bigger pots (4 ½”), as recommended by our new Horticultural Director, Doug Raska. The plants are well-established and healthy, and they look great.

The plants are still \$1 each with a maximum purchase of two. If a student does not have money, you know they will get a plant. Our goal is to associate their visit with gardening and fun, besides trying to teach them something about botany.

These propagated plants are from plants that belong to the Greenhouse members. This is a way of passing on something of ours to the students. We all love plants and gardening. We want to share that with them. After all, they are our future gardeners.



*Robin Jackson, President, GCT, with Cathy Miller and her White House bouquet*

## POST TALK

**Cathy Miller:**

**“Yes, they really are dried flowers.”**

By Mark Penchinar

I cannot imagine a more popular speaker than our March speaker, Cathy Miller. From refreshments to post-lecture, Cathy was engaging, humorous, very informative and gracious.

She kept me riveted to her talk while delivering both flower drying secrets and personal anecdotes. My favorite anecdote was when she played piano in the White House outside President Clinton’s office.

Cathy started with her home-grown flowers which she dried herself. She offered a few different drying methods, and which ones to use for various flowers. While speaking, she cut stems and arranged the flowers into the beautiful vase.

When completed, we saw a beautiful, large arrangement. At the end of the talk, the audience swarmed around her table to ask questions and buy her book and homemade nosebags.

All in all, it was a wonderful evening.



*Above, tables set to welcome students. Below, instructors Olga and Stella preparing plants for sale to the students.*



## FORGOTTEN FRENCHMAN'S GARDEN

By Salvatore Lagattuta

A valuable, nearly forgotten historical garden – “the Frenchman’s garden” – is practically in our backyard. Actually, it really is in my backyard: my brother, sister and I inherited a small property on Granton Avenue in North Bergen. It is at the northern border of this historical Michaux / Saunier “holding garden” (1785-1850).

It was initially 30 acres and then increased to 137 acres, and became the historic Machpelah (1853), Flower Hill (1873) and Hoboken (1873) cemeteries. All three are likely on this former gardening property; but instead of cultivating plants they are cultivating souls (for eternity).

In 1785, Louis XVI (1754-1793, last king of France) commissioned his eminent Royal Botanist (of the Jardins du Roi at Paris and Versailles), André Michaux (1746-1802), to lead a botanical expedition to explore the newly-formed United States of America for trees, shrubs and plants that could be useful for cultivation, especially lumber trees for the decimated forests of southern France.

André Michaux was accompanied by his young son François André Michaux (1770-1855) and by Paris Royal Gardener, Pierre-Paul Saunier (1751-1818). André established two “holding gardens” as nurseries to collect plant specimens (seeds and saplings). The site at Bergen, New Jersey was in an area that the Old Dutch farmers called Maisland because the Indians had grown maize there. The other site was founded in 1787 at Charleston, South Carolina.

The elder Michaux met many of the leading American horticulturalists of those years, including members of the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia (Dr. Benjamin Smith Barton, William and John Bertram), Dr. David Hosack in New York City, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson in Washington D.C., as well as Asa Gray, John Torrey, Bernard M'Mahon, and lumber baron William Hamilton.

After 10 years in America, the Michaux father and son returned to France in 1795, and André Michaux wrote two influential botanical books, “The Oaks of North America” (1801) and “The Flora of North America” (1803).

I do not know where this “discovery” of such an important historical horticultural place as “the Frenchman’s garden” will lead, but it is so satisfying for me personally to have found out about it by accident.



## *In Remembrance*

*By The Sunshine Committee*

*We remember long-time former members of the Garden Club of Teaneck who passed away in 2016:*

**Hilda Berman** (June 1, 94 yrs.) experienced a rich life with people and plants. She was known as the “Orchid Lady,” having worked with orchids at the local, national and international levels.

**Laura Ponticorvo** (Dec. 8, 96 yrs.) served the Club as Treasurer for many years, as well as a Member-at-Large. She was known for her excellent cooking as well as her touch with plants.

In the past, personal announcements—illness, etc.—were publicized in our newsletter. Given that we are a community and want to support each other, we want to continue to notify members when one of our members or a member of their family is sick or passes away. We have a central person, Stella Franco (our Sunshine person: stellafranco@optonline.net), who should be contacted whenever people have news of this sort. She will coordinate sending out cards to people who are ill, etc., and notifying the Newsletter Editor, Pat Libutti. She will add this information to our newsletter or email members, whichever is more timely. People should limit this to members, their immediate families, and past members.

### GCT COMMUNICATIONS

#### **Garden Club of Teaneck Newsletter April 2017**

Editor: Patricia O’Brien Libutti. Proofs: Anne Ediger, Bruce Libutti. Masthead logo: Marty Steeil. Publication: 1st of the month September-June. Article deadline: 22nd of the previous month. Article length maximum: 1 column (265-270 words; this size includes pictures). Email contributions to the Editor, libutti@ gmail.com.

**Club of Teaneck website.** Webmaster: Anna Kurz. [www.gardenclubofteaneck.org](http://www.gardenclubofteaneck.org).

**GCT Facebook Page.** Admin: Denise George. [www.facebook.com/gardenclubofteaneck/](http://www.facebook.com/gardenclubofteaneck/)

# EVENTS

By Imani Hardaway

*This listing posts events of interest to Garden Club of Teaneck members. To be included, the event needs to be current (occurring in the next month) and have complete information (event title, location, date and time). Send details by the 22nd of the month to **Imani Hardaway**, [imanihardawaymail@gmail.com](mailto:imanihardawaymail@gmail.com)*

## BERGEN COUNTY

**Monday, April 3, 7 pm. "The Good Herb Garden,"** Sundial Garden Club, Speaker: Pat Libutti, Meadowbrook Elementary School, 50 Piermont Avenue, Hillsdale, NJ 07642.

**Sunday, April 16, Bergen County Audubon Society Walk** at Teaneck Creek Conservancy: Teaneck Conservancy will be holding a free nature walk from 9:30 am -10:30am at 20 Puffin Way, Teaneck, NJ. Join them and keep an eye out for life coming into full bloom for Spring. For more information go to: <http://www.teaneckcreek.org/>

**Other Bergen County Garden Club Lectures:** Master Gardeners of Bergen County Meetings and Events page: [mgofbc.org](http://mgofbc.org)

## NEW JERSEY

**Saturday, April 22, 1 pm.** Visit the **New Jersey Botanical Garden for an Early Spring Wildflower Walk.** Spring is peeking out everywhere! Join Darlene Nowak in checking out the early bloomers in the woodlands of the Wildflower Garden! Wear sturdy shoes, meet at the Carriage House. Rain or snow cancels. \$5 donation. Location: 2 Morris Road, Ringwood, N.J. 07456.

**Sunday, April 23, 11 am-5 pm. (Cherry) Bloomfest, Branch Brook Park,** 212 Clifton Ave., Newark, NJ. The first county park in the country was designed by the Frederick Olmstead firm in 1895 with Beaux Arts architecture. The gift of 28 species of cherry trees came from the Bamberger family years later. Cherry Blossom Welcome Center, Mill Street Entrance, [Essexcountyparks.org](http://Essexcountyparks.org)



## METROPOLITAN AREA

**Cherry Blossoms at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.** <https://www.bbg.org/collections/cherries>  
<https://www.bbg.org/collections/>

**Tuesday, April 18th, Green Thumbs Initiative, class,** 6:00-7:30 pm NYC Green Thumbs initiative will be hosting a class on how to build your own Sub-Irrigated Planting System (SIPS) in a raised bed. SIPS water forms below and allows plants to absorb moisture more efficiently, which saves water and helps plants build strong root systems. This event is free. Chestnut Street Garden, Chestnut Street and Etna Street, Brooklyn. Please RSVP at <http://www.greenthumbnyc.org/>

**The Orchid Show: Thailand. Ends April 9.** New York Botanical Gardens, Enid A. Haupt Conservatory. Tickets: check [www.nybg.org/exhibitions/2017/orchid-show/index.php](http://www.nybg.org/exhibitions/2017/orchid-show/index.php)

**Friday, April 28th, 1 pm Garden Walk: Notable Trees of Wave Hill.** Located at West 249th Street, Riverdale, New York. Wave Hill's landscape includes magnificent old trees, rare species and native beauties. Wander through the gardens on this special walk with Director of Horticulture Louis Bauer to see some of his favorites from the living collection. Arbor Weekend event. Admission is free. Visitors should meet at the Perkins Visitor center. For detailed directions and more information go to <https://www.wavehill.org/visit/directions/>



# Garden Club of Teaneck\* PLANT SALE



Saturday, May 6  
Sunday, May 14, 2017

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



\* at the foot of Lindbergh Blvd.,  
off Glenwood Ave., next door  
to #296 Lindbergh Blvd.



**Our usual:**  
*House plants,  
annuals,  
perennials, herbs  
and veggies;*  
**PLUS new this  
year:**  
*Succulents,  
NJ Natives,  
Wildflowers,  
and surprises.*

Photo: iStock.com/stephen6111