



# Garden Club News

## March 2017

PO Box 3253 Teaneck, NJ 07666

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

### GARDEN CLUB OF TEANECK CALENDAR MARCH 2017

**Saturday, March 4th, 2017, 10 am:** Meeting of the Garden Club of Teaneck at the Greenhouse.

**Thursday, March 9th, 2017, 7pm:** Garden Club of Teaneck, 7 PM. Refreshments, free. Speaker: Cathy Miller: "Let's Welcome Spring." See details below.

#### White House Floral Arranger Speaks on "Let's Welcome Spring"



The Garden Club of Teaneck invites you to watch and learn from Cathy Miller, who will create a fresh springtime creation; a fruit/ vegetable/flower design; and an all-dried flower arrangement (a replica of a White House design).

She is a past president of the Wyckoff, NJ Garden Club and the recipient of flower arranging awards. Cathy has appeared on TV shows and has been featured in national magazines. Author of *Harvesting, Preserving & Arranging Dried Flowers*, her home-grown dried flower creations graced the White House from Jimmy Carter's through George W. Bush's tenures.

The event is on Thursday, March 9, 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. There are no stairs to climb if you are using the door near the parking lot. The public is welcome. Refreshments, free. More: <http://www.gardenclubofteaneck.org/graphics/cathyMiller9iii.jpg>.



**The Seed (& Cuttings) Exchange has been postponed from March 4th to a date in the fall. It will be rescheduled for a date after the Harvest. Save your summer seeds !**



#### A Letter from Robin Jackson, GCT President

Dear Members,

I hope this newsletter finds you all in good spirits. Last month, we had a very nice seed exchange event. Many thanks to planners, presenters, and all participants! Members contributed a nice selection of seeds and interesting conversations. Many of us have some new seeds to learn about and grow this year!

I also want to thank Pat Libutti for being prepared to give us a presentation on a very relevant and interesting topic on 2/9. Unfortunately, due to weather conditions, we had to cancel the event. I hope we can reschedule that presentation for a later date in the year.

On another note, plant sale preparation activities are in motion, our speaker is set for March, and our budget is being managed well. We'll talk about all of that and more at the March 4th business meeting. As always, there's a lot of interesting content in this month's Newsletter, so I will keep my message short.

Be well and I hope to see all of you soon.



*Gathering, Sorting, Assessing:* The Seed Exchange was in full swing on February 4. Photo: Robin Jackson



**Report from  
Len Schwartz  
Greenhouse Director**

Here's what's happening:

- 1) No progress has been made in the repair of the rusted columns in the Greenhouse. The Township wants at least one additional bid on its preferred plan before signing a contract and that has not happened yet. The work would hopefully be done in June and disturb no one.
- 2) There are no more available benches in the members' area. For the first time that I remember, new members for the Greenhouse will be put on a waiting list for a bench. Our recruiters are doing a great job.
- 3) One outside half-sized plot is available in the Greenhouse gardens. There will be a lottery for it at the end of the March general meeting. Work on our gardens can start soon.
- 4) Please keep bringing in collected boxes for the plant sale; we should all be doing this.
- 5) The Hawthorne School program starts at the end of March. Please make sure that your group's plants are clearly indicated and labeled.

**Welcome New Members!**  
*Dominick Badolato  
Imani Hardaway  
Ann Elaine Otting  
Josh Wisotsky*



Peggy Hazard  
Membership Vice President



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

March is crunch time for filling our Greenhouse with plants for the plant sale. We have accumulated a lot of cool plants from cuttings and division. So we've prepared the appetizer course for our customers, but this month it's bread & butter time. Plugs from Van Vugt will be coming in every week of March. The heaviest will be around March 7th and March 14th.

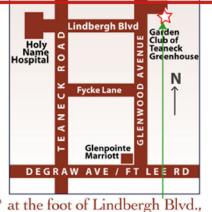
I really need everyone's support and help. The first week in March we can start filling pots. They won't stay without plants for very long.

We've been working together very smoothly so far. I know we can have a great season if we keep pulling together. I also want to thank everyone for their vote of confidence and of friendship at the February general meeting. It's heartwarming to receive a unanimous show of support.

Thanks, Doug

**Garden Club  
of Teaneck\*  
PLANT  
SALE**

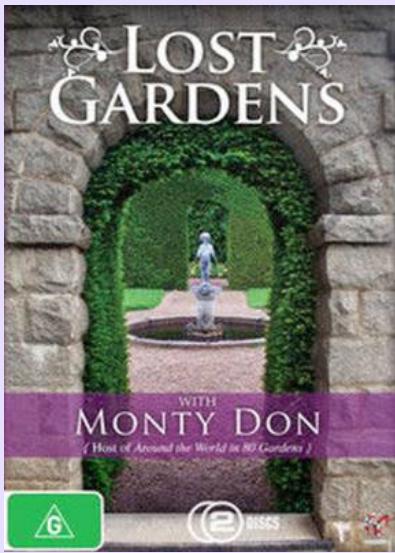
\* at the foot of Lindbergh Blvd., off Glenwood Ave.



May 6 through May 14, 2017  
come back later for exact  
hours and more information

"Plugs from Van Vugt will be  
coming in every week of March.  
The heaviest will be around  
March 7th and March 14th."



## REVIEW: “Lost Gardens”

(2010 DVD,  
2010: BBC TV,  
8 episodes)

By  
Salvatore Lagattuta

Imagine restoring some long-forsaken and almost-forgotten British gardens, with a team of gardening experts and hundreds of enthusiastic volunteers, in order to restore once-stately gardens of historic manors. “Lost Gardens” showcases these wonderful experiences in eight garden restorations, with renowned *Gardeners’ World* host Monty Don, with Dr. Toby Musgrave (garden historian), Dr. Twigs Way (landscape archeologist), and Ann Marie Powell (professional landscaper.)

Their gardening adventures feature these eight sites, transformed during the course of fast-paced 5-day restorations of a diverse collection of gardens in order to re-establish all of their former stature, flamboyancy, eccentricity, elegance, wildness, orderliness, appealing charm, and glory. Gardens include Gatton, Shelley Hall, Warwick, Ambleside, Perthshire, Sutton Stop, Chatham, and Penjerrick. Each site is unique and demonstrates the gardening interests and intricacies in the lives of their fascinating owners.

A deep sense of British societal history and gardening heritage during the past 400 years -- as well as the pleasures and nuances of various gardening periods, discoveries and styles -- are impressively conveyed.

Find episodes on YouTube. Search for “Lost Gardens” or

Try [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLrCqBvkIcHXHVjsPRPKpupnNVK5S8Fh\\_P](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLrCqBvkIcHXHVjsPRPKpupnNVK5S8Fh_P)

## HAWTHORNE SCHOOL VISITATION SCHEDULE 2017

### Monday, 1st Grade, Stella Franco, *Seeds*

3/27 10 AM Ferreira 19 Students

3/27 1 PM Puso 17 Students

4/3 10 AM Rieder 7 Students

4/3 1PM Hernandez 20 students

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

3/28 10 AM Nicotera & Doris 26 students

3/28 1 PM Domingues 21 students

4/4 10 AM Nuñez 21 students

4/4 1PM Lindner 19 students

### Wed., 3rd Grade, *Propagation*

3/23 10 AM Thomas 20 students

3/23 1 PM Cardone 20 students

4/5 10 AM Webb 11 students

4/5 1 PM Doris & Maher 20 students

### Thursday, 4th Grade, *The Oak & The Acorn*

3/30 10 AM Warren-Givens 18 students

3/30 1PM Brown 21 students

4/6 10 AM Warren-Givens 18 students

4/6 1 PM Brown 21 students

### Friday, Kindergarten

3/31 10 AM Garcia 17 Students

## GCT COMMUNICATIONS

### Garden Club Newsletter

February 2017

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

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

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

## Propagating Plants from Cuttings By Robyn Lowenthal

Propagating plants from cuttings, aka asexual or vegetative propagation, is one of the easiest methods of making new plants and is ideal for plants that are hard to start from seed. The new plant will be an exact replica -- a clone - of the parent plant.

Stem cuttings include herbaceous, softwood, semi-hardwood and hardwood. Leaf cuttings may be used when working with fleshy plants such as begonias, African violets and succulents.

Keep in mind that when you are doing this type of plant propagation, you are doing "plant surgery." Take cuttings from healthy plants. Good sanitation is vital; always use a clean, sharp knife and sterile rooting medium. The cuttings must be given the proper growing environment; the main "enemies" of cuttings are drying out and/or rotting. When propagating with cuttings, always remember that plants have tops and bottoms. Always plant your cuttings with the up end up!

Cuttings can be "held" for a while, by putting them in water, in a sealed plastic bag, or wrapping them in damp paper towels. When taking cuttings from succulent plants, it is best to allow the cutting to callus for a few days, to help prevent rotting when placed in soil.

Some cuttings need rooting hormone. Pour just the needed amount of rooting hormone into a small cup or onto a paper towel. Never stick cuttings into the container of rooting hormone. This will degrade the remaining hormone in the container. Discard any leftover rooting hormone.

**How:** Take cuttings just below where a leaf attaches to the stem (the node) because roots tend to grow from nodes. If you leave a section of stem below the node, it often rots. Remove all but the top 3 or 4 leaves. Leaves can be trimmed to reduce the chance of drying out. Remove any flowers. Make some holes in your soil, using a dowel or pencil, a little larger than the diameter of the stem. Dip the cutting into water, then into rooting hormone (if needed), and stick them into the holes. Firm up the

soil around the cutting to provide good contact. If high humidity is needed, place the entire pot into a plastic bag. Fill the bag with air and seal with a rubber band or twist tie. Check the cuttings regularly. A sure sign of root development is the appearance of new growth. Remove the plant from the bag and place under lights.

### When:

**Herbaceous plants** – anytime. Softwood cuttings – spring to early summer.

**Semi-hardwood cuttings** – late spring to late summer.

**Hardwood** – during dormancy.

**Herbaceous plants, 3" and 5"**: Depending on type of plant, rooting hormone and/or high humidity may or may not be necessary.

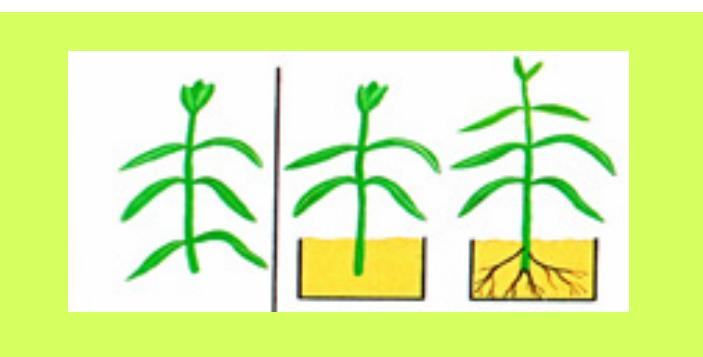
**Softwood cuttings**, 3"- 5", are taken from the new, soft growth of woody plants. Rooting hormone is necessary, and bottom heat is helpful. This type of cutting is vulnerable to moisture loss. Trim leaves and keep in a very humid environment, such as in a terrarium or plastic bag.

**Semi-hardwood cuttings**, 3" – 6", are partially mature wood from the current season's growth. Rooting hormone is necessary, and "wounding" may help root development. They don't require a very humid environment.

**Hardwood cuttings**, from deciduous or evergreen plants, 4"-30" , should include at least two nodes. Rooting hormone is necessary.

**Leaf cuttings. Begonias, African violets** - Cut a healthy leaf with the petiole. Reduce leaf size, but retain central veins. Stick petiole into the soil, with the leaf making contact with the soil. Water and put into a plastic bag until a baby plantlet appears.

**Succulents** – Remove a healthy leaf. Allow it to dry for a few days, then stick it into soil. When a baby plantlet appears, you know roots have developed.



THIS ARTICLE IS A HANDOUT FOR THE NEXT SEED EXCHANGE, NOW RESCHEDULED FOR FALL 2017.

# EVENTS

## BERGEN COUNTY GARDEN CLUBS

**Tuesday, March 21st,** 7:45pm, Glen Rock Municipal Annex, Walter Perry: "Starting Your Plants from Seed," 678 Maple Ave., Glen Rock, NJ (between Kilroy's Parking Lot exit and the rear of the Fire House)

**Other Garden Club Lectures, Bergen County:** If you are interested in other garden clubs' lectures, check the Master Gardeners of Bergen County's listing. Look for the listing at the bottom of the web page: "Garden clubs events and lectures. mgofbc.org

## METROPOLITAN AREA

### Rutgers Home Gardeners School

*Green Thumbs Invited to Let Knowledge Bloom*  
Sunday, March 19, 9 am-4 pm  
Cook/Douglass Campus, New Brunswick, NJ

Workshop topics for the 40th Annual Home Gardeners School include perennial favorites, such as canning fruits and vegetables, easy drip irrigation, composting, and pruning, as well as 21 new offerings. For more information or to register, visit [www.cpe.rutgers.edu/hgs](http://www.cpe.rutgers.edu/hgs) or call the Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education at 1-848-932-9271.

**Wave Hill Horticultural Lecture:** Jack Staub, *Hortulus Farm: An American Story*, Wednesday, March 15, 6 PM, at The New York School of Interior Design, 170 East 70th Street in Manhattan. Hortulus Farm, part of an original William Penn land grant of 1693 and now a not-for-profit, welcomes upwards of 3,000 visitors annually. Ticket:\$25 General, \$20 Wave Hill Member or Student. Purchase online: [wavehill.org](http://wavehill.org).

**Cherry Blossoms at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.** The cherry trees haven't started blooming yet. Check this month: <https://www.bbg.org/collections/cherries> Meanwhile, look for a virtual tour of the Japanese Gardens and Cherry Blossom Esplanade: <https://www.bbg.org/collections/>

This listing posts horticultural events of interest to Garden Club of Teaneck members. Suggested listings from members are welcome. They need to be current (in the next month) and have complete information (event title, location, date and time). Send by the 22nd of the month before the newsletter's publication to Pat Libutti, [libutti@gmail.com](mailto:libutti@gmail.com).

**The Orchid Show: Thailand** New York Botanical Gardens, Enid A. Haupt Conservatory Feb. 18–April 9, 2017.

Thailand is home to more than 1,200 native orchid species.

Tickets: Weekdays, Adults: \$20, Seniors (65+): \$18. Weekends & Monday Holidays: Adults, \$25, Seniors (65+), \$22. Hours vary: check [www.nybg.org/exhibitions/2017/orchid-show/index.php](http://www.nybg.org/exhibitions/2017/orchid-show/index.php)



## PHILADELPHIA AREA

### *In Philadelphia for two days for the Flower Show?*

Longwood Gardens for **The Orchid Extravaganza**, February 1 to March 31. Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA. Enjoy 4,500 elegant orchids, all on view inside the warm Conservatory, Peirce-du Pont House and the Visitor Center. Find out where the blue poppies are displayed. Tickets are timed, seniors \$20 (for some timed visits). Check <https://www.longwoodgardens.org/visit/>.

**Philadelphia Flower Show Bus Trip, March 14,** leaves 8 AM, back by 6 PM. **There is still room!** Cost: \$33.06 Theme: *Holland: Flowering the World*. Sponsored by the Garden Club of Englewood. Sign up immediately for the trip: email Susan Eastham at [susanmeastham1@gmail.com](mailto:susanmeastham1@gmail.com). The check will be due shortly.

You need to buy a Flower Show ticket, which costs \$28.00 for an adult.

Ticket link: <http://theflowershows.com/>

Photo: Pat Fromm



# Around the Greenhouse

Left, two summer visitors to the East Garden, foretelling what is ahead this summer. Photos: Anna Kurz



The Seed Exchange on February 4th resulted in members going home with more seeds than planned. The next one is scheduled for fall, after the Harvest. Photo: Anna Kurz



Geranium leaves are growing bigger.  
Photo: Pat Fromm



The Herb Group had an Herbal Tea Party on February 6. Teas for a good brew included Lemon grass, Lemon verben-a, Moroccan mint, and Lavender Lace. It was an aroma filled contrast to the frigid air outside. Photo: Bob O'Brien

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The plants march across the benches in precise order, thanks to Len Schwartz lining them all up.  
Photo: Doug Raska