



# Garden Club News

## OCTOBER 2016

PO Box 3253 Teaneck, NJ 07666

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

### GARDEN CLUB of TEANECK CALENDAR OCTOBER 2016

**Saturday, Oct. 1st, 2016, 10 AM.** *First GCT Business Meeting*, Greenhouse, next to 296 Lindbergh Blvd. Next meeting: November 5, 10 AM.

**Thursday, October 13th, 2016, 7:00 PM.** *Garden Club Speaker Series:* Mary Stone, "The Dos and Don'ts of Garden and Landscape Design", Rodda Center (Multi-purpose room 2B), 250 Colonial Court, Teaneck, NJ (enter from Palisades Avenue.) There is accessible parking in the senior parking lot at the back. Refreshments. The public is welcome.

**Thursday, November 10:** Speaker: Elaine Silverstein.  
Topic: TBA

### Dedication of The Mary S. Topolsky Garden & Trail: September 25, 2016

The Township held a dedication ceremony of the Mary S. Topolsky Garden and Trail at 640 River Road on Sunday, September 25, 2016 at 12:30 PM. Over sixty people celebrated Mary Topolsky's vision, which brought this Garden & Trail into reality. Mary was instrumental in the Township purchasing the land, and planned the trail with ADA-wheelchair accessibility in mind. The trail, paved with small stones, winds around the incline, so those using wheelchairs can go to the river.



Marie Warnke said that "this is the only place in Teaneck where, from the sidewalk, there is a clear view of the river". Plans for the future of the Garden and Trail include fragrant native flowers and plants and a butterfly garden, to join the trees provided by the Garden Club of Teaneck and the Audubon Society.

Come and relax on the benches, see the native plantings, perhaps a heron or egret -- and watch the Hackensack River go by.



**Mary Stone  
to Speak on  
"The Dos and Don'ts  
of Garden and  
Landscape Design"**

Mary Stone of Stone Associates Landscape Design & Consulting will speak on "The Dos and Don'ts of Garden and Landscape Design", a humorous and revealing review of "what-not-to-do" and "what-to-do" to create a beautiful design, the basis of garden joy.

She will discuss and share a pictorial review of the top "do's and don'ts", pet peeves and faux pas; some of which may bring us to laughter, others to tears. "Gardens and landscape design" should reflect the uniqueness of your personality, lifestyle, and home to stand out from the ordinary... but in an appealing way! Feel free to bring your own garden dilemmas or ideas to share.

She is a landscape designer, garden coach, speaker, columnist and blogger. Her weekly column *Garden Dilemmas? Ask Mary*, published in *The Press*, began in 2012. Her blog, *Garden Dilemmas, Delights & Discoveries* (<http://gardendilemmas.com/>) spun off soon after that. Stay tuned for a podcast version of *Garden Dilemmas* to launch later this year.

Mary formerly resided in Bergen County and now lives amongst the farms in Warren County, NJ.

### GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER October 2016

**Editor:** Patricia O'Brien Libutti. **Proofs/Circulation:** Bruce Libutti.  
**Masthead logo:** Marty Steeil.

**Publication Schedule:** First of the month from September-June.  
**Article deadline:** 22nd of the previous month.

**Article length:** 1 column (265-270 words).

**Email your contribution** to the Editor, Pat Libutti, [libutti@gmail.com](mailto:libutti@gmail.com) by the 22nd of the month before publication.



**Message from  
Robin Jackson,  
President,  
Garden Club of Teaneck**

Happy days to each of you and welcome to all new members!

Fall, like all of the seasons, is a time of beauty and change. It is a good time to work outdoors when the weather is a bit cooler than past summer days.

There are many gardening tasks that will keep us busy in our gardens for a little while longer. Some gardeners are still harvesting from their early plantings, growing fall crops, or starting to clear their gardens. Fall is also a good time of the year to start participating in gardening-related activities indoors.

As you read through this newsletter, you'll find information from GCT's Executive Committee members on upcoming (indoors) events, meetings and other activities that you might enjoy. All Garden Club members are encouraged to attend our business meetings. We have lively and interesting discussions at these meetings.

You may learn something new or offer an idea that will make a positive contribution to the Club. The sharing of ideas and knowledge among fellow gardeners is some of the fuel that keeps this organization vibrant and relevant. Bring in more fuel! What we don't use now, we can save for a later.

Last, but not least, many thanks to the Executive Committee members for their time and commitment to the Club!

Be well,  
Robin

**Greenhouse  
Director's Report  
Leonard Schwartz**



About two weeks ago, Anna Kurz discovered a significant problem with some of the structural supports which hold up the roof. Parts of ten columns are significantly weakened by rust, which probably resulted from over-generous watering of our plants.

We are seeking a safe, effective, fast, and not-too-expensive fix. The Maintenance Group has obtained a remediation proposal from a private contractor, but because the Greenhouse is owned by the Township, we have also contacted the DPW for help. We are now waiting for them to decide what to do.

The Executive Committee will be meeting with Town Manager Broughton and DPW Head Wilson at 10 AM on October 3rd in the Greenhouse. Hopefully, there will be a positive outcome.

Those of us with plants in the Greenhouse should be prepared for some amount of inconvenience, but hopefully we will yet have a normal season. As of now, there is no change to the normal timing for bringing in members' plants, which occurs during October and even into November. In order to minimize disruption, we will try to do the work on the members' areas first, but there may be a need to temporarily relocate individuals if the repair schedule gets pushed back.

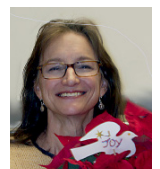
We should know more in another week.

There are three benches open and there will a lottery immediately after the October 1st meeting for anyone wanting to switch locations.  
---Len

**MEMBERS: DUES ARE DUE!**

Save yourselves a stamp and bring your dues check to the Speakers' Series, October 13th, Rodda Center, or to the Business Meeting on October 1st in the Greenhouse. Dues are \$20 (individual), \$35 (dual.) Deadline: October 31. See p. 4 for an overall description of GCT membership benefits. The membership form is on p.5. It is also on the GCT website:

<http://www.gardenclubofteaneck.org//graphics/membershipForm.pdf>



*Peggy Hazard,  
Vice President,  
Membership*





## From the Desk of Horticultural Director Doug Raska

At 87° degrees on the last official day of summer, it seems too hot to think about bringing in your plants for the Greenhouse season, but time will sneak up on us, so let's be prepared.

Are your plants in good health and insect-free?  
Have they gotten so big that they're unmanageable?

Think about making cuttings of your giants to give them a fresh start. Plants that are easy to root, like geraniums and coleus, usually grow better in the Greenhouse as freshly-rooted plants than as old leggy ones from the summer garden.

See you all on Oct. 1st .  
– Doug

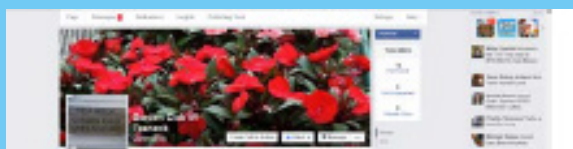
## Post Talk: Kate Copsey on “A Shrub for All Seasons”

*By Mark Penchinar*



With slides, humor and anecdotes, Kate Copsey brought us through a world of seasonal color. There is the red twig dogwood in winter, pink flowering quince in spring, red crape myrtle in summer and the Japanese maple in the fall, brought together in an informative and light presentation.

I found her a delightful and interesting speaker. After the meeting she stayed and talked to the attendees about her two books which were on sale. The booth was chock-full of information about when to plant monthly in the garden and how to build a garden with limited space.



**GCT on Facebook:**

<http://www.facebook.com/gardenclubofteaneck/>

*Denise George: GCT Facebook page*

## Dedication of The Mary S. Topolsky Garden & Trail *(cont. p.1)*



Mayor Mohammed Hameeduddin, Peter Goldman, Michael Accordino, Richard Karp, Marie Warnke, Norma Goetz, Sen. Loretta Weinberg, Mark Fromm.



George Reskakis, Mark Fromm and Pat Fromm stroll towards the benches and expanse of river.



Richard Karp and Peter Goldman, Co-Presidents, *Friends of the Greenway.*



Claire Karlick, Bob McGrath, and Eileen Karp.



Senator Loretta Weinberg, read a poem “To Laugh Often and Much” that reminded her of Mary Topolsky.

Photos:  
Anna Kurz, Peter Goldman



## Plant of the Month: *Cassia didymobotrya*

By Robyn Lowenthal

My quest for plants with sensory interest reached a high point in August at Mohonk Mountain House, where I found *Cassia didymobotrya*. Commonly known as Popcorn cassia, this member of the legume family is native to central and eastern Africa.

Popcorn cassia is a semi-deciduous, multi-branching shrub or small tree that can grow up to 25 feet tall in its hardiness zones 9 – 11. When grown as an annual in cooler climates, it reaches 2' – 3' in one season. The pinnately compound leaves are bright green and give the plant a very tropical appearance.

The plant flowers plentifully, from spring to fall, in dense spikes up to one foot tall of bright yellow flowers. The fruit is a flat brown pod which contains up to 16 bean like seeds, which can be used for propagation.

*Cassia didymobotrya* grows best in full sun in rich, moist, well-drained soil. Provide with ample water and fertilize regularly to promote lush growth and flowering. It does not have any significant pests, is deer repellent, drought tolerant, and will attract butterflies, bees and birds to your garden. In Kenya, some cultures use it to prepare a type of sour milk, which is used mainly during festivities.

Where does it get its nickname, 'Popcorn cassia'? When you rub the leaves, the aroma mimics buttered popcorn! Pop a favorite movie into your DVD player and you are all set for a fun, low-calorie evening.

Come to the Garden Club Meeting in the Greenhouse, October 1, to meet this unique plant in person.

## Join The Garden Club of Teaneck!

The Garden Club of Teaneck was established in 1932, with its primary objective being to stimulate interest in and spread the knowledge of gardening. Eighty-four years later, it is still a stimulating organization. The **Speaker Series** is held in The Rodda Center on the second Thursday of the month. There are seven lectures a year on topics of interest, such as "Attracting Nature's Pest Control: Gardening for Beneficial Insects". The public is welcome. Members-only workshops are led by members for the Club, with hands-on activity, such as "Propagation", "Pest Management", and "Herbal Teas".

The **Greenhouse**, one part of the Garden Club, opened officially on January 30, 1954. Garden Club business meetings take place at the Greenhouse on the first Saturday of the month. Members who join the Greenhouse work in groups, learn about and grow specific plants, and staff the Annual Sale in the spring. Participation earns members bench space, the ideas and garden tips from like-minded members, and a chance at a garden plot.

School programs (Hawthorne School and others) and the Junior Garden Club are the **outreach of GCT to children**. The Annual Sale, consulting and work with community gardens, as well as the Beautification Program are part of our outreach to Teaneck.

**Celebrations** include a Holiday Party (December) Spring Luncheon (June) and Harvest Fest (August)

**Communication** includes has a newsletter (distributed to members once a month), a Garden Club web-site and a Facebook page. All of the above are present on the web site ([www.gardenclubofteaneck.org](http://www.gardenclubofteaneck.org)).



At the JCC Plot, Greenhouse, Sept. 12, 2016. Myriam Fieulleateau, JGC Leader, members and parents. Photo: Darius Gantt





## Annual Membership Registration Form\* 2016-2017

The Garden Club of Teaneck (GCT) was established in 1932, with its primary objective being to stimulate interest in and spread the knowledge of gardening. All are welcome to join. The GCT calendar begins September 1 and ends August 31. Membership dues must be paid no later than October 31 of the current year. Please complete the form below for the *Garden Club Directory*.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

In addition to groups in the Greenhouse Committee, members are requested to volunteer in some capacity to keep our club alive. Check the area(s) to which you are willing to contribute time:

- ☐ Hospitality    ☐ Marketing    ☐ Holiday Party    ☐ Spring luncheon    ☐ Education  
☐ Newsletter    ☐ Administration    ☐ Trips & Tours    ☐ Website    ☐ Special events

*My professional skills or hobbies are:*

*My major horticultural interests are:*

We aim to limit the use of paper. However, if you do not have an email address, we will send you paper versions of the newsletter and membership application.

Print and return this form and a check (\$20/member or \$35/two persons living at the same address), made payable to "The Garden Club of Teaneck". Mail the check and this form to:

**The Garden Club of Teaneck/Membership**

**P.O. Box 3253, Teaneck, NJ 07666**

**Attn: Peggy Hazard,**

**Vice President, Membership**

**\* To be included in this year's directory,  
your check and form must be received by  
October 31, 2016.**