



# Garden Club News

## September 2015

PO Box 3253 Teaneck, NJ 07666

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

### CALENDAR: MEETINGS & EVENTS

The first meeting of the Garden Club of Teaneck for 2015-16 is on Thursday, September 10th at 7:30 PM at the Rodda Center. The speaker is Kim Eierman on *Attracting Nature's Pest Control: Gardening for Beneficial Insects*. The public is welcome.

The first meeting of the Greenhouse Committee of the Garden Club for 2015-16 will be on Saturday, October 3rd at 10:00 AM at the Greenhouse.

Rutgers L&N Farm & Garden Tour, Sat. October 17th 9:15 AM-12:30 PM. Details: see p. 3.

### Kim Eierman to Speak on *Attracting Nature's Pest Control: Gardening for Beneficial Insects*

Put down the pesticide and pick up your gardening trowel instead! Environmental horticulturist Kim Eierman explains how to reduce garden pests, without the collateral damage from hazardous pesticides. Learn how to attract beneficial insects, nature's pest control, with the habitat and native plants that support them. Think all organic pesticides are safe? Think again. Kim explodes these common myths and shows how we can become better environmental stewards of our own landscapes.

--Mark Penchinar, Vice President, Programs

### GARDEN CLUB OF TEANECK Speakers & Topics 2015-2016

- Sept. 10 Kim Eierman: *Attracting Nature's Pest Control: Gardening for Beneficial Insects*
- Oct. 8 Janet Schulz: *Beyond Daffodils*
- Nov. 12 TBD
- Feb. 11 TBD
- Mar. 10 Andy Brand: *Year Round Appeal: Plants with Pizzazz All Year Long*
- Apr. 14 Dr. Randi V. Wilfert Eckel: *Spring: A New Beginning*
- May 12 Joel Flagler: *Horticultural Therapy*

### WORKSHOPS & FACILITATORS

**Workshops** offered this season will be led by our own members, who will share their expertise. Place/date/time are forthcoming.

Dec. 6, 2015 Pat Libutti: *Herbal Teas for the Season* (limit:10)

Jan. 24, 2016 Pat Libutti: *Art in the Greenhouse: Drawing Model Plants* (limit:10)

Feb. 20, 2016 Joe Papa: *Bugs, Fungi and other Gardening Maladies*

March 19, 2016 Robyn Lowenthal: *Plant Propagation* (limit:10)

April 23, 2016 Myriam Fieulleateau: *Gardening Tips*

## A MESSAGE FROM PAT FROMM, GCT PRESIDENT

Nearly 50 members and guests celebrated Harvest Fest 2015 with delicious, creative, and gourmet food from their gardens. The 4th annual event was bigger and tastier than other years. Many thanks to the committee who pulled it all together by marketing, organizing the DPW, cleaning the Greenhouse kitchen/bath, 'spiffing' up our gardens, getting drinks, chests, ice, floral centerpieces, photos, set-up **and** clean-up, **and** hosting. And to all members and guests for all of the fabulous foods shared, **thank you**.

Autumn will officially begin on September 23rd. Our GCT events will get going as well. Mark Penchinar, our new VP in charge of Programs, has a great speaker lined up for September. Kim Eierman, from EcoBeneficial, will speak on "pest control the natural way".

Come on out to our first meeting of the year and find out what the GCT has planned for the year ahead. We'll have a wee different format: refreshments and social will be from 7:10 – 7:25, followed by announcements, then we will hear our speaker. *It is a good time to pay your dues.*

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## GARDEN CLUB MEMBERSHIP: DUES

*I hope you had a fantastic summer. Though it seems that the summer is never long enough, I hope you had great success with your plants. I urge all members to continue their memberships. Take advantage of all we have to offer: informative and educational programs, trips, the Greenhouse, and more. Please mail your membership dues as soon as possible, October is just around the corner. I am excited about this new year and look forward to seeing you soon.---Aura*

Dues are due by October 1st. Please remit by check, made payable to: "**Garden Club of Teaneck**" and mail to "**Garden Club of Teaneck**", PO Box 3253, Teaneck, NJ 07666. Attn: Aura Altieri, Vice President, Membership

## A MESSAGE FROM JOE PAPA, HORTICULTURAL DIRECTOR

The summer is coming to a close, as light levels become diminished. The migrations are about to begin; once-solitary birds flock en masse for their treks south with raptors in hot pursuit. Insect activity is less, as many pupate under the soil and prepare to overwinter before their emergence again in the spring.

The cycles of the earth become more vivid during these transition periods; all are linked to the Sun and our Earth's axis.

The festivals of the harvest, the rituals, and the religious symbolism are a reflection of the effect of climatic change on our species.

We prepare for the void: the period of inactivity. Yet, fall is colorful, as photosynthesis wanes, chlorophyll is no longer produced and pigments unseen to this point become more pronounced, thus, the beautiful displays.

I particularly look forward to the Ginkgo fall foliage at the Greenhouse, a vibrant yellow.

I collect their spent leaves and incorporate them into my compost pile or distribute them on my beds. High in carbon and minerals, they are a great supplement to a compost and soil.

Now is the time to develop plans for fall perennials, shrubs and tree planting; fall is the optimal time to plant. I have determined which perennials I must divide or eliminate so as to add some new species of interest.

The lawns took a beating this summer so I will reseed in late September.

I had great success with miniature Dutch clover which I seeded in my back yard, it did exceptionally well, plush with minimal weeding and no fertilization, as it is nitrogen fixing.

Enjoy the autumn and start thinking about your garlic selections.

See the link to the Saugerties, NY Garlic Festival, September 26th and 27th. <http://hvfg.org/>

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**Garden Club of Teaneck Newsletter: September 2015**  
Editor: Patricia O'Brien Libutti, Circulation: Nancy Lichtenstein, Graphics & photo page: Anna Kurz. Photos: Pat Libutti, Mark Fromm. Logo: Marty Steeil.

## A MESSAGE FROM LEN SCHWARTZ, GREENHOUSE DIRECTOR

The meeting room is being put back together; the old kitchen cabinets and the big desk are gone. The small cabinets which used to be over the window in the kitchen are being re-purposed for the far back room. New, enhanced lighting is being installed by Peter Goldman in the meeting room.

The new kitchen is finished, and was used for its inaugural performance at the Harvest Fest on August 22. In order to perform better, our kitchen needs an on-demand hot water heater, one that heats water fairly rapidly without the need for a tank.

We have requested help on this from the town. The DPW did react very fast to the danger posed by the progressive collapse of our bathroom floor due to its wooden supports having rotted out. As of now, the raised tile floor is gone and the bathroom is usable, but I suggest that we refinish the floor and perhaps replace the toilet with a better functioning model.

The Greenhouse itself is a mess, with many unwanted weeds robustly growing and, in fact, rivaling much of what is in our gardens. Cleaning out all of this will require everyone's help in the very near future. Have a wonderful September,  
Len

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### SAVE THE DATE!

**Sat. Oct. 17th, Rutgers Landscape & Nursery  
Farm & Garden Tour, 9:15-12:30**

Pat Fromm

**GCT & friends are invited...** "to tour our 62-acre farm where we grow thousands of trees and shrubs, some of which are very rare. The tour concludes at a professionally landscaped home, where we will walk the grounds of the 5-acre garden."

You will walk away with great ideas and inspiration! The fee of \$25 includes bus transport, speaker/guide and tour. Early AM departure, to be there by 9:15 AM, tour concludes at 12:30. Light fare is available for purchase from Good Roots Cafe. We will be back in Teaneck by early afternoon. More details will be available soon.

To book a seat, send a check for \$25, made out to "Garden Club of Teaneck" and mail to Garden Club of Teaneck, PO Box 3253, Teaneck, NJ, 07666.



### IN THE GARDEN *Ho Wan Ching*

*I am proud of having this garden. It is planned differently this season: the garden has a mixture of flowers and vegetables. I have dug out roses, hibiscus and gladiolas and replanted them around the garden fence. I have planted squash from seeds that I have sown after the last frost.*

*Acorn squash, butternut squash, melons, and zucchini are growing on wired trellises. I placed melons in newspaper "sleeves" to protect them.*

*Tomatoes are plentiful this season with the hot weather; some were bought at the Plant Sale, while some others were reseeded plants.*

*I have some peppers and white eggplants. I planted parsley, basil, oregano, French thyme and spring shallots in the shade.*

*In the spring, the forget-me-nots, peonies, lilies, daylilies, crocus, roses, tulips and irises that bloomed created a kaleidoscope of colors: pink, red, white, yellow, blue, purple, orange. There are tropical and hardy hibiscus; they are blooming profusely.*

*The sunflowers are growing strong and tall, at least six feet in height. Stalks of gladiolas are blooming now. The dahlias in pink and purple, zinnias, compass plants and cannas love the heat.*

*My garden has drawn the attention of birds, bees, butterflies, and wasps, as well as other pollinators.*

*I have seen blackbirds, yellow finches, orioles, cardinals, sparrows, mockingbirds and bunnies visiting my garden.*

*My husband cleared the garden of debris and weeds last winter to get the garden ready for this year's planting. I have to weed throughout this season to reduce the unwanted visitors.*



## JUNIOR GARDENERS HONOR HOME DEPOT MANAGER BY NAMING “THE BRUCE GREEN GARDEN”

*Pat Fromm*

Most of us didn't know Bruce Green or that he did nice things for others for unselfish reasons. He was a manager at Home Depot who played a big role in the Junior Garden Club this year.

This spring, Nancy Cochrane, Myriam Fieulle-teau and Olga Newey, teachers at the Junior Garden Club, were very surprised prior to the garden season opening.

Nancy, while at Home Depot purchasing supplies for the opening of the garden, was asked by Bruce if the supplies were for a school project.

When Bruce learned about the Junior Garden Club's work, he donated Home Depot stock, all the supplies needed, from buckets to topsoil. These donations included a gate, supplies for square foot gardening, trellises for vertical gardening, and containers for container gardening. He only asked, in return, to just see photos of the productive garden.

Sadly, Bruce passed away in an accident in late July at age 37. Unfortunately, we did not get photos of the garden to him.

The temporary sign in his honor states: "In Memoriam. Welcome to the Bruce Green Garden". May we remember his generosity to our young gardeners, and be as willing to "pay forward" to the next generation.

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September is still Harvest Month!

**Helping Hands Food Pantry**, 185 W. Englewood Ave., takes fresh vegetables and herbs on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 AM-12:30 PM. Use the municipal lot for rear entrance to the pantry. Use [AmpleHarvest.org](http://AmpleHarvest.org) for information about other pantries' hours and locations.



**FINAL WORD:** George Tipton passed away on the first day of summer, June 21, 2015. He was almost 101 years old. I remember his kindness, wry wit, and methods of growing plants, which he would demonstrate to any of us who would ask. His 2011 garden is pictured above. -Patricia O'Brien Libutti, Editor, Garden Club of Teaneck Newsletter

## EAST GREENHOUSE GARDEN PLANNED

*Doug Raska*

I hope we can continue trying to improve the grounds of the Greenhouse. The plan is to plant the long bed on the east side of the Greenhouse as a perennial border. (Some small shrubs or sub-shrubs are included for structure.)

Is it time to divide any overgrown perennials in your own gardens? If you can identify your division at least by species, color, or variety, and want it included in the new border, I'll need to know by October, so I can make a garden plan to include your plant.

I want to see if together we can make the grounds something to be proud of. I've gotten help with the front garden and, with Peter Goldman, we are starting to clear the east bed. More helpers will make a big difference in moving ahead. It's an old saying, but it is still true: "Many hands make light work".

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## A NOTE ON SEEDLINGS AND TREES

*Anna Kurz*

In the garden plots, all those tiny maple, cherry, oak, poplar, and Tree-of-Heaven seedlings eventually become large and unremovable trees that then self-seed. So early removal is imperative.

We have garden plots with such large, unremovable trees that are merely being cut back, but the roots keep growing under the earth, stealing water and nutrients from the plot owner's plants. Then they spread out to neighboring plots, thus making some plots undesirable.

I am experimenting with discouraging the tree stumps from growing back by lacing them with copper nails, available at roofing supply stores. A 1 lb. bag of 2.5" nails costs about \$9.00. I will report back on the success or failure of this ploy.

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## HARVEST MOON, FULL MOON, SUPERMOON

Fall begins on September 23, the autumnal equinox. We will see a Harvest Moon on Sept. 27-28. A Harvest Moon is the full moon on the Saturday nearest to the autumnal equinox. This 9/28 moon is the fullest and largest of the year and is also a "supermoon", dipping closest to the Earth. Next in the skies is a lunar eclipse on 9/28.



# 2015 Harvest Fest Celebrants

Photos: Mark Fromm



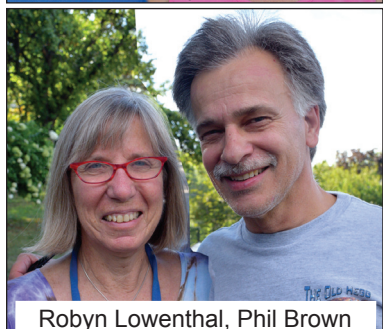
The Lynches



Gardener Rocco, Rocco's Mom & sister



Hilde

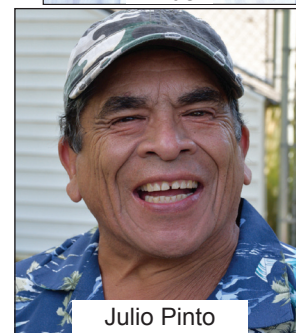


Robyn Lowenthal, Phil Brown



Aura Altieri

Peter Goldman



Julio Pinto



Mark & Pat Fromm



Mark & Michelle Penchinar



John Condon, MaryJane Tipton



Joe & AnneMarie Papa



Bruce & Pat Libutti



Eileen & Rich Karp



Caryl Gottlieb, Lou Schwartz



Community Gardeners  
enjoying Harvest Fest  
fare, healthful  
AND delicious



Community Gardener  
and family



Doug R., Tom Bender, Robyn L., Anna K.