



# Garden Club News

## January 2016

PO Box 3253 Teaneck, NJ 07666

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

### CALENDAR: January- February 2016

**Sat., Jan. 9, 2016:** Meeting of the Greenhouse Committee 10 AM, Greenhouse.

**Sat., Jan. 30, 2016:** Workshop: *Hot Tea for Cold Times* 2-3 PM. Limit 10. Patricia Libutti

**Thurs., Feb. 11, 2016:** Meeting, Garden Club of Teaneck, 7:00 PM, Rodda Center, 250 Colonial Ct., Second floor. 7:30, Dr. Hubert Ling, *Native Plants for Butterfly Gardens*

### ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS February- May 2016

**TH Feb. 11th.** Dr. Hubert Ling: *Native Plants for Butterfly Gardens*. Hubert served on the board, Northrup Nature Camp, NY, and was horticulturist for the NJ Native Plant Society.

**TH Mar. 10th.** Andy Brand: *Year-round Appeal: Plants with Pizzazz All Year Long*. Andy received his BS and MS from the University of Connecticut in Horticulture and Plant Tissue Culture.

**TH April 14th.** Dr. Randi V. Wilfert Eckel: *Spring: A New Beginning*. Randi is the owner and founder of Toadshade Wildflower Farm, an all-native mail order nursery. A life-long naturalist, Randi has studied plant disease, and insect interactions for over 30 years.

**TH May 12th.** Joel Flagler: *Horticultural Therapy*. Joel is the Agricultural Agent for Bergen County, MS: Forestry Science, Yale University.

### REORGANIZATION COMMITTEE MEETS

President Pat Fromm convened a committee to investigate and recommend ways the Club can be reorganized. The committee meets once a month and works on ways to simplify and reduce redundancies. Within this year, they hope to work out details for a single executive board, beginning 2016-17. Members include Len Schwartz, Doug Raska, Joe Papa, Peter Goldman, Nancy Cochrane Mark Penchinar and Stella Franco.

### COMING: MEMBERS' WORKSHOPS

***Hot Tea for Cold Times* Sat. Jan 30, 2016, 2-3 PM, Limit: 10.** Patricia O'Brien Libutti Find out why tea should be a part of your defense system against colds. "Greenhouse Tea" makings and sippings are part of this workshop. Don't forget your mug---plastic doesn't cut it. Pat is a Master Gardener and lectures at garden clubs on herbs. [pat.libutti@aol.com](mailto:pat.libutti@aol.com).  
**Next workshop: Sat., Feb. 20, 11 AM.**

Joe Papa: *The Good, The Bad and the Ugly (Pest Management)*.

**Other workshops: Sat., Mar. 12:** Robyn Lowenthal, *Plant Propagation*, 10:30 AM-12.  
**Sat., April 24.** Time: TBD, Myriam Fieulle-teau *Garden Tips*.

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Logo: Marty Steeil. © Garden Club of Teaneck.



**A LETTER FROM  
PAT FROMM,  
PRESIDENT,  
GCT**

*Left, one of the faces from the historic Khmer ruins of Bayon that Pat saw on her travels*

While visiting the historic Khmer ruins this month, I was reminded of a parable from my early religion classes. It was about the wise man who built his house on the rock and the foolish man who built his house upon the sand. Then the rains came down and the floods came up and washed the house on sand away.

In the late 12th Century, King Jayavarman VII foolishly built Bayon in a big rush and with sandstone! So, of course, over time, the rains came down and washed it (nearly) all away. Fortunately, some very resourceful archeologists have moved in and are rebuilding the beautiful structure of 173 faces, piece by piece!

The Garden Club of Teaneck was built on a rock solid foundation by some very wise men and women and has not only survived, but developed and grown over its 84-year history. We're currently going through lots of changes in our demographics and in our community.

May we all work together through these changes in both our club and our community and celebrate the wise men and women who built GCT with such a sound foundation, as well as the Club that we've become today!

**All the best in 2016! Happy New Year!**  
---Pat Fromm

**A LETTER FROM  
LEN SCHWARTZ,  
GREENHOUSE DIRECTOR**



Supposedly, there will be a mild winter this year in the Northeast, according to one prediction I heard.

But I am absolutely sure that **the next Greenhouse meeting will be on the second Saturday, January 9th, and not January 2nd.** This is because the first Saturday in January is so close to New Year's Day.

At our last meeting on December 5th, we passed this year's budget and, at the Holiday Party, ate way too much, which might have been good for storing up fat reserves for a cold winter, which now isn't coming.

Sue McGibney and Pat Taaffe have left the Greenhouse, they will be missed.

There are now five benches available, all at edge locations. They will be offered at the end of the January meeting to anyone wanting to shift into any of them. The potential for a drawing exists if several members want the same bench.

We are about to sign a contract to redo the bathroom floor. We will be purchasing a new hot water heater which the town will install. Peter is lighting up the meeting room. Carmin is installing the new old sink, which will definitely be marginally better than the old one.

Please keep working at growing cuttings for the school program and/or our plant sale, as well as keeping up the Greenhouse Upkeep assignments.

See you all on January 9th,  
Len

## JUNIOR GARDEN CLUB OF TEANECK COMPLETES THIRD YEAR

By Olga Newey

The 3rd year of teaching gardening to eleven students included Kindergarten to fifth grade. Teachers Myriam, Nancy and Olga started sessions in February and ended in November, meeting twice a month and every Sunday in July and August. We had two classes: first year students and returnees. The cost was \$25 for one student and \$15 for a sibling.

Myriam taught 1st year students basic gardening skills, which included importance of weeding, life cycle of a seed, structure of plants and their function, pollination and pollinators, composting, soil, and propagation. Peas, lettuces, strawberries, tomatoes, potatoes, beets, carrots, nasturtiums, and Mexican sunflowers were planted-all from seeds. They harvested from June to October.

We felt we should offer something more than the basics for our "returnees". Nancy developed a program for this group, who learned new ways to garden, which included vertical gardening, container gardening and square-foot gardening. They also learned about different ways to propagate plants, beneficial insects, and trees. They had a class in Healthy Eating and grew vegetables for the Helping Hands Food Pantry. It was a fun time for all.

November 8, 2015, was the last session and an End-of-Year Celebration. Demonstrations on something they learned included making a smoothie, leaf and tree change during the seasons, square-foot gardening, and more. Certificates were awarded to all participants, including two high school senior service students.

Then we ate food made by the parents from a vegetable, herb or fruit that could have grown in our garden. We are going to assemble a recipe pamphlet for our parents and ourselves. Future announcements will include information on an Open House so that parents may meet the teachers and consider registration.



Here, students show and tell about their Junior Garden learning.



They grew from seeds.



They harvested from June through October.



**Photo Correction:** December issue, p.5. The picture labeled "Herb Garden Group" showed Yolanda Napoliello with Herb Garden Group Olga Newey, Nancy Cochrane and Myriam Fieulleau. Not included previously: Photo: Robin Jackson.

### WRITE FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Contributions for consideration are welcome. **Length:** no longer than one newsletter column (about 220-250 words).

**Content:** It is essential that the work have a Garden Club focus. **Deadline for articles: 20th of the month.** Articles arriving later will be considered for another issue.

**Send** an emailed Word attachment to Pat Libutti, Editor (pat.libutti@aol.com).



## Help Plan for Teaneck Trees

By Patricia O'Brien Libutti, Editor



*Dawn Redwood*

Before Teaneck was incorporated, Warren Phelps, owner of a 15,000 acre estate, reported in his diary that he planted 600,000 trees on his property before 1893. This figure passed on to local historians and was reported by The New York Times. In 1935, the Shade Tree Division was formed as part of Public Works with 10,000 trees in its purview.

In 2014, Teaneck was identified as a “Tree City USA”. Five aesthetically pleasing Teaneck trees, are listed below; they can be enjoyed as “living sculptures” on a winter walk.

There has not been a Teaneck tree census nor an estimate of how many of the 10,000 Township trees from 1935 are left. Trees taken down in this year alone due to storm damage etc. by the DPW number over 300. The trees are not replanted due to budget problems. The Shade Tree Advisory Board (STAB), which watches the fate of shade trees in the town, counts a number of GCT members as participants. STAB urges citizens to advocate for budgeting for trees for the future at Town Council meetings.

Look online for “Public Input on 2016 Municipal Budget” on the Town Council agenda ([www.teanecknj.gov](http://www.teanecknj.gov)) a few days before the meeting. Also, in January and February, look at our GCT website calendar page ([www.gardenClubofTeaneck.org/calendar/html](http://www.gardenClubofTeaneck.org/calendar/html)) It will have the date(s) of the budget meetings relevant to tree plantings/DPW appropriations.

### Five Trees to See in Teaneck

1. **Sycamore.** Glenwood Avenue, near Teaneck Community Gardens.
2. **Pin Oak allée.** George Street.
3. **Tulip Tree (or Tuliptree).** Palmer and Sherman: Southeast corner.
4. **Cottonwood.** North of the dog run in Phelps Park.
5. **Dawn Redwood.** (pictured above). West of the Greenhouse.

## Come to the January 9 Greenhouse Meeting and Greet Guest *Nepenthes alata*

By Robyn Lowenthal

A plant is considered carnivorous only if it has three specific attributes: a clear adaptation to capture prey, some way to digest the prey into a form that can be absorbed, and a way to absorb the nutrients and benefit from them.

Meet *Nepenthes alata*, an amazing carnivorous plant (pictured below). It is a clambering vine with long green sword-shaped leaves, tipped by tendrils that are swellings of the mid-vein of the leaves. The tendril is tipped by a pitcher – the carnivorous pitfall trap.

*N. alata* prefers bright light, without much direct sun. They require a lot of water, both in the planting medium and in the pitchers themselves. Some *N. alata* must have only distilled or purified water, but the *N. alata* is doing okay with tap water.

Feeding? This plant feeds itself. An adult *N. alata* needs only a few insects per month. While commercial propagation is done using tissue culture, stem cuttings will propagate, but very slowly. Because *N. alata* are dioecious – plants are either male or female – and the majority are male, propagation from seed is very uncommon.

*Nepenthes alata*



# Garden Club of Teaneck Holiday Party Program Given by Member Doug Raska: "Using What Nature Has Given Us for Holiday Designs"

GCT held its annual Holiday party at noon at the Rodda Center on Saturday 5 December. Members brought imaginative and delicious home-made dishes: entrées, side-dishes, salads and desserts.



*Spiral ham before being served; and one of the salad bowls, halfway through lunch.*

*Desserts (shown before lunch): fruit salad, pie, apple and crumb cakes on the dessert table*



from l to r: **Christina, Marty, Lou, Olga, Floral Designer Doug**  
at bottom, **Peggy going home with poinsettias**

Professional floral designer and New York Botanic Garden (NYBG) instructor member Doug Raska held members' attention with his live presentation "Using What Nature Has Given Us for Holiday Designs", using recently pruned fresh camellias, hemlock, red-twigg dogwood, magnolia, hollies with red berries, boxwoods; spray-painted white and gold pine cones and empress-tree seedpods.

Answering questions, Doug casually inserted and arranged branch after branch into vases. He created three arrangements in containers. He used a common weed, porcelain berry vines, to twist into a wreath to which he then added ornaments. The results were stunning.

Doug began teaching at the NYBG in 1997, becoming its Program Coordinator for Floral Design. He has traveled throughout Asia as a designer for a Silk Flower Importer and in 2015, won a prize at the Philadelphia Flower Show's Design Showcase competition, no small achievement.

All his expertise was brought to bear on his arrangements, accompanying his easy banter as he worked. The final creations were raffled off and the winners, wearing smiles, took home their arrangements (*above right*) and the decorations (pots of poinsettias).

*Before and after*



*Final arrangements*

