



Garden Club News

May 2015

PO Box 3253 Teaneck, NJ 07666

www.gardenclubofteaneck.org

The next meeting of the Garden Club of Teaneck will be held on May 14th at the Richard Rodda Center. The meeting will start at 7:30 pm. Our speaker that night will be Bruce Crawford. Bruce will speak to the club about how to “container garden.” He will explore a variety of containers and window boxes, soil mixes and amendments, as well as watering and fertilization practices.

The annual Greenhouse Plant Sale will start on Saturday, May 2nd through Sunday, May 11th. There will be members only night on Friday, May 1st from 5:00pm to 9:00pm.

The last Greenhouse Committee meeting of the year will be on Saturday, May 16th at 10:00 am at the Greenhouse.

Member News

Message from Pat Fromm, President

“Google” – it’s both a noun and a verb and in this age of instant information, often a source (reliable or not) of oh so many questions. Unfortunately, Google let me down when I asked “what does an organization do if it has no president?”

We had a competent nomination/election committee who were tasked with recruiting dependable and qualified members to fill the offices for the one year ahead. They asked numerous members to step up and fill an important role in the administration of our club and they couldn’t find a single person who would agree to be President of the Garden Club. I can find no precedent for such a situation and not a single person who can wisely advise us of what to do. It’s unheard of!

Garden Club of Teaneck has existed for 83 years! We began in April of **1932** during the Depression with a membership of 120 members, Mr. Carl Fleishman was first

president and we’ve had a president every year since. Why not now?

From those early days, a plant sale was always one of the highlights of the year, along with city beautification, and in the early years, “*annual flower shows were staged, in both spring and fall. The shows, held in schools, the Library, Women’s Club and once at a local church, brought Teaneck in to see what the best local gardeners had to offer in decorative displays.*” We’ve changed a bit, but the plant sale and community service are still the main focus of our organization. **WE MUST HAVE A PRESIDENT AND GOOD LEADERSHIP TO CONTINUE!**

From Wikipedia, “The title *President* is derived from the Latin *prae-* “before” + *sedere* “to sit.” As such, it originally designated the officer who presides over or “sits before” a gathering and ensures that debate is conducted according to the rules of order”. In our society and in GCT, The President has a powerless but very important role and responsibility in the success of the club.

The president conducts all official meetings and is responsible for guiding the club's direction and activities, making certain that each club and board meeting is well planned and organized, flows smoothly, ends on time, and that each member has fun and experiences fellowship. President is responsible for agenda setting and for preparing the vice-president to preside in his/her absence.

Club presidents are perhaps, one of the most important people in running clubs. They need to be leaders, come up with new ideas and ensure that the tasks are done correctly and completely by continuously monitoring the club's progress toward goal accomplishment and the activities and responsibilities of all officers and committee chairs. He/she should establish a climate of enthusiasm, openness, and concern as well as follow up, congratulate, and listen. He/she also is the main contact person with the community leaders who regularly request our participation and help.

Our President should make certain all members are active and involved throughout the year and we are constantly growing. New membership is the lifeblood of our club and its level of service. For the past few years, we've become, for all intents and purposes, two separate organizations, Garden Club and Greenhouse. In April, we made a step in the direction of unifying ourselves into one cohesive group by shortening the length of this term to one year. Within this year, we hope to work out details for a single executive board to carry on beginning 2016-17. This will not be an easy task or one without debate and much thoughtfulness. If we don't have a president to continue this year and help guide this process, then the direction of our club is uncertain. We need good leadership.

If you have managed or led people in work or other social situation, taught school, a church class, or a scout leader, and can work towards achieving a goal, you may be more than qualified to be President. If you truly believe in the Garden Club of Teaneck and our mission statement, "*to stimulate interest in and spread the knowledge of gardening; to assist in conservation...; to give exhibitions and encourage home and civic beauty; to assist in educating school children....*" You may be the perfect candidate for President. If you are interested in our club and willing, please speak up and take an active role.

As soon to be Past President, I will be available to help as much as my family and ill health issues allow and you will have a great committee and a club of likeminded members to support you. Call. We can talk.
Pat Fromm

Message from Len Schwartz Director of the Greenhouse

Our last greenhouse meeting will be on Saturday, May 16 at 10 am.

1. Kudos to the Hawthorne school teachers, Pat L, Stella, Mark, and Sydelle, but especially Olga for compressing the whole schedule into two hectic weeks with hands on, activity centered programs that were very successful. Olga did a magnificent job despite being handicapped from knee surgery. We all thank her and the Hawthorne school group for a great job.
2. This Wed, April 29 @ 6pm, Joe will be conducting a run through for the plant sale. All Please attend.
3. This coming Friday May 1 from 5 pm to 8 pm we will conduct our garden club MEMBERS ONLY pre-sale event with a 10% discount. NO ONE MAY REMOVE any plants prior to that time

and that is the only time when the 10 % discount applies.

4. Please review the sign-up sheets and try to balance some of the more empty time slots (The second weekend needs some more help) by some of you shifting times.
5. We have purchased 300 flat boxes in which customers bring home plants. This will get us through most of the first weekend, but we will still need more boxes from places like COSCO. Please help by bringing in more flat shaped boxes now.
6. Fliers of all sizes are out in the meeting room, please post and/or distribute them
7. The plant schedule is Saturday and Sunday, May 2 and 3 and May 9 and 10 from 9 to 3 pm. Groups will also sell plants during the following standard mid-week times: Monday and Wed from 9 am to 12 noon; Tues, Thurs and Fri from 5 pm to 8 pm
8. Please show up 15 min early to help set up and stay 15 late to help clean up Parking is limited, do not park in the drive way near the greenhouse
9. Please weed the ground under the plants you are assigned to water
10. This year's FINAL greenhouse meeting and celebration will be on Saturday May 16 at 10am, hosted by Tuesday and Sunday regular.
11. Some of our groups are still responsible until the end of May for their up keep assignments. Len

Message from Joe Papa Horticultural Director

Another spring has arrived; new hatchlings stir in their nests coinciding with the emergence of a vast array of insect life. We too as Gardeners become a part of the cycle as we again become connected to the land, sow seeds and transplant nurtured seedlings. Fresh compost is integrated into our beds,

revitalizing the soil food web .Opportunistic weeds are tediously extracted and disposed of. The pollinators start in earnest, bees of all types begin their hard work seeking out nectar and pollen. The parasitic wasps and other beneficial predators patrol the gardens pursuing vulnerable pests. A balance is being established as we provide a natural environment, devoid of insidious herbicides and pesticides. Our garlic has emerged and survived a harsh winter. Peas, Beets, Lettuce and Carrots sown in April have germinated. May is the month to plant many of our favorites. Each year I vow to cut back on my Tomatoes but I just can't seem to help myself. As we plant be aware of where you planted your peppers and tomatoes, rotate these crops as they are prone to soil borne fungal diseases such as Verticillium wilt. Hopefully you have your garden layout from the previous year, reference this and note the heavy feeders and nitrogen fixing legumes placement, amend and plant accordingly. We as gardeners work in earnest this month as do the creatures that surround us. Enjoy their sounds, the fragrances, the rains, the colors and the warmth of the sun as spring again allows us to participate in this physical and spiritual emergence. Joe

Bruce Crawford to Speak at the May Meeting by Anna Kurz

Bruce Crawford, Director of the Rutgers Garden (who avows loving plants and Gardens and enjoys talking about them) will teach us how to "container garden". A wide range of plants – from the familiar annual to the now-popular tender perennial, bulbs and shrubs – fill out the potential plant list. The class will feature step-by-step, hands-on demonstrations that you can easily duplicate at home.

After studying Landscape Architecture and Horticulture at Rutgers University, long time proponent of unusual and fun plants, Bruce is now an adjunct professor at Rutgers

University. He says he has yet to find a plant that he does not like.

The Greenhouse of the Garden Club Teaneck - By Patty Libutti

The Greenhouse of Teaneck, begun in 1953, is the only municipally-supported greenhouse in the State of New Jersey. Town Council records show that the Greenhouse is based in the refurbished Vandelinda Sewerage Treatment Plant.

Adapting that building for use meant, according to Council Minutes, “covering the concrete vats, repairing the roof, and installing a heating system. “The Garden Club of Teaneck took on cleaning up glass and debris, as well as fundraising, by asking for \$25 per family to turn the site into a greenhouse. It opened up officially in January 30, 1954. Members organized by interest area work groups (i.e., herbs, geraniums) and propagated plants for the use of the Township in parks and malls.

There were 31 original benches that were assigned in the opening year; all members paid dues of \$3.00. Members who joined the Greenhouse needed to be members of the Garden Club, live in Teaneck and join a group to develop plants for the Township. These rules are still used rue today still. Greenhouse Directors have included Gene Hubbard, Lou Schwartz, Dania Cheddie, Len Schwartz and Stephanie Murphy.

The Greenhouse has developed outreach activities in the community, such as their education programs for children, now over 20 years in existence. Led by Olga Newey in 2015, it included students learning about planting seeds and about a plant’s growth and parts.

The Garden Club holds an annual Plant Sale in the Greenhouse, this year it is from May 2nd to May 10th. Container gardens, herbs, tomatoes, hanging baskets, vegetables, annuals, and more can be bought. To find sale hours, check: <http://gardenclubfteaneck.org> new this year are special demonstrations of interest to gardeners. You will see knowledgeable Garden Club members preparing soil, arranging potted plants and using color in landscape design. Patty Libutti

Doug Raska – The Greenhouse Outside Bed By Joe Papa

Perhaps you may have noticed our renewed Greenhouse Garden Bed; this reclamation project is chaired by a new member Doug Raska. The bed had to be unearthed, remove, pot and care for perennials, disposal of invasive material and the like. There were a few members who contributed their labor to this effort namely; Pat Fromm, Denise George, and Jon Ross but the major time and effort was conducted by Doug. He nurtured and watered the perennials, purchased and installed plants, watered and groomed the bed. He could be seen there most every morning caring for the bed. Compliments to all who helped in this process but the greatest compliment must be extended to Doug who made the commitment, devoted the time and effort and created a beautiful flower bed we all enjoy and be proud of. Thank you Doug!!



Plant of the Month - *Mahonia aquifolium* – Oregon Grape Holly

By Robyn Lowenthal

Looking for a shrub that is shade tolerant, evergreen, edible, fragrant, not picky about soil conditions, useful, provides multi-seasonal interest, attracts butterflies and birds, and is deer resistant?

Mahonia aquifolium, aka Oregon Grape Holly, is a broadleaf evergreen shrub with pinnately compound, glossy, leathery leaves. It is native to the rocky woods and conifer forests of the Pacific Northwest, from Northern California to British Columbia. It is known by a large variety of different common names including Oregon Hollygrape, Oregon Grape Holly or Oregon Grape. This is a suckering, evergreen shrub with a spreading to upright habit that typically grows 3-6' tall and to 5' wide, although it can be trained to grow taller. It is noted for its yellow flowers in spring, edible blue-black berries in late summer, shiny compound evergreen foliage and ability to grow well in shade.

Some authors place *Mahonia* in the barberry genus, *Berberis*. The Oregon Grape Holly is not related to true grapes or to holly, but gets its name from the purple clusters of berries whose color and slightly dusted appearance are reminiscent of grapes and the leathery leaves that resemble holly.

The evergreen foliage is made up of large compound leaves, up to ten inches long, which typically have five to nine spiny, ovate to oblong leaflets. New leaves emerge red-tinted in spring, maturing to glossy dark green by summer. The foliage acquires purplish hues in fall and



and burgundy-bronze tones by winter. The shape and spines

of the leaves resemble holly. As the leaves of Oregon Grape are holly-like and resist wilting, the foliage is sometimes used by florists for greenery, and a small gathering industry has been established in the Pacific Northwest.

This shrub blooms from mid-April to mid-May. The blooms are terminal inflorescences of bright yellow, two to three inch long, bell-shaped fragrant flowers.

The flowers are followed by small dark, dusty blue, edible berries that ripen to blue-black by early fall, which give rise to the common name "Oregon Grape." The berries



are part of the traditional diet of the Pacific Northwest Native People. They are quite tart and are used to make jelly. Oregon grape juice can be fermented to

make wine, similar to European barberry wine, although it requires an unusually high amount of sugar. The inner bark of the larger stems and roots of Oregon grape yield a yellow dye; the berries give purple dye.

Mahonia likes to grow in organically rich, acidic, well-drained soils in part shade to full shade. Once established, it is quite drought-tolerant. Since this plant can suffer from leaf scorch and winter burn, it should be protected from exposure to strong wind and full sun. There are no serious insect or disease problems, but may suffer from rust and Powdery Mildew. *Mahonia* are very hardy but will benefit from a mulching around the base to protect the roots from frost in severe winters.

Mahonia aquifolium, hardy in Zones 5 – 8, is a popular shrub for shady or woodland plantings. It looks fabulous when under

planted with *Mertensia*, Virginia Bluebells, which bloom at the same time. It is valued for its striking foliage and fragrant flowers, which often appear before those of other shrubs. Once established, *Mahonia* is resistant to summer drought. It is not picky about soil, and will tolerate heavy clay to sand. *Mahonia* grows well in shade and does not produce much leaf litter. Its flowers attract butterflies and berries provide food for birds. It provides multi-seasonal interest with the foliage, flowers and berries. And unless they are starving, the deer will not eat *Mahonia*.

School Program – By Olga Newey

It was a marathon, assisting teachers in 17 classes in two weeks; however, I believe it was the best season ever for the Hawthorne School Program on many levels. Even though I had knee surgery and was on my feet from 9:30 - 3 most days, it was the best thing for me as I was distracted from the pain and the walking was therapy.

We took extra care to make the sessions more hands-on which necessitated a lot of preparation and clean-up. It was fun to see the students so enthusiastic, so involved and taking advantage of the opportunities presented to them. They had a lesson that enriched their science curriculum; they sowed seeds or propagated plants, and their all-time favorite - buying plants that the members propagated.

I explained that we start in November propagating plants from our own collections for them. It's a way of passing down our love of plants to them. The greenhouse looked beautiful and they were thrilled with the variety and beauty of the plants offered for sale. I thank the teachers: Stella Franco, first grade, "Seeds;" Sydelle Postman, second grade, "Parts of a Plant and Their Function;" Mark Penchinar pitching in for Cynthia McKay, third grade, "Propagation;"

Pat Libutti, fourth grade, "Photosynthesis and Herbs." I learned from every one of them. I thank Len Schwartz for setting up the room, his help cleaning up for the next class and keeping the soil bins full. I thank the members for the propagation of plants. We all share in the success of this program as evidenced by the student's behavior and feedback from the school. Olga

Garden Club of Teaneck Nominees for Executive Board

The following are the nominees:

President:	NO NOMINEE
1 st VP Membership:	Aura Altieri
2 nd VP Programs:	Mark Penchinar
Recording Secretary:	Pat Libutti
Corresponding Secretary:	Anna Kurz
Treasurer:	NO NOMINEE
Members at Large:	Sara Jones
Members at Large:	Dania Cheddie

Final Word

Here are just some of the events and volunteer opportunities available in our area as the days get sunny and bright:

Garden Club of Englewood Plant Sale, Friday, May 1st, 11am to 5pm at Depot Square, Veteran's Memorial Park

Community Scholarship Fund of Teaneck: Each year the Garden Club of Teaneck and the Greenhouse committee award money to the scholarship fund. In the past, many of our members have volunteered to sit on the selection committee to meet the candidates, and interview them. We are looking for someone to fill this important position. If you are interested, please contact me at 201-880-6110 or email: fromm_pat@yahoo.com

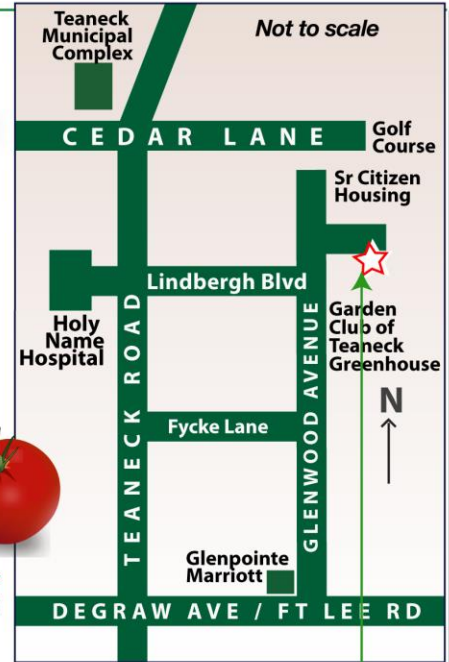
Teaneck Creek Conservancy's Spring Fest: May 17th, 11am-4pm. Please contact Pat Fromm at 201-880-6110 or fromm_pat@yahoo.com

Garden Club of Teaneck* PLANT SALE



Saturday, May 2
thru Sunday, May 10, 2015

Sat/Sun.....9 - 3 pm
M, W9 - noon
T, Th, Fri.....5 - 8 pm



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

www.GardenClubofTeaneck.org

- container gardens • tomatoes and vegetables
- hanging baskets • herbs • house plants • annuals



NEW this year:
Demonstrations of
soil preparation, colors in
landscape, plant potting, more



Prices reflect our nonprofit status