



Garden Club News

June 2015

PO Box 3253 Teaneck, NJ 07666

www.gardenclubofteaneck.org

There will be no meeting of the Garden Club of Teaneck in June. Everyone please enjoy your gardens and have a safe and happy summer.

The Greenhouse will close in June. **All Greenhouse Committee members are reminded to remove their plants and clean up around their benches by June 14th.**

Member News

Message from Pat Fromm, Acting President

First and foremost, I want to express my sincere thanks to the executive committee for their dedication and willingness to work together for a better club this year. You stepped up when we were shorthanded and I think our programs, events, and growth are all results of your efforts. Now, there will be a new committee to carry on the leadership of the club and I hope all of the membership will support them and say "yes" when asked to help out in any way. Those returning from the job from last year, Aura Altieri, Anna Kurz, Sara Jones, Lenny Schwartz and Joe Papa will ensure continuity and experience and some new comers to the committee, Mark Penchinar, Patti Libutti, Dania Cheddie will bring some new ideas and freshness. Stella Franco, Marty Steil, and Elyse Constantin are stepping down after years of selfless service. They will be missed! We still are without a treasurer and an official president. I've agreed to be Acting President through the transition and hope we can come up with a sensible solution so our club can continue to prosper and grow. We really need a treasurer and if any of you have any interest, please let a committee person know.

To the membership, thank you also for your participation and support of our events and programs. Many of you have reached out to

help out at various events and I'm sure you'll do so for the new committee.

We have a new look at the greenhouse/gardens and 2015-16 may see some new ideas in our organization and leadership as well. Lots of new members are active and contributing time and talents to make our club house and grounds look and function even better!

I'm looking forward to some summer events, perhaps a harvest party, club picnic, maybe a garden tour or two. All of this is up to the new committee and I'm sure they'll be busy soon working out all the details for the 2015-16 schedule. I'm also looking forward to spending time in my garden and hope you are enjoying yours! Pat

Message from Len Schwartz Director of the Greenhouse

The plant sale was very successful again this year. We exceeded our monetary targets and basically sold out our inventory. The credit goes to all of us who did our parts, but without Joe's planning, oversight and his hands on presence at all the critical times this would not have happened. Special thanks also go to Anna Kurtz for publicity, signage and other important elements, our group leaders for their critical role in growing and nurturing the plants and to those who did important jobs at the sale itself; but

mostly we thank the greater community who buy our plants and thus support our program. We also thank the town and the DPW who make it all possible.

We all should know that the dead line for removing our plants from the greenhouse is June 14. After that date the exhaust fans will be shut off and the inside temp will get considerably hotter than it already is. We are all expected to remove everything (left over stuff may be removed) and then clean up our bench area of all debris. Please weed the ground under your bench as well. Thank you to the individuals who cleaned out the water trays and the water barrels. Our outside gardens are starting to look beautiful. Please keep them and the pathways weeded. On the other side of the greenhouse the landscaping group with Doug, Peter and Anna are making initial plans to make exciting use of this land on the eastern side of greenhouse towards the golf course. They will be reporting back in the fall and they will need substantial additional people power help in the time to come. Finally, the maintenance group will be washing the roof, checking the fans and overseeing the kitchen/toilet renovation. Have a great summer, Len

Message from Joe Papa Horticultural Director

As we approach the height of the growing season, the nutritional needs of our plants must be met. Presuming you have developed a balanced tilth, consider supplemental feeding. This can be achieved in various ways; top dressing with organic amendments such as dehydrated chicken manure or one of my favorite methods is an application of either compost tea or manure tea. Both are water soluble and easily absorbed by the plants. Here is a recipe for manure tea; take a 5 gallon container and use five parts of water to one part of manure(I use chicken manure). Place the manure in burlap bag or an old pillow case. Let it seep for five days, dilute on a 1:1 ratio and apply. Apply once every two to three weeks.

The summer heat can be really challenging particularly on your tomatoes. We have

experienced a very dry spring and as we get further into our dry season more stress will be placed on our plants so it is imperative to water. Plants need at least one inch a week of water. However, I have found that you may need two or three inches. If you do not have mulch around your plants they will require more water (I use straw). Test the soil with your fingers to determine if you should water more.

I top water all with the exception of Tomatoes, Peppers and Okra. When temperatures exceed 106 degrees in the sun plants go into thermal shock and in the case of Tomatoes do not fruit. You can use row covers to shield them. June is the best month for Tomato fruit setting; Tomatoes are self-pollinators so you can aid the pollinators by gently shaking the plant so that pollen falls on the stigma. You can also do it by hand by using a small stiff brush (I use the brush I clean my electric shaver with). Either method works well and you will see higher yields.

In late July I will be germinating my fall crops under lights(less stress). Lettuce, cabbage, collards, Bok Choi, I will direct sow beets and carrots.

I have found and use a great seed catalog Bountiful Gardens, a nonprofit, heirloom, open pollinated seed purveyor. They have a wonderful catalog, with lots of great information and resources and are very competitive. www.bountifulgardens.org Enjoy the summer, Joe



“Lavender blue dilly dilly”By Patty Libutti

From the UrbanHerban’s Notebook:

“*Lavender blue dilly dilly*” is a phrase from the lyrics that Burl Ives did in the 60s. But its origins are way back: from England in the

1600s; lavender was neither “blue” or “dilly”. But the song is a soothing lullabye.

Lavender is actually a soothing plant, some are close to blue, and the aroma wafts from all 39 species of the genus *Lavendula*. It grows in France, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Russia, Australia and the Mediterranean region, as well as in the United States. But is most often associated with Provence, France.

This is a multitasking herb, crossing aromatic, culinary, medicinal, cosmetic and even detergent purposes yet. Although used primarily for perfumes, it is also part of *Herbes de Provence*, a classic herb mix, an *acne treatment*, an *antidepressant*, *dog medication* and *pet skin shampoo*, washing and even an off label use: *floor wash*.

However, all is not well in the center of Lavender Country: Provence, France. You see, there is a EU proposal to require labelling of lavender essential oil products as dangerous due to skin sensitivity. The key chemical in lavender is *linalool*, alleged to have that property (*C&E News*, Oct 2014, p.19)

Lavender farmers argue that their lavender should be classified as an agricultural, not a chemical, product. Web sites of lavender growers in Provence raise the alarm: “This is a call for help to save lavender, aromatic and medicinal plants from the destructive effects of new European regulations.” (<http://www.lavande-provence-aoc.com/>)

This news leads to agita, so ‘tis time to actually use lavender in large quantities. The best way to do that is to visit large lavender gardens and inhale deeply. Three within a vacation’s reach are on the Eastern Seaboard. They are:

Lavender by the Bay
www.lavenderbythebay.com/
Cape Cod Lavender Farm
www.capecodlavenderfarm.com/

Hope Hill Lavender Farm

www.hopehilllavenderfarm.com/

The UrbanHerban (blog:

<http://urbanherban.blogspot.com>)

Garden Club of Teaneck Scholarship Awards 2015 by Mark Penchinar

Every year the Garden Club of Teaneck participates in the Teaneck High School Scholarship Program. This year I had the pleasure of determining which THS seniors most qualified to receive the Club’s scholarship gift. The students apply for scholarships in February and then the selection committee commences the process of reviewing applicants. This culminates with student interviews in late April thru early May.

These students are all top notch in their class, ranked in the top third. This year’s selections are David Vargas (\$1000), Perri Brown (\$500), and Erin Richards (\$500). They exemplify exceptional scholarship and clarity of ideas about their college and career goals. These students are involved in community service programs and outside activities to a high degree. I would have the pleasure of listening to them speak publicly about themselves and their goals. These students are sharp, alert, personable and smartly expressive. I will be presenting our gifts on June 16th in the THS auditorium.

Thank you all for providing me oppotuning and the responsibility to represent the Garden Club of Teaneck in this process and to provide the students with our gift.

Final Word

It has been my pleasure to be your Newsletter Editor for the 2014-2015 season of the Garden Club of Teaneck. Thank You. Marty Steeil