



Garden Club News

October 2015

PO Box 3253 Teaneck, NJ 07666

www.gardenclubofteaneck.org

EVENTS OCTOBER 2015

The October meeting of the Garden Club of Teaneck is on Thursday, Oct. 8th, 7:00 PM, Rodda Center. Refreshments: 7:00 PM, announcements, 7:20 PM. At 7:30, Janet Schulz will speak on *Beyond Daffodils*. The public is welcome.

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

NOVEMBER'S SPEAKER: Bill Kolvek: *Fall Blooming Perennials & Plants for Late Season Garden Interest*. Thursday, Nov. 12th.

HOLIDAY PARTY: Tentative: SAT Dec. 5th: Details to follow in the November issue.

Janet Schulz : *Beyond Daffodils:* Fall Planting for Spring Blooms



Want spectacular blooms in April 2016? What are the best bulbs to plant? What are "best practices" for bulb planting? What do you do about water and fertilizer for bulbs over winter?

Join Janet Schulz on Oct. 8 at the Rodda Center, 7:30 PM and get the answers to these and other questions. In her presentation *Beyond Daffodils*, she will cover the "what", "how", and "how-to" of fall bulb planting.

Janet is a former teacher at the Ridgewood Community School. Among this expert Master Gardener's credits are the past presidency of Wyckoff Area Garden Club, being the former manager of a local garden center; and having her garden listed in The Garden Conservancy's *Open Days Directory*, as well as other clubs and plant societies. *The New York Times* featured her garden in the New Jersey section: April 26, 2009.

7:00 PM Is New Time For Membership Meetings

Members, our meetings will start at 7 PM at the Rodda Center, a half hour earlier than scheduled in the past. The social and refreshments are scheduled *before* the speaker's presentation. Remember: "Refreshments at 7:00 PM; announcements at 7:20 PM, speaker at 7:30".

Dreaming of Bench Space....

Pat Fromm

One of the things we begin thinking about at this time of the year is bringing all of those plants inside. How can I possibly have room on my wee bench for all of those plants? Some advice from Garden Gate: "Overwinter your geraniums relatively easily indoors by keeping potted or bareroot plants in a 40-50° dark area. That's your basement, spare room, or garage."

(Garden Gate, October 2014, Issue 119)

They will do much better if you let them go dormant for the season and not bring them into the Greenhouse for potential problems with pests.

(cont p.3)





A Letter from Pat Fromm, GCT President

"The objective of the Club shall be to stimulate interest in and spread the knowledge of gardening; to assist in the conservation of trees, plants, and birds; to give exhibitions and to encourage home and civic beauty; to assist in educating school children in soil preparation, seeding and developing flowers, plants and gardening skills. Membership in the Club shall be open to all having an interest in gardening and a willingness to share in the activities and work of the Club."
The Constitution & Bylaws of the Garden Club of Teaneck.

Willing volunteers are required to make our Club successful and prosper. The responsibilities go way beyond work in the Greenhouse to ensure your bench space and/or garden plot.

We have responsibilities to the community; we need members to step up so we can fulfill those obligations as a club. Each of us has a special talent - come share it.

A large part of our responsibility to the community is the monthly program at the Rodda Center. Our Vice President for Programs, Mark Penchinar, puts lots of effort into bringing a range of interesting speakers on various topics.

Perhaps you know everything already, but I doubt it. Most likely you can always learn at least one new thing at these presentations.

These meetings are a big draw for new members and they give us good press and visibility in the community. To keep these meetings going, we need you to show up and be a part of it.

There are a few tasks that you can select from to help out:

----- At each monthly presentation, we like to serve simple refreshments and coffee or tea. We need you to volunteer for one program.

----- We need friendly faces with gardening knowledge to answer questions from guests about various gardening topics.

----- In the past, we've had a "tricky tray" that produced a small amount of cash to cover refreshment expenses. It's not a hard job, you simply sell chances on the "fab" prizes we will give away at the end of the evening. We have a box of goodies to get you started. This is a great way for you to break the ice with people and get to know everybody.

*---- We have some long-time members who would like to come but hesitate to drive at night. If YOU are one of them, please let me know and I'll arrange a ride. If **you** live near one of our members who chooses not to drive, please offer a ride.*

----- Sunshine! It connotes such pleasant thoughts and we have just such a pleasant person as our Sunshine correspondent, Stella Franco. Stella will send greetings and warm wishes on behalf of the Club to members who can use a bit of good cheer. I thank Stella for stepping up to this task.

For her to be successful, she needs your help. Please let Stella know when one of us is ill, in the hospital, etc. You can find Stella's contact info in the membership directory.

So, please, if you are not already volunteering in another Club capacity, please let me know which of these responsibilities you'll assume. Remember, "Membership is for those having a willingness to share in the activities and work of 'The Club.' "

Dreaming of Bench Space.... (cont'd p.1)

For bare roots, dig plants, shake off excess soil, and immediately place them in a paper bag and hang so the plant is upside down. Don't cut the stems or bother watering- let the leaves dry up and drop off. Open the bag occasionally. If you see stems shriveling, lightly mist the roots. Add a little water to the soil of potted geraniums if they're drying out too much. Next spring, after the danger of frost has passed, pot up bare root plants, move them outdoors and resume regular watering.

Plants that wintered in containers can be moved outdoors and watered, too. As the leaves come out again, trim off any dead tips and start to fertilize them, as I did the previous growing season.

As for Rosemary: the Greenhouse is too warm in the winter to suit Rosemary. She likes it cool and moist. After all, her native lands are the rocky hillsides overlooking the Mediterranean. In winter when she is fairly dormant, she needs a cool, brightly-lit spot in a home.

If you want Rosemary to live indoors, set the thermostat down to about 63-65 °F (the Greenhouse has temperatures in the 80s in the winter months). Also, provide plenty of light with a south or west exposure; low light will produce leggy growth.

GCT Projects: Volunteers Needed

Native Plants Garden. This garden is in formation, and needs expertise, volunteers and plants. If you are interested, call/write: Peter Goldman, qnbear@aol.com

East Garden: The garden is planned, partially planted, and needs plants and volunteers. Contact Doug Raska, dcrnj@yahoo.com

GCT Board Members, 2015-16

The Executive Board's next meeting is Oct. 1, 2015.

Interim President:
Patricia Fromm

1st Vice President: Membership:
Aura Altieri

2nd Vice President: Programs:
Mark PENCHINAR

Recording Secretary:
Patricia O'Brien Libutti

Interim Treasurer:
Joe Papa

Member-at-Large:
Dania Cheddie

Member-at-Large:
Sarah Jones

Corresponding Secretary:
Anna Kurz

Greenhouse Director:
Len Schwartz

Horticultural Director: Greenhouse:
Joe Papa

Newsletter Editor:
Patricia O'Brien Libutti

Moon Names

Native Americans named the moons of the year to mark the times for growing plants and gathering food. The Full Harvest Moon (Blood Moon) was Sept. 27-28, accompanied by a lunar eclipse. The event is rare. The Full Hunter's Moon will be on Oct. 27, 8:05 AM. The Full Beaver Moon will be on Nov. 25.

Plant of the Month

Tricyrtis hirta

By Robyn Lowenthal



One late September day, about ten years ago, I was walking around the shady section of my garden with pruning shears. By that time in the season, most of the perennials were looking pretty ratty, and I was beginning to cut things back for the winter. Then I came across the most amazing sight. Growing in the leaf axils and terminal buds of some unremarkable foliage were amazing flowers. I stopped and said out loud, "Where did you come from?"

The plant is *Tricyrtis hirta*. It is a genus of Asian flowering plants in the lily family, with approximately 20 known species. The species are commonly known as Toad lilies, having a native range from the Himalayas to eastern Asia. A few species are cultivated for their ornamental qualities in other parts of the world.

Tricyrtis are herbaceous perennials with creeping rhizomes. They look like a cross between an orchid and a passion flower. They grow slowly into attractive clumps, with erect or arching stems. The leaves are arranged alternately along the stems; flowers appear at the terminal end or in the leaf axils.

The flowers consist of 6 sepals (sepals and petals look alike) and 6 stamens. Usually white, but sometimes purple or yellow in color, with various colored speckles, the individual star-like blossoms are relatively small compared to the plant, but the number of blooms makes up for their size.

Tricyrtis blooms in late summer to mid-autumn and flowering lasts for at least six weeks. Plant height varies from a few inches to four feet; the width can be from about one foot to five feet. *Tricyrtis* prefer moist, rich soil in a full-to part- shade location. After they are established, they are somewhat drought-tolerant

and terrifically heat-tolerant. They have no major insect or disease problems, and are hardy to USDA zone 5. *Tricyrtis* can be propagated from seed; try sowing fresh seeds in pots outside over the winter. The seeds will germinate in mid-spring and may flower the first year.

They are easy to propagate from cuttings. They root at the nodes, so be sure your cuttings have at least one node. *Tricyrtis* can be divided while still dormant in early spring. Because the flowers are small and bloom time is late in the season, try to plant *Tricyrtis* in an area where the flowers can be seen up close.

I have often wondered about why it was called "Toad lily". It doesn't seem to be a toad magnet, and has no apparent warts. Perhaps the speckles on the flowers reminded someone of a toad. I didn't try kissing one to see if it turned into a prince, though.

Allen Armitage, author of *Herbaceous Perennial Plants*, provided the answer to the "toad" mystery. He said to "turn the flower over and look at the back". Toad Lily does indeed have warts.

Armitage also suggested that, in Mindanao in the Philippines, where this plant is found, members of the Tasaday tribe rub the juices of the flowers and leaves on their hands before setting out to collect frogs. They consider it to be attractive to frogs and make them less slippery.

This plant is a valuable addition to any shade garden. Hopefully, you will experience the same delightful surprise as I did so many years ago.

Garden Club of Teaneck Newsletter October 2015

Editor: Patricia O'Brien Libutti.
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Garden Club of Teaneck Speakers Schedule 2015-2016

Mark Penchinar, Vice President, Programs

TH Sept. 10. Kim Eierman: *Attracting Nature's Pest Control: Gardening for Beneficial Insects.* Rodda, 7:30 PM

TH Oct. 8. Janet Schulz: *Beyond Daffodils .* Rodda, 7:30 PM

TH Nov. 12. Bill Kolvek: *Fall Blooming Perennials & Plants for Late Season Garden Interest.* Rodda, 7:30 PM

JANUARY: No Garden Club Meeting

SAT Jan. 30, 2016: Patricia O'Brien Libutti: *Herbal Teas* (Workshop) Greenhouse 2 PM

TH Feb. 11. Dr. Hubert Ling: *Native Plants for Butterfly Gardens.* Rodda, 7:30 PM

SAT Feb. 20. Joe Papa: *Organic Vegetable Gardening: Dealing with Insect Pests, Fungal & Bacterial Problems.* (Workshop) Greenhouse 11 AM

GCT Members' meetings: 2nd Th of the month: 7 PM, Announcements: 7:20, Speaker: 7:30 PM. Rodda Ctr., 250 Colonial Ct. No meeting January 2016..
Mailing Address: Box 3253, Teaneck, NJ 07666

School Program TBD Greenhouse

TH Mar. 10. Andy Brand: *Year-round Appeal: Plants with Pizzazz All Year Long.* Rodda, 7:30 PM

SAT Mar. 12. Robyn Lowenthal: *Plant Propagation* (Workshop) 1:30 PM – 3 PM Greenhouse

TH Apr. 14. Dr. Randi V. Wilfert Eckel: *Spring: A New Beginning .* Rodda, 7:30 PM

SAT Apr. 23: *Gardening Tips* (Workshop) Myriam Fieulleteau Greenhouse Time:TBD

Garden Club of Teaneck Plant Sale. Greenhouse. TBD

TH May 12. Joel Flagler: *Horticultural Therapy.* Rodda 7 :30 PM

Other Events:

Spring Luncheon (June) *Harvest Fest* (August)
Check www.gardenclubofteaneck.org for details & changes.

Greenhouse Committee meetings: 1st. Sat. of the month, 10 AM. (located at foot of Lindbergh Blvd. next to 296 Lindbergh Blvd.) Meetings Oct.- May.



Peter Goldman carted trimmings from the Audubon Native Plants project, cut back under the blazing sun of August 16. The large wheelbarrow was completely obscured during this, one of several, trip to the garden debris pile.

--Anna Kurz



**A Letter from
Len Schwartz,
Greenhouse Director**

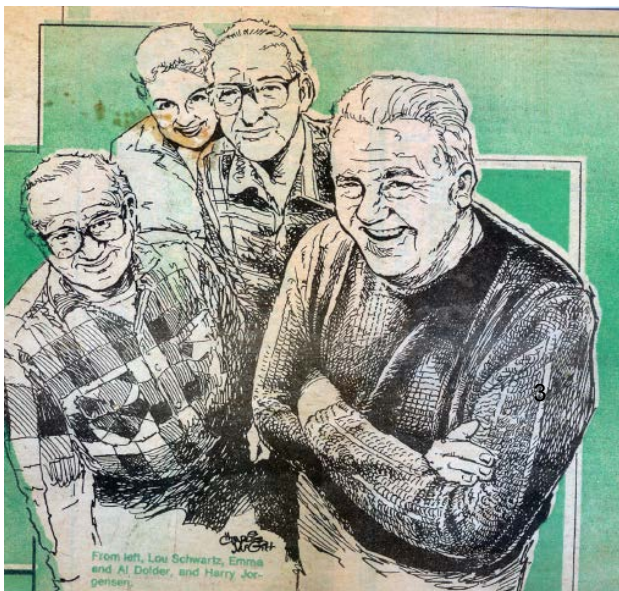
October 3rd is the date for our Greenhouse meeting and we should all be there to “start off the year right”. As usual, last year’s work group lists will be circulated. Few of us change groups, but now is a good time to consider doing so. Is there interest in establishing some groups on different days or times? The Wed. maintenance group is down to 2.5 people and could use additional help.

We will also circulate the upkeep assignments for the year; shall we start them going into October?

Absolutely nothing has been done to prepare the Greenhouse for plants. It needs extensive weeding; stuff still needs to be cleared away from a number of benches, and the whole interior needs a Clorox prep. The weeding and clearing needs to start ASAP.

Maintenance is washing the roof and we will continue doing this in the expectation that more light will be available, especially on overcast days. We are in the beginning stages of improving the lighting in the meeting room. The old toilet floor has been removed and we need to consider our options for installing a new one.

I hope to see you all on Oct 3.
Len



**A Letter from
Aura Altieri,
Vice President,
Membership**

Hi everyone, I thank all the members who already sent the membership dues. And I remind the “members-to-be” to please send the checks before October 31st. This way we create the budget for the coming year in a timely manner and can plan ahead for great educational programs.

The membership form is on page 7.

Please make sure you pencil in our meetings – the 2nd Thursday of the month. We would like to see you; you will not only pick up valuable information but we like to hear your feedback and views. Maybe you came across a book or article you want to share that fits the interest of the Club -- we want to take the time to listen to you.

Hope to see you on Oct. 8th. --Aura

LAST WORD:

What Was in the Old Greenhouse Desk?

The desk, probably a donation, was being replaced by cabinets in the Greenhouse meeting area. When Len Schwartz opened it, he found newspaper articles dating back to 1956 and membership lists from the ‘60s.

He carefully spread all the clippings on a table, shielding them from light. Pat Fromm used her phone camera to record the major pieces, and sent me the pictures.

I came to the Greenhouse immediately and found this news illustration, n.d., and a signature, which I did not recognize. Maybe a member might. The caption is: “Lou Schwartz, Emma & Al Dolder, and Harry Jorgensen”. There is a history in the re-writing here!

-Patricia O'Brien Libutti, Editor, GCT Newsletter

Garden Club of Teaneck

GardenClubofTeaneck@gmail.com

www.gardenclubofteaneck.org



Annual Membership Registration Form*

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: Aura Altieri, Vice President, Membership

*** To be included in the current year's directory,
your check and form must be received by October 31, 2015.**