



# Garden Club News

## November 2015

PO Box 3253 Teaneck, NJ 07666

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

### EVENTS: NOVEMBER 2015

The November meeting of the Garden Club of Teaneck is on Thursday, Nov.12th, 7:00 PM, Rodda Center, 251 Colonial Ct., 2nd Floor, Teaneck, NJ 07666. Refreshments served at 7:00 PM, announcements will be made at 7:20 PM. At 7:30, Bill Kolvek will speak on "Fall Blooming Perennials and Plants for Late Season Garden Interest". The public is welcome.

The meeting of the Greenhouse Committee of the Garden Club will be on Saturday, November 7th at 10:00 AM at the Greenhouse.

December 5th, Saturday, GCT HOLIDAY PARTY: 12-2 PM, Rodda Center:(see p. 5 for details.)

#### **Fall Blooming Perennials and Plants for Late Season Garden Interest**

We often overlook the vibrant colors that can be fall. Bill Kolvek is just the person to help us brighten the autumn palette and give us the tools to create a fall garden masterpiece.

Bill is the owner of Bill Kolvek Perennials, a plant nursery in Chestnut Ridge, NY, which started in 1987. It supplies the green industry and general public in Bergen County, NJ and Rockland County, NY. He offers a large selection of perennials, including grasses, ferns, vines, and woody plants.

Native plants are Bill's passion. They are in demand these days as growers put more of them into production. He teaches "Native and Exotic Ornamental Grasses" at the New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York.

We can also find Bill with his plants at the Ramsey Farmer's Market starting in Sundays in June until the last Sunday in November.



#### **Party Program To Be Given by Doug Raska: "Using What Nature Has Given Us for Holiday Designs"**

Doug has been a floral designer since 1971. He became a member of the American Institute of Floral Design in 1995 and started teaching at the New York Botanical Garden in 1997. He rose to be the Program Coordinator for Floral Design at that institution.

Doug has traveled throughout Asia as a designer for a silk flower importer. He successfully competed at the Philadelphia Flower Show in the Design Showcase in March 2015.

Doug also designed and led the cultivation of two gardens around the Greenhouse.

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Pat Fromm, GCT Acting President

It seems odd to write about our annual Holiday Party when I'm still enjoying fresh tomatoes from my garden but it's good to get it on your calendar NOW so you won't miss it! There are a few other events you won't want to miss, either.

**November 7th** will be a Greenhouse meeting. Come hear/see what spectacular 'plant of the month' Robyn has selected for our show-and-tell! If you haven't decided what weekday group you'd like to work with, this may be a good time to discover what each group does, when they meet, and who is in the group.

**November 12th** is the monthly program at the Rodda Center at 7:30pm. Bill Kolvek is the owner of one of, if not THE BEST, perennial plant source in our region! Come hear what he has to say about using perennials in your garden.

**December 5th** the Rodda Center is the place to be at NOON! The Annual Holiday Party will be in the daytime to encourage more members to celebrate and socialize. Our members are awesome cooks, representing many cuisines. Bring your favorite dish to share at this Pot Luck Lunch!

A special treat will be a presentation by our own Doug Raska, who will offer great ideas on decorating for the holidays.

In a spirit of compassion and caring, we'll collect gifts to contribute to the local Marine Toy Drive. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy. Toys for Tots prefers not to accept realistic looking weapons nor gifts with food. Monetary gifts are welcome and checks can be made to "Marine Toys for Tots Foundation".

So, please join fellow Garden Club members for this once-a-year event for all members! If you would like a ride, please contact one of the board members, or call 201-880-6110.



## Program Wrap-up: "Beyond Daffodils"

Mark PENCHINAR, Vice President, Programs

Who doesn't like bulbs and their beautiful flowers? I know I do. Our October speaker, Janet Schulz, covered the subject informatively and with humor.

Did you know that oxalis come from bulblets? The attentive audience did. We learned that alliums should be planted next to hydrangea to support the top-heavy allium flower. Interesting topics included bulb buying sources, fertilizer use timing, sun and shade tolerant bulbs, and types of planting for best showiness.

She showed a multiple-bulb planting method that takes advantage of blooming times of different species.

Janet also provided words to remember:

"Try looking around on a birthday and see what is blooming, like lilacs on May 12."

"If you are doing bulbs, you need a deeper-pot."

"Be inspired: go to other gardens."

See you in November with Bill Kolvek.

## Plant of the Month: Um, the Mum

Robyn Lowenthal

Everywhere I look this time of year, I see mums, mums, mums, mums, mums..... Chrysanthemums have a history that is as colorful as the flowers themselves. First cultivated in the 15th century B.C. in China, the chrysanthemum was used primarily as a culinary herb; its petals and young shoots found their way to the table in salads. The flowers and leaves were brewed into teas and “festive beverages”.

The mum came to Japan in the 15th century A.D. The Japanese were so enamored with the flower that they gave it the status of royalty. It is used on the Emperor’s seal and crest; the highest level of decoration that can be awarded to an individual in Japan is the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum.

The Chrysanthemum was introduced into European culture in the 17th century. Belgium and Austria gave the flower a markedly different meaning, adopting it as a symbol of death, used for funerals and graves.

A nurseryman from Hoboken, NJ, John Stevens, introduced the chrysanthemum to the Americas in 1798. The vast popularity of mums as a fall flower came about in the 1930s and 1940s, when plant scientists discovered that controlling the bloom time by manipulating, in the greenhouse, the hours of daylight “fooled” the mum into bloom.

The name “chrysanthemum” is derived from the Greek “chyros”, meaning “gold” and “anthemon”, meaning “flower”. Chrysanthemums belong to the Asteraceae family.

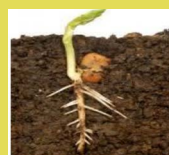
In evolutionary terms, it is considered one of the more advanced families because of its complex flower structure. Mums come in a wide range of flower form, color and size. It may be an “old wives’ tale,” but if you plant what we buy as annual mums in the ground by the middle of September, they will behave as perennials, coming back every year.

To see an amazing display of Chrysanthemums, visit the New York Botanical Garden during their Kiku (Japanese Mum) display at the NYBG from Oct. 31 to Nov.15. You can see plants trained into spheres, bridges, and “a thousand blooms” from a single plant. “If you would be happy for a lifetime, grow chrysanthemums.” (*Ancient Chinese proverb*).

### A Look at Soil Testing at Uconn

(Univ. of Connecticut)

Anna Kurz



Start by going to this page: ([www.soiltest.uconn.edu/sampling.php](http://www.soiltest.uconn.edu/sampling.php)) and take your time to examine all the relevant pages so that your samples meet the criteria.

Follow links to see how to gather soil samples, for a form to download ([www.soiltest.uconn.edu/factsheets/MS\\_Crops.pdf](http://www.soiltest.uconn.edu/factsheets/MS_Crops.pdf)). Fill the form out to send along with your samples. There are explanations on how to submit samples and explanations about the info you get when you order special tests. There is a list of special tests plus costs, etc. (@ \$8/sample; 10 or more samples, @\$5.00 on the prices/discounts page.)

Knowledgeable, pleasant people answer the phone at the website. The warnings to out-of-staters about fire ants and golden nematodes do not apply to us in Bergen County: we have none. For each sample, you get back a page with chemical analyses. Also included is informative literature about lead in the ground, elimination of weeds, fertilizers, and more. Now, the lab is relatively quiet (vs. spring when orchards and farms send in a lot of samples). You will get your report back in time to enhance your soil before spring planting.

### Garden Club of Teaneck Newsletter November 2015

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## From the Greenhouse Director

Len Schwartz

Many of us have brought in our plants into the Greenhouse; it is starting to live up to its name. It looks green again. Thank you for bringing in only clean, healthy plants and giving them and their soil a light spray from the insecticide sprayers in the meeting room.

Following our tradition, many of us are also bringing in mother plants for making cuttings for both the school program and the plant sale. To avoid confusion, mother plants meant for the schools should be left on the bench immediately near the school program's reserved area. There is a sign indicating the place to leave mother plants meant for the plant sale, so distinguish between the two. If you intend to reclaim the mother plant later in the season, your donations should have your name on it. Each group should be supplying about 130 plants in 4" pots for the school program. Those of us with plots know that the main water supply to the gardens has been shut off. Continued access to water can be had through the hose connection at my plot.

The Greenhouse is operational; the heat is on when needed. The day/night temperatures will be maintained the same as last year. The maintenance group (Carmin, Len and Tai) could use some more help. The roof washing is finished and there will be an increase in light transmittance. The group is starting to think about how to repair the seals on the upper Greenhouse louvers to better conserve heat during the winter, a potentially big job. We are still waiting for a contractor's estimate for the repair of the toilet floor.

I hope to see everyone at the Nov 7 general meeting.---Len

see

## Around the Greenhouse



### Giant Zucchini and Junior Gardeners

While harvesting at the JGCT 10/11 session, the girls, Emiko McIntosh and Sienna Suarez, picked a giant zucchini. You can see the surprise in Sebastian Vazquez's face. Emiko's mom made zucchini bread for us to taste.



Len Schwartz and Carmin Costa .Thank you, Team Wednesday!



It's time to move into the Greenhouse and see what blossoms in the middle of winter.

Saturday  
**December 5, 2015**  
**Holiday  
Party**

**Pot-luck**



- Bring to share your most festive, cheeriest, tastiest dish.
- Specific food arrangements/assignments will be finalized at the November GCT (12th) and the GH (7th) meetings.
- Doug Raska, CFD, AIFD will demonstrate some great ideas for holiday decorating using things you likely have on hand... or in your winter garden!

**Saturday, December 5, 12 to 2 PM**

If you would like a ride, let a club officer or a club-member friend know.

Richard Rodda Center,  
Second floor, 250 Colonial Court, Teaneck, NJ;  
(enter from Palisades Ave; handicap parking up the hill, in back.)

Queries? email [GardenClubofTeaneck@gmail.com](mailto:GardenClubofTeaneck@gmail.com)

***OTHER DETAILS***

- Go to a meeting and find out what category of food you will be preparing (Appetizer, Salad, Main Dish, Dessert)
- Beverages will be supplied by the Garden Club
- Don't forget your Toy for a Tot
- Spouses are welcome