



Garden Club News

December 2015

PO Box 3253 Teaneck, NJ 07666

www.gardenclubofteaneck.org

EVENTS: DECEMBER 2015 - JAN 2016

The next meeting of the Garden Club of Teaneck is on Thursday, February 11th, 2016 at 7:00 PM, announcements will be made at 7:20 PM. At 7:30, Dr. Hubert Ling will speak on *Native Plants for Butterfly Gardens*. The public is welcome.

The next meeting of the Greenhouse Committee of the Garden Club will be on Sat., January 2, 10 AM.

WORKSHOP Jan. 30, 2016: Pat Libutti, *Hot Tea for Cold Times*. Greenhouse, 2 PM. Limit: 10

December 5, 2015
Holiday Party
Pot-luck.
Bring your most festive, cheeriest, tastiest dish to share.

noon- 2 PM.
Let a club officer or a club-member friend know if you would like a ride

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

FROM OLGA NEWHEY: The Holiday Party this year will be on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 5, 12-2 PM to encourage those of us who hate to go out on a cold wintry night to attend. It will be at the same good old Rodda Center.

I sent an email to the 2014 Party Committee asking if they were willing to do the same jobs they did last year.

Doug Raska will demonstrate how to use seasonal plants to make holiday decorations.

And we are using a familiar way to decide what to bring for the Pot Luck Luncheon. We can expect a wonderful lunch from our great cooks, and a good time for all.

FOOD:

This year, members whose last name begins with the letter **A through I** may bring desserts; those whose last name begins with **J through Z** may bring entrees/salads. There will be two tables - one for entrees/salads and one for desserts. Seek the person in charge of the appropriate table, who will write your name and dish on a card.

RECIPE:

Bring an index card with the recipe of your dish and give it to the person in charge of the table. After the party, we will send the recipes by email to the membership.



**A Letter from
Pat Fromm,
GCT President**

It's Saturday, November 14, and I'm finding it very difficult to write this upbeat and cheery greeting. By the time this comes to print... who knows.....

When you read this, our American festive holiday of Thanksgiving will be behind us and we'll be smack dab (that's West Virginia-speak) in the middle of the 'holidays'...

I hope all of you enjoyed a bounteous meal with friends and loved ones, without being too stuffed at the end of the day and having a feeling of being very blessed and thankful.

May this cheerful feeling carry all of us into December to celebrate, Hanukkah, Advent, Rohatsu, Mawlid an Nabi, Christmas, Watch Night Feast of the Holy Family---apologies if I've left out anyone.

What better way to begin this festive season than by attending the Garden Club of Teaneck Holiday Party on December 5th? It's a great time for all of us to celebrate our common interests and come out to join other Garden Club members in a delicious meal and celebration. We will also get some great ideas for decorating our homes!

Into the New Year, the committee will continue to work on how best to eliminate duplication we have in the Garden Club and Greenhouse Committee. We'll streamline our organization to make better use of our human resources.

May all of you have a wonderful December and Holiday – be safe, be kind, be generous!



**Report from
Len Schwartz,
Greenhouse Director**

By now all of our seven groups should have started their weekly meetings. Besides watering our plants, the first job is to start making cuttings for the Hawthorne school program (about 150/group, plant selection is for the group to decide). The second job is to start the Greenhouse upkeep assignment for each group (which should take about 15 or 20 minutes).

This year, we are asking each group to develop an interest that will make the time we spend at the Greenhouse more rewarding than just preparing for the plant sale.

As the weather gets colder, we will be closing up the Greenhouse in preparation for winter. That means putting up insulating foam at the exhaust fan openings and sealing the roof louvers closed as best as we can. We bought some new (to us) equipment: 15 folding chairs, 15 outside benches, 3 large metal tables and a stainless steel sink for the area near the potting tables. All will enhance our facility.

At the last meeting, we also decided to contract out the jobs of refinishing the toilet floor, installing a new toilet, and installing an on-demand water heater. Peter is continuing to upgrade the meeting room lighting and outside; Doug has made a start on putting in a formal garden on the eastern lawn. Lots of activity!

The Dec. 5th (10 AM) meeting of the Greenhouse Committee will be at the Rodda Center, followed at 12 noon by our Holiday buffet luncheon. I hope to see everyone then and there.---Len

What Are the Junior Gardeners Doing?



Why is Olga Newey dressed in a potato costume? Equally puzzling is the appearance of two girls dressed as bees. And what is Nancy Cochrane holding just out of reach of a smiling girl? The January newsletter will answer all your questions about these pictures from the Junior Garden Club's End-of-Year Celebration.



December's Full Moon: The "Cold Moon", or as the Cherokees term it, the "Snow Moon", will appear on December 25th at 6:11 AM. It is also called "The Long Night's Moon".

Program Wrap-up: "Fall Blooming Perennials & Plants for Late Season Garden Interest"

Mark Penchinar, Vice President, Programs



Vernonia lettermannii

'Iron Butterfly'

I was amazed and delighted that perennials could include many varieties that flower in the fall, and in Bill Kolvek's engaging and easy going manner, he walked me through fall blooming perennials A-Z.

A feature of his show was that while discussing a genus, he showed multiple species variations. Of special interest were plant features, such as deer and animal resistant plants (*Caryopteris* 'Snow Fairy'), pollen attractors (*Eupatorium coelestinum*), finch and hummingbird attractors (*Silphium perfoliatum*) and true shade plants (*Tricyrtis* 'Miyazaki'). The colors ranged from white to blue and purple, Bill's favorite.

Some plants bloom August to October, and as late as right before frost. One plant, *Anemone* 'Honorine Jobert', blooms for 12 weeks, late August to November. Allium can be propagated by division. Many are self-sowing, so be careful not to have them overwhelm your garden. Sedum can be used for rock gardens. *Aster* 'Eza Morasaki' will spread to fill spaces. And don't forget that a few can bloom in the shade to add late season attractiveness.

Finally, for you rock and rollers, there is *Vernonia lettermannii* 'Iron Butterfly', with true purple flowers that attract plenty of butterflies (pictured above).

As you can see, fall blooming perennials will add beauty and utility to your garden. See Bill's plant list at www.bkperennials.com.

See you at the Holiday Luncheon--- Mark

Plant of the Month:

Nepenthes alata

Robyn Lowenthal



A plant is considered carnivorous only if it has three specific attributes.

It must have a clear adaptation to capture prey. It must have some way to digest the prey into a form that can be absorbed and have a way to absorb the nutrients and benefit from them. Meet *Nepenthes alata*, an amazing carnivorous plant.

Nepenthes, commonly known as the Tropical Pitcher Plant or Monkey Cups, are native to South-east Asia, India, Madagascar, Australia and the Philippines. It is said that the name *Nepenthes*, coined by Linnaeus in 1737, comes from a narcotic – nepenthe - with which Helen of Troy allegedly snookered her guests. “Monkey Cups” refers to the belief that monkeys drink from the pitchers.

There are hundreds of cultivars, but by far the easiest to grow is *Nepenthes alata*. It is a clambering vine with long, green sword-shaped leaves. At the tip of each leaf is a tendril that is a swelling of the mid-vein of the leaf. The tendril is tipped by a pitcher – the carnivorous pitfall trap.

The coloration of the pitcher varies widely. The pitcher is generally a watertight, vase-shaped vessel with slippery interior walls that are very difficult for prey to scale once they have fallen inside. The mouth of the pitcher is adorned with a ribbed structure called a peristome, which conducts prey into the pitcher and helps retain prey. A pitcher lid hangs over the pitcher opening, attracting prey with its attractive color and nectar glands. The lid is closed until the pitcher has grown to a size capable of capturing prey.

Nepenthes 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 *Nepenthes* must have only distilled or purified water, but *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 *Nepenthes* are dioecious – plants are either male or female – and the majority are male, propagation from seed is very uncommon. I am very curious to see if *Nepenthes alata* will help with pest control in the Greenhouse this year. Please come to the **JANUARY 2, 2016 Greenhouse meeting** to meet this plant live and in person.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Marilyn & Carl Anderson

John Condon

Rocco J. D'Angelo

Edna Scavone-D'Angelo

Stacie DiBona

Joseph Fanucci

Cathy Felix

Peggy Hazard

Salvatore Lagattuta

Bruce Libutti

Anthony Ribustello

Jin Bae & Victor Thomas

Elizabeth & Jose Vazquez

Barbara Yaros

Contact information is in the new
**Garden Club of Teaneck
Member Directory 2015-2016**

Garden Club of Teaneck Newsletter December 2015

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Schedules: GREENHOUSE COMMITTEE OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF TEANECK



Herb
Garden
Group

Class
bench sign:
Hawthorne
School
Program



GREENHOUSE GROUP SCHEDULE 2015-16

The Greenhouse opened officially on January 30, 1954. If you want to join the Greenhouse, you must first be an active member of the Garden Club. You can join a work group, where members learn to propagate different plants. In December, many groups are propagating with seeds and/or cuttings. After January 1, more and different plants will be cultivated for the Sale. Len Schwartz, lenschwartz3@gmail.com

Mon: 9 AM. *Herbs & Vegetables*, Bob O'Brien

Tues: 5:30 PM. *Geraniums*, Ron McKay

Wed. 9 AM. *Maintenance*, Len Schwartz

Thurs: 3:30 PM. *Perennials*, Dania Cheddie

Fri: 6 PM. *Begonias, 'Wave' Petunias*. Aura Altieri & Stella Franco

Sun: 10 AM. *Annuals, Cuttings*, (Coleus) Amelia Huser.

Sun: *Herb Garden*. 9:30 AM, 1st Sun. of month: Nov-May. Weekly mid-May through October. Nancy Cochrane.

GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL PLANT SALE

APRIL 30-MAY 8 2016 The Garden Club's Annual Plant Sale, begun in the 50s outside of local supermarkets, is now held in the Greenhouse. Proceeds go towards outreach programs and Club activities.

HAWTHORNE SCHOOL PROGRAM 2016

Coordinator: Olga Newey

Mondays, 3/21 & 3/28, 4th Grade, *Native American Plants*, Pat Libutti, 3/14, Olga Newey

Tuesdays, 3/22 & 3/29, 2nd Grade, *Plant Structure and Function* Sydelle Postman

Wednesdays, 3/23 & 3/30, 3rd Grade, *Propagation*, Mark Penchinar

Thursdays, 3/24 & 3/31, 1st Grade, *Seeds*, Stella Franco

JUNIOR GARDEN CLUB: Children K-5th are mentored by Greenhouse members in basic gardening, getting to eat their harvest effort. Contact: Olga Newey, teaneckjgc@yahoo.com

GARDEN CLUB PROGRAM WORKSHOPS

Led by members who develop a class around a key interest. Class size is limited, held in the Greenhouse.

Saturday Jan. 30. Patricia O'Brien Libutti, *Hot Tea for Cold Times* 2 PM. Limit:10

Saturday Feb. 20. Joe Papa, *Organic Vegetable Gardening: Dealing with Insect Pests, Fungal & Bacterial Problems*. 11 AM

Saturday Mar. 12. Robyn Lowenthal, *Plant Propagation* 1:30 PM – 3 PM

Saturday Apr. 23: Myriam Fieulleateau, *Gardening Tips*. Time: TBD