



Garden Club News

February 2012

PO Box 3253 Teaneck, NJ 07666

www.gardenclubofteaneck.org

Calendar: February 2012

The Garden Club of Teaneck will meet on Thursday, February 9th at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the Rodda Center at 250 Colonial Court. Our guest speaker that evening will be Laura Palmer from the Garden Conservancy Open Day Program.

The next Greenhouse Committee meeting will be held at the Greenhouse on Saturday, February 4th at 10:00 am.

Member News

Message from Debbie Morgan, President

Happy New Year to all! 2012 is going to be a great year-I can feel it in the air. Thanks to all who contributed to the December party. A wonderful time was had by all who attended. The Philadelphia Flower Show is on as scheduled-for March 6th. With a theme like Hawaii, it should be sizzling! Please continue to send in your checks. Thanks to all who have already responded. As always, please keep the good thoughts that Spring is only around the corner. Yours in Gardening, Debbi

Message from Len Schwartz, Greenhouse Director

The greenhouse committee is working on many activities.

School Program

Many, many thanks to Helen Humphreys for coordinating our school program for many years. She will continue as a teacher, but Olga Newey will be taking over responsibility for coordinating the program as well as teaching. Starting March 19th about 250 Hawthorne second, third and fourth graders will participate on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Susan

and Cynthia will also be teachers. Each greenhouse Workgroup has the responsibility to grow about 70 plants for the school sale.

Municipal Green

Both The Garden Club and the Greenhouse committee are very involved in the new landscape design for the municipal green reconstruction. Christina Mackensen is doing the design work. This spring the Greenhouse Committee will grow approximately 40 flats of annuals dedicated for this purpose. Work is progressing slowly on the Herb garden. We are trying to have a watering system installed which would make the herb garden easier to maintain.

The Greenhouse

Our construction for separating the meeting room from the growing area continues. The partition is finished but a door needs to be installed. We are asking the Teaneck town DPW for help with this issue. To improve air circulation, two of our four fans have been repositioned. We are considering the purchase of two additional fans. We are also trying to determine whether we are getting sufficient light for some of the vegetables and other plants which grow in the Greenhouse.

Our Outside Gardens

The fence around the outside gardens has been completed.



However, some of our gardens were not well maintained last summer. We need to review and improve our regulations. I suggest that we hold a meeting next month with everyone who wants outside garden space to discuss whether decreasing the size of plots would make them more workable. Len

Message from Christina Mackensen, Greenhouse Horticultural Director

It is time again to get ready for growing and providing beautiful, healthy plants, which is our main purpose of being Greenhouse members. The end of January is usually the time to pick up geraniums from the growers. This year was my fourth year that I made the trip. As usual, the plugs were quickly and efficiently transplanted by the geranium group. A hearty “Thank You” to all who helped. At the end of March, I will pick up the main orders of annuals. These orders will also include plants that we provide for the municipal green which I am in the process of re-designing. As in years past, the transplanting of annuals is time-consuming and every member is expected to help with this task. Until next month, Christina

Message from Susan McGibney, VP of Membership

Welcome to our newest member Fran Levine.

Message from Pat Taaffe, VP of Programs

On Thursday nights at 7:00 pm our Native Plants educational seminar series continues. We will meet on February 2nd and then again on February 16th. Don Torino teaches the group how to choose and care for Native Plants and helps us all understand how Native Plants contribute to maintaining a healthy ecosystem, nurture migrating birds and butterflies, hummingbirds and other species. The seminars are **free** and all are invited.

The Garden Club meeting at 7:00PM on Thursday, February 9th will feature Laura Palmer, Director of the Garden Conservancy Open Day Program. She will speak about the national preservation work of the Garden Conservancy, its Open Day program, and the 2012 garden-visiting season. The Open Days program aims to encourage community members to open their gardens to the public and share their horticultural efforts, solutions and successes.

Greenhouse Committee School Program

Helen Humphries, Cynthia McKay and Susan McGibney, and Olga Newey are gearing up for the beginning of our school program in March. Classes begin March 19 for four succeeding weeks so each second, third and fourth grader will have time at the Greenhouse. We expect 253 students plus teachers and aides. Helen Humphries teaches “Garbage Gardening” on Tuesday, Cynthia McKay and Susan McGibney “Propagation” on Thursday and Olga Newey “Herbs” on Monday. All Workgroups have begun to make plans to have at least 70 plants for the students to buy. Students may buy up to

two plants each. The cost of the plants is 50 cents and a dollar. Members who are at the Greenhouse Monday, Tuesday or Thursday at 10:00 AM are welcome to help with the sale of the plants, which occurs at the end of each session. We are looking to expanding the school program in the future. If anyone has any ideas, please email me at cosnew@optonline.net. We are all excited to begin to teach a love of gardening to youngsters. If anyone would like to participate or just visit, please contact Olga Newey at 201-833-1859

January Herb Workshop

A terrific workshop called "Herbs: Flavor and Fun" was planned by Pat Taaffe Program Director, and presented by Pat Libutti on January 12th.



Discussion on "What makes herbs unique?" covering the chemistry of flavor and aroma, and was followed by the properties of common culinary herbs that we all grow, or buy and use. Slides of each herb were paired with recipe ideas. In addition, the audience planted and took home an "herblet" (a rosemary cutting), and was treated to several herb drinks and dishes, such as Rosemary and Gray Sea Salt Potatoes, Basil Lemonade, Fennel Bread and Savory Fruit Salad with Basil and Chives. Look at Pat's blog, urbanherban.blogspot.com, for the recipes.

Last Word

Pat Libutti and Mary Topolsky are each teaching a course this spring at the Teaneck Community Education Center. Pat will be teaching "Nature of Herbs" and Mary "Container Gardening." The following are pictures of flowers at the Greenhouse.

