



Garden Club News

May 2011

PO Box 3253 Teaneck, NJ 07666

www.gardenclubofteaneck.org

Calendar: May 2011

The Garden Club of Teaneck will meet on Thursday, May 12th at 7:30 pm. The meeting will be held at the Rodda Center at 250 Colonial Court. Our speaker that evening will be Hollace Hoffman (see bio below). The topic is "Spring Wild Flowers of New Jersey".

Due to the Greenhouse Plant Sale, the next Greenhouse Committee meeting will be held at the Greenhouse on Saturday, May 21st, at 10:00 am.

Member News

Message from Debbie Morgan, President

Greetings to all:

As you know, our year is rapidly winding down and we have some important business to discuss. I look forward to seeing everyone at the May 12th meeting; here are some items on the agenda:

1. Election of officers
2. Discussion of changes to club Bylaws
3. Planning for next year

Finally, I am pleased to announce our final meeting, the June luncheon, will be held on Saturday, June 4, 2011 and the place (by popular demand) will be:

AMARONE RISTORANTE
63 Cedar Lane at 12:30 pm

Choice of entree, salad, fresh fruit platter and coffee-cash bar \$25/person. There will be door prizes and lots of fun. I will see you all on the 12th and 4th.

Yours in Gardening, Debbi

Message from Len Schwartz, Greenhouse Director:

Our last greenhouse committee meeting will be at 10 AM on May 21. We should be prepared for a long session. Most of us have put in a lot of effort this year preparing for our sale. I hope that this year's sale is as successful as others have been in

past years. Some topics to be discussed at this meeting will be:

1. Evaluation and critique of our plant sale.
2. The distribution of unsold plants to the membership STARTING at this meeting and NOT before.
3. The time table and guidance for the cleaning of our individual bench spaces and the areas around them.
4. The direction of the Greenhouse Committee going forward. I'd like to suggest that we use part of this meeting to start a process of self evaluation. Most of our efforts are currently directed at producing plants for our sale. Perhaps there are other activities that we could develop that would count as our work contribution.

Please consider this meeting as the beginning of a broader discussion of our purposes and come in with specific ideas of what you would like to see us doing more of next year. Please contact me directly with your ideas before the meeting, especially if you will not be attending. Even just complaints are OK. Len

Message from Christina Mackensen, Greenhouse Horticultural Director:



Planting time has arrived!

All of a sudden, everything outside is growing magnificently. The leaves are out; cherry, magnolia, plum and Eastern Redbud trees are blooming nicely, and the grass of our lawns looks at its best at this time of the year.

We at the greenhouse just had the first weekend of our plant sale. Many repeat customers were impressed with our broad selection of beautiful, healthy plants and asked for specific plants that were introduced in the last couple of years. Sales were brisk and we were mobbed during the first couple of hours after opening time. Now all these beautiful flowers need to be planted in our gardens and it is important to remember the gardener's slogan: "The right plant for the right place." This means the appropriate plants for sunny or shady areas should be used. If we follow this, we will not be disappointed with the results of our plants later in the year.



Now that the planting season is in full swing, I would like to remind every gardener to be up to date with his or her tetanus inoculation. *C. tetani* spores can be found in the soil and in order to

prevent a possible infection, a tetanus vaccine should be administered every 10 years.

I wish you all a successful, enjoyable and satisfying planting season. Christina

May GCT Speaker

At the Garden Club of Teaneck meeting on Thursday, May 12, 2011 Hollace Hoffman will be our guest speaker. Hollace will give the club a presentation about the Spring Wild Flowers of New Jersey that evening.

Hollace Hoffman is Director of Operation Archaeology for the Union County Dept. of Parks and Recreation, past Director of Trailside Nature and Science Center, Park Naturalist and teacher of Biology and Ecology.

Ask Sara

Our "Ask Sara" question this month is "Can you change the color of hydrangeas?"

In an article in The Record, written by Megan Sexton, she states that the flower color of hydrangeas is determined by the pH of the soil the plant grows in. In acid soils the flowers will be blue; and in alkaline soils the flowers will be pink. The lower pH produces more intense shades of blue. Adding powdered sulfur (4 to 8 ounces per square yard) to the soil of light blue hydrangeas will turn them a darker shade of blue. To make the flowers blue dissolve a tablespoon of aluminum sulfate in a gallon of water and drench the soil around the plant in mid spring. To make the flowers pink, dissolve one tablespoon of hydrated lime in a gallon of water and drench the soil around the plant. Avoid getting the solution on the leaves because it can damage them.

Around the Green

From Jane Furman comes the Master Gardener meeting for May:

Tuesday, May 24 · 7:30pm at the County office building at 1 Bergen Plaza, Hackensack, NJ, 1st Floor Multi-Purpose Meeting; 7:00 PM for refreshments, 7:20 PM for announcements.

Topic: Gardening & Building Green

Greensulate, a leading green roof company will present the basics of green roofs and greenwalls. They will explore such topics as: what are green roofs and greenwalls, how are they created, and what are the environmental and economic benefits - with a specific focus on types of vegetation and plantings incorporated into such projects. All are welcome.

From Cynthia Mckay comes the Hackensack Riverkeeper coming events

Friday June 3rd, Haworth, NJ. The Pre-challenge Reception features music and tastings from various local restaurants and wine distributors. Many of the mayors and politicians who participate in the Reservoir Challenge attend this elegant and enjoyable event. \$50 per guest.

Saturday June 4, 2011, Haworth, NJ. The Reservoir Challenge is taking place at Oradell Reservoir. The event features a kayak race between local mayors, nature walks, canoe and kayak rentals and a barbecue sponsored by Whole Foods Market. Event is free for spectators. Advanced registration for paddlers is required.

We conduct Eco-Cruises from May through October along the lower Hackensack River and Newark Bay in New Jersey. US Coast Guard-licensed Captains Bill Sheehan and Hugh Carola look forward to welcoming you aboard the 28-foot pontoon cruisers Edward Abbey and Robert H. Boyle for a fully-narrated, 2½ hour tour that is sure to be educational and fun for you and yours. Contact the Hackensack Riverkeeper office at 201-968-0808

From Mary Topolsky comes a thank you to all those members who donated plants for the library planting especially Anna Kurz, Sara Jones and Cynthia Mckay. In addition, Mary asked that the same care that be given to the library plot this year as last year. Mary can be reached at 201-836-1441 or at mtopolsky.msn.com.

Bylaws and GCT Candidates

In addition to the newsletter please also find a copy of the Bylaws of the Garden Club of Teaneck and

the proposed changes. These changes will be voted on at the May meeting.

The slate of candidates for the officer positions of the Garden Club of Teaneck, also to be voted on at the May meeting are:

1. President --Deborah Morgan
2. 2nd VP- Programs --Patrick Taafe
3. Treasurer-- Christina Mackensen
4. Recording Secretary-- Stella Franco
5. Corresponding Secretary-- Olga Newey
6. Board Members --Elyse Constantin and Rufus Mock

No one has agreed to be 1st VP - membership and there were no nominations from the floor.

The nominating committee has been trying to find a willing candidate for the position of 1st V P - membership. Suggestions or nominations for the position would be very welcome. The main duties of the position are:

- Attending garden club meetings to greet and sign in members and guests.
- Maintaining the membership list.
- Conducting the annual membership drive.
- Recruiting new members and responding to membership inquiries and questions
- Updating our membership form.

Some computer skills are needed, but it is certainly not necessary to be a computer expert.

Please contact any member of the nominating committee: Sara Jones [201-833-9053](tel:201-833-9053), Aura Altieri [201-692-0034](tel:201-692-0034) or Jane Furman [201-837-7667](tel:201-837-7667).

Last Word

From our good friend Helen Humphreys comes the information that all members of the Garden Club of Teaneck are entitled to 10% off at D'angelo Farms in Dumont. All a person needs to do is identify themselves as a member of the Garden Club of Teaneck at the checkout counter.

A sincere welcome to the latest member of the Garden Club of Teaneck Maxine Bronwasser