



Garden Club News

November 2011

PO Box 3253 Teaneck, NJ 07666

www.gardenclubofteaneck.org

Calendar: November 2011

The Garden Club of Teaneck will meet on Thursday, November 10th at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the Rodda Center at 250 Colonial Court. Our speaker that evening will be our own Christina Mackensen. She will talk to us about and give us a demonstration of wreath making (See bio below) **Note: The Meeting start time is half an hour earlier this year at 7:00 pm.**

The next Greenhouse Committee meeting will be held at the Greenhouse on Saturday, November 5th, at 10:00 am.

Member News

Message from Debbie Morgan, President

Dear Fellow Gardeners: As I sit here kind of freezing I hope all you folks made out better than I did. I have no heat, or electricity. Reflecting on the coming season did I mention that I hate winter. I think about all the festivities ahead and how we like to decorate our homes. This brings me to the subject of this month's meeting: we are very fortunate to have a demo on wreath making and floral arrangement from a fellow member and horticulturalist- Christina Mackensen. Those of you who know Christina may have seen how beautifully she decorates her home for just about all the holidays. The best part is the arrangements will be part of the tricky tray! I encourage all to attend and I guarantee that you will not be disappointed. We will also finalize plans for the holiday party in December and I will share some information on the Philadelphia Flower show. I hope to see everyone on November 10th. Yours in Gardening, Debbi

Message from Len Schwartz, Greenhouse Director

We were very lucky that the recent major storm and town wide power failures did not affect the plants in the greenhouse. The temperatures stayed high in the night and we never lost power. A future three or four day outage would be catastrophic. I suggest that we consider some sort of back-up emergency heating system.

The Greenhouse Executive Board will be proposing two motions. The first will be deciding whether to limit the Plant Sale to two weekends. Last year about 90% of our plants were sold by the end of the second weekend. The second will be for the approval of this year's budget.

Two club construction projects have now received the go ahead from the town. Teaneck is supplying half of the funding. The first is the overhaul of the Grace Kriegel Memorial Herb Garden. The second is the construction of a fence to protect our outside gardens. Len

Message from Susan McGibney, VP of Membership

Thank you to everyone who has sent in their membership renewals. If you have not, this is the last call before we revise the mailing list. You will miss out on our programs and workshops for 2011-2012 season. Please look around, do you have a friend who might enjoy working and learning with us? If so, please invite them to our next meeting and encourage them to join the Garden Club of Teaneck. If you any questions about membership or dues please contact me at susan1096@gmail.com, or call 201 289 3355. Regards, Susan McGibney

Message from Christina Mackensen, Greenhouse Horticultural Director

As I am writing this column, I am looking at the landscape covered with snow. I wanted to write about Fall clean-up – spreading leaves across your harvested vegetable gardens, dig them into the soil a bit to make the soil more loamy. Spreading compost or manure several inches deep over your vegetable gardens will also make the soil loamier.

At this time, taking care of gardening tools is also in order. To remove any possible infectious material, the tools should be dipped into a bleach and water solution of 1 part bleach to 3 parts water. The dried tools should then be lightly oiled to keep the rust away. I suppose we have to wait with the fall chores until the unexpected snow melts.

Seeing the ground covered with snow makes me want to jump to spring time already, visualizing the first blooms of hyacinths, muscari, tulips and daffodils. We can have a nice display of color by planting these bulbs in containers, which can then be moved around later when they bloom, to the spots where color is needed. When planting bulbs in containers,

potting mix should be used. Containers should be deep enough for several layers of bulbs, and they should also have enough drainage holes. The pot should be one-quarter to one-third filled with soil, for the first layer of bulbs, then continued with different layers until 1 inch below the pot. Smaller bulbs should be placed nearer the top. If you choose bulbs that bloom one after the other, you could stretch the flowering over several months. The containers should be stored in a cool place, above freezing but below 50 degrees. Bulbs need about 8 to 12 weeks or until they show signs of life. The beauty of planting bulbs like this is that the pots can be placed anywhere you enjoy the blooms or where you want to make an early statement welcoming spring. Until next month, Christina

Message from Patrick Taaffe, VP of Programs

Our guest speaker this month will be Christina Mackensen. Christina will demonstrate Wreath making as she learned in her childhood in Germany. The Bonsai presentation by Len Schwartz will be rescheduled for another meeting later in the season. **Just a reminder to all, the meeting time schedule is 7pm - 9pm.**

We are also still looking for volunteers to help out with the Herb Garden at the Library. Please contact Nancy Cochrane for more information. Finally, it is last call for volunteers to help Whittier School Garden and the teachers.

The Garden Club of Teaneck is our club. Member participation is needed to help make this year a good year. There are many ways you might be able to help, just ask. Participation is not mandatory, but with everyone working together we will have a more fun filled club experience.

All ideas are welcomed. I will be happy to work with you on your project so that we can all share our gardening knowledge, skills, and

experience. Let us all learn from each other. Please contact me at the following email address with your ideas and let's do it:

t-neckgardenclub@yahoo.com

November GCT Speaker

At the Garden Club of Teaneck meeting on Thursday, November 10, 2011 our own Christina Mackensen will be our guest speaker. She will demonstrate how to make several seasonal wreaths and flower arrangements (see picture below). Christina grew up on a farm in Germany – planting a lot of potatoes, and weeding crops. When coming to this country, she received a BS in Accounting, and an MBA in Finance. Christina is a CPA. After moving to Teaneck 30 years ago, her love of gardening made itself known again. She enjoyed her hobby so much her children, persuaded her to study the subject. A few years ago, she received a degree in Ornamental Horticulture. For the last three years, Christina has been the Horticultural Director of the Teaneck Greenhouse, introducing new and unusual plants for sale to the community and general public at the spring flower sale. At this month's meeting, Christina will demonstrate how to make beautiful seasonal displays from greenery and other found objects from the home and garden. The finished arrangements will be raffled off to the attendees.



Recipe of the Month

Our recipe for this month is Pumpkin Pie. It comes from Sara Jones:

PUMPKIN PIE

1 1/2 cups cooked pumpkin
 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
 3/4 cup sugar
 1/4 teaspoon cloves
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 3 eggs, slightly beaten
 1/2 teaspoon ginger
 1 1/4 cups milk
 1 teaspoon cinnamon
 3/4 cup evaporated milk

Thoroughly combine pumpkin, sugar, salt and spices. Add eggs, milk, evaporated milk; and blend.

Pour into pastry-lined pie pan. Bake at 450F for 10 minutes, then at 325F about 45 minutes or until mixture does not adhere to a knife.

This makes one 9 inch Pie. Enjoy!

Last Word

Many thanks to Pat Taaffe for the following pictures of the GCT Annual Pot Luck Picnic.

