

The Garden Club of Princeton Newsletter

February 2016

Volume 16, Issue 5

Dates to Remember:

February 1 Membership
Preliminary proposal form for candidates
2016 – 2017 due to Mary Hulme

February 2 1:00 p.m.
Floral Design Planning Meeting
@ Stephanie Wedeking

**February 4 ZONE IV Flower Show
Hort. - 3 month ownership deadline**

February 9 10:00 a.m.
Executive Committee Meeting
@ Debbie Jordan

February 9 9:30 a.m.
Photography Planning Meeting &
Photography Show Entry Drop Off
@ Maureen Stellato

February 9 7:00 p.m.
Conservation Movie Night:
"Mission Blue" - spouses welcome
@ Margaret Sieck

**February 16 10:30 a.m.
GCP Meeting Speaker: Mary Leck
"Plants of the Abbott Marshland"
GCP Photography Show
@ Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed**

February 19 10:00 a.m.
Horticulture Workshop: Native seed
propagation in prep. for Zone IV Show &
GCP May flower show
@ Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve
RSPV to Louisa Clayton by 2/16

February 26 11:00 a.m.
Horticulture Planning Meeting
@ Watershed

March 4 9:30 a.m.
Photography Workshop – Frank Barbella
iPhone Photography, Part 1
@ Maureen Stellato

March 8 8:00 a.m.
Philadelphia Flower Show
Meeting and Box Lunch bus trip to Phil.
Reserve spot on bus: jane@karney.com

President's Message

From my garden of white,

As I sit down to write, my head is spinning with the weather of the past month. Only one month ago, on December 23, 2015, we were experiencing aberrant temperatures in the sixties and seventies, bulbs were coming up and the unfortunate cherry blossoms were in bloom. Even my brave hellebores were opening. Now winter has come with a vengeance, including hurricane rivaling flooding at the shore, Manhattan Island cut off from the mainland, Broadway dark and record challenging blizzard conditions from Washington, D.C. to New York City. I do not know what to expect this spring. Will we have surviving hellebores, tulips and daffodils? Will the fruit trees bloom? The forsythia? The dogwood and magnolia? Will we see snowdrops soon? Time will tell.

Fortunately, the storm held off long enough to allow us to have our first general membership meeting in the sparkling new LEED building at the Stony Brook - Millstone Watershed. What fun we had! In addition to the fun, hands-on floral design workshop conducted by our Zone IV Director, Katie Downes, we also enjoyed the company of our Zone IV Chair, Darby Scott and other guests. We had a delicious lunch thanks to Nora Decker and a good time was had by all. Thank you to Betsy G., Stephanie W., Jenn Fenton, Nora Decker, Mary Funsch, Jane Murphy and everyone who came.

We have an exciting month ahead. We will build a solar suitcase to bring light to a remote village in Africa. We will plan our floral design and photography programs for 2016-17. We will finalize our photography entries for the show on February 16, to be held with our general membership meeting in the new gallery at the Watershed. Soon we will have a new, improved website that will perform twice as well at half the price.

When I see you all again, spring will be right around the corner (I think). In the meantime, stay warm, make some soup, clean your cupboards and crack open the seed catalogs!

I offer the following poem from the Norton Anthology of Garden Verse, a collection of garden poetry recommended to me by Kay Brush. Thank you, Kay.

Fondly,

Debbie

Snowfall on a College Garden
By Cecil Day Lewis
1904-1972

While we slept, these formal gardens
 Worked into their disguise. The Warden's
 Judas and tulip trees awake
 In ermine. Here and there a flake
 Of white falls from the painted scene,
 Or a dark scowl of evergreen
 Glares through the shroud, or a leaf dumps
 Its load and the soft burden slumps
 Earthward like a fainting girl.
 No movement else. The blizzard's whirl
 Froze to this cataleptic trance
 Where nature sleeps and sleep commands
 A transformation. See this bush
 Furred and fluffed out like a thrush
 Against the cold: snow which could snap
 A robust veteran branch, piled up
 On the razor edge of a weak spray,
 Plumping it out in mimicry
 Of white buddleia. Like the Elect
 Ghosts of summer resurrect
 In snowy robes. Only the twangling
 Noise of unseen sparrows wrangling
 Tells me that my window-view
 Holds the garden I once knew.

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 8, 2016 MEETING

WELCOME: President Debbie Jordan called to order the General Membership Meeting of the Garden Club of Princeton held at Terhune Orchard. She thanked the provisionals for arranging the event, all members who brought greens for their generosity and, most of all, Pam Mount for hosting this annual workshop. Debbie asked all members with guests to introduce them.

ATTENDANCE was taken and a quorum established.

MINUTES of the November meeting were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Louisa Clayton encouraged members to purchase the paper white and tulip bulbs for sale by the Horticulture Committee.

Debbie noted the Certificate of Appreciation received by the Club on December 7 from the Town of Princeton for our restoration of Memorial Park. She also thanked Jennifer Fenton, Cynthia Larsen and their many helpers, including various provisionals, for their outstanding work decorating the front porch at Morven.

The meeting was adjourned.

Members then created 90 beautiful and varied arrangements for delivery to Meals on Wheels. Mary Bryson played lilting music on the harp as members worked.

Respectfully submitted, Robin Gosnell, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 19, 2016 MEETING

Welcome: President Debbie Jordan called to order the General Membership Meeting of The Garden Club of Princeton held at Stony Brook - Millstone Watershed. She welcomed special guests Katie Downes, Zone IV Director, Darby Scott, Zone IV Chair, and Carol Lipson from The Garden Club of Trenton. She thanked Mary Funsch and Jane Murphy for our program arrangements and our hostesses Nora Decker and Leigh Bartlett for the refreshments and their hospitality.

Jim Waltman, Executive Director of Stony Brook - Millstone Watershed, welcomed our members to their facility and expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the special relationship the Watershed has had with garden club members throughout the years.

Attendance was taken and a quorum established.

Announcements: Sandi Tatnall reported on the improving health of member, Melon Johnson. Mary Bryson introduced her mother, Margaret Kelso, as her guest.

Report - Philadelphia Flower Show (PFS) Floral Design: Carol Lipson, Vice Chair of Floral Design Arrangement Classes for the PFS, encouraged more participation in the PFS. She reviewed some of the different Floral Design classes in this year's show schedule.

Report - Zone IV Meeting and Show: Molly Finnell, Meeting Co-Chair of the Zone IV Flower Show, "The Return of the Natives", provided an update. At February's General Meeting, she will be soliciting for volunteers to help with the show. Linda Sedgewick, Co-Chair of Division IV Botanical Arts for the Zone IV Flower Show, announced available slots for botanical art entries. She graciously offered to share her supply of dried materials to anyone interested in exhibiting.

Committee Reports

Civic Projects/Memorial Park: Debbie Jordan reported that the NJ Committee approved our \$5,000 grant application for completion of the planting at Memorial Park. This now goes to the Zone IV Garden Clubs for final approval. GCP will be voting on all NJ Committee grant applications at our February General Meeting. She announced that Princeton installed a water spigot at the park. The landscape design plan for the park was on hand for members to review. Debbie noted a *Cercis canadensis* (Eastern Redbud) was added to the design plan since it was the 2013 winner of the Montine McDaniel Freeman Medal (aka GCA Plant of the Year).

Conservation: Katherine Dresdner thanked Betsy Hoover for her help in selling and distributing *Asclepias* plants. The solar suitcase workshops will be held at Terhune Orchards on January 26 and 27. Movie Night and the showing of "Mission Blue" will be held at Margaret Sieck's house at 7p.m. on February 9. Members may bring their spouses to Movie Night. Katherine's Monarch Minute stressed the importance of providing nectar sources throughout the growing seasons and particularly critical in late fall when butterflies are fueling up for their migrations. She suggested planting *Tithonia* (Mexican Sunflower) as a particularly good source of nectar and a plant that extends its flowering into the late fall season.

Floral Design: Stephanie Wedeking invited members to attend a Floral Design planning meeting at her house at 1p.m. on February 2. Ideas for next year's schedule will be discussed. If you have found interesting materials to incorporate into floral designs, please bring them to the meeting.

French Market: Tracy Sipprelle announced the dates of this spring's French Market – April 22 and 29; and May 6, 13, and 20. Signup sheets for time slots were circulated with time slots for two shifts – the first shift from 9 a.m. - 11a.m., and the second shift from 11a.m. – 1p.m. Especially needed are volunteers willing to be Captains for the French Market days. Betsy Hoover passed around brochures for the Beds and Border's container collections. Orders will be taken at the February meeting.

Minutes of the January 19, 2016 meeting, continued

Founder's Fund: Katie Cutler provided oral and written summaries on the three proposed projects submitted to The Founders Fund Committee for funding consideration. The three projects are: (1) The Historic Washington Garden at the Old North Church; (2) Building Sustainability at Hartford's Historic Keney Park; and (3) The Wetland Education Center at Cattail Marsh. All project proposals were further described in the Winter 2016 Bulletin of the GCA. Voting ballots were distributed to each member present. The Historic Washington Garden at the Old North Church was chosen by GCP.

Garden and History Design: Kathleen Murphy reported acceptance of the committee's submission of the Fillo garden documentation to the Smithsonian Museum. She circulated a signup sheet for Elizabeth Wislar's garden design lecture at the Nassau Club on Feb. 18 at 9:30 a.m.. Cost is \$15 per person.

Horticulture: Penny Thomas encouraged all those who participated in last fall's bulb forcing workshop to attend the January 22 horticulture workshop to get information on the steps needed to bring bulbs into bloom in time for the Philadelphia Flower Show. Tips on grooming and transporting will be provided. Louisa Clayton noted the upcoming seed propagation workshop on February 19 will be held at Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve and led by Bob Mahler, the Nursery Manager. The primary purpose of the workshop is growing native perennial plants for entry into specific horticulture classes for the upcoming Zone IV Flower Show. The committee hopes to provide this workshop at no charge. Kathy Enquist announced a refund of purchase price for members who bought Paperwhite 'Nir' during the bulb sales last November. Color Blends is crediting the full purchase price due to reports of dissatisfaction with the performance of the bulbs. She also distributed registration forms for the March 12 Master Gardener symposium "Changing Conversations in the Garden" and noted how the lectures tie in well to the club's species of the year – Native Plants for Pollinators.

Membership: Mary Hulme reminded members of the need to provide the committee with the preliminary proposal form by Feb. 1 for any possible candidate for our 2016-17 provisional class.

Morven Decorating: Jennifer Fenton thanked all those who participated in the successful decorating of Morven for the holiday season. Special thanks went to Debbie Jordan, Betsy Griffith, Cynthia Larsen and members of the provisional class. Pam Mount was also thanked for Terhune's generous donation of decorating supplies given to the project.

NJ Committee: President Debbie Jordan reported that next month at our General Meeting, club members will be voting on grant proposals submitted to the NJ Committee of the GCA, including our proposal for War Memorial Park.

Nominating: Ruth Wilson announced the slate of officers for next year. President - Betsy Griffith, Vice President - Robin Gosnell, Treasurer – Nora Decker, Recording Secretary – Tracy Sipprelle, Responding Secretary – Leigh Bartlett, Member at Large – Barbara Morrison, Member at Large - Kathy Enquist will serve out her two-year term.

Photography: Maureen Stellato encouraged attendance at the January 21 lecture at Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve about pollinators and their dependence on native plants. The lecture scheduled from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. includes fabulous photography by Mary Ann, a resident photographer at Bowman's Hill. Cost: \$23 (\$10 admission and \$13 for box lunch). Linda Sedgewick requested members email her with the number of photography entries that they plan to submit to the February 16 Photography Show. The total number of submissions is needed to arrange for a sufficient number of judges for the show. Two iPhone photography workshops conducted by Frank Barbella are planned for March 4 and April 5.

Provisionals: Margaret Sieck thanked the provisional class for their coordination of the Christmas Workshop at Terhune Orchards. Ninety mini Christmas arrangements were delivered to Meals on Wheels headquarters for distribution to their clientele. Margaret requested members send her photos of native plants for a Zone IV Conservation project. Please note the names of the plants featured in the photos.

Minutes of the January 19, 2016 meeting, continued

Old Business: Mary Bryson reported on progress designing a new website for the club. The new website will be easier to manage, cheaper, and comes with many more useful features than our current site – including shopping cart capabilities!

Introduction of Guests: Cynthia Larsen introduced her guest, Beth Beers.

Darby Scott, Zone IV Director, thanked our club members for our efforts toward co-hosting the GCA Zone IV Flower Show and described her role in working with the clubs who plan zone meetings.

Katie Downs, Zone IV Director, described her job as primarily working with Zone Reps, but came today to conduct a Floral Design Workshop after adjournment of the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned

Kathy Enquist, for Robin Gosnell, Recording Secretary.

Zone IV Meeting February Update: Molly Finnell

Return of the Natives!

*****The Horticulture three month ownership deadline for the Flower Show is February 4*****

- We are very pleased that most of the Zone Flower Show classes are filled. There is still room in Botanical Arts. Please contact Linda Sedgewick if you have any interest.
- This month, the Registration and Invitation and Program Committees are working to finalize the invitation and meeting information that will be posted on the GCA website soon.
- Planning continues for hosting 40 judges, clerks and passers at Sue Plambeck's house on Tuesday night and Lisa Stockman's house for brunch on Wednesday morning. This year's Provisionals will be supporting those efforts and learning about the GCA judging program.
- The Decorations Committee will be sprucing up Barbara Gallup's topiary goldfinches so they are prepared to grace the Chauncey tent.
- The boutique and native plant sales are taking shape.
- Our club will hear soon from Stephanie Wedeking about how to sign up for jobs that have not yet been filled for May 4th and 5th. She and her co-chair Betsy Grimes are working with all the Committee Chairs to list and track all the volunteer jobs.
- The Awards luncheon is well planned and Zone award nominations are coming in to Avril Moore from across the State.

Following is a short version of the meeting schedule. I have highlighted in **yellow** the events that will be open for registration to our club and Stony Brook Garden Club in April. There will be a cost for the reception, dinner, and lunch and space may be limited.

RETURN OF THE NATIVES**ZONE IV MEETING MAY 4 – 5 2016**

Tuesday May 3, 2016

- 3:00 – 6:00 Early arrivals registration – Chauncey Lobby
- 5:00 – 6:30 **Wine in the Garden** – Early arrivals are driven by members to either Wellemyer or Wislar home for a garden tour and party. Members pick up guests at Chauncey porte cochere at 5:00.
- 6:30 – 8:30 **Dinner on Mountain View** for early arrivals at Firmenich home. Transportation provided.
- 7:00 – 8:30 Judges' dinner at Plambeck home.

Wednesday May 4, 2016

- 6:45 – 9:30 Flower show entries arrive.
- 7:00 – 9:00 Breakfast buffet for registered guests in 2nd floor Solomon Room incl. in room cost.
- 7:00 – 8:00 Early-riser walk to Stony Brook. Meet at 7:00 Registration table in lobby.
- 7:30 – 9:30 Registration – Chauncey Lobby
- 8:00 – 11:00 Coffee and breakfast snacks – Barn Foyer
- 9:15 – 10:30 Brunch at Stockman home for out of town judges and clerks. Judges charged at 10:15. Judging and deliberation will extend until mid-afternoon. Judges will be given a light snack/lunch.
- 9:30 – 12:00 Zone IV Business Meeting & GCA Education** – Barn Meeting Room.
- 12:00 – 3:30 Stony Brook – Millstone Watershed Association Reserve** – Buses take delegates to SBMWA for lunch at new platinum LEEDS facility & Educational Program featuring Dr. Diane Lewis, author of The Great Healthy Yard Project.

3:30 – 5:15 "Down Time" – D&R Greenway Native Plant Sale & Boutique open.

5:15 – 6:00 **Flower Show Opening Reception** – Brodsky Gallery. Local clubs invited.

6:00 – 8:00 **Dinner in Garden Pavilion** featuring speaker, Bill Culina after dinner. Local clubs invited.

Thursday May 5, 2016

- 7:00 – 8:00 Early-riser walk to Stony Brook. Meet at 7:00 at Registration table in lobby.
- 7:00 – 9:00 Breakfast buffet for registered hotel guests – 2nd floor Solomon Room.
- 8:00 – 11:00 Coffee and breakfast snacks – Barn Foyer
- 9:00 – 10:15 **Zone IV Business Meeting** – Barn Meeting Room
- 10:45 – 11:45 **Speaker, Donald Leopold** – Barn Meeting Room. Local clubs invited.
- 12:00 – 1:45 **Awards Lunch** - Garden Pavilion. Meeting adjourns following lunch.
- 1:45 – 2:30 Plant Exchange – Sundial Room
Toadshade Wildflower Farm Native Plant Sale & Boutique open
- 2:00 – 4:00 Three member gardens open for visitors

FRENCH MARKET: Barbara Morrison, Tracy Sippelle

It is not too early to start thinking about spring, flowers and French Market! There will be five market days in April and May, each offering something special in addition to all the wonderful offerings from member's gardens. There will be several fun workshops in connection with the markets, which you will not want to miss. Mark your calendars now with the following dates and watch for more details in the weeks to come!

French Market Dates:

April 22, April 29

May 6, May 13, May 20

HISTORIAN: Sandi Tatnall

Following our instructive and entertaining meeting at the Watershed and in preparation for the next meeting at that location on February 16, I thought a little background about how our longstanding affiliation with that highly respected organization came about would be of interest.

In 1949 Mrs. Kathleen Peyton, our Conservation Chair, became interested in The Brandywine Valley Watershed Association, one of the nation's first watershed associations. With the assistance of David Hunter McAlpin, the husband of our then Treasurer, Sally McAlpin, a committee of five organized a grassroots organization to protect the environment in the region now known as the Stony Brook - Millstone Watershed. Tragically, Mrs. Peyton was killed in a plane accident shortly thereafter. Her husband, Bernard Peyton, took a place on the Board, and Garden Club of Princeton members have been active participants on the Board and in its many activities ever since. Sophie Glovier is presently Chair of the Board of Trustees, and six of our members serve on the Board and/or Advisory Board. An important committee within the Watershed is the StreamWatch project, which helps track how land use changes influence water quality. Alix Gerry and Penny and Ted Thomas have been volunteer water testers since its inception in 1992! We salute their dedication and their hard work to protect and restore our natural environment. See you at the Watershed.

Horticultural Activities and Expectations

Barbara J. Bromley, Mercer County Horticulturist

Helpline Number: 609 989 6853

We encourage all members to go to the web site, "Barbara Bromley's Monthly Tips for Mercer County, NJ," at www.mgofmc.org/monthlytips.html. There you will find her Mercer County Horticultural Activities and Expectations for the year and for each month.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Linda Sedgewick, Maureen Stellato

"In All Things of Nature There is Something of the Marvelous" (Aristotle) We hope that you are inspired by the theme of this year's photography show, "Elements of the Natural World." Classes include: Air, Water, Fire, Earth, What Painting Can Teach Us About Photography and Native Plant that Attract Pollinators.

Please review the rules for Photography Classes on page 29 and 30 in the green book. Entries must be submitted to Linda Sedgewick or Maureen Stellato no later than Tuesday, February 9, 2016.

We invite and encourage all GCP members to participate. We are looking forward to an inspired and inspiring show!

FORGET-ME NOTES



Meeting RSVP Procedure: All active, Sustaining and Provisional members RSVP regrets to the lead hostess designated by an asterisk in the green book. Affiliate members RSVP acceptances to the hostess.

Please visit the following websites regularly for updates and calendar events:

GCP blog page link: <http://gcaprincetonlocavores.blogspot>, for a complete listing of all local farms, farm market schedules and a selection of recipes coordinated by our club. Send your recipe featuring local produce to: farmmarketscnj@gmail.com

GCP Website: www.gcprinceton.org. Click on Members section and sign in as members@gcprinceton.org. Do NOT use your own email or try to set up your own pin because that will lock everyone else out. Password is on page 1 of our green book.

GCA Website: www.gcamerica.org. Please contact Club Administrator for assistance.

Return of the Natives! Zone IV Flower Show

Remember to check out the Flower Show schedule on the GCA website, using this link:

<https://www.gcamerica.org/index.cfm/members:main.getprotectedfile?common/document/ZoneIV/2016ZoneIVFSScheduleRevised091115.pdf>

You are all invited to attend the Flower Show opening reception on Wednesday, May 4, 2016 from 5:15 p.m. to 6:00.

Deadline for the next Newsletter: February 24, 2016

Please email entries to tpms1206@aol.com in Arial font, size 11

Please write: GCP Newsletter – “Your Area” in subject line