

The Garden Club of Princeton

Newsletter

October, 2015

Volume 16, Issue 2

Dates to Remember:

October 1 11:30 a.m.
NJ Committee Luncheon
@ Navesink CC

October 6 10:00 a.m.
Executive Committee Meeting
@ Debbie Jordan

October 6 corrected date 1:00 p.m.
Floral Design Workshop
@ Stephanie Wedeking

October 8 12:00 noon
Garden History & Design
@ Meg Michael

October 13 9:30 a.m.
GCP Joint Meeting with SBGC
@ D&R
Speaker: Rick Darke

October 13
Amaryllis Bulb Kits order forms due

October 16 1:00 p.m.
Horticulture Workshop
@ Kathy Enquist

October 20 7:30 p.m.
Conservation Movie Night
@ Margaret Sieck

October 21 7:30 a.m.
Visiting Gardens trip to Storm King
Departing Princeton Shopping Center

November 4 for ZONE IV MEETING
Hort.: Six month ownership deadline

November 5 10:00 a.m.
Conservation Field Trip to
Headquarters Cinema, Morristown
"Flight of the Monarchs"
@ Kathleen Biggins

November 10 11:00 a.m.
Hort. & Conservation Lunch & Learn
With Trenton GC
@ Present Day Club
Speaker: Tim Schuler

The President's Message

From my late September garden,

Autumn arrives as I write this note. There is a hint of freshness in the air although we continue to struggle, waiting for rain. Trees and shrubs, planted with hope and the best of intentions, now strangle in our soil, weeks without meaningful rain. Mansgrove's old well, with which I water the plants out back, is dry. Local streams are disappearing, the water table is low, and the NJ State Dept. of Environmental Protection declared a drought watch for all or parts of 12 counties in NJ, including Mercer, today.

It is sobering to feel nature move in an unexpected and relentless direction. I can only hope that by the time you all read this, we will have enjoyed a thorough rain or even a soaking tropical storm.

In the meantime, as my garden wanes, and I weigh whether to water or cut back the parched perennials and dying annuals, I marvel at the resilience of weeds, still thriving in spite of the conditions. What makes them so strong, so different from the prettier plants in the garden? Why can't we capture that strength and inject it into the fairer garden blooms? When is a weed a native and a native a weed? Will our native plantings survive the drought while other plantings do not?

As we continue our study of our species of the year, "Native Plants that Attract Pollinators," we will learn about the strength of natives and their importance to our environment. In October, we will join Stony Brook GC at the D&R to hear Rick Darke, co-author with Doug Tallamy, of The Living Landscape, speak about the use of natives in the garden.

In October, our schedule is full of opportunities to explore something new. With the help of our Floral Design Chairs, we will explore the art of botanical jewelry making with the various seeds, stems and pods that comprise the detritus of nature, in preparation for the Zone IV Show in May. We will learn about depth of field from our Linda Sedgewick, and journey to Storm King with our intrepid Visiting Gardens Co-Chairs. We will force bulbs, order amaryllis, and attend a movie night with the Conservation Committee.

In the meantime, as we examine our fall gardens, take some time to study the weeds - the survivors. I offer the poem "Weeds" by J. D. McClatchy for your consideration.

All the best,

Debbie

Weeds
J. D. McClatchy

The pigrush, the poverty grass,
The bindweed's stranglehold morning glories,
The dog blow and ninety-joints-
They ask so little of us to start with,
Just a crack in the asphalt,
Or a subway grate with an hour of weak light.
One I know has put down roots
As far as a corpse is buried, its storage stem
As big as my leg. That one's called
Man-under-ground. That one was my grudge.

And suddenly now this small
Unlooked for joy. Where did *it* come from
With these pale shoots
And drooping lavender bell? Persistent
Intruder, whether or not
I want you, you've hidden in the heart's
Overworked subsoil. Hacked at
Or trampled on, may you divide and spread,
Just as, all last night,
The wind scattered a milkweed across the sky.

Minutes of the September 15, 2015 Meeting

WELCOME: President Debbie Jordan called to order the General Membership Meeting of the Garden Club of Princeton held at Tommye Schiro's home. She thanked our hostesses Tommye Schiro, Marlene Doyle and Robin Gosnell for their hospitality.

INTRODUCTION: Robin presented this year's five provisionals: Piper Burrows, Christina Callaway, Jennifer Closser, Jennifer Del Vecchio and Cheryl Mooney. Penny Thomas introduced our new sustainer transfer Jeanette Ching.

ATTENDANCE was taken and a quorum established.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Nora Decker passed out copies of the 2015-16 budget. In the Community Trust account, the Finance Committee projects \$3,000 of revenues from the 2016 French Market and potential expenses of \$12,000 for Phase II of the Memorial Park restoration. (This sum was approved last year.) Although we hope not to spend the entire \$12,000, we have an outstanding surplus to cover the amount if necessary.

As for the Administrative account, the Cocktails, Cackles and Sunset Party held at Betsy Griffith's home on September 12 raised more than \$2,400. This year, we will pay rental fees to D&R Greenway and Stony Brook Watershed. We also need to contribute an additional \$3,000 to the Zone Meeting to be held in May, in addition to the \$7,500 we have already given. We have a surplus in the Administrative account. As a result, although we show an administrative budget deficit, the outstanding surplus in the account will cover any deficit if necessary.

The Education Fund continues to grow and is available to defray costs for members who wish to attend educational events. Reimbursement of registration expenses for attending educational events is available upon timely request of the treasurer. Reimbursement of travel and hotel expenses is available if necessary due to hardship upon timely request of the treasurer and approval of the Finance and Executive Committees. Members may only receive hardship reimbursement once for a particular type of meeting.

Minutes of the September 15, 2015 meeting, continued

Nora reminded members who would like to be reimbursed for club related expenses to use the reimbursement form.

The budget was approved.

COCKTAILS, CACKLES AND SUNSET PARTY: Betsy reported that despite the rain, more than sixty people attended the event and all had a great time. There were no costs, because so many people generously contributed - food, drink and sale items. The Club raised over \$3,000, (updated,) and remaining items were for sale at the meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Debbie Jordan attended the Annual Meeting of the Garden Club of America held in Rochester, New York last May with Kathy Enquist. The theme of the meeting was Kaleidoscope, a New York State of Mind. The first evening, dinners were held in private homes exhibiting private gardens in small condominium spaces. Debbie visited the Susan B. Anthony house and viewed Frederick Law Olmstead parks from a boat on the Erie Canal. Debbie attended the Presidents' Luncheon and heard a presentation on leadership by Kate Bennett, President of the Rochester Museum and Science Center. Debbie and Kathy particularly enjoyed the Zone dinner at the restored George Eastman House, where they sat with Stephen Scaniello, a renowned "rosarian" currently responsible for the care of the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden, a site in the Earth Kind Rose Trial and an honoree of the GCA.

At the business meeting, Katie Heins announced that the GCA has opened a Twitter account and will tweet regarding flower shows and scholarships. In the Zone reports, the GCP was singled out for its efforts on behalf of Monarch butterflies. Everyone is encouraged to update her GCA profile on the GCA website.

Tensie Whelan, the chairman of the Rainforest Alliance, delivered a keynote address. The Alliance, known by its RA green frog logo, works to conserve biodiversity and insure sustainable livelihoods by transforming land use and business and consumer practices around the globe. RA certification of products allows consumers to choose certified products thereby incentivizing corporations to sell RA certified products and the developing world to utilize sustainable production practices.

Ms. Whelan also suggested that GCA members find a way to support the development of sustainable nursery stock practices in the U.S. through a similar certification program. This could allow the consumer to choose nursery stock that does not contain neonicotinoid insecticides. Neonicotinoids are now suspected to be responsible for bee colony collapse disorder as well as the decline of Monarch butterflies and other pollinators. Debbie also reminded everyone about the Zone Representatives' Meeting to be held on October 29 at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum in Morristown.

ZONE MEETING REPORT: Molly Finnell updated the Club on preparations for the Zone Meeting to be held on May 4-5, 2016 at the Chauncey Conference Center. With the three members each Zone IV club will send, all the members of the assorted clubs who work at the zone level and the Executive Committee of the GCA, we anticipate about one hundred people. The opening party for the Flower Show, the lecture by Donald Leopold, author of Native Plants of the Northeast and the awards luncheon will be open to club members. Molly will alert us when we can sign up for these events, probably early in the winter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards: Tommye Schiro requested that members study the requirements and deadlines for both GCA Club and Zone awards on the GCA website. If there is a GCP member who you believe is deserving of one of these awards, please contact Tommye with your nomination and justification well in advance of the deadline.

Newsletter: Tommye Schiro implored members to honor the deadlines, which are typically on the 24th of each month during the garden club year.

Civic Projects: Emily Firmenich confirmed that the Stony Brook Millstone Watershed has invited members to attend a butterfly celebration at the Watershed at 4:00 on September 25. The celebration will include a tour of the restored meadow, a visit the butterfly house and butterfly banding.

Minutes of the September 15, 2015 meeting, continued

Emily asked members to help clean up Memorial Park at 9:30 on September 21 and 9:30 on November 3 in anticipation of Veterans' Day.

Debbie Jordan reported that the Town removed agreed upon dead and dying shrubs, volunteer trees and invasive ivy from the back of Memorial Park. The Town rototilled, amended and mulched the soil. Over the summer, GCP volunteers heavily pruned the azaleas. There is now enough sunshine behind the bench to allow us to consider a small butterfly bed there. We would like to add three American hollies and one oakleaf hydrangea to the bed along the Mercer St. property. We plan to balance the existing dogwood and crabapple on one side with matching trees on the opposite side. We will also add two shade trees, probably Princeton elms. We are seeking donations to cover the cost of some or all of these plantings, but have the previously mentioned \$12,000 set aside, if needed. We hope to plant this October, weather permitting.

Conservation: Kathleen Biggins reported that Katherine Dresdner has milkweed for everyone who ordered it in May. The committee will hold its first meeting on September 22 to consider how to implement this year's chosen project, the building of a "solar suitcase," which will eventually be sent to a third world school in need of light. The anticipated cost of this project will be approximately \$1,500. Gigi Goldman will speak about the project on November 17.

Kathleen offered a Climate Change Minute. The bad news is that we will continue to experience colder than normal winters for the foreseeable future. As the arctic warms, the path of the jet stream alters, bringing us frigid winters. The good news is that representatives of major Chinese and American cities are meeting to reduce emissions.

Floral Design: Stephanie Wedeking announced a workshop entitled "Flower Arranging Basics," to be held on September 28 at Betsy Griffith's home. Provisionals are required to attend. Any member who would like a refresher course is invited to come as well. The fee for members is \$20. On October 6, a workshop on botanical arts will be held at 1:00 at Stephanie's house.

Garden History and Design: Meg Michael informed the Club that the first meeting will be held at 12:00 on October 8 at her house. Please reply by October 5. The committee plans a workshop with Elizabeth Wisler on how to create a garden. It will occur in January or February. This Monday, September 21, there will be a tour of the Princeton University campus to see the work of landscape architect Beatrix Farrand. The group will meet at 3:00 in front of Nassau Hall. Guests of all ages are welcome. The rain date is September 23.

Horticulture: Penny Thomas reported that the Hort Committee has already held a "The Road to Ribbons" workshop led by Anne Gates for provisionals and others interested in plant grooming. The order forms for amaryllis bulb packages were on everyone's chair. These are the perfect holiday presents for the gardeners on your gift lists. There is a trip to RareFind Nursery on September 18 open to the entire club. This will include a lecture about creating bog gardens and a workshop. The committee hopes to enter a bog garden in the Zone Show in May. On September 30, there will be a propagation workshop at Rutgers. Our delegates to the Shirley Meneice Conference in Seattle, Barbie Bromley and Jane Murphy, would appreciate donations for the seed exchange to be held there. Please deliver seeds in envelopes to Jane as soon as possible. Kathleen Biggins, Horticulture Show Clerk, added comments from the judges regarding the Horticulture Show. They said the show was "a pleasure to judge" and offered a "special commendation to the provisional class." They named Stephanie's collection of succulents as "Best in Show."

Morven: Cynthia Larsen and Jennifer Fenton announced that instead of decorating a tree this year, we were asked to decorate the whole front porch of Morven for Christmas. Committee volunteers were solicited and members were asked to reserve 9:30 on November 16 to transform this space for the holidays. As Morven is a historic site that everyone in town regularly passes, this is a wonderful opportunity to contribute to the community.

Minutes of the September 15, 2015 Meeting, continued

New Jersey Committee: Cynthia reminded the Club that the deadline for grant proposals is November 1. She emphasized that there is money available. On October 1, there will be a luncheon fundraiser at the Navesink Country Club. The cost will be \$65 per person. Andrea Wulf will speak on her new book, The Invention of Nature. Books orders were taken.

Program Committee: Jane Murphy informed us that Rick Darke will speak at our next general membership meeting. His new book, The Living Landscape, can be ordered in advance of the meeting. He will sign copies, and sales of the book will help defray the cost of the event. Please note that this meeting, a joint one with Stony Brook Garden Club, will be held at 9:30 on October 13, at D&R Greenway. Because the parking lot will be extremely crowded, please try to carpool.

Visiting Gardens: Barbie Bromley thanked Helena Bienstock and her husband for making possible the trip to Storm King, renowned as one of the premier sculpture parks in the world. The trip will take place on October 21, departing from the Princeton Shopping Center at 7:30 a.m. sharp and returning at about 5:00 p.m. The cost will be \$90 per member and cover the cost of the bus and lunch. (Storm King has waived its entrance fee for our visit.) Storm King's president will lead a guided tour. A tram will be available for those concerned about walking.

New Business: Kathleen announced a series of "conversations" scheduled for this fall about climate change. The first two will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 on September 27 and October 16 at Stony Brook Watershed and will address, respectively, concerns about the Arctic and shorelines. The third will be held in the evening on November 4 at the Nassau Club and will focus on the impact of climate change on investment strategies.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Gosnell, Recording Secretary

Return of the Natives! Zone IV Meeting October Update: Molly Finnell

The Flower Show committee was busy this summer finalizing the ***Return of the Natives!*** schedule for the Zone Flower Show, part of our May 4-5, 2016 Zone IV meeting at Chauncey Conference Center. Competitors from the twelve New Jersey Zone IV clubs will be entering into Conservation, Photography, Floral Design, Horticulture, and Botanical Arts divisions. Each show division has a co-chair from GCP and co-chair from Stony Brook Garden Club. Many of our club members might decide to enter individually, but as a group, GCP will be working on three club-wide entries:

- We will enter a Conservation class: called ***Design for Living: Less Lawn and More Native*** *The new native-filled garden is here! We are beginning to understand that lovely green lawns require excessive irrigation, pesticides and fertilizers and contribute to damaging storm water run-off. We invite each Zone IV club to design a new American garden: one that thrives on native plants and helps rain refill our aquifers.*
- GCP will be working on an entry called ***What is your native landscape? Tell us where you are from. New Jersey Native Terrain Container Garden*** - *Minimum of 5 rooted plants planted in a 22" long x 18" wide x 8" deep (outside dimensions) wooden container showcasing the New Jersey natives and/or cultivars of New Jersey natives of your local terrain. Container to be made by each club out of unfinished cedar and lined unobtrusively to be waterproof. Additional natural materials from your terrain may be used to enhance visual presentation of the terrain.* Our plans are to enter a bog garden reflecting a native habitat.

Return of the Natives! continued

- Last, each club in Zone IV is asked to enter six (6) plants native to New Jersey propagated by cutting, seed, layering or grafting into **the Plant Exchange**, run by the Zone Horticulture Chairman. Our club will bring home the same number of propagated plants entered by other clubs as the number we entered. Attend a propagation workshop this year, and if successful, maybe one of your plants could be entered.

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>

When you look at the link, please note our beautiful ***Return of the Natives!*** meeting logo, designed by Linda Sedgewick from GCP and Sarah Shannon from Stony Brook Garden Club. You are all invited to attend the Flower Show opening reception on Wednesday, May 4, 2016 from 5:15 p.m. to 6:00. There you can admire the show and mingle with GCA members from our zone and from GCA headquarters.

GARDEN HISTORY AND DESIGN: Meg Michael, Kathleen Murphy

On Monday, September 21, members of the GH & D Committee and others toured Beatrix Farrand's work on the Princeton University campus lead by Devin Livi the university's Landscape Architect. In addition to learning about Ms. Farrand's contributions to the Princeton University campus, Mr. Livi filled us with tidbits of history and other anecdotes while pointing out important tree specimens. All in all it was a wonderful afternoon.



The GH & Design Committee will hold a luncheon meeting at Meg Michael's home on Thursday, October 8 at 12:00 noon. All GCP members are welcome. Please RSVP to Meg (924-7858) by Tuesday October 6. Come with ideas and suggestion for further meetings and activities.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Linda Sedgewick, Maureen Stellato

We invite you to join the Photography Committee on Tuesday, October 20 at 10:00 a.m. for a special walking tour of the Abbott Marshland along the Delaware River with Mary Lech, Emeritus Professor of Biology at Rider University. Mary will be sharing her extensive knowledge of native plants in the marshland and giving us ample opportunities for photographing while enjoying a morning with nature. We will be carpooling from Maureen's home on Princeton Day School's campus and leaving promptly at 9:30 a.m. RSVP to Maureen Stellato (mstellato624@yahoo.com).

HORTICULTURE: Penny Thomas, Kathy Enquist, Louisa Clayton

Zone Propagation Workshop: To prepare for the May Zone meeting, this Workshop will be held in two sessions at Rutgers on September 30. To sign up and for details, contact Kathy Enquist.

To Keep Everyone in the Loop: Members of the Hort Committee travelled to RareFind Nursery in Jackson, NJ to begin work on our club entry in the container garden class for the May Zone meeting. Native bog plants that we selected will winter over in a cold greenhouse at RareFind to be picked up in time in time to fulfill the three month ownership requirement. We will update you again after February 1 when we pick up the plants and the fun begins!

Amaryllis Bulb Kits: Those needing order forms as well as pictures of the bulbs available will find them on the GCP website (access information is located on pg. 1 in the green book). Send or give your completed form with a check to Kathy Enquist on or by October 13 to get a jump on Christmas gift giving.

Annual Bulb Forcing Workshop: Instruction and potting up of daffodils and tulips for fun and especially for entry at the Philadelphia Flower Show will take place at Kathy Enquist's on Friday, October 16. The Workshop is required of Provisionals (no charge) and their sponsors or surrogates. ALL members are invited and urged to join in the fun. We hope for a good turn out that will lead to successes even greater than our good showing and results at last year's Philadelphia Flower Show in March. It's fun, and results can be spectacular.

Let Kathy Enquist know if you plan to come. Cost is \$20/pot, which includes lecture/demo, pot, soil, bulbs, and a hand out.

Looking Ahead - Bee Luncheon: You have already received a SAVE THE DATE card for the November 10, Lunch and Learn program, cosponsored by the Conservation and Horticulture Committees, at the Present Day Club. The program will feature expert Tim Schuler, the state apiarist, who will focus on the latest information on the perils to the bees based on his research and experience in the field, and what we as gardeners and conservationists can do to help mitigate the problems.

A registration form will be sent out on October 9, and hard copies will also be available at the October meeting. Members of the Garden Club of Trenton are our specially invited guests, and other groups and Garden Clubs will also be included. Space is limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, so register early.

And Even Further Ahead: At the November meeting we will be selling a variety of bulbs in time for planting for a spring display in the garden - and entry in the club Daffodil show.

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. In previous newsletters we reproduced the information on the web site. In the interest of space, we encourage you to visit the Master Gardeners of Mercer County web site for this and other useful information.

FLORAL DESIGN: Betsy Griffith, Stephanie Wedeking, Jennifer Fenton

Space for the October 6 workshop to learn the art of botanical jewelry making with award winning botanical arts designer Janet Laughlin is limited to 12 participants. This hands-on workshop will prepare the fortunate few for entry in the GCP flower show in November, and the Zone IV 2016 show in May. Do not be left out... RSVP to Stephanie now at stephanie.wedeking@mac.com

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.

Zone IV Flower Show Schedule is on the GCA website. Please consider entering. Pay attention to pertinent deadlines!

The six month ownership deadline for Horticulture is November 4! “Entries eligible for the Catherine Beattie Medal and/or the Clarissa Willemsen Horticulture Propagation Award must have been in the possession of the exhibitor for at least six months and will be identified on the entry card.”



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

GCP blog page link: <http://gcaprincetonlocavores.blogspot.com>, for a complete listing of all local farms and 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. (IMPORTANT: Do NOT use your own email or try to set your own pin because that will lock everyone else out.) Password is on first page of green book.

Please visit our website to access all updated information, (calendar, schedule, and directory), for the 2015-2016 year.

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

Deadline for next Newsletter: October 24, 2015

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

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