

# The Garden Club of Princeton Newsletter

**May 2016**

**Volume 16, Issue 8**

## Dates to Remember:

May 3                      5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
May 4                      7:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.  
GCP members may deliver cut specimen  
entries to the Zone IV Flower Show  
(Limited to classes that do not require  
pre-registration)  
@ Chauncy Conference Center

**May 4 – 6      Zone IV Meeting &  
Show**  
**@ Chauncy Conference Center**  
**One Chauncey Road, Princeton**  
**(GPS address: 660 Rosedale**  
**Road)**

May 5                      9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Zone IV Flower Show  
@ Chauncy Conference Center

May 6                      9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
French Market  
Mercer Island Park

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

May 13                      9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
French Market  
@ Mercer Island Park

**May 17                      2:00 p.m.**  
**GCP Annual Meeting & Tea**  
**Hort. & Floral Design Shows**  
**@ Historical Society of**  
**Princeton's Updike Farm**  
**Respond to Tracy Sippelle**

May 19 – 21  
GCA Annual Meeting  
@ Minneapolis

May 20                      9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
French Market  
@ Mercer Island Park

May 25                      9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Visiting Gardens: Trip to Bryn Athyn  
Cathedral and Cairnwood Estate  
\$50. (to GCP) Includes tour and lunch.  
RSVP & payment by May 19.

## President's Message

From my May garden,

As I sit down to write to you I cannot believe that it is time to say “good-bye” as GCP President and “hello friends”, as an eager GCP member, ready to get my hands dirty with soil instead of digital ink. I have sincerely enjoyed serving as president and recommend the experience to all of you. I have learned a lot about the GCA, the issues related to the environment across the country, leadership and stewardship, large and small. I have met interesting people in the Zone and nationally that I would never have known had I not served. I hope I have represented you faithfully as I travelled on your behalf to Zone Meetings, the New Orleans, LA and Rochester, NY GCA Annual Meetings and Zone Presidents' Council Meetings. I am delighted that Betsy Griffith is stepping into my shoes and know she brings new talents to the table and will do a fabulous job.

I plan to reinvest myself in my garden and the Club. I look forward to seeing you more often over pots of dirt, examining gardens near and far, entering exhibits, admiring the floral designs of others and struggling with my own. I hope to learn more about conservation and, in particular, how to combat the hidden pesticides in our nursery stock.

I also plan to spend more time with my five-month-old standard poodle puppy, Nick, and train him to appreciate and respect the garden. Presently, Nick's zealousness outpaces his judgment. He is a work in progress.

In the meantime, I offer a simple spring poem, describing a bed of tulips.

I also include a poetic offering from Nick, who spends many hours watching me on my knees in the dirt.

Happy summer everyone.

Fondly,

Debbie

THE TULIP BED  
By William Carlos Williams

The May sun – whom  
all things imitate –  
that glues small leaves to  
the wooden trees  
shone from the  
through bluegauze clouds  
upon the ground.  
Under the leafy trees  
where the suburban streets  
lay crossed,  
with houses on each corner,  
tangled shadows had begun  
to join  
the roadway and the lawns.  
With excellent precision  
the tulip bed  
inside the iron fence  
upreared its gaudy  
yellow, white and red,  
rimmed round with grass,  
reposedly.

THE GARDENER  
by Robert Louis Stevenson\*

(From the perspective of NICK, my five month old standard poodle puppy)

The gardener does not love to talk,  
She makes me keep the gravel walk;  
And when she puts her tools away,  
She locks the door and takes the key.

Away behind the current row  
Where no one else but cook may go,  
Far in the plots, I see her dig,  
Old and serious, brown and big.

She digs the flowers, green, red, and blue,  
Nor wishes to be spoken to.  
She digs the flowers and cuts the hay,  
And never seems to want to play.

Silly gardener! summer goes,  
And winter comes with pinching toes,  
When in the garden bare and brown  
You must lay your barrow down.

Well now, and while the summer stays,  
To profit by these garden days,  
O how much wiser you would be  
To play at Indian Wars with me!

\*Please note I have edited the poem, changing the sex of the gardener to female, to better reflect that Nick would rather I play with him than work in my garden.

## MINUTES OF THE April 19, 2016 General Membership Meeting

**WELCOME:** President Debbie Jordan called to order the General Membership Meeting of the Garden Club of Princeton held at D & R Greenway. She thanked hostesses Cecilia Mathews and Jane Murphy as well as Program Chairman Mary Funsch. She noted that lunch would be served in the meeting room, because the Floral Design Show is taking place in the boardroom.

**ATTENDANCE** was taken and a quorum established.

**MINUTES** of the February and March meetings were approved.

**REPORT REGARDING THE ZONE IV MEETING AND SHOW:** Molly Finnell informed us that the Zone Meeting is just two weeks away. Most zone meetings are open only to club delegates, but at this meeting, members of both our club and Stony Brook will be able to participate in many events. The activities open to club members are: the visits to three gardens, the flower show opening reception and dinner on May 4, the flower show, native plant sale, address by Don Leopold, SUNY professor of forestry, the awards luncheon and another native plant sale all on May 5. Members do not need to register for the garden visits, the flower show and native plant sales. All other activities require registration and member payment. To register, members are asked to telephone the Garden Club of America at (212) 753-8287 and ask for Linda or Maggie. Molly noted that we anticipate eighty-four delegates, including three from our club and ten from national headquarters.

Stephanie Wedeking thanked everyone who has volunteered to work at the show. She outlined the many jobs still available and passed around sign up sheets. She encouraged us to see the show as an opportunity to make our club shine, to work with members of Stony Brook and to meet zone and national garden club members.

Kathy Enquist, co-chairman of the Zone Horticulture Show, asked us all to bring cut specimens from our gardens to the show. Most cut specimen classes do not require pre-registration. She pointed out the need to read the schedule carefully as there are differences between zone show and our club show horticulture rules. For example, moss may not be used as filler at the zone show. Members will have to use cork or boxwood instead. Kathy has a supply of cork. Different note cards, white ones, will also be required. Kathy has those as well. "Collections" will have to be in clear, un-etched glass containers. All other specimens will be in green Perrier glass bottles as we use in GCP club shows. She requested that anyone who has extra Perrier bottles leave them in the box outside her front door. Members of other clubs may need them. Our membership may deliver cut specimens to the Chauncey Center on Tuesday, May 3, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm in addition to the delivery time on Wednesday, May 4, from 7:00 to 9:30 am., open to all clubs. Please note that you will be assigned new I.D. numbers. Penny Thomas asked members to give her any clean 4" clay pots and saucers you may have for centerpieces for the Zone Meeting.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Nora Decker reminded members that bills for 2016-17 dues will be sent via regular mail and should be paid via mail to her or at the May meeting.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Civic Projects:** Emily Firmenich announced that the first clean up of Memorial Park took place on Wednesday, April 13. The next clean up will occur on Thursday, April 28. She asked members to come and help. Phase II of the new plantings will be installed by Memorial Day. Debbie added that we have received three bids for the installation. Our costs for the spring planting in the back will be covered by the grant we have just received from the New Jersey Committee.

## MINUTES OF THE April 19, 2016 meeting, continued

**Conservation:** Kathleen Biggins noted the article in the most recent GCA Bulletin about the building of a Solar Suitcase by members of our club.

Kristin Griesse reported on her attendance at the recent NAL meeting in Washington, DC with Katherine Dresdner. Kristin noted the emphasis put on teaching children about conservation and the new movement to stop highway mowing and plant perennials along highways instead. Katherine informed us that forty-five percent of the delegates who attended the meeting were there for the first time. She explained that Climate Change has become a bipartisan issue because Climate Change threatens the economy, but also offers the prospect of new jobs as corporations develop technologies to produce clean energy and water. She warned that the salt spread on roads during the winter can sometimes cause the lead in pipes to leach. She noted that the GCA is applauded for its scientifically-based lobbying.

**Floral Design:** Stephanie thanked the entrants in the "Poetically Inspired" Flower Show. She explained that there will be no formal floral design show in May because of the Zone Show. We will instead have a placement show with six entries to be judged by club members.

**French Market:** Tracy Siprelle reminded everyone that the first French Market would take place on April 22. Mary Hulme will lead a topiary workshop. Tracy asked members to bring flower contributions to Betsy Hoover's home on the morning of Thursday, April 21. Stephanie showed members the moss baskets that will be sold at the Mother's Day French Market. They come in small, medium and large sizes, will be filled with potted plants and will be priced at \$20, \$35 and \$50. She is accepting pre-orders.

**History:** Sandi Tatnall noted the detailed maintenance booklet created by Kathy Enquist for the continuing care of Mercer Island Memorial Park. It was suggested that the booklet be available on our website.

**Visiting Gardens:** Barbie Bromley recommended members participate in the visit to the Cairnwood Estate on May 25. The cost will be \$50 per person. The visit will include a tour of the gardens, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, and the Bryn Athyn Cathedral, as well as lunch.

**PASSING OF THE GAVELS:** Incoming President Betsy Griffith passed the first gavel, and a pot of begonias, to Robin Gosnell, the new Vice President, hoping that she would "grow into the job." Debbie praised Betsy for her creativity, energy, horticultural knowledge, big heart, support and practicality, among other things. Debbie then passed the gavel, decorated with native eastern redbud, dogwood and pussy willow to Betsy. Betsy complimented Debbie for her ability to write and to get things done. Betsy cited in particular Debbie's efforts to finish the work begun by Barb Morrison on Memorial Park, from getting the town involved in the project to writing the grant proposal that will fund the next plantings. Betsy gave Debbie a GCA silver acorn, a "seed for the growth" she has promoted. Debbie responded that this has been the "most joyful" of all her volunteer activities. She received a standing ovation for a job well done from all present.

**Announcements:** Debbie encouraged members to see the spring issue of Princeton Magazine, which features an article about the club. She also thanked everyone who came to the photo shoot for the article. Betsy Hoover remarked that the daffodils planted years ago by the club still look wonderful today. Katie Cutler announced that the second shore garden tour since Hurricane Sandy will occur on June 16. Participants will see fabulous gardens, and also have the opportunity to have lunch at the newly renovated Bayhead Yacht Club.

**PROGRAM:** Landscape architect Peter Ham discussed the development of the English naturalistic landscape style in the 17th and 18th centuries and the political forces that contributed to that development.

**The meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted, Robin Gosnell, Recording Secretary

## HORTICULTURE: Penny Thomas, Kathy Enquist, Louisa Clayton

The April "Daffs and Friends" show was beautiful thanks to the participation of everyone and the work of the organizers and others who made it happen. Cynthia Larsen's gorgeous tulip was awarded Best in Show.

The April Newsletter list of GCP winners at the Philadelphia Flower Show inadvertently omitted Cynthia Larson, who won a first, second, third and two honorable mentions. Congratulations Cynthia!

**Zone IV Meeting Reminder:** Please have another look at Kathy Enquist's email that was sent out on 4/25, and reevaluate all plant material that you might have, inside or out, with an eye to entering. This is one more opportunity for active members to fulfill their exhibiting requirement as well as to support the Zone IV Hort Show.

Horticulture's last hoorah of the Garden Club year is the May Show/Annual Meeting. Help make it a grand finale with your entries!

## ZONE IV MEETING MAY UP-DATE: Molly Finnell

The Long Awaited Zone IV Meeting is May 4 and 5. The creative, resourceful, and supportive efforts of our club members have been so impressive, it will surely be a gigantic success! For those of you who have not signed up for the events, you can still get a flavor of *Return of the Natives!* in the following ways:

**Visit the Flower Show** on Thursday, May 5 between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. It is in the lobby of the Chauncey Conference Center on Rosedale Road.

**Go on a garden tour!** The following *beautiful* gardens will be open for our club on Wednesday, May 4 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and on Thursday, May 5 from 2 p.m. to 4p.m.

- § Tommye Schiro's garden, 145 Hodge Road
- § Elizabeth Wislar's garden, 100 Quarry Lane
- § Louise Wellemeyer's garden, 89 Rosedale Road

## Historian: Sandi Tatnall

In 1911 when our Club began, the founders lived in a very different world. Members came to meetings on foot or by carriages. There were few automobiles and a few ladies that would arrive in an open car with hats swathed in veils against the wind. The meetings were held in the afternoon, most frequently at 3 o'clock, and following roll call and the reading of the minutes a poem would be read. After committee reports and the program an elaborate tea would be served followed by a visit to the garden. The meetings were held twelve times a year (not in December or January.)

Indeed twelve times a year was the norm. It was still the norm in 1924 and 1949, but by 1970 our Club year had shortened to ten meetings a year with the times more flexible (2:30, 2 and 9:15 for the bus trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show.) In 1979 we met just nine times during the year and our times for the meetings had changed even more (2:30, 10:30 and 9:30 Christmas Workshop.)

1983 brought another shift. It was "bring your own sandwich" to two meetings and luncheon served at the other 10:30 meetings, as well as our traditional teas at the first and final meetings of the year. We did try a more casual 9:30 Business Meeting and Coffee back in 2001, but that never reappeared on our schedules. It is interesting to see the adjustments the Club makes over time. We seem to follow a pretty traditional pattern and although we don't arrive in our carriages and we may have to leave a meeting early to pick up the kids we have kept our Garden Club lives still central to our busy worlds.



## FRENCH MARKET: Barbara Morrison, Tracy Sippelle



Thank you to everyone who has helped get the French Market season off to a great start. The topiaries that were sold on April 22nd were a big hit, thanks to Mary Hulme's workshop.

Each Friday we will be offering a special of the day, so please check out the schedule below. Blooms from our members' gardens are extra special, so please help carry on the tradition from which our French Market got started - and bring your blooms to sell at French Market.

Remember that our proceeds go toward Civic Projects!

**French Market Friday's: 9:00 - 1:00**  
**Mercer Island Park, Nassau Street**

**May 6:** Mother's Day Specials of the Day will be "Moss Baskets with Flowers & Herbs" in three different sizes

Blooms from Members' Gardens  
 \*Floral Arrangements

**May 13:** Blooms from Members' Gardens  
 \*Floral Arrangements

**May 20:** Floral arrangements in Red, White and Blue (Containers can be used again for your Memorial Day and summer celebrations)

Blooms from Members' Gardens

\*Please feel free to make a floral arrangement or two at home and bring to the market on Friday morning.

## GARDEN HISTORY AND DESIGN: Meg Michael, Kathleen Murphy

We will have a wrap up meeting/luncheon on Monday, May 9, 12 noon at Meg Michael's home, 33 Constitution Hill West. We will enjoy a social luncheon around my table, discuss all that we've accomplished these last two years and talk with Sophie Glovier about her vision for Garden History & Design moving forward. Anyone interested in this terrific committee is welcome. Please RSVP to Meg by May 6.

## VISITING GARDENS: Barbie Bromley, Barbara Gallup

### May 25 – Trip to Bryn Athyn Cathedral and Cairnwood Estate

To celebrate the end of a fabulous year join us on Wednesday, May 25 for a FUN, RELAXED, and informative visit to Bryn Athyn Cathedral and Cairnwood Estate, a National Historic Landmark, in Bryn Athyn, PA. We will have a guided tour by the head gardener of the Cathedral, Cairnwood, and the extensive grounds, (influenced by Olmsted.) We have planned a fabulous lunch on the grounds. The cost is \$50, all inclusive. We will car pool as it is not far and depart around 9:30 a.m. and return by 4 p.m. Car pool details will be determined by Barbara, Barbie and attendees. RSVP before May 19. Make your checks out GCP, and send to Barbie Bromley by May 19. Mark your calendars for a joyous day... Do Not Miss This Trip!

## FORGET-ME-NOTES

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



**Please visit the following websites for updates and 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](mailto:farmmarketscnj@gmail.com)

GCP Website: [www.gcprinceton.org](http://www.gcprinceton.org) Click on members section and sign in as: [members@gcprinceton.org](mailto:members@gcprinceton.org) Do NOT use your own email or set up your own password, as that will block out everyone else. Password is on page one of our green book.

GCA Website: [www.gcamerica.org](http://www.gcamerica.org) Please contact our club Administrator for assistance.

**Horticultural Activities and Expectations:** We encourage members to visit the web site, "Barbara Bromley's Monthly Tips for Mercer County, NJ," at [www.mgofmc.org/monthlytips.html](http://www.mgofmc.org/monthlytips.html). The helpline phone number is 609 989 6853

Linda Sedgewick shared the following link to an article about the trees on the Princeton University campus: <http://www.providencejournal.com/opinion/20160423/scott-turner-big-thoughts-on-campus-of-princeton>

Deadline for the next Newsletter: August 1, 2016

Please email entries to [tpms1206@aol.com](mailto:tpms1206@aol.com) in Arial font, size 11

Please write: GCP Newsletter – "Your Area" in subject line