

# The Garden Club of Princeton Newsletter

Summer 2016

Volume 17, Issue 1

## Dates to Remember:

Sept. 13 noon  
Conservation Meeting & Lunch  
@ Biggins

Sept. 15 10:00 a.m.  
Executive Committee Meeting.  
@ Griffith

Sept. 16 9:30 a.m.  
Horticulture Show Workshop  
@ Clayton

Sept. 16 2:00 p.m.  
Photography Field Trip to Chanticleer  
@ Wayne, PA

**Sept. 20 2:00 p.m.**  
**Opening Meeting & Tea**  
**Horticulture Show**  
**@ Wedeking**

Sept. 23 noon  
Garden History & Design  
@ Glovier

Sept. 27 12:45 p.m.  
Floral Design Basics Workshop  
@ Wedeking

**October 1 6:00 p.m.**  
**Opening Cocktail Party**  
**@ Jordan**

October 4 1:00 p.m.  
Conservation, Woodlands Walk  
@ Firmenich

October 11 9:00 a.m.  
Photo Field Trip with Sophie  
@ Princeton's "Central Park"

October 13 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
NJ Committee Lecture & Lunch  
@ Canoe Brook CC

## President's Message

*And so I begin... We are certainly going through one of the hottest and most humid summers that I can remember. And it's not only in Princeton, NJ.*

*We just returned from the West coast where it is also hot but dry, dry, dry. In Seattle, we revisited Mount Rainier National Park after 25 years. Back then, we climbed to the top, 14,410 feet, however, this time only to 6,800 feet. In 25 years, there have been many changes. It is well maintained and now has a focus on sustainability. The paths are beautifully marked with, "please stay on the path to protect our wildflowers". Where once we crossed glacier fields with crampons and ice axes, now there were wide-open wildflower meadows. And the waterfalls were quieter. It is the most awe-inspiring park and the mountain is visible from hundreds of miles away.*

*Then we flew south to Santa Barbara, a beautiful old town right on the Pacific Ocean. As we drove by the tony golf course lake, there was not a drop of water in it. And the "No Fishing" sign should have also said, "No Joke". The lush gardens were now being replaced by succulents, which were thriving.*

*Our club is on this. We have grown succulents. We have added more resilient native plants to our gardens and are educating our community through various efforts including the Veterans Memorial Park. Our efforts to protect the monarchs and bees are having good results. And our education on C-Change will continue this year. I have just received a new GCA advisory that asks all clubs to "Step Up to Climate Change".*

*You have received your Green Book this week. We have a great year planned with garden visits, speakers and hands-on workshops. Take a minute now with your calendar and mark the events in green. You will not want to miss anything. The species of the year is the boxwood.*

*Finally, our club is thriving. We have four amazing provisional who will bring us even more new ideas. Please introduce yourself to them when we see you next on September 20 at Stephanie Wedeking's home.*

*Sincerely, Betsy*

## MINUTES OF THE MAY 17, 2016 GCP ANNUAL MEETING & TEA

**WELCOME:** President Debbie Jordan called to order the General Membership Meeting of the Garden Club of Princeton held at The Historical Society of Princeton's Updike Farm. She thanked hostesses Tracy Sippelle, Betsy Hoover and Martha Sword. Debbie shared a note from Anne Copenhaver, president of the GCA, thanking the GCP for our efforts hosting the GCA Zone IV Meeting. Debbie distributed committee signup sheets to the membership.

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

**MINUTES:** of the April meeting were approved.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Mary Hulme welcomed the new provisional members: Beth Beers, Polly Edelmann, Anna Horner and Wendy Mager. She announced members with changes in status: Provisional to Active: Piper Burrows, Christina Callaway, Jennifer Closser, Jennifer DelVecchio and Cheryl Mooney. Active to Sustaining: Molly Finnell, Julia Garry, Mary Hulme, Meg Michael, Barbara Morrison, Pam Mount and Linda Sedgewick. Reinstatement from Leave of Absence to Active: Gigi Goldman.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Nora Decker reported that the membership should have received their membership dues form. If not, she has extra copies. Nora thanked the membership for donations to the Education Fund, and reminded members to submit expense reports by May 31.

**ZONE IV MEETING & SHOW:** Molly Finnell reported that she and her co-chair, Alice St. Claire-Long, worked with the Chauncey Conference Center for four years in preparation for this meeting. Representatives from Chauncey described the GCP ladies as "amazing." Molly thanked all who helped make the meeting such a success. She reported that the former, current and incoming GCA Presidents were in attendance and they were very complimentary. Molly enumerated a number of highlights and successes: the incredible flower show, the GCP Best in Show Bog Garden, the awards lunch organized by Avril Moore, the Zone Civic Improvement Award given to Sophie Glovier, Katherine Dresdner's talk at the Stony Brook Millstone Watershed, the beautiful garden tours and the great meals. Molly found the experience rewarding, felt it strengthened friendships and highly recommended the job to anyone who was offered it in the future.

**ZONE MEETING DELEGATE REPORT:** Robin Gosnell, who attended the meeting with Debbie Jordan and Betsy Griffith, provided an overview of her experience as delegate to the "Return of the Natives" Zone Meeting at the Chauncey Center. In the morning, the presidents of the Zone IV clubs gave their reports and spoke about their projects. Lunch at the Stony Brook Watershed featured a presentation by Katherine Dresdner on the Monarch butterfly. Betsy and Robin spoke with Barbara Tuffli, Chair of the GCA Horticulture Committee, who encouraged us to share our efforts to save the Monarch on the member showcase portion of the GCA website. That evening, Bill Cullina, executive director of the Maine Botanical Gardens, spoke on composting and the use of native plants to eliminate the need for pesticides. Dr. Donald Leopold, in his presentation, encouraged us to establish communities of native plants. GCP member Sophie Glovier was presented the Zone Civic Improvement Award at the Awards Luncheon. GCA positions were announced: Barbara Morrison – Zone IV Communications Representative, Martha Sword – Zone Awards Representative and member of the GCA National Archives Committee, Cecilia Mathews will continue as Vice Chair of the GCA National Visiting Gardens Committee.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Awards:** Mary Hulme and Tommye Schiro reviewed the committee activities for the year. Tommye thanked Mary Hulme, Debbie Jordan and Pete Peters, last year's chair, for their invaluable help. Avril Moore, GCA Awards Chair, was very supportive and helped navigate the complicated process. All helped to recognize and evaluate members whose participation goes above and beyond what is expected. The committee submitted proposals for awards to the Zone IV Awards Representative. All were approved.

## MINUTES OF THE MAY 17 MEETING, Continued

The following awards were presented:

Club Civic Improvement Award – Katherine Dresdner, “For her exemplary commitment to civic improvement, sustainability and preserving open space and to educating others in the importance of pollinators to our environment;” Club Communications Award – Mary Bryson, “For her creative commitment to improving communications in our club, especially in upgrading and refining the efficiency and accessibility of our website;” Club Conservation Award – Kathleen Biggins, “For her passionate commitment to conservation and the effects of climate change and for educating our club and the greater community through media presentations;” Medal of Merit – Molly Finnell, (and Alice St. Claire-Long,) “In grateful recognition of their graceful, inspirational and collegial leadership of the 2016 Zone IV Meeting” and Zone Civic Improvement Award – Sophie Glovier, “For her extraordinary and inspirational commitment, passion and expertise in environmental and civic activities to preserve, protect and enhance the natural environment.”

**Zone IV Awards Representative Report:** Avril Moore reported on her experience as Awards Representative and highlighted all those who contributed to the process. She loved the job and enjoyed looking for the passionate, gifted and extraordinary members to honor. Six awards were given at the Zone level. Debbie, Tommye, and Mary wrote proposing, seconding and supporting letters for the awards. Laura Gregg, GCA Chairman of the Awards Committee, wrote a letter commending the excitement and joy of the proposers, the collaboration and collegial spirit of the GCP with other clubs in the Zone - noting that other clubs will want to similarly collaborate. The Zone Awards were: Zone Civic Improvement Award - Sophie Glovier, GCP; Zone Conservation Award - Katy Kinsolving, Stony Brook GC; Zone Floral Design Achievement Award - Janet Laughlin, GC of Trenton; Zone Historic Preservation Award - Ann West, GC of Somerset Hills; Zone Horticulture Award - Anne Gates, Stony Brook GC; Zone Creative Leadership Award - Katie Heins, Stony Brook GC.

**Archives:** Martha Sword reported on efforts to maintain GCP’s archives, which span more than 100 years. Current Storage is at Mountain Lakes House. We are moving files to a small office at the D&R Greenway. Next year more files will be digital.

**Bulletin/PR/Communications:** Kirstin Griese reported on recent Communications efforts. Princeton Town Council awarded their first Service Award to the GCP for our work on All Wars Memorial Park. Town Topics published an article on the award and the work accomplished on the Park over the winter. An article was published in Princeton Magazine on the French Market and All Wars Memorial Park. Kathleen Biggins published an article on the Conservation’s Committee’s Solar Suitcase project in the GCA Bulletin.

**Civic Projects/Memorial Park:** Sophie Glovier and Emily Firmenich thanked members for their efforts. They discussed the autumn 2015 and spring 2016 planting of pollinators with a focus on native plants in Memorial Park. The plantings were funded by the GCP and a grant from the NJ Committee. The GCP participated in the Morven Festival of Trees in December. Jennifer Fenton and Cynthia Larsen led the effort with the help of Debbie Jordan and Betsy Griffith, all the provisional and others. The team decorated the front of Morven for a Colonial Christmas. Pam Mount donated apples and fresh greens.

**Conservation/NAL:** Kathleen Biggins and Katherine Dresdner highlighted the importance of the “solar suitcase” which was delivered for use in Sierra Leone. Katherine Dresdner presented the Conservation Award to Kathleen Biggins for her passion and work on climate change and energy.

**Floral Design:** Stephanie Wedeking provided an overview of the Committee’s 2015 – 2016 activities, highlighting the three floral design shows and reminding members of the various workshops. Several members participated in the Zone IV Show. Betsy Griffith, Mary Funsch and Stephanie Wedeking entered the botanical arts classes. Mary and Stephanie entered floral designs within a frame. With the help of Avril Moore, Tracy Sippelle and Marlene Doyle, 36 moss purses were made and sold at French Market. The Floral Design Award, based on accumulated points was presented to Mary Funsch.

## MINUTES OF THE MAY 17, 2016 Meeting, Continued

**Founders Fund:** Katie Cutler discussed the award, established in 1934 by the 12 founding GCA Clubs. Every member of every GCA club has a vote to determine which of three proposed projects is selected each year. This year the winner was the Historic Washington Garden at the Old North Church in Boston.

**French Market:** Tracy Sipprelle reviewed the achievements of the French Market this year. At the opening market, following the topiary workshop, we sold 16 topiaries for a net of \$752. The sale of the Provisionals' Mothers' Day baskets raised \$990. Betsy Hoover organized the "Beds and Boarders" orders, selling 53 units and raising \$1,400. The club is very grateful to Pam Mount for her on-going and very generous donation flowers, especially of lilacs and herbs. Despite the chilly temperatures and rainy weather the French Market raised over \$3,578, easily surpassing the goal of \$3,000.

**Garden History and Design:** Kathleen Murphy reviewed the highlights of the year's activities which included a tour of the Princeton University Campus, the acceptance of the Filo Garden into the Smithsonian Archives, Elisabeth Wislar's slide presentation on garden design, Peter Ham's talk and the Zone Show flat-screen slide show loop, created by GCP member Meg Michael in collaboration with Elisabeth Wislar of SBGC.

**Historian:** Sandi Tatnall chronicled the GCP's achievements and discussed ways to record our present activities for future members. Our accomplishments included completion of Memorial Park bench landscaping efforts and renewing the surrounding park. Gigi Goldman discussed the "We Build Solar" and "solar suitcase" project. Floral Design Conservation, Photography, Garden History and Design provided stimulating programs. With Stony Brook GC, we put on an outstanding Zone IV Meeting.

**Horticulture:** Penny Thomas reviewed the year's activities, including horticulture shows, workshops and presenters Tim Schuler and Rich Darke. The bog garden begun in September resides in Mary Bryson's backyard bog garden. We collectively received 60 blue ribbons. Several GCP members successfully entered the Philadelphia Flower Show. The Horticulture Award, based on accumulated points, was presented to Mary Funsch. Kathy Enquist won the native plant Species of the Year Award.

**Houses and Hostesses:** Marlene Doyle reviewed the events hosted by members of the GCP and thanked all who hosted meetings. She thanked her predecessor Harriet Vawter for the incomparable records she provided, and requested that hostesses fill out a form to help determine costs. Tommye Schiro hosted the opening meeting and tea at her home. All other meetings were held at Updike Farm, Terhune Orchards, the D&R Greenway, the Watershed, and on the bus to the Philadelphia Flower Show. The club will continue to request \$50 from each hostess to help defray rental costs at the D&R Greenway and Watershed and to avoid raising dues to cover expenses associated with our transition from holding meetings in private homes to holding meetings in institutional spaces.

**New Jersey Committee:** Erin Forrey and Cynthia Larsen reported that the NJ Committee of the GCA met four times this year at the Freylinghusen Arboretum in Morristown, NJ. The fundraiser luncheon in Navesink, NJ, featuring Andra Wulf's lecture on The Invention of Nature, raised a net profit of \$5,600. Growing Fund contributions totaled \$19,000. There were four grant proposals from Englewood, Princeton, Madison and the Oranges. The GCP received \$5,000 for War Memorial Park improvements.

**Newsletter:** Tommye Schiro and Helena Bienstock reported that we published eight editions of the newsletter, each approximately eight pages in length. We spent only half the budgeted amount as all but ten members receive the Newsletter electronically, either through email or on the website. Pete Peters, Debbie Jordan and Helena Bienstock were acknowledged as invaluable proofreaders and thanked for their efforts.

## MINUTES OF THE MAY 17, 2016 Meeting, Continued

**Photography:** Maureen Stellato and Linda Sedgewick reported on the three photography workshops, the various field trips, and the February Show. There were 45 submissions by 15 members. The show was awarded a special judges' commendation. Kathy Enquist won Best in Show both at this show and at the Zone IV Meeting and Show. The show was displayed in the Watershed gallery, newly dedicated to The Garden Club of Princeton, with thanks to Penny and Ted Thomas for their generosity. Kathy Enquist was presented the Photography Award.

**Program:** Mary Funsch and Jane Murphy reviewed the year's speakers and meeting locations.

**Provisionals:** Robin Gosnell and Margaret Sieck reflected on the many contributions made by this year's Provisional Class. They directed parking at the Zone Show for judges, filled cat food cans for the "Meals on Wheels" Christmas arrangements, received a judges' commendation for their "Provisionals Only" class at the flower show. All five provisionals elected to the GCP as active members. Piper Burrows was awarded the Frances Scott Rossmassler Provisional Award.

**Visiting Gardens:** Barbie Bromley and Barbara Gallup reviewed the trips to Storm King, sponsored by Helena and Peter Bienstock, and to Cairnwood and Bryn Athyn Historic District. Next year will be Barbie and Barbara's last year of planning trips together.

**President's Report:** Debbie Jordan provided concluding remarks. She encouraged others to take on the role of President if asked to serve. She expressed her pride in having served and thanked all for the absolute pleasure of being president.

Respectfully submitted,  
Leigh Bartlett for Robin Gosnell

## HISTORIAN: Sandi Tatnall

In 1976 the GCA celebrated our Nation's Bicentennial with an article in the Bulletin featuring quotations from GCA Club Presidents. The article was entitled "The Articulate Amateur Gardener". Here are a few excerpts from that article you might enjoy:

1915 "We have now existed as the G.C.A. for two years... Our object is to "garden finely" and to introduce others to join us in this neglected art."

1919 "It sometimes seemed that "club" outranked "garden". Does it and should it? Gardening is a lonely sport, but in association we have found sympathetic souls [or fellow cranks] and garden should mean more to us, not less."

1926 "The G.C.A. is a group of garden clubs... Its concern with trees, plants and flowers and the natural beauty of the earth is its whole reason for being."

1963 [50th Anniversary] " we must always keep in mind that we are a "Garden Club," and that we were united originally to promote the fine art of gardening and to save and renew the beauties that nature has given us."

1968 "Our civilization is becoming too preoccupied with technology and too dependent on things."

1975 "Our concern for the whole environment, attention to the human scale, emphasis upon areas of natural beauty, both inside the cities and beyond, are essential ingredients of our land's restoration."

The article closes with this quote: "Things to best perfection come, not all at once but some by some."  
Words of wisdom from the past!



## **HORTICULTURE: Louisa Clayton, Kathy Enquist, Jane Murphy**

Greetings from the Horticulture Committee! We hope that everyone is enjoying the summer and that your gardens are producing lots of seeds!

Please consider sharing some of these seeds with the Club. Louisa Clayton and Nora Decker will also take seeds to the Shirley Menice Conference at the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens on September 18 to contribute to the Seed Share there. To assure our club has seeds to contribute to Seed Share, please drop them off at Louisa Clayton's house by **Friday September 16**. If you are unable to make that date, please bring your seeds to the September 20 GCP meeting and give them to Kathy Enquist or Jane Murphy for our club's use.

Below you will find tips for saving and packaging your seeds.

Seed Share: Small #3 coin envelopes (2½" x 4 ¼"), available at office supply stores, make excellent seed packages; larger envelopes are good for larger seeds. For very small seeds, you may wish to first put them in a glassine envelope prior to placing them in the larger envelope. The seed label template is available on the GCA website under horticulture resources, or you can ask your Club Hort. Chair or the Zone Hort. Rep. to help you find the template. Be sure to clean and dry your seeds before packaging them, and label packets with the following information:

1. Botanical Name
  2. Common Name
  3. Hardiness Zone
  4. Type of Seed - indicated in the upper right-hand corner  
Tree-Shrub-Perennial-Biennial-Annual-Vine-Grass-Vegetables-Misc.  
Add an asterisk if it attracts/supports pollinators, e.g. Perennial\*
  5. Your Name and your Club Name
  6. Please include any useful growing information you can share to increase the chances of success.
- Thank you for participating in this worthwhile project.

Need help with labeling or packaging? Need an envelope or label? Please call or email Louisa Clayton.

Be sure to look over the schedule for the Horticulture show for our opening meeting on September 20. Check out your garden and keep your plants healthy. It is never too soon to consider what you may enter, and look up the botanical and common names. If you are planning to enter a succulent container garden, be sure it is well groomed, and that you remember to prepare the required key card. Please see page 29 of the Green Book for key card specifications.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY: Linda Sedgewick, Maureen Stellato**

Look over the photography schedule for the February Show and start snapping those photos!

## **SPOTLIGHT ON... Pam Mount**

The August 3 issue of the Town Topics featured our own Pam Mount in a two page article entitled: "Pam Mount has a History of Community Service Working for Sustainability and Environmental Protection." The article traces Pam's life and adventures highlighting her commitment to service, preserving open space, sustainability, community, farming, the environment and education. In the article, fellow GCP member, Kathleen Biggins recalls how she and Pam became friends through their involvement in the Garden Club of Princeton and their shared interest in educating the greater community about climate and sustainability issues. The article, like Pam's life, is inspiring!

## 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

Deadline for the next Newsletter: September 24, 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