

The Garden Club of Princeton Newsletter

October 2016

Volume 17, Issue 2

Dates to Remember:

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

October 4 9:30 a.m.
Conservation: Woodlands Walk
Led by Mark Brownlee, naturalist
@ Firmenich

October 6 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Visiting Gardens Trip to Meadowburn
Farm, Vernon, NY,
B. Bromley & B. Gallup
@ Princeton Shopping Center (bus)

October 11 9:00 a.m.
Photography Field Trip with S. Glovier
@ Mountain Lakes Parking Lot

October 13 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
NJ Committee Lecture & Lunch
Speaker: Frances Schultz
@ Canoebrook Country Club, Summit

October 14 10:00 a.m.
Executive Committee meeting
@ Griffith

October 18 10:30 a.m.
**GCP Meeting & Luncheon
Conservation Program
@ D&R Greenway**

October 20 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Zone IV Reps. @ Frelinghuysen

October 21 10:30 a.m.
Horticulture Workshop, bulb forcing
Required for Provisionals
@ Enquist

October 24 9:00 a.m.
Civic Projects – Fall Clean-up & Lunch
@ Veterans Memorial Park

October 25 12:45 p.m.
Floral Design Workshop:
Autumnal Centerpieces
@ Wedeking

Oct. 27 **NEW DATE** (from 10/20) noon
Garden History & Design
@ Closser

President's Message

Thank you for the positive response following the Opening Tea last week. The stars were aligned and the ideas just flowed from us all. There is great energy and volunteerism in our club. We can accomplish so much. And thanks again to Theodore Roosevelt for his guiding words.

I reread the October 2015 President's Message from Debbie Jordan. Hmmm, it seemed her garden was suffering from the same lack of water and dry plants that mine is. I am taking action now and have ordered compost to improve my soil. Kathy Enquist says 1-2" (and no more) of compost on your garden is a great way to put it to bed. Do not smother the plants, just surround them. I am also cutting back the dead stems, leaving a few inches to identify where they are next year, clearing those clingy weeds away and raking the leaves into the lawn to be mowed and left on the grass. I am feeling healthy already. One last thing, you might check on. The Japanese beetles ate everything this summer and not just my roses and Rose of Sharon. Now is the time to apply milky spore to your ground. To do the job, Japanese beetle grubs have to be actively feeding (on your grass roots) for it to work and that is in the Fall when the soil is warm.

From Seed to Shade: Robin Gosnell and I have introduced our 4-year tree strategy and the ideas are flowing in. There is so much ground-work that needs to be done and we will form a committee for this purpose. So many of our trees have been devastated in the past from insects or blights and research has been done to help us choose the right trees. And let us not forget that our choices need to support our local birds and helpful insects.

Take a Walk: In town: We will have added more natives to Veterans Memorial Park by the time of this newsletter. Stop by and check behind the bench. Our plantings look great and have really added something special to our town.

At the Firmenich's: On October 4, at 9:30 a.m., you will have a treat, as a guide will show what treasures they have uncovered in their restored woodlands.

At Meadowburn Farm: On October 6, at 8:00 a.m., take the day trip with us to tour this reclaimed garden.

In Princeton's "Central Park": On October 11, at 9:00 a.m. with Sophie Glovier, our photography committee and your camera.

October 1, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. – See you at the Jordan's opening cocktail party!

Sincerely, Betsy

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2016 GCP OPENING MEETING & TEA

WELCOME: President Betsy Griffith called to order the General Membership Meeting of the Garden Club of Princeton held at Stephanie Wedeking's home at 2:00 p.m. She acknowledged past presidents in the audience, thanked hostesses Stephanie Wedeking, Robin Gosnell and Lisa Stockman for organizing the tea and program chairs Piper Burrows and Mary Funsch for organizing our programs for the year.

ATTENDANCE: Tracy Sippelle called the role and a quorum was established.

MINUTES: of the May meeting were approved as written in the summer 2016 newsletter.

INSPIRATION: Building on the goal of leadership, stewardship and most importantly friendship, Betsy read aloud "The Man in the Arena" by President Teddy Roosevelt.

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

FOUR YEAR STRATEGY: Betsy Griffith talked about focusing on trees for the next four years, during her presidency and continuing through Robin Gosnell's term. The emphasis on trees was inspired by the vast number of suffering and diseased trees in our area. Betsy referenced the ash trees on her property that are struggling and referred to the outstanding article in the spring issue of the GCA Bulletin on the importance of trees by Bruce Crawford, Director of Rutgers Gardens. This year the GCP's new mantra is: From Seed to Shade. The strategy would involve input from all the committees including Photography, Civic Projects, Conservation, and Horticulture. It would include such activities as designing gardens around new and old trees, offering workshops on tree identification and maintaining the health of trees in our environment and photographing trees and leaves.

Betsy introduced the GCA's strategy of focusing on stewardship, leadership and friendship this year. Betsy reminded everyone that it is our job to help set up committee chairs for successful leadership by helping solicit volunteers, encouraging chairs, and sharing ideas. A possible idea for encouraging friendship and strong leadership is: "Did you know?" This is a game sharing information about a member and/or highlighting a member's accomplishments in the community or in her career. Betsy talked about her past by starting the conversation with "did you know" that she was a former Morgan Stanley partner and a first time mother at age 44?

The GCP will continue its stewardship through focusing on its civic projects, workshops and bulb and French Market sales to the community.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Conservation/NAL: Kathleen Biggins and Emily Firmenich introduced some upcoming events:

October 4, 9:30 a.m. – Conservation walk on Emily Firmenich's restored wooded property. Emily described her and her husband's journey to restoring their woodlands by removing invasives, fallen trees and debris, and their continuing efforts to plant native species and trees to transform their forest into a natural enclave of wooded trails and a peaceful home to eagles, owls and small animals. The walk will take place rain or shine. RSVP to Emily or Kathleen.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 20 MEETING, Continued

November 3, 7:00 p.m. – The GCP, with Stony Brook Garden Club, will host Steve Cornelli, former NRG Senior Vice President of Policy and Strategy, who will discuss how our energy sector is revolutionizing. He will discuss the winners and losers in the process and what it means for meeting our climate change challenge. The speaking engagement will take place in Pam Mount's newly renovated barn at Terhune's. Spouses and friends are welcome. Wine and Cheese will be served. RSVP to Kathleen's email listed in the green book.

Floral Design: Stephanie Wedeking announced the following workshops:

September 27, 12:45 p.m. - A Flower Arranging Basics Workshop will take place at Stephanie Wedeking's home at 9 Players Lane, Princeton. Stephanie will host and conduct a hands-on workshop for provisionals and other club members who want to refresh their flower arranging skills. Everyone must bring clippers. The fee is \$20 and is limited to 12. Provisionals are required to attend.

October 25, 12:45 p.m. - Stephanie will conduct another hands-on workshop on how to create a floral arrangement for your Thanksgiving table. All supplies will be provided. The workshop is limited to 12 and the cost per member is \$45. RSVP to Stephanie Wedeking.

Garden History and Design: Co-Chairs Sophie Glovier and Jennifer Closser announced an upcoming meeting on September 23 at noon. Sophie mentioned that the meeting will focus on brainstorming ideas for the year. One idea is the possibility of creating a book on garden design. She encouraged members to bring a favorite book on garden design to the meeting.

Horticulture: Kathy Enquist summarized the past September workshops and announced the judges' comments on the entries of the September horticulture show. Some of the highlighted comments from the judges were: "impeccable grooming, beautifully staged, high quality entries, exuberant, sparkling clean..." The provisionals did very well, receiving blues, reds and honorable mentions. She commented on the importance of "key cards" being clear and accurate. Debbie Jordan's Dahlia received "Best in Show."

On October 21, 10:30 a.m. - the Bulb Forcing Workshop will take place at Kathy Enquist's home. The fee is \$20. per pot. This workshop is required for all provisional and provided at no cost to them.

Kathy also mentioned that the book Flowers for Bouquets is available for sale for \$16. Contact Kathy for a copy.

Membership: Barb Morrison began her remarks with a "did you know?" question, announcing that she received a new knee and is the grandparent to a new baby boy born in August. She announced that she will be taking individual photos of members post meeting for the GCP and GCA websites. She will continue at October's meeting if she misses anyone. No one is obligated to have her photograph published. Barbara is working on understanding certain software programs that may be useful and beneficial for member communications in the future, such as Sign Up Genius.

New Jersey Committee: Erin Forrey talked about the NJ Committee Lecture and Lunch coming up next month on October 13, at 11:00 a.m. It will be hosted at the Canoebrook Country Club in Summit, NJ. This year's speaker will be Frances Schultz speaking on her book, The Bee Cottage. The fee is \$65 and checks should be made out to The Short Hills Garden Club. Betsy added that it was important for the GCP to have a presence as last year the GCP received grant money.

Photography: Maureen Stellato talked about several future events:

November 8, 9:30 a.m. - Linda Sedgewick and Maureen Stellato, will lead a photography field trip to NYC to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art's exhibit of Diane Arbus, an acclaimed photographer of the 20th century.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2016 Meeting, Continued

November 21, 9:30 a.m. - The Photography Committee will have a workshop on Adobe Lightroom to learn how to download and organize your photos.

February 21, 10:30 a.m.: This year's photography show will take place at the Watershed. "Thank you" to Ted and Penny Thomas for the space. Rick Wright, a professional photographer, will be the featured speaker that day. He received his BA degree from Princeton and his MFA from Columbia. On February 25, the GCP will host a cocktail party to celebrate the show. Spouses and friends are welcome.

Provisionals: Emily Firmenich announced the new provisionals for 2016-2017 year, noting their interests and professional positions:

Polly Edleman: Former attorney and mother of three children

Anna Horner: Landscape architect and mother

Wendy Mager: A former attorney involved with Open Space

Beth Beers: Past Chair and active member of Princeton Symphony Orchestra board and mother of two.

Treasurer's Report~ Our treasurer, Nora Decker, was absent/excused, thus our Finance Chair, Mary Funsch, gave the report and presented the 2016 - 2017 budget. Some points:

-Fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends June 30.

-She reviewed the breakdown of the budget and defined: Community Trust, Administrative, and Educational. She asked everyone to review the budget handouts carefully.

-The Community Trust budget includes contributions to other non-profit organizations, as well as the budgets for Civic Projects, the Monarch Butterfly project and ongoing expenses for Memorial Park. Income is derived from French Market and other restricted contributions from members.

-The Administrative budget includes membership dues and insurance, hostesses contributions, workshops and committee and general expenses

-The Education Fund includes donations received for educational purposes such as last year's Solar Suitcase, and support for club representatives attending GCA conferences.

All questions can be directed to Mary or Nora Decker. Nancy Hearne, Lisa Stockman and Martha Sword questioned the list of organizations we support, and suggested looking into making larger donations to fewer organizations to make a greater impact. Mary thanked them and will bring the suggestions to the next meeting of the Finance Committee. Betsy asked for final questions or suggestions and barring none asked for a motion to approve the budget. The 2016-2017 budget as read and presented was unanimously approved.

Visiting Garden's: Barbara Gallup and Barbie Bromley, co-chairs, requested that people sign up for the October 6 field trip to Meadowburn Farm. Quinn Teal-Sullivan, manager, will be the tour guide. The fee is \$95., and will cover the cost of admission, lunch and the bus. We will meet at the Princeton Shopping Center, at the Rite Aid side, at 8:00 a.m.

Announcements:

- October 1, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. - Debbie and Larry Jordan will be hosting the Opening Cocktail Party at their home. Members are encouraged to bring appetizers. Please RSVP to Debbie ASAP.

- Morven Festival of Trees: This year the club will be decorating the center hall of Morven. Betsy sent around a sign-up sheet.

- Green Book corrections were announced.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2016 Meeting, Continued

- October 20 – 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The Zone IV reps meeting will take place at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. President, Treasure and Committee chairs, (Bulletin, Civic Projects, Conservation, Floral Design, Horticulture) are strongly encouraged to attend.

Betsy reviewed the procedures to log onto the GCA and the GCP websites with input from Mary Bryson.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m. and the membership was invited to view the Horticulture Show and enjoy the Tea.

Tracy Sipprelle, Secretary

HORTICULTURE: Louisa Clayton, Kathy Enquist, Jane Murphy

Timely Tip for Amaryllis Bulbs:

Fall is the time to transition your Amaryllis bulbs into a period of dormancy. If you have them outside in your garden, bring them inside, tip the potted bulbs on their sides, withhold water and fertilizer and move the pots to a location where they can be kept in a cool (around 55 degrees) and dark environment. A dark, dry basement, a garage that doesn't freeze or a cool closet is often recommended. If you have planted your bulb in the garden during the summer, it is recommended to repot it immediately after removing it from the ground, as you do not want to allow the roots to dry out.

In order for the bulb to re-bloom, it must have a dormancy period of 8-12 weeks. As the leaves yellow and wither, cut them off at the top of the bulb. Most Amaryllis bulbs will lose all or most of their leaves during dormancy.

Check on your bulbs after 8 weeks for signs of new growth emerging from the bulb. When you see the tip of new growth, it is time to prepare the bulb for re-blooming by repotting in fresh soil, watering, and placing it a sunny location.

Fall Care of Boxwood (GCP's Plant of the Year):

Fall is the best time for boxwood planting and transplanting.

The American Boxwood Society also says that fall is the time for thinning your English boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa'). This can be done anytime between October and December. Thinning is done by removing small branches about 6" to 8" in length which reduces the denseness of the overly thick foliage at the end of the branches and exposes the shrub's branch structure. By thinning your boxwood, you allow sunlight and air circulation to reach the interior of the boxwood. Increased sunlight encourages the growth of leaves along the entire length of the stem. Increased air circulation helps prevent fungal diseases that can destroy English boxwood. ALWAYS use clean, sanitized pruners to make your cuts. NEVER break them off.

Terrarium Workshop on November 4:

Please mark your calendar now and plan to travel with us to PHS Meadowbrook Farm for a workshop to create a terrarium for exhibiting at the Philadelphia Flower Show and/or exhibiting at the May in-club Hort Show. More details about this event can be found in your green book. To reserve yourself a space at this workshop, a signup sheet will be circulated at the October meeting or you can RSVP to Louisa Clayton by November 1. You will not want to miss out on this fun and educational event!

CIVIC PROJECTS

The Civic Projects Committee is off to a great start! On September 26, under the guidance of past chair, Sophie Glovier, President Betsy Griffith, Wendy Mager, Meg Michael, Kathleen Murphy and Candy Walsh placed several plants, including Viburnum, Swamp Milkweed, Cardinal Flowers and Great Blue Lobelia at Veteran's Memorial Park. Thanks to all who helped with the planting and weeding.

Next on the calendar is the Fall Clean-up on Monday, October 24 at 9:00 a.m., **at Veterans Memorial Park**, followed by lunch at the home of Tracy Sippelle at 12:45 p.m. to discuss the committee's new project for spring 2017. Please RSVP to Tracy by October 20.

HISTORIAN: BARBARA CHATHAM

Since we have just recently approved our club's budget for the fiscal year 2016-2017, it seemed appropriate to look back on an amusing tidbit from past minutes in our history book:

"In her treasurer's report on June 4, 1957, Betsy Carrick announced, 'There is a balance of about \$2,600 in our club's bank account, even though the bank's statement does not reflect that amount. Unfortunately, the Princeton Bank & Trust Company has been depositing French Market funds into the account of the Princeton Garden Center.' Mrs. Carrick was assured that this error would be rectified soon."

VISITING GARDENS: Barbie Bromley, Barbara Gallup

October 6 – Trip to Meadowburn Farm

This is a trip you do not want to miss! Meadowburn is an historic garden and working farm located in the Warwick and Vernon Valley. The Garden mission is: To restore, preserve and celebrate the gardens of Helena Rutherford Ely at Meadowburn Farm for the enjoyment and education of the public, and to preserve the existing heirloom cultivars through propagation and distribution. Helena Rutherford Ely was a founding member of the Garden Club of America. We encourage you to go on the website meadowburnfarm.com and read about the rich history and view the beautiful photos of this treasure.

The \$95 cost, (payable to the GCP,) covers everything... the admission, lunch and trip in a luxury bus. We will be meeting in the Princeton Shopping Center, (Rite Aid side,) at 8:00 a.m. and hope to return by 4:30 p.m., depending on traffic conditions. For those arriving at the shopping center early, note that the Dunkin Donuts is open at 7:30 a.m. and has delicious fresh coffee!

GARDEN HISTORY AND DESIGN: Jennifer Closser, Sophie Glovier

Please join us at **Jen Closser's home at noon on Thursday, October 27, (Re-scheduled from Oct. 20,)** to learn more about the practice of biophilic design in cities. Tim Beatley, the author of "Biophilic Cities" writes, "The agenda is one that must extend beyond conventional urban parks, and beyond building-centric green design. It is about redefining the very essence of cities as places of wild and restorative nature, from rooftops to roadways to river-fronts. It is about understanding cities as places that already harbor much nature and places, that can become, through bold vision and persistent practice, even greener and richer in the nature they contain." Visit www.biophiliccities.org to learn more. For example, Washington D.C. has signed on to this movement. Timothy Beatley's book, "Biophilic Cities: Integrating Nature Into Urban Design and Planning." is another way to learn more. We may have a guest speaker, stay tuned

PHOTOGRAPHY: Linda Sedgewick, Maureen Stellato

October 11, 9:00 a.m. - The photography committee is fortunate to have our own Sophie Glovier, author of *Walk the Trails*, guide us on a walk through Princeton's "Central Park," AKA the Greater Mountain Lakes Open Space area. We will meet in the Mountain Lakes parking lot on Mountain Avenue, (next to the driveway for Mountain Lakes House.) Bring your camera and join us.

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://gcaprincedonlocavores.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 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 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. The helpline phone number is 609 989 6853

Did you know: ... Meg Michael's daughter, Caroline, who works at Starbucks in Lawrenceville, has informed us that Starbucks has a bucket filled with bags of used coffee grounds in their lobby, free and available to all interested gardeners. Hours: Monday: Sat. 5 a.m. – 10 p.m.; Sunday: 6 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Kathy Enquist has only 6 copies left of Flowers for Bouquets, by Joanne Lenden, at \$16 a copy. Contact her to get yours.

Deadline for the next Newsletter: October 24, 2016

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

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