

The Garden Club of Princeton Newsletter

March, 2017

Volume 17, Issue 6

Dates to Remember:

March 1
Deadline for Philadelphia Flower Show sign-up

March 3
Beds and Borders orders due

March 9 10:00 a.m.
Executive Committee Meeting
@ Griffith

March 9 noon
Garden History and Design
Speaker: Natalie Shivers
@ Glover

March 14 8:30 a.m.
Bus departs from Farmview Fields, The Great Road, for The Philadelphia Flower Show
GCP Meeting on the bus

March 21 10:30 a.m.
Civic Projects
@ Tracy Sippelle

March 24 11:00 a.m.
Hort. Committee: planning meeting
@ Clayton

April 1
Membership Deadline for:
*Change-in-Status Requests
*Completed New Membership Applications (must reach Mary Funsch)

April 10 10:00 a.m.
Horticulture Passing Workshop
@ Shepard

April 10 noon
Garden History and Design
@ Closser

President's Message

It is February 23. I have been in the garden/field all afternoon. The early morning fog over the fields says it is going to be a warm day...it's February?!?...and the ground is thawing but it is supposed to be winter. It is so warm that I am in short sleeves, face to the warm sun, and looking for my wheelbarrow, because what does one do when it is over 70 degrees. As the day moves towards the end, Kelly and I walk to the open fields and I find a nice flat stump. It is so quiet and the sky is turning pink and turquoise and lavender. Thank you. And then, here they come across the sky...a spotted, wavy line of squawking geese. This event is meant for fall or spring. But it's February and that fresh air perfume is lovely. Patience was this month's word and I repeat it now as I know winter cannot be over yet.

What a talented club we are. If you did not see the photography show or join us with a happy beverage to celebrate The Garden Club of Princeton's Photography Gallery at the Black and White Cocktail party at the Watershed, you still have time to see the exhibit. It is so worth the short drive. Thank you, Maureen and Linda for championing the photography members to this success. And of course, thank you Ted and Penny Thomas for our space.

March 3 is your deadline to order your plants from Beds and Borders. Show your friends the online site. Buy a couple for yourself or as a gift. The plants are high quality and always the perfect combination for sun or shade.

March 14 brings us together again for a member's bus trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show. It is so easy to see the show this way and the camaraderie of our club members and friends makes it a jolly trip. Lunch is provided so no lines. And the floral design ideas we get! It was suggested that we grab a seat for Tim Farrell's floral design competition at 11a.m where we watch creations develop before our eyes.

Mark your calendar for Friday, April 28 at the French Market. It's Arbor Day! So lets plant a tree! No flowers for sale this day, just tree seedlings for the taking and small trees for the buying.

**Go hug a tree!
Betsy**

MINUTES OF THE February 21, 2017 GCP GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

Submitted by Margaret Sieck for Tracy Sipprelle, Secretary

WELCOME: President Betsy Griffith called to order the General Meeting of the Garden Club of Princeton, held at the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Education Center. She thanked hostess Piper Burrows and program chairs Mary Funsch and Piper Burrows for organizing the program, featuring photographer Rick Wright, speaking on "Photographing things for what they are, and also for what else they might be."

ATTENDANCE was taken and a quorum established.

MINUTES of the January meeting were approved.

PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS: Betsy opened the meeting by saying today's word was Patience and with the following inspirational quote from Robert Lewis Stevenson, "Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds you plant." She went on to note that we are a busy club made up of busy members and acknowledged that the club appreciates each person's commitment to the club, which allows you to find your passion and go with it.

Betsy introduced two visitors, Margo Dana of the Garden Club of Somerset Hills, who is the Zone IV Director and Diane Majeski, of the Garden Club of Englewood, who is the Zone IV Chairman for the Garden Club of America. They explained that the difference between their jobs is that the Director is the link between the clubs and the GCA, whereas the Chair is the link to the clubs. They were impressed that we have a Latin motto and our name begins with "The," (uppercase T.) They heaped praise on the wonderful zone meeting we held last year in conjunction with the Stony Brook Garden Club. They encouraged everyone to use the GCA website, the source for all answers garden club, phone numbers, committee responsibilities, etc. They would also love stories for the Zone IV "landing page" on the website, on such subjects as our longtime French Market, accompanied by photographs. They asked if anyone read the GCA Annual Report? No? They recommended we go to the public page, click on Annual Report and find the beautiful, readable snapshot of what the GCA does.

The next Zone meeting will be held at the Frelinghuysen on Thursday, November 9. Betsy closed by remarking how thrilling it is to have 39 photos entered in today's photography show.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Debbie Jordan spoke on behalf of Barbara Morrison and the membership committee. At the committee's February 14 meeting, the committee accepted six provisionals, whose names are in the green book. There will be a coffee at Betsy Griffith's home from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 8, to meet the prospective provisionals. Debbie explained that our current by-laws provide for five provisionals per year, but with an increasing number of our members changing their status from Active to Sustaining and Sustaining to Affiliate, it is increasingly difficult to staff all the committees with only 40 active members. Other clubs in the area have no restrictions. If we hold to our five-person limit and use a wait list, we could lose potential members. In addition, we do not want to be viewed as a very small club. Nancy Hearne is drafting a proposal to amend the by-laws/standing rules. A number of members spoke up, all in favor of expanding from five, but not all in favor of a limitless number, as some had been in a provisional class of seven or eight, and felt it was too large. A vote of two thirds of the membership is needed to amend the by-laws. This will be done by email or at the April meeting. Debbie also reminded the membership that requests for a change in status must be submitted in writing, and received by Mary Funsch before April 1.

Conservation: Kathleen Biggins announced that the PBS documentary "Rachel Carson" will be shown on Wednesday, February 22, at 6:30 p.m., at Margaret Sieck's house. Eight people indicated they would attend.

MINUTES OF THE February 21, 2017 MEETING, continued

Kathleen reported that she is getting notices from GCA Conservation about conveying our views on environmental issues with the new administration in Washington. Kathleen will send out more information about contacting our legislators regarding royalties from oil/gas being cut from protecting land/water and national parks.

Kathleen will open the National Affairs and Legislation (NAL) meeting of the GCA on Tuesday, February 28 at 8:30 a.m. with the climate change primer she has developed with her fellow C-Change members. Debbie Jordan asked if club representatives could meet with legislators on both sides of the aisle. Kathleen indicated that meetings were generally held with administrative aides. The GCP will be well represented, with Kathleen Biggins, Wendy Mager, Sophie Glovier and Helena Bienstock attending.

Floral Design: Stephanie Wedeking announced that Tim Farrell, the “King of Floral Design,” will be speaking at the Philadelphia Flower Show at 11:00 a.m., demonstrating three different arrangements, and speaking about the elements and principles of design.

On March 28, at 10:30 a.m., there will be a workshop on Ikebana flower design, taught by Daphne Townsend of Stony Brook Garden Club. Daphne has lived in Japan. There are eight spots. The cost is \$25. As there was so much interest by members in attending, there will be a lottery for the spots. Ikebana will replace Botanical Arts as a show category in the May show. The Princeton Adult School is also offering a class in Ikebana.

Fall French Market: Betsy Hoover announced that the Beds and Borders information had been sent out, (and is in the March Newsletter,) and the deadline for orders is March 3. Money raised from this effort benefits Civic Projects.

Founders Fund: Katie Cutler passed out ballots for the Founders Fund. By the end of the meeting it was determined that the Greater Milwaukee Camp Whitcomb program was the choice of our club.

Garden history and Design: Sophie Glovier announced that at noon on March 9, Natalie Shivers, associate university architect in charge of the master plan, will speak about the path along Washington Road that The GCP supported long ago. She will discuss changes and restoration to the path.

Horticulture: A Lunch and Learn is scheduled for Tuesday, February 28 at 11:00 a.m. at the Present Day Club on the subject of boxwoods, our plant of the year, with Andres Fillipone from Pottersville, NJ. The cost of the presentation and lunch is \$40. Please contact Jane Murphy at jane@karney.com to RSVP. For the bulb-forcer: The daffodils should be up about 5” and the Blue Pearl crocuses should be brought in March 2. Chard seeds are coming for us to plant.

Philadelphia Flower Show: Piper Burrows announced that on March 14, the bus for the Philadelphia Flower Show will leave the Farmview Fields parking lot on the Great Road at 8:30 a.m., and depart the Flower Show at 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$50 for a ticket and box lunch. Those who are members of the PHS should inform Piper.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saturday, February 25, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., a fund-raiser will be held at the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association Education Center, featuring the wonderful photographs created by our members. The cost is \$35. per person, payable at the door. Please wear black and white clothing! RSVP to Robin Gosnell.

April 28 is Arbor Day. At the French Market, we will be giving away seedlings of a hardwood and an evergreen tree provided by the state of New Jersey. We will have special trees for sale and a jar for donations. Cynthia Larsen suggested we provide instructions for caring for the trees.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

HORTICULTURE: Louisa Clayton, Kathy Enquist, Jane Murphy

The Garden Club of America encourages its members to propagate plants with this catchy saying, "Sow it, Grow it, Share it, Show it." The Horticulture Committee is further encouraging you in these efforts by including a seed propagation challenge class for growing Swiss chard from seed in the May 16 Horticulture Show Schedule. (See Class D of May's schedule for details.) Swiss chard was chosen for several reasons: (1) it is easy to grow from seed, (2) the plants can be used as an ornamental plant in a mixed border or container, (3) it is delicious raw or cooked, and (4) it is one of the most nutritious vegetables available.

Growing chard from seed is simple. Here's how to start the seeds indoors.

1. To hasten germination soak seeds for 12 to 24 hours before sowing.
2. Fill a propagation pot most of the way with potting soil.
3. Sow a few seeds in the soil, ½" deep. Water the soil until it is moist, but not wet enough that water runs out of the bottom of the container. Set the container in a location that receives full sunlight for most of the day.
4. Examine the soil after a few days, looking for sprouted seeds. When 1/2" tall, thin out all but the strongest of the seedlings, leaving only one in the pot for the seed propagation challenge class. If two sprouts appear to be growing from the same seed, cut away the weaker of the two with cuticle scissors. This will help the plant focus its energy for optimal growth.
5. Pick outer leaves regularly once the plant begins to mature to allow room for new growth. Water the plant as needed to maintain soil moisture.
6. As your chard grows, you may need to transplant it into a larger pot for May's Horticulture Show.

The reported health benefits of Swiss chard are many, and include the ability to regulate blood sugar levels, prevent various types of cancer, improve digestion, boost the immune system, reduce fever and combat inflammation, lower blood pressure, prevent heart disease, increase bone strength and development, detoxify the body and strengthen the functioning of the brain.

Swiss chard's health benefits are attributed to its impressive list of vitamins, nutrients, and organic compounds, which include vitamins K, C and A, as well as vitamin E, riboflavin and vitamin B6. In terms of minerals, Swiss chard has an abundance of magnesium, manganese, potassium, iron, sodium and copper. Furthermore, in addition to dietary fiber, Swiss chard has a significant amount of polyphenolic antioxidants, phytonutrients and enzymes that are unique and beneficial to your health.

MEMBERSHIP: Barbara Morrison

Members are encouraged to review the "Membership Requirements" on pages 26-27 of our current green book. Any change-in-status requests should be submitted by letter to the Membership Committee, and received no later than April 1. Please mail your request to Mary Funsch, 204 South Harrison Street, Princeton, NJ 08540.

Members who are proposing candidates for membership should submit the final candidate application, which includes the proposer's letter, a seconding letter, and a support letter. They should be mailed to Mary Funsch, (address above,) to be received no later than April 1.

GARDEN HISTORY AND DESIGN: Jennifer Closser, Sophie Glovier

Please join us March 9 at noon at Sophie Glovier's house for lunch and a special Garden History & Design Committee meeting. We will have a special guest, Natalie Shivers, University Architect. She will be speaking about the ways in which Princeton University is using landscape design to enhance our local environment. We will also discuss the history of the wildflower path installed along Washington Road by the Garden Club of Princeton in years past and the current use of that site. Please RSVP to Sophie at glovier8@aol.com

BEDS & BOARDERS: Betsy Hoover

One of our great Civic Project annual fund-raisers is the Beds and Boarders Container Collections. They are a design solution for planning and purchasing your container plants. There are fourteen design options, each including nine plants, easy to follow instructions and are packaged in a wooden pine square box. The containers will be delivered to Betsy Hoover's house between April 25 and May 5. We will be informed of the exact date a week before delivery to Betsy. You pay for them when you pick them up.

All orders are due by March 3

Directions:

Please go to the web-site: www.bedsandboarders.com and study the selections. Email your choices to Betsy at: hanover3@aol.com. If you do not have email, please call me at 609 462 2375.

Each container set costs \$65.

Example:

Betsy Hoover	#	Selecton	Indiv. Cost	Total
	3	Alabama Sunset	\$65.	\$195.
	1	Lime Cooler	\$65	\$ 65.
	4	Container Sets for a total of		\$265.

Order Form:

Name:

Email address:

Order: # of sets	Selection Name	Price	Total
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You may add to your order other items from their web-site catalogue. The cost for these will be 2X the wholesale price.

CIVIC PROJECTS: Tracy Sippelle

The Civic Projects meeting is scheduled for March 21, at 10:30 a.m. at Tracy's home, 81 Chambers Street. We will be discussing the plans for the new YMCA/YWCA civic project and fundraising ideas to accomplish it. We will also be discussing signage for the plantings at Veteran's Memorial Park.

The first spring clean-up will be on April 11, at 9:30 a.m. We will be cleaning up both Veteran's Memorial Park and Mercer Island.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Linda Sedgewick and Maureen Stellato

The Annual Photography Show took place at our February 21 meeting at the Stony Brook Watershed. The show, *Seeing Beyond the Obvious, Can You See What I See?* was a huge success with 40 submissions by 16 of our members. The show's schedule, Reflections, Chiaroscuro, Stormy Weather, Finding a New Perspective and Break the Rules consisted of 5 abstract categories that allowed the photographer to look beyond the norm. The show's "Class I: Reflections" was given a commendation by the judges. They stated, "There are many levels of reflection and we have been stretched beyond the OBVIOUS to select the winners!" Linda Sedgewick, Kathy Enquist, Ted Thomas and Maureen Stellato earned blue awards for their entries. Linda Sedgewick's beautiful and very creative reflection photograph was selected as the Best in Show.

As the entire schedule of the show was a bit out of the ordinary, our speaker, Rick Wright, was a perfect match to illustrate the different ways of interpreting what we experience and also what we see. Rick's statement, "Photography suffers the unfortunate condition of looking like reality and it is the first thing to transcend the photographer," was his lead-in to a very artistic and creative presentation. Rick is an architectural photographer, fine artist and instructor. His architectural imagery centers on crafting narratives and highlighting critical themes in the design. He captured his audience with his recent work of photographing plastic laundry detergent bottles in black and white appearing as African masks. This was a dramatic representation of seeing beyond the obvious.

As we move into the spring, please stay tuned for another scheduled photography workshop on iPhone with James at the Apple Store in Quaker Bridge Mall.

PROGRAM: Piper Burrows

The Philadelphia Flower Show sign-up deadline is March 1. The bus departs at 8:30 a.m. from Farmview Field on Tuesday, March 14, and leaves the Convention Center at 1:30 p.m. to return to Princeton. The cost is \$50, inclusive of transportation, entry ticket and a boxed lunch. Please send payment and direct all questions to Piper Burrows: 609 213 6780; address: 10 Castle Howard Court, Princeton, NJ 08540.

An Invitation from The Friends of Princeton Open Space

Mountain Lakes: A Lens on the Seasons, Opening Reception

March 10, 5:30-7:30PM, at the Arts Council of Princeton, 102 Witherspoon Street, Princeton,

An exhibition of Frank Sauer's extraordinary color and black and white photographs of The Billy Johnson Mountain Lakes Nature Preserve, the heart of Princeton's "Central Park," showing the Preserve's beauty in all four seasons. Exhibition Dates: March 10 – April 30. (Sales of photographs will benefit the Friends of Princeton Open Space, which maintains and enhances the Preserve for all to enjoy.)

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 be sure to let the hostess know if you are not staying for lunch.



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 recipes. 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, Cecelia Mathews, for assistance.

Horticultural Activities and Expectations: “Barbara Bromley’s Monthly Tips for Mercer County, NJ,” at www.mgofmc.org/monthlytips.html. The helpline phone number is 609 989 6853

Deadline for the next Newsletter: March 24, 2017

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

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