

The Garden Club of Princeton Newsletter

April 2017

Volume 17 Issue 7

Dates to Remember:

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 **RESCHEDULED to 5/2**
Garden History and Design
@ Closser

April 11 9:30 a.m.
Civic Projects – Spring Clean Up
@Veterans Memorial Park

April 13 10:00 a.m.
Executive Committee Meeting
@ Betsy Griffith

April 18 10:30 a.m.
GCP Meeting & Hort. Show
@ D&R Greenway

April 21 **CANCELLED**
French Market

April 25 9:30 a.m.
Civic Projects – Planting
@Veterans Memorial Park

April 28 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
NEW TIME
French Market
@ Mercer Island Park

May 2 10:00 a.m.
NEW DATE & TIME
Garden History & Design
@ Woodrow Wilson School fountain

May 5 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
NEW TIME
French Market
@ Mercer Island Park

President's Message

Commitment: Webster's dictionary defines it as a promise to do or give something; a promise to be loyal to someone or something; the attitude of someone who works very hard to do or support something. I focus on commitment today because I am reminded of a generation of our members who are in their late 70s+ and who are just now slowing down. They have been committed to the GCP for many many years and have brought new and exciting ideas to their committees. The high standards that we have today were driven by these women and I am still learning how to do "it" better from them. Recently one of these women came to me and asked that she take a back seat. When she told me all of the committees that she had chaired and the jobs that she has completed I was amazed and losing her in her current job will be a loss. Yes, life was different 20-30 years ago but I have the most respect for these women who loved the Garden Club of Princeton and were committed to its success.

Membership Requirements: So at this time of the year we need to remind each active member of her requirements because we are getting close to our year-end. The most pressing is your need to attend 5 of the 9 member meetings this year; and you must enter a minimum of two shows a year. One must be floral design or horticulture. The second may be floral design, horticulture or photography. If you have not entered a show yet, you have 3 opportunities in two meetings to get it done. April will host our horticulture show and May is our Annual Tea (all hands on deck as this is always special) and will be your final opportunity to enter as there will be a horticulture and floral design show. Sign up A.S.A.P. for the floral design show as there are limited opportunities.

The April meeting will feel like a reunion. Please come and let's catch up. I feel as if it has been a long time since the photography show. I will have all the committees posted on a cork board so you can sign up for committees for next year. Our committees give us so many opportunities to learn about plants, sustainability, how to incorporate trees in your yard, how to impress your friends with your abilities to make your table, sideboard or mantel look amazing to mention a few. And while you are learning, you are having fun!

What's Next! Do you have showable flowers or branches in your yard? Do you have peonies in your garden? Do you need a great gift of flowers for Mother's Day? Do you want to share cuttings from your garden with your members? Can you help us clean and plant the Veterans Memorial Park and have you ever been there? Do you need to know what shrubs and perennials you cannot live without in your yard? *If you answered "yes" to any of the above questions....then do not miss our last two meetings.*

And finally.....I have to be honest. In my last note to you I mentioned that I was potting my acorn that had started to grow.....Well, I mistook a sphagnum stick for a growing acorn, therefore I am still awaiting that spark of life from the cold green in the plastic bag.

Betsy

CONSERVATION/NAL – submitted by Pam Mount

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Kathleen Biggins was the kick off speaker presenting our C-Change Primer to over 300 Garden Club of America's National Affairs and Legislation delegates from around the county at the three-day conference in Washington, D.C. Kathleen presented the primer eloquently and passionately. The room was completely still.

The Primer demonstrates the scientific bases for how our climate has and is changing.

Kathleen answered 5 questions thought to be on everyone's mind:

- 1 How do we know Climate Change is real?
- 2 How do we know that it is us?
- 3 What do scientists really think?
- 4 Is it dangerous?
- 5 Is there hope?

The response was a sustained standing ovation, the only one of the convention!! It created a huge buzz!! Many delegates asked us to present to their clubs/communities from California to Rhode Island, and/or help train them to start a C-change Conversation group.

It was Fantastic!!

CIVIC PROJECTS – Tracy Sippelle

This is a reminder that the Civic Projects Committee will be meeting on April 11 to do a spring clean up of Veterans Memorial Park to prepare for our plantings on April 25. We will meet at Veterans Memorial Park at 9:30 am. If we have enough volunteers and time permits on April 11, we will also be cleaning up Mercer Island. Please let Tracy Sippelle know if you would like to participate on either day. Thank you! Tracy, 609-287-0509

FRENCH MARKET – Tracy Sippelle, Christine Callaway

This year, French Market will begin on Friday, April 28, Arbor Day, at 11:00 a.m. and will run until 2:00 p.m., the only time slot. Note that this is a change from the green book. We will be selling beautiful tree seedlings in honor of the special day. Please note the following dates for French Market, which will begin at 11:00 a.m. and end at 2:00 p.m.: May 5, May 12, and May 19. Please let Tracy Sippelle (609-287-0509,) know if you have any flowers from your gardens you can donate to our French Markets. We are also looking for two captains and four "worker bees" for each of the weekly French Markets. Details on the specific themes will be discussed at the general membership meeting. Thank you for your support.

FLORAL DESIGN – Stephanie Wedeking, Jennifer Fenton

Floral Show Opportunity:

[On October 13](#) and 14 of this year, the Garden Club of Madison will host its first-ever GCA Flower Show. The title “The Rose City: Preserving the Past, Protecting the Future” honors our beloved Borough of Madison. Registration opens [April 1](#). Email Stephanie for class descriptions.

Tuesday, April 25 at 1:45 PM - Meeting at Stephanie's

Open to all members! Join us as we talk about new things in Floral Design and plan for next year. Ask questions, share what you know, what you've seen, learn something new, get inspired, give your input, brainstorm about the May show. Show and tell.

RSVP to stephanie.wedeking@mac.com.

Friday, May 12: Mother's Day French Market – This is a Provisional Requirement. The Floral Design Committee is expected to create and sell Mother's Day arrangements.

May 16 Meeting and FD Show

Please note that Class I has been changed to Ikebana. Email Stephanie to sign up for the May Show.

Class I: Ikebana, (the Japanese art of floral arrangement.)

A floral design in the ‘Asian manner’ to be staged on a 42" high grey pedestal. **(Stay tuned for how many sides from which it will be viewed).**

Limited to 6 entries.

Class II: Isn't it Romantic?

A hanging design staged from a medium gray frame. Design will hang from a central hook, which is (TBD)" from the floor. Frame size is 60" high and 30" wide. Design not to exceed 10" in depth from the center hook. Viewed from the front.

Limited to 4 entries.

Class III: A Placement Class to be judged as a par class.

Limited to 6 entries.

GARDEN HISTORY AND DESIGN – Sophie Glovier, Jennifer Closser



The Garden History & Design committee welcomed Princeton University's Associate Architect, Natalie Shivers. She gave us the exciting news that vestiges of the path along Washington Road that was given by the Garden Club of Princeton in honor of our first president still exist as this photograph illustrates. We will be walking along the route of the path and also learning more from Princeton University about future plans for this area and how we may be able to help bring aspects of the original wildflower path back to life.

On May 2, at 10:00 a.m., we will meet at the Woodrow Wilson School fountain, walk the path and look for the plaque. Please join us!

HORTICULTURE: Louisa Clayton, Kathy Enquist, Jane Murphy



The Garden Club of Princeton winners at the 2017 Philadelphia Flower Show are:

Polly Edelmann — 1st place, Novice Tulip Class, *Tulipa* 'Foxtrot'

Julia Garry — 2nd place, Novice Tulip Class, *Tulipa* 'Foxtrot'

Debbie Jordan — 3rd place, Novice Tulip Class, *Tulipa* 'Foxtrot'

Penny Thomas — HM, Gardens in Containers, Terrarium

Photo taken by Jeannette Ching.

Monthly Hort Tip

Find horticultural information at [Rutgers Master Gardeners of Mercer County](#). Check out their timely blog which this month is “Jumpstarting Spring: Starting Seeds Indoors”. Specific questions? Call 609 989-6853.

April Events

All members are invited to attend our **Passing Workshop** on MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at Dorothy Shepard's, 118 Library Place, Princeton. We will review the fine points of *passing* in preparation for our April and May shows including a review of the American Daffodil Society's classification system. Anyone scheduled to pass at the April or May Horticulture Show must attend. All members of the Horticulture Committee are encouraged to attend to prepare for being passers in the future.

Our **Horticulture Show “Daffs and Friends”** is TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2017. See the Green Book for the list of classes for the show. Select your best, freshest blooms and groom them at home. To help prepare your daffodils for the show, read “Get Ready to Enter April's Daffodil Show” reprinted on page 5.

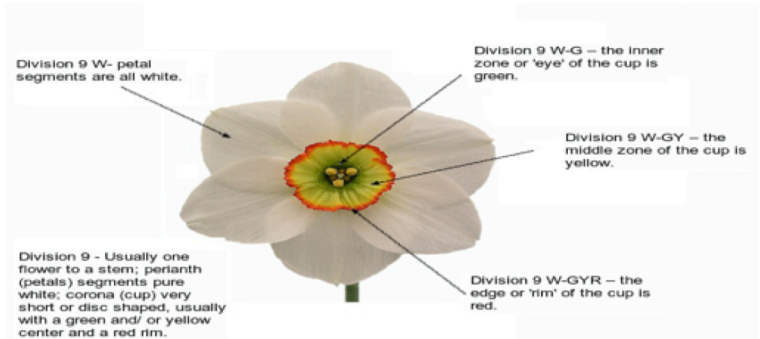
SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBER – Congratulations KATIE CUTLER!

KATIE CUTLER was awarded the “Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Award - 2017” by The Cultural & Heritage Commission of Ocean County. A five-minute documentary of Katie's life and work, filmed by the county this winter, will be shown on the big screen at Ocean County College in April! To preview this inspiring video click on the following link: https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B5x5Ci_NKfQYc3lHY2tBTnNiWDQ Katie is being honored, in part, because of her interest in raising awareness of the maritime history of the Jersey Coast with two recently shown collections of her paintings. Katie's hope is to expand this awareness throughout the state. One collection, entitled “**400 Years of Maritime Barnegat Bay History**,” is permanently housed at Sotheby's International Realty located at 532 Lake Avenue, Bay Head, across the street from Katie's cottage and studio. The exhibit is open to the public, Mon. – Fri., 10 - 3 and Sat., 10 - 2. Katie would love to give any maritime art lovers a personal tour.

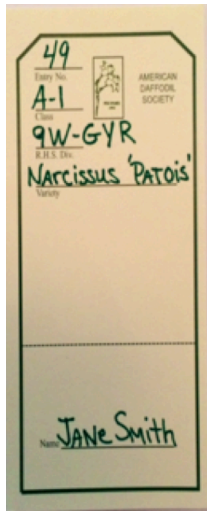
Get Ready to Enter April's Daffodil Show

The first time you see a daffodil show, you may be amazed by how many different kinds are entered into the show, a bit confused by the daffodil classification system, and puzzled by how the judges could possibly choose one particular daffodil to win a blue ribbon when all of them were so beautiful. Knowing the classification system will smooth the entry process at the club's "Daff and Friends" horticulture show; and understanding the criteria used to judge daffodils will help us select and prepare the best daffodils for the show.

There are over 25,000 named cultivars of daffodils. The Royal Horticultural Society classifies them into thirteen divisions. The division number indicates a daffodil's form and the letters following indicate color of the perianth (petals) and corona (cup.) For example see Narcissus 'Patois' pictured at right. It has a RHS Division Code of 9W-GYR.



For April's daffodil show it is critical that you know the cultivar names of your daffodils before entering them into the show. By knowing the cultivar, the RHS Division Code can be found by using DaffSeek's daffodil database found on the Internet at <http://www.daffseek.org>. Passers will help identify ONE bloom per customer, but it behooves the exhibitor to do her own research on DaffSeek before coming to the show to avoid those last minute nervous breakdowns. Remember - the show entry card requires information on the variety (or cultivar) and the R.H.S. Division Code. See example of a correctly filled out entry card on the left.



Daffodils are judged according to eight criteria: Condition (20%), Form (20%), Substance and Texture (15%), Color (15%), Pose (10%), Size (10%) and Stem (10%). Of these criteria, Condition and Form are the most important.

Good condition means it should be fresh, clean and at the perfect stage of development. It should not show any faults such as injury, dirt, rain spots, pollen on cup, be too old or too young, anthers brown, ovary swollen, sheath badly mutilated or absent (never remove). Groom your entries before coming to the show. You can clean blooms with a moistened Q-tip or small paintbrush. Some experts swear by the use of skim milk to moisten the Q-Tips and others by their own saliva.

Good form means it should have petals that are flat and overlapping, balance of all parts to each other, and perfect roundness of the cup. Daffodil cups can be ruffled, serrated or notched and if they are any of these, they should be even and regular.

With a few exceptions, pose means the flower should be looking you right in the eye (or should we say, the judge's eye) and be on a straight stem. Triandrius daffodils (Division 5) are the exception and always face downward.

Explanations for each of the American Daffodil Society's eight judging criteria can be found on the Garden Club of Princeton's web site. Look for the link to Daffodil Judging Criteria on the Hort Committee page of the web site.

Daffodils symbolize rebirth and new beginnings. They are virtually synonymous with spring. We are certainly looking forward to spring this year, and to seeing your beautiful daffodil entries at the April horticulture show.

HISTORIANS – Barbara Chatham & Sandi Tatnall



History of GCP's French Market Cart

In 1951, Joan Prentice Von Erdberg, Chairman of the French Market, reported that her mother had "graciously donated" a decorative garden cart manufactured by a pushcart company in New York. An awning and flower containers of various sizes were obtained and the cart became a welcome addition to the French Market scene. The cart was stored below the then Town Topics headquarters directly across from the French Market park.

After some years of heavy trundling of the cart to its place in Town Topic's cellar became too difficult, a new home was found at Melon and Hallett Johnson's farm on Pretty Brook Road. There it acquired a new role in the pool area of their property while occasionally being lent to the Antique Show at PDS for Wellesley's fundraiser. In the late 1970's, the Johnsons needed to find a new home for the cart, so Sandi Tatnall suggested that an auction be held within the club for the cart. Sandi began the bidding at \$100 and that was all it took. The cart was now housed in her barn and resumed its role as a centerpiece by the pool in the summer, loaded with geraniums, iced tea and sandwiches. It was a delightful addition to her family's warm, summer days.

When Sandi moved into town in the '80's, the cart went with her and, once again filled with flowers, it sat on her patio looking decorative and beautiful in the summer. In 1999, Sandi moved again. This time the cart had to be stored on the back porch of her new residence, exposed on three sides to the elements. The cart was now almost 50 years old. The winter did it's damage and the cart deteriorated rapidly.

It was shortly after this that Barbara Gallup, our "knight in shining armour," volunteered to rescue the cart and had it lovingly restored. It remained at her farm until she moved to her new home a few years ago.

The cart is now kept at Morven where it will be on display and filled with lovely flowers and plants at the annual *Morven in May Festival* on May 5, 6 and 7. It will be showcasing Morven's exceptional plant sale and drawing attention to the spectacular craft show that occurs each year during the month of May. Do come and see our Garden Club of Princeton's garden cart once again as it contributes to this wonderful and worthwhile function and to the community.

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: April 24, 2017

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

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