

The Garden Club of Princeton Newsletter

May 2017

Volume 17 Issue 8

Dates to Remember:

May 2 10:00 a.m.

NEW DATE & TIME

Garden History & Design Walk
@ Woodrow Wilson School fountain

May 5 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

NEW TIME

French Market - Cinco De Mayo
@ Mercer Island Park

May 9 1:00 p.m.

Conservation field Trip & Lunch
@ Veterans Memorial Park

May 11 10:00 a.m.

Executive Committee Meeting
@ Betsy Griffith

May 12 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

French Market - Mother's Day
(Provisionals)
@ Mercer Island Park

May 16 2:00 p.m.

**Annual meeting & Tea
Horticulture and Floral Design
Shows
@ Firmenich**

May 19 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

French Market - Beautiful Herb
Gardens
@ Mercer Island Park

May 31 Deadline

GCP Membership dues to Nora
Decker, Treasurer

June TBD 10:00 a.m.

Horticulture Propagation Workshop
Led by Bob Mahler in preparation for
GCA Zone IV Flower Show
@ Bowman's Hill Wildflower
Preserve, New Hope

President's Message

It comes so fast - this Spring. Once the temperature starts to rise and the air changes its scent, it's time. As a dirt-under-my-nails gardener, it's then that I start to dig in the garden to see what has happened over the winter. This is the time to get organized and start cutting back the dead in my garden because by the first of May, the peonies are knee high, the daffodils are almost over, next the lilacs, the lily of the valley and the dappled willow and on and on. If you have not cut back the lirope, the hydrangeas, the nepeta, the amsonia and the natives by now you have a lot of work on your hands. And that is just my little garden. It happened so fast.

Now Kathy Enquist has already covered her flower beds with a thin layer of compost. The Master Gardeners have already been to her garden to divide the large clumps and if you were lucky enough to pick up some of her golden-earthed plants last week, you probably have something special. The Master Gardeners plant sale is May 6. Get there early and you will find Kathy and Jane Murphy ready to help you with plant ideas. Then let the fun begin!! You may want to channel Bruce Crawford, our April speaker from Rutgers Gardens, for new ideas on mixed borders with perennials and shrubs. I was inspired.

And Spring has come to our club as well. We have four provisionals who are new active members and five new provisionals who are all pretty incredible. We have a new Executive slate and new committee heads and we are already planning our new agenda for next year. We have learned about five new Spring understory trees and at our first French Market this year we will give away 200 new tree seedlings.

The May Annual Tea is really one of my favorite Garden Club events. It is a blast because it is a celebration of our year and what we have learned and earned together. Keep reaching for the New and do not forget your Hat.

Betsy

Minutes of the April 18, 2017 GCP General Membership Meeting:

Submitted by Tracy Sippelle, Recording Secretary

Welcome: Betsy Griffith thanked the program chairs, Piper Burrows and Mary Funsch, and the hostesses, Sharon Lorenzo and Kathleen Murphy. She read a note from Barbara Morrison and reported that Barbara Gallup is at home feeling better and thanked everyone for their well wishes. Betsy encouraged members to reach out to Barbara if they had not already done so.

Roll Call: Tracy Sippelle made the roll call and a quorum was achieved.

Inspiration: Betsy read the Chinese proverb for inspiration: "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The next best time to plant a tree is today." Betsy then reported on the trees that she, Martha Sword and Kathy Enquist selected from the Pleasant Run Nursery to have for sale at the French Market on Arbor Day. She will be taking pre orders. The following native and non-native trees were chosen by Betsy, Martha, and Kathy for the sale:

Halesia Carlina (Carolina Silver Bell)

Cerces Canadenses (Cross Wicks Red)

Brooklynensis Lois (Magnolia)

Aeschylus Paviflora (Buckeye Red)

Davidia Invalucrata (Dove Tree)

Awards: Mary Funsch presented a "GCA Judge Emeritus" to Vicki Trainer. The plaque was issued in 2014.

Conservation: Helena Bienstock and Wendy Mager reported on their visit to the NAL meeting in Washington D.C.. Helena thanked Kathleen Biggins for her work on C- Change and mentioned she was the only presenter who received a standing ovation at the NAL meeting. Several topics were discussed at the NAL meetings, some of which included talks on waste management, food supply and the impact of climate change on the environment. Speakers included senators and congressman from both sides of the political aisle such as Ryan Costello, Republican Representative from PA and Sheldon Whitehouse, Democratic Representative from RI. Mrs. Whitehouse, wife of Representative Whitehouse, spoke on Ocean Conservatory. Wendy Mager mentioned the meetings with Representative Bonnie Watsman Coleman and Senator Cory Booker. Wendy reported that Rep. Coleman spoke on the importance of environmental jobs and hiring for National Parks. Senator Booker spoke on the importance of improving air quality and removing diesel, and clean water initiatives and encouraged that a C-Climate Change presentation be done for congressional staff. Menendez spoke on the elimination of drilling and the importance of contacting your senators about your concerns.

Floral Design: Stephanie Wedeking reminded everyone of the Floral Design Meeting at her home on Tuesday, April 25 at 11:45 a.m., which will include lunch. This is a time change from the green book. This meeting will provide the opportunity for committee members to share their ideas for the upcoming 2017-2018 year. The committee will discuss new products they have discovered, proposals for floral design workshops and techniques they would like to study.

French Market: Tracy Sippelle reported that the new times for French Market will run through lunchtime this year: 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The upcoming calendar was reported with corresponding themes for each market. The schedule follows:

April 28: Arbor Day: In celebration of the day, GCP will be giving away free tree seedlings. Tracy thanked Betsy Griffith who got 200 seedlings (100 red oak and 100 evergreens) to give away to customers. There will be a donation box available for those who want to contribute to Civic Projects' new Y beautification project on Paul Robeson.

Minutes of the April 18 meeting, continued

. **May 5: Cinco De Mayo:** Tracy presented a colorful container (tomato sauce can) which held bright colored flowers as an example. She gave the arrangement to Deb Jordan and thanked her for her support of Civic Projects.

. **May 12: Mother's Day:** Stephanie Wedeking will lead a project with the Provisionals for Mother's Day. She is currently reviewing ideas.

. **May 19: Beautiful Herb Gardens:** Tracy and Christina will design 20 beautiful herb gardens in wine crates or Beds and Borders boxes. If you have Beds & Borders and wish to donate them, contact Tracy.

Tracy reported that she needed members to volunteer to be a captain or a worker-bee for at least one market. She reported that the town has been notified about the time change and asked to cover the meters during the market and that the water has been turned on.

Civic Projects: Tracy Sippelle thanked everyone who showed up to the Veteran's Memorial Park Spring clean up. She reported that she met with a landscaper for summer maintenance and that the spring annuals will be donated again by John Mastroanni and will go in on May 8 at 9:30 a.m. at Veteran's Memorial Park. She also mentioned that the Y beautification is off to a great start and that the new garden path is due to be completed late spring. Tracy reported that the fall cocktail party this year will be held at the Y in support of the Y beautification project.

Garden History & Design: Betsy reminded GCP members of the Washington Road Walk on May 2 at 10 a.m. Participants will meet at the Woodrow Wilson Building.

Treasurer's Report: Betsy Griffith gave the Treasurer's report for Nora Decker as Nora was clerking. Membership fees are due in the next few weeks. Forms were available to members at the meeting.

Membership: Betsy Griffith read Barbara Morrison's note to the club. The following are next year's provisionals for 2017-2018, approved by the Executive Committee:
Susan Broeker, Veronica Bryant, Millena Coffey, Fina Raccuia-Behling, Elizabeth Wasch.

The following members have status changes:

Provisional to Active: Beth Beers, Polly Edleman, Anna Horner, Wendy Mager.

Active to Sustaining: Katie Cutler, Marlene Doyle, Sharon Lorenzo, Charlotte McLaughlin, Avril Moore, Margaret Sieck

Sustaining to Affiliate: Kay Brush

Leave of Absence: Kathy Enquist (active), Kristin Giese (active)

Nominating: Marlene Doyle announced the new slate for the Executive Committee. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. The slate is as follows:

President: Betsy Griffith

Vice-President: Robin Gosnell

Corresponding Secretary: Leigh Bartlett

Recording Secretary: Cheryl Mooney

Member at Large: Barbara Morrison ('18)

Member at Large: Jennifer Del Vecchio ('19)

Treasurer: Piper Burrows

Minutes of the April 18 meeting, continued

Horticulture: Jane Murphy announced that at the next meeting the committee will discuss plans for the 2017-2018 year. The date will be determined in the next few weeks. She announced that there will be a Master Gardeners sale on May 6 at Rutgers.

Visiting Gardens: Betsy announced that Louisa Clayton will be chairing Visiting Gardens next year.

New Business: Emily Firmenich encouraged everyone to attend the May annual meeting and to **WEAR HATS**. A Paperless Post invitation to the meeting was sent out.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m. Betsy Griffith introduced the speaker: Bruce Crawford, the Managing Director of Rutgers Gardens, a 180 acre official botanic garden of Rutgers University. His program, "Mixed Borders - Thoughts on Blending Shrubs and Perennials," showed us how gardens can be enriched and made lush by combining shrubs and herbaceous materials.

HISTORIAN, Barbara Chatham & Sandi Tatnall

Although The Garden Club of Princeton has reached its 116th anniversary, its history of giving annual awards actually began in 1929 with the Genevieve Thompson Award, a vase given to the member who, in all aspects, contributed the most to the club during the previous year. The vase was donated by Genevieve Dallas Thompson who was an active member of the club from 1916 until 1925. Born and raised in St. Louis, she met her husband, a professor of mathematics at Princeton University, while visiting her sister in Princeton. Their first home was at 11 Morven Place, but after the death of her husband, she moved to the Princeton Inn. A very attractive and popular member, she served as treasurer during her affiliation with the club. Since then, the club has expanded its array of awards to include exceptional achievement in horticulture, artistic design, conservation, and photography, among others.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

The Horticulture and Floral Design Shows at our Annual Meeting and Tea provide the last exciting opportunities to fulfill your membership requirements this year.

The **Horticulture Show**, "Flowers that Bloom in the Spring Tra-La" offers classes that will showcase: A) the best blooms from your garden... perennials, shrubs, tree branches, vines and geophytes; B) Cut Specimen collections; C) Boxwood collections; D) A propagation challenge class featuring Swiss Chard (*Beta vulgaris*); E) Houseplants; and F) Terrarium Gardens. If none of these choices appeal to you, there are always the "Par" and "Educational Merit" categories. Be certain to read the class descriptions in the schedule in our green book carefully, as well as the Horticulture Guidelines on pages 29 and 30 of the green book.

Pre-registration is required for each of three classes in the **Floral Design Show**: A) Botanical Arts Brooch, limited to 6 entries; B) Isn't it Romantic, limited to 4 entries; C) A Placement Class to be judged as a par class, limited to 6 entries.

Be sure to read the Floral Design Classes Guidelines on Pages 28 and 29 of the green book.

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

Remember to visit the upcoming plant sales:

Master Gardeners - May 6 – 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Rutgers Gardens Spring Flower Fair - May 12 – 14, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Deadline for the next Newsletter: August 5, 2017

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

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