

Topiary Times

A New Jersey Non-Profit Corporation

www.womengardenersofridgewood.com

93rd year, since 1925



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer today, winter tomorrow... whatever happened to Spring? I have yet to see any daffodil blooms in my yard and I hope my magnolia can figure out when to flower... thank goodness we gardeners are a resilient bunch! I just hope the plants are resilient as well...

What an informative presentation by Stokes Farm proprietors at our last meeting! Please fill out the surveys distributed so we can plan for more interesting speakers next year and get your feedback on all club matters. We are interested in making the WGR a club that best serves its members which can only happen with your participation.

Looking forward to seeing you at one of the many activities coming up this month and culminating on June 3 for our Secret Gardens Tour where our club really comes together to put on a spectacular community event! See all details below and join in!

Jenny

FRIDAY, MAY 4

Ridgewood Library Auditorium

Board Meeting 10:30 a.m. – Luncheon 12 Noon

TOP 10 GARDENING MISTAKES

Dail Reid, Horticulture Consultant,
will discuss what not to do in the garden
in this presentation with Club participation.

Business Meeting

HOSTESSES: Dorothy Folger, Carol Lehmann, Marianne Maher,
Dianna Unver and Betty Wiest

If unable to attend, please notify Carol Lehmann, c414l@aol.com

LIBRARY DESK FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS ON THURSDAYS

4/29 Judy Scanlan

5/3 Linda Steffens

5/10 Roberta Svarre

GROUP LIBRARY FOYER DISPLAY, MARCH 15-29 *photo by Maria Gilosa*



Ginny Bryan, Mandy Clark, Eileen Dowling, Gail Modelski, Betty Wiest were thinking Spring.

NEXT GROUP LIBRARY FOYER DISPLAY, MAY 17- JUNE 3 *(2+ weeks to accommodate Garden Tour)*

Martha Blanco, Eleanor Collins, Judy Collins, Irene de Castro and Lyn Wirtz

YEARBOOK - Please contact Judith Field, judithwfield2@gmail.com, with any corrections, changes or additions for the yearbook.

(Page 14 – add) Leigh Saltiel, 215 Brookside Avenue, Ridgewood, NJ 07450, phone: (201) 444-1890
cell: (201) 637-2329

GCNJ DISTRICT 1 MEETING - APRIL 19, 10:00 AM - Laurelwood Gardens Arboretum, Wayne, NJ

DAFFODIL FESTIVAL & EARTH DAY FAIR - SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Van Neste Square

The 5th annual Daffodil Festival and Earth Day Fair are sponsored by The Conservancy, the Ridgewood Recycling Department and the Ridgewood Environmental Advisory Committee. This year WGR is partnering with Goffle Brook Farms to distribute their plants to the public. Please visit or join Jenny, Joan, Sharon & Lisa for this fun event.

MESSAGE FROM JANEL CLINCH

I want to first thank you all of you for your support, kind words and flowers, that I have received at this very sad time for me. I cannot tell you how proud and honored I am to be a part of this wonderful garden club. I have been a member for over 25 years. And in all those years, my husband, Carleton, has praised this club for the great job they have done, not only for the community, but for the members who make it such a strong and caring club. It is a club I cherish and it gives me strength in my time of sorrow. Thank you for being there for me.

ORCHID SHOW - APRIL 4 at the New York Botanical Garden - *photos submitted by Betty Wiest*



Maria Gilosa, Judith Field, Gail Modelski and Betty Wiest saw orchids of all sizes, shapes & colors displayed at NJBG.

GARDEN TOUR UPDATE

The tri-fold invitations, which include info about the tour and how to purchase tickets, will be mailed out in a bulk mailing the week of April 16th. Tour Tickets will be ready for sale on April 23rd. They will be sold through PayPal on our website, at local vendors, Backyard Living, Bookends and Mango Jam and by mail. Jenny Given and Sharon Gilsenan are taking pre-orders for the box lunch at \$14 each, available the day of the tour. Sandwiches are being prepared by Catchy Cafe in Ho-Ho-Kus, choices are listed on the WGR website. Please bring a check along with your sandwich choice to the next meeting. The James Rose Center, which will be featured on the tour, has asked for volunteers to help with a garden cleanup on Saturday, April 28 and Sunday, April 29. Please email Maria at mariagilosa@mindspring.com if you can help. The next full Tour Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 24th at 10am at the Stable.

DOCENTS FOR TOUR UPDATE

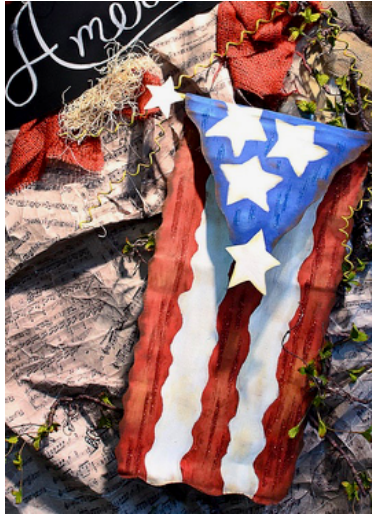
All active WGR members are expected to work one of three shifts during the Garden Tour. The exceptions include members helping with the Potting Shed, Hospitality and with the boxed lunches from Catchy in HHK. If you have scheduling concerns or a special request, please contact Barb Masarky at bmasarky@tarvinrealtors.com or phone her cell, (201) 390-0303. If by chance you are out of town that weekend, please find a replacement docent. All docents, including members and volunteers, will receive a complimentary ticket for the tour!! Lisa Betancourt and Barbara Masarky extend sincere thanks in advance to you for working a shift and they want you to know that you are a 'vital' part of the Garden Tour!

HOSPITALITY REQUESTS FOR GARDEN TOUR - SUNDAY, JUNE 3 at the Stable.

It is requested that everyone in the club make 2 dozen cookies, bar desserts, or tea bread (cut small) with no added nuts for the Garden Tour. Please deliver your food to the Lester Barn on or before 9:30 am. For convenience place your finger food on an attractive disposable plate or platter.

POTTING SHED UPDATE

ALL Donations are greatly appreciated and the proceeds go to club projects! Donations to date are from: Mandy Clark, Toni Cohen, Judy Collins, Irene de Castro, Barbara Ferrante, Judith Field, Karen Fox, Barbara French, Marcia Frifield, Library Garden and Reference Room. Debbie Engel is taking other items now with thanks. Please phone her at 917-678-6235, or e-mail her at kidsengel@gmail.com with any questions.



Needed: floral, garden and yard equipment, tools and décor - power or manual, antique, gently used or new!

GARDEN GATE RESOURCE ROOM OPEN DAY - APRIL 10, at Habernickel Park

Committee Chairmen, Judith Field and Liz O'Leary, and volunteer Barbara French, spent the Open Day planning the themes for the summer, fall, winter and spring Open Days. Publicity and advertising were discussed. Maria Gilosa and Barbara Ferrante dropped in. The next Open Day will be Tuesday, May 8, 1-3 p.m. Please contact Liz O'Leary at ploleary@yahoo.com or Judith Field at judithfield2@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer to help on May 8 or June 12.

NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK, JUNE 18-25

Ridgewood has been designated the first "Bee City" in New Jersey. This effort was spearheaded by Frank Mortimer, President of the Northeast NJ Beekeepers Association, who is a local beekeeper in Ridgewood. To raise awareness of the role of pollinators, the week of June 18th has been designated as National Pollinator Week. Many organizations, such as The Conservancy for Ridgewood Public Lands, HealthBarn, the Bergen-Passaic Native Plant Society, and the Ridgewood Public Library, have partnered to present a week of events. The Women Gardeners of Ridgewood is sponsoring noted guest speaker, Rick Mikula, "The Butterfly Guy" on Saturday, June 23rd, at 11 a.m. at Bookends. Rick is a Habitat Consultant for numerous museums, zoos, aviaries, universities, and parks, such as Dolly Parton's Butterfly Emporium at Dollywood and the Hershey Gardens Butterfly House. Rick has also been featured on Animal Planet and the Discovery Channel, as well as in newspapers, magazines and on the radio. Rick's presentation will be delightful for the whole family. We are indeed lucky to be part of this event. All costs for this event will be underwritten by the Northeast NJ Beekeepers Association. We are in need of four volunteers to help at Bookends, Saturday, June 23rd. Rick Mikula's talk is scheduled at 11am with a book signing to follow. Please contact Sharon Gilsenan at sfg165@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering that day.



The Green Kids did a "Rock Art" project on April 5 at the Stable – *photo by Maria Gilosa*

GREEN KIDS, THURSDAYS, 3:30 PM-4:30 PM, at the Stable, 259 N. Maple Ave., Ridgewood
 To volunteer, contact Leslie Kolvek, lesliekolvek@verizon.net or Anthea Luter, abluter@hotmail.com.

- April 19 The Buzz on Bees - The children will learn about honeybees and the value of these vitally important creatures from Frank Mortimer, Chair of the Northeast Bee Keepers Association. He will give a demonstration with a live beehive and have a honey tasting.
- April 26 Caterpillar to Butterfly - The children will be introduced to the life cycle and stages of the butterfly. We will house 'Painted Lady' caterpillars while they transform into butterflies. The children will learn about the Milkweed plant and plant some in their perennial garden.
- May 3 Rain Barrels and Water Conservation - The Children will assemble a rain barrel for the Green Kids garden and learn about water conservation from the Ridgewood Water Department.
- May 10 Wind Chimes for Mother's Day -The children will create wind chimes from bamboo and give them as Mother's Day gifts.
- May 17 Butterfly Release & Planting in the Garden - The children will plant flowers in the garden and release the butterflies to their new home in the garden.

LUNCHEON AND PROGRAM – APRIL 6, at the Library Auditorium – *photos by Judith Field*



Hostesses were Nancy Bigos, Leslie Kolvek, Judy Collins, Joan Kokoska and Judy Scanlan. Speakers were Jeanine and Ron Binaghi Jr. from Stokes Farm in Old Tappan, NJ.

THE GARDEN CONSERVANCY OPEN DAYS

Sharon Gilsenan will be attending the Saturday, May 5th Open Day in New Jersey. Please let her know if you would like to attend so plans can be made ahead of time, and let her know if you would be able to drive if needed.

SATURDAY, MAY 5TH – NEW JERSEY

Essex County

- The Secret Garden@377, 10 to 4
The Gotelli Garden at Harrison Park Towers
377 South Harrison, East Orange
- Greenwood Gardens, 10 to 5
274 Old Short Hills Road, Short Hills

Morris County

- Jack Lagos, 10 to 4
23 Pine Street, Chatham
-

Somerset County

- The Hay Honey Farm, 10 to 5
130 Stevens Lane, Far Hills
 - Stone House Garden, 10 to 4
121 Stevens Lane, Far Hills
-

SUNDAY, MAY 6TH -- CONNECTICUT

Fairfield County

- 12 Bayberry Lane, Greenwich, 10 to 4
 - Sleepy Cat Farm, 10 to 4
146 Clapboard Ridge Road, Greenwich
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SATURDAY, MAY 12TH – NEW YORK

Litchfield County

- Cobble Pond Farm, 1 to 4
1 West Woods Road, Sharon
 - Covered Bridge Gardens, 10 to 4
290 Lake Road (Route 45), Warren
-

SATURDAY, MAY 19TH – NEW YORK

Westchester County

- Phillis Warden, 10 to 4
531 Bedford Center Road, Bedford Hills
 - Shobha Vanchiswar and Murali Mani, 10 to 4
76 Castle Road, Chappaqua
 - Clementine Close, 10 to 4
107 Cherry Street, Katonah
-

SUNDAY, MAY 20TH – NEW YORK

Nassau County

- Carol and Jim Large's Garden, 10 to 4
14 Underhill Road, Locust Valley
 - Howard Phipps Jr. Estate, 10 to 4
75 Post Road, Old Westbury
-

For more information on the individual gardens please visit the Garden Conservancy's website @ opendaysprogram.org

Admission to each garden is \$7. Since WGR is a member of the Garden Conservancy, Sharon is able to purchase tickets in advance at half price - \$3.50 for each garden. These tickets are good for any garden and do not expire. Please contact Sharon Gilsenan for advance ticket purchase so you can get the discount.

NOMINATING UPDATE

The Nominating Committee would like to thank our members who have agreed to take on positions for the upcoming year. WGR is a very active club. Thank you to our incoming and outgoing officers and committee chairmen who allow us to continue our various club activities and events. We are still in need of a Publicity Chair. This position could be filled with one, two or three people working together. We are also in need of a chairperson for the Stable Garden. This Garden is an integral part of The Green Kids program, so please give this position consideration as well. Please contact Anthea Luter at abluter@hotmail.com, Jenny Given at jgivfam@gmail.com, or Sharon Gilsenan at sfg165@gmail.com if you are interested. Many thanks!!

WGR SURVEY 2018

Please drop off or mail completed surveys to Jenny Given at 265 Mountain Avenue, Ridgewood or Sharon Gilsenan at 65 N. Van Dien Avenue, Ridgewood, whatever is more convenient. They want to hear from our members for next year's planning purposes, which is starting now, so the sooner everyone responds, the better. If you need a survey, please phone Jenny at (201) 612-0508 or email her at jgivfam@gmail.com, and she will get it to you.

MINUTES FROM THE LAST GENERAL MEETING – APRIL 6

Present: Betancourt, Bigos, Blanco, Clark, Clinch, Cohen, Collins, E., Collins, J., de Castro, Dowling, Engel, Ferrante, Field, Folger, Fox, French, Frifield, Garfield, Gilosa, Gilsenan, Given, Halaby, Hyslop, Kokoska, Kolvek, Lehmann, Luter, Maher, Modelski, O'Leary, Palatucci, Perog, Scanlan, Steffens, Vermylen, Wiener, Wiest

The meeting was called to order at 12:40 by Jenny Given, President.

President's Report: Jenny Given thanked the hostesses for a wonderful luncheon and the beautiful floral arrangements. Jenny let the membership know that Dianna Unver's husband had had a double lung transplant in Philadelphia and was doing well. Dianna will be there for a few weeks while he recovers. Janel Clinch thanked the membership for their support following the death of her husband.

Membership: Carol Lehmann let the club know that we had 4 guests at today's meeting. Janel Clinch introduced her guest, Nancy Ricca. This is Nancy's second meeting. Eileen Dowling introduced her guest, Chantal Cannon; Eleanor Collins introduced her guest, Pat Hanley, and Carol introduced Megan DeVoe who came to us through our web site.

Treasurer's Report: Eileen Dowling reported that our balance on March 1, 2018 was \$13,401.58 and our balance on April 1, 2018 was \$14,993.63. We had income from dues and from Pinot's Palette from our workshop there.

Daffodil Festival: Jenny let the club know that we would be partnering with Goffle Brook Farm at the Daffodil Festival on Sunday, April 22nd. Goffle Brook Farm has a table and they will supply small plants and we will supply the volunteers at the table. Jenny needs about 6 volunteers. She passed around a sign-up sheet.

Programs: Jenny told the club that she and Sharon had created a survey that she would like all club members to fill out and return to her or Sharon. The survey asks for information regarding the kinds of programs members have enjoyed and found worthwhile, as well as asking the membership for their feelings and ideas about other projects and activities the club is currently sponsoring. Jenny said the survey will be very helpful going forward as we plan for next year.

Public Gardens: All the gardens are still dormant and waiting for warmer weather. Judy Collins reported that she had found out that the grant that had been written for the Library garden to the National Garden

Club had been turned down. But Judy has been contacted by the Garden Club of NJ who suggested that Judy apply for a "civic award" from the GCNJ for the Library garden. Judy has done that. The award will be \$50.

Garden Tour: Maria Gilosa asked club members to sign up to help the James Rose House with their spring cleanup. It will be on Saturday and Sunday, April 28 and 29. The James Rose House is on the garden tour. Maria has order forms from the Ho-Ho-Kus garden club for their annual spring plant sale. The next full garden tour committee meeting is on Tuesday, April 24 at 10 AM at the Stable. The ticket is almost ready to go to the printer. Samara Saunders and Leigh Saltiel are working to get PayPal set up so that both tickets and the box lunch can be ordered and paid for with one visit to the PayPal site. The tri-fold mailing will be going out on April 23rd. If anyone has names and addresses that they would like included in the mailing they should e-mail Maria. Club members can order a box lunch for themselves for the day of the tour. Maria will have a sign-up sheet at the next meeting. Maria has "save-the-date" cards for anyone who wants some. Lisa Betancourt reminded everyone in the club that they must serve as a docent for at least one shift with the exception of the hospitality committee and the potting shed committee. If a club member knows that she will not be able to serve as a docent she must get a sub for herself. Lisa also said that members should contact Barbara Masarky if they want to serve on a particular shift. She will try and meet all requests.

Executive Vice President's Report: Sharon Gilsenan thanked everyone who has agreed to serve on the Board next year. She said we still have 3 openings. We need a publicity chair, a third person for the program committee, and someone for the Stable garden. Sharon said planning is going ahead for National Pollinators Week in June. We will be hosting Rick Makula on June 23rd.

Green Kids: Anthea Luter reported that the first session of the spring program was held yesterday, April 5. There are 6 or 7 kids registered and they painted rocks to look like bugs and leaves. Leslie Kolvek will take the rocks home and shellac them so the kids can put them in their gardens. The kids also spent time in the Stable garden. There are 5 more sessions. The birdhouses the kids made last fall have been hung in the trees. The green kids program received a wonderful letter from an 8th grader who had been a participant in the past and she asked to become a volunteer with the group this spring. She was with the group yesterday.

Trips: Betty Wiest let the membership know that she is planning a spring trip to the "Hidden Gardens of Beacon Hill" from May 16-May 18. Betty has plans for a number of activities. An e-mail was sent to everyone outlining the extent of the trip and its approximate costs, so everyone should refer to that e-mail for details. Betty has 6 people signed up so far and needs to know by Monday April 9 who is planning to go so she can reserve a block of hotel rooms.

Scholarships: Joan Kokoska and Mandy Clark reported that we had only 2 applicants this year, and neither was qualified to receive an award, and so we will not be giving out any grants this year.

Potting Shed: Debbie Engel, Judy Collins, Janel Clinch and Jeannette Wiener are collecting items for the potting shed to be held during the garden tour. They are storing stuff now, so items can be delivered to them at any time.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Toni Cohen, Co-Recording Secretary