

Topiary Times

A New Jersey Non-Profit Corporation

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94th year, since 1925



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 12:00 NOON

Ridgewood Library Auditorium
125 N. Maple Ave., Ridgewood

SOIL AND NATIVE PLANTS

Mike Kolenut speaks about organics and how to introduce natives into a home garden or landscape that will sustain beneficials and pollinators.

Business Meeting

HOSTESSES: Janel Clinch, Nancy Ricca, Mary Vermylen,
Betty Wiest and V. Udeshi

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a wonderful way to start our new year with the beautiful Fall Luncheon we all enjoyed at the Health Barn! Mandy, Eleanor and Marianne did a splendid job with the beautiful flowers and table decor to create a welcoming feeling to our new garden year! Thank you to members H-Z for providing a most delicious lunch. I know everyone thoroughly enjoyed it, Many thanks to all of you!!

Autumn is beginning to make itself known. The first foliage is beginning to turn soft orange and yellow, the sun is descending in the sky, our hours of daylight are lessening, and the activity of the birds and butterflies preparing for their journey south are all ways Mother Nature lets us know that Fall is on its way. After the blistering heat of the summer, Fall, with its cool crisp air, will be most welcome!

As gardeners we are always looking forward to the next season, so it is fitting that WGR looks forward to our

next season of garden club activities. I encourage all of our members to be involved in at least some, if not all, of these events. Our committee heads welcome member participation and as the old saying goes, "The more you put into something, the more you get out." With this in mind we look forward to the start of our Green Kids program on October 4th, the New Member Tea on October 9th, the opening day for our Resource Room on October 9th, the Floral Design Trade Show Workshop on October 10th, and the opportunity to work in our Garden Club gardens whose cleanup/planting dates will be posted here in this Topiary Times. Many thanks to all of you for your participation and hard work!!
Enjoy October!

Sharon

VAN NESTE GARDENS CLEANUP – FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 9:00 AM

This Summer VAN NESTE proved to be a pleasant place in our Central Business District, but there is some tidying up to be done now, and your help would be greatly appreciated. Please come to VAN NESTE for some dead-heading and weeding to "spiff-up" this very visible park for the Fall season. An hour or so of your time would make a big difference and keep our Downtown looking welcoming and cared for.

BOARD MEETING – MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 10:00 AM at Carol Lehmann's home, 414 Hawthorne Place.

LIBRARY GARDEN CLEANUP – TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2 (Rain Date Wednesday, October 3), 9:00 AM

Judy Collins and Debbie Engel want to extend a huge "thank you" to all who helped maintain the Library Garden this summer – "The garden looks great thanks to you". An early fall clean up will be held, so bring your clippers and diggers for pruning, weeding, planting spring bulbs, fall annuals and stonecrop sedums. There is lots to look forward to, including the possibility of placing stepping stones.

NEW MEMBER TEA – TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1:00 PM at Sharon Gilsenan's home, 65 N. Van Dien Ave.

All Club members are invited to a tea at Sharon Gilsenan's home to welcome our new members to the Women Gardeners of Ridgewood. We are looking forward to our Garden Year ahead! Cookies, refreshments, tea and coffee will be served. Kindly RSVP to Carol Lehmann, Membership Chair, by October 1.

GREEN KIDS – THURSDAYS 3:30-4:30 PM

OUTDOOR NATURE SCULPTURES - OCTOBER 4, at the Stable, the children will use their imaginations to create outdoor sculptures using nature's bounty, as they learn the work of Andy Goldsworthy.

FROM GARDEN TO TABLE – OCTOBER 11, at the Health Barn, the children will go on an exciting garden-to-table adventure exploring an organic, production garden, composting and harvesting and making something delicious to eat.

MANDALA DESIGN WITH HARVEST BEANS – OCTOBER 18, at the Stable, the children will use dried beans and natural materials to create a Mandala type collage picture.

THE STABLE – OCTOBER 25, at the Stable, the children will learn about the original story of the once oldest working farm in Ridgewood, go on a scavenger hunt of old farm tools at The Stable and then go outside to learn and see more.

LIBRARY DESK FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS – THURSDAYS, at the Library

10/4 Karen Fox

10/25 Ginny Bryan

WORKSHOP – WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 6-9 p.m. at Hillcrest Gardens, 95 Century Road, Paramus. Enjoy the Floral Design Trade Show. \$10. We are not invited to take part in the raffles. Please contact Barbara French at bfrench269@aol.com or (201) 741-2599.

GROUP LIBRARY FOYER DISPLAY – OCTOBER 11-25

Martha Blanco, Irene de Castro, Barbara Ferrante, Pat Hanly, V.Udeshi

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

(Page 12 - change) Carol Lehmann prefers her email address to be C414L@aol.com

(Page 20 – correct) The cost of the workshop on October 10 at Hillcrest Gardens is \$10, not \$15.

HOSTESS AND HOSPITALITY SUPPLIES – Some supplies are now being stored in the large closet at the Resource Room, such as all the tablecloths and a coffee pot. Any other items needed to set the tables for luncheons and events may be stored on the shelves at the far end of the closet in labeled bins, if that is convenient. They can be picked up and returned there any week day, whenever the building is unlocked, which is usually 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Once inside the front door, go directly upstairs and follow signs to the Resource Room, which is not locked. Open the door and walk in. The storage closet is on the right.

RESOURCE ROOM – The Resource Room on the 2nd floor of the Health Barn at Habernickel Family Park will be open to the public on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 1-3 pm. It will not be open in December, January or August. If small committees would like to meet in this room, there are enough chairs for 12, including the 6 conference table chairs, 4 folding chairs in the small closet and 2 antique chairs near the corner windows. All WGR members are welcome ANYTIME to come to the Resource Room to look over garden books, old yearbooks, albums of our trips, and many photos of members from way back when. Our members may also take out gardening books to look over at home. Please leave the title of the book, the author, and the date on an index card in the wooden box provided. Take the book back when you are finished looking at it, and remove the card after returning the book to the shelf where you found it.

SPECIAL PROJECTS – Eleanor Collins and Irene Palatucci would like to remind you to save boxes, especially those with unique shapes, to be wrapped for decorating Van Neste Park for the holidays. Some wrapped boxes were saved from last year, and it remains to be seen if they can be reused. Wrapping and decorating will take place in mid-November.

MESSAGE FROM DEBBIE ENGEL – “We bought a patio home here in The Woodlands. It's on a small lake. We are totally renovating it while we live in Ken's apartment nearby. It has some good gardening opportunities and nice neighbors. We also bought a condo in a 5 story building on the intercoastal waterway in No. Palm Beach, Fl. After a total renovation on that also, I am looking forward to enjoying a turnkey place to go to by the Atlantic Ocean. Sarah is in her 4th week at college (Baylor University). She likes her independence, higher education and professors. I truly enjoyed working with and learning from everyone, our speakers and community members there [in Ridgewood]. My thoughts are fond ones and everyone is welcome here!”

FALL LUNCHEON – SEPTEMBER 14, 2018 at the Health Barn - photos by Judith Field



Hostesses were Marianne Maher, Eleanor Collins and Mandy Clark.



Lisa Betancourt prepared deviled eggs.



Karen Fox and Irene Palatucci are enjoying lunch.



Eleanor Collins checks on the delicious food prepared by H-Z.

MINUTES OF OPENING LUNCHEON MEETING – SEPTEMBER 14, 2018 at the Health Barn, Habernickel

President Sharon Gilsenan opened the meeting at 1:00. She thanked Eleanor Collins and her committee for organizing the buffet lunch and the lovely garden arrangements on the tables. She also expressed the Club's gratitude to Judith Field for her work on the Yearbook and communications throughout the year.

Judith Field and Sharon Gilsenan reported that the club used a new printer, Printology, for the yearbooks, and that the cost was only \$175 for 70 books.

Sharon thanked Judith Field, Liz O'Leary and Barbara French for their work in the Resource Room over the summer. The room looks lovely, with the addition of a new bookcase. Liz said there was a need for books on vegetable gardening and practical subjects like weeding. She reminded members that the room would be a good site for small meetings. Judy Scanlan offered a book on Ikebana.

Sharon expressed the Club's gratitude to Betty Wiest for the series of trips she organized to gardens in the Hudson Valley. The trips were adventurous and interesting. The Club is grateful to Nancy Bigos, who provided a service to clear the weeds at the Stable garden when the job became overwhelming.

In reference to the survey sent out to Club members last spring, Sharon reported that the majority reported their greatest interest was in interesting programs. There was also general preference in scaling back work in the Habernickel garden.

Sharon pointed out that with a more comfortable financial cushion this year we will consider some other activities. She mentioned a day trip to Newburgh NY to visit Stonegate Farm, home of Matt Benson who is a noted nature photographer and also has a farm to table restaurant. A day trip there would cost each of us \$125. Also under consideration is a demonstration by a professional flower arranger.

A new event planned for this fall is a New Members' tea, to which all WGR members are invited. It will be held at Sharon's home on October 9. All members are requested to RSVP to Carol Lehmann.

Another novelty will be our first evening meeting, to be held at 6:45 on May 2 at the Library. Bruce Crawford from Rutgers will speak on "Color in the Garden." As more of our members are working, an evening meeting may be a welcome event.

A members-only Garden Tour is being considered for next June, opening members' gardens informally to our own members.

Our major public event will be Garden Day, the new name for our traditional Education Day. It will be chaired by Maria Gilosa and held at the Old Paramus Reformed Church. We are looking for 4 sponsors to help defray costs and need members to chair the hostess and publicity committees. Our speaker will be Tovah Martin, who has written several popular books. Her subject will be "Gardening as if the World Depends on Us." Barbara Ferrante will manage her always-popular jewelry sale but there will be no Potting Shed.

Janel Clinch described a group trip that she, along with prospective new member Mary Policano, is planning to go to Portugal in May. She is proposing to include husbands and other family members on the trip. She will email the proposed itinerary to members who are interested. She would like to know by the end of October who wants to be included.

Jeanette Wiener described the annual fundraiser by the Children's Aid and Family Services organization. We have a tradition of providing floral centerpieces for the event, which will be held on October 19 at the Indian Trail Club in Franklin Lakes. They are most grateful for our contribution and it is a chance for members to hone their flower-arranging skills. Jeanette will provide details to those wanting to participate in this enjoyable and charitable activity.

Barbara French described a workshop held at Hillcrest Gardens annually. The fee is \$10 to watch a design extravaganza, eat a light Italian dinner, and have an opportunity to shop for seasonal and floral gifts and accessories. It will be held at 6pm October 10 at Hillcrest Gardens.

The Stokes Farm wreath-making workshop will be held in November. It is listed in the Yearbook. Betty Wiest is trying to organize a private tour for us at Silas Mountsier's garden in Nutley. It is a large, dramatic and creative garden – often shown by the Garden Conservancy – and a private tour would be a

great privilege. She is also planning a visit to the Vanderbilt Mansion in Hyde Park along with lunch at the French restaurant at the Culinary Institute, this time with dessert! She is also working on an overnight trip to Baltimore with a visit to the La Dew garden. She will also be informing us of some interesting lectures coming up at the NYBG.

Treasurer Eileen Dowling announced that the Club's balance at the end of August was \$20,292,61. She reminds us that this must last for 2 years, and that \$10,000 of that has already been budgeted for the current year's expenses. The Garden Tour profit was \$10,917.

Barbara Ferrante announced a tidy-up day on Sept. 21 at 9 a.m, at Van Neste. She reminded us that the by-laws require us to commit to some club project, and emphasized how our labors make a dramatic impression on people who see us working there. She emphasized the impact that the improved garden there has made on the whole Village business district. Jenny Given also describes the appreciative remarks of bystanders who watch us work there and at the Library garden. Judy Scanlan suggests we encourage those bystanders to consider joining us. There are WGR tee shirts in the Resource Room closet, available to new members to wear while working in the gardens.

Jenny Given and Lisa Betancourt, co-chairs for Garden Tour 2020, encourage us to start identifying good candidates for the tour.

Donna Dorsey of Goffle Brook Farm is donating left-over perennials for use in the public gardens.

Membership Chair Carol Lehmann informed us we have 44 active members, 1 honoray member, 8 associate members and 4 prospective members, bringing us close to our maximum of 60.

There being no further business, Sharon Gilsean closed the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Frifield
Co-recording secretary