

Topiary Times

A New Jersey Non-Profit Corporation

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93rd year, since 1925

**FRIDAY, APRIL 6**

Ridgewood Library Auditorium

Board Meeting 10:30 a.m. – Luncheon 12 Noon**STOKES FARMS, OLD TAPPAN, NJ**

Jeanine and Ron Binaghi Jr., 6th generation farmers, will talk about local farming history, the importance of small town farms, and their set-up as part of the GreenMarket network in NYC for supplying “farm to table” products

Business Meeting

HOSTESSES: Nancy Bigos, Judy Collins, Joan Kokoska, Leslie Kolvek and Judy Scanlan

If unable to attend, please notify Carol Lehmann, c4141@aol.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

So far March has lived up to the old adage that it comes in like a lion... and we can only hope that it goes out like a lamb! Gardeners are a resilient bunch, but this is really challenging weather so late in the season! Speaking of which, please consider challenging yourself and stepping up to chair a project or committee next year. I promise, it will be a rewarding experience -- you will do something good for yourself, our club and the community! WGR functions by and for its members, so all of us are expected to participate in whatever way we can. I also invite your feedback on all club matters, so that we can be the club that our members want. I hope to hear from you and see you as well at our next meeting or event, all detailed below. Rumor has it our intrepid traveler aka Betty Wiest will be back from her cross-country adventures...

I, for one, look forward to the end of March, the exit of winter, and new spring beginnings!

Jenny

(Editor's note: see Jenny's photos below)

LIBRARY DESK FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS ON THURSDAYS

3/29 Liz O'Leary

4/5 Dianna Perog

4/12 Samara Saunders

4/29 Judy Scanlan

GROUP LIBRARY ARRANGEMENT

3/15 - 3/29 Ginny Bryan, Mandy Clark, Eileen Dowling, Gail Modelski and Betty Wiest

YEARBOOK - If you have not already done so, you should read the poem on the back cover of the current yearbook. It is too good to miss! Please contact Judith Field, judithwfield2@gmail.com, with any corrections, changes or additions for the yearbook.

(Page 11) Dorothy Folger now has an email address: dorfolger@gmail.com

TRANSITIONING FROM WINTER TO SPRING...



A kousa dogwood is straining under the snow in Jenny's backyard as hellibores are blooming outside her kitchen door.

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

GARDEN TOUR UPDATE

The next full committee garden tour meeting will be at the **Stable on Tuesday, March 27th at 1pm**. Please contact Maria directly if unable to attend. Our tri-fold "invitation" is ready for final print. We are asking for volunteers to stay on after the March 27th meeting to help label the invitation so it's ready for mailing in mid-April.

Thank you to Leigh Saltiel for updating our Website with all ticket info. We will begin testing PayPal soon. Each member is expected to take one docent shift the day of the tour. If you have any friends or family members who may be interested in helping, please email Barbara Masarky and Lisa Betancourt. Please contact Debbie Engel directly if you have anything to donate to the Potting Shed sale.

Jenny Given has negotiated with The Catch-y Caterer, Ho-Ho-Kus, for pre-ordered box lunches. If any of our members would like to pre-order lunch, please let us know. Ticket design has begun; Judith Field completed our map, Barbara Ferrante completed garden descriptions and Liz O'Leary completed sketches of each garden. The James Rose House and Garden will be a feature garden on our tour. They have asked for WGR volunteers to help spruce up the garden before the tour - Work dates are Saturday, April 28th and Sunday, April 29th. A sign-up sheet will be passed at the April Monthly Meeting. Last but not least, we are dedicating this garden tour in loving memory of our good friend, H. Carleton Clinch.

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 is sponsored by The Conservancy, in partnership with the Ridgewood Recycling Department and the Ridgewood Environmental Advisory Committee. As part of the Earth Day event in Van Neste Square, we have agreed to partner with Donna Dorsey to give away a plant provided by Goffle Brook Farm. This is at no expense to us, and we can have a presence at the festival. We will have more details and a sign up sheet at the April meeting.

GARDEN GATE RESOURCE ROOM OPEN DAY - MARCH 13, at Habernickel Park

The March Open Day happened to fall on the day of the third nor'easter in the month of March. Moving north by 1:00 p.m., the storm did not prevent the Resource Room committee, Liz O'Leary, Judith Field and volunteer Dorothy Folger from being there. Judy Scanlan dropped in, as did Maria Gilosa, who took her Garden Tour core committee downstairs to meet.

The next Open Day is Tuesday, April 10, 1-3 p.m. Dianna Unver has volunteered to help. Please contact Liz O'Leary or Judith Field if you would like to volunteer for May 8 or June 12.

WORKSHOP – MARCH 14, at Pinot's Palette in Ridgewood



Paint n' Sip at Pinot's Palette seemed to be enjoyed by all! 10 members & 14 guests painted a "Poppin Peonies" tote bag under a young artist's tutelage and the watchful eyes of her apprentices. Pinot's Palette painted a 'Potting Shed' sunflower sign that the club can use for years to come at its annual event. They donated another charming painting to be sold at the 2018 Potting Shed sale.

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 here in Ridgewood. In celebration of this and 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, Health Barn, the Bergen-Passaic Native Plant Society, and the Ridgewood Public Library, have partnered to present a week of events. In this spirit, 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.

POTTING SHED UPDATE

Please gather any 'Potting Shed' items for donation. The club will sell everything at the 2018 Secret Garden Tour. Donations will be picked up. Each item is appreciated for the benefit of the club. Please phone Debbie Engel at 917-678-6235, or e-mail her at kidsengel@gmail.com with any questions.



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

GREEN KIDS, THURSDAYS, 3:30 PM-4:30 PM, at the Stable, 259 N. Maple Ave., Ridgewood

This is a nature and gardening club for Village youth, grades 3-5, co-sponsored by Parks & Rec and WGR. To volunteer, contact Leslie Kolvek, lesliekolvek@verizon.net or Anthea Luter, abluter@hotmail.com.

- April 5 Rock Art - The children will create painted rocks of snakes, caterpillars and bugs for the Green Kids garden and to take home.
- 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 their garden.

NOMINATING UPDATE

The Nominating Committee is in the process of putting together next year's officers and committee chairmen. If you have any interest in a specific committee or position or if you just want to get involved, please contact Anthea, Jenny or Sharon. It is important to remember that being involved can be very rewarding and presents opportunities to learn, form friendships and most of all, have fun! It promises to be an exciting year!

LUNCHEON AND PROGRAM - MARCH 2, at the Library Auditorium



Karen Fox, Dorothy Folger, Leigh Goodson, Mary Vermynen and Barbara Masarky served lunch, with spring flowers, and cute bunnies decorating the tables. Landscape Design Architect Paul Kubryach discussed old and new gardens.

MINUTES FROM THE LAST GENERAL MEETING – MARCH 2

Present: Blanco, Bryan, Clark, Cohen, Collins, E., Collins, J., Dowling, Engel, Ferrante, Field, Folger, Fox, Garfield, Gilosa, Gilsenan, Given, Goodson, Halaby, Kolvek, Luter, Masarky, Modelski, O'Leary, Palatucci, Perog, Unver, Vermynen, Udeshi

The meeting was called to order at 1:25 PM by President Jenny Given. Jenny thanked the hostesses for a lovely luncheon and flower arrangements.

Vice President's Report: Sharon Gilsenan reported that the nominating committee has met and they were now calling members to fill the committee chairmen jobs for 2018-2019. She said she hoped everyone would say "yes" when they are called.

Sharon reported that the committee putting together the events for National Pollinators Week had met and the planning was going well. We will be hosting Frank Makula, a butterfly expert, who will speak at BookEnds on Saturday, June 23. His talk is aimed for children.

Sharon noted that her daughter, Leigh Saltiel, who had been a guest last month was not able to come to today's meeting due to the weather. Janel Clinch's guest last month, Nancy Ricca, was also not here today.

Treasurer's Report: Eileen Dowling reported that our balance on 2/2/18 was \$12,423.51 and our balance on 3/1/18 was \$13,401.58. The increase was due to collecting the 2018-2019 dues. Eileen reminded all club members that dues have to be in to her by the end of March as she has to pay our dues to the GCNJ.

Programs: Debbie Engel reminded club members that we have a workshop scheduled for Wednesday, March 14 at 4:30 PM at Pinot's Palette. We will be painting canvas tote bags. The cost is \$37 and Pinot's Palette will make a \$5 contribution to us for everyone who attends. There will be wine and snacks. We need a minimum of 12 people.

Garden Tour: Maria Gilosa reported that the tri-fold mailing was in the final stages of being proofread and would be going to the printer soon. The ticket is nearing completion. Barbara Ferrante is waiting only for final information from some of the landscapers involved in some of the gardens. Judith Field has completed the map. Liz O'Leary has nearly finished the drawings that will accompany each garden description. The full committee held its second meeting on 2/27/18 to go over all the various jobs on the committee. The next full committee meeting will be held on March 27 and at the end of that meeting stickers and labels will be put on the tri-fold mailing so it will be ready to go to the post office in mid-April.

The website and FaceBook pages have been updated. The James Rose House has asked for our help with their spring clean up to be held on April 28 and April 29. Maria will have a sign-up sheet at the April meeting.

Judy Collins and Debbie Engel announced that the Potting Shed was collecting items now. Debbie is storing items in her garage and Judy has plants from the Library garden in her yard. They are looking for garden items and items with garden themes. They also have garden books.

Green Kids: Leslie Kolvek reported that the spring term of Green Kids will begin on Thursday, April 5th. At one of the sessions the kids will be painting rocks, so if anyone has smooth round rocks, Leslie can use them. Also, Frank Mortimer of the Northeast NJ Beekeepers Association will be at one session. Other projects the kids will be doing include making rain barrels, making wind chimes from bamboo stalks, releasing butterflies and planting in the garden.

Newsletter: The deadline is March 15.

Resource Room: Liz O'Leary told the members that the resource room has had its first visitor. They are working on getting more publicity.

Public Gardens: Jenny reported that 3 of the grants written to the NGC had been turned down. We have not heard anything about the grant written for the Library garden. Judy Collins is going to check into that. The NGC did indicate that there had been over 400 applications, but it was not known how many grants they had actually approved.

Habernickel Park - will schedule a clean up in the spring.

Library Garden - Debbie Engel has created a poster board of all the plants and flowers that have been planted in the renovated garden. The poster will be at the Library so members can refer to it as the plants come up and start to bloom. Judy Collins and Jenny noted that Johnny, the Library custodian, had planted pansies in the pots at the front door to welcome us today. Judy and Debbie plan to replace the Hinoki Pine that was removed last year.

Van Neste Park - Cynthia Halaby let club members know that two of the three signs that had been made for the park that noted that the WGR had been responsible for the design and up-keep of the gardens were missing. Cynthia has one sign and Jenny Given said she had seen one sign at the top of the stairs at the Ridgewood Avenue entrance. Cynthia said she would keep checking, and asked that club members do the same.

The Stable Garden - Leslie said that the Stable garden was planning to schedule a couple of spring clean up days to be ready for the garden tour.

Special Projects: Eleanor Collins said that the wrapped boxes had been moved from the shed at Habernickel to the basement of the gatehouse there. There was a little water in the basement so they will get some wooden pallets and move the boxes off the floor to keep them dry for next year.

Website: Sharon Gilsenan said her daughter, Leigh Saltiel was working on updating the website. She will be placing our tri-fold mailing on the website. She is also updating the special projects page and adding pictures.

Yearbook: Dorothy Folger now has an e-mail address.

Scholarships: Mandy Clark said that high school seniors have been picking up the scholarship forms and applications and they have their deadlines. We will be contacted by the guidance office when they are ready for us to review.

Old Business: Jenny reminded members that we do not have a publicity chairman this year. Fortunately, we do have a contact at The Record who will be featuring the garden tour in the May 3rd Homescapes special section of The Record. If anyone can help with getting us publicity for the garden tour and the Resource Room that would be very appreciated.

The meeting was adjourned at 2 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Toni Cohen,
Co-Recording Secretary