

Wyckoff Area Garden Club Newsletter

April 2011

President's Message

This month includes Tidy Up Day in Wyckoff on April 2, our TAPPED documentary showing on April 8, Earth Day April 22 and we end the month with our plant sale and butterfly program on the 30th. Think of these events plus our own garden cleanup as building up our stamina to be ready for all the plant sales and subsequent planting that occur in May.



Primula from Janet S.



Winter blooming jasmine from Bea

Just a quick note on Earth Day 2011. The goal of A Billion Acts of Green® is to register one **billion** personal, organizational and corporate pledges to live and act sustainably in advance of the Earth Summit in Rio in 2012. Check it out at <http://act.earthday.org/> Scroll down the recent pledges and consider adding your own.

To avoid repetition, all the details on our two April community events are covered in the emails I've been sending out. I will be taking attendance!! Seriously, hope you've marked your calendars and are planning on coming. Please spread the word to all your friends.

As a gardener and WAGC member, I encourage you to think about what season and/or particular type of plant material most interests you. Do you like the color and endless varieties of Spring blooms present in tulips and daffodils? Do you hunt down the best Rhododendrons to add to your borders? How about paeonies? roses? And of course, who could forget hostas, mums and hellebores. What if you love it all and never miss an opportunity to include time at the local arboretums when you travel. Here are a few plant organizations and sites that are representative of the resources to visit and/or join. I've also listed the names of WAGC members who are familiar with them to chat with and find out more. (I've deliberately omitted Master Gardeners of Bergen County because I plan to write about that group in the May issue.)

- NJ Botanical Garden at Skylands <http://www.njbg.org/> (see Sally as a MG)
- Rutgers Gardens <http://www.rutgersgardens.rutgers.edu/>
- Leonard J. Buck Garden
<http://www.somersetcountyparks.org/parksFacilities/buck/LJBuck.html>
- Frelinghuysen Arboretum <http://www.arboretumfriends.org/>
- Wave Hill <http://www.wavehill.org/> (see Fran)
- Garden Conservancy Open Days <http://www.gardenconservancy.org/> (see Janet S. or Sally but if you have a half hour, ask Barb)

Local Chapters of National organizations:

- Tri-state Hosta Society www.tristatehosta.org/ (see Janet S. or Bea)
- North American Rock Garden Society www.nargs.org, Click on Watnong Chapter (see Janet S. or Barb)

These organizations and sites can really get your juices flowing to learn and do more. The yearly dues or admission fees are small in comparison to what you gain. If you go online and still are unsure, attend a meeting or make a visit. I'll venture a guess you'll be hooked and join.

See you back at Larkin on the 20th as we return to evening meetings.

Fondly, *Barb*

Notes from the March Meeting of the Wyckoff Area Garden Club

We had a wonderful presentation about pelargoriums from Laurel Rimmer of Wave Hill. These scented geraniums make a terrific addition to your garden. Many of them have hairy leaves which often deter the deer. They are not sold widely, although Rohslers in Allendale often carries them. They have a nice supply at Well Sweep Herb Farm – interested members should find a group and make an outing of it! The rose-scented were divine (look for “old fashioned rose”) and several others had lovely growth habits, including “lemon crispum” which had tiny leaves that can be trained into a topiary. “Apple cider” was recommended for its flowers. These plants need good soil and full but not baking sun. Pinch back with your fingers to shape and take cuttings in late summer to bring inside for the winter.

Important Dates to Remember for our Members

April 8th 7:30 pm TAPPED film being shown at Indian Hills High School in Oakland

April 20th Meeting of the Wyckoff Area Garden Club – We return to evening meetings **AT LARKIN HOUSE, 7 pm**

April 30th WAGC Fundraiser: Butterfly Program and Plant Sale 10 am – 4 pm

April Meeting of the Wyckoff Area Garden Club

Wednesday, April 20th at the Larkin House, 380 Godwin Avenue, Wyckoff
Arrive 7:00 to socialize, program begins at 7:30 p.m.

Program: “Edible Herbs” by Jessica Agnello of Jacobsen Landscape & Design

Candidates for the WAGC Board will be announced at this meeting.

Please plan on arriving early for a little socializing and catching up since our last meeting.
Don't forget to 'lug a mug'!

Hostesses for the April meeting:

Jeanne Muller, Sandra Strcquadanio, Lelia Lenzetti

Just a reminder – hostesses are expected to come early to set up and stay after to clean up.

Notes for Potting up your plants for April 30th Plant Sale

- Use a clean pot and size appropriately to what you're putting in. See next bullet.
- Try for a good fit/match between pot and plant -- centered and good height; i.e. not too deep down because the pot is too large or crammed in because the pot is too small.
- Groom the plant. Remove fading flowers, winter burned leaves, etc. Looks count!!
- Include plant information:
 - Latin name/common name
 - Height
 - Light
 - Color and bloom time, ex. “blooms August – October”
 - Comments as to why you like it, ex. “great cut flower” or “smells terrific”
 - Put your initials on the label too so if there is any question we'll know who donated the plant and can contact you.
 - Extra Credit Points if you find a photo and description from a catalog, ex. Whiteflower Farm or the like. Bring to the general meeting or drop off with the plant at Marijke's. We'll put together a master list of them to entice buyers. Full, lush plant pictures are why we all buy right?
- Most importantly, **pot up by April 15** and pamper until you drop them off at Marijke's by April 20. Plants repotted at the last minute will show stress and look wilted. If you wouldn't buy it, what makes you think someone else will?
- **Bring to Marijke's driveway by April 20th.** Please don't bring directly to the sale. Plants have to be checked for bugs and then priced beforehand.

Out and About

April 1-15th: Skylands “Daffodil Delights”, free. Welcome spring with fields of bright yellow daffodils and golden forsythia everywhere.

April 12th, 7 pm, Ramsey Garden Club, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 55 Wyckoff Ave., Ramsey. John Mickel speaks on “Great Ferns for New Jersey Gardens.”

April 15th – 30th: Skylands “Cherry Blossom Splendor”, free. Enjoy the cherry blossoms at Skylands.

April 16th, 10am-5pm and April 17th noon–5 pm: Watnong Chapter of North American Rock Garden Society Plant Sale at the Leonard J. Buck Garden in Far Hills, NJ

April 16th, 10 am: Skylands: Early Spring Wildflower Walk. \$5 donation. Cancelled if rains.

April 26th, 7 pm, Master Gardeners of Bergen County will have Richard Buckley speak on “Understanding White Grubs in Turf Grass”, 1 Bergen Plaza, Hackensack. www.mgofbc.org

May 7th, 9am- 3pm: Ramsey Garden Club’s Plant Sale at the Main Street Train Station. Annuals, perennials, member’s dug-up perennials, special creations by talented designers, gently-used garden-related articles and great Mother’s Day gifts.

May 7th: Frelinghuysen Arboretum Plant Sale

Tastings

Claire made a delicious Irish Soda bread for our March meeting...she shares the recipe here.

MOM’S FAMOUS IRISH SODA BREAD (by Ellen Hogan Tamberelli)

4 CUPS FLOUR	¼ CUP BUTTER (ROOM TEMP.)
¼ CUP SUGAR	2 CUPS GOLDEN RAISINS
1 TSP. SALT	1 EGG
1 TSP. BAKING POWDER	1 ¾ C. BUTTERMILK
2 TBSP. CARAWAY SEEDS	1 TSP. BAKING SODA

IN A SMALL BOWL BEAT EGG, ADD BUTTERMILK THEN BAKING SODA. MIX AND ALLOW TO SIT SO MIXTURE BUBBLES UP. SIFT FLOUR, SUGAR, SALT AND BAKING POWDER IN LARGE BOWL. ADD CARAWAY SEEDS. CUT IN BUTTER TO CRUMB LIKE CONSISTENCY (USE TWO BUTTER KNIVES OR A PASTY BLENDER). ADD RAISINS. QUICKLY ADD LIQUID TO DRY INGREDIENTS. MIX WELL, KNEAD LIGHTLY. SHAPE INTO A BALL AND PLACE IN A GREASED 2 QT. CASSEROLE. CUT A DEEP “X” ACROSS THE TOP OF BREAD. BAKE 1 HOUR IN 350 DEGREE OVEN, TEST FOR DONENESS Y INSERTING A TOOTHPICK IN CENTER. BREAD TASTES BEST WHEN IT’S SLICED AND TOASTED.

Cuttings

Good news/Bad news Facts: There are now more than 6,000 farmers' markets nationwide and 900 are open during the winter. For comparison, this is half the number of McDonalds' restaurants. The average age of the principal operator on U.S. farms is 57 years old.

Source: M. Bittman, NYT, 3/22/11

Looking Ahead: May Meeting of the Wyckoff Area Garden Club

Wednesday, May 18th at the Larkin House, 380 Godwin Avenue, Wyckoff

Arrive 7:00 to socialize, program begins at 7:30 p.m.

Program: "Woody and Herbaceous Companion Plantings" by Bruce Crawford

The Director of Rutgers Gardens will recommend what plant material to add to round out the landscape.

Officers for the 2011-2013 term will be elected at this meeting.

Please plan on arriving early for a little socializing and catching up since our last meeting. Don't forget to 'lug a mug'!

Hostesses for the May meeting:

Eileen Avia, Lois Horowitz, Fran DiGiorgio

Just a reminder – hostesses are expected to come early to set up and stay after to clean up.

This is Your Newsletter

Submissions should be received by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the newsletter. Do you have a photo from your garden? Send me the pdf file and we will try to include it in the next edition! Any questions should go to jamuller@optonline.net