

Wyckoff Area Garden Club Newsletter

September 2011

President's Message

Welcome to yet another new year for the WAGC. Hopefully you all survived Irene with no, or at least minimal, damage to your homes and gardens. This has been a really difficult year for us gardeners but on the brighter side we can anticipate fall planting, putting our gardens to bed in the coming weeks and then hopefully recall our successes as well as the things we want to change. This leads me to our kickoff meeting in September. Remember we now are meeting at



The Lake House at the Wyckoff 'Y'.

Janet's garden

Paul, our vice president, has put together a stellar list of speakers and programs and our first meeting will let members know what was Good, Bad or Ugly as far as plants and tools are concerned.

Hopefully you all took advantage of our bulb sale. Joy, our Bulb/Plant sale chair has informed me we still have a few left that will be sold at the plant /garage sale.

Plant / Garage Sale!!!! Yes you read correctly. We are having our first annual plant/garage sale and it is up to you to determine if we will be successful or not. Hopefully you have been digging, dividing and potting up plants for this event. All donated plants will be 'pure' profit so the more we have the more we make. Andrea has seen to the publicity, flyers have been given out to be placed around town and now all we need are your plants brought to the staging area. Gently used garden items are to be brought to the site on the morning of sale day priced what you would be willing to pay at a garage sale.

Your board has worked very hard to put together informative and exciting projects and programs for the coming year. It is up to you to make this happen.

Anticipating a great year, Janet

September Meeting of the Wyckoff Area Garden Club

Important -- note our meeting place change

Wednesday, September 21st at the Lake House of the Wyckoff Family YMCA. Come at 7:00 pm to gather, 7:30 pm program begins

Program: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Members meet and discuss their success stories and tales of gardening woe for the season— lessons learned.

Hostesses for the September meeting: Donna Brovero, Dee Bernstein, Coralie Cummings

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

Important Dates for the Calendar

September 24th – Plant/Garage Sale, located at the vacant lot between Town Hall and the Getty gas station in Wyckoff. Sale will run from 9 am to 2 pm. See Message from the President for additional details.

Out and About

Club Outings:

Sun Sept 25th, 10 am: **High Line** New York City www.highline.org

Unique garden on old train tracks above ground in lower West Side of Manhattan, NYC.

Car pool from Wyckoff Fire Station car park.

Also in September: **The Farm**, Green Village, Morristown NJ

www.thefarm@greenvillage.com *Fall is for planting! Plant shopping trip at this 32 acre nursery with great selection at reasonable prices. Car Pool from Wyckoff Fire Station car park. 10am.*

Also of Interest:

September 11, 10 am, NJBG invites you to meet the Botanical Garden's wildlife on a Birding Walk at the New Jersey State Botanical Garden. September is a prime migration time. The Bergen County Audubon Society will lead this easy walk as we look for the great birds that visit the NJBG on their fall journey. Wear comfortable shoes and meet at the Carriage House Visitor Center. Rain cancels. This program is free. Rain cancels.

Sept. 12 at 7 pm, Sun Dial Garden Club, Meadowbrook School in Hillsdale. Topic: "Time to Gather" Discussion of successes and problems during the summer season. Examples of success will be displayed. Visitors welcomed.

Sept. 12 at 7 pm, Tenafly Garden Club, Davis Johnson Park, Westervelt Ave. and County Road. Topic: "Happy Hydrangeas"; speaker: Bruce Crawford, Director of Rutgers Garden, who will be bringing plants to sell.

Sept. 14 at 7:30 pm, Oakland Garden Club, Oakland Senior Citizen Center, 20 Lawlor Drive. Topic: "Favorite Gardens of the U.S. and the World"; speaker: Dorothy Smullen, teacher-naturalist at the N.J. Audubon. Tonight's slide presentation will explore gardens that she has visited Contact: 201-337-7285.

Sept. 26 at 11:00 am, "Garden Sprouts - On The Wing" - Monarchs are on the flyway for Mexico and it should be warm enough to see butterflies of all shapes, colors and sizes. Location: Haggerty Center, Frelinghuysen Arboretum. \$5.00 Members / \$7.00 Non-members

Sept. 27 at 7:30 pm, "New Jersey Ferns", presented by Nancy Bristow. *County Admin Building 1st Floor Meeting Room, 1 Bergen Plaza, Hackensack, NJ.* Refreshments at 7:00 PM; Announcements at 7:20 PM. Join an accomplished Master Gardener, Nancy Bristow, Class of 1988, and current manager of the Wildflower Garden at the New Jersey Botanical Garden (Skylands) for an informative presentation of New Jersey Ferns.

Oct. 14 at 10:00 - 11:30 am or 7:00 - 8:30 pm, Herbal Vinegar Workshop. Capture the essence of summer's herb garden in a trio of herbal vinegars. You will make them in 10 oz. glass bottles with cork tops that can be used again and again. Herbal vinegars are incredibly flavorful and make great gifts for the upcoming holidays. This year, we're using balsamic, red and white vinegars, as well as unusual varieties of thyme, including 'Lime' and 'French Market.' We'll even provide raffia to tie at the bottle's neck and give it that authentic artisanal look. Register by October 1st. Location: Haggerty Center, Frelinghuysen Arboretum. \$20.00 Members / \$25.00 Non-members

Oct 15 at 10:00 am- 12:30 pm, New Perennials and Nonstop Gardens with the "Perennial Diva". Writer and teacher Stephanie Cohen brings humor and more than 20 years of teaching experience to the prodigious topic of perennials. Her breadth of knowledge and practical experience will help you to create the garden of your dreams. Register by 10/1. Location: Haggerty Center, Frelinghuysen Arboretum. \$15 members/\$20 non-members.

Growing and Greening our Community – Community Service

The Center for Food Action in Mahwah is again facing very serious shortages. Please bring any non-perishable items you can spare (no glass containers) to the September meeting and we will make sure they are delivered to Mahwah.

In the Garden

PEAK PLANTING AND DIVIDING time is upon us; make that work include some focus on the addition of [fall and winter plants](#) to the landscape. Maybe something [gold](#)? Maybe something full of fruit? AS YOU BEGIN to wind down and clean up, take notes of what worked and didn't. *[Note: this month's program!]* Mark areas that would have been easier to maintain with [a workhorse groundcover](#) in place, for instance, or areas where [more bulbs](#) might fit. Last year at this time I made a walkabout and identified various shrubs whose days were numbered; just not enough bang for the buck (well, for the space they take up), or simply too big to fit where they grew anymore. Down and out they came early this spring.

TREES & SHRUBS

DON'T PANIC IF [EVERGREENS](#) start to show [some browning or yellowing](#) of needles this month and next. The oldest, innermost needles typically shed after a few years on the tree. HOPEFULLY YOU STOPPED FEEDING woody plants in July or August. Promoting more soft growth after July-ish isn't good; time for them to start moving toward the hardening-off phase of their cycle. No more eats till earliest spring. ALWAYS BE on the lookout for dead, damaged, diseased wood in trees and shrubs and [prune them out](#) as discovered. Ditto with suckers and water sprouts. [No hard pruning now](#), though; too late to risk encouraging regrowth.

FLOWER GARDEN

DON'T DEADHEAD FADED perennials, biennials and annuals if you want to collect seed (non-hybrids only) or plan to let some self-sow. Nicotiana, annual poppies, larkspur, clary sage and many others fall into this leave-alone group. So do plants with showy or bird-friendly seedheads, like coneflowers, some sedums, clematis and grasses. DAYLILIES can be dug and divided as they complete their bloom cycle, right into fall, if needed. PEONIES are best divided and transplanted in late August through September, if they need it. [Remember with these fussy guys](#) that "eyes" must not be buried more than an inch or two beneath the soil surface. Want more peonies? Now's the time to order.

ORDER BULBS promptly, and plant as they arrive (lilies most urgently). Remember our ["early, middle, late" mantra](#) when ordering, for a prolonged show.

PREPARE NEW beds for fall planting by smothering grass or weeds with layers of [recycled corrugated cardboard](#) or thick layers of newspaper, then put mulch on top. RE-EDGE BEDS to make a clean line and define them. Don't let them get overrun just because summer's wound down. [A clean edge](#) makes a big difference.

HOUSEPLANTS

REST [AMARYLLIS BULBS](#) by putting them in a dry, dark place where they will have no water at all for a couple of months. I put mine in a little-used closet.

IF [HOUSEPLANTS](#) NEED repotting, do it before they come inside later this month (less messy than in the house!). Don't step up more than an inch (on small pots) or a couple (on large ones). Most plants don't like to swim in their containers.

LAWNS

MID-AUGUST TO MID-SEPTEMBER is prime lawn-renovation and planting time in the North. Have you reseeded yet? Paul Tukey at SafeLawns.org shared [some overseeding how-to's](#) recently. DON'T BAG OR RAKE clippings; let them lie on [the lawn](#) to return Nitrogen to the soil, right through the last mowing in late autumn.

COMPOST HEAP & MULCH

ORDER A SUPPLY of bulk mulch, which is cheaper than the packaged kind and also eliminates the waste of all those heavyweight plastic bags. Many local nurseries deliver. Top up mulch in all garden beds as they get cleaned up gradually.

DON'T LET [THE COMPOST HEAP](#) dry out completely, or it will not "cook." Turning it to aerate will also hasten decomposition, but things will rot eventually even if not turned. I extract more finished material and screen it each fall, to work into the gardens (and make more room for incoming fresh debris).

Edited from [awaytogarden.com](#). On using this list in your garden: The monthly A Way to Garden chores are based on Zone 5B Berkshire MA/Hudson Valley NY location; adjust accordingly.

Looking Ahead: October Meeting of Wyckoff Area Garden Club

Wednesday October 19th at the Lake House of the Wyckoff Family YMCA, 7:00 PM

Program: Pruning Shrubs by Celeste Stapleton _____

Celeste Stapleton is a passionate garden designer and advocate for plant rights. She trained at the Bronx Botanical Garden School of Horticulture. She is also a longtime member of the staff at Rohsler's Nursery.

Hostesses for the October meeting: Paula Schamber, Eleanor Derzsak, Joanne Divney, Dorys Fernandez-Obergon

This is your Newsletter

Suggestions for the newsletter are greatly appreciated. jamuller@optonline.net