

Wyckoff Area Garden Club Newsletter

October 2011

President's Message

Can it be October already? What happened to September? Let me count the ways it went. We conducted a very successful bulb sale thanks to Joy our chair and members for stepping up and ordering even before our first meeting.



Tricyrtis from Bea's garden

Life is not perfect and neither is our new meeting place at the YMCA Lake-house but we all make the best of what we have. The meeting space is friendlier but parking is somewhat of a hassle although that did not stop us from having a very successful meeting. The program, *The Good, The Bad and the Ugly*, was a smash hit. Bea told us how to over-winter our caladiums, I showed you a new tool for picking up acorns and small pine cone which are really deer fodder, and Joy taught us how great Zinnias are for color in the garden, but Sally stole the show with her demonstration and talk of Hosta in a trough that she brought to the meeting (it must have weighed more than 60 pounds+). We heard from other members about square foot gardening, and how one member took a strawberry jar and planted it with sedum cuttings. Barb, Janet G. and Joy set a wonderful table with a fairy garden and refreshments enjoyed by all.

Three days after our meeting we held our first annual plant sale and I must say I am delighted with the results. It could not have happened if it weren't for Joy our chair and her committee, as well as all the contributions of members who donated plants. A lot of work went into the planning with Andrea handling publicity, Eileen providing her yard as a staging place for the plants and Bea leading us as to pricing. Sally giving gardening advice, Joan R., Angie, Kathryn and Maureen acting as cashiers all helped to make our sale as success. None of this could have taken place without the full co-operation of our club which brings me to how really great we are. Everyone pitches in and supports one another and that is what we are all about with gardening as the thread that binds us together.

Happy Gardening,
Janet

October Meeting of the Wyckoff Area Garden Club

Wednesday, October 19th at the YMCA Lake House, come at 7:00 p.m. to socialize, 7:30 p.m. program begins

Program: “Pruning Shrubs” by Celeste Stapleton. Celeste trained at the Bronx Botanical Garden School of Horticulture. She is also a longtime member of the staff at Rohsler’s Nursery.

Please remember: The club is committed to using paper plates and cups for refreshments rather than plastic but you can still go one step further and lug a mug when we meet. Please try.

Remember to bring non-perishable boxed or canned food donations, no glass containers please, to the general meeting for the Food Pantry. This is an ongoing project and the need is greater than ever.

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

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

Out and About

10/16, 1 pm – **Skylands: Family Woodland Walk.** Rich Cahayla-Wynne leads an easy, kid-friendly walk to learn about the nature around you. Wear sturdy shoes, meet at Carriage House. Rain cancels. FREE

10/16, 10 am – Frelinghuysen Arboretum: **Watnong Chapter of North American Rock Garden Society. Topic:** The Magic of Cyclamen; speaker John Lonsdale, writer and lecturer

10/18, 7:45pm - **Glen Rock Garden Club**, Glen Rock Municipal Annex Building, 678 Maple Ave
Topic: How to Plant Seeds Indoors and Raise the Seedlings Successfully; Speaker: Walter Perry, Perry’s Florist. As a special attraction, Walter is offering a raffle of two \$25 Perry’s Florist gift certificates.

10/21, 7:30pm - **Northeast Beekeepers Association**, 687 South Maple Ave, Glen Rock.
Topic: Preparing for Winter, Equipment Review; Speaker Seth Belson, NJBA President.

10/22, 10 am – **Skylands: Daffodil Planting.** Bring the whole family and help us plant more daffodils on Daffodil Hill, where spring comes early in a burst of bright yellow. A great chance to learn more about spring flowering bulbs for your own garden! Bring gloves and small tools if you have them. No experience necessary. FREE

10/25, 7pm – **Master Gardeners of Bergen County Meeting.** Topic: Mature Tree Care. Speaker: Patrick J. Burke, Arborist, Bartlett Tree Experts. 1 Bergen Plaza, Hackensack. www.mgofbc.org

Taste Buds

Barb's delicious offering from the September meeting: PEACH CLAFOUTI

16 oz. bag of Dole sliced peaches (in freezer section)

3 large eggs
6 Tbsp. sugar
1 tsp. Vanilla
pinch (1/8 tsp.) salt

1 cup whole milk
¼ cup flour
2 Tbsp. peach liqueur (optional)

Heat oven to 375. Butter a 9" quiche or pie dish; dust with 1 Tbl. sugar. Arrange peaches in the pan. (No need to defrost) Puree remaining ingredients in a blender and pour batter over peaches. Bake until clafouti is set (knife inserted in center comes out clean), about 35 minutes. Can be served warm or at room temperature.

Cuttings

Club T-Shirts: A number of members have requested that we have shirts or sweatshirts with our logo on them. We are getting ready to order so come prepared to the October or November meetings ready with your order. All orders must be accompanied with payment.

T-shirts available in S-M-L-XL and XXL are \$12.00 each
Crew neck sweat shirts S-M-L-XL are \$20.00 each

Samples of the size and approximate color will be available at both the October and November meetings. These are the same quality as the ones ordered in the past and I can assure you they wear like iron.

Angie C. has agreed to chair this project so if you cannot make the meeting and want to order please contact her directly. She will have a sign-up sheet at both the October and November meetings. All orders with payments must be received by December 1st, 2011.

In the Garden *(Edited from awaytogarden.com.) Based on Zone 5B – adjust accordingly*

I WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO SAY that I am already at work on my fall cleanup over here, but I have the rain to blame. The compost wants sifting and spreading—but it's sodden. The grass wants mowing short—but it looks like a wet meadow. The first fallen leaves want raking—but they're plastered to the ground. Of course, these soggy situations don't mean I get a pass; I'll just have fewer days to get it all done if and when the forces stop conspiring. My "as soon as it stops raining" list—also known as October 2011's chores—follows:

PEAK PLANTING TIME for bulbs and for many woody things continues through month's end or so; make that work include some focus on the addition of fall and winter plants to the landscape.

GARDEN CLEANUP, though, is the primary order of the day—and don't forget: quickly stash your tender things as frost threatens or just after, depending on the plant, to carry them through the winter. Here we go:

TREES & SHRUBS

CLEAR TURF OR WEEDS from the area around the trunks of fruit trees and ornamentals to reduce winter damage by rodents. Hardware cloth collars should be in place year-round as well.

BE EXTRA-VIGILANT cleaning up under fruit trees, as fallen fruit and foliage allowed to overwinter invites added troubles next season. So will mummies (shriveled fruit hanging on the trees). Best to pick and remove (though I confess to leaving mine hanging for the birds, who adore it).

SCOUTING FOR VIBURNUM BEETLE begins later this month, when leaves fall and their egg cases are easier to see. Remove egg cases by pruning off affected wood, between then and April-ish, to reduce larvae and beetle issues in the coming year. The bump-like cases are usually on the underside of youngest twigs. I also watch in May for larvae hatch of any I missed and rub the twigs then to squash the emerging pests.

BE SURE TO WATER trees now through hard frost if your conditions are dry, so that they enter dormancy in a well-hydrated state. Evergreens (needled ones and broadleaf types like rhododendron, too) are particularly vulnerable to desiccation and winterburn otherwise.

DON'T PANIC IF EVERGREENS continue to show some browning or yellowing of needles this month and next. The oldest, innermost ones typically shed after a few years on the tree.

ALWAYS BE on the lookout for dead, damaged, diseased wood in trees and shrubs and prune them out as discovered. This is especially important before winter arrives with its harsher weather, where weaknesses left in place invite tearing and unnecessary extra damage. Remove suckers and water sprouts, too.

FLOWER GARDEN

PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION to areas to cleanup around peonies, roses and other flowers that are prone to fungal diseases; don't leave any debris in place.

CANNAS, DAHLIAS AND OTHER tender bulb-like things including elephant ears need to be dug carefully for indoor storage. There are many methods, but the basics: Once frost blackens the foliage, cut back the tops to 6 inches and dig carefully, then brush or wash off soil and let dry for two weeks or so to cure. Stash in a dry spot like unheated basement or crawl space around 40-50 degrees, in boxes or pots filled with bark chips or peat moss.

DON'T COMPLETELY DEADHEAD FADED perennials, biennials and annuals if you want to collect seed (non-hybrids only) or wish to let them self-sow for next year's show. Nicotiana, poppies, larkspur, clary sage and many others fall into this leave-alone group; some plants must be left in

place or seeds shaken around during cleanup to insure the next generation. Plants with showy or bird-friendly seedheads, like coneflowers, also get a stay of execution.

PREPARE NEW beds for future planting by smothering grass or weeds with layers of recycled corrugated cardboard or thick layers of newspaper, then put mulch on top.

LAWNS

KEEP MOWING TILL THE GRASS stops growing, and make the last cut a short one. Let clippings lie on the lawn to return Nitrogen to the soil, unless they are long and wet, in which case, rake and compost.

COMPOST HEAP & MULCH

START A LEAVES-ONLY PILE alongside your other heap as a future source of soil-improving leaf mold, or when partly rotted for use as mulch. Running over dry leaves (and other dry non-woody material) with the mower to shred will reduce the area needed for such piles. 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 in fall. I'll recut the messiest of my bed edges, too, if there is time.

Looking Ahead: November Meeting of Wyckoff Area Garden Club

Wednesday, November 16th at the Wyckoff Family YMCA Lake House, come at 7:00 p.m. to socialize, 7:30 p.m. program begins

Program: “Holiday Decoration: Bows and Swags” presented by Suzie Ludwig.

Suzie will instruct us how to make professional looking bows and swags and offer other decorating ideas for the holidays. Ribbon will be provided for the bows.

Hostesses: Ginny Fleming, Kathryn Derderian, Claire Giachino

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

This is your Newsletter

Comments and/or suggestions for the newsletter are greatly appreciated jamuller@optonline.net