Sub:  Plainfield Garden Club December 2003 Newsletter
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President's Message

I hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas. Once again we managed to make a multitude of tray top arrangements, this year in record time. I think they were all finished in a little over an hour. I have been told by relatives of patients in nursing homes or house bound patients that these little bits of Christmas cheer mean so much to the recipients. I think it is a wonderful project that is also a lot of fun for us. We are missing Betty Hackman. If you get a chance to drop her a note, I know it will be greatly appreciated. I know she is waiting for the arrival of her newsletter to keep her up to date. We are also reelng the loss of Ann Vigton, who passed away in December. She will be remembered at our next meeting. Wishing all of our members far and near a Happy and Healthy New Year!!! I look forward to seeing our active and sustaining members at our January meeting.

Mary

Conservation

Additional Land Preserved in Pine Barrens

The New Jersey Conservation Foundation announced on New Year's Eve the purchase of a 14 sq. mi. cranberry farm in the heart of the Pine Barrens in Burlington Co. This is the largest private land conservation deal in New Jersey history. The bargain sale price was $12 million. NJCF has raised $5.2 million in private contributions and secured a $1.5 million loan from the Open Space Institute. The foundation will need to raise an additional $6.8 million to pay off the outstanding balance, due in five years.

The property will remain in a long term stewardship. It will be managed as a nature preserve to provide passive recreational opportunities for hikers, birdwatchers, and other visitors and enhance the habitat for a variety of threatened and endangered species. The Pine Barrens stretch across 22% of the state and contains the largest swath of open space on the mid-Atlantic seaboard between Boston and Richmond.

Contributions to the Pine Barrens Fund (to aid in this purchase) should be mailed to: New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Bamboo Brook, 170 Longview Rd., Far Hills, NJ 07913.

New Jersey Newsmaker of the Year - the Black Bear

The big news in December, as I'm sure you all know, was the authorized bear hunt in our state. As we talked about last year, the black bear has made quite a comeback. The population was practically wiped out at one point, but has been steadily increasing since the 1980's. The state Fish & Wildlife Division estimated the population this fall as at least 3000. Their territory was expanding and encompassed more than 2600 square miles in 14 counties. The black bear showed remarkable ability to adapt to its new environment - suburbia. Complaints ranged from raids on garbage cans to home entries, vehicle strikes, and livestock kills.

Therefore, for the first time in 33 years, the state authorized a bear hunt which resulted in the killing of several hundred black bear. As I'm sure you read in your local papers, there was a great deal of protest about this action.
There were protest marches and candlelight vigils. I'm curious. How do you as garden club members feel about the killing of black bears? Their natural territory has been encroached upon because of overdevelopment and urban sprawl in our state.

Black bears deserve our respect. The largest omnivore in the state, it is an "opportunistic scavenger" that has learned to adapt to its surroundings. But, the bear's raw power is unbelievable. I feel very ambivalent myself; I have definitely had it with the deer problem in this area. The cause of their increased population is exactly the same as for the black bear. How can I want the deer herds "thinned" and yet feel sorry for the black bear? Is it because the black bear isn't eating my shrubs and garden plants? Let me know what you think.

New Year's Resolutions
Here are some New Year's resolutions for our natural resources, our open spaces and our environment.

1. Save energy. Use compact fluorescent light bulbs. Lower your thermostat, even a degree or two, will help. Wash clothes in cold water if possible.
2. Conserve water. Install water efficient showerheads and faucets. Don't let water run in the sink when you aren't using it, including when you are brushing your teeth!
3. Stop using lawn chemicals. Let nature take back over a portion of your yard.
4. Join your local land trust and help save land in your community.
5. Write letters to the editor on conservation issues.
7. Drive less. Walk, bike, carpool, or take public transportation, if possible.
8. Recycle and get your family to participate too.

Take this opportunity, at the start of a new year, to broaden your New Year's resolutions by adding some green to your thinking.

Invasive Plants
We will be discussing the first phase of our club's project on invasives at our next meeting. See you then!
Elva

Hort

Let's all make a New Year's resolution to participate in the upcoming horticulture events this spring. Briefly listed are horticulture classes for two flower shows scheduled in May. Please note that the Zone IV Meeting Show, "Restoration" will be held in Princeton on May 4-5. Each club is responsible for at least one entry in each of the six horticulture classes.

RESTORATION - Horticulture Classes

CLASS A PROPAGATED PLANTS (Unlimited Entries)

CLASS B MINIATURE GARDEN/LANDSCAPE DESIGN (12 entries)

CLASS C FLOWERING BRANCHES: TREES and SHRUBS:
(Unlimited entries)

CLASS D HARDY PERENNIALS, BIENNIALS AND VINES

CLASS E BULBS, CORMS, RHIZOMES AND TUBERS (Unlimited entries)

CLASS F PAR (Unlimited Entries)

For horticulture rules and more specifics about the above classes please check the Zone IV website at www.princetonol.com/groups/zonemeeting

The Rumson Garden Club is presenting a small flower show at the Monmouth Museum in Lincroft, on Saturday May 22 and Sunday May 23. In preparation for the Horticulture Challenge class, Darlene Kasten has planned a seed propagating workshop (January 23, from 10-12) for a new hybrid zinnia, "Crystal White" Z angustifolia. If you haven't signed up for this
workshop but would like zinnia seeds, please contact Darlene. I'll have more details and schedules available at our next general meeting on January 21. Schedules are also available on the GCA website.

Do you have any healthy PX candidates from our earlier propagation workshops? Please let me know; hopefully I'll have the GCA regulation pots in time for our next general meeting.

Here's a helpful suggestion from "Things to do in January" listed in the "Master Gardener Newsletter". Have you checked your house plants closely for insect infestations? To make economical "sticky stakes" for trapping whiteflies and aphids cut some bright yellow strips from cardboard or yellow plastic margarine tubs and coat them with petroleum jelly. Insert them into the pots of infested plants, and after you have caught your prey just throw them away.

I'm eagerly looking forward to learning about orchid care at our January meeting.

See you soon, Phyllis

Hort Note . . .
The seed propagation workshop is scheduled for January 23 from 10 to 12 a.m. at my house, 295 Midway Ave in Fanwood. The ladies who are signed up are Barbara Sandford, Jane Burner, Diana Madsen, Mandy Zachariades, Tucker Trimble, Nancy Plumeri, Carroll Keating, Bernadette Neill, Susan Fraser, Sally Booth and Phyllis Alexander. If you have not signed up and would like to participate, let me know. We can probably stagger the space as it will not take the entire two hours to plant the seeds. Thanks. Darlene

Photography

Happy New Year, photographers! There are several shows coming up that you may want to enter. The first is coming up rather quickly - January 20th. Photographs must be submitted by January 13th. I am considering this show myself so if you are interested, I may be able to drive the pictures down at the last minute to make the deadline. The show is part of a joint meeting of The Garden Club of Princeton and The Trenton Garden Club. The schedule is as follows:

CLASS I: AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL
Photo to be taken in the United States. Subject to be taken from the lyrics of the song. Theme to be identified on the entry card.

A. Color
B. Black and White
C. Digitally creative

CLASS II: VISITORS TO A GARDEN
The garden is to be the dominant element.

A. Color
B. Black and White
C. Digitally creative

CLASS III: A DESIGN
A study of tools and architecture: an image to incorporate both elements.

A. Color
B. Black and White
C. Digitally creative

The rest of the shows are in May. Details will follow next month. Thanks. Darlene

Shakespeare Garden

Members to send checks for assessment in lieu of garden work to Kathy Andrews. Checks should be made out to The
Plainfield Garden Club.

In Memoriam

Ann Wigton  From the Star Ledger  Monday, December 22, 2003

A memorial service for Mrs. Ann Wigton, 88, of Plainfield will be at 11 a.m. tomorrow in the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, Plainfield. Arrangements are by the Memorial Funeral Home, Fanwood.

Mrs. Wigton, who died Friday in Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Plainfield, was a member of the Plainfield Garden and Country Club.

She also belonged to the Colonial Dames of America and the Union League Club of New York.

Born in Washington, D.C., Mrs. Wigton lived in Lewistown, Pa., before moving to Plainfield in 1950. She also maintained a residence in Oquossoc, Maine.

Surviving are a son, William Benson Wigton, and two grandchildren.

Calendar

January 13
Due Date to enter Photography Show
** See 'Photography' for more details**

January 16
Frelinghuysen Arboretum
Zone IV GCA representatives meeting
Snow Date: January 23rd

January 20
The Princeton Garden Club and the Trenton Garden Club
Photography Show
** See 'Photography' for more details**

January 21
Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church
8:30 AM  Board Meeting
9:30 AM  General Meeting/Coffee
Program: "Beginning Orchid Care" by Dennis Dyan
RSVP regrets only
Hostesses
Diana Madsen  233-6211  madsend@comcast.net
Mandy Zachariades  654-0982  familyz@comcast.net
Susan Fraser  232-3802  SKF729@aol.com

January 23
3ed Propagation Workshop
** See 'Hort' for more details

February 18
Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church
8:30 AM  Board Meeting
9:30 AM  General Meeting/Coffee
**See Yellow Book for more details**
March 17
Business Meeting to be held TBA
8:30 AM Board Meeting
9:30 AM General Meeting/Coffee
** See Yellow Book for more details **

April 21
Shakespeare Garden & Barbara Sanford's Home
8:30 AM Board Meeting
10:00 AM Shakespeare Garden
** See Yellow Book for more details **

May 4-5
Zone IV Meeting and Flower Show in Princeton
Theme "Restoration"
Hosted by the Stony Brook Club and the Princeton Club
Entries needed! Please check the website www.princetonol.com/groups/zonemeeting for the flower show schedule and other information about the zone meeting. Each club is responsible for at least one entry in each of the six horticulture classes.
** See 'Hort' for more details **

May 19
Plainfield Country Club
9:30 AM General Meeting/Coffee
Horticulture and Photography Show
** See Yellow Book for more details **

May 22-23
The Rumson Garden Club flower show
Monmouth Museum in Lincroft, NJ
Schedule available on the GCA website.
See "Hort" for info on propagation workshop in January
** See 'Hort' for more details **

June 9
9:00 AM Board Meeting
10:00 AM Meeting at the Shakespeare Garden
** See Yellow Book for more details **