

LAURELWOOD

Arboretum Times

Published by Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum (FOLA), a not-for-profit member association

Summer 2010

Knippenberg Memorial Gazebo Dedicated at Laurelwood Arboretum

More than fifty friends and family members gathered at Laurelwood Arboretum on Saturday, June 5 to dedicate the Dorothy and John Knippenberg Memorial Gazebo. "Laurelwood was Dorothy's magnificent obsession, and her passion for it benefits all of us who are here today," said Isobel Wayrick, a close personal friend. "She had a vision for this property—that countless future generations would enjoy this very special place."

Among the other speakers at the dedication ceremony was Dorothy's sister, Ethel Prall, who traveled from Whiting, New Jersey to attend. "Dorothy was passionate about Laurelwood. She didn't just revere it, she worked in it all the time," said Ethel. "I wish she could see this beautiful gazebo in the lovely setting of the pond. She would have loved it. In Dorothy's name, I thank you all."

"Dorothy taught me everything I know about gardening, and I was taught by the best," said Nancy Fadynich, also a close friend. "At the age of 96, she would look into a flower and be amazed by its beauty."

The handcrafted Knippenberg Memorial Gazebo made of all natural woods was created by nationally renowned artist and master craftsman David Robinson, who was also present at the dedication. His Adirondack-inspired garden structures and furniture



Honored guests at the dedication of the Knippenberg Memorial Gazebo, from left, Isobel Wayrick; Dorothy Knippenberg's sister Ethel Prall; Wayne Mayor Christopher P. Vergano; FOLA Board member Alex Fadynich, who helped lay the foundation for the gazebo; and artist David Robinson, who designed and constructed the gazebo.

grace private gardens, botanical gardens and public parks throughout the United States. The gazebo was funded by donations to a memorial fund established by FOLA after Dorothy Knippenberg's death.

*I'm better than I was yesterday,
But not as good as I'm going to be tomorrow.
I'm not talking about positive thinking.
I'm talking about positive living.*

*Every day is like a holiday for me
because a holiday is what I make it.
It comes from within, not from without.*

*The more I accomplish, the more possibilities I see.
I try not to run from what I find.
Every day has peace within itself,
But not all of us are in tune with it.*

Dorothy Knippenberg
Found in her own handwriting tucked into a gardening book.



Dr. Al Fitzburgh at a plant propagation workshop he gave at Laurelwood.

Dear Members:

What a year! Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum has gone from 120 members to more than 340 in the course of a year, mostly due to the efforts of Alice Moskowitz and Bonnie Joachim. We now are about halfway through a series of long-range planning sessions and are beginning to envision where FOLA may be five years from now. Thanks to the efforts of the Wayne Lions Club and Jim McHugh, we now have transportation in the Arboretum for those who need it and a garage to store it in. Also with the help of the Lions Club, our Sensory Garden will soon become a reality.

In June, we dedicated the beautiful Dorothy and John Knippenberg Memorial Gazebo to honor the

memory of Laurelwood's benefactors. Come visit the Arboretum to see what we have already done and join us as we plan for the future.

Although we badly need new or refurbished greenhouses, we are making some progress with Kathy Salisbury writing grants for such projects. Our two Vice Presidents, Jim McHugh and the knowledgeable Alex Fadynich, are working hard with Rutgers consultants and our own Greg Thomas. Hopefully, we will soon be able to get the silt out of the pond. The Sensory Garden is still in the planning stage but work is expected to start soon. The Wayne Mayor and Council and especially the Parks Department are helping at every turn.

All of these accomplishments and more are the result of the great work our volunteers are doing. We are only able to stay within our budget and do all the above because they have given so much time and work so energetically with our skilled and knowledgeable Horticultural Manager Joan Scott-Miller. Their contributions would cost an estimated \$220,000 if we contracted outside labor. There isn't enough space to thank our unpaid but hard working Board of Directors and committee chairpersons and all of you who are helping to make Laurelwood Arboretum a very special place.

*Dr. Al Fitzburgh
President, Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum*

Young FOLA Volunteers Cleanup Storm Damage

A group of youngsters from Pequannock Daisy Girl Scout Troop #253 pose on a bridge in Laurelwood Arboretum after helping to clear debris from the roads and trails. Like much of Northern New Jersey, the Arboretum sustained widespread tree damage during the recent intense storms. Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum (FOLA) volunteers worked together with the scouts and Passaic County Master Gardeners clearing limbs and woody debris from paths and roads to prepare the Arboretum for the many visitors who come during April's peak bloom season.



Friends of Laurelwood Salutes Volunteers

Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum (FOLA) hosted its first annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon on Saturday, March 6. The program featured a slide show, "Behind the Walls...The Private Gardens of China," presented by Master Gardener Ruth Hayden, who visited China on a summer art program.

"Volunteerism is the heartbeat of Laurelwood Arboretum," said FOLA's volunteer coordinator, Bonnie Joachim. "Our dedicated corps of volunteers includes students, scouts, corporate groups, Passaic County Master Gardeners and private citizens. Together they contributed more than 9,000 hours in 2009. The value of these volunteer hours, as calculated by Independent Sector, represents more than a \$220,000 contribution to Wayne Township and the community. If you compare the budget for Laurelwood to those of arboretums of similar size, we are operating at one-third of their cost thanks to the efforts of our volunteers."

Volunteers pruned, thinned and propagated; divided and replanted perennials; planted bulbs; mulched the gardens; and eliminated invasive weeds. Others helped repair the greenhouses, paths, bridges and waterways. Members of FOLA's hard-working Board of Directors helped manage Laurelwood's employees, worked with Wayne Township to maintain the 30-acre property, gave tours of the Arboretum and planned outreach activities for the community.

As we move through a new season in the Arboretum, FOLA pauses to thank its many volunteers, as well as the ever-growing number of members and contributors.

To volunteer, please send an email to info@laurelwoodarboretum.org or call 973-202-9579.



Among the volunteers who were honored at FOLA's Recognition Luncheon were, from left: Helene Christie, Jeanne Pisatowski and Margaret Kerstner of Wayne; Kathy Biehl of Oak Ridge; Sunny Brennan of Bloomingdale; Carol Huber of Wayne; and Lorrie Wienbrock of Bloomingdale.

VOLUNTEER CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC RELATIONS SPECIALIST

Someone to help spread the word about Laurelwood to the media and local organizations.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR AND GRAPHIC DESIGNER

FOLA board members provide the editorial content and photos, but we need someone to oversee production of our newsletter. We also need a graphic artist to prepare a camera-ready layout.

Other volunteer opportunities include Internet marketing, fundraising, construction, and horticultural restoration projects. To indicate your interests and get more information about these and other volunteer opportunities please e-mail volunteers@laurelwoodarboretum.org or call 973-202-9579.

Lions Clubs Donate Cart for Laurelwood Arboretum



Photo by Bob Shine.

At dedication ceremonies for FOLA's new accessibility cart are: in front of cart, from left, Board members Sara and Jim McHugh, Dawn Healey, Alice Moskowitz and Bonnie Joachim. Seated in cart, from left, Bob Moore, West Milford Lion and Past Lions Club International Director; Hank Wilczewski, President of the Wayne Lions; Jim Sandford, member Wayne Lions Club and Victor Graziano, Past Council Chair; Mario Rosellini, Vice President, Wayne Lions.

Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum recently dedicated an accessibility cart donated by the Lions Clubs of Wayne and West Milford. The cart will make it possible for people who are physically challenged to tour the Arboretum and enjoy its extensive plantings and natural beauty. To make an appointment for a tour by cart, please call 973-202-9579 or send an email to info@laurelwoodarboretum.org.

FOLA Presents Laurelwood Painting To Wayne Mayor



From left, Artist Bob Shine, FOLA Vice President Jim McHugh and Wayne Mayor Christopher P. Vergano.

Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum (FOLA) has presented an original painting to Wayne Mayor Christopher P. Vergano to be hung in his office in town hall. The painting by Wayne artist Bob Shine depicts Laurelwood's beautiful new gazebo covered with snow in mid winter. The presentation was made at dedication ceremonies for the Dorothy and John Knippenberg Memorial Gazebo. The painting was presented as a gesture of thanks to the Mayor for his ongoing interest in Laurelwood Arboretum and his enthusiastic support of FOLA's efforts to preserve and maintain this unique public park.

Wayne Lions Anniversary Celebration Benefits Laurelwood Sensory Garden

The Wayne Lions Club recently celebrated its 50th anniversary of service to the community at a dinner dance at the North Jersey Country Club. The group has sponsored many fundraising events over the years and donated to a wide variety of community nonprofit organizations. This year, all proceeds from the dinner dance and ad journal have been donated to FOLA for its Sensory Garden Project.

"We are very excited about creating such a wonderful space and are grateful to the Wayne Lions Club for its support of the Laurelwood Arboretum Sensory Garden," said Kathy Salisbury, FOLA Board Member and Sensory Garden chairperson



Pictured at the Wayne Lions Club 50th Anniversary Dinner Dance are, from left, Dr. Alexander Fitzburgh, president of Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum (FOLA); Kathleen Salisbury, FOLA Board Member and Sensory Garden chairperson; King Lion Hank Wilczewski; and past King Lion Mario Rosellini

Library Hosts Display of Laurelwood Paintings

In April, the Wayne Public Library displayed 35 paintings of scenes at Laurelwood Arboretum done by local artists. The works of art were supplied by artists from Kinnelon, Bloomingdale, East Hanover, Mahwah, Fairfield, Stockholm, Boonton, Hawthorne, Glen Rock, Maplewood, West Milford and Wayne and by organizations including the New Jersey Society of Plein Air Painters, two groups from the Center for Lifelong Learning in Kinnelon, and the Packanack Lake Art Club.

"We were very pleased to have attracted 30 artists from five different art groups, as well as a few

individual artist, to display their beautiful paintings of Laurelwood for the public to see and enjoy," said Bob Shine, who directed the project. "We hope the display inspired more people to come to see the real Laurelwood."



FOLA Plans for Unique Sensory Garden

When you walk into Laurelwood Arboretum on a sunny June morning, you may notice many things. You can see the pink and white flowers of rhododendrons blooming throughout the garden, or the large hydrangea blooms near the South Rock Garden or the large leafy trees that shade the Arboretum, creating a perfect backdrop for these colorful blooms. Now imagine if you could not see these beautiful flowers and trees; how would you experience the beauty of Laurelwood Arboretum? You would have to use your other senses— hearing, touch, smell and taste.

Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum is planning to create a garden for guests of all abilities, a special space that will promote the use of all of the senses. Here seniors with mobility difficulties, autistic children and individuals with visual impairments will be encouraged to explore the garden using all of their senses. In this small section of the Arboretum, visitors of all ages and abilities will learn how to explore the natural world in new ways.

Now imagine a space with wide pathways made of recycled bluestone with changing textures as you walk from one section of the garden to the next. Imagine large masses of flowers of a single color so brilliant that not only will butterflies see it from the

sky but so will people who are visually impaired. Imagine the soothing sound of water bubbling and trickling from a small fountain. Picture visitors rinsing their fingers in the cool water after rubbing fragrant leaves of herbs before moving on to raised flower beds and ground-level plantings that they can touch and smell. Ornamental Grasses will rustle in the wind or move with a touch of a hand. Hands of all sizes reach out to feel the velvety softness of lamb's ears and the sandpaper texture of black-eyed Susan leaves.

Our sensory garden will be designed to delight all the senses. Rather than segregating people of different abilities it will be a place where young and old alike can learn how to experience a garden and nature in many ways. Children can learn how it feels to walk in another's shoes. Older volunteers can exercise their backs while working at the raised beds. It can be the starting point for a "Listening Walk" throughout the rest of the Arboretum for a special needs school group. It will be a peaceful place to just sit, relax and enjoy nature's wonders.

The Passaic County Open Space Fund has already funded a large amount towards this garden. The Wayne and West Milford Lions Clubs have also funded this garden by holding a dinner dance at the North Jersey Country Club along with naming the Laurelwood Sensory Garden as the recipient of this year's car raffle proceeds. We are thankful to both for their help. This program will start very shortly.

From FOLA's Horticultural Manager

Summer is finally here, and we can all enjoy the fruits of our efforts in the gardens. This year has been a very busy one so far, with many volunteers coming regularly to work in the Arboretum. The South Rock garden is going thru a transformation of restoration. A new gravel path winds through it, leading to a small bridge that is being built by a Boy Scout for his Eagle Scout project. The Iris donated by Stan Grey of Grey Iris Gardens bloomed prolifically.

Dorothy's Way is now graced by an arbor at each entrance. These too were built by an Eagle Scout, and the wood he used was culled from the fallen cedars from this past winter's storms. These storms caused quite a bit of destruction in the Arboretum in March. We lost seven big trees, mostly pines. With the help of our chainsaw gang, Alex Fadynich and Dick Watts, we managed to get most of it cleared.

The gazebo area was planted out over the past year, and the *allium schubertii* (ornamental onion)

were in bloom just in time for the dedication; now there are scented geraniums (good for repelling mosquitoes) and amaranthus planted for the summer. The gazebo is being used by many visitors to the Arboretum—hardly a day goes by without someone enjoying its shelter.

The hydrangeas are blooming well this year and are larger than ever. The wildflower meadow along Lilac Way is coming into bloom with a mix from Vermont Wildflower Farm that includes *rudebeckia hirta*, larkspur, wild sunflowers, shasta daisies and Sweet William. *Asclepiis incarnata* and *asclepiis tuberosa* (Butterfly weed) have also been planted here to attract butterflies, (photographers take note), especially the Monarch, which enjoys the *A. tuberosa* that provides food and shelter for its larvae.

Victor, our former assistant gardener, has returned to his family's farm in the Dominican Republic. Our head gardener Daniel and I have been joined by a new assistant gardener, Eddy. We continue to work to maintain, rejuvenate and restore the Arboretum. Each year reveals more treasures.

FOLA Plans for the Future

As Arboretum membership grows and the Arboretum ages, Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum (FOLA) must have a roadmap for the care of this important public space well into the future. To that end, FOLA has begun a Master Planning process. The goal of this endeavor is to put on paper the information that currently exists only as memories: what the creators of Laurelwood Arboretum, Dorothy and John Knippenburg envisioned when they deeded the land to the Town of Wayne. The result of this exercise will be a document that directs decision making for the Arboretum's future.

In February, the FOLA Board of Directors met with Charles Matteis, the Director of Organizational Development and Training at Montclair State University. He has extensive experience in organizational development and strategic planning with particular expertise in organizational effectiveness, performance management, competency development, change management, and leadership and team development.

With his considerable experience and knowledge of the planning process, FOLA Board Members went through "Visioning" processes in which we imagined the future of the Arboretum, what would be offered to the public, how the garden would be cared for and what our organizational structure would be. Board members also reviewed and assessed FOLA's mission and began to work to ensure its adequacy for the future of the organization.

The next step in the process was to invite FOLA members, Pines Lakes residents, Passaic County

Master Gardeners, Laurelwood Arboretum volunteers and other interested people to participate in a planning exercise. During this event, we solicited their opinions and learned how they envisioned the interaction of the public with the open space and the Arboretum's future.

This is an ongoing process that will take some time. It is an important process that many new organizations of all sizes go through to ensure their future. You may be asking yourself, why go to all this trouble? It is a small park in town, and everything seems to be working just fine. The answer is that FOLA has taken on the role of steward of Laurelwood Arboretum. We have an obligation to care for Laurelwood, in conjunction with the Township of Wayne, with the understanding that the Arboretum belongs to the community and to its visitors. As steward, FOLA is responsible for effective management practices, including garden care, and leadership that will ensure the protection and successful future of the Arboretum for generations to come.

Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum presents
Gregory Quinn
Ki-Gong
Tuesdays, 8-9:15AM at Laurelwood Arboretum Pavilion,
725 Pines Lake Dr W, Wayne, NJ (973) 202-9579
www.laurelwoodarboretum.org
Classes are free. Goodwill offerings will be gratefully accepted.

Award Winner

Dawn Healey wins another award for Laurelwood! In another great effort by our Fundraising Chair, Dawn Healey won a \$250.00 award in plants from Rare Find Nursery when she submitted an entry in Rare Find's Garden Heroes Award contest. The award was given for a project that most helped a gardening organization such as Laurelwood. The award of plants consists of 6 deciduous azaleas which will be planted out in the Arboretum.

"It is wonderful to have such a talented and dedicated member who works so hard, especially since we usually rely on the generosity of the Town of Wayne and funds generated by such things as membership dues, plant sales, and donations to offset the expenses of running the Arboretum," said Dr. Al Fitzburgh, FOLA President.

Photo Workshop



Donna Suter (at left) was among those who attended the recent "Taking Your Best Shot" workshop at Laurelwood Arboretum. The two-hour workshop for beginner point-and-shoot photographers was led by FOLA board member Dawn Healey. The amateur photographers had an opportunity to take shots at various sites and then critique their work after it was downloaded to a computer. "We all learned a lot," Dawn said, "and I am looking forward to doing another workshop in the near future." Anyone interested in attending a photo workshop can contact Dawn at 973-202-9579 or send an email to info@laurelwoodarboretum.org.

Annual Membership Drive

The annual FOLA membership drive began in early April and continues through the summer as we try to reach out to Wayne residents and garden enthusiasts for their support. Last year we doubled our membership and increased the number of donations to FOLA. **We hope most of the 100+ members who have not yet renewed for 2010 will rejoin.** Renewal memberships are due each year in May. Among the benefits of FOLA membership are a 10% discount at participating local establishments such as Art Flowers, Birch Hill Nursery, Blooms of Wayne, Gro-Rite, Rockledge Garden Center, Steve's Art & Framing and Strawberry Blossom Farms. Members can also take advantage of the American Horticultural Society's Reciprocal Program, which gives FOLA members discounts on admission and sales at more than 100 gardens and arboreta throughout North America. For information about this program, go to www.ahs.org/events/reciprocal_events.htm.

FOLA depends on its members and volunteers to keep this 30-acre treasure alive and thriving. Dues support ongoing horticultural and site-improvement projects and many programs to increase our visibility in Wayne and surrounding communities. If you have not rejoined FOLA, please do so TODAY using the remittance form in this newsletter.

Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum Workshop

"Learning to Root Almost Anything"

A plant propagation session with Dr. Al Fitzburgh
Saturday, July 31st 10:00 AM at the pavilion in Laurelwood Arboretum
725 Pines Lake Drive West, Wayne, New Jersey

We will provide propagation materials including plants.
Please bring clippers, gloves and large plastic vinegar or gallon jugs.
Suggested Donation \$10.

Please register by calling 973-202-9579 or email
info@laurelwoodarboretum.org

Horticultural Manager con't

We recently we discovered an *exchorda racemosa* (pearlbush), which looks like strings of pearls on a lady's necklace as it comes into bloom in May.

We have started an Integrated Pest Management Program to try to control the Black Vine Weevil that is attacking the rhododendrons. A team of Master Gardener volunteers has been monitoring and assessing the results.

It is a great pleasure to see the enthusiasm and appreciation of Laurelwood's visitors, and I look forward to seeing you in the gardens and answering your questions.

With very many thanks to all the volunteers, the FOLA Board and Wayne Township who, with their enormous support, hard work and dedication, help make these gardens a special place to meander through, contemplate and enjoy the beauty of nature's bounty.

Joan Scott-Miller

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President

Jim McHugh
1st V.P./Town Liaison

Alex Fadynich
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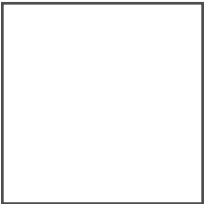
Kathy Salisbury
Planning/Grants

Bob Shine
Photo/Art Consultant

Horticultural Manager

Joan Scott-Miller

A special thank you to the family of Anita Kientzler for designating FOLA for donations in her memory and to the many donors who chose to honor Anita in this way.



Membership Application

Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum (FOLA)

Complete and mail back to:

FOLA, PO. Box 2433, Wayne, NJ 07474-2433, with your membership fee, checks made out to **FOLA**.

Some companies offer matching donations; please check with your employer. If making a memorial or "in honor of" donation, please include name and address of party to be notified of your gift, if desired.

- \$25 Household membership
- \$50 Non-profit organization membership
- \$250 Supporting membership
- \$500 Lifetime membership
- Donation _____

_____ name

_____ address

_____ city state zip

If you wish to help save a tree by receiving the FOLA communications electronically, please provide your email address below:

_____ e-mail telephone

Corporate Member

- \$ 100 Primrose Level
- \$ 500 Azalea Level
- \$1000 Rhododendron Level
- Donation _____

_____ name

_____ address

_____ city state zip

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_____ e-mail telephone

Dues and donations are deductible to the extent allowed by the law.