



Photo by Debra Bryant

Membership Application

Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum (FOLA)
 Complete and mail back to:
FOLA, PO. Box 2433, Wayne, NJ 07474-2433,
 with check made out to **FOLA**.

Some companies offer matching donations; please
 check with your employer.

- \$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 _____

Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum is a
 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

Corporate Member

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

name _____

address _____

city _____ state _____ zip _____

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

e-mail _____ telephone _____

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

Donations

Enclosed is a tax-deductible donation of \$_____.

If this is a memorial or "in honor of" donation, please
 include the name and address of the party to be
 notified of your gift.

My donation will be matched
 by _____

Laurelwood Arboretum Times

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Freeholders To Fund Laurelwood Visitors Center/Greenhouse Complex



Proudly displaying a "ceremonial" check from the
 Passaic County Open Space Fund are, from left,
 Dr. Al Fitzburgh, FOLA's immediate past president;
 President Jim McHugh; Pat Lepore, Deputy Director
 of the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders;
 Raymond Egatz, a founding member of the Passaic
 County Open Space Committee; and Wayne Mayor
 Christopher P. Vergano.

At the annual meeting of Friends of Laurelwood
 Arboretum, Passaic County Freeholder Pat Lepore
 presented a "ceremonial" check in the amount of
 \$457,875 from the Passaic County Open Space Fund
 to FOLA. The funds will be used for construction of
 a Visitors Center at Laurelwood Arboretum and for
 the rehabilitation of the greenhouses.

The Open Space grant is supported by the
 Passaic County Advisory Committee, a 17-member
 group that reviews applications and makes
 recommendations to the Freeholder Board. "Every
 now and then we get an application for a special
 kind of open space project that requires this kind of
 injection of funds," said Raymond Egatz, a founding
 member of the committee. "There is really nothing
 else like Laurelwood Arboretum in our county. It is a
 gem not only in Passaic County but in New Jersey."

Wayne Mayor Christopher P. Vergano also
 expressed his enthusiasm for the Visitors
 Center/greenhouse. "Laurelwood Arboretum is a
 hidden treasure in our township and our county.
 This grant will go far to make it even better than it is
 today. I have never seen such a dedicated group of

volunteers," he added. "It is incredible what they do,
 and they deserve our full support."

The Visitors Center will be used for educational
 programs, research and other essential activities for
 which there is no enclosed space at the present time.
 Visitors to the Arboretum will have access to many
 historical photos and documents from the
 Laurelwood archives. They will be able to learn
 about Laurelwood's history, view photos taken
 through the seasons, and obtain maps, brochures and
 self-guided tour information. There will also be
 restroom facilities.

The rehabilitation of the greenhouses will enable
 the Arboretum's horticultural staff to better supply
 the garden with seasonal display materials;
 propagate trees, shrubs and perennials for areas
 throughout the Arboretum as well as plant sale
 materials; and help to preserve the unique plant
 varieties found in the Arboretum.

A special feature of the complex is that it will be
 designed to incorporate materials rescued from the much-
 loved historic Alderney Milk Barn that once housed an ice
 cream store on Hamburg Turnpike in Wayne.



Dear Members,
You may have noticed that the "tagline" for FOLA is "preserving and maintaining this unique property." Sometimes that becomes a delicate task. People have differing ideas on how to

proceed and how we should move forward within the constraints of our limited resources. Should we leave Laurelwood Arboretum as it was when Dorothy Knippenberg donated it to Wayne Township, or should we expand its horticultural diversity, improve the gardens and develop a program of educational activities to bring more people to Laurelwood and extend our outreach?

Your FOLA Board of Directors believes we should do all we can to improve and enrich Laurelwood Arboretum. To this end, we applied for and were awarded a substantial grant from the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders to renovate our greenhouses and construct a Visitors Center. In designing our center, we are studying many other arboretums and considering creative ways to approach the project. Thanks to the Township of Wayne, we are planning to incorporate

materials from the Alderney Milk Barn, a historic gathering place on Hamburg Turnpike. The history of Laurelwood Arboretum, Pines Lake and the Milk Barn will all be represented in our Visitors Center.

Another change that is coming soon is the creation of a Sensory Garden, now under construction thanks to generous donations from the Wayne Lions Club and the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders. With this change, our main entrance will probably be moved from Pines Lake Drive to Vale Road, providing safer ingress and egress, more parking and easier access to the Sensory Garden and other areas of the Arboretum.

We hope construction will be completed quickly so that Laurelwood can continue to be the tranquil place we all know and love. Dorothy and John Knippenberg had a vision for this unique property. As caretakers, we have the responsibility and the opportunity to help realize their vision and to do all we can to enhance the Arboretum and make it a very special place for both current and future generations to enjoy.

We thank all our members and contributors for their continued support in our efforts. We could not have accomplished all that we have and all that we hope for without you.

Jim McHugh
FOLA President

FOLA Elects Officers



FOLA Board members, top row from left Deb Bryant, Bonnie Joachim, Jim McHugh, John Crowell, Al Fitzburgh and Peter Lowry; front row, Alice Moskowicz, Sue Burke, Sara McHugh, and Dawn Healey.

Members of Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum elected a new slate of officers for the 2011 year at the November 16 annual meeting. They are: Jim McHugh, president; Deb Bryant, first vice president; Alex Fadynich, second vice president; Sue Burke, recording secretary; and Peter Lowry, CPA, treasurer. Elected to the Board of Directors were John Crowell, Dr. Alexander Fitzburgh, Dawn Healey, Bonnie Joachim, Sara McHugh, Alice Moskowicz, and Kathy Salisbury.

President-elect Jim McHugh presented FOLA's outgoing President, Dr. Al Fitzburgh, with a volume of photographs of Laurelwood Arboretum as a token of appreciation for his outstanding service to the organization. Dr. Fitzburgh then presented an award to Nancy Fadynich for her years of devotion and commitment to the preservation of Dorothy Knippenberg's legacy at Laurelwood Arboretum. He also gave an award to Bob Shine, whose many beautiful photographs of the Arboretum in all seasons of the year are displayed in the Wayne Mayor's office, the Wayne Public Library, and on Laurelwood's website www.laurelwoodarboretum.org.

The May 11 issue of *Dig-It* has a wonderful article about Laurelwood Arboretum and an accompanying audiotape. To read it and listen, go to www.dig-itmag.com.

Upcoming Events

Programs are \$15/person but **free** for FOLA members

Wednesday, June 22 from 4 pm to 6 pm Summer Solstice Weed Walk Join renowned herbalist Robin Rose Bennett for a Solstice Celebration and walk through Laurelwood identifying common plants that are excellent medicines and delicious and nutritious food.

Saturday, June 25 at 10 am Container Gardening Workshop given by Strawberry Blossom Farms and hosted by Jim and Sara McHugh at their home. Ask for directions when registering. To register, call 973-202-9579.

Saturday, September 10 at 10 am The Water Cycle given by Master Gardener and teacher, Sara McHugh. Pondsides interactive fun program for all ages.

Saturday, September 24 from 9 am to 3 pm FALL FESTIVAL and PLANT SALE

To register for a program, call 973-202-9579. Please leave a message with your name and program name. For all programs, meet at the Laurelwood Arboretum pavilion, 725 Pines Lake Drive West, Wayne.

For up-to-date information on coming events, send your email address to alicemoskowitz@gmail.com or go to WWW.laurelwoodarboretum.org



Mary Joachim and Bonnie Joachim, Master Gardener and FOLA board member, with speaker Kerry Ann Mendez as she signs copies of her newest gardening book

Gardening Expert Speaks At Fola Membership Event

"Four Seasons of Color," a lecture by renowned gardening expert Kerry Ann Mendez, jump started FOLA's membership year. The meeting was a special thank you to members and the Master Gardeners of Passaic County who have done so much to support FOLA's efforts to preserve and maintain Laurelwood Arboretum.

More than 90 people attended the program. Mendez, the owner of Perennially Yours of Ballston Spa, NY, is a garden consultant, designer, writer, and lecturer who focuses on time-saving gardening techniques and organic methods. She shared some of her tips for creating a "wow" factor in gardens.

FOLA depends on its members and volunteers to keep Laurelwood Arboretum alive and thriving. Dues and donations support ongoing horticultural and site-improvement projects, educational programs and special events.

Everyone who joins FOLA can benefit from a full year of discounts at local gardening centers and on admission at more than 100 gardens and arboreta throughout the United States. Members are also entitled to free admission at FOLA's educational programs and a discount at our plant sales.

Our membership is constantly growing, with many new members joining FOLA recently. We hope those of you who have not yet renewed for 2011 will rejoin. Membership in FOLA costs \$25 for a household and \$50 for organizations. Lifetime membership is \$500. FOLA dues and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Dues and donations with a check made out to FOLA can be sent to P.O. Box 2433, Wayne, NJ 07474-2433.

By Alice Moskowicz
Membership Chairperson

In Memoriam

Roberta Boothney, a FOLA volunteer who carved all the trail signs at Laurelwood, passed away recently. She had been working on a large magnolia carving for the top of the Knippenberg Memorial Gazebo. Sinikka Laukkanen of the American Woodcarvers & Art School completed the piece in Roberta's memory.



Sinikka Laukkanen.

Roberta, a resident of Wayne since 1948, was among the first graduating class of Wayne Valley High School in 1955. She operated a salon in Pequannock called Hair before taking up woodcarving in the early 1980s. She ultimately became a State Champion woodcarver and built a studio at her home. She was everyone's friend, the life of the party, and had a beautiful, free spirit.

Spotlight on FOLA's 250 hour volunteers



Nancy Fadynich with Dr. Al Fitzburgh.

Nancy Fadynich

Nancy Fadynich's contributions to FOLA go way beyond 250 hours of volunteer work in the Arboretum. Without her extraordinary efforts, FOLA would not exist and the story of Laurelwood Arboretum after the death of Dorothy Knippenberg would have been entirely different. It is Nancy's friendship with Dorothy and her dedication to the realization of the Knippenbergs' vision that determined the future of this unique property.

Nancy first met Dorothy through the Pines Lake Garden Club more than 30 years ago. "She was a mentor for the club," Nancy recalled. "She spent many hours with club members and provided plants for our sales."

Over the years, Nancy and Dorothy became close friends. After John Knippenberg's death, Nancy accompanied Dorothy on many visits to town hall to explain to Wayne Township officials that she intended Laurelwood to be her gift to the town. At first they were surprised and puzzled. They knew little about Laurelwood and were not sure they wanted Dorothy's gift. After many frustrating discussions, Nancy began to realize that what was needed was an organization that would ensure the Arboretum's preservation by creating a groundswell of public support. Thus FOLA was born.

With the help of David Kooistra, a longtime friend of the Knippenbergs who had been involved with Skylands, Nancy pulled together a five-member volunteer Board of Directors for her fledgling organization. Her husband Alex agreed to serve as president, Howard Aschoff was vice president,

Nancy took on the role of treasurer, and Nancy Alexander was secretary. The group incorporated as a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization named Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum in 2002.

Gradually, this dedicated group began to collect donations and build membership. When Dorothy died in 2006 at the age of 96, it was clear that Laurelwood Arboretum had a strong constituency to advocate for its preservation. Nancy and Alex continued to serve on the FOLA Board of Directors, which grew in size and responsibilities. Wayne Township welcomed Laurelwood Arboretum as a public park and asked FOLA to assume management of the property. It was only then that Nancy began to believe that Laurelwood's future was secure.

Nancy continues to spend countless hours working at Laurelwood Arboretum as she had when Dorothy was alive. "Laurelwood is Dorothy's creation. She was there every day in her brown pants and brown shirt. She never got tired because she loved working there," Nancy said. "She was always a delight to be with. She had a big smile and was so positive about everything."

And now, thanks in large part to Nancy's efforts, this very special place that Dorothy Knippenberg created continues to welcome visitors from miles around to enjoy its beauty and serenity. Nancy continues to be a tireless advocate for Laurelwood Arboretum, and Alex remains on the FOLA board as Vice President and Site Manager.

Sunny Brennan

The event that brought Sunny Brennan to gardening was chemical poisoning at a job in 1990. "I couldn't work for 3 ½ years and had to be out in the air," she explained. "I walked 7 ½ miles a day. When I couldn't walk any more, I began gardening. What was a bad time turned out to be good, and I decided I wanted to take my gardening further."

In 2007, she enrolled in the Master Gardener Association of Passaic County (MGAP) course. As a Master Gardener she has since logged more than 250 volunteer hours at Laurelwood Arboretum. She works there every Tuesday morning throughout the season and some Saturdays as needed. In addition, she volunteers at the New Jersey Botanical Garden at Skylands.

One of Sunny's crowning personal achievements is the Bloomingdale Senior Center Beautification Project. When MGAP announced plans to undertake a horticultural project in each town in the county, Sunny began looking around her hometown of Bloomingdale for a candidate. She discovered that

the Senior Center had one tree, two Rose of Sharon shrubs, "a million weeds" and no landscaping.

With the approval of MGAP, she set to work planning; planting trees, shrubs and perennials; designing container gardens; planting a deer-resistant and xeriscape (low water use) garden; and enriching the lives of seniors with experiences in horticultural therapy. She enlisted the help of Elaine Barbour, County Agricultural Assistant, and Master Gardeners Roberta Aiello, Leigh Brower, Debra Bryant, Tina Califano, Helene Christie, Ray Edel, Patricia Engrissei, Jill Hanifan, Dawn Healey, Barbara Hegrans, Bonnie Joachim, Sara McHugh, Darlene Nowak, Margaret Kerstner, Jeanne Pisatowski, Jo-Ann Pituch, Jean Reynolds, Joan Riedl, Mary Riley, Jane Van Eeuwen, Bob Weiss, and Marilyn Zdobinski.

In August 2010, the governing body of Bloomingdale presented certificates of appreciation and pins to Sunny, MGAP, the senior participants, and all the volunteers. Now Sunny will begin working on phase two of the project, which will extend the group's gardening efforts to other areas surrounding the Senior Center.

At a recent MGAP meeting, Sunny was honored for 1,000 hours of service as a Master Gardener. She continues to work at Laurelwood regularly. "Laurelwood is in my heart," she said. "Master Gardening has brought me the most friends in my life, and I find them to be the most optimistic, sharing people."



Dick Watts and Sunny Brennan.

Dick Watts

After Dick Watts retired from his work as a roofing and siding contractor, his wife began looking for something to keep him busy. "She read about the Master Gardener course and thought I might like it because I always enjoyed gardening," he said.

Dick joined the 2007 MGAP class and began working at Laurelwood in March of 2008. He doesn't keep track of his time, but according to FOLA records he has volunteered more than 250 hours. He also helped restore the Friendship Garden outside MGAP's offices at the old Nike site. MGAP recently honored Dick with a certificate for 500 hours of volunteer work.

Dick puts his years of contracting experience to work year round. Working alongside Alex Fadynich,

he has built several bridges and rock walls at the South Garden. He cuts down large dead trees and removes debris. Last year he and Alex repaired Laurelwood's aging irrigation system.

"Most of the time I just leave my backhoe up there," he said. "I usually bring all my own tools—chain saws, shovels, rakes and such." Dick has no specific time for volunteering. "I just drive through to see what needs to be done. This past winter we had to pump out the greenhouses, clean out the drains so they wouldn't overflow, and cut up some big trees that had fallen."

With 30 acres of trees, roads, and plantings to be tended to, there are always heavy-duty projects for Dick to handle. "Dick just goes in and does whatever needs to be done without being asked," said Site Manager Alex Fadynich. "He's my right hand man. I don't know what I would do without him."



Fall Master Gardener Classes Now Registering

Many of the volunteers who work so faithfully and energetically at Laurelwood Arboretum first joined FOLA's horticultural team while attending the Master Gardeners training course. They began volunteering to fulfill the requirement for certification and have continued working at Laurelwood far beyond the required 70 hours.

This fall, the Master Gardener Association of Passaic County (MGAPC) will once again offer a training program for those who are interested in gardening and wish to become Master Gardeners.

Anyone with an interest in gardening and a commitment to volunteer service can become a Master Gardener. No previous education or training is required. To apply for the next class or for more information, please call 973-305-5740 or go to mgapc.org



Eagle Scout Drew C. Emmetts.

Eagle Scout Builds Arches For Dorothy's Way

New hand-hewn cedar arches now grace both entrances to Dorothy's Way in Laurelwood Arboretum. They represent the final step in Drew C. Emmett's journey to become an Eagle Scout. Drew, a member of Boy Scout Troop 101, Black Bear District, Northern New Jersey council, started the project in April 2010 and completed it in two months.

"We began by clearing the winding woodland trail of weeds and putting down mulch with the help of a platoon of scouts and friends," said Drew. He designed the arches to be made of natural cedar from trees that had fallen in the Arboretum. He then constructed the arches onsite, with the help of his father, Drew L. Emmetts, Sr., who brought in a truck with a generator and the necessary tools. "We drove pressure-treated posts into the ground to support the arches," they explained. "In addition, we made sure that all the hardware is concealed."

The project took as estimated 300 hours. Drew, Jr., who graduated from Wayne Valley High School in 2010, worked every weekend and after school with 6 to 8 helpers. "One of the most amazing things was to see how the Arboretum changed and evolved each week," he said. "Each time we came something new was in bloom. You never knew what you were going to find," he said.

Scout Ireland Builds Bridge

Ryan Ireland, a senior at Wayne Hills High School, grew up in the Pines Lake section of Wayne and knew Laurelwood Arboretum as a beautiful park in his community. When it came time to decide on an Eagle Scout project, he approached FOLA's Vice President and site manager Alex Fadynich. "He suggested a bridge over a brook that would allow better access to the south rock garden area, and I accepted the challenge," said Ryan. "But I knew I needed someone experienced in building to help me."

Ryan asked Mark Sullivan of Sullivan builders to help with the project. He then sent out letters soliciting donations from local businesses, friends and acquaintances in the Pines Lake area. Ryan and Boy Scout Troop 102 Scoutmaster Chitta Sikder set the date for the installation of the bridge. The building materials were delivered to Ryan's house the week before.

On a bright, sunny Saturday, 24 youngsters and 22 adults came to Ryan's house prepared to work. The group included scouts, leaders, family, and friends. "With everyone helping, boards got cut, drilled, nailed, sanded, squared, and eventually assembled," said Ryan. "The 12 foot by 3 foot bridge was loaded onto a truck and transported to Laurelwood." Before the end of the day, the bridge was in place over the brook.

Ryan devoted a total of 390 hours to this project. He has been in scouting for 10 years. "This was the 100-year anniversary of scouting, so it is a particularly great honor and accomplishment to become an Eagle Scout at this time," he said.



Eagle Scout Ryan Ireland.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Now through October

Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum depends on volunteers to maintain and beautify the Arboretum. We invite you to share your talents and skills with us. Volunteering is a great fun learning experience. So come make a difference in the Arboretum.

TUESDAYS 9 am -12 noon Work and learn alongside the horticultural manager and volunteers restoring specific gardens.

4th SATURDAYS 9 am -12 noon Work alongside other volunteers in "most needed" areas.

Special work sessions are scheduled as needed

Meet in the pavilion. Bring gloves, small hand tools, clippers and water. All skill levels welcome. Bring family, friends and co-workers.

Additional opportunities in fundraising, public relations, construction, plant ID, education, plant sales, and more—whatever suits your talents and interests. We also have project ideas for corporate, church, scout and school groups.

For more information, please call 973 -202-9579 or go to info@laurelwoodarboretum.org



Danguaole Spiegel of East Hanover was among a group of artists from the New Jersey Society of En Plein Air Painters who found Laurelwood Arboretum an inspiring setting in which to work

Salute to Volunteers

Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum hosted its annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon on Saturday, March 19. The program featured a presentation titled "Botanic Gardens to See Before You're Planted" by Christopher Rubino of Monrovia Growers.

Nancy Fadynich and Dick Watts of Wayne and Sunny Brennan of Bloomingdale received special recognition for 250 hours as volunteers in Laurelwood Arboretum. Also honored at the event were volunteers who logged 100 hours or more:

Volunteerism is the heartbeat of Laurelwood Arboretum. Our dedicated corps of volunteers includes students, scouts, corporate groups, Passaic County Master Gardeners and private citizens. In 2010, more than 200 volunteers contributed 13,981 hours. This contribution represents a \$352,600 benefit to Wayne Township and the community.

"Many of our volunteers work in or for the Arboretum year round," Bryant noted. "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.

By Deb Bryant
First Vice President and Volunteer Coordinator



Volunteers honored for having logged 100 or more hours at Laurelwood Arboretum were, from left: Helene Christie and Margaret Kerstner of Wayne, Isobel Wayrick of Pompton Plains, Jeanne Pisatowski, Mary Riley, Bob Shine, and Barbara Hegranes of Wayne, Jean Reynolds of Pompton Lakes, and Carol Huber and Jane Van Eeuwen of Wayne