

Friends of
Laurelwood Arboretum

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preserving and maintaining this unique property



Photo by Debra Bryant

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Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum Newsletter 2012



Published by Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum (FOLA), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

Sensory Garden Nears Completion



Four generations of visitors enjoying the newly planted Sensory Garden—newborn twins with their mother Erin Gilgur and grandmother Stacey Wilbur, senior citizen Marilyn Gerleit with her aide Galina, FOLA Board member Bonnie Joachim, and preschooler Tedi with her grandfather, Joe Csencsits, a member of the Wayne Lions Club.

Over the past year and a half, Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum (FOLA) has been in the process of installing a unique and beautiful Sensory Garden. With generous help from the Lions Club of Wayne and the Passaic County Open Space Commission, we are on our way to completing this exciting project. All the planning, installation, and upkeep of the garden has been done by volunteers! Ryan Edge, Supervisor of Landscape and Park Development for Wayne Township, and Deb Bryant, 1st Vice President of FOLA, designed the hardscape; Helene Christie, Joan Scott-Miller and Deb selected the plantings; and Nancy Fadynich leads a group that will be maintaining the garden.

The Sensory Garden has been designed specifically for adults and children who are visually or physically challenged, but we expect it to attract all visitors to the Arboretum. The design incorporates many sensory experiences including touch, smell, sound and sight. The garden will also provide volunteer and educational opportunities for people with disabilities and for the general public.

We designed the Sensory Garden to be both stimulating and relaxing. There are areas in which the plants invite visitors to touch so as to experience

the feeling of soft, fuzzy, spiky varieties or rippled edges and thick stems. Bright colors intermingled with borders of soft silver hues and delicate blues stimulate the eye but also suggest tranquility. Soft grasses provide visual texture and the sound of gentle rustling as wind passes thru them. The fountain bubbles faintly in the background, while fragrant lavender, rosemary, lemon thyme and mint offer scents and an opportunity to taste throughout the growing season.

Easily navigatable pathways allow for people in wheelchairs to experience the garden. Raised planting beds invite those who might not have the physical strength to walk through the Arboretum. And the learning circle is a place for quiet contemplation and also the setting for educational gatherings.

The garden we have planned will include hundreds of plants and a number of beautiful trees and shrubs. This will strain FOLA's budget, and we are hoping that individuals and businesses in Wayne and the surrounding communities will make contributions to help us fill the gap. To learn more about the Sensory Garden or to contribute, please go to our website www.laurelwoodarboretum.org or call 973-202-9579.

Please Join Us at
Laurelwood Arboretum
for the
Sensory Garden Dedication

Saturday, September 15
1 pm to 3 pm
(rain date September 22)

Refreshments and tours will follow the dedication ceremonies.



Jim McHugh, President

Dear Members,

2011 was another year of growth and accomplishments for FOLA. The infrastructure of the long-awaited Sensory Garden was completed, and it will be officially opened later this summer. Our Sensory Garden will benefit all visitors to the

Arboretum but most particularly those with disabilities. We thank both the Passaic County Open Space Committee and the Wayne Lions Club for their generous grants which made this project possible.

Plans for a Laurelwood Arboretum Visitors Center are moving ahead. When complete, it will provide a welcome center, meeting space, educational greenhouse, display and storage areas and restrooms. The reconstruction of the upper greenhouses will enhance our ability to regenerate damaged plants and propagate valuable species.

This spring we set about to repair the damage from last year's destructive storms. Present budgetary restrictions do not allow us to replant the many varieties of valuable trees and shrubs that we lost. With help from donors, we hope to replace as much as possible in the future. If you would like to help in this area, please contribute.

We recently hosted a successful plant sale, many tours for the community and individual groups and

educational programs including a container workshop, rhododendron and azalea identification tour, Audubon Society bird identification walk, and Tree Whisperer talk and tour. Check our calendar on page 6 for upcoming events.

We continue to undertake a variety of maintenance and improvement projects in the Arboretum. In all construction and improvement projects we are committed to maintaining the integrity of Laurelwood as John and Dorothy Knippenberg envisioned the beautiful Arboretum they bequeathed to Wayne Township.

We are very proud of FOLA's many volunteers, members and supporters. In 2011, FOLA volunteers (including a number of Passaic County Master Gardeners) contributed 13,858 hours of work in the Arboretum. This translates into an estimated value to the community of \$349,500. FOLA membership has risen to more than 300, an increase of 30% over 2010.

Special thank yous to Wayne Mayor Christopher Vergano, the Town Council and the Parks and Recreation Department for their ongoing support of FOLA's efforts and for cooperating with us to maintain and preserve the Arboretum.

To read our 2011 Annual Report and learn more about our accomplishments and activities, go to www.laurelwoodarboretum.org. For Laurelwood Arboretum news, please "like" us on Facebook

*Jim McHugh
FOLA President*

Laurelwood at a glance

Visits to the Arboretum

An estimated 10,000 people last year.

Animal Visitors

Bear, deer, coyote, squirrels, rabbits, turtles, fox, chipmunks, skunks, groundhogs, snakes, wild turkeys, and many species of birds

The Size of Laurelwood Arboretum

30 Acres

6 miles of walking paths wind through the Arboretum

Laurelwood's Staff

1 horticultural manager and 2 seasonal gardeners

Volunteers

More than 200 volunteers help maintain the gardens.

Volunteer Hours

FOLA volunteers worked more than 13,858 hours in 2011.

Value of Volunteer Hours

Estimated at \$349,500 in 2011.

Number of Members

Over 300 and growing!

Number of Arboretum Tours

In 2011, FOLA hosted 37 tours.



No smoking or fires in the Arboretum!

Please help us protect Laurelwood's trees, plantings and wooden structures from the danger of fire.

Salute to FOLA Volunteers

by Deb Bryant, Volunteer Coordinator

What can I say about our volunteers? They are terrific! Last year more than 200 volunteers contributed a total of 13,858 hours of work in the Arboretum, which translates into an estimated labor cost of \$349,500.

Our volunteers work in every area, whether as board members, committee members, gardeners or construction workers. FOLA is truly an all-volunteer organization of passionate, dedicated individuals. Without our volunteers, the gardens would not look as beautiful as they do today. Let's take a look at some volunteer teams:

Our **Greenhouse Team** of 14 cares for Laurelwood's tender perennials all winter. Come spring, they step up propagation of most of the annuals you see in the gardens, from the datura to the zinnias.

A **Hemlock Team** of 4 counted and measured the diameter of all the hemlocks on our 30-acre property. They presented their report to Wayne Township with an accompanying map so that the hemlocks can be treated more efficiently to protect them from woolly adalged.

A **Mapping Team** continues to identify old and missing plantings in the South Rock Garden and Second Bridge Garden. Once these gardens are mapped, we can restore or replace missing plants. We plan to make mapping an ongoing project and to eventually map all 30 acres.

Tuesday is generally considered to be Master Gardeners day, although everyone is welcome. The Master Gardeners are working to restore two of the more formal Oriental-style plantings, the South Rock Garden and the Second Bridge Garden.



Volunteers who have logged 100 hours or more were honored at FOLA's Recognition Luncheon. From left are Betty Montagne of Little Falls, Peter S. Pirog of Elmwood Park, Kathy Hetherington of Oakland, Horticultural Manager Joan Scott-Miller of Newfoundland, Sunny Brennan of Bloomingdale, and Jean Reynolds, Mary Riley and Carol Huber of Wayne. Missing from the photo is Helene Christie

Last, but not least, on the first Saturday of each month from April through October we welcome one and all to work with us on various projects throughout Laurelwood.

And as always, we Weed! Weed! Weed!

On March 17, FOLA hosted its annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. The program featured a talk and slide show, "Trees in Bloom," presented by Edith Wallace, PhD, former chair of the Biology Department at William Paterson University. Dr. Wallace is an author, speaker and past-president of Passaic County Master Gardeners. At the luncheon, FOLA awarded special recognition to nine volunteers who have worked 100 hours or more.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Now through October Please Join Us!

In the Arboretum

Tuesdays, 9 am to 12 noon

Work and learn alongside the Horticultural Manager and fellow volunteers to restore the South Rock and Second Bridge gardens and beautify our unique Sensory Garden.

First Saturdays, 9 am to 12 noon

Work with fellow volunteers in "most needed" areas.

Meet in the pavilion. Bring gloves, your favorite garden tools, and water.

As Needed

Volunteer as a Laurelwood Arboretum tour guide for groups.

We also have project ideas for corporate, church, scout, school and other community groups. For more information please call 973-202-9579 or send an email to info@laurelwoodarboretum.org.

Join a Committee

We welcome volunteers in fundraising, website support, plant identification, educational programming, construction and many other areas. We invite you to share your ideas and talents.

FOLA Membership Program Features

Mary Jasch, 'The Garden Snoop'

Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum jump started its 2012 membership year with a lecture and slide presentation, "Private Gardens of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania," by Mary Jasch, publisher and editor of *DIG IT!* an online regional magazine for people who love gardens. The meeting was planned as a special thank you to FOLA members and the Master Gardeners of Passaic County, who have done so much to support the organization's efforts to preserve and maintain Laurelwood Arboretum.

More than 75 people attended the program. Jasch, who calls herself the "garden snoop," is a freelance writer and photographer whose articles on gardens, horticulture and nature have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Backpacker* magazine, the *Boston Globe*, and other publications. For 23 years she owned and operated an interior landscape business.

Our membership is constantly growing, with many new members joining recently. FOLA depends on its members to keep Laurelwood Arboretum vibrant and thriving. When you walk through the Arboretum and see our gardeners and volunteers trimming shrubs, digging weeds and replacing plantings you see your membership at work. When you attend an educational program, you see what your membership helps FOLA offer to the community. And as a benefit to you, when you show your FOLA membership card you can get discounts on your purchases at local establishments and free admissions at gardens and arboreta around the country.

We hope those of you who have not yet renewed for 2012 will rejoin. Please use the form on Page 5. If you have already rejoined, please pass the form on to a friend or use it for an additional donation.

Thank you for your support!

Alice Moskowitz
Membership Chairperson

Wanted: Email Addresses

If you haven't been receiving FOLA flyers about current events and activities, please send your address to alicemoskowitz@gmail.com. We will not share this information with any other organization.

Membership Benefits

Free admission to FOLA educational programs
10% discount at FOLA plant sales
10% discount at participating local establishments:

- Blooms of Wayne
- Chestnut Ridge Nursery
- Gro-Rite
- Riverside Nursery
- Strawberry Blossom Farms

20% discount at Chef Express

In addition, the American Horticultural Society's Reciprocal Program 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 <http://www.ahs.org/events/reciprocal/index.htm>



Cub Scout Troop 108 visited Laurelwood Arboretum one beautiful spring morning. Sara McHugh showed the youngsters how to identify mustard weed, which they would be pulling up, after which they enjoyed a scavenger hunt.

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 Rutgers 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.

Plants in Bloom

by Alexander Fitzburgh

The spring blooms are now gone from the rhododendrons and azaleas and have been replaced by the natural look of annuals and perennials along the trails.

Look for the large Southern Magnolias in the Arboretum .These are usually not hardy in our northern climate, but thanks to Dorothy Knippenberg’s special talent for finding unusual plant specimens, we have a little-known hardy variety called Edith Bogue that is a real treasure. It has large 1-inch glossy leaves, huge 8” to 10” white flowers, and a delicious aroma. Although each flower doesn’t last long, they do come and go through most of the summer.

For a list of plants in bloom in the coming months go to www.laurelwoodarboretum.org



A group of hard working volunteers pose with the mountain of weeds that they removed in the South Rock Garden. The volunteers, many of whom are Master Gardens, are part of FOLA’s Tuesday morning work detail

Volunteers Move Forward With Plant Identification Project

Master Gardener volunteers Betty Montagne and Peter S. Pirog are hard at work on a plant identification project in the South Rock Garden, under the guidance of Horticultural Manager Joan Scott-Miller. This pilot program will serve as a template for identifying plantings in other areas of the Arboretum.

The South Rock Garden features a diverse group of trees, shrubs and perennials, many of which were originally planted by John and Dorothy Knippenberg. The founders also compiled lists of their plantings that are now being used for the identification program.

“We start with the original plant lists and familiarize ourselves with the items listed,” Betty explained. “There are some plants that we know, so we look for them first. Others have to be researched and identified using horticultural reference books and websites. For example, when we find the name and description of a plant there might also be a photograph that we can match to one in the garden. Sometimes we take cuttings or photos and try to use those in our research.”

The plant ID team is also mapping the area, noting the location of each plant they identify and creating a corresponding list. In the future, some plants may be labeled. Missing plants will be replaced when possible and new ones introduced to balance and enhance the South Rock Garden. “Once the mapping of the South Rock Garden is finished, we will start working in other areas until we have identified and mapped every inch of the Arboretum,” said Volunteer Coordinator Deb Bryant.

To join FOLA or renew your membership, please fill out this application and send to FOLA, PO Box 2433, Wayne, NJ 07474-2433.

Name _____		Address _____	
City _____	State _____	Zip code _____	
Telephone _____		E-mail address _____	

We do not share this information with any other organization.

Annual Membership:

Individual: \$25 household \$50 nonprofit organization supporting \$250

Corporate: \$100 primrose \$500 azalea \$1,000 rhododendron other

Lifetime membership \$500

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

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

Upcoming Programs and Events

Wednesday, August 15, 4 pm to 6 pm *Monarch Butterfly Program.* Bob Simpson, environmentalist and retired Wayne educator, will present a program about the life cycle of the Monarch Butterfly and will show the life cycle stages on a walk through the arboretum. Meet in the pavilion. A great program for children! Free for FOLA members and children. \$15 fee for non-members.

September - Saturday, September 15, 1 pm to 3 pm *Dedication of the Laurelwood Arboretum Sensory Garden.* Rain date September 22, 1 pm to 3 pm

Wednesday, October 10, 4 pm to 6 pm *Tree Identification Talk and Tour.*

Presented by Dr. Edith Wallace, retired Professor of Biology, William Paterson University, and former President of the Passaic County Master Gardener Association.

Free for FOLA members. \$15 fee for non-members.

Sunday, October 14, 1 pm *Daffodil Day.*

Join community members and FOLA volunteers in planting daffodil bulbs for a wonderful Spring display. A great family event!

Tuesday, November 20, 7 pm *FOLA Annual Meeting and Elections,* Wayne Public Library Meeting Room.



A group of more than 30 people listened intently to a lecture on monarch butterflies at Laurelwood Arboretum given by Wayne resident and butterfly hobbyist Robert Simpson. This year, Simpson will present a children's program about butterflies on August 15 from 4 pm to 6 pm

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Career Campers Learn Vocational Skills at Laurelwood Arboretum

A group of eight energetic campers spent a hot summer morning working side by side with adult volunteers to help rid Laurelwood Arboretum of weeds and assist with planting. The event was part of Career Camp, a two-week program for students ages 14 to 21 who were diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

"At Career Camp we provide vocational exposure to students who have the ability to work but have great difficulty maintaining employment because of their behaviors," said Lauren Klein, Coordinator of Rehabilitation Services for Jewish Vocational Service of MetroWest (JVS), an agency of United Jewish Communities of MetroWest NJ. "Our goal is to teach vocational skills while addressing work-appropriate behaviors."



FOLA volunteers with the group of Career Camp students.

Board of Directors

Jim McHigh, *President & Town Liaison*

Deb Bryant, *1st Vice President & Volunteer Coordinator*

Alex Fadynich, *2nd Vice President & Site Manager*

Dawn Healey, *Recording Secretary & Art, Photography and Website*

Peter Lowry, *Treasurer*

Dr. Al Fitzburgh, *Horticultural Advisor*

Bonnie Joachim, *Public Relations & Community Outreach*

Sara McHugh, *Corresponding Secretary*

Alice Moskowitz, *Membership & Newsletter Editor*

Joan Scott-Miller, *Horticultural Manager*

Sue Burke, Kathy Salisbury, *Board Advisors*

Wish List

- Gift cards from local hardware stores and nurseries
- Folding chairs for events
- Bottled water for our volunteers
- \$50 Provides perennials for various areas
- \$100 Provides spring-blooming bulbs for various areas
- \$200 Provides gardening tools for volunteers
- \$250 Provides presenter fees and materials for educational programs
- \$300 Provides a push type lawn mower
- \$350 Supplies river rock for the dry stream in the South Rock Garden
- \$500 Provides plants for our new Sensory Garden
- \$900 Provides a digital projector for educational programs
- \$1,000 Sponsors an outdoor concert
- \$1,000 Provides for printing and mailing the FOLA newsletter
- \$2,000 Provides a party tent for outdoor events
- \$2,500 Funds a garden intern for summer 2012
- \$3,000 Provides for a wood chipper
- \$25,000 Supplies a Bob Cat grader
- \$40,000 Supplies a back hoe/front loader
- VOLUNTEERS – priceless – all skills welcome

Naming Opportunities For Visitors Center

- Greenhouse
- Greenhouse Benches
- Entrance Way
- Great Hall
- Lunch Room
- Chairs
- Display Room Dividers
- Glass Display Cases
- Outdoor Notice Board and Brochure Racks

Dogs in Laurelwood Arboretum

Just a friendly reminder that all dogs must be on leashes in Laurelwood Arboretum, in accordance with Wayne's leash law. Dog urine severely damages plantings, and dogs that wander off the Arboretum's paths may trample delicate shrubs and flowers. Thank you for your cooperation.



Many Ways to Support FOLA

There are many ways to support the work of Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum. You can make a donation, purchase a gift membership, or make a tribute donation in honor or in memory of someone special. If your employer has a matching gift program, any donation you make will be matched. You might also consider becoming a Lifetime FOLA member for \$500.

This year, FOLA is pleased to announce the establishment of the Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum **HORTICULTURAL PRESERVATION FUND** to ensure the health and continuity of Laurelwood's horticultural inheritance. During the severe storm of October 2011, 30 trees and many shrubs and plants were damaged. In the future, there will always be a need for restoration and garden rejuvenation as the Arboretum's plantings mature and age.

Donors to the Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum **HORTICULTURAL PRESERVATION FUND** may choose to make a gift in honor of or in memory of someone, or to mark a special occasion. We welcome donations in any amount. All gifts will be acknowledged. Gifts "in honor of" and memorial donations will be recognized on the Laurelwood Arboretum Notice Board and in our newsletter. Suggested gifts:

Tree:	\$100.00
Shrub:	\$ 75.00
Perennial:	\$ 50.00
Bulbs (5 large):	\$ 25.00

All contributions to the Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum **HORTICULTURAL PRESERVATION FUND** will be used for the care and improvement of the Arboretum's trees and gardens, but specific plants will not be assigned to donors.

Please make checks payable to FOLA and note on bottom of the check Horticultural Preservation Fund. 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. Mail to:

Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum
PO Box 2433
Wayne, NJ 07474-2433

Thank you for considering a donation to the Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum **HORTICULTURAL PRESERVATION FUND**. Your gift will insure the horticultural excellence of Laurelwood Arboretum for years to come. **Donations to the fund are tax deductible to the full extent of the tax law.**