



## 2010 YEAR IN REVIEW

Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum (FOLA) continues to meet its mission to be stewards of Laurelwood Arboretum, a unique horticultural property, and to provide opportunities for community horticultural and environmental education and involvement. Laurelwood Arboretum is a public conservancy. FOLA is dedicated to honoring the past while educating and involving the next generation of stewards.

The year 2010 has been one of extraordinary growth. Over 200 volunteers contributed 13,981 hours. This contribution represents a \$352,600 benefit to Wayne Township and the community. (Volunteer rate established by [www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org)) Many of our volunteer core of 50 work in or for the Arboretum year round.

Over 35 guided tours were given and an estimated 10,000 people from all over the area enjoyed the Arboretum over the course of the year. FOLA offered over 30 special events and educational programs that were publicized weekly in area and New Jersey papers and magazines and were well attended.

FOLA was the recipient of two significant grants from the Passaic County Open Space Commission. One, which will be supplemented with additional funds from the Wayne Lion's Club, will support the creation of a Sensory Garden. The other will fund the building of a Visitors Center. Both projects will be of significant benefit to the entire community.

FOLA initiated the development of a long range plan for the organization and for Laurelwood Arboretum. In 2011, we will continue to develop this plan and refine FOLA's mission to best serve the community, retain the founder's horticultural vision and maintain and enhance the property. This plan will guide us as we grow into an ever- more-vibrant member of the Wayne Township park system.

The FOLA Board of Directors is grateful for the level of support and involvement of Wayne Township, Passaic County, the Lion's Club of Wayne, and our many members, volunteers and friends.

## THE FRIENDS OF LAURELWOOD ARBORETUM (FOLA) ORGANIZATION

FOLA, formed in 2003, is a non-profit, completely volunteer, 501(c)(3) corporation.

FOLA's mission to stimulate and advance horticultural appreciation and enjoyment through public appreciation and participation can only be attained through a partnership of volunteers and community resources dedicated to maintaining a high standard of horticultural quality and aesthetics, to expand opportunities for cultural enrichment and community pride, and to preserve the unique naturalized setting of trees, shrubs and flowering plants known as Laurelwood Arboretum, a public garden of the Township of Wayne, New Jersey.

The FOLA volunteer board has accepted the responsibility for the maintenance and improvement of the park's horticulture future by securing and managing employees, volunteers, and community outreach. This includes horticultural and environmental educational programs, tours, events, and publicity.

### MEMBERSHIP

FOLA has 227 members, a 50% increase over 2008. In addition, we now have six Lifetime Members. In 2010, we updated our membership materials and had a membership table at both the Spring Rhododendron festival and Fall Harvest Festival plant sales, at our Annual Meeting, and at a booth at Wayne Day. A special effort was made to have all our volunteers also become members.

*Why are we so determined to increase FOLA membership?*

For many years Laurelwood Arboretum was virtually unknown to the residents of Wayne and surrounding communities. Laurelwood is a very special place, and FOLA's mission is to maintain and preserve this unique property for future generations. We believe that the more the community appreciates, uses and supports the Arboretum, the more secure its future will be as an integral part of the Wayne Township park system. One way to broaden this support is to increase membership in FOLA. The greater the numbers, the greater the voice.

### VOLUNTEERS

FOLA volunteers work with our horticultural staff to maintain and improve the Arboretum. Volunteers include high school students, Passaic County Master Gardeners, corporate groups, scout troops, individual scouts, garden club members, church and school groups, and many individual gardening and horticultural enthusiasts.

Volunteer activities included:

Passaic County Master Gardeners from Rutgers Extension met once a week throughout the season to restore the South Rock Garden.

Volunteers met throughout the season on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month to work in most-needed areas and on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday to do plant identification along a specified route for future guided tours.

Two Eagle Scout projects were completed: Drew Emmetts of Troop #101 constructed an Adirondack- style trellis on either end of the Dorothy Way trail; Ryan Ireland of Troop # 102 erected a new footbridge in the South Rock Garden.

Our indefatigable volunteers, Alex Fadynich and Dick Watts, dedicated countless hours to site preparation for the Knippenberg Memorial Gazebo and for a maintenance garage, as well as for numerous other repair and improvement projects throughout Laurelwood.

A greenhouse team worked year round growing and maintaining plants for fundraising and display gardens throughout the Arboretum.

Other significant volunteer contributions were made by Passaic County Master Gardeners, The UPS Corp., the ToysRUs Corp, Daisy Troop # 253, Boy Scout Troops #108, #101 and #102, several Wayne Special Education classes, and the Jewish Vocational Services students.

## **TOURS**

We are grateful to the Lion's Clubs of Wayne and West Milford for the contribution of funds to FOLA to acquire a "club car" motorized vehicle. This enabled us to provide guided tours to many who would otherwise be unable to appreciate the entire Arboretum.

Approximately 35 guided tours were given to local officials; garden club members; church, senior, and civic groups; plant sale visitors; and Wayne Township residents.

## **PLANT IDENTIFICATION**

Throughout the season, a Plant Identification volunteer group walked the Tree Tour route. They were assisted by Dr. Al Fitzburgh and Laurelwood's Horticultural Manger, Joan Scott Miller. Pictures were taken of the plants in various seasons and time of bloom.

This group is developing a guide that will be organized numerically following the Tree Tour with seasonal pictures, descriptions and anecdotal information about the small trees, shrubs, perennials, and ephemeras that are most likely to evoke questions from tour participants. This reference guide will assist docents in identifying and discussing plants during Tree, Native Plant and other general tours. The goal is for this guide to be complete and available for the docents by Spring 2011.

## **EDUCATION**

At the Notice Board at the entrance to the Arboretum, we provide a current bloom list, maps, and brochures for self- guided Tree and Native Plant Tours. Approximately 8,000 brochures were used by visitors in 2010.

Educational programs included:

Propagation Workshop by respected rhododendron hybridizer Dr. Al. Fitzburgh.

Guided Native Plant and Tree Tours by FOLA board members and volunteers.

Weed/Herb Walk by renowned herbalist Robin Rose Bennett.

Nature Photography Workshop by Essex County Photo Club Vice President Dawn Healey.

Container Garden Demonstration by Strawberry Blossom Home and Garden Center.

Rhododendron Repotting Demonstration by Dr. Al Fitzburgh.

Invasive Plant Identification and Removal Workshop by Master Gardener Bonnie Joachim.

On several occasions, Virginia Chiller, District Transition Coordinator for the Wayne Schools, brought special needs students to the Arboretum for work projects. As these students volunteer, they are learning about the outdoor environment, cooperating in a group situation, and taking direction from adults in a new and different setting.

We are also developing a very knowledgeable volunteer workforce. As volunteers work in the Arboretum, they are guided and taught proper horticultural techniques by Laurelwood's Horticultural Manager, Joan Scott Miller.

## **FUNDRAISING**

Donations to FOLA support educational programs, membership outreach, newsletters, event advertising, and public relations and community outreach initiatives.

FOLA funds also support on-site improvements. In 2010, FOLA purchased a maintenance garage and maintenance vehicle. We rented machinery to help with composting, mulching, and topsoil distribution; transportation of rocks and gravel; digging of trenches; Sensory Garden site preparation; and placement of plants in new areas. Improvements were made to the upper and lower greenhouses.

Fundraising events included our Spring Rhododendron Festival and Fall Harvest Festival plant sales. Special demonstrations were featured at each event by Dr. Al Fitzburgh (Spring) and Strawberry Home and Garden Center (Fall).

Several educational programs netted a profit. The Weed Walk was a notable success. Wedding ceremonies and photos shoots brought in additional donations.

There were donations from FOLA supporters year round. Donations in memory of family members and friends increased dramatically.

The Knippenberg Memorial Gazebo was built with the use of FOLA funds and a generous matching donation from a long-time friend of the Knippenbergs.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Notice Board: Membership brochures, Tree and Native Plant self-guided tour brochures, maps of the Arboretum, event flyers, bloom list, and photos. Brochures and posters were displayed locally.

Press releases and articles published weekly in local and state newspapers and magazines.

Web site ([www.laurelwoodarboretum.org](http://www.laurelwoodarboretum.org)) improved and updated with listings of current events.

Newsletter and emails about upcoming events, membership information, and Arboretum news were sent to members and supporters.

Annual meeting in November with committee reports and elections, as well as ceremonial presentation of check from the Passaic County Freeholders.

FOLA/Laurelwood Arboretum Power Point presentation was given to local garden clubs, civic groups, and Master Gardener Association.

Knippenberg Memorial Gazebo Dedication. Bob Shine oil painting of the Memorial Gazebo in Winter was presented to Wayne Mayor Christopher Vergano.

Membership in Garden State Gardens Consortium: link on GSGC web site, representation at NJ Flower Show and Sussex Bloomfest and in GSGC Power Point presentations.

Listing in American Horticultural Society's Reciprocal Program, (a FOLA membership benefit), Garden Conservancy's Open Days Directory, and in the upcoming W.W.Norton Garden Guide.

Wayne Public Library: Display Case presentations and display of paintings of Laurelwood by area artists.

Wayne Day display booth

## ON-SITE ACTIVITIES

Laurelwood Arboretum is maintained and improved through the hard work of three seasonal employees (a Horticultural Manager and two gardeners) and a dedicated core of volunteers.

Pruning of shrubs and trees and removal of fallen and dead trees.

Garden maintenance: redesigning, site preparation and rejuvenation; transplanting, seeding, dividing; spreading mulch and compost; fertilizing; irrigation; weeding; insect control and deer-resistant spraying.

Pond and stream maintenance: duckweed removed, banks relined with rock, rock walls built, drainage ditches dug, large amounts of trash removed.

Spring Garden improvements: drainage and planting bed realigned with rocks and logs and new plantings.

Parking lot garden improvements: renewal of planting bed and drainage ditch with the addition of rock and log lining.

Pond Perennial Garden improvements: renewal of planting bed, drainage ditch, and rock wall.

Knippenberg Memorial Gazebo site preparation: footings and gravel installed.

Maintenance garage site preparation: drainage and foundation construction, installation of electricity and tool storage units; work benches built.

Dorothy's Way Arbors (Eagle Scout Project) site preparation. Cedar used from on-site downed trees.

South Rock Garden Bridge (Eagle Scout Project) site preparation: rock walls repaired, pathways cleared, gravel laid, and bridge installed.

Trail signs, arbors and benches: site preparation and placement.

Upper greenhouse maintenance: cleaned, repainted, and repaired; tool storage area and new shelving installed; drainage ditches dug to correct a winter flooding problem.

Lower greenhouse site preparation: removal of garbage, glass and plastic; temporary repairs, and recovering with plastic.

Backhoe rented to help with mulch, compost and topsoil distribution, transportation of rocks and gravel, digging trenches and drains, removal of plantings from the new Sensory Garden area, and replanting into various areas throughout the Arboretum.

Weatherization of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> bridge, two Scout bridges, the Gazebo, arbors, and benches.

Trees planted: Larch, Blue Spruce, Hemlock, Birch, and various species of Cedar.

An Integrated Pest Management project was begun to control the black vine weevil on the rhododendrons.

Irrigation system leak repaired; map of the irrigation system begun.

Bulbs planted this season include: Crocus "Remembrance," Allium "Schubertii," Narcisi "Toto," Scilla Campanulata "Rose" etc.

Plants identified and a bloom list compiled.

Organizing, teaching, and choosing project outlines for volunteers.

Collaboration on a new Native Plant Tour and brochure.

Commencement of a Manual of Work/Duties to be done in the Arboretum seasonally.

WAYNE TOWNSHIP PARKS DEPARTMENT: spread gravel on the roadways, chipped brush, delivered and placed Christmas tree mulch, mowed lawns, and trimmed trees.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED: theft of plants, containers, signs, and a bench (Wayne police were notified); dogs off-leash and waste left on site; children and dogs in streams and garden beds; trash left by gazebo, streams and South Rock Garden; entrance locks removed.

SUGGESTIONS: improved security, fencing surrounding Arboretum, and better signs with Arboretum rules posted at all entrances.

## INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

LAUREL POND needs drastic work. The silt coming off roads has accumulated over the years and has created a serious danger to our water supply. This year Wayne Township funded a Rutgers Study to determine the origin and extent of the problem. This report was reviewed by both Wayne Township and the Passaic County Engineering Departments. Meetings were held with appropriate departments and Rutgers representatives to create a plan to overcome this problem.

We are investigating the possibility of de-silting a portion of Laurel Pond and using this material as fill in an area of our parking lots. We are also investigating the proposed planting of vegetation into a small portion

of the pond. Hopefully this, along with the recommended opening of various inlets into the Arboretum, will decrease the contaminants in the pond to a point that in a few years we can remove a large portion of the silt and use it on our property at a reasonable cost. We are working with Rutgers on securing grants to help in this process. This pond survey could not have been accomplished without the backing of Wayne Township.

THE SENSORY GARDEN is progressing with the help of both the Passaic County Open Space Commission and the Lion's Club of Wayne, along with contributions from the general public and local nurseries. We are presently out to bid on the project. This project should be completed in Spring 2011 benefiting Passaic County residents as well as people in surrounding communities.

LAURELWOOD ARBORETUM VISITORS CENTER plans received a tremendous boost with a recent grant of \$472,250 from the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders. This project has the enthusiastic support of Wayne Township officials and particularly Mayor Christopher Vergano. The Visitors Center will help bring Laurelwood into the limelight as one of the finest Arboretums in the Northeast. Our volunteers are planning educational programs to be held in the new building for all ages from grade school to seniors. The refurbished greenhouses will enable us to grow plants for the Sensory Garden and other areas of the Arboretum and to continue the horticultural work started by John and Dorothy Knippenberg. We will work with the Wayne Historical Committee to determine how to use portions of the Old Milk Barn (previously on Hamburg Turnpike), in the Visitors Center construction. Every effort will be made to be as "green" as possible in the construction of the building.

*This is a compilation of 2010 FOLA board member and staff year end reports.*

*Dr. Al Fitzburgh*

*Jim McHugh*

*Alex Fadynich*

*Nancy Fadynich*

*Debra Bryant*

*Sue Burke*

*Sara McHugh*

*Alice Moskowitz*

*Dawn Healey*

*Bonnie Joachim*

*Kathy Salisbury*

*Bob Shine*

*Joan Scott Miller*

