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 FOLA communications electronically, please provide your email address below:

Email ______________________

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

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 ______________________

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:

Email ______________________

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

Telephone ______________________

Freeholders To Fund Laurelwood Visitors Center/Greenhouse Complex

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.

Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.
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 arboreta and considering creative ways to approach the project. Thanks to the Township of Wayne, we are planning to incorporate materials from the Aldeney 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 Sosin 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

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 Moskowitz, 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 Rob Bhine, 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 audiobase. 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. Pondside 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.org or go to WWW.laurelwoodarboretum.org

Festive Gardening and Plant Sale

Saturday, September 24th from 10 am to 3 pm

Programs include:

- The Water Cycle, 10 am
- The Water Cycle, 1 pm
- The Water Cycle, 3 pm

All programs are free and open to the public.

Plant Sale: 10 am to 3 pm

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 do so. 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.

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By Alice Moskowitz

Membership Chairperson
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 Dorothy’s 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. 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 to include 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 logged more than 250 volunteer hours at Laurelwood Arboretum. She works there every Tuesday morning throughout the season and keep track of her 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 Watts

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 mgapc.org

For more information, please call 973-305-5740 or go to mgapc.org

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.

Nancy Fadynich with Dr. Al Fitzburgh.
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 and a trailer.

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.”

Drew, father, Drew L. Emmetts, Sr., who brought in a truck and a trailer, divided and replanted perennials; planted bulbs; mowed the lawns; and eliminated invasive weeds. Others helped repair the greenhouses, paths, bridges, and maintenance areas.

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

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 Monnivia 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.

Volunteering 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

Eagle 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.

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

Volunteer Opportunities

Eagle Scout Drew C. Emmetts.

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.