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Knippenberg Center Almost Complete

The long-awaited Knippenberg Center for Education is almost complete. A handsome building now stands in a clearing near the entrance to the arboretum shaded by trees and shrubs. The next step is installation of the roadwork required by Wayne Township to ensure safe access to the site. The parking lot will NOT be paved but will remain gravel, as it always has. The only area that will be paved are the two required handicapped spaces.

When completed, the Knippenberg Center will provide space for educational programs and community activities. FOLA volunteer “greeters” will welcome visitors and offer maps, brochures, and other information. The center will also have handicapped-accessible restrooms and a library for children and adults.

Usage of the Educational Center will be governed by the following rules:

- Maximum number of occupants in the building for any event is 49
- No alcohol is allowed on the premises
- The building will be closed to the public on Mondays (except for the bathrooms for the employees)
- The building will be closed to the public during the months the employees are not working in the arboretum (except for scheduled events)
- Initially, the building will be open Tuesday through Sunday, 12 am to 4 pm

Construction of the center was funded by grants from the Passaic County Open Space Fund and by FOLA. A generous local resident has contributed a complete set of high-end furniture for the interior. There are still naming opportunities for those interested in making donations to fund things that are needed for the center.

The Next Phase: Educational Greenhouse

FOLA has now received additional funds from the Passaic County Open Space and Farmland Preservation Fund for the second phase of this project: construction of an educational greenhouse connected to the Knippenberg Center. This educational greenhouse will provide space for programs and hands-on horticultural activities for all ages. No additional parking is required for the greenhouse.

Laurelwood Arboretum is now closed temporarily for the safety of our visitors during the building and roadway construction. A grand opening will be announced when work is completed. Meanwhile, our staff of gardeners and our dedicated volunteers continue to work to keep the arboretum looking beautiful. In addition to the routine weeding, pruning and replanting, they are undertaking an extensive renovation of the South Rock Garden under the guidance of the Watnong Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society. Your patience is appreciated during this construction period.

Native Plant Teaching Garden

Kathleen Salisbury, President of the Native Plant Society of New Jersey and a FOLA member, has exciting plans for the design of a Native Plant Teaching Garden surrounding the Knippenberg Center for Education.

“Laurelwood already highlights natives in its Native Tree Tour,” Kathy noted. “Soon the arboretum will also be a place where people can see native plants in their natural form and learn their names and seasonal attributes.” As visitors walk to the Knippenberg center from the parking lot, they will take a path through the Native Plant Teaching Garden. Designed for adults and school-children alike, this educational space will identify native plants with signage and labels that highlight the integral role they play in our environment.

“Imagine participants in an educational program at the center learning about plants in the classroom and then stepping out the door into the teaching garden where they can touch, smell, and see the beauty of plants that are native to our area,” Kathy said. “Visitors can discover plants that offer interesting displays throughout the year to fill gaps in their own landscapes. Laurelwood Arboretum will be one of the few public parks to feature a Native Plant Teaching Garden.”
Spotlight on Volunteers
Jean and Roland Reynolds

FOLA volunteers Jean and Ro Reynolds have totaled more than 700 hours since they first began working at Laurelwood Arboretum in 2011. Although their interests are different - Jean is a gardener and Ro likes to work on machinery - they each play an important role in maintaining the gardens.

Jean heads up the Greenhouse Committee, which works from fall through winter to preserve the arboretum’s valuable specimens and prepare them for spring planting. She also works in the gardens on Tuesdays and with the Friday volunteers on pruning and special projects. Ro is a member of the FOLA board of directors and was responsible for researching and installing a security system for the arboretum. He also helps maintain our equipment and vehicles, teaches the staff how to operate them safely, and works on a variety of infrastructure improvements.

When they are not working at Laurelwood, Jean and Ro are busy tending rescue animals at their Pompton Lakes home. At any one time they might be bottle feeding baby raccoons or caring for rabbits, deer, birds and other wildlife in addition to their own dogs and cats. Jean also tends the plants in the gardens surrounding their home and in her solar greenhouse. Ro’s hobbies are cars and model trains.

This busy couple has lived in Pompton Lakes for almost 50 years. Jean met Ro when she was working as a nurse. Before retiring, Ro was National Product Specialist and Large Systems Support Specialist at IBM. Each of them has a lifetime of special skills that they bring to their volunteer work at Laurelwood Arboretum.

FOLA Hosts Photography Intern at Laurelwood

Lindsay Washco began taking photography classes with Pathways for Exceptional Children, a Montville, New Jersey nonprofit that encourages children with disabilities to find their passions and maximize their potential. She quickly began using professional-grade DSLR cameras and loves taking photos of the outdoors and animals.

Dawn Healey, FOLA’s chairperson of art and photography and outgoing president of the Essex County Photography Club, has been working with Lindsay to help her improve her photographic skills. She meets regularly with Lindsay and her Pathways supervisor. Together they have been exploring the wildlife in the arboretum to find captivating subjects for their photographs.

Lindsay combines her love and talent for photography with graphic arts and has made some exceptional cards, posters, and other products. To see some of her work go to www.flashfireimaging.org.

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.

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Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum (FOLA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Our mission is to preserve, promote and improve Laurelwood Arboretum and to provide opportunities for horticultural appreciation and education through public programs, volunteer participation and outreach activities.
Applause for Our Terrific Volunteers

Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum (FOLA) hosted its annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon in April. President Jim McHugh introduced our new executive director, Elaine Fogerty. She talked about this season’s volunteer needs. Bonnie Joachim explained the new system of recording volunteer hours.

From now on, all volunteers will be responsible for keeping their own record of hours, just as they do for the Rutgers Master Gardener program. Hours can include time spent not only in the gardens but on committees and all other FOLA activities. These records are very important because they show Wayne Township how much our volunteers contribute to maintaining Laurelwood. In 2013, FOLA volunteers reported 10,058 hours, which had an estimated value to Wayne of $269,084. This information is also essential when we apply for grants. To print or download a form for recording your hours, please go to http://www.laurelwoodarboretum.org/Docs/Volunteer_Time_Sheet_April_2014.pdf

The dedication of the volunteers who support FOLA is a key to the continued growth and vitality of Laurelwood Arboretum. We depend on our volunteers to help enhance the arboretum’s extensive plantings and offer programs and activities to engage visitors of all ages. Volunteers work tirelessly in the gardens and serve on our Board of Directors and its very active committees to help manage the arboretum, plan programs, encourage membership growth, raise funds and much, much more.

Our volunteers come from many walks of life and range in age from teenagers to seniors. A core group of our volunteers are Passaic County Master Gardeners. Each volunteer shares with FOLA his or her own special blend of talent and experience.

If you would like to become a FOLA volunteer, please contact Executive Director, Elaine Fogerty at fogertyelaine@gmail.com

In the Arboretum

Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to noon
Work and learn alongside the horticultural manager and fellow volunteers. Help restore and improve Laurelwood’s gardens and beautify our unique Sensory Garden.
Meet in the pavilion. Bring gloves, your favorite garden tools, and water.

Land Maintenance Projects
Work with the site manager and other volunteers to improve the arboretum’s drainage and infrastructure.

Tour Guides
FOLA will provide training for anyone who wishes to lead our Native Tree Tours or guide visitors through the arboretum.

Greeters
When the Knippenberg Center is opened, we will need a corps of volunteers to welcome visitors and offer information and assistance.

Behind the Scenes
For those who don’t wish to work in the arboretum, there are many areas where volunteers are needed to support FOLA and Laurelwood.

Fundraising – Coordinate fundraising activities; head a subcommittee, or work on specific fundraising efforts.

Tour, Wedding and Photo Shoot Scheduler– Coordinate requests with available volunteers.

Knippenberg Center Greeter Coordinator– Coordinate greeter schedules.

Horticultural Research – Develop a rhododendron identification program for the various specimens in Laurelwood Arboretum. Work on other plant identification projects.

Programs and Events – Help develop programs and events for the community.

Administrative Help – Data entry and general office work.

Public Relations – Be involved in various outreach efforts such as newsletters, website, and social media.

Membership - Help us reach out to potential new members and nurture our existing members.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please call 973-202-9579 or e-mail us at info@laurelwood.org

At the FOLA volunteer luncheon, members of the plant identification committee posed with the volunteers who have signed on to lead native tree tours. From left are: Betty Ryan, Sara McHugh, Grace Anthony, Dawn Healey, Prabha Sahasrabudhe, Chairperson Betty Montagne, Gerry Lawry, Walter Koening, Edith Wallace, and Lillian Sayeg. Not in photo, Pat Engnisiei.
Laurelwood’s Plant Identification Committee has been working diligently since last summer to create a Native Tree Tour for the arboretum. Their new tour will introduce visitors to the arboretum’s many magnificent trees and emphasize the importance of native trees to our environment.

The committee, made up of Chairperson Betty Montagne, Sara McHugh and Walter Koenig, began its work by choosing native trees that are on walking paths and then creating a tour map consisting of 20 trees. It was aided in this effort by a native tree walk given last year by Dr. Edith Wallace, retired chair of the Biology Department at William Paterson University.

Next came research, much of it on the Internet, which resulted in a fact sheet for each tree. The fact sheets list the characteristics of each tree as well as the importance of the trees to humans and wildlife. The sheets will be used by FOLA’s tour guides, who will have been trained to lead the tour. Several people have already volunteered to serve as tour guides. If you are interested in attending the training sessions, please call 973-202-9579 or email us at info@laurelwoodarboretum.org.

During the winter months, the committee created a Native Tree Tour brochure which lists each tree’s most important characteristics and includes a map locating the trees on the walking route, so that the brochure can be used for a self-guided tour.

The committee also researched botanical signs for identifying the trees on the tour. They visited the New York Botanical Garden to examine the content and placement of that institution’s tree identification signs. They then designed tree signs for Laurelwood, which were purchased thanks to a grant from the Master Gardener Association of Passaic County. In April, volunteers installed the signs on the trees in arboretum. You may notice them as you walk the trails.

The Plant ID committee has been coordinating its work with FOLA’s Education Committee. Native tree tours will be available for the public when the arboretum reopens.

The committee wishes to thank a number of people who greatly aided its work:

- Dr. Edith Wallace, who provided botanical advice
- Joan Scott-Miller, horticultural manager, also for botanical advice
- Dawn Healey, FOLA’s second vice president, who designed the brochure
- Bonnie Joachim, past president of FOLA, who provided historical information about the arboretum
- Bill Mains, FOLA board member, for helping to install the tree signs
- Jim McHugh, FOLA president, who located a sign vendor and provided one of the electric carts when the committee needed transportation in the arboretum

Walter Koenig
Member, Plant ID Committee

You can support Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum while shopping online at Amazon without paying anything extra. Simply go to smile.amazon.com. On your first visit to AmazonSmile, select Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum as the charitable organization to receive donations from your purchases. You will then use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, registries, and other account settings are the same. Support us every time you shop!
Your FOLA membership card is much more than a passport to discounts and other benefits. It says YOU are an essential part of the team that keeps Laurelwood Arboretum vibrant, dynamic, and beautiful. We depend on you to help us enhance the arboretum’s extensive plantings and offer programs and activities to engage visitors of all ages. Most important, you are part of a constituency that supports our mission and is committed to securing the future of Laurelwood Arboretum as a unique horticultural preserve.

We are pleased to report that FOLA membership continues to grow and now totals more than 350. This includes 7 Supporting Members at $250 and 18 Lifetime Members at $500. We are particularly proud of our year-to-year membership retention, which reflects a strong base of support for FOLA. We also appreciate the fact that many members make contributions to FOLA over and above their dues.

Everyone who joins or renews now will have membership extended through December 31, 2015. We hope those of you who have not yet renewed will rejoin. Thank you for your support!

Alice Moskowitz
Membership Chairperson

FOLA ‘Thank You’ Program Features Talk on Attracting Backyard Birds

Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum opened its 2014 membership year with a talk at the Wayne Public Library on “Creating a Backyard Habitat for the Seasonal Birds of New Jersey” given by Patrick Scheuer, teacher-naturalist at New Jersey Audubon’s Lorrimer Sanctuary in Franklin Lakes.

In a slideshow that accompanied his talk, Scheuer showed the array of birdlife throughout the area at different times of the year and discussed how our backyards can serve as valuable habitats for birds. “More than 350 species of birds live in New Jersey, and 250 stay and nest over the winter,” he said. “We feed the birds because they are fun to watch, but a side benefit is that some birds have expanded their habitats because we are feeding them.”

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: ___$250 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.
The Watnong Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS) is partnering with FOLA's staff and volunteers to restore the South Rock Garden at Laurelwood Arboretum. Dorothy Knippenberg was a lifetime member of NARGS and created rock gardens as one of her special display areas. Although they have been cared for by Rutgers Master Gardener and FOLA volunteers, many of the original rocks have become covered with soil and vegetation and the original designs obscured.

The Watnong Chapter’s board had considered making a donation to Laurelwood for restoration of the rock garden but decided instead to make it a workshop opportunity for its members. Volunteers from the society are working with FOLA’s staff gardeners and volunteers on the project. Members of both organizations will have the benefit of learning garden restoration, rebuilding a rock garden, and selecting plants. The chapter has approved an expenditure of up to $5000 in 2014 for the project. “This is a first for our chapter, and the number of members who have volunteered reflects the interest of our members,” said Mike Wilson, the chapter’s chair.

The first group of Watnong Chapter volunteers came to Laurelwood on Saturday, April 5, to begin an initial exploration in a small area of the rock garden. They excavated in the hopes of uncovering the tufa, the limestone rocks that were integral to the original design. The designated area was dug to about three feet down, and any existing plants deemed good enough to save were potted up. The group will return to rebuild the area with tufa and quality soil and then replant.

The Watnong Chapter is committed to the renovation of the Laurelwood Arboretum rock garden as a five-year project that will offer its members opportunities hands-on experience in planning, building, planting and maintaining a rock garden. The chapter expects to schedule workshops and demonstrations at Laurelwood in the future.

FOLA’s Education Committee has been hard at work developing an exciting program of educational activities to be held at the Knippenberg Center. The availability of an indoor space opens up many new possibilities for adult and children’s programs. Some possibilities are age-specific, such as seasonal scavenger hunts for preschoolers, story telling combined with a nature activity, or puppet shows about the importance of recycling or protecting the environment. Older students might be inspired to examine the characteristics of our environment through rock types or the effect moving water has on our earth.

A local boy scout is creating a project that shows the age and history of trees by studying the rings on a large fallen tree. Another idea is the creation of a Pollinator Garden where young people can study the structure of flowers and the vital role of pollinators in the natural world. In the planning stages are special programs such as, Garden Fairy Day, Bird Day, and How to Keep A Garden Sketch Book or Journal.

For adults, FOLA’s Plant ID Committee has developed an hour-long Native Tree Tour. There are always so many interesting and beautiful things to observe as you walk along the arboretum’s winding paths. And the possibilities for educational programs about Laurelwood’s plants or other horticultural subjects are almost endless.

Our enthusiastic Education Committee includes teachers with experience from pre-k through college and others interested in sharing their knowledge of nature and the importance of caring for our planet Earth. If you have any ideas for future educational programs or would like to join our committee, please send an email to info@laurelwoodarboretum.org or call 973-202-9579.

Sara McHugh
Chairperson, FOLA Education Committee
Many Ways to Support FOLA

With the Knippenberg Center for Education nearing completion, FOLA has many exciting plans for the future. We will need additional resources to fully realize the vision we have for Laurelwood Arboretum.

There are many ways you can support Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum in our work—from contributing to our annual Give the Gift of Green fund drive, to making a gift in honor of someone special, to making a bequest to FOLA as part of your estate plan. If your employer has a matching gift program, you can double your impact. To donate, please choose the way that most suits your personal needs and interests. You can mail donations to FOLA, Box 2433, Wayne, NJ 07474-2433.

Contribute to Our Annual Appeal
Your gift to this year’s Give the Gift of Green Campaign will supplement our grant from Wayne Township and give us a headstart on rejuvenating the arboretum after this year’s harsh winter. Thanks to the many members who have already contributed!

Honor Someone Special
Donations to FOLA are a thoughtful way of expressing condolences or congratulations while at the same time supporting our efforts to preserve and maintain Laurelwood Arboretum. Donations in any amount are welcome.

For gifts of $50 or more to our Living Tribute of Flowering Plants in Laurelwood Arboretum Program, we will send your designated recipient a certificate suitable for framing or a beautiful photo notecard. Donations can honor or memorialize individuals or commemorate special events. These gifts will support the purchase, planting, and maintenance of flowering plants in the arboretum.

Donor’s Name and Address:
Donor’s Phone Number________________Memorial___or Occasion________________
Name of Recipient or Honoree:
Name and address where __certificate __or photo__ is to be sent

Give a Gift in Kind
Donations of material goods or professional services can be very helpful in supporting FOLA’s efforts. If you are considering an in-kind gift, please call 973-202-9579 or send an e-mail to info@laurelwoodarboretum.org.

Naming Opportunities
A number of naming opportunities are available for the Knippenberg Center, the greenhouses, and other projects in the arboretum. Please call us at 973-202-9579 to discuss these.

A Gift for the Future
Remembering FOLA in your will ensures that future generations will benefit from the preservation of this unique preserve. The Laurelwood Arboretum Legacy Society honors donors who have chosen to support the arboretum through a bequest in their will or through a planned gift. If you wish to make such a gift, we suggest that you consult your attorney, financial advisor, or estate planner to determine the most prudent way for you to make a charitable bequest. For more specific information about bequests to FOLA, please call 973-202-9579 or send an e-mail to info@laurelwoodarboretum.org.

At a recent Shady Characters educational program, Cynthia Rauth, green goods manager and design consultant for Max is Back, walked the McHugh’s property and talked about shade plants and which ones like to hang out together.