Art at the Arboretum

An exciting, enriching weekend to benefit Laurelwood Arboretum

Art at the Arboretum, a first-ever fundraising event for Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum, will help us to continue to maintain and enhance our beautiful park and host programs for nature lovers of all ages. The event will also be an opportunity for our supporters and members to view and purchase artwork from notable artists. The art on display will include a variety of styles and mixed-media, such as abstract/urban expressionism, modern, and sculpture. Distinguished artists are being identified and selected by a professional art assessor.

Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum will produce an Art Journal book for the event with information about each of the artists and their work. It will include advertisements from businesses and supporters who have made donations to the journal. The book is a key component of the fundraising effort.

The weekend’s festivities will begin on Saturday, September 24 at 7 pm with an opening cocktail reception for sponsors and patrons. Guests will have the opportunity to meet the artists and preview or purchase their work. Guest speaker will be Frank Juliano, Executive Director of Reeves-Reed Arboretum, who will discuss, “How to Identify Collectible Art.” Mr. Juliano has curated and organized many art exhibits and is active in the art communities of the tri-state area.

On Sunday, September 25, members and supporters of Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum will be invited to attend a champagne brunch reception from 10:30 to noon. They will have an opportunity to speak with the artists and preview or purchase artwork. Tickets are $25. The exhibition will be open to the public without charge from noon to 4 pm.

Pines Lake resident Leslie Reiser is Art at the Arboretum Chairperson, and Wayne Mayor Christopher Vergano is Honorary Chairperson. Anyone interested helping to coordinate this event (logistics, promotion, ad solicitation, setup, etc.) please send an email to: info@laurelwoodarboretum.org or call 973-831-5675.
FOLA depends on volunteers to help maintain the arboretum and manage our nonprofit organization. Volunteering is a great experience. Come meet new people, make new friends, and make a difference at Laurelwood Arboretum.

Onsite
Tuesdays and Fridays, 9 am to noon, April to October
Help restore and beautify Laurelwood’s gardens.

Land Maintenance Projects
Work with the site manager to improve the arboretum’s infrastructure.

Tour Guides
Meet the community and share your horticultural knowledge and enthusiasm for Laurelwood. FOLA will provide training for anyone who wishes to lead a tour.

Behind-the-Scenes
Volunteers are needed in many areas to support FOLA in its efforts. Here is a sampling:

- Volunteer Coordinator: Interact with volunteers and assess their interests and talents.
- Fundraising: Coordinate fundraising activities or work on specific fundraising campaigns.
- Horticultural Research: Participate in our rhododendron or plant identification research projects.
- Administrative Help: Data entry.
- Writer: Write copy for brochures, newsletter, publicity and other materials.
- Public Relations and Marketing: Support FOLA’s efforts to reach out to the community.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please call 973-831-5675 or send an email to info@laurelwoodarboretum.org.

The World of Volunteers at Laurelwood

By Elaine Fogerty, Executive Director
Laurelwood Arboretum is a 30-acre horticultural gem that was a former nursery and garden belonging to John and Dorothy Knippenberg. It is now a public garden, and Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum (FOLA) has the primary responsibility for maintaining it. With a seasonal staff of one part-time and three full-time gardening professionals, there is lots of work for them to do. Happily, we have dozens of volunteers to help weed, mulch, prune and plant. Our volunteer days in the garden are Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 am to noon. Join us whenever you wish—no reservations necessary.

Volunteers also help with construction projects to maintain the bridges, paths, greenhouses and other structures. And there are volunteer opportunities that are not outdoors. Our FOLA Board of Directors manages some 25 committees and welcomes volunteers to help. A sampling of the committees includes Plant Identification, Tour Guides, Education, Site, Newsletter, Publicity, Fundraising, Membership, Donations, Art Show, Plant Sale and Greenhouse.

Laurelwood Arboretum would not be the success that it is without its energetic Board of Directors.

Corporate groups and other organizations help us too. Marriott Corporation, Columbia Bank, Benway School, the North American Rock Garden Society, Boy Scouts, Lion’s Club and two interns from William Paterson University were also part of our volunteer family.

In 2015, volunteers logged an impressive 9,374 hours, with an estimated value of $240,737. Thirty-three dedicated volunteers recorded more than 100 hours. By the end of 2015, the garden was beautiful and neat. A fine way to end the year and begin the next.

Volunteerism is the lifeblood of Laurelwood Arboretum and benefits the entire community. Outdoors or indoors, we are all using our talents to make Laurelwood Arboretum the most beautiful, interesting and welcoming place it can be. For further information about volunteering and to be directed to the area that best fits your needs, interests and talents, please send an e-mail to info@laurelwoodarboretum.org or call 973-831-5675.

**Welcome, David**

We are pleased to welcome David Kooistra to the FOLA Board of Directors as site manager. He brings many talents to the FOLA board—experience in construction, gardening, computers and site maintenance.

He worked closely with Dorothy Knippenberg for many years and at one time served as liaison between her and the Wayne Department of Parks and Recreation. He is also a Master Gardener with an impressive horticultural knowledge.

David’s relationship with Laurelwood goes back many years. His grandfather, who was a mason, built the foundation for one of the greenhouses. His father, a general contractor, helped the Knippenbergs with repairs at their home and in the arboretum. As a boy, it was David who fixed the glass in the greenhouses because he was the only one small enough to climb into the low-hanging space. When his father retired, the Knippenbergs called on David when things needed to be repaired. Then in 2000, he was hired by Wayne Township for a part-time position to help Dorothy maintain the arboretum.

“Dorothy lived to create gardens and to keep her beloved arboretum as she felt it should be,” David said. “John Knippenberg focused on growing plants. He and Dorothy developed close relationships with rhododendron societies all over the world and exchanged seeds and plants with other growers.”

David resigned from his position as town liaison when he developed Lyme disease. He then worked for various businesses, volunteered at the New Jersey Botanical Gardens, and served on its Board of Directors. Now David is back at Laurelwood, bringing with him years of gardening experience and an invaluable knowledge of the arboretum’s history and particularly of Dorothy’s rhododendron and other plant collections.

**Tips on Preventing Injuries While Gardening**

This year’s volunteer kickoff featured a talk by Dr. Heidi Tinter, PT, DPT, CSCS, of Paramus and Wayne Orthopedic Physical Therapy, on “How to Garden Without Injuring Yourself.” Dr. Tinter has a Doctorate of Physical Therapy from Columbia University and is also a gardening enthusiast. She shared the following tips with our volunteers:

- Use a kneepad to cushion your knees
- Raise one leg to a perpendicular position to reduce stress on your back
- When working on the ground, move rather than reaching when you need to plant, get a tool, or pull a weed
- Get up frequently to walk and stretch
- When raking, step rather than reaching to work on a different patch
- When trimming shrubs, work at shoulder height or below rather than reaching up
- Squat when picking up a heavy object and keep it as close to your body as possible; try to bring it up to a step stool or something close to the ground before lifting it the whole way
- Exercise before gardening to warm up your muscles; march in place, stretch, and take deep breaths to warm up your whole system
- When working alone, always carry a cellphone
- Stay hydrated
- Get a tetanus shot once every 10 years

Dr. Tinter also suggested some steps to take after using a clippers or other tool repeatedly: extend your arm out straight and push down your hand; then push your hand back up. It also helps to apply ice or put your hand in cold water after repetitive work with your hands.

**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.

Heidi Tinter demonstrates a good position for gardening.
By Joseph Di Giacomo, Chairperson

A Rhododendron Study Team was formed last year and has concluded the first phase of its project to identify and tag Laurelwood’s rhododendrons. John and Dorothy Knippenberg were widely known and respected for their many registered rhododendrons. Over the years, they raised and/or hybridized more than 50 new rhododendrons and registered eight with the American Rhododendron Society and the Royal Horticultural Society.

The Rhododendron Study Team inspected Laurelwood’s rhododendrons during bloom times and tentatively identified 74. Each was photographed and tagged with its name and hybridizer (if known), and its location was noted on a map. They are now entering all this information on a dedicated computer at the Knippenberg Center.

The goal of this project is to identify and tag as many rhododendrons in the arboretum as possible. To date, they have not located any of her hybrids. Homeowners in the area may be able to help in this effort. If you think that you have a rhododendron on your property that originally came from Laurelwood, or perhaps was a gift from Dorothy Knippenberg, please call 973-831-5675 or send an email to info@laurelwoodarboretum.org. We will arrange a convenient date and time to visit your property and inspect your specimen.

By Betty Montagne, Chairperson

The Plant Identification Committee began the 2016 season with a new computer-based system to help identify and catalog plant records. They will enter their data at the Knippenberg Center on a dedicated computer using relational database software. They will also be creating customized botanical labels for select plants in the arboretum.

A group of Master Gardener volunteers are working under the direction of Executive Director Elaine Fogerty to research and identify specific plant groups and special collections as defined in the Horticultural Master Plan for Laurelwood Arboretum. This project is intended to help preserve the legacy of Laurelwood Arboretum and to identify possible new areas for enhancing it in the future.

By Sara McHugh

Our wonderful new Educational Greenhouse is becoming an important setting for activities at the arboretum. Children are enjoying stories and nature hikes followed by hands-on projects in the greenhouse. Adults participate in horticultural workshops.

“Mother” plants were overwintered in the greenhouse to produce cuttings for new plants to be sold at FOLA’s annual plant sale. Some will be used for nature therapy projects at local nursing homes. Tropical plants, which will be replanted in the Sensory Garden, found a cozy winter home. A wide variety of specimen plants, as well as old favorites, seemed to enjoy living in the environmentally controlled Educational Greenhouse, cared for by a dedicated group of volunteers.
Children and therapy dogs will be brought together in a series of three heart-warming sessions at the Knippenberg Center. The program is an outgrowth of the monthly “Read to a Dog” series at the Preakness Library in Wayne.

The visiting dogs are certified with Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs of NJ Inc. and serve regularly in the Wayne area, helping children learn to read and visiting with senior citizens.

Children may bring their own books and sit comfortably on blankets with the dogs. They can see the positive effect their reading has on the animals, who look like they’re listening.

“The best part is that the dogs don’t judge or criticize a child’s reading. They just sit and listen,” said Linda DeYoung, who owns a shetland sheepdog named Polly, who is a therapy dog. “It’s an excellent confidence builder, and because this program works with only certified therapy dogs, kids who have a fear of dogs learn to trust their four-legged friends.”

FOLA will host “Reading to Dogs” at the Knippenberg Center at 2 pm on Sunday, July 10; Sunday, August 14; and Sunday, October 9. The program is free and open to children from 5 to 10 years of age. For information, please call 973-831-5675 or send an email to info@laurelwoodarboretum.org.
Many Ways to Support FOLA

Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum is dedicated to preserving and maintaining Laurelwood Arboretum. Donations help us achieve our mission. Contributions from individuals and businesses are used to replace damaged trees and plantings, enhance the horticultural displays, maintain the bridges and pathways, and promote horticultural education through a menu of tours, programs and activities. None of this would be possible without the support of our generous donors.

There are many ways you can support FOLA in our work—from contributing to our annual Give the Gift of Green fund drive to making a gift in honor of someone special or 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 or donate online at www.laurelwoodarboretum.org

Give the Gift of Green Campaign
Our ongoing Give the Gift of Green Campaign allows us to continue to preserve Laurelwood Arboretum as an historic site and to develop new and innovative programs for all ages.

Tribute Gifts
Donations “in memory of” or “in honor of” are a thoughtful way of expressing condolences or congratulations while at the same time supporting FOLA’s efforts to preserve and maintain Laurelwood Arboretum. We will send the person you name a note to let them know of your gift.

Patio Pavers
Commemorate an occasion, celebrate a special person or simply show your support by donating a patio paving stone for the Knippenberg Center for Education to honor your family, business or organization. You can download a patio paver donation form at http://www.laurelwoodarboretum.org/wpcontent/uploads/2015/04/PatioPaverApplication_dec_2014.pdf

Bench Program
A limited number of bench sites are available in Laurelwood Arboretum as memorials or in honor of a person or event. We will acknowledge the donation of a bench with a personalized plaque. For information, please call 973-831-5675 or send an email to info@laurelwoodarboretum.org.

Naming Opportunities
A number of naming opportunities are available for the Knippenberg Center, the greenhouses, and other special projects in the arboretum. Please call us at 973-831-5675 to discuss these.

Bequests – a Gift for the Future
Remembering Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum in your will ensures that generations to come will benefit from the preservation of 30 acres of unique natural habitat that is home to treasured woodlands, plantings, and wildlife. At the present time, bequests can be made in the form of a specific gift of cash or a percentage of the remainder of an estate. Retirement assets or life insurance may be included in a bequest.

The arboretum will use bequests as you designate. If you specify it, a bequest of more than $25,000 can be treated as an endowment, and the funds will be invested to grow over time. We suggest that you contact your attorney, financial advisor, or estate planner to determine the most prudent way for you to make a charitable bequest.

Gifts in Kind
Donations of supplies, services, and/or equipment regularly used by FOLA can help reduce the expenses of maintaining Laurelwood Arboretum. Examples of products and services that may be accepted include:
- Horticultural tools, supplies, and plant materials
- Heavy-duty equipment for use in the arboretum
- Printing services
- Advertising, public relations, or graphic design services
- Food and catering services

To discuss in-kind donations, please contact us by calling 973-831-5675 or send an e-mail to info@laurelwoodarboretum.org.

Donations to FOLA are tax-deductible for income tax purposes to the extent allowed by law.

Board of Directors
Alice Moskowitz, President
Jim McHugh, First Vice President
Carol Huber, Second Vice President
Ruth Hayden, Recording Secretary
Ray Vanaria, CPA Treasurer
Dawn Healey
Barbara Hegranes
Margaret Kerstner
David Kooistra
Bill Mains
Sara McHugh
Roland Reynolds
Rick Wild

Board Advisors
Sue Burke
Joe Di Giacomo
Alex Fadynich
Al Fitzburgh
John Hegranes
Bonnie Joachim
Kasey Lai, CPA
Peter Lowry, CPA
Stuart Reiser, Esq.
Kathy Salisbury

Executive Director
Elaine Fogarty

Horticultural Manager
Joan Scott-Miller

Office Manager
Pam Himeles

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.
Membership Survey

Thank you for supporting Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum (FOLA) with your membership.

We would like to know if FOLA is meeting your expectations as a member. Please take a moment to tell us about your experiences and what we might do to make your membership more meaningful to you. You can return the survey in the envelope in this newsletter or mail it to FOLA, Box 2433, Wayne, New Jersey 07474-2433.

Diane Stern
Membership Chairperson

Why did you join FOLA? (check as many as apply)

☐ I love the arboretum
☐ I wish to support FOLA's efforts
☐ I like to attend programs and activities
☐ I enjoy the membership benefits and discounts
Other: ___________________________

What programs & activities most interest you?

☐ Annual plant sale
☐ Birding slide show/talk
☐ Butterfly program
☐ Hands-on horticultural workshops in our Educational Greenhouse
☐ Native Plant Demonstration Garden educational programs
☐ Walking tours through Laurelwood
☐ Tree tour
☐ Family activities
☐ Photo workshops
☐ Art show
☐ Music in the park
☐ Story time for children
☐ Christmas holiday event
☐ Reading to the dogs children’s program
☐ Alice in Laurelwood tea party

Other: ___________________________

Suggestions for other programs:

Are you interested in volunteering?

☐ Working in the gardens
☐ Serving on a FOLA committee. If so, what are your interests and skills?

How can we improve your membership experience?

Other comments:

FOLA Members Make a Difference

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 21 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.

Membership Benefits

- Free admission to most FOLA programs, lectures and activities for children and adults
- Annual FOLA newsletter
- Email notification of programs, activities and events
- 10% discount on plants at FOLA plant sales
- 10% discount at Strawberry Blossom Home and Garden Center, Glenwild Garden Center, Gro-Rite Greenhouse and Garden Center, Blooms of Wayne, and Riverside Nursery

Members can also take advantage of the American Horticultural Society’s Reciprocal Program, which gives FOLA members free admission and discounts on sales at more than 100 gardens and arboreta throughout North America

So, once again, thank you for your support today and in the future. Please stop in at the Knippenberg Center to say "hello," and be sure to pick up flyers highlighting our new and exciting tours, programs, and events for the whole family! We’ll be looking forward to your visit!

Dues and donations are deductible for income tax purposes to the extent allowed by law.

To join or renew today please send in your membership dues in the remittance envelope in this newsletter.