New Donate-a-Bench Program

Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum has launched a new Donate-a-Bench Program both to provide more benches for visitors’ enjoyment and as a fundraiser to support our efforts to beautify the arboretum and offer programs and activities for the community.

Discover the Diverse World of Butterflies
by Mary Jo Sichak

The rapid decline of the Monarch butterfly population in recent years has raised our awareness of the importance of butterflies in our environment. Gardeners love butterflies not only for their beauty, but because they play a major role in pollinating the flowers we love. Planting milkweed has become an important part of butterfly gardening, but there is more to a butterfly garden than monarchs and milkweed.

There are approximately 20,000 species of butterflies in the world. According to the North American Butterfly Association, about 575 species are regularly found in the United States and New Jersey is home to more than 123. The host plants for butterfly larvae and the nectar sources for the adults cover a wide range of plants beyond milkweed.

The best approach when planting your garden is to make a conscious choice to champion several species of butterflies by planting a variety of butterfly-friendly plants. Plants are also a food source for birds and other wildlife. A variety of plantings will attract a diverse selection of birds and wildlife for you to enjoy as well.

A great source for information on New Jersey butterflies and their host plants is http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabanj/. To read about one Master Gardener’s butterfly garden, see the article on page 4 of this newsletter.

Mourning Cloak. This butterfly has the same long lifespan of about 9 months as the Monarch. Unlike Monarchs, the adults overwinter here, frozen in “cryopreservation” in tree cavities or beneath loose bark. Mourning Cloak is one of the first butterflies to appear in the Spring. The host plants are willow, elm, birch, cottonwood and hackberry trees.

Photo by Mary Jo Sichak.
From the President

Dear Friends,

Laurelwood Arboretum has been a whirlwind of activity during the first six months of this year, coinciding with my first six months as president.

Of all the projects that we have in the works, we are most excited about the one that has been four years in the making: construction of our propagation greenhouse. With support from the Township of Wayne and the Passaic County Open Space, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund, as well as many dollars contributed by our members and supporters over the years, we are on the cusp of building the foundation, which will be topped by a 68’ x 24’ greenhouse.

Located at the top of Home Hill, our new greenhouse replaces one built by the Knippenbergs back in the 1940s. Although we all had a sentimental attachment to that building, we were clear-eyed about the need for a safer and more up-to-date facility. We expect the project to be completed in the fall, just in time for the winter propagation of plants and shrubs by our volunteers to be placed in the arboretum in the spring or sold at our very popular annual plant sale in May.

In anticipation of a busy year, we renovated some of our office space in the Knippenberg Center for Education to provide two new work stations and more storage space. The work stations have already been put to good use by the Plant Collection Management Team, which has been hard at work identifying, locating and cataloging our Special Tree Collections. This important work will allow Laurelwood to apply for official arboretum status in accordance with the standards set by the American Public Gardens Association and Plant Collections Network. That will be an accomplishment to celebrate.

We are now in the midst of a terrific season of programs and events at Laurelwood. Our crowd-pleasing rhododendron gardens association and Plant Collections Network. That will be an accomplishment to celebrate. We are particularly proud of our year-to-year membership retention, which reflects a strong base of support. We also appreciate the fact that many members make contributions over and above their dues, and we sincerely thank them.

If you are walking through our gardens, please stop in to say hello at the Knippenberg Center, where you can pick up flyers about upcoming events. Be sure to share your wonderful experiences with your friends on Facebook and Instagram via photos and comments.

Membership Continues To Grow
by Diane Bromberg Stern, Membership Chairperson

Your Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum membership card is much more than a passport to discounts and other benefits. It says that you are an essential part of the team that keeps Laurelwood vibrant, dynamic, and beautiful. We depend on your support to help us enhance the arboretum’s plantings, 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.

Please check our website www.laurelwoodarboretum.org for additional discounts, which are posted as they become available.

Members can also take advantage of the American Horticultural Society’s Reciprocal Program, which gives our members free or discounted admission to more than 300 gardens and arboreta throughout North America. For information about this program, go to American Horticulture Society Reciprocal Program.

Membership Benefits

- Email notification of programs and events
- Monthly e-news
- Annual newsletter
- Free admission to many of our programs and activities
- 10% discount at our plant sale
- Discounts at area nurseries and garden centers

Membership Form

Please complete and send to Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum, PO Box 2433, Wayne, New Jersey 07474-2433. Make checks payable to Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum or FOLA or join online at www.laurelwoodarboretum.org

Name ________________________________
Address _______________________________________________________________________
City __________________________ State __________ Zip Code ________________
Telephone __________________________ E-mail address ____________________________
Annual household/Individual membership $25
5-year household/Individual membership $125
Lifetime household/Individual membership $500
Annual nonprofit organization membership $50
Annual business/corporate membership $100
Enclosed is an additional tax-deductible donation of $ _______

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

If you have already renewed for 2019, please pass this form along to a friend who loves Laurelwood Arboretum.

Linda E. Ransom

President

From left: Nancy Fadynich, Alex Fadynich, Jean Reynolds, David Kooistra, Carol Huber, Nancy Alexander, Joan Scott-Miller, John Crowell, Ruth Hayden, Betty Montagne, Joe Di Giacomo, Bonnie Joachim, Alice Moskowitz. Not pictured: Deb Bryant, Dawn Haeley, Sara McHugh, Jim McHugh, Dick Watts and Jane Van Eeuwen.

Volunteers with 1,000 years of service over 12 years

From left: Nancy Fadynich, Alex Fadynich, Jean Reynolds, David Kooistra, Carol Huber, Nancy Alexander, Joan Scott-Miller, John Crowell, Ruth Hayden, Betty Montagne, Joe Di Giacomo, Bonnie Joachim, Alice Moskowitz. Not pictured: Deb Bryant, Dawn Haeley, Sara McHugh, Jim McHugh, Dick Watts and Jane Van Eeuwen.
Many Ways to Support Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum

There are many ways to give to Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum—and every gift counts. We gratefully accept gifts in many forms.

Gift of Green Campaign
Our annual Give the Gift of Green Campaign allows us to preserve and beautify Laurelwood’s gardens and develop new and innovative programs for all ages.

Matching Gifts
If your employer or your spouse’s employer has a matching gift program, your gift may be doubled or even tripled.

Tribute Gifts
Tribute gifts are a unique way to celebrate and honor people who make a difference and the occasions that matter—family members, special friends, or business colleagues; a wedding, anniversary, birthday, or retirement. 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 paver for the Knippenberg Center for Education. You can download a patio paver donation form at www.laurelwoodarboretum.org.

Donate a Bench
There are many reasons to donate a bench—to celebrate a milestone in life or to honor or memorialize a loved one, to name just a few. Only nine spots are left for placement of a bench as a resting spot for visitors. To learn more about our bench donation program, please send an email to info@laurelwoodarboretum.org or call 973-831-5675.

Matching Gifts
If your employer or your spouse’s employer has a matching gift program, your gift may be doubled or even tripled.

Bequests – a Gift for the Future
Remembering Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum in your will ensures that generations to come will continue to enjoy this unique natural preserve. 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. 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 consult your attorney, financial advisor, or estate planner to determine the most prudent way to make a charitable bequest.

Donations to Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum may be made in cash or securities. You can also contribute from an IRA or Roth IRA (please consult your financial advisor).

Donations to Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum are deductible for income tax purposes to the extent allowed by law.

Enclosed is a donation to Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum.

Mail to Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum, P.O. Box 2433, Wayne, NJ, 07474-2433 or donate online at www.laurelwoodarboretum.org.

Please make checks payable to Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum or FOLA. Enclosed is a tax-deductible donation of $__________.

Please complete if your employer has a Matching Gift Plan: My donation will be matched by.

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:

Thank you!

Salute to Volunteers
by Elaine Fogerty, Executive Director

Every Tuesday and Friday, from April through October, our dedicated volunteers arrive at 9 am ready to work in the gardens at Laurelwood. There is usually a group of “regulars,” but newcomers are always welcome. They join old friends and make new ones—all for the common purpose of improving this special park. The dedication to bettering Laurelwood also prompts people to help with non-gardening tasks such as infrastructure maintenance, plant identification, grant writing, serving on the Board of Directors, and planning tours, events, programs, fundraisers, publications, and so much more. This year’s Volunteer Recognition Luncheon honored 19 people for more than 1,000 hours of service over the past six years and 42 for more than 100 hours in 2018. Laurelwood Arboretum is a volunteer destination for individuals as well as groups and organizations, including Scouts, Columbia Bank, the North American Rock Garden Society, the McHutchison Horticultural Group and William Paterson University interns. Thanks to our talented volunteers we have expanded our plant-netting program, propagated more than 100 rhododendrons from cuttings, installed a new deer-resistant Silver Garden, continued the rock garden renovation, planted more than 2,000 spring-blooming bulbs, dedicated the Founders Garden, and hosted many activities for the community.

Check out our volunteer opportunities to find something that matches your interests and talents. Join us if you can!

Volunteer Opportunities
Help maintain and beautify Laurelwood Arboretum
Work in the Gardens
Tuesdays and Fridays, 9 am to noon, April through October.

Site Management and Construction
Work with the site manager to improve the arboretum’s bridges, buildings, drainage and infrastructure and/or to help maintain our vehicles.

Tour Guides
Join our trained volunteers to share your enthusiasm for Laurelwood with the public.

Weddings/Photo Shoots
Facilitate weddings and photo shoots at Laurelwood, as needed.

Indoor activities that support the Friends organization
Programs
Help plan and execute educational programs for children and/or adults.

Fundraising
Help plan and execute our fundraising efforts.

Development
Work on efforts to solicit major gifts from area businesses.

Annual Plant Sale
Help plan and/or assist at our annual plant sale.

Plant Collection Management
Assist in the effort to identify and catalog the plant collections.

Knippenberg Center Greeter
Greet visitors and offer information and materials.

Graphic Design
Create support materials, as needed.

For additional information, please go to www.laurelwoodarboretum.org

Volunteers who logged 100 hours or more in 2018
**If You Build It, Will They Come?**

by Joe Di Giacomo

If you build a butterfly garden, will they come? The answer is: maybe. A butterfly garden features plants grown specifically to attract butterflies with nectar or to provide larval food. Attracting butterflies to your garden is easy, provided you have the right combination of nectar and host plants, location, and environment. At least I thought it would be easy when I planted a small butterfly garden in my backyard a few years ago.

There have been verified sightings of 97 butterfly species in Passaic County, according to the Butterflies and Moths of North America Project, so how hard could it be to attract butterflies to my yard? Harder than you might think. I started by reading Rutgers Fact Sheet MG036, entitled “Butterfly Gardening Basics,” which provided details on selecting the right location for the garden as well as a list of plants required for each stage of the butterfly life cycle.

I selected a sunny location in my backyard that would also provide a windbreak. I outlined the perimeter of the new garden with a hand-laid border of slate to not only create a raised bed but also to provide flat slate that would be warmed by the sun and give butterflies a place to rest and warm themselves. I arranged a few of the slates to create a shallow spot for water to puddle to provide moisture for the butterflies.

The next step was purchasing plants. I selected 24 plants including a butterfly bush, bee balm, Agastache, phlox, coneflowers, sedum, Rudbeckia, yarrow, coreopsis, lavender, and lady bells. It is important to plant each variety in clusters rather than individually, to make them easier for the butterflies to locate.

The first visitor to my garden was the Cabbage White, which is one of the first butterflies seen in the spring. In July, when many of the plants were in bloom and the warm weather arrived, I expected to see many more butterflies, which need a body temperature of about 85 degrees to fly well. Eastern Tiger Swallowtails with distinctive yellow and black striped markings on their wings visited my garden nearly every day for most of the summer.

I was disappointed that I did not see any Monarch butterflies, known for their reddish-orange color with black borders and white spots on their wings. I did some research on their habitat requirements to see what improvements I could make to attract them. Monarchs thrive on nectar-rich milkweed. It is the only place they will lay their eggs, and it is a food source for Monarch caterpillars. I added several common milkweed, pink flowering swamp milkweed, and Joe Pye weed plants to my garden.

I also planted fennel and parsley, which are great host plants for caterpillars. I added several red zinnia plants and some aster and marigold plants. The milkweed and zinnias bloomed in July and August, and although I did not see any Monarchs in my garden’s first summer, I did observe several Viceroy butterflies, which resemble and are often confused with Monarchs. Their color and pattern mimic the Monarch pattern except for a black horizontal stripe that crosses the bottom of the back wings.

I continued to tweak the variety of plants until I came up with the right combination that attracted the most butterflies. The key is to grow plants that caterpillars like to eat and plants that adult butterflies feed on. Adult butterflies are more likely to visit your garden for a longer period if they find plants to lay their eggs on.

So, to answer my initial question: “If you build it, will they come?” I guess the correct answer is: sometimes. However, so will deer and rabbits! Although I was not sure what my original goal was in building a butterfly garden, I now view my small garden as a way to help butterflies, since many of their natural habitats have been destroyed by human activities like building homes and roads. I have turned my small backyard into a butterfly habitat and finally have regular visits from Monarchs and other butterflies throughout the warm summer months.

**Carrying On the Rhododendron Tradition**

by Joe Di Giacomo, Chairperson

Rhododendron Study Team

During the cold and dreary winter months, our Rhododendron Propagation Team was busy caring for young rhododendron plants in the educational greenhouse. Our volunteer team took cuttings in September from rhododendrons growing in the arboretum and the private gardens of Nancy Fadych and Dr. Al Fitzburh. The volunteers concentrated their efforts on cuttings from unique rhododendrons and named hybrids that have a connection to Dorothy Knippenberg and/or the former Laurelwood Gardens. The cuttings were placed in rooting boxes and cared for over the winter. Many of the cuttings developed roots and were potted in the Spring.

Also, in September, we purchased 28 two-year-old and three-year-old named rhododendron hybrids from Van Veen Nursery in Portland, Oregon. We selected rhododendrons that had a connection to Laurelwood Gardens. The Knippenbergs had a longstanding business relationship and friendship with the Van Veen’s for many years and often sold rhododendron cuttings to the nursery. The young plants we purchased were potted by our volunteers and overwintered in the greenhouse. They were planted in the arboretum at or near their original locations. Funding for the rhododendrons came from a donation from the Tappan Zee Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society.

Our Rhododendron Study Team has now identified and cataloged 334 rhododendrons in Laurelwood Arboretum, including more than 80 different named hybrids and 13 species. The team will continue its efforts to preserve and enhance the rhododendron collection.

**Upcoming Programs**

- **July**
  - Mondays 10:30 am to 12:30 pm, 3-week series 7/22, 7/29, 8/5
  - Water Color Painting taught by Merrill Crowell.
  - Reservations required. Call 973-831-5675.
  - Sunday, July 14, 2:30 pm to 4 pm
  - Paul Sisko Sculpture Exhibit Opening

- **August**
  - Sunday, August 4, 1 pm to 4 pm
  - Butterfly Day for Children and Adults
  - Sunday, August 11, 2:30 pm to 4 pm
  - Lorraine Meyer Photography Exhibit Opening