

Friends of
Laurelwood Arboretum
Connecting People with Nature



2019 Year in Review



Construction Projects

Regarding construction projects, we had both small and ambitious ones. The small one was the addition of much-needed kitchen storage space and two new work stations in the Knippenberg Center for Education. The kitchen renovation was finished just in the nick of time –we were grateful to be inundated with volunteers this season and to be able to keep them hydrated and happy. The new work stations were put to good use by our Plant Collection Management Committee. We welcomed the donation of two computers by the law firm Shapiro, Croland, Reiser, Apfel & Di Iorio and appreciated the update of our internet connectivity by the Township of Wayne.



Our volunteers' first day back in the arboretum after the winter.

Our large-scale construction project was a new greenhouse, just up Home Hill, funded in part by a grant from the Passaic County Open Space, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust. This 24' x 68' building will be used for propagation, so that we can replenish the arboretum's aging plants and prepare a good inventory for our annual plant sale. The people instrumental in getting this project off the ground and close to completion include our volunteer site manager, David Kooistra, our pro bono counsel Stuart Reiser, our volunteer engineer Andrew Lawn, and Ryan Edge, Supervisor of Landscape and Park Design for Wayne Township.



Betty Montagne and John Crowell at our new work stations.

From the President

Dear Friends,

I've been in office for a year now and, in some ways, it seems like a blink of an eye. But when I sat down to make a list of all we accomplished for this annual report, it was hard to believe that it's only been one short year. Let's see if you think so too with the following reflections on 2019 in words and pictures.



New greenhouse exterior. . .



. . . and interior.

Community Activities and Programs

We had so many community activities and programs that it is hard to know where to begin! I'll start by thanking Bonnie Joachim, who planned almost every one of them with her endless creativity and top-notch organizational skills, and Alice Moskowitz, whose administrative prowess and powers of persuasion resulted in the smooth running of all the events.



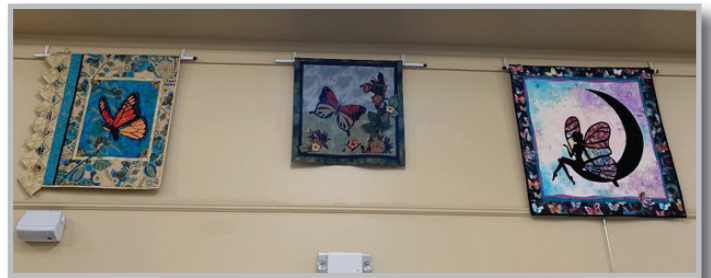
All-Wayne Student String Orchestra.

The talents of Wayne students were on display at the Knippenberg Center for Education in three separate exhibits: All-Wayne Student Art Show (from kindergarten through 12th grade), a display of photographs by Wayne Hills and Wayne Valley High School photography students, and an art show by William Paterson University graphic arts students. In addition, young musicians performed in a special concert by the All-Wayne Student String Orchestra.



Wayne Hills and Wayne Valley Student Photography Show.

We hosted five adult art shows as well: Paul Sisko's photographs of his large outdoor sculptures; oil paintings by Cesar Jerez featuring scenes of Laurelwood; photography committee chair and volunteer Lorraine Meyer's stunning photographs; and an eclectic community art show that accompanied our September Festival of Friends fundraiser. Throughout the season, Janet Grimal's beautiful textiles were displayed in the upper reaches of the Knippenberg Center for Education.



Textile artwork by Janet Grimal.



New Members Day.

Events for children included a **New Members Day** organized by Diane Bromberg Stern. It featured a hot dog cart, ice cream truck and face painting, and drew many young families.

At **Fairy and Elf Day**, youngsters enjoyed fairy house decorating, rock painting, tours to the "Fairy Tree" and a musical parade!



At the "Fairy Tree."

Community Activities and Programs *(continued)*

On **Bees and Butterflies Day** beekeeper Jim LaConte presented the film, "Tales from the Hive," and we displayed all four stages of a butterfly's life cycle: egg, caterpillar, chrysalis and butterfly, to the delight of everyone.



Bees and Butterflies Day.

The season's programs for adults included a monthly discussion group called Botany, Books and Buds hosted by Dawn Healey; weekly yoga classes led by Robin Abrett and Patricia Engrissei; watercolor painting workshops; a woodcarving demonstration; and a seedling give-away for Arbor Day.

Our dedicated tour guides led more than 30 tours of the arboretum throughout the season.



Bonnie Joachim and Carol Palmer-Yomtov leading cart tours.

Laurelwood Arboretum is known for its historic collection of rhododendrons, and we found a perfect way to celebrate that with our **Rhododendron Festival** in late May. The arboretum is never more beautiful than when the rhododendrons and azaleas are in full bloom. Long-time volunteer Joe Di Giacomo, who has spent countless hours identifying, tagging and recording these plants in our database, was the moving force behind our Rhododendron Festival activities. Joe has also been instrumental in identifying, applying for and obtaining the various grants that we have received to date.



Joe Di Giacomo leading a tour during the Rhododendron Festival.

We ended the 2019 season on a high note. During the fall, many volunteers contributed their time and talents to craft beautiful fairies and fairy houses for Laurelwood's display at Skylands Manor's **Holiday Open House**. Organized and led by Georgette Moesch, with the assistance of Joan Scott-Miller, Jean Reynolds, Carol Palmer-Yomtov, Lori Origlio and Kathie Heatherington, among many others, the display was stunning, and we received many compliments on our handiwork.



Our display at the Holiday Open House.

Garden Enhancements

Laurelwood Arboretum consists of 30 acres of natural beauty, offering a variety of landscapes, gardens, water features and plantings. In an effort to promote the preservation, maintenance and orderly development of these assets, we tasked our Executive Director Elaine Fogerty with preparing a new **Arboretum Plan**. She assessed the current condition of the arboretum and made recommendations as to what each area or garden needed by way of resources and attention. Although implementation will be over many years, several improvements were realized last season.

We have two new gardens:

Our **Three Corners Garden** was generously funded by the Ira A. Roschelle, MD Family Foundation and dedicated to our immediate past president Alice Moskowitz. At the end of Azalea Way and along Brook Road, near the Gazebo, the Three Corners Garden displays a variety of plants that were originally there (hinoki cypress, for example), newer cultivars (heather, Russian sage and "Nikko Blue" hydrangea), and herbaceous perennials, as

well as colorful annuals that reseed and pop up every year (lobelia and cleome). A specimen cut leaf Japanese maple tree was planted to echo two others nearby.



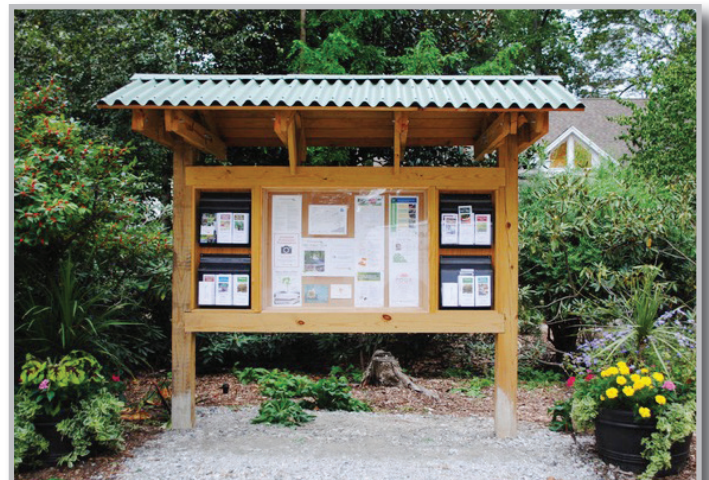
The Three Corners Garden.

Our new **Wetlands Garden**, adjacent to the Pines Lake Drive West parking lot, was made possible by the generosity of Jim Veale, one of Laurelwood's closest neighbors. It transformed an overgrown expanse into a garden of river birch, dappled willow, beautyberry and native chokeberry. It's still a very young garden, but it seems to be thriving in the wet environment. And it was Jim's idea to build a wooden viewing deck overlooking the garden.



The Wetlands Garden in winter.

The welcome area at the front of the arboretum was enhanced by the efforts of the Visitors Experience Committee, headed by Bonnie Joachim. New planters, signage and patio ramps, painting and staining projects, poster and notice displays, river stone borders and new plantings in the Native Plant Demonstration Garden, the Pollinator Garden and the Sensory Garden are only a few of the improvements made last season by volunteers Nancy Alexander, John Crowell, Carol Huber, Jane Van Eeuwen, Lillian Sayeg, Gary Molan and Warren Phillips, among many others.



Our new notice board in the welcome area, built by Eagle Scout Drew Whalen and his troop from Wayne.



As the growing season drew to a close, Laurelwood Arboretum never looked better.

Administrative Improvements

I never realized how much it takes to run an organization like Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum.

I'll mention just a few of our projects and the people who keep our operation running smoothly.

We revamped all of our forms and usage applications, making it easier to hold a wedding, obtain a permit to take professional photographs, and book a tour at the arboretum. Pam Himeles, who has been our Office Manager for the past few years and joined the Board last year, took the lead on this project and her thoughtful suggestions and attention to detail served us well.



Pam Himeles.

We updated our employee manual to comply with new legal requirements and revised the job descriptions of our six part-time employees to focus their energies where they will do the most good in the arboretum.

Bonnie Joachim and graphic designers Barbara Pidgeon and Jorge Losch created a whole new, attractive and consistent look for our brochures, flyers and signage.



Our new brochures and flyers.

With her consummate professionalism, Alice Moskowitz handles all of our public relations and publicity, whether it's publishing our meeting dates as required by the Township of Wayne, or publicizing our events to the community at large.

Our IT function has continually been improved and expanded over the past year. John Hegranes is the professor emeritus of the team, which now also includes Georgette Moesch, Lynne Munn, Mark Friedberg and Peter McHugh.

Board member Lourdes Osorio tirelessly combed through our archives and put together a wonderful slide show of the History of Laurelwood Arboretum.

Others who deserve mention are our social media expert Ruth Hayden; Recording Secretary Nancy Shimmel; Treasurer Bill Lauber; Board members Margaret Kerstner and Bill Mains; and Carol Huber, who keeps track of our volunteer hours.

And last, but certainly not least, Betty Montagne has been the driving force behind our **Plant Collection Management Committee**. Betty's meticulous attention to detail and intellectual rigor as chairperson has been inspiring. Last year, the focus was on Special Tree Collections. To date, the Plant Collection Management Committee has identified, tagged and recorded 1,606 plants in our database.

Fundraising Efforts

Our signature event every year is our **Annual Plant Sale**, held on the Saturday before Mother's Day. Our greenhouse volunteers, under the direction of Horticultural Manager Joan Scott-Miller, propagated, planted, transplanted and nurtured seedlings and cuttings during the winter months. We were especially pleased that for the first time we were able to offer for sale some of the

arboretum's signature plants, such as rhododendrons, azaleas and pieris. Thanks go to Linda Wescott, whose organizational skills (and good humor) were indispensable. With the help of Jeanne Pisatowski and Sue Horesta, Linda made last year's Annual Plant Sale the most successful in our history.



Annual Plant Sale.

We've sold two benches so far through our **Donate-A-Bench Program**, and they are now installed near the Reflecting Pool and the Dawn Redwood Glade.



Volunteers Gary Molan and Warren Phillips, and staff gardeners Eddy Lantigua and Felix Fernandez, take a break after installing a bench near the Reflecting Pool.

In addition to the bench program, our **Paver Program** is a wonderful way to honor or memorialize a loved one. One of our original fundraising efforts, **Give the Gift of Green**, created and administered by Dawn Healey, continues to demonstrate the ongoing financial support of our members and the community for Laurelwood Arboretum.



Bench in the Dawn Redwood Glade.

Festival of Friends, a fundraising party for our members, volunteers and friends, was held in September. Chaired by Alice Moskowitz, it was not only a successful fundraiser but also turned into the best sing-along that I've heard in a long time.



Many friends at the Festival.

Recent Major Gifts to Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum include a new utility cart from Columbia Bank, Lakeland Bank's sponsorship of Festival of Friends, a contribution from the Wayne Lions Club for the renovation of our Sensory Garden paths, and a donation from Wayne Subaru's Share the Love Event. These generous gifts are greatly appreciated and were put to good use in the arboretum.



Carol Palmer-Yomtov and Patricia Engrissei singing along with Richard Santoro at the keyboard.

Membership

In October, we registered our record 500th member! This is thanks to many people: Diane Bromberg Stern for organizing our New Members Day; Linda Wescott whose success in chairing our Annual Plant Sale resulted in many new members wishing to take advantage of our members-only discount; and Chris Standal, Michael Johnson and Jack McKinley for manning our Sunday membership table. We ended 2019 with 557 members. Special thanks to Barbara Hegranes, who continues to handle the now-gargantuan task of

sending membership cards and thank you letters to welcome members into the fold.

Going forward, annual memberships will be in effect for a full year from the date of receipt of membership dues (rather than expiring on December 31 for everyone). We also offer an automatic renewal program for 1-year membership at www.laurelwoodarboretum.org.

Our Staff

We are fortunate that our part-time seasonal staff of six people has been with us for years. In addition to our Office Manager Pam Himeles, we have two gardeners, Eddy Lantigua and Felix Fernandez; our weekend greeter and yoga instructor Patricia Engrissei; our Horticultural Manager Joan Scott-Miller, who is one of our connections with the history of Laurelwood, having worked for Dorothy Knippenberg herself; and our Executive Director Elaine Fogerty, whose deep knowledge of all things horticultural

has helped beautify Laurelwood for the benefit of all of us at the arboretum and in the community at large. We also had two interns, Kay Gardiner and Ryan Wizner, recommended to us by our good friend Dr. Martin Becker of the Environmental Science Department of William Paterson University. Kay and Ryan were a big help to us in many ways, particularly in assisting the Plant Collection Management Committee.

Volunteers

All of these things that I've mentioned—the construction projects, the art shows, the children's programs, the community events, the garden enhancements, the administrative improvements, the fundraising—how did we do it all? It is all due to our wonderful volunteers.

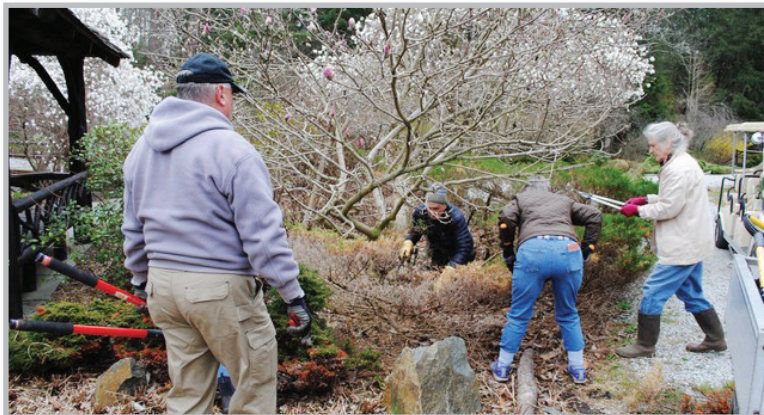
We have over 200 active volunteers at Laurelwood. Our Volunteer Coordinator Carol Palmer-Yomtov sets a happy

tone for everyone, and our volunteer ranks continue to grow. We have individual volunteers, corporate groups (including Columbia Bank, The Tarpey Group, LLC and McHutchinson & Company), scout volunteers and high school service project volunteers, just to name a few.

Anyone wishing to join the fun would be more than welcome!



Volunteers at work.



Our volunteers logged a record 14,000 hours working on Laurelwood projects last year, which represents \$403,656 in value based on the standard hourly rate assigned to volunteer labor in New Jersey. As Laurelwood Arboretum is a public park, this amount reflects the benefit that the Township and community received from the efforts of our volunteers.



Columbia Bank volunteers.

Speaking of the Township, we sincerely appreciate the enthusiastic support of Wayne Mayor Christopher Vergano and Tim Roetman, Director of Parks and Recreation, and thank the Wayne Township Council for authorizing a major portion of the funding we need to manage the arboretum.



A group of our hardworking volunteers celebrating their accomplishments.

Looking Ahead to the 2020 Season

Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum is embarking on a major project for the benefit of the arboretum. **The Sculpture Trail**, the second in our multi-year **Art in the Arboretum** series, will be an installation of more than 15 sculptures by prominent artists that will be carefully placed around the arboretum to enhance the landscape. Chaired by Stuart Reiser and his wife Leslie, **The Sculpture Trail** will be in place for at least two years, starting with an opening reception in October 2020.

We are excited to commence planning for the full utilization of our Educational Greenhouse and the dedication of our new Propagation Greenhouse.

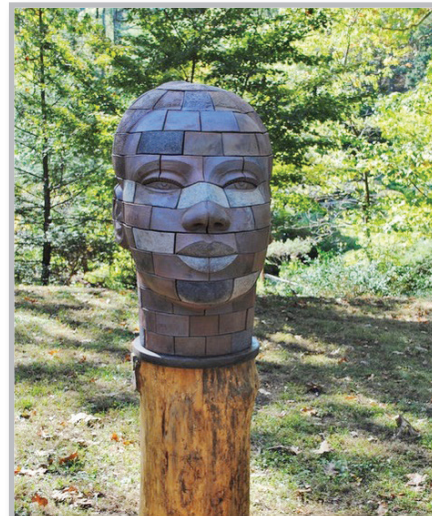
The Township is making plans to dredge our pond to create a healthier environment for aquatic wildlife, and we will be replanting the azaleas around its perimeter that we moved last year in anticipation of the work. We will also be landscaping around the new Propagation Greenhouse.

I look forward to these future projects and to continuing to make Laurelwood Arboretum as welcoming as we can for the whole community.

Thank you, and see you in the arboretum!

Linda E. Ransom

Linda E. Ransom
President



Our first sculpture, Brickhead Iyemoja, by James Tyler.



Volunteers who have worked 100 hours or more for the Arboretum in 2019

Nancy Alexander
Barnstable Academy
Boy Scouts
John Crowell
Joseph Di Giacomo
Patricia Engrissei
Elaine Fogerty
Kay Gardiner
Ruth Hayden
Kathie Heatherington

Carol Huber
Bonnie Joachim
Michael Johnson
David Kooistra
William Lauber
Andrew Lawn
William Mains
Peter McHugh
Jack McKinley
Lorraine Meyer

Georgette Moesch
Gary and Lorna Molan
Elizabeth Montagne
Alice Moskowitz
Lori Origlio
Lourdes Osorio
Carol Palmer-Yomtov
Warren Phillips
Barbara Pidgeon
Jeanne Pisatowski

Linda Ransom
Leslie Reiser
Stuart Reiser
Jean Reynolds
Lillian Sayeg
Nancy Shimmel
Chris Standal
Jane Van Eeuwen
Linda Wescott
Ryan Wizner

You Can Support Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum With Your Membership

Membership Form

Please detach and complete the form below and send it to Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum, PO Box 2433, Wayne, New Jersey 07474-2433 with a check payable to Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum or FOLA. Or you can 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 non-profit organization membership _____ \$50

Annual business/corporate membership _____ \$100

Enclosed is an additional donation of \$_____.

Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Membership fees and donations are deductible for income tax purposes to the extent allowed by law.

Thank you!