

THE GREENHOUSE BEET

GARDEN CLUB OF
TEANECK



Feature Story

Greenhouse Update

Robyn extends a warm invitation to all creative members to attend the Skyland Holiday Open House Decorating Team. Meetings are every ****Monday at 7 PM**** at GH. This year's festive celebration is themed "Wonderful Holiday Around the World," featuring highlights from Scandinavia, Germany, and the South Pacific. If you have a globe, tea set, or any international treasures, your contributions would be immensely valued!

In community news, Marilyn is collaborating with a local member who is generously donating rainwater barrels to the GreenHouse—let's keep our fingers crossed for success!

A big shoutout to the high school heroes who spruced up the greenhouse, making it easier to maintain and lightening the workload for our members.



Team Spotlight: Sunday Junior Gardeners

Engaging kids in gardening fosters a love for plants while teaching them healthy eating habits.

During a recent Sunday meeting, the junior garden club joined forces to create edible garden art, sparking the children's enthusiasm to explore fresh produce from the garden! Full recipe on page 2.

GoFundMe link is up!

A crowd funding account has been activated to facilitate donations to support our new greenhouse initiative. Please share this and remind everyone that donations are tax-deductible! Every contribution, big or small, brings us closer to our vision of a cutting-edge facility. To donate or share the donation page, point your phone camera to the code below and click the link that appears.

Share Far and Wide!!



Garden Recipes:

Creating tomato ladybugs is an enjoyable activity that merges creativity with a nutritious treat.

- Ingredients:**

- Cherry tomatoes
- Black olives
- Fresh basil
- Cream cheese
- Optional: Edible googly eyes



What to do: Slice cherry tomatoes in half to form the ladybug's body. Cut black olives into small pieces to serve as the ladybug's spots. Use cream cheese to adhere the olive pieces to the tomato halves. Place half a black olive on each tomato half to create the head. If desired, attach edible googly eyes to the olive head with cream cheese. Arrange the ladybugs on a plate alongside fresh basil leaves for a colorful presentation.

This interactive activity not only sparks creativity but also promotes healthy eating habits and makes a great feature at the dinner table!

Update: Fall Sale Success

Our first Fall Plant Sale raised nearly \$5,000, attracting the community with colorful plants for a good cause. Shoppers enjoyed vibrant celosia, cheerful mums, and various houseplants, supporting our greenhouse fundraising and enhancing community connections. Positive feedback reinforced our commitment to growth and sustainability, making the event memorable.



In the photo, Teaneck resident Simcha proudly displays the plants and succulents he and his wife selected at the sale!

Event Spotlight

Children's Reading in the Garden



Teaneck children convened in our public gardens for an engaging reading of "Bored and Loving It: Life without Cell Phones" by the esteemed Richard Pale. The book's illustrator, local talent Julia Fernandez, added an enchanting touch as she animated the story. Following the reading, the children eagerly posed questions and enjoyed an imaginative tour of the Children's Garden, led by the enthusiastic Saturday Group Leader, Marilyn.



IN THE NEWS

Introducing a Fresh Tomato Variety: New Jersey's Latest Debut



Rutgers University developed the "Scarlet Sunrise," a bicolor grape tomato that is sweet and crack-resistant, with a golden hue and reddish blush. Created by researchers Peter Nitzsche and Tom Orton of Rutgers, this tomato combines traits from a flavorful red grape tomato and a sweet but fragile bicolor cherry tomato.

The tomato was showcased at the Rutgers School of Agriculture Open House and Tomato Tasting event on Aug. 27.

Scarlet Sunrise offers a competitive edge for NJ growers, focusing on flavor rather than appearance.

The event allowed the public to sample Scarlet Sunrise and other varieties while learning about ongoing research and improvements in tomato breeding. Read more about it on the [Rutgers Website](#).

"New Jersey Senate Advances Bill to Boost Urban Agriculture"

On June 9, the New Jersey Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee approved Bill S4350 to enhance urban agriculture across the state. Supported by the New Jersey Food Democracy Collaborative (NJFDC) and led by Senate President Pro Tempore Shirley K. Turner, the bill addresses issues such as land access and conservation funding, which are crucial for urban, beginner, and small-scale farmers.

New Jersey's dense population makes urban agricultural land both expensive and scarce. The bill aims to overcome these barriers by establishing a \$25 million "Preserve New Jersey Urban Agriculture and Horticulture Fund" and allocating 5% annually from Corporate Business Tax preservation funds. It also introduces a grant program to cover up to 90% of project costs related to soil improvement and climate resilience.

Urban agriculture is beneficial for providing fresh local food, creating green spaces, and reducing food transport impacts. It supports green infrastructure, workforce development, and education, contributing to a circular economy. The bill allows cities to preserve land without affecting municipal autonomy and prevents revenue loss by utilizing underused properties. Community gardens, in particular, stand to gain significantly from this bill as they provide vital green spaces and fresh produce to local neighborhoods, enhancing community ties and food security. Bill S4350 expands funding to include urban activities without taking away from traditional agriculture funds. NJFDC encourages New Jersey residents, urban growers, and community leaders to support the bill to ensure the growth of urban agriculture. Read more here: [NJ Legislature Bill Search](#)

Our Gardens: Garlic Planting with Myriam



On October 8th, the Rodda Center buzzed with the energy of garden enthusiasts eager to learn from Myriam, a seasoned expert from the Gardening 101 group. She led an insightful community talk on planting and harvesting garlic bulbs. Myriam's presentation was engaging and informative, delving into the intricacies of garlic cultivation. The session catered to both novice and seasoned gardeners, emphasizing sustainable practices and the unique challenges of garlic gardening. Attendees were encouraged to ask questions and share their experiences, fostering a collaborative learning environment.

Myriam highlighted five essential tips for successful garlic planting. First, she recommended using high-quality seed garlic bulbs instead of store-bought ones, which might be chemically treated. Second, planting should ideally occur in the fall, weeks before the first hard frost, to allow root establishment. Third, plant cloves with the pointed end up, at a depth of two inches, and spaced six inches apart. Fourth, she emphasized mulching with straw or leaves to protect bulbs and conserve moisture. Lastly, she reminded gardeners to be patient, as garlic requires nine months of growth before harvesting. This talk equipped participants with practical skills and inspired renewed confidence in their gardening endeavors.



Website: the Garden Club of Teaneck
Facebook (Social Calendar):
facebook.com/GardenClubofTeaneck
Email:
gardenclubofteaneck@gmail.com
Location: [Directions and Map](#)

*"Gardening adds years to your
life and life to your years."*

* [Join the Garden Club Now!](#)

Upcoming Events:



- **Oct 18th, Saturday, Greenhouse Move-in Day!**
Must have dues paid and plants sprayed before leaving them in the Greenhouse
- **Oct 19th, 1-2 pm, Arbor Day Tree Planting,**
The Shade Tree Committee is planting a tree in memory of Wendy Heller Kelly, former committee and GCT member
Open to All
- **Nov 1st, 10am, GCT General Meeting** Rodda Center,
GCT Members and Interested Persons
- **Nov 13th, 7pm, Spring Ephemerals for Fall Planting:**
Chris Kozar, Master Gardener discusses daffodils, crocus, and other spring flowers to plant now
Rodda Center, Open to All, Free

Life Advice from the Garden:

Don't Waste Time Watering Dead Plants.
(Guard your time, efforts, and resources well)