**Garden Club of Harrington Park**

**www.gardenclubofharringtonpark.com**

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April 11, 2014

Dear Members and Friends:

After a long, hard, cold winter it is certainly a delight to be thinking of everything garden. I was musing the other day about our Garden Club and how even in the dead of winter, once a month we all had the opportunity to see, hear, and learn about the wonderful world we share in our gardens! We were snowed out with our Members’ Night, which would have been dynamite, I am sure. All of the participants were ready with some great presentations. However, it wasn’t meant to be, so we did miss that one time to see all things garden, but let’s not think of the past, we’ve got spring now! Pray for warm weather to let the plants catch up and start growing mightily.

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The Executive Committee of the Garden Club met on two separate evenings and after hours of discussion we have come up with the annuals and perennials we will offer at our plant sale. The annual order form is complete and is up on our web site for you to download. We’ve got some great offerings, so be sure and look it over. The deadline to order the annuals is April 19th. Hopefully all of the annuals will be ready in order that you get them on April 26th. With this weather nothing is certain. However, we will do our very best to let you know if your selection is not available for delivery, so you can pick something else from the list as a replacement. Our supplier is Cicconi Farms and they provide good plant stock, but, obviously, if the conditions are not right, who knows? Our annual and perennial sale is the major fundraiser for the year, so encourage your friends, neighbors, and family to buy from us.

Ann-Ingrid Millikan has again done a yeoman’s job of putting together a catalog of our annual offerings including pictures, cultural requirements, and descriptions of the plants. This endeavor is very time-consuming, but it sure helps in your selection process! Thanks Ann-Ingrid for an incredible job! As in previous years, Michelle Ryan will be collecting the order forms and the money for the plants. Her address and phone number are on the order blank if you need to contact Michelle.

The perennial plant sale will be on Saturday, April 26th. We need helpers for the sale, and some of you have signed up, but we need more helping hands. Please call me (201 768-2615) if you can join us to take a shift at the sale. We start at 8:00 A.M. with set-up, and the sale itself starts at 9:00 A.M. We’ll finish at Noon. Many folks take a two hour stint, but that’s entirely up to you! For those of you who have worked the sale, you know how much fun it is. It’s really not work, it’s a lot of fun getting together, and also meeting new people.

Start thinking about the perennials you will be digging up to sell at the sale. The “homegrowns” are a big hit with our buyers and sell fast! We price them right and you can’t get better than a plant that has been grown in a fellow gardener’s garden. There are many stories of “… I bought this plant at the plant sale two years ago, and it is fabulous!” Please make sure they are marked as to what they are and information you would like to pass along about the plant. If you are going to donate plants, please get them to the sale at 8:00 A.M. so we can price them.

We will again have our Garden Café which will serve coffee and the “best crumb cake in the world.” And, again this year we’re going to ask all of you to donate any garden related item that has been in your yard, garage, or shed for awhile that you will never use anyway to our “Garden Treasures” table. If you have a forgotten garden gnome or perhaps an unusual pot that doesn’t work in your garden anymore, or a garden book that’s collecting dust why not donate it to the Club? Again, you’ll have to bring your treasures at 8:00 A.M. so we can price the treasures. You know the old saw; “one man’s junk is another man’s treasure!” I can’t wait to see what ‘junk’ you all bring!

Have to bring up a cumbersome topic – DUES! What you should know about the dues money we collect; half of all dues money goes to the Garden Club of New Jersey. One of the most important functions the GC of NJ does for us is to provide insurance for our Club. The Garden Club of New Jersey also offers substantial scholarships in the field of horticultural and related disciplines. If your child is planning on a career in the field, keep this in mind. Remember, as a paid member of the organization your child can apply for these monies. Also, this Club year we have had fabulous speakers at every one of our meetings, and your dues helped to defray these costs. Most speakers require an honorarium, which they are certainly entitled to, and we need the funds to pay them. If you have not already done so, please mail your check, made out to the Garden Club of Harrington Park, to Dot Durbec, 311 Parkway, Harrington Park, New Jersey 07640 ASAP. Please include your name, address, phone number, and e-mail so we have all your information. Our dues remain the same; $15.00 individual, $25.00 family.

When we get all your dues, we will publish a membership list (to members only) so you can have a handy reference.

This time of year, not only does the temperature warm up (thank goodness), but all the activities that come with the calendar do too! April, May and June become packed every weekend. Make sure you leave the following dates open!

**May 1, 2014** – Regular Garden Club meeting with guest speaker Bill Kolvek, owner of Bill Kolvek Nursery in Chestnut Ridge, New York. Topic: “Native & Exotic Ornamental Grasses” PLUS – PLANT SWAP! Dig up your perennials and swap with your fellow gardeners, you’ll go home with some great new plants – guaranteed. Don’t be left out. In the past, I haven’t made time to dig up some stock, and I’m always sorry when I get to the meeting that I have nothing to share and to swap. Don’t let that be you – start digging! Our floral contest is “Dearest Mom!” Bring an arrangement to share – we love to see your creations. Let your imagination fly!  Create a floral masterpiece and bring to our meeting - we love them all! - Fresh Flowers Only!

**May 17, 2014** – Barrel Planting - 10:00 A.M. - Beautification of Downtown H.P. We’ll plant the barrels with some great annuals, and we’ll need some Alberta Spruce tree sitters for over the summer. If you can take a spruce tree home for the summer, let Esther Ross know. Bring your garden gloves and your trowel.

**June 7, 2014**  – 10:00 A.M. – **GARDENS WANTED!!!** - Tour of Members’ Gardens and Pot Luck Barbecue. If you would like to open up your garden to share with the Club members, please contact me at 201 768-2615. Your garden doesn’t have to be perfect – no garden ever is!

**June 21, 2014** – Field Trip - "Triple Header III: Hortulus Farm,” Wrightstown, Pa. + Two Other Gardens, and Luncheon - Overnight at B & B - optional  - Depart Library Parking Lot at 9:00 A.M. - Carpool

Until we meet again, keep your feet dry and your hands dirty.

 Gerri Gibney

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ALL THE INFORMATION YOU NEED!