

Frankford Garden Club Newsletter

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The Frankford Garden Club is a membership organization. Our mission is to beautify our community, to educate about and promote gardening, and to provide support and fellowship for gardeners. Our focus is on the Frankford community.

December 7, 2011

❖ **The 26th Annual Frankford Martin Luther King, Jr Frankford Breakfast Celebration is ON!**

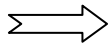
Keep the date – Monday, January 16th - Preparation will most likely be on Sunday the 15th. The event will be held at Sankofa Freedom Charter School on Ruan Street at Paul St, same location as last year-

Meeting notes from November 22, 2011

Rain and wind kept the gardeners away on the 22nd - we were a pretty small group.

- ❖ **The Club Christmas/Holiday Party** will be held on Tuesday, December 27th at our home base, Wissinoming Park Recreation Center, starting at 6:30 pm. This is a Members Only Party, our space is a bit too small for extra folks, sorry!

Steal-a-Pollyanna - We are also going to merge Diane K and Marie Z's ideas together- and have a Steal-a-Pollyanna game, with all participants bringing a Hand-Made Ornament (of any material) The ornament must be wrapped! (You are allowed to bring one that is made by someone else if you must)



And If you have some favorite Holiday music to share, or musical instruments to play, bring it along!

❖ **Message from Janet and Johnnie Mae regarding Garden Club Trips**

The Longwood Garden Trip is really popular this year. We sold out! Sadly, we had to disappoint a few people. But this is very exciting! It means that we are fulfilling the Garden Club's mission. Our Trips to Longwood and other famous Public Gardens provide an affordable and accessible opportunity for community members to visit these beautiful treasures, and help us promote interest in gardening. Thanks go to our Councilwoman Maria Q. Sanchez for her support which allows us to subsidize the cost through the Philadelphia Activities Grant.

- ❖ The Philly Rising initiative is working with the City of Philadelphia to find a vacant lot and/or city property that will be suitable for a Frankford Community Garden. We just might have a site lined up in time for next Spring! Assistant Managing Director Manny Citron, the Mural Arts Program, and PA State Rep Tony Payton all expressed interest in seeing a community vegetable garden happen. The City greening and health initiatives are both encouraging local food growing by the community.

A new study by University of Pennsylvania researcher Dr. Charles Branas reveals an amazing impact of the PHS vacant land management initiative: cleaning and greening neglected urban lots reduces violent crime by as much as eight percent. *Philadelphia Inquirer* article by Tom Avril, Nov 25, 2011 and *American Journal of Epidemiology*.

- ❖ The Ned Barnard/David Hewitt tree search continues, and you can join them at the **Tookany/Tacony/Frankford Watershed Partnership day on December 17, 2011** at 9am on the Friends Hospital grounds.
Edward (Ned) Sibley Barnard is an editor, writer, and photographer specializing in fully illustrated how-to and nature books for adults and children. He is currently working on a book about remarkable trees in the Philadelphia area-
His books include New York City Trees: A Field Guide for the Metropolitan Area
- ❖ If you didn't get to sign up for a **PWD Rain Barrel** yet, you can do it at this TTWP event
- ❖ There will also be a bird identification walk starting at 11am at the TTF Day. Saturday Dec 17 happens to be date of the annual Christmas Bird Count held by the National Audubon Society. I am waiting for more information from the Society about how to participate. Meanwhile, I found this little history about it-
Prior to the turn of the century, people engaged in a holiday tradition known as the Christmas "Side Hunt": They would choose sides and go afield with their guns; whoever brought in the biggest pile of feathered (and furred) quarry won. Conservation was in its beginning stages around the turn of the 20th century, and many observers and scientists were becoming concerned about declining bird populations. Beginning on Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank Chapman, an early officer in the then budding Audubon Society, proposed a new holiday tradition-a "Christmas Bird Census"-that would count birds in the holidays rather than hunt them. So began the Christmas Bird Count.
Another Bird Count takes place Feb 17-20, 2012 - the 15th annual Great Backyard Bird Count. Participants count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and report their sightings online at www.birdcount.org. You do not have to be an expert, if you know the most common birds for you area, you can participate. This one is easier to join in on.
- ❖ Janet and Mary Ellen shared information from the TTF Watershed organization about an alternative to Rain Barrels – there is some funding for Down Spout Planters. They are looking for blocks where several people would be interested and there is an income eligibility requirement. If you are interested, let Janet know.
- ❖ As a result of discussing the Rain Garden at Womrath Park, and the PWD's search for other possible Rain Garden sites, Nancy described the flooding that occurs in Wissinoming Park. We will be recommending the Park to both PWD and TTF for consideration.
- ❖ Dick made a suggestion for a field trip next Spring to Grounds for Sculpture in Trenton- Trip committee take notice! Large gardens, and outdoor sculpture –

PHS's Tree Tenders® program session coming up – This is a great program - offers nine hours of hands-on tree care training for residents of the five-county Philadelphia region. The training will cover tree biology, identification, planting, proper care and working within your community.

Available for ISA, PA LA, Act 48 and PLNA credit. Given the intensity of the training and the evening hours, the course is not appropriate for children under 16.

Philadelphia - Saturdays, January 21 & 28, 2012, from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm

Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties - To be announced

Fee for 9-hour program is \$25

Pre-registration is required.

You can register on line at <https://www.pennhort.net/sslpage.aspx?pid=366>

For more information, contact [Mindy Maslin](mailto:maslin@pennhort.net) at 215-988-8844 (Philadelphia), or [Barley Van Clief](mailto:barley@pennhort.net) at 215-988-8793 (Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties)

- ❖ The Holiday Flower Arranging for the Hospice on Dec 3rd went well. Three new members joined us to create and deliver 10 arrangements to Vitas Hospice at Aria Hospital– and we had enough flowers and greens to make and take our own arrangements too. The beautiful greens (Japanese holly and Yew) were donated by Janet’s Jenkintown neighbor Judy Bishop (who just happens to represent Jenkintown on the TTF Watershed Board)