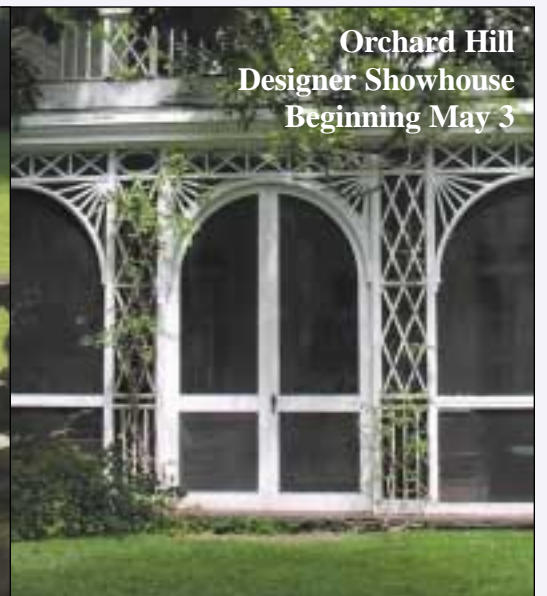


Old Westbury Gardens News



Clippings from the Gardens, Spring 2008

Plant Sale, Orchard Hill, Gardeners' Fair, a Trip Down Memory Lane, and More



**Orchard Hill
Designer Showhouse
Beginning May 3**



President's Letter

Jack Lenor Larsen, who established Longhouse Preserve in East Hampton, visited Old Westbury Gardens on March 14. Mr. Larsen was accompanied by Longhouse's Executive Director, Matcko Tomicic, and three of their trustees, Barbara Press, Jane Islin, and Peter Olsen. Our Chairman, Mary Phipps, was kind enough to lead their tour. Mary, Maura Brush, our home-grown Director of Horticulture, and I spent an enjoyable few hours sharing Old Westbury Gardens' history and landscape design with our visitors.

What struck me on that clear, chilly day is what plant lovers have known for ages: the beauty of a tree can only be truly appreciated when it is free of its leaves and its structure and form are on full display. We took an end-of-winter tour, and all around us were trees ready for the budding and leafing-out of spring.

It reminded me of our newest additions to the Gardens: Orchard Hill, the former home of Peggie Phipps Boegner, and the farm property adjacent to our woodlands; acquisitions made possible thanks to the generosity of our dedicated donors and the Nassau County Bond Act. These land parcels and buildings will forever be preserved by and be part of Old Westbury Gardens. Much like the dormant trees, the buildings and land form a foundation for new and exciting things to come for the upcoming year.

As the trees begin to bud, Peggie's cherished Quaker farmhouse home will be carefully restored for this spring's Designer Showhouse. Her renovated former residence, with its charming outbuildings, will provide us with opportunities for many seasons to come for expanding and enriching the already wonderful Old Westbury Gardens experience.

Rediscover the Gardens this spring. We have new woodland tracts for you to walk, a new dahlia garden for you to explore, and during the run of the Showhouse, a newly decorated Orchard Hill for you to visit.

John Norbeck



Back row, from left: John Norbeck and Mary Phipps; far left: Maura Brush; with Longhouse Preserve group

Old Westbury Gardens Welcomes a New Trustee

At the meeting of the Board of Old Westbury Gardens held on January 22, 2008, Robert Hussey was elected as a new Trustee. Bob is a native Long Islander, who grew up in Lloyd Harbor and spent many of his childhood years exploring and appreciating Caumsett, the former Marshall Field estate near his home. He graduated from Georgetown University in 1971, and received an MBA in International Finance from George Washington University in 1973. He is currently a member of Georgetown's Board of Regents and has held a number of philanthropic positions for the university. Today, Bob is focused primarily on private equity direct investments, principally in traditional media,



new-media, marketing services, and special situations.

Bob has demonstrated an active interest and involvement in Old Westbury Gardens over

the past several years, particularly in aspects of preservation of the collections. He was responsible for the funding of the restoration of the alabaster lanterns on the West Porch.

Bob and his wife Debi are the parents of five children. They now live in Garden City, and are deeply interested in the welfare of their community. Debi, who is a past President of Mercy Hospital, serves on the Board of the Save the Children Foundation.



From left: Brian Lym, Brooklyn Botanic Garden President Scott Medbury, and noted author and Missouri Botanical Garden Director Dr. Peter Raven, join Connie and John Norbeck for dinner at The River Café in Brooklyn, following a lecture by Dr. Raven



Gardeners' Fair

The 2008 Gardeners' Fair, "Swing Into Spring: Art Deco Style," is being celebrated on Saturday evening, May 31. This wonderful and important fund raising event will include an elegant dinner, dancing, and the chance to bid on a wide variety of fabulous gifts during live and silent auctions. As usual, Scott Lucas and other members of our talented and creative horticulture staff will create the enchanting decorations. This year's committee chairman is Luciene Salomone. For tickets, underwriting opportunities, or more information, please contact Kristen Bradley at 516-333-0048, ext. 308 or kbradley@oldwestburygardens.org.

The honorary chairmen of the dinner are Julie and Luis Rinaldini. For so many years, Julie and Luis have been extremely influential and instrumental in saving open space and important historic sites throughout Long Island as leaders of the North Shore Land Alliance, the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities, and the Nassau County Museum of Art. In partnership with Lloyd Zuckerberg, and Lloyd's father Roy, Julie and Luis acquired a 108 acre estate in Old Westbury. Through careful planning, a subdivision involving the building of 36 houses was averted, allowing 96 acres to remain undeveloped.

The Gardens has benefited enor-



Luis and Julie Rinaldini

mously from Luis' role in chairing the committee for the drive that acquired the former Boegner estate, the 35 acres that were contiguous to our property, and which are now very much a part of Old Westbury Gardens. Julie, who chaired the 2003 Gardeners' Fair and has been instrumental to the success of our yearly Winter Dinners, has lent her creative and artistic talents to many of the Gardens' most interesting and unique events.

We are all grateful to Julie and Luis for their continued efforts to cultivate and nurture Old Westbury Gardens and other Long Island institutions of beauty and nature. We are pleased to have this opportunity to honor and thank them. They truly represent the best examples of the fine traditions of community leadership and American philanthropy.



The Gardeners' Fair Committee

Friends News

In addition to Monthly Membership Meetings, the Friends have planned an exciting season of special activities open to Old Westbury Gardens' members at the Friends level and above.

On Tuesday, June 10, the Friends will host *OWG Friends Night Out*. This special evening highlights the Designer Showhouse at Orchard Hill. For this event, the Friends will be joined by at least four of the Showhouse decorators for a private behind-the-scenes tour. The evening also includes light refreshments and a silent auction.

On Monday, June 23, the Friends will host *Exploring Designers' Gardens*, a special day trip to several private gardens in Connecticut. The itinerary includes visits to the renowned gardens of designers such as Carolyn Roehm and Bunny Williams. The fee includes round-trip transportation and a picnic lunch.

We are looking forward to other events in the fall, such as a Matinee Theater Trip and a Gourmet Tour of Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn. More details will follow in the next newsletter.

For a minimum of \$250, you can become a Friend of Old Westbury Gardens and receive all of the special benefits of membership, including invitations to exclusive trips, programs, and events. As always, each level of membership entitles you to free admission to Westbury House and the Gardens for a full year.

For more information, please contact Jana Ryan at (516) 333-0048 ext. 309, jryan@oldwestburygardens.org.





News 12 films a promotional segment for the Decorator Showhouse



A bison keeps the lobby deer company during a commercial shoot



Bright blue Chionodoxa blanket the shore of the West Pond



Old Westbury Gardens Vice Chairman Carol Large and Horticulture Director Maura Brush greet guests at a Pre-Designer Preview Party at Orchard Hill



Visitor Services Associate Ha Frouxides and Collections Manager Janice Bloom spruce up the Lobby

Spring Plant Sale

This year's Spring Plant Sale is May 1-4. On May 1, Members Preview Day, Old Westbury Gardens' members will receive a 15% discount on all plant purchases. (The usual 10% discount will apply May 2-4).

As described by Director of Horticulture, Maura Bush, these are some of the many plants that will be available. In the event of severe weather or crop failure, some substitutions may be made.

Spring is the busiest time in the garden, and for many of us, the most exciting. The gardeners are anxious to discover if the flowers on their new pansy are as blue as the picture that they saw, or if an heirloom sweet pea has the unbelievable scent that the seed catalogs promised. We like to have the tried and true plants that have been so reliable to us over time. But we are always tempted to try the new varieties, or older ones that have found their way back into fashion.

This balance between the old and new is exactly what you will find when you visit the plant sale this year. We will have all of the perennial plant winners of the

last decade, and several that we think will be contenders in the near future. We have also grown extra quantities of our Walled Garden and Cottage Garden favorites, so that we would be able to offer them to you

for your own gardens. A special feature of this

year's sale will be heirloom plants. Many older annuals and cottage-type perennials are impossible to find in the nursery industry. Fortunately, there are seed sources that make it possible for our grower, Scott Lucas, to bring some of these old-fashioned favorites back to our borders. Here is a small sampling of heirloom plants that will be available at our plant sale:

HEIRLOOM PLANTS:

Valeriana officinalis (Garden Heliotrope) This plant, which is very hard to come by, stands about 4-6' tall. It has airy, white flowers that give off a vanilla aroma especially during the evening hours. It is an annual but does have a tendency to self-sow in the garden.



Dictamnus albus (Gas Plant) This is a gorgeous, rare, perennial shrub. The flowers are papery pink and are held on reddish stems. The star-shaped seed pods make this an interesting garden addition even after flowering has finished.

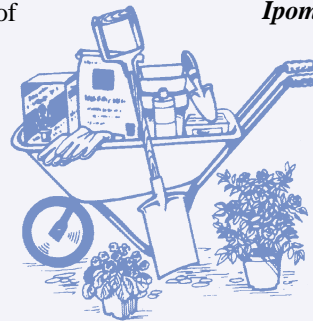
Ipomoea 'Heavenly Blue' (Morning Glory) Blue is a coveted color in the gardening world; and no plant can compare to the true blue of this morning glory that was introduced in the 1930's. It quickly became the most planted morning glory, and remains so today.

Ipomoea alba (Moonflower Vine)

This is a staple of any moon garden. This old-fashioned favorite can climb up to 20' in one season and tolerates even humid heat. The heart shaped leaves are the perfect foil for the waxy white flowers, which are intoxicating to both people and pollinators.

Zaluzianskya capensis

(Night Phlox) This flower, popular in the 1930's, is still one of the sweetest plants in the garden. A cousin to the snapdragon, this extraordinarily fragrant plant has clusters of purple flowers that are purely white on the inside.





A greenhouse full of pansies await planting



The Red Ballroom Steinway gets some key maintenance from our piano tuner



An ad agency shoots the classic, south view of Westbury House



Docent Oz Kaufold and Group Tours Coordinator Angela Savino at the Hicks Spring Flower and Garden Show



Arriet manager Dining Room

Reseda odorata (Mignonette)

Napoleon brought this plant from Egypt for Josephine, who named it “mignonette” or “little darling.” It has small spikes of salmon flowers with a wonderfully sweet fragrance.

Lathyrus odorata ‘Cupiani’s Original’ (Sweet Pea) No cottage garden is complete without sweet peas; and this one is a stunner. The fragrant, bicolor flowers are purple and a shocking deep blue. Sweet peas are short climbers that look wonderful rambling along a fence. They are often underestimated in their use as a cut flower. In a vase, they stay fresh for about a week, and their stems are delicate yet sturdy, which makes them wonderful for forming graceful arrangements.

Over the years, customers have frequently asked for more shade plant offerings. So this year we will have an expanded selection of plants for the shady garden. Some of the highlights will be:



Ajuga ‘Silver Queen’ (Bugleweed)

This is a fast-growing, semi-evergreen groundcover that hugs the ground, reaching only 2-3” tall, with glossy green leaves with white variegation.

Begonia grandis (Hardy Begonia)

Lush “angel wing” foliage emerges from this truly perennial begonia in late spring. Its delicate texture makes it a charming companion plant for astilbe, fern, hosta, and spring-flowering bulbs.

Convallaria majalis (Lily-of-the-Valley)

Nodding, bell-shaped, extremely fragrant flowers on 6-8” stems rise above the dark green foliage on this deciduous groundcover. It will form a carpet in even the shadiest areas.

Athyrium filix-femina

‘Minutissimum’ (Dwarf Lady Fern)

Finally, there is dwarf form of the lady fern. This “little lady” reaches no higher than about 6-12” tall, but has the same durable, soft-textured foliage of the lady fern, and makes a wonderful companion plant to spring-flowering bulbs.

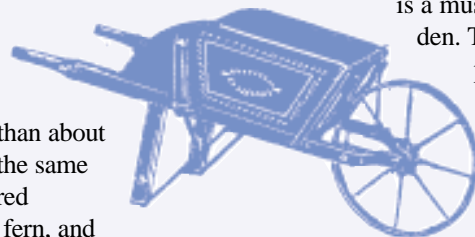
Anthyrium hybrid (Branford Beauty Fern)

This is an exciting new introduction to our plant sale. It is a cross between the Japanese painted fern and the lady fern and it has the best traits of each. It has the lovely painted foliage of its Japanese parent and the upright habit of its American parent.

Helleborus x hybridus ‘Sunshine Selections’ (Lenten Rose) In recent years, the lenten rose has finally begun to get the recognition that it deserves. The flowers of this “sunny” selection bloom in white, yellow, green, pink, or dark red, and are among the first flowers to grace the gardens. The dark, shiny leaves are semi-evergreen, making this plant useful even as a groundcover.

Trillium grandiflorum (Trillium)

This native of our Northeastern woodlands is a must-have for any shade garden. The beautiful, three petaled, white flowers are held on the 6-10” tall plant. It works particularly well when matched with other woodland favorites, such as fern.





Upcoming Thrills on Orchard Hill

As is obviously the case with the Phipps family, the name Hicks is also very much entwined with the history of Nassau County. Valentine Hicks, the man for whom Hicksville was named, was the second president of the Long Island Railroad. From 1812 to 1850, he lived in a house that is now home to the Maine Maid Inn. Another family member, Isaac Hicks, founded Hicks Nursery in 1853.

In 1859, John D. Hicks Jr. (1829-1907) and his wife Caroline Haviland (1832-1924) built a house on Hicks Lane in what is now Old Westbury. Constructed in what may be referred to as the Victorian Italianate style, the home had wood frame construction with board and batten siding, an arcaded porch, round-headed windows, and a bay window on its front facade. In 1900, a wing was added that included what is now the living room and master bedroom suite.

Peggie Phipps and her three brothers grew up nearby in Westbury House. In honor of Peggie's marriage in 1930, her father Jay purchased the Hicks house, moved it to its present location, and renamed it Orchard Hill. Peggie would continue to live in this home until her passing in 2006. The property, including the home (which had never previously been opened to the public), and various cottages and farm structures, is now part of Old Westbury Gardens. Eventually, Orchard Hill will serve a number of purposes as a cultural, educational, meeting center, and as housing for seasonal horticulture interns, and as offices for staff. But first, this spring, the house is being transformed into a designer showhouse.

Fifteen of the areas' top interior designers and decorative artists are turning the house into a decorating masterpiece. The Showhouse will open with a gala preview party on Friday, May 2, and will run for six weeks, until June 15. Proceeds will benefit Old Westbury Gardens.

The interior design of the Showhouse will be coordinated by Tony Manning of Mitchell Manning Associates. Mr. Manning's many clients include the Hampton Designer Showhouse. Barbara Bancroft is the Chairman of the Showhouse Committee and the Honorary Chairman is Mario Buatta.



*Orchard Hill
circa 1875...
and today*



The Showhouse Designers include:

Salisbury & Manus • Andrew Maier Interior Design
Denise Rinfret Interior Design • Eddie Lee, Inc. • Greg Lanza Interior Design
Jeff Lincoln Interiors • Pamela Banker Associates • Kevin Murphy
Leta Austin Foster and Associates • John Loecke • Kate Singer • Sara Story
Todd Bishop • SL Interior Design • Two Worlds Arts

The Showhouse will be open seven days a week, 10:00am until 5:00pm. (Last admission is at 4:00pm). Children under six, infants, strollers, and pets are not permitted in the Showhouse. Tickets for the gala preview, which features valet parking, cocktails, and hors d'oeuvres, are \$250 each. Admission to the Showhouse is \$30 (\$20 for Old Westbury Gardens' members) and includes a beautiful Showhouse Journal.



The "Winter Wheelers," including their president, Huyler Held, pause for a picture after walking for several miles around the entire Gardens' property, including Orchard Hill



It Was Twenty Years Ago Today

For a quick trip down memory lane, the following are a few excerpts from our calendar of events that was printed in the spring of 1988.

- Opening Weekend Perennial Sale, Palm House
- Long Island Rhododendron Festival
- Antique Auto Show
- Watercolors and Oil Painting in the Garden, Ruth Baderian
- Lecture/Luncheon Series: Alexandra Stoddard Brown; Lady Bird Johnson; Bethany Boltman; Erica Wilson

Saturday Garden Series

“Pruning Trees, Shrubs, and Vines,” Clare Curry, Grounds Supervisor;
 “Papermaking with Flowers and Leaves,” Bonnee Mandel, Gift Shop Manager;
 “Year Round Maintenance of the Perennial Border,” Kimberly Johnson, Walled Garden Supervisor;
 “Growing and Using Gourmet Vegetables,” Robert E. Bowden, Director of Horticulture and Operations

Trips

- Philadelphia Flower Show; Annapolis/Baltimore, Maryland; Longwood Garden and Brandywine River Museum



Peter Duchin reminisces about a concert from the 1980's with Public Programs Associate Jamie Watkis



A few of the many antique autos at last year's show

Wednesday Picnic Pop Concerts

Peter Duchin and His Orchestra;
 Long Island Mummies String Band;
 Stardusters Big Band; The Townsman Big Band; Yvonne Carroll Parente Presents The Company in “Some Enchanted Evening.”

- The 28th Annual Scottish Games
- Horses in Action
- Soccer Tournaments

- Members' Day, Special Appearance by Bob Thomson of *The Victory Garden*
 Interestingly, more than a few events, performers, and employees are still very much a part of Old Westbury Gardens.

A theme of this year's Antique Auto Show is the 100th anniversary of the Model T. Popularly referred to as the Tin Lizzie or the Flivver, the first production model was assembled at the Ford plant in Detroit on September 27, 1908.

Save the Date

Old Westbury Gardens' members and their friends are invited to join us for a cultural outing in the Bronx on June 24. Destinations for this bus trip include visits to the Bartow Pell Mansion Museum and the beautiful botanical gardens at Wave Hill. To reserve tickets or for more information, contact Public Programs Associate Jamie Watkis at 516-333-0048 ext. 302 or jwatkis@oldwestburygardens.org.



Plant a Row



Old Westbury Gardens is once again participating in the Garden Writers Association nationwide program – Plant a Row for the Hungry. All produce from the Demonstration Gardens will be delivered to the Interfaith Nutrition Network's soup kitchen in

Hempstead. Please join us in this effort by planting an extra row, or two, of vegetables or herbs in your home garden.

Reminder Notes

For those of you who may have missed Poetica Musica in April, or wish to enjoy their music again, our classical artists-in-residence are returning to the Red Ballroom for another spring performance on May 17. This concert, called Three Plus Three, features the artists Maria Antonia Garcia, piano, Eugene Moye, cello, and Abraham Appleman, violin, performing works by Schubert and Mendelssohn.



**The Dianne Wittlinger
Memorial Tree Fund and
The Volunteer Tree Fund**

Donations to both funds have been received from November, 2007 -March, 2008 in memory of the individuals as follow:

- Bernard J. Berstein, M.D.
- Robert Cafici
- Vincent Cafici
- Alphonse Campione
- Robert Campione
- Maddalena Carulli
- George Christian
- Anne and James Crisafulli
- Ralph DelliGatti
- John Draghi
- Mary Ann Falsitta
- Mildred and Joseph Fortunato
- Nicolo Fosco
- Edward S. Fries
- Laura Guthart
- Henry U. Harris, Jr.
- Annamae and Bobby Iengo
- Arthur Kroecker
- Ralph Lopez
- Margaret Martinez
- Kevin O'Sullivan
- Mary Pappania
- Theodore Pierce
- Anne Powell Remsen
- Mary Janice Wheeler

Thank You, Volunteers

Volunteer Marie Temme retired at the end of 2007, after nearly 25 year of service at Old Westbury Gardens. Marie began volunteering in 1982 as a sales associate in the Gift Shop. More recently, she regularly



Marie Temme

could be found “behind the scenes” in the business office, taking care of filing and keeping our records organized. Marie has also stepped in over the years to assist with events like the Scottish Games, the Hicks Flower Show and the Holiday Celebration. Not just her work, but Marie’s kind-hearted demeanor and sweet smile that graced the office for those many

years will be missed by all our staff.

Volunteers are indispensable at Old Westbury Gardens, especially this spring, with the additional needs for personnel for the Showhouse at Orchard Hill. We also have openings for positions as gardeners, Gift Shop associates, receptionists, Plant Shop associates, clerical assistants, and for working at special events and programs.

If you think you or someone you know may be interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Jamie Watkis, our Volunteer Coordinator, at 516-333-0048, ext.302, jwatkis@oldwestburygardens.org. Or click on the Volunteering Opportunities link on our web site at www.oldwestburygardens.org for more information, including a downloadable volunteer application.

Old Westbury Gardens News

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Ⓞ
Mrs. Etienne Boegner
(1906-2006)
Founder

Mary S. Phipps
Chairman

Frank Castagna
Carol E. Large
Vice Chairmen

John Norbeck
President and CEO

Anne B. Byers
Secretary

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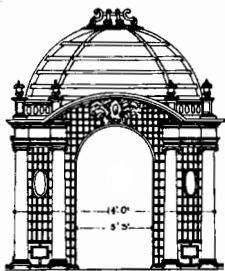
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