



arboretum leaves

winter 2024

Friends of The Frelinghuysen Arboretum

14th Annual Community Garden Conference

In person at the Haggerty Education Center

The Friends of The Frelinghuysen Arboretum and Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Morris County are teaming up to present their Annual Community Garden Conference for the 14th year in a row. This year we are very excited to have Ben Flanner, Co-Founder and CEO of Brooklyn Grange as the keynote speaker. We have an impressive list of session speakers too, all experts in their field. They will cover topics relevant to not just community gardeners but backyard vegetable gardeners as well as garden managers, and those trying to establish a new community garden.

This program is eligible for 5.0 Rutgers Master Gardener CEU's.

Date: Saturday, March 2, Snow date March 3

Time: 9:00 am

Cost: \$65 plus \$15 for lunch. Feel free to bring your own.



The topics for the 2024 conference are:

- **Keynote Speaker Ben Flanner**

Ben Flanner is co-founder and CEO of Brooklyn Grange Rooftop Farm. He is widely considered a pioneer for his groundbreaking model, which adapts existing green roof technology to intensively cultivate vegetables, beginning with Eagle Street Rooftop Farm, a pilot project on a 6,000 square foot Brooklyn roof, which Ben co-founded in 2009. A year later, in 2010, Ben and his partners scaled up the model and, in 2010, launched Brooklyn Grange, a commercial-scale urban farming business, eventually expanding to 2.5 acres spanning two roofs. Ben directs all agricultural endeavors on the farm, he brings his system optimization background to bear, making sure the business remains as fiscally sound as it is ecologically healthy.

- Morris County Agricultural and Natural Resource Agent, Rutgers Vegetable Expert and Conference Co-sponsor **Peter Nitzsche** will discuss the findings from the season-long community garden demonstration

plot trials on the Genetic Diversity of Potatoes Grown from Seed. Learn all about this super fascinating trial, what we discovered and what the plans are for next year.

- **Farmer Shaun Ananko**, Director of Agriculture and Education

Back by popular demand, Shaun presents his talk on *Maximizing Food Yields* – a topic of critical importance for community gardeners.

A native of Morristown, Shaun Ananko began developing his love for farming as a small child when his mother taught him how to grow tomatoes in their home garden. Shaun was raised to appreciate the benefit of growing one's own food, but has witnessed society move away from these values. Now as Farmer Shaun for Grow It Green Morristown, he is proud to share his knowledge of food cultivation to the Morristown community and students of local schools.

(Continued on page 2)

14th Annual Community Garden Conference

(Continued from page 1)

- **Rebecca Magron**, Horticulturist from Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Hunterdon County presents her excellent talk on *How to Read a Soil Test*. We'll use examples of soil tests taken at community gardens and encourage you to bring your own if you have questions.

Rebecca first started her horticulture career in 1996 with Cornell University Regional Fruit Program and studied plant science and plant pathology at Cornell University. Rebecca has worked in agricultural research on tree fruit crops with Cornell University and Cooperative Extension focusing on horticultural techniques to improve yield and reduce the reliance on pesticides.

- **The Coordinator's Round Table** moderated by Ned Gardner, Manager of the Ted Largman Community Garden in Morris Township and Mike Dziomba, Manager of the Randolph Community Garden. This is a chance for managers of community gardens to connect with other managers and get questions answered and share successes and not so successful endeavors they've encountered. The topic for the 2024 discussion is Bulk Purchasing Power for Community Gardens and is open to all attendees.

calendar of events

January

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 6 | Members Only
New Year's Party | 3 |
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February

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3 | The Benjamin Blackburn Scholarship
Lecture: "Gardening Can Be Murder"
with Marta McDowell | 5 |
|---|---|---|

March

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | 14th Annual Community
Garden Conference..... | 1 |
| 5 | Bus Trip to the Philadelphia
Flower Show | 6 |

New Jersey – The Community Garden State

Community Gardens are a growing trend across the United States, and New Jersey is no exception. These gardens provide a variety of benefits to communities, including increased access to fresh produce, opportunities for physical activity, social interaction, and to foster a sense of community.

Did you know there are many types of community gardens?

- Plot gardens are the most common type of community garden, where each gardener is given their own garden plot to grow produce for themselves.
- Cooperative gardens are where all gardeners work together to maintain the entire garden and share the workload and bounty.
- Teaching gardens are designed to teach people about gardening and offer workshops and demonstrations.
- School gardens are used to teach children about gardening, environmental sciences, and nutrition.
- Food pantry gardens are often sponsored by churches and other civic organizations and specifically grow fresh produce for local food pantries or shelters.

While food production remains the primary function of community gardens, their benefits go far beyond just growing fresh produce. Community gardens are gathering places where neighbors, strangers, and people of different ages, religions, and ethnic backgrounds gather and can learn from one another, fostering a strong sense of community. When people commit to growing a garden, they are creating a community around their shared interests and purpose.

Another important aspect of community gardening is feeding your emotional and physical health. Getting outdoors is good for you! The saying "nature nurtures" holds true with gardening. Many studies have shown that gardening relieves stress by channeling your "green" mindfulness. Spending time outdoors has been shown to reduce heart rate and muscle tension. Sunlight lowers blood pressure and increases vitamin D levels.

There are hundreds of community gardens in the Garden State, located in both urban and rural areas. These gardens are sponsored by local and county governments, garden clubs, schools, churches, and non-profit organizations. A few examples include Grow it Green's Early Street Garden and Urban Farm in Morristown, Morris County Park Commission's Community Garden in East Hanover, Morris Township's Ted Largman Community Garden, and Duke Farms Community Garden in Hillsborough. These are just a few of the many great community gardens in our State. To find a community garden near you, you can visit the website of the American Community Garden Association or call your local municipality and ask if they sponsor a local garden.

You can learn more about this gardening community at the 14th Annual Community Garden Conference. This event is appropriate for Community Garden Managers, Community Gardeners, and all Gardening Enthusiasts. It will be held at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum on Saturday March 2, 2024. You won't want to miss it.

by Ned Gardner
Garden Manager
Ted Largman Community Garden, Morris Township

notes from the board

Dear Friends,

Over the last three months we've put your membership dollars to work in several ways.

We helped to fund a Volunteer Luncheon hosted by the Morris County Park Commission in gratitude for the volunteer efforts of those who worked toward the beautification and maintenance (can you say endless weeding?) of The Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Willowood Arboretum and Bamboo Brook. It's heartening to see the volunteer corps strengthening in numbers for both the Commission and for the Friends.

Kristin Prommel, Superintendent of Horticulture, presented the trustees with a plan for Spring Bulbs to be planted in the various beds around the Haggerty Education Center, the Cottage Garden, and the Mansion. Along with a selection of much-loved tulips there will be sweeps of muscari and other interesting bulbs to cheer you this spring. The Friends are always delighted to fund this display and you'll be happy to know that many bulbs will be planted out in other areas of the arboretum once they finish their glorious show.

Ann Fahey, Superintendent of Horticultural Education was awarded a grant from the Friends that will provide funding toward supplies for her ever-growing Horticultural Therapy groups.

We had some stellar programming too. Barbara Israel educated and entertained us with her knowledge of garden ornament and her skills in getting very heavy, large things moved from one place to another. The Tree Symposium was a big hit which you can read about later in this newsletter. Just this week Friends member Jim Wallker was back on site giving us a lesson about birds. People seem to flock to his talks.

In 2024 we'll be celebrating the new year with our January 6 membership party, and I hope you will consider attending. We enjoy our visits with you! More great winter programming is planned for February and March along with our Annual Bus Trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show.

On another note, after much deliberation and budget strategizing, we made the decision to increase our membership dues starting in January 2024. You will see the new dues schedule in this newsletter. This is the first time we upped our dues in 30 years because we've always wanted to remain affordable for all. However, to continue our quality programming, maintain the benefits of membership, and support the arboretum, it became necessary to take this action.

Your membership dollars are crucial to our operations, and I hope you will vote to continue your support of the Friends of The Frelinghuysen Arboretum.

Yours in horticulture,
Heather Emelander

President, Friends of The Frelinghuysen Arboretum

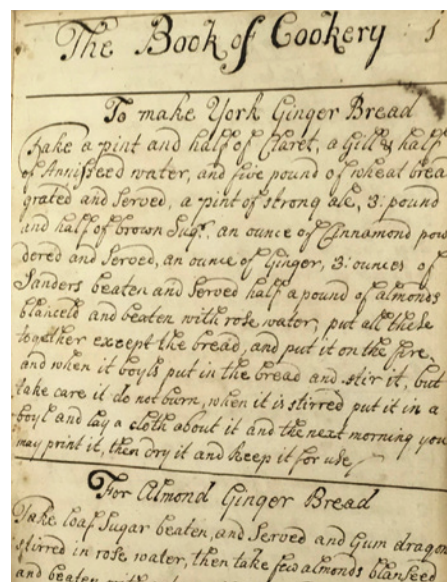
Friends Members Only New Year's Party

In Person at the Haggerty Education Center

*Melanie Bump, Curator of Collections and Exhibits
at the Morris County Park Commission's Division of
Cultural and Environmental Resources presents:*

Savory Remembrances in the Books

As we look into the New Year, we can seek comfort and joy in the recipes and cookbooks in the Elizabeth D. Kay Rare Books Collection. Cookbooks and receipts have been passed down for centuries, feeding families, children, and royalty and even curing the sick using botanical recipes. Through the pages of these carefully kept handwritten journals and illustrated bound volumes, we can hear the voices of past cooks who turned to their gardens for guidance. Join the Curator of Collections and Exhibits as we savor the botanical and culinary insight in the pages of the 18th and 19th-century rare books and remember the people who made and used them.



Following the program, we'll celebrate with our usual spread of delicious savory and sweet treats, accompanied by coffee, tea, and wines. The event is free, but you must register as attendance is limited to 100 people.

Date: Saturday, January 6

Time: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Cost: FREE for members only

special
events

Tree Symposium 2023

There were many things to celebrate at this year's Tree Symposium, held October 21 at the Haggerty Education Center once again, after several years of virtual presentations. This year the focus was on the conifer collections at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, which was designated as a Reference Garden by the American Conifer Society (ACS) in 2021 – the first and only one in New Jersey! Longtime Friends member and volunteer, Frank Goodhart, a past president of the ACS, played an important role in encouraging the Arboretum's garden staff to achieve this designation. Frank and his wife Joan were honored with a tribute and framed certificate for their generous donation of Frank's large collection of dwarf conifers to the Arboretum.

The Friends, led by board member Judy Snow, partnered with the American Conifer Society (ACS) Northeast Region for the symposium. Seventeen ACS members were among the 70 participants who joined in the day's activities. Three outstanding speakers gave lively and informative presentations: Bruce Crawford, Manager of Horticulture for the Morris County Park Commission, led off with a talk on the past, present, and future of the conifer collections at the Arboretum. Next up was Dr. Beth Brantley, a research scientist with Bartlett Tree Experts. She spoke about the challenges facing conifers and other landscape trees from climate change and pests. Jean Epiphan, Rutgers Cooperative Extension Agent for urban and community forestry in Morris County, explained the role of trees and indigenous plants in various habitats and in woodland gardens. Everyone came away with a better understanding of the importance of trees in sustaining biodiversity, and how we can nurture that role in our own gardens.

Attendees also enjoyed shopping for dwarf conifers from the tempting selections offered by the Coldwater Pond Nursery from Phelps, NY. Proceeds from the sales benefited ACS programs. Owner Ted Hildebrant (who grew up at Hildebrant Nursery in Oldwick, NJ), is Director of the Northeast Region of the ACS. In his welcoming remarks, Ted talked about the society's mission, activities, and the benefits of joining. Later he shared tributes from ACS members honoring Frank Goodhart's contributions to the organization.

After a buffet lunch, the participants headed outside for a tour led by Bruce Crawford that focused on key conifer specimens at the Arboretum. Bruce pointed out the many plants that Frank and Joan Goodhart had donated.



Bruce Crawford led a tour of key conifer specimens at the Arboretum

A new brochure, available in the HEC lobby, offers a self-guided tour of the conifer collection, highlighting eight outstanding representative specimens.

To cap the afternoon, Friends' members Ronnie and Harvey Hammer opened their garden to the symposium participants. Their half-acre garden is bisected by a waterfall that flows down the hillside into a koi pond by their patio. Harvey pointed out more than 50 different specimens of unusual conifers and Japanese maples that he has collected through the years. It was a fitting end to a wonderful day.

A hardworking team of six volunteers provided hospitality and décor for the event. Kudos to Marge Hulstrunk and Russell Gatzke for the lovely seasonal flower arrangements. Friends' member Lorette Cheswick was on hand with a selection of her delicious honeys for sale. Thanks to all who made the day so memorable!



Frank Goodhart



Judy Snow presented a certificate to Frank Goodhart at the Symposium.

Tribute to Frank Goodhart

Frank Goodhart, a longtime member of the Friends, earned a PhD in pharmaceutical chemistry and enjoyed a productive career in the pharmaceutical industry. He is also a noted conifer expert and past president of the American Conifer Society. Frank shared his expertise in plant propagation, volunteering for a number of years at both Frelinghuysen and Willowood Arboreta. Frank played a central role in helping the Frelinghuysen Arboretum become a Reference Garden for the American Conifer Society.

Through the years, Frank amassed an impressive collection of dwarf conifers. He and his wife Joan have generously donated over 50 specimens to the Frelinghuysen Arboretum during the past year. The Friends have helped with support for digging and transferring them. Some of these are planted in the gravel garden near the small pond by the HEC. The majority are located in the Pinetum, with a concentration at the southwest corner by Whippany Road. Copper tags on the specimens include Frank's name as donor, and new signage is planned that will provide more information about dwarf conifers and their use in gardens.

Symposium organizer Judy Snow presented Frank with a framed certificate which recognizes Frank as a "longtime member, dedicated volunteer and noted conifer expert who, along with his wife Joan, has donated a valuable collection of rare dwarf conifers to the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, where they will be enjoyed and studied by visitors for years to come."

The Benjamin Blackburn Scholarship

In person at the Haggerty Education Center

*Speaker Marta McDowell will discuss her new book, **Gardening Can Be Murder.***

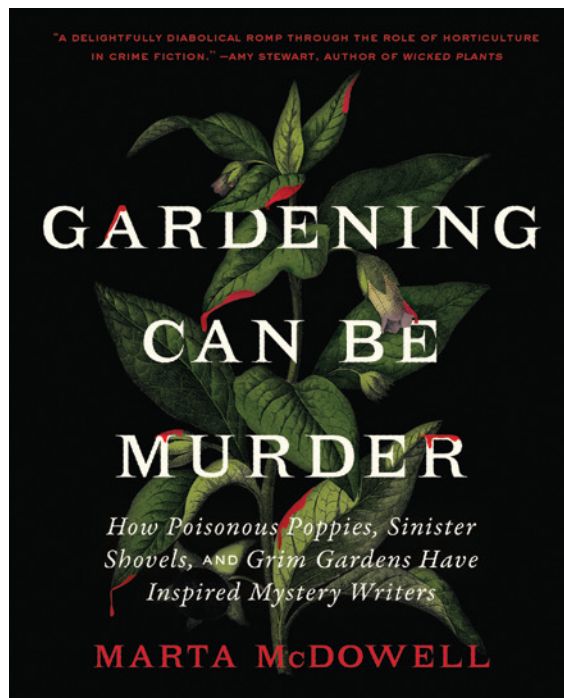


With their deadly plants, razor-sharp shears, shady corners, and ready-made burial sites, gardens make an ideal scene for a murder mystery. Flora and horticulture have had an outsize influence on the genre: motive, means, opportunity, victims, villains, and detectives. Join Marta McDowell, a writer, gardener, and avid mystery reader, in exploring the many ways in which writers – from Edgar Allen Poe and Wilkie Collins to Agatha Christie and some of today's top crime fiction authors – have found inspiration in the sinister side of gardening.

Marta McDowell lives, writes and gardens in Chatham, New Jersey. Her garden writing has appeared in popular publications such as *Women's Day*, *Country Gardening*, *The New York Times* and she is a regular contributor to the British journal, *Hortus*. Marta teaches landscape history and horticulture at the New York Botanical Garden and consults for private clients and public gardens. She was the 2019 recipient of the Garden Club of America's Sarah Chapman Francis Medal for outstanding literary achievement.

The presentation will be followed by a book sale and signing. Light refreshments will be served.

This program is eligible for 1.0 Rutgers Master Gardener CEU's.



Date: Saturday, February 3 | *Time:* 1:00 pm | *Cost:* \$50 members / \$60 non-members

Since 1979, the Friends of The Frelinghuysen Arboretum have supported horticultural education through a scholarship named for Dr. Benjamin Blackburn.

Dr. Blackburn was a professor of Botany at Drew University. His involvement with the Morris County Park Commission began with his friendship with Henry and Robert Tubbs, whose property, Willowwood, eventually became the Willowwood Arboretum. Dr. Blackburn published many articles and wrote a number of books on gardening as well as being the host of a very popular radio gardening program. He generously shared his vast knowledge and deep love for horticulture with many staff members in the Horticulture Division and with his countless fans, members of the Friends of The Frelinghuysen Arboretum and area garden clubs.

Admission fees for this program support the scholarship that is offered to students in the Landscape Technology Program at County College of Morris (CCM). This scholarship allows interested students the opportunity to explore the different horticultural, environmental, and design studies offered through the accredited CCM programs. The increased knowledge the students acquire in the classroom and through hands-on programs at CCM will benefit them as they enter their chosen field in horticulture and landscape design.



Dr. Benjamin Blackburn

Bus Trip with the Friends to the 2024 Philadelphia Flower Show

This 2024 Flower Show's theme, United by Flowers, will illustrate the beauty and power of flowers to transform, inspire, delight, and connect us to one another.

Join the Friends on this always popular and highly anticipated trip. Chat with garden experts and watch how-to gardening demonstrations in the Gardener's Studio, shop acres of vendor booths brimming with merchandise in the Marketplace and enjoy lunch and/or dinner on your own at the show or at nearby Reading Terminal Market.



Date: Tuesday, March 5

Time: 10:00 am – 8:30 pm

Bus leaves from the arboretum parking lot.

Cost: \$95 members / \$105 non-members. *No refunds after February 19*



— Save the Date —

Mark your calendar for the 2024
Friends of The Frelinghuysen Arboretum's
Annual Plant Sale

May 3 – Member Preview Party | May 4 –5 Sale



Friends
of The Frelinghuysen Arboretum
 353 East Hanover Avenue, P.O. Box 2267
 Morristown, NJ 07962-2267

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Heather Emelander
 President

Pam Posnock
 Vice President

Judith Snow
 Secretary/Treasurer

The Friends of The Frelinghuysen Arboretum and The Morris County Park Commission invite everyone to participate in their programs. If you require an interpreter for the deaf or other accommodations, please contact us at 973-937-8803 or TDD 1-800-852-7899. Please provide two weeks notice.

Registration Procedure

Please register online at www.arboretumfriends.org, or mail in the form below
with a check payable to:

Friends of The Frelinghuysen Arboretum,
P.O. Box 2267, Morristown, NJ 07962.

Email Lisa Bencivengo with any questions at lbencivengo@arboretumfriends.net.

registration form

Use this form to register for the Friends' sponsored programs shown below.

- Registrations for **Friends' sponsored programs** are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis and will be confirmed when payment is received.

- Credit cards are accepted at our website: arboretumfriends.org. Be sure to follow the Paypal instructions to complete the transaction. Bring your receipt to the program.

- Make checks payable to "Friends". Mail registration form and checks to: Friends, PO Box 2267, Morristown, NJ 07962

- In order to receive a refund, cancellations must be made at least 7 days in advance of the program. To cancel your registration, please send an email to cancellations@arboretumfriends.org. Please include your name, the name of the program and the number of spaces you are cancelling.

- For questions or more information, email lbencivengo@arboretumfriends.net.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____

Secondary phone ☐ Work ☐ Cell ☐ Other _____

Email _____

Would you like an email confirmation? ☐ Yes ☐ No

No. attending	WINTER PROGRAMS	Cost
_____	Members Only New Year's Party	FREE
_____	Bus Trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show	_____
_____	13th Annual Community Garden Conference	_____
_____	The Benjamin Blackburn Scholarship Lecture: "Gardening Can Be Murder" with Marta McDowell	_____

You will receive login instructions for virtual programs once you register.

membership form



Yes, I would like to join the Friends of The Frelinghuysen Arboretum.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____

Secondary phone ☐ Work ☐ Cell ☐ Other _____

Email _____

- ☐ Senior (65+)/Student (18+)/Military Membership\$30*
*copy of Student or Military ID required
- ☐ Individual Membership\$35
- ☐ Dual Membership\$50
(two adults in same household)
- ☐ Family Membership\$60
(two adults + children all in same household)
- ☐ Supporting Membership\$100
- ☐ Contributing Membership\$250
- ☐ Patron.....\$500
- ☐ Benefactor\$1,000

Make checks payable to "Friends" and mail with membership form to: Friends, PO Box 2267, Morristown, NJ 07962

Please write a separate check for membership, and do not combine with program registration fees.

For more information about membership visit arboretumfriends.org



As a member of The Friends of The Frelinghuysen Arboretum you can enjoy discounts at our Retail Partners. Please show your Friends' membership card at time of purchase.

Retail Partners Program

arboretumfriends.org

ATLOCK FARM

545 Weston Canal Road, Somerset
732-356-3373 atlockfarm.com
10% discount all non-sale merchandise.

BACK TO NATURE HOME AND GARDEN

3055 Valley Road, Basking Ridge
908-350-7506 backtonature.net
10% discount all merchandise.

BARTLETT TREE EXPERTS

1-877-BARTLETT bartlett.com
15% discount tree feeding.

BLUE MOREL RESTAURANT & WINE BAR THE WESTIN HOTEL

2 Whippany Road, Morristown
973-451-2619 bluemorel.com
10% discount all food purchases.

CONDURSOS GARDEN CENTER

96 River Road, Montville
973-263-8814 condursos.com
10% discount regular retail price on all green goods. Not to be combined with other offers. Offer does not include gift certificate purchases or delivery charges.

COUNTRY MILE GARDENS

1108 Mt. Kemble Avenue, Morristown
973-425-0088 countrymilegardens.com
10% discount all non-sale merchandise.

THE FARM AT GREEN VILLAGE

403 Green Village Road, Green Village
973-377-8703
TheFarmAtGreenVillage.com
10% discount all plant material.
Not to be combined with other offers.

HALL'S GARDEN CENTER & FLORIST

700 Springfield Avenue, Berkeley Heights
908-665-0331 hallsgarden.com
10% off anything with a root. Not to be combined with other offers & excludes fresh flowers.

J&M HOME & GARDEN

201 Main Street, Madison
973-377-4740 jmhg.com
10% discount all plant material.
Not to be combined with other offers.

FARMSIDE GARDENS & FLORIST

19 Loomis Avenue, Sussex
973-875-3160 farmsidegardens.com
10% discount all plant material.

METROPOLITAN FARM

119 Hickory Lane, Closter
201-767-0244 metropolitanfarm.com
10% off anything in store.
Not to be combined with other offers;
excludes fresh flowers.

METROPOLITAN PLANT EXCHANGE

471 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, West Orange
(locations also in Fort Lee and Paramus)
973-736-1997 metroplantexchange.com
10% off anything in store.
Not to be combined with other offers;
excludes fresh flowers.

MORRISTOWN AGWAY

176 Ridgedale Avenue, Morristown
973-538-3232 agway.com
10% discount plants & selected merchandise.

NJ DEER CONTROL

PO Box 8365, Red Bank
1-855-DEER GUYS NJDEERCONTROL.com
10% discount for any subsequent applications. Not to be combined with other offers. Free Trial application.

PLANT DETECTIVES

45 US Highway 206, Chester
908-879-6577 plantdetectives.com
15% discount. Not to be combined with loyalty club discount.

RARE FIND NURSERY

957 Patterson Road, Jackson
732-833-0613 rarefindnursery.com
10% of non-sale merchandise purchased will be donated to The Friends.

STEVEN KRISTOPH NURSERY

9 Roberts Road, Millstone Township
732-446-1440 pstevenkristoph.com
10% discount on Azaleas, Rhododendrons, Ornamental Trees, Shrubs & Perennials.

SUNNYSIDE GARDENS

35 Route 206, Stanhope
973-347-3010
sunnysidegardenandgifts.com
10% discount on plant purchase.
Not to be combined with other offers.

WELL-SWEEP HERB FARM

205 Mount Bethel Road, Port Murray
908-852-5390 wellsweep.com
10% off Tuesday-Thursday, May-September, excludes Special Event Days and sale items.

WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED®

Denville Commons Shopping Center
3130 Route 10 West, Denville
973 629-7636 www.wbu.com/denville
10% discount off all items