



"Your Home, Like A Precious Jewel, Needs The Proper Setting."



# The Glenwild Gardener

Spring 2008

Volume #18



I WANDERED lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host, of golden daffodils;  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine  
And twinkle on the milky way,  
They stretched in never-ending line  
Along the margin of a bay:  
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,  
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance...

The waves beside them danced; but they  
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:  
A poet could not but be gay,  
In such a jocund company:  
I gazed--and gazed--but little thought  
What wealth the show to me had  
brought:

...For oft, when on my couch I lie  
In vacant or in pensive mood,  
They flash upon that inward eye  
Which is the bliss of solitude;  
And then my heart with pleasure fills,  
And dances with the daffodils.

William Wordsworth

Eighty years ago, my grandfather, Alexander J. MacKinn Sr., started a small landscaping business with a team of oxen, and slowly evolved over the years to meet the needs of the community. He harvested his own stone from the mountains of West Milford and drove to the farms of Clifton for his plant material. The retail garden center came into being in the 1950's, and adapted to the changing nature of gardening and landscape design. Today, we're looking at this strange world with 'big box stores' everywhere and the difficult economy and wondering what is our smartest direction? Where do we want to be in 10, 20, 30 years? We know we want to be a strong part of this community, and that means we need your feedback. We really want to know what you think. Is it time to start the Glenwild Blog?...

If you aren't on our e-mail list, sign up next time you're in and you'll have a chance to answer my occasional random questions, give your opinions, and get many other benefits. We send out e-mail-only coupons or specials—not to keep regular mail people out of the loop—it's just that we can afford to contact you and let you know what we're thinking! Like, let's have a special party this summer with MAJOR clearances going on. (The biggest sale we've ever had). You'll know about it if you're on our list!

Another exciting addition this year is our new Garden Design Service. We've always done landscape design, and Brad is a Certified Landscape Architect, but maybe you have just a small area you need advice on, and you want to do the work yourself. Now you can hire one of us to come out and help with just that. Call the garden center or e-mail me at [Jodie@glenwildgardens.com](mailto:Jodie@glenwildgardens.com) for an appointment or more information.

We're working on a new website this year, so keep checking to see what's new. Our celebration for Spring combined with our 80th Anniversary is the weekend of April 18, 19, & 20th. Take the coupon inside this newsletter and come see what's new! As always, we'll be serving refreshments—bring the kids too!



## Class Schedule 2008

**The Basics of Organic Lawn Care** April 12th (Saturday 10am) & April 21st (Monday 6pm) —Wean your grass off those chemicals! It's easier and cheaper than you think. A quick class will cover all you need—come with questions! Free

**French Potager in a Pot** April 28th (Monday 6pm) Create a practical & pretty kitchen garden of herbs & lettuces for right outside your door or next to the grill. \$40

**Make a Hanging Strawberry Garden** May 10th (Saturday 10am) Keep the chipmunks from snacking on your tender strawberries by planting in our beautiful brightly colored hanging strawberry pots! \$30

**Plant a Succulent Container Garden** May 24th (Saturday 10am) Make a carefree planter for a sunny area filled with an array of annual and perennial succulents. These are stunning in any setting. \$50

**Basic Pruning** June 14th (Saturday 10am) Learn the basics of pruning with Brad MacKinn, our resident landscape architect and horticulturist. He'll cover shrubs and trees common to our area and will demonstrate as he takes a tour around our nursery. Free

**Weed Walk at Genesis Farm** July date to be announced With Robin Rose Bennett and Andre deWaal. Wow, what a class! Spend a day up in Sussex County at one of New Jersey's premier Organic Farms. We'll take a walk around Genesis Farm with Robin Rose, learning about our local amazing 'weeds' and their medicinal & culinary uses, followed by a light dinner cooked by Andre, using Genesis farm organic produce & some harvested weeds! Space is limited, so call soon and reserve your spot. Cost not yet determined—sign up on our e-mail list for updates.

**Dinner with Andre de Waal** August 25th (Monday 6pm) —Emphasizing locally grown, organic ingredients, Andre's (of Andre's Restaurant, Newton), beautiful three course dinner will be a treat for gardeners & gourmets alike. Enjoy eating under the stars while learning the recipes & Andre's cooking techniques. \$65\*

**Mushroom Picking** September—Let's do it again! Come pick wild mushrooms with Allison Hosford at 2 Pond Farm in West Milford. Sign up if & we'll call you with about a week's notice when the mushrooms are ready—usually around the last Sat. of the month. \$20

**Playing with Beads**—November 17th (Monday 6pm) It's time to solve the dire problem of not knowing which wine glass belongs to whom! And aren't you unimpressed with the mass-produced wine glass charms? Work with local artist Pamela deWaal of Mountain Soul Jewelry and create a set of 6 wine charms that are uniquely you. Also makes a great gift! \$25\*

**Cookie House** November 22nd (Saturday 10am) No-bake holiday fantasy houses made from cookies, candy, cardboard & hot glue! Though not edible, they are imaginative, sturdy & last for years. Barbara Biondo, local cookie-construction artist, will bring samples & show photos. Exacto knife, hot glue gun & plenty of glue sticks required. This class will last about 2 hours & is not for young children. \$30\*

**Making a Holiday Wreath** November 24th (Monday 6pm) & November 29th (Saturday 10am) Create a gorgeous wreath made from balsam, boxwood, fragrant cedar, & other mixed evergreens. Bring pruners if you have them. \$25\*

*More classes may be added during the year. Please sign up to be on our e-mail list or check our web site for updates. Notices will also be posted in the garden shop.*

Class sizes are limited, so call as early as possible to sign up. **973-838-0174**  
**\*classes require a 50% deposit.** Each session usually lasts about an hour and a half.  
Get a 10% discount on any purchases the night of the class.

## Composting

You can do it! It may be a 'buzz word' for gardeners now, but composting is as old as the first garden. It is a simple process that creates 'black gold', the stuff your plants want more than any fertilizer. Compost is the crumbly black organic matter that is made from broken down leaves, grass clippings, rotting logs, vegetable scraps and the like. It improves drainage & aeration in clay soil, improves water and nutrient retention in sandy soil, and brings life to dead soils. Dead soil can happen from years of using synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. The microorganisms that live in 'composty' soil are killed by these chemicals and then your plants become addicted to the fertilizer to stay alive. Why not ditch the 'drugs' and give them a healthy diet instead?

The easiest way, and those of you that know me know I ALWAYS go the easiest route, is to start with a pile of leaves in the fall. You can buy one of the nice plastic composters, or you can just pile it up. I started with 3 sides of green wire fencing about 3 feet tall, and just filled it with leaves & grass clippings. (These are the basic "Greens & Browns" of composting). Just don't make your grass layer too thick. You can mix it up, or just let it lie. (Guess what I did). If you mix, it composts faster, but either way, it'll get there in the end. To start adding veggie

scraps from the kitchen, just remember to use only veggie scraps. No animal-derived stuff at all—with one exception. Rinsed egg shells.

One concern I hear frequently is that of animals. Will the pile attract rats, bears, or raccoons? By not putting in any meat or animal scraps, you greatly diminish the chance of it, but if rats are in your area, there are special composters with rodent screens. I've had a few raccoons, but they've never caused a problem—they just help stir up the pile! Of course, you could just stick to grass and leaves if it bothers you.

Once you have compost—usually in a few months—and you'll have less than you think as it breaks down so much—just add a 1 inch layer to your, shrubs and trees, perennial beds, and even container gardens. Lawns take about 1/2'. Do this yearly with no chemicals added and you'll definitely see a difference. Your plants will smile! For more details, stop in and talk to Jodie or Barbara or go to [www.compostguide.com](http://www.compostguide.com).

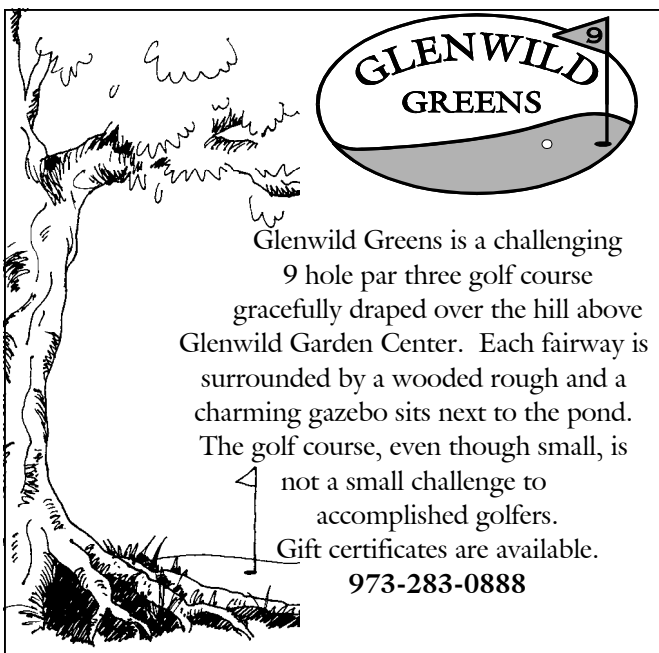
## Perennial of the Year 2008

### *Geranium 'Rozanne'*



The Perennial Plant Association has awarded the title of Perennial of the Year to a Cranesbill Geranium named "Rozanne". Perennial Geraniums have always been a favorite of gardeners because of their long bloom time and low-maintenance needs. 'Rozanne' seems to be the longest bloomer ever with large violet-blue flowers. It grows to about a 2' mound, and likes full sun to partial shade. It does well in regular garden soil, but would also be happy, and look great, in containers mixed with other flowers.

We should have 'Rozanne' in by the end of April.



**GLENWILD  
GREENS**

Glenwild Greens is a challenging 9 hole par three golf course gracefully draped over the hill above Glenwild Garden Center. Each fairway is surrounded by a wooded rough and a charming gazebo sits next to the pond. The golf course, even though small, is not a small challenge to accomplished golfers. Gift certificates are available.

973-283-0888



**GARDEN CENTER  
& NURSERY**

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“Unemployment is  
 capitalism’s way of  
 getting you to plant  
 a garden.”  
 ~Orson Scott Card

Open House  
 Weekend  
**SPECIALS!**



See inside for details

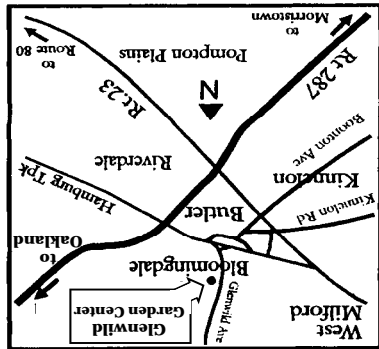
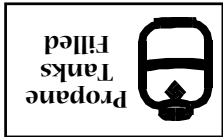
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Spring Hours— Mon-Fri. 8-8, Sat. 8-6, Sun. 9-5

Member of the  
 New Jersey Nursery and  
 Landscape Association



www.glenwildgardens.com  
 104 Glenwild Avenue  
 Bloomingdale, NJ  
 Just 2.5 miles from  
 Exit #53 off Route 287



**GARDEN CENTER & NURSERY**



*Glenwild Garden Center is a full service garden center & nursery with 80 years of landscaping experience.*  
 We love what we do, & so will you.  
 Certified Landscape Architect on staff  
 • Nursery—Trees, Shrubs, Perennials, Annuals  
 • Organic Vegetables & Herbs  
 • Landscape Materials:  
 • Bulk Stone, Mulch, Topsoil—We Deliver  
 • Garden Supplies / Organic Supplies  
 • Garden Gift Shop, Statuary, Fountains  
 • Christmas Shop in Season

**Open House Weekend  
 Specials!  
 Coupon inside  
 Friday, Saturday & Sunday,  
 April 18, 19, & 20, 2008**