

Plant & Garden Sale May 6 & 7

Celebrate May with the Van Vleck House & Gardens

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Celebrate May with a weekend full of festivities at Van Vleck House & Gardens, Friday through Sunday, May 6, 7 and 8. Special events include a garden lecture by renowned horticulturalist Steven Kristoph, a Plant Sale Preview Party, the 8th Annual Plant & Garden Sale, and a Mother's Day Concert with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. All events (except the Mother's Day Concert) are rain or shine.

Festivities kick off on Friday morning as **Steven Kristoph**, adjunct professor of horticulture at Rutgers University and owner of the Steven Kristoph Nursery, will present a lecture on azaleas and rhododendrons at 10 am. Steve Kristoph knew Howard Van Vleck well and has an intimate knowledge of the Van Vleck Gardens. Following the lecture, Kristoph will lead a tour highlighting some of the garden's most unique specimens. Guests can get a



sneak preview of the *Plant Sale* offerings, but attendees must return on Saturday to make purchases. Admission to the lecture is \$10.00 per person. The *Plant Sale Preview Party* on Friday evening, May 6, has a

a Cinco de Mayo theme this year. With a live mariachi band as a backdrop, you'll enjoy Mexican cuisine and beverages and have the first chance to purchase from the *Plant &*

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From Roses to Rock Gardens June 10 & 11

Save the Date for this year's **From Roses to Rock Gardens** tour talking place on Friday and Saturday, June 10 and 11. There will be seven lovely Montclair gardens, featuring a variety sure to please master gardeners and weekend warriors alike.

The tour begins with a morning coffee reception and lecture at the Van Vleck House. Our featured speaker will have previewed the gardens and will

provide descriptions of what to look for on the tour, as well as providing planning and do-it-yourself gardening tips .

Tour attendees will be able to reserve a box lunch and are invited to enjoy it on the on the Van Vleck grounds.

The good news is we are holding the line on our ticket pricing with special rates for 'Friends', Plant Sale supporters, and multi - ticket buyers.

Ticket prices for the tour this year will be:

\$25 / Friends
\$30 / Others

Buy 3 tickets, and get a 4th one free!

\$75 Patron Ticket which includes a listing in our program (if ticket is purchased before Friday, May 22).

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From the Gardens

Laura Roberts/Garden Manager

temperatures, both plants and people must protect their extremities. Together we look forward to spring.

Bare twigs blend inconspicuously into the winter woodland understory. While some stand stiffly erect, others grow in broad horizontal layers. Who would expect that these plants belong to the genus *Rhododendron*? While most of us are familiar with evergreen azaleas, the majority are in fact deciduous. All azaleas, both evergreen and deciduous, are classified as *Rhododendrons*.

Buds swell on tree branches to expose tender shoots. Rain washes away the last lingering mounds of snow. Finally, those obscure twigs reveal exquisitely unusual flowers. All lingering skepticism gives way to exclamations of delight. The large, pale pink blossoms of *Rhododendron schlippenbachii* (Royal Azalea) are simply breathtaking. No description of our towering specimens can adequately portray their delicate beauty.

At a time of the year when pink, yellow and pastel tones are the norm, the vivid orange *Rhododendron calendulaceum* is an unexpected sensation. Commonly known as Flame Azalea, its blossoms glow as if they

were on fire. This eastern United States native is found in the Appalachian Mountains. Its repeated use near the formal garden creates continuity while awakening the senses.

The thick leathery leaves gradually relax as they confidently stretch smooth broad surfaces toward the strengthening sun. This evergreen foliage forms the backbone of the Van Vleck gardens, creating living walls that meander to form garden rooms. Since last summer, pointed yellowish green buds with round bulging bases have waited at the end of each branch. Through drought, snow, sleet, frigid nights and harsh winds, tough outer scales have protected the undeveloped petals within. Soon a magnificent display will be revealed.



Rhododendron calendulaceum in the Rear Garden.

From the gardens...

I rub stiff, purple fingers together and shove them deeper into the pockets of my jacket. Keeping warm has been a challenge this winter. The rhododendrons' tightly curled drooping leaves make the plants look as uncomfortable as I feel. This adaptation minimizes foliage surface area, reducing exposure to snow and wind. The steep angle allows snow to slide off easily rather than building up on top. In order to survive low

Township Zoning Board Approves Van Vleck Application

These are very exciting times at the Van Vleck House & Gardens. If you follow the local news, you may have heard that the Montclair Zoning Board unanimously approved our variance application in February. After many hundreds of hours of planning the Van Vleck House & Gardens is ready to move forward.

Life in a garden is never static. Plant specimens mature and end their natural life. Trees come

down in high winds and light is created where shade plants once thrived. The work that began with the farmland and orchard Joseph Van Vleck, Sr. purchased over 140 years ago continues on through the present day.

What to expect? You'll see a more pedestrian-friendly garden, with vehicular traffic re-routed, barrier-free garden paths,

and improved interpretative signage. We're planning a Visitor's Center too, with interactive displays and (*at long last*) public restrooms.

Stay tuned for details as they unfold. We're looking forward to making a great garden even better. Hope you'll come along for the ride.

Educational Opportunities at Van Vleck This Spring

FAMILIES

Spring Celebration

Spend a morning in the garden with your family learning about the wide variety of birds that live in and travel through New Jersey this time of year. Live raptors, bird displays, and educational crafts will be on hand. Bring a blanket and enjoy a picnic lunch on the grounds after the program.

Date: April 2nd

Time: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Cost: \$15 per family in advance;
\$20 per family at the door

'Friends' take a 20% discount

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

Garden Discoveries

Inspire your young child to experience the natural world. Each class examines one topic through stories, outdoor exploration, and hands-on activities and specimens.

Dates: 4/6 – Recycled Crafts

4/13 – Searching for Spring

5/4 – Flower Fun

5/18 – Garden Critters

6/1 – Plant Pals

6/15 – Bees at Work

Time: 1:15 PM - 2:00 PM

Fee: \$7 per class / Friends; \$12
per class / Others

Instructor: Michelle Wiessner

Age: 3-5 year olds (accompanied
by parent or caregiver)

Backyard Birder's Club

Plant the seeds for a lifelong passion when you introduce your child to the wonders of bird watching. Each class includes a lesson, guided hike, and a bird-related game or activity.

Dates: April – 4/6, 4/13, 4/27

May – 5/4, 5/11, 5/18

June – 6/1, 6/8, 6/15

Time: 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Fee: \$30 per month/Friends; \$36
per month /Others

Instructor: Deborah DeSalvo

Age: 2nd-5th graders

Classes are held rain or shine, unless otherwise noted. Refunds or credits are not allowed once a class has begun. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Call the office or download a registration form from our website.

ADULT CLASSES

Color in the Garden

Through meditative drawing and painting, we'll use pen and ink, gouache or watercolor to address the isometric perspective of the gardens of the Persian Miniature. Sketchbook and limited palette. Small class open to all levels.

Dates: April 5 -26

Time: 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Fee: \$100 Friends/ \$120 others

Instructor: Catherine Kinkade

Spring Emerging – Watercolor Class

Work on a variety of compositions using images from the spring garden. Please bring your watercolor supplies. Demonstrations and personal attention throughout the all-day workshop.

Date: Sunday, 5/15

Time: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Fee: \$55 Friends; \$65 others

Instructor: Sharon Pitts

Spiritual Drumming

Join Emmy-award winning composer, educator and spiritual drum circle leader Rich Reiter in a monthly drumming workshop. Beginners and experienced musicians are welcomed. Drums are available for class participation.

Dates: Thursdays, 4/14, 5/12,

Time: 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Fee: \$10 per person

Instructor: Rich Reiter

Spiritual Drumming for Families

Open to adults and children of all ages, this drumming workshop is a great way to spend an afternoon together in nature. Drums and percussion instruments are available, or bring your own.

Date: Sunday, 5/15

Time: 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Fee: \$5 per person

Instructor: Rich Reiter

Yoga at the Van Vleck

Spring is a time of great change, rebirth and renewal. Join us for yoga classes designed to help you harness the radiant power of spring. Classes are open to all levels and experience. Bring your own mat!

Monday Morning Yoga

Time: 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Instructor: Jillian Pransky

Dates: 3/21, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11, 4/18,
4/28, 5/2, 5/16, 5/23, 6/6, and

6/13.

Thursday Morning Yoga

Dates: 4/7, 4/21, 4/28, 5/12, 5/19,
5/26, 6/2, and 6/9 .

Time: 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Instructor: Jodi Brooks

SPRING YOGA CLASS FEES: 4-class pass: \$64
Friends/\$80 Others; 8-class pass: \$112
Friends/\$144 Others; Single admission: \$18
Friends/\$22 Others.

(Note: No credits or refunds once the session has started. Passes valid through last date of session.)

Flowers & Light

Join local photographer Andy Cohen for a series of workshops that will help you to capture the beauty of the Van Vleck House & Gardens with your camera. All platforms and experience levels are welcomed.

Dates: Spring Series I – 4/2-4/30

Spring Series II – 5/14-6/11

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Fee: \$100 Friends per series/ \$120
Others per series

Instructor: Andy Cohen

Fireside Meditation

Open to beginners and experienced practitioners. Weekly classes offer a unique opportunity to learn from a highly regarded teacher, and to experience meditation in a supportive group setting

Dates: Wednesdays, 6/1–7/2

Time: 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

Fee: \$75 Friends; \$90 Others. \$15
single session as space allows.

Adult School of Montclair

Van Vleck is pleased to partner with the Adult School of Montclair. For full course descriptions, and to register, visit their website at: www.adultschool.org

Be A Birder

Dates: 4/26-5/10

Time: 9:00 AM-11:00 AM

Instructor: Deborah DeSalvo

Organic Vegetable Gardening:

Summer Activities in Your Garden

Date: 4/5

Time: 10:00 AM -12:00 PM

Instructor: Wanda Knapik

Color in the Garden: Spring

Date: 5/3-5/17

Time: 1:00PM -3:30 PM

Instructor: Catherine Kinkade

Celebrate May—Plant & Garden Sale 2011

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Garden Sale inventory. Tickets prices start at \$75 per person.

The **8th Annual Van Vleck Plant and Garden Sale** will take place on Saturday, May 7, from 9 am to 4 pm. Co-Chairs Joyce O'Brien and Gail Connolly have been working closely with local greenhouses to feature an extensive array of unusual azaleas and rhododendrons, as well as great all-season-blooming perennials. Plant choices will be posted on our website — www.vanvleck.org — as they arrive. On the day of the sale, gardening experts, designers, and landscapers will be on hand to help you make educated buying decisions.

Friends of Van Vleck are invited to beat the rush and enjoy **Early-Bird Shopping** from 8 am to 9 am. New or renewing memberships can be purchased on the day of the sale. Take

advantage of this fantastic opportunity to support Van Vleck and reap the benefits of early-bird shopping at a sale where



Unique and unusual azaleas and rhododendrons will be this year's signature plants at the 8th Annual Plant & Garden Sale.

plants move quickly.

Don't miss the chance to shop the **Garden Boutique** in the Van Vleck library, brought to us again

this year by The Garden Cottage of Morristown.

Complete the weekend's offerings by joining us for a free **Mother's**

1 pm, and we invite families to enjoy a picnic lunch on the grounds before or after.

No matter when you visit, we invite you to walk the grounds and enjoy the gardens lovingly developed and nurtured over the past century by three generations of the Van Vleck family. Don't miss the fragrant and colorful 70-plus year old **Chinese Wisteria** that entwines the columns on the rear terrace of the house. Typically in bloom for Mothers' Day, the clusters of blue-purple flowers cascade dramatically, scenting the air and creating an awe-inspiring display.

Got time? Van Vleck volunteers are greatly appreciated and are essential to the success of all of our events. Anyone interested in volunteering for the plant sale, either on the day of, or in the weeks before, please e-mail volunteer@vanvleck.org.

Day Concert featuring a brass quartet from the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra on Sunday afternoon, May 8th. Weather-permitting, the concert begins at

From Roses to Rock Gardens



Tennis Court Garden and Fountain Summer 2010

Continued from page 1

BUY ONE GET ONE: Spend \$150 at our Plant Sale, buy one ticket to the Roses to Rock Gardens tour, and get a second one free.

Although many of the gardens have already been selected, we welcome recommendations for this (or next!) year's tour.

Please send your suggestions to Roses to Rock Gardens Chair Miggie Tribble by email at tribble110@verizon.net or send a note to the office at info@vanvleck.org.

Come one and all, enjoy a day of

beauty and fellowship, get some ideas for your own garden, and appreciate someone else's ruined manicure!



Save the Dates

Spring Celebration

Saturday, April 2 / 10 am to 12 noon

Plant Sale Lecture by Steven Kristoph

Azaleas & Rhododendrons

Friday, May 6 / 10 am to 11 am

Plant Sale Preview Party

Friday, May 6 / 6 pm to 9 pm

2011 Spring Plant & Garden Sale

Saturday, May 7 / 9am to 4pm

(Early Bird Shopping for Friends at 8 am)

Plant Sale / Garden Boutique

Saturday, May 7 / 9am to 4pm

Mother's Day Concert

Brass Quartet from the

New Jersey Symphony Orchestra

Sunday, May 6 / 1 pm to 3 pm

Fair Weather Only

Spiritual Drumming for Families

Sunday, May 15 / 3 to 5 pm

Cats in the Garden V

Sunday, June 5 1 to 3 pm

Fair Weather Only

From Roses to Rock Gardens

June 10 & June 11 / 11 am to 4 pm

Richard Reiter's Swing Band

Summer Concert Series

Sunday, June 26 / 1 to 3 pm

Sunset SENSE-ations

Friday, July 22 / 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Note: Events are **Rain or Shine**, unless otherwise noted.

WEED WARRIORS PREPARE TO ATTACK!

Last spring a group of fearless garden volunteers banded together to combat the enemy of every garden: **WEEDS**. Covering approximately 6 acres, Van Vleck Gardens needs all the help it can get to conquer these invasive pests, and last year's Weed Warriors came to the rescue, cleaning up the property for the Spring Plant Sale and keeping the weed population nearly invisible for the summer and fall.

Weed Warriors, it's time to regroup! New recruits are welcome! No special gardening knowledge is required. Your fellow Weed Warriors can advise you on whether it is or isn't a weed, and Garden Manager Laura Roberts is always nearby to dispel any confusion with her expertise.

The group gathers on Wednesday mornings at 9:15 for coffee in the kitchen, then moves out to the gardens around 9:30 for a couple of hours of weeding and camaraderie. Because we have so many visitors during the summer, we want our gardens looking their finest. If you want to help, even occasionally, please call Laura Roberts, Garden Manager, at 973-902-5722, or contact Lissa Barrett at 973-618-9777 or email Lissa at lssbrtt@hotmail.com.

EVENT PLANNING FOR A NON-PROFIT ?



Consider the Van Vleck House!

College alumni reunions, nonprofit meetings, retreats, fundraisers, holiday parties and receptions, an afternoon of opera, an evening of dance—these are a few of the events that have been held at Van Vleck House during the past year. Although the house is not open to the public and is not available for rental to private parties, it is an increasingly popular venue for nonprofit organizations.

Representatives of several groups approached us for the first time this year after attending a function hosted at Van Vleck by another non-profit. Rentals help our bottom line and are an exciting and effective way to inform people of the existence of the House and Gardens.

Details regarding rates, capacity and regulations are available under the 'Rentals' tab at www.vanvleck.org or by calling Ellen LaBarbera at 973-744-4752 ext 11. We welcome inquiries and are always pleased to add a new organization to our roster of renters.

I am happy to report that the view continues to be spectacular. Even on a day like today, a cold, wet grey March day, I can look out on the south lawn and the formal garden and be amazed at how green the grass is already, how prominent the buds seem. Despite the over-the-top snow storms this winter, spring will not be deterred.



A garden is a good place to be reminded about patience and the rhythms of life. The pace of our lives, with all its intoxicating media and tech devices, pulls on us with the strength of a rip tide. But a garden slows you down, makes you wait. Take a walk through the Tennis Court Garden these days and delight at 1000 tulip stems poking through the frost. You can't make them grow faster: You must be content to visit and watch their progress in "real time."

Speaking of patience, I learned a fabulous new fact about Howard's garden just the other day. When we were working on the script for the cell phone tour, I contacted Roy Van Vleck to ask him about the Cedar of Lebanon tree that anchors the southern end of the formal garden. Historical accounts in our archives noted that Howard and Roy planted it together in 1962. So I wrote to Roy and asked him what he remembers. He tells me the tree was only 12 to 18 inches tall when they planted it (yes, *inches!*). He added that it said a lot about his Dad's patience and his belief in things "taking their own time."

Come and visit this tree. I would guess it is easily 60 to 75 feet tall now.

I am heartened to know that it is one of the longest living tree species (some in the Middle East are thought to be up to 2000 years old) and with just a bit of good fortune, this one will see many more seasons here at Van Vleck. Now when I am out on the grounds, I make a point of standing next to this giant. I think about Howard and how his hands and his beliefs have shaped this garden. I think about this tree, and it takes my breath away, every single time.

NATURE CONNECTIONS

This spring, Van Vleck House & Gardens will be hosting six field trips from Ann Street School in Newark. First grade students will have the opportunity to explore the grounds, learning about plant parts and life cycles. The Nature Connections field trip program is made possible in part by a generous grant from the **Turrell Fund**. Volunteers are needed to guide small groups of students through the various activities here at Van Vleck on the day of each field trip. If you are interested, please come to a training session to be held on Friday, April 15th from 10-12 noon. Program details will be discussed and our user-friendly curriculum will be distributed.



Cell Phone Audio Tour Launches This Spring

All sorts of exciting things will be popping up this season in the gardens including new signage that will signal the latest innovation – a **cell phone audio tour of the grounds**. Thanks to the generous support of Datamation Systems, the Van Vleck House & Gardens will be launching an audio tour of the gardens accessible from your cell phone.



Look for audio tour signs throughout the property.

We've written a script to tell the story of the house and gardens in 10 stations around the grounds. Begin at the kiosk, where you pick up a map and instructions that will get you started.

Learn about the Van Vleck family and horticultural highlights throughout the gardens. We even have a child-friendly option for our younger visitors. It's interactive and extremely adaptable, so take it for a spin, and tell us what you think. We'll be listening in.



A special shout-out of thanks goes to all the volunteers who spent many hours putting this together. Our deepest gratitude to Dag Gonzales, Jerry Raymond, Pegi Adam, Rima North, Bill Treene, Lissa Barrett, Ann McCarthy and Miggie Tribble.



Become a "Friend" of Van Vleck House & Gardens

Now that Spring is definitely showing signs of arriving and the snowdrops and crocus are poking their welcome blooms above the ground, it would be a good time to review your commitment to our *Friends* program. Our newest category, **Wisteria**, is a fulfilling and easy way to partake of all the events at Van Vleck with no need to send additional funds for the fundraisers. Membership at this level includes two tickets to each of our signature events: Deck the Halls, the Spring Plant Sale Preview Party, and Roses to Rock Gardens Tour. To honor these donors, all **Wisteria** contributors will be named in our newsletters and all of our event programs as Patrons.

We are pleased to announce we already have four **Wisteria Friends**. No matter what level you choose, your support makes a meaningful contribution and includes you in a circle of like-minded individuals who value open spaces and garden pleasures. We welcome you to become or renew a *Friends* membership and enjoy your own piece of the Van Vleck magic.

- Andie Bertsche and Emer Featherstone Co-Chairs, Friends of Van Vleck



YES, I WOULD LIKE TO BE A FRIEND OF THE VAN VLECK HOUSE & GARDENS

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> AZALEA \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DUAL/FAMILY \$60 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAGNOLIA \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MT. LAUREL \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> RHODODENDRON \$1,000 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> WISTERIA \$2,500 |

ALL FRIENDS CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE TO THE EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW.

CHECK PAYABLE TO "FRIENDS OF VAN VLECK" MC/VISA EXP. DATE: ____/____/____

CC#: _____

NAME: _____

STREET: _____

CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____



THANK YOU TO OUR WISTERIA LEVEL SUPPORTERS:

**MR. & MRS.
COPELAND G. BERTSCHE**

EMER FEATHERSTONE

**MR. & MRS.
WILLIAM TREENE**

**MR. & MRS.
WILLIAM H. TURNER**



VAN VLECK HOUSE & GARDENS
21 VAN VLECK STREET MONTCLAIR NJ 07042 (973) 744-4752 WWW.VANVLECK.ORG

VAN VLECK HOUSE & GARDENS MISSION / STATEMENT

Van Vleck House & Gardens is dedicated to preserving for public enrichment the spirit and beauty of this late 19th and 20th century house and gardens. Continuing the Van Vleck family's commitment to the community and to horticultural excellence, the house serves as a center for non-profit organizations and the gardens are open to the public for display, education and research.

The Van Vleck House & Gardens is owned by the **Montclair Foundation**, a 501(c)(3) organization supporting non-profits in our community.

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The Van Vleck House & Gardens is proud to be a preservation project of the Garden Conservancy, an organization dedicated to preserving America's exceptional gardens.



HOUSE & GARDENS

21 VAN VLECK STREET
MONTCLAIR NJ 07042

