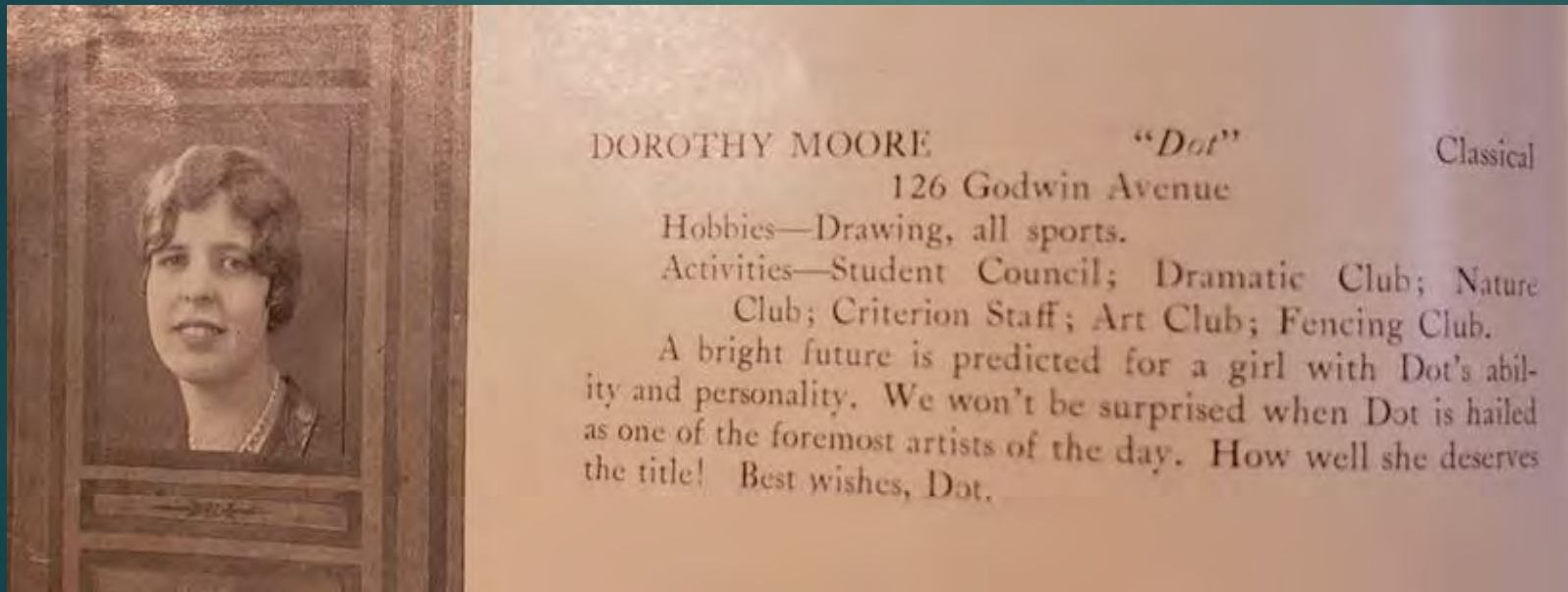




# The Story of Laurelwood...

Begins with Dorothy and John moving to Pines Lake in the 1930s.

"We won't be surprised when Dot is hailed as one of the foremost artists of the day."  
- She would go on to create Laurelwood with her artistry.



Dorothy's high school yearbook.

John's family owned Country Club  
ice cream





*Dorothy Knippenberg (mother nature)  
A visionary among us...*

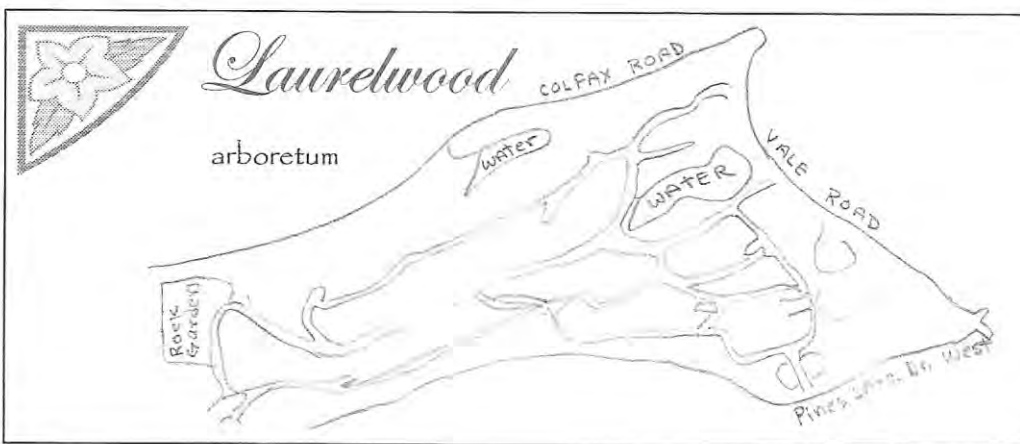


Dirt roads, forest views, and the concept of a community yet to be created....that was Pines Lake in the 1930's when newlyweds John and Dorothy Knippenberg arrived here from the city of Paterson. John was a graduate of West Point and Dorothy a graduate of Pratt School of Design. Although gifted in the traditional mediums of paints and brushes little did Dorothy know then that the natural beauty of Pines Lake would become a special muse for her artistic spirit during the next 3/4 of a century - and counting!

The young Knippenbergs owned a track of land running from present day Vale Road to the land upon which Pines Lake School now stands. As more and more land became subdivided for housing and schools John and Dorothy had the foresight to strike an arrangement with the Township regarding a 30 acre parcel bounded by Colfax Road, Vale Road and Pines Lake Drive East. This particular parcel, (now known as Laurelwood Arboretum), would be gifted to the Township as a public garden at a future date.

And so it was, beginning in the late 1930's, that Dorothy began expressing her creativity by "designing with plants". At that early time the future Laurelwood Arboretum was merely an inspiration nurtured by soil, rain, and no doubt a lot of Bengay. Every plant one now sees is the result of Dorothy's planned masterpiece. As with all works-in-progress changes have been made over the years; shrubs have been transplanted to a more hospitable exposure, clippings taken, rootings made, more seedlings sown.

continued on page 15







Dorothy, 6<sup>th</sup> from left, an early and integral member of the Pines Lake Garden Club





They build a home on the property





# John and Dorothy



John and Dorothy purchase 30 acres in 1949 and begin Laurelwood Gardens, a wholesale rhododendron and azalea nursery.





# Property improvements are begun:

Building a pond



Planting fields are created



Green houses are built



Cold frames



# Vegetable garden





1963  
Knippenbergs  
enter  
agreement  
with Wayne  
to donate  
property  
upon their  
passing.

## Knippenbergs Donate Park Land, Valued at \$300,000, to Wayne

WAYNE.—For people of the township last night fell heir to 30 acres of park land through the generosity of John F. Knippenberg and his wife, Dorothy, of Pine Lake Dr., Pines Lakes. The announcement was made by Township Committeeman Edward I. Stasse, Jr., personal friend of the donors.

Mayor Robert A. Roe, Jr., who earlier announced that Stasse would announce an important presentation to the township, said the property donated for public use as a park is made up of one of the "most outstanding gardens in the United States." There is nothing like it in this country, said the mayor, and added the gift is "worth between \$300 and \$400 thousands dollars. It is something tremendous for the township," said Roe.

Stasse explained the gift was voluntary on the part of the Knippenbergs. Mr. Knippenberg is the owner of the Country Club Ice Cream Co.

"We have cooperated with the Knippenbergs," said Stasse, "but the details are all theirs." The property borders on Colfax Rd., Vale Rd., and Pine Lake Dr. First, the acreage will be conveyed in parcels with the first parcel being conveyed in 1961. Other conveyances will follow periodically. The donors own vast acreage at Pines Lake.

They agree to maintain the new park area without cost to the township and as each parcel is conveyed it will be deeded to the township.

The Knippenbergs, a short while ago, deeded to the Board of Education several acres adjacent to the Pine Lake School. This made possible the erecting of an addition to the school without interfering with the sewerage disposal system which would have had to be replaced, because the addition would have been erected in that area.

The agreement calls for the donors to maintain the property as long as they live in the township and such maintenance is to

be without restriction of limitation."

Stasse explained after the meeting that the area no doubt will be open to the public before too long. It was explained the rhododendron gardens are beautiful.

On accepting the gift the Township Committee did so with "gratitude" and proper communications will be forwarded to the Knippenbergs expressing, not alone the thanks of the local officials, but the people of the township as well.



# Dorothy in the News

Sunday

Newark News  
Magazine





# John next to a rhododendron



# John and Dorothy





# Volunteers help improve the property

Eagle Scouts help build 1<sup>st</sup> bridge





Dorothy and Alex Fadynich near 1<sup>st</sup> bridge after construction.





# Dorothy and her truck



First notice board is a scout project.





# Scout Projects

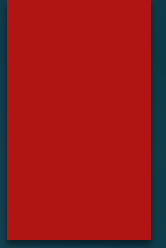


Second Bridge

## Building 3rd Bridge



John Knippenberg dies in 1984.  
Town puts out a call for volunteers  
to help maintain Laurelwood. Local  
groups begin adopt-a-spot.





# 1996 Passaic Master Gardeners begin volunteering.





# Area maintained by Pines Lake Garden Club



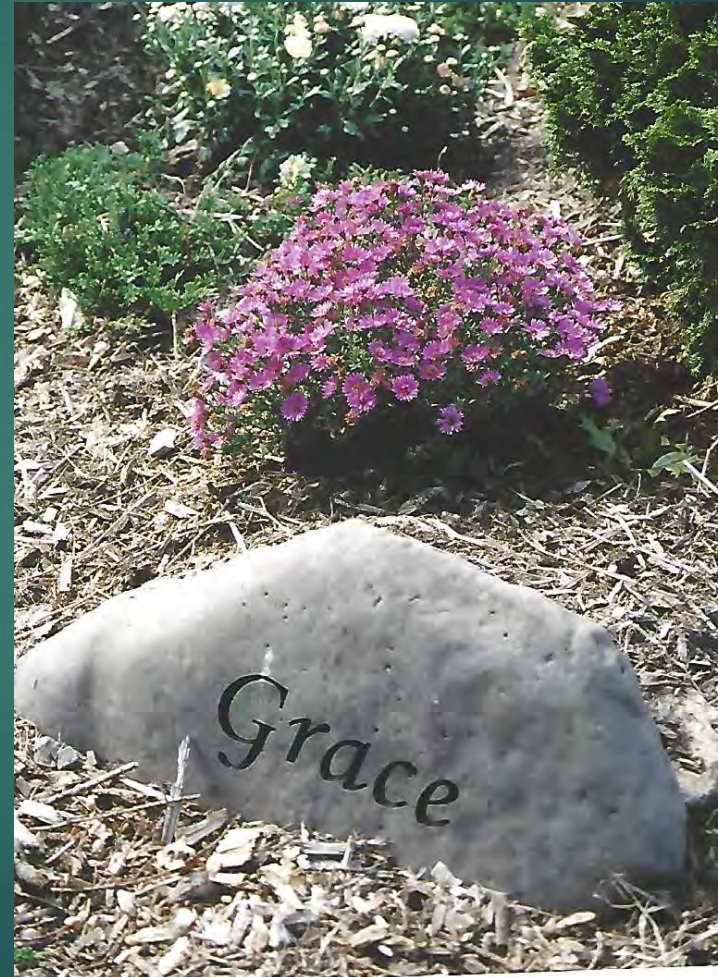


# Soroptomist Club presents Dorothy with award





Grace Tardiff (on left), early volunteer, and memorial to Grace.





# Pines Lake School group visit, 2001





# 2003 - Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum created to support the Arboretum

Several friends of  
Laurelwood  
Arboretum






# Wayne Today

THURSDAY, July 6, 2006

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS SOURCE

Please recycle,  
At least 25% recycled paper  Vol. 4

## Township mourns loss of Dorothy Knippenberg

BY DEBRA WINTERS  
Staff Writer

**WAYNE** - Remembered fondly for her peaceful 30-acre botanical haven, Dorothy Knippenberg of Wayne died June 26. She was 96.

"This is a huge loss to our community. She was a gem. What her and her husband John did for Laurelwood Gardens, will forever be enjoyed by thousands and thousands," said Mayor Scott Rumana.

Knippenberg attended Pratt Institute in New York City where she studied design. She also wrote advertising for Meyer Brothers in Paterson before she joined her late husband, John Knippenberg, at their well-known family business, County Club Ice Cream Co., in Paterson, designing logos for the company.

During the 30s, the Knippenbergs purchased 30 acres of property in the Pines Lake section of Wayne, which would become the site of one of the most prominent gardens in the area, a vision Dorothy saw through until her

final days.

The arboretum, known for its rhododendrons and azaleas, later became part of the township parks system in 1996, and has been preserved by Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum, a non-profit association since 2004.

Mrs. Knippenberg fell and fractured her hip in early December 2005, and according to her friend Nancy Fadynich, of Wayne, she was in rehab and then went home to recover but never quite regained full strength. Prior to this, she could be seen everyday working in the arboretum - if not physically, she would be going around jotting down notes.

"She always stayed optimistic, always looking at a blue sky even if there were clouds," said Fadynich.

Following her fall, Knippenberg would get rides through the arboretum on days she wasn't up for walking. Her last visit to the arboretum was about a week before her passing where plans for

SEE KNIPPENBERG, PAGE 7

2006 Dorothy  
passes away,  
property officially  
opens as Wayne  
Township park.



Name changed from Laurelwood Gardens to Laurelwood Arboretum in accordance with Dorothy's wishes.





2007 Agreement between Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum and Wayne Township to maintain the property.





# First project –Sensory Garden, idea initiated by the Wayne Lion’s Club

This special place funded by the Passaic County Open Space Commission, Lions Clubs of Wayne and West Milford, Wayne Township, and Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum. Probably 2009.





# Sensory garden arbor



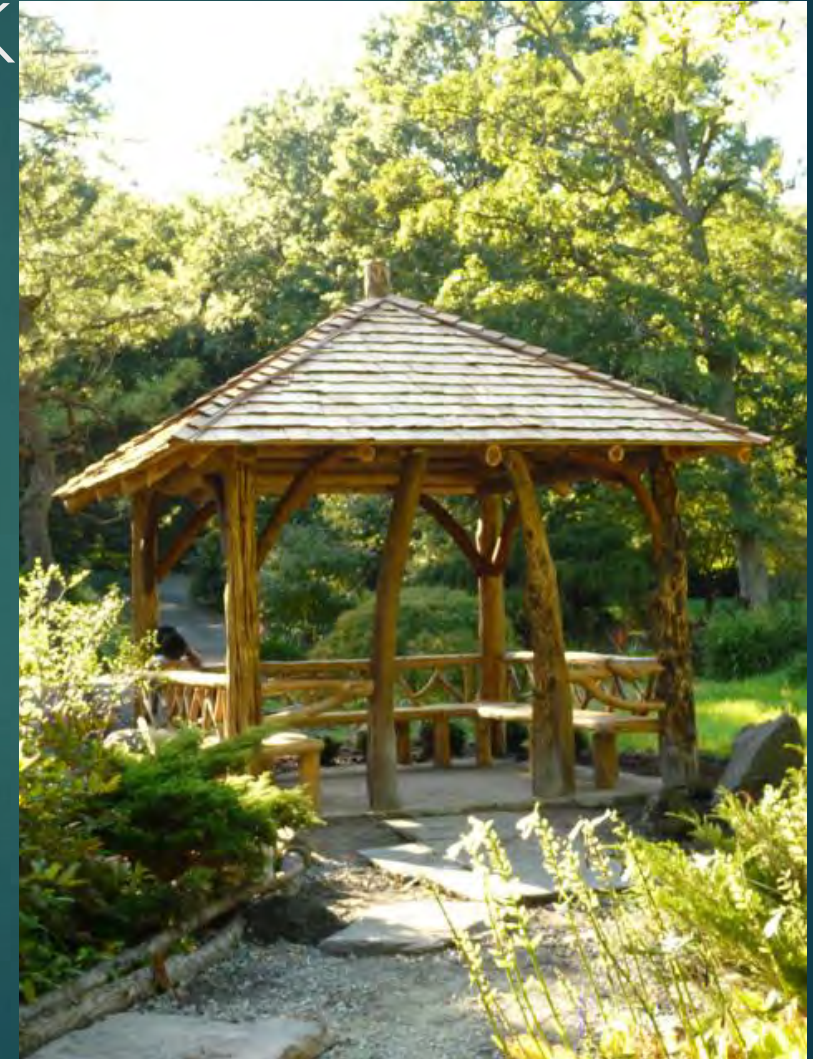


# Sensory Garden





# 2011 Memorial gazebo built, donated by Isobel Wayrick





Knippenberg Center for Education (KCE) and greenhouse built in 2015, funded by Passaic County Open Space, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust, Wayne Township Open Space Fund, and Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum.

Before the building of KCE





# Knippenberg Center

Generous local businesses have contributed furniture, rugs, electronic equipment, a security system and other items for the interior.





# South Rock Garden

Renovations began in 2014, The Watnong Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society has partnered with staff and volunteers to restore this display garden, which had deteriorated over the years.





Rosemary Boothny, woodcarver, at work creating beautiful signs for Laurelwood





# Dorothy's way trellis





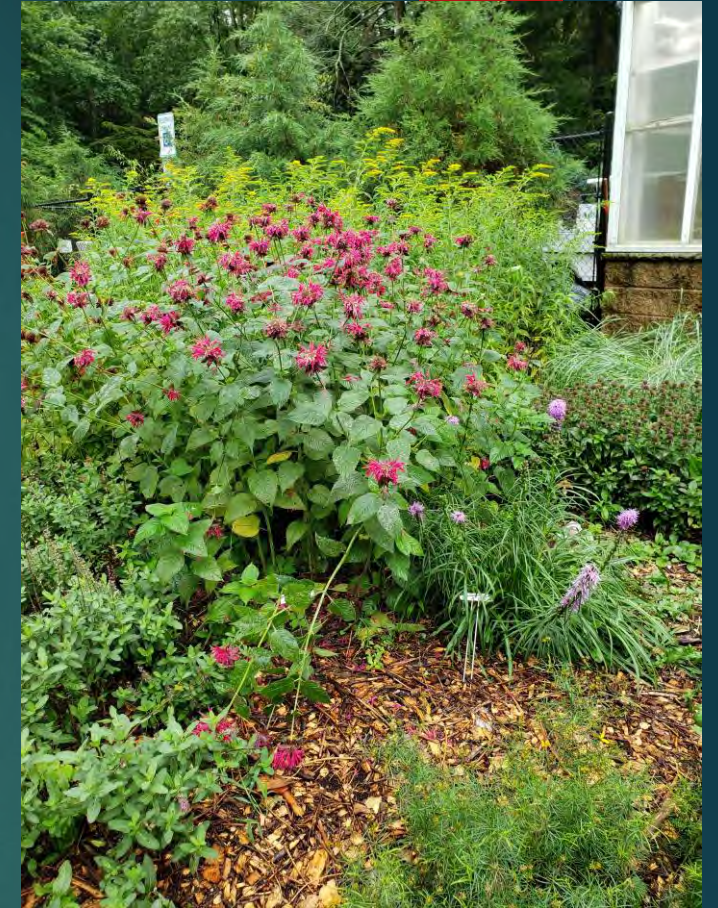
2016 Executive Director Elaine Fogerty in front of Native Plant Garden she designed.





# Native Plant Garden

- ▶ This unique garden was made possible by the grants from the California-based Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust and The Ira A. Roschelle, MD Family Foundation.





# 2015 Plant Identification and rhododendron identification programs begun

Joe DiGiacomo leads rhododendron identification project



2017 - MASTER GARDENERS AND INTERNS



# Fundraising to support the Arboretum

## Plant sale



## Art at the Arboretum



# Donate a Bench Program



Isobel Wayrick's bench



Festival of Friends



# A variety of programs for children and adults



All Wayne Orchestra



A variety of programs for  
children and adults



Fairy Day





# A variety of programs for children and adults



Bees and butterflies Day



# New Members Day





# Wedding at Laurelwood





# Laurelwood volunteers at work

Every year over 200 volunteers help maintain Laurelwood beautiful!





# Laurelwood volunteers at work

In 2018, volunteers contributed 12,779 hours of service, valued at \$361,901!





# Columbia Bank volunteers



Columbia Bank donates cart!





# McHutchison volunteers





# Volunteers from Cedar Crest





# Dedication of Founders Garden, Founders of Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum, 2018





# Laurelwood volunteers with 1,000 hours of service





# Laurelwood volunteers with 100 hours of service





# Construction begins on new propagation greenhouse, 2019





Thank you for your support of  
Laurelwood Arboretum and Friends  
of Laurelwood Arboretum!

