

WELCOME TO THE DAVIES ARBORETUM AND DAVIES WILDLIFE PRESERVE
 two civic projects of the Demarest Garden Club
 on ca. 18 acres purchased by the Borough of Demarest in 1973 with Green Acres funds

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PROJECTS

Davies Arboretum was begun in 1977 by the Demarest Garden Club with borough approval in honor of Demarest's 75th Anniversary in 1978. The initial project goal was to reclaim the eyesore left at 49 Anderson Avenue by demolition (for safety reasons) of the old Van Davies farmhouse. The front 7 acres of the Davies property was defined for arboretum use. The huge (ca.1815?) copper beech, highlight of the arboretum, shaded the front of the Davies home.

The ice house, pond, sugar maples, black walnut trees, and crumbling walls and floors of miscellaneous farm buildings in the Shade and Wildflower gardens recall Demarest's early days as a self-sufficient farm community.

Specialization: finding the most floriferous plants for a low-maintenance environment. Financed entirely by the Demarest Garden Club and community donations, the arboretum collects the best low-maintenance flowering trees, shrubs, and other plantings hardy in this area (Zone 6).

All plantings are overseen by the Demarest Garden Club Arboretum Committee which meets here 9-11 am on Tuesday mornings March 15 - October 15.

All donated plantings are identified with black and white plaques. Plaques of plantings that have proved unhardy in our low-maintenance environment are being collected on a Tribute Trellis at the south end of the project.

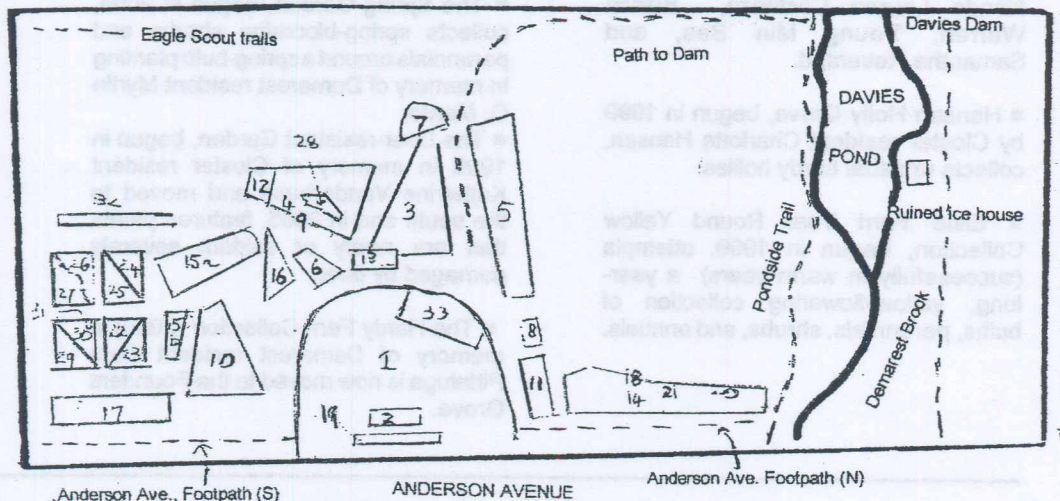


RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM E. DAVIES.

The **Davies Wildlife Preserve** was begun by the garden club in 1988 and officially approved by the borough in 1989 as a way to keep the back ca. 11 acres of the Davies property as natural as possible. All behavior deleterious to wildlife and the natural environment is banned. The unsurveyed line between the two projects runs parallel to Anderson Avenue through the base of the Davies Pond dam.

Davies Arboretum Planting Areas and dates begun

1. Jubilee Grove 1978
2. Front Sign Garden 1979
3. Oliver Grove 1986
4. Founders Grove 1987
5. Magnolia-Rhodo Grove 1988
6. D'Antoni Grove 1990
7. Taylor 425 Daffodils
8. Metzel Daylily Collection 1991
changed to ? 2009
9. Old Butterfly Garden 1991
moved to 24 in 2002
10. Bartke Grove 1992
11. Acey Hosta/Shade Garden 1993
12. Elizabeth's Corner 1993
13. Patio Container Garden 1994
14. Helen's Wildflower Walk 1995
15. Centennial Grove 1998
16. Grove of Angels 1998
17. Hansen Holly Grove 1999
18. Deer-Resistant Woodland Garden 1999
moved to 29 in 2005
19. Year-round Yellow Collection 1999
20. Hardy Fern Collection 2000
moved to 6 in 2002
21. Werner narcissi collection 2000
22. Winter Garden 2001
23. Children's Garden 2001
24. New Butterfly Garden 2002
25. Fall Garden 2002
26. Summer Perennial Garden 2002
27. Summer "Twin" Garden 2002
28. Bird Garden 2002
29. New Deer-resistant Garden 2005
30. Spring Garden 2005
31. Mento bulb garden 2006
32. Vertical Garden 2008
33. Ed's Garden Railroad 2008



■ Jubilee Grove, planted 1979-86, reclaims the mansion demolition site with 32 flowering ornamental trees.

■ Oliver Grove, begun in 1986 in memory of Demarest resident George W. Oliver, collects berried trees and shrubs.

■ Founders Grove, established in 1987, honors residents who founded the Demarest Garden Club in 1930.

■ Magnolia-Rhodo Grove was planted in 1988 with three flowering trees, 36 azaleas, rhodos, and other

ornamentals. Azaleas and rhodos do not thrive with deer or low-maintenance.

■ D'Antoni Grove, begun in 1990 in memory of Arlene and former Demarest Councilman Peter D'Antoni, collects (supposedly) hardy and long-season hybrid rhododendrons. Rhodos do not tolerate deer or low-maintenance.

■ Bartke Grove, begun in 1992 in memory of Demarest resident Dorothy Bartke, collects Stellar dogwoods, 21 cultivars of hybrid andromedas, and a few other ornamental trees.

■ Acey Hosta Garden, begun and named in 1993 by Closter resident Don Mufson, is being replanted as a Shade Garden after hosta-loving deer returned in 1997.

■ Elizabeth's Corner, planted 1992-3, features plants "rescued" from the garden (on Hardenburgh and Woodland) of former Garden Club presidents Caroline (founder) and Elizabeth Morton.

■ Helen's Wildflower Walk was begun in 1995 in memory of Bergenfield resident Helen Church Metzel. Of 90 species planted, 65 survived, including 49 New Jersey natives. Of these, 15 are endangered in New Jersey, and another 8 are rare or infrequent in the wild.

■ Centennial Grove, begun in 1998 and now in two parts, celebrates the 2000 Millennium and Demarest's 2003 Centennial with flowering trees and shrubs not planted elsewhere.

■ Grove of Angels, begun in 1998, originally featured pink and white plantings of dogwoods, mountain laurels, azaleas, and hostas. All clearing, planting, maintenance, and memorial stones are by the Demarest Boy and Girl Scouts in memory of their friends Lauren Costanzo, Bianca Warren, Young Min Bae, and Samantha Reverand.

■ Hansen Holly Grove, begun in 1999 by Closter resident Charlotte Hansen, collects unusual hardy hollies.

■ Elsie Ferri Year Round Yellow Collection, begun in 1999, attempts (successfully in warm years) a year-long, yellow-flowering collection of bulbs, perennials, shrubs, and annuals.

SOUTH END PROJECT

The South End Project, cleared of dying beech trees in 2000, features 8 mini-gardens of sun-loving flowering shrubs, perennials, and annuals. They are:

■ The Winter Garden, planted in 2001 in memory of Demarest resident Joyce Patricia Crow, featuring shrubs, hellebores, and heaths and heathers for their winter interest.

■ The Children's Garden was begun in 2001 in memory of New Milford resident Ismene Lindsay and transformed with recyclables into a Garden of Oz by Haworth Boy Scout Ian Anderson in 2006.

■ The Fall Garden, donated by Demarest residents Elisabeth and Larry Evans, Jr. in 2002, collects fall-blooming plants.

■ The Butterfly Garden, begun in 1991 in memory of Demarest/Westwood resident Joan Tuite and moved to the south end in 2002, creates a mini-environment attractive and beneficial to butterflies.

■ The Summer Twin Garden, begun in 2002 in memory of Hara Scher Wechsler, twin sister of Demarest resident Leslie Scher Smith, features "twinned" color blocks of summer-blooming shrubs, perennials, and annuals.

■ The Spring Garden, begun in 2005, collects spring-blooming shrubs and perennials around a spring-bulb planting in memory of Demarest resident Myrtle O. Mento.

■ The Deer-resistant Garden, begun in 1999 in memory of Closter resident Katherine Vanderbush and moved to the south end in 2005, features plants that are rarely or seldom severely damaged by deer.

■ The Hardy Fern Collection (2000) in memory of Demarest resident Sara Pittaluga is now moved to the Founders Grove.

■ The Bird Center, begun in 2002 in memory of Englewood Cliffs resident Janet R. Van Gelder, adds a granite bird bath, bird feeders, plantings attractive and supportive of birds. Feeder poles, observation table, ladder-on-wheels, and nesting box added by Haworth Boy Scout Ian Anderson in 2007.

■ The Vertical Garden, begun in 2008 with cedar trellises built by Demarest resident Paul Ascione collects top-rated climbing roses and clematis in memory of Englewood Cliffs resident LeRoy T. Hullin, Demarest residents Bruno & Elsie Ferri, and Ferri family members.

■ Ed's Garden Railroad, begun in 2008 in memory of Norwood resident Edward Lamp, is being installed for a 2009 dedication by the Lamp Family and the Garden Railroaders of Northern New Jersey. Solar-powered model trains will then run on the dogbone G track layout on a posted schedule, special request, or using your own trains with garden club permission and keys to power supply.

OTHER IMPROVEMENTS

■ Patio planters, funded by Demarest Police Chief Jim Powderly and built by Jerry Sorkin in 1994, are stocked yearly with annuals for summer color and textural interest.

■ Collections of daffodils (hardy and deer-proof) in memory of Demarest resident Beatrice M. Taylor (1990) and Dumont resident Howard Werner (2000).

■ Paths created by the Demarest Garden Club and Eagle Scouts Stewart Goldsmith (1979 Path to Dam), Brian Siegrist (1994 Anderson Ave. Footpath), Dean Hoeger (1996 Pondsides Trail), and Jake Diliberto (2005 Path to Dam and Ice House).

DEMAREST GARDEN CLUB ACTIVITIES IN THE DAVIES WILDLIFE PRESERVE

Additions to this "keep natural" project include:

■ three large roosting boxes where birds of different species can gather in harsh weather installed in 1991.

■ five nesting boxes for designated species installed in 1997.

■ a deer watering hole installed in 1999 as an Eagle Scout project by Norwood resident Benjamin Diliberto.

■ four bat roosting houses installed in 2000 as an Eagle Scout project by Norwood resident Anthony Diliberto.

■ trail maintenance and markers supervised by Paul Ascione.

OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO

Don Wiggers for initial site clearing in 1978; Harold Spaeth for rototilling the Jubilee Grove prior to planting; John Van Vorst for help in locating hard-to-find trees; Cresskill-Demarest Rotary for donating a weed-whacker; Demarest Environmental Commission for donating 2 benches and their Give a Dam campaign that funded dam reconstruction in 1987; large wood signs made by volunteers, including George Bargisen, Bob Wyman, Jerry Sorkin, Myrtle Mento, and Haworth Boy Scout Merit Badge candidate Ian Anderson; Chris Gargiulo for donating installation of water lines; Lupardi's Nursery; Ken's Tree Care, RQL Landscaping, and Jeff Bellusci for tree work; Charles Evans for rototilling the Deer-resistant Garden, and Demarest DPW for grass cutting and on-going assistance. DGC 2009.