

April 2019

Daffodil Race, Soil Your Undies, Good Buckets, & Teatown

DAFFODIL RACE

At our last meeting in October I handed out Rijnveld's Early Sensation daffodil bulbs, and accepted Jim Wood's challenge that my daffodils would bloom before his grandfather's. Mine were 6-8" tall by March 20th, and had bloomed by March 31st.

Jim Wood's grandfather's beat mine by a full week at least! His bulbs were already blooming on March 20th. Winner, Winner Chicken Dinner!

I shall not give up! I accepted Jim's challenge anew for next spring, and will diligently research for another early blooming daffodil as well as a more supportive microclimate for it to grow in.



SOIL YOUR UNDIES CHALLENGE

Our next challenge was forwarded to me from Mary Farley, who received it from Jim Wood. It comes from Modern Farmer magazine and writer Dan Nosowitz.

“Started by the Farmers Guild in California, the Soil Your Undies Challenge is a test designed to show the power and importance of healthy soil.”

The Challenge is easy: Simply bury a pair of 100 percent cotton underwear – generally white briefs have been the garment of choice – in your farm, garden, or pasture. Two months later, dig them up and inspect and document the changes.

Healthy soil contains all sorts of bacteria, earthworms, fungi, and other little organisms that like to eat organic matter, like, just for example, cotton underwear. In two months, underwear buried in healthy soil will be completely eaten through, leaving little but an elastic waistband.

Farm organizations throughout North America are participating; we've found Challengers in [Wisconsin](#), [Delaware](#), [Ottawa](#), and elsewhere.

Let's bury our underwear this month, and we can compare results at our June meeting. Instructions from Rusticus Garden Club via BFC member Karen Simons appear at the end of these notes.

GOOD BUCKETS MAKE GOOD GARDENERS

I have been struggling for years to find the best way to organize my gardening tools & gadgets. I never seemed to have the right tool at the right time, or in the right place. Finally, I found my tool problem solution.

Ta -Da! A bucket with an apron: a five-gallon plastic bucket with a “bucket caddy”. Who knew? It holds everything I need, is easily carried, simple to keep clean, takes up very little space, and it's CHEAP! The

bucket came from Home Depot for about \$4, and the FISKARS Bucket Caddy came from Target for about \$9.

Now for a SECOND & SURPRISE winner today! That number I gave you as you entered is part of a lottery to win a brand new bucket with bucket caddy.

And the winner is . . . Judy Richter with number 24!

TEATOWN LAKE RESERVATION

If you are looking for a nice place to visit this Spring I highly recommend Teatown Lake Reservation. It is



officially located in Ossining but is also right in the corners of Croton on Hudson, Yorktown & New Castle. I must disclose that I work there every other weekend at the front desk as part of Visitor Services. I have fallen absolutely in love with the place.

It is a 1,000 acre, privately owned preserve, with about 15 miles of hiking trails, 3 lakes, and various ecosystems. Its mission is to inspire our community to lifelong environmental stewardship.

The Nature Center is open every day from 9-5pm and offers a wide array of educational programs, live wildlife exhibits, as well as a Nature Store. We just finished our Maple Sugaring Season, and next month is our plant sale.

In addition to all the trails, there are native plant gardens, and a “Raptor Loop” that is always great fun with Gryphon the bald eagle, various owls, vultures, and hawks on display. Our crows: Merle, Moe, Morticia, & Majojo are always happy to have a chat.

If you have children/grandchildren in search of a summer camp experience - Teatown’s Summer Camp is the place to be.

Teatown’s website is <https://www.teatown.org>

Wildflower Island is open for tours with Open Gate Days on May 19th and June 9th.

I have brochures for any and all who are interested.

Come visit and say “Hello”!