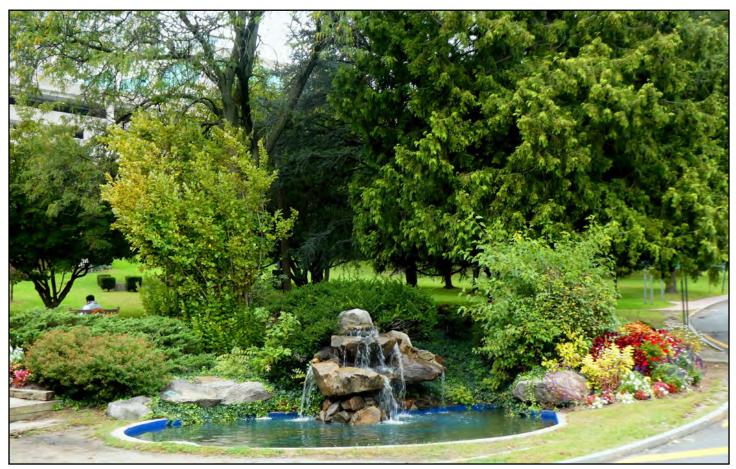
# White Plains Beautification Foundation, Inc. Beautification News

Fall/Winter 2021 Volume 44, Number 1

# PLEASE ADOPT ME

The G. Kent Hawks Water Cascade Garden is located in Lower Tibbits Park at the foot of Armory Place and Westchester Avenue. It replaced a damaged shell fountain that had become unsightly by the late 1970s. WPBF raised the funds for the reconstruction of the site surrounded by office buildings. It provides a serene setting that appeals to our senses with the sound of water gently tripping over boulders accompanied by the scent and sight of flowering plants.

We lost our sponsor last year and this beautiful setting is calling out to be adopted by a business, family or individual.



Hawks Water Cascade Garden

To inquire about this or other gardens up for adoption, contact Jean Bello at jeanmbello@gmail.com or info@wpbf.org

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## In-Memoriam

Our hearts are with the loved ones of the dear friends we lost this year.

Paul Weissman September 30, 2020

Albert Nolletti October 15, 2020

Barbara Clay Mauriello January 1, 2021

John A. Ramsdell, M.D. February 9, 2021

> **Guy Terhune** April 5, 2021

Robert Stone August 1, 2021

## White Plains Beautification Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 1614 White Plains NY 10602

www.wpbf.org

#### A Non-Profit Organization of Volunteers

#### Inquiries to the President:

Mary Ann DeRosa (917) 696-2738

e-mail: Info@wpbf.org

A copy of our last financial report filed with the State may be obtained by writing to: NYS Attorney General's Office Charities Bureau 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271





Dear Friends,

Brrr! While fall has been in the air since October 18th, we are experiencing temperatures below normal for this time of year, and then we're not. Even so, our summer garden plantings remained lush and beautiful, a phenomenon many of you have been appreciating. As we changed over to fall flowers and foliage, let me thank you all from the bottom of my heart for your continued, unwavering faith in the White Plains Beautification Foundation. Our indomitable team is very grateful for your support of our mission to beautify White Plains. Thank you also for turning out to collect 5,000 daffodil bulbs at our Farmer's Market giveaway on October 20th. We are looking forward to seeing the results of all your digging this coming spring. In addition to the 98,525 bulbs WPBF donated, and 32,200 Daffodil Project bulbs the City of White Plains planted since 2014, WPBF partnered with the Department of Public Works to plant 25,000 more bulbs this year. With your 5,000, White Plains will be covered with 30,000 more gorgeous blooms in April. If you all planted the 4,250 bulbs we gave away last year then we have 164,975 more daffodils in our City since we began the Daffodil Project! We are also very interested in hearing how 600 native plant plugs many of you picked up from us at our May 19th Farmers Market are doing.

While everyone thought we were beginning to put the pandemic behind us, we still need to use caution when we are out and about, since Covid variants seem to keep arising. Due to this uncertainty, we sent out an Appeal Letter in lieu of a 2021 Gala and urged you to continue giving generously. We all hope this pandemic will soon be a thing of the past and we can treat Covid the way we do the flu AND anticipate an in-person Gala in 2022. In spite of our current situation, our partners, the nurseries (Amodio's, Gedney, and Ridgeway) and the City, especially the Mayor and his office, the Department of Public Works, and the Department of Recreation and Parks, all with somewhat reduced resources, deserve our deep thanks, along with our sponsors, as we serve you to the best of our ability. Let me also extend our forever gratitude to all the Essential Workers we honored with our re-envisioned City Hall Pollinator Garden.

FYI, WPBF has used this past summer and fall to insure our organization's longevity. We divided into three groups focusing on our bylaws, our organization itself, and our outreach programs. As we work our way to conclusions, we invite you to consider joining WPBF. New and fresh faces are always welcome. Be sure to check out our website, www.wpbf.org to better understand what we do. If we don't already have your e-mail address, please send it to info@wpbf.org. Meanwhile, we wish you all a very Happy Holiday Season!

With deep appreciation,

rary Ann DeRosa

Mary Ann Derosa President

# YOUR AMAZING FRONT YARDS



For a number of years the White Plains Beautification Foundation has been searching throughout city neighborhoods for special front-yard gardens. With an eye out for the use of native plants and environmental sensitivity, we were delighted to find an abundance of them this year.

Board member Dorothy Chervinsky had done the job single-handedly over the years and now two former presidents are keeping an eye on things and cruising through one neighborhood at a time. Dorothy Schere covered the Soundview-Prospect Park area this year, while Beth Wallach did The Highlands.

The summer garden of a resident who received an appreciation post card.

More and more homeowners have switched from the standard front-yard landscape to inviting park-like settings with benches and chairs, and informal gardens with lots of native plants, in keeping with our Pollinator Pathway program. Encouraging birds and bees and butterflies makes good sense.

If we can find house numbers from our cars (we hate to use binoculars because it makes us look suspect) we mail a special card of appreciation to you, "Homeowner," and hope you get in touch with us and tell us who you are.

We'll be cruisin' again next year, so start planning something special in your front yard. And keep your house numbers visible.

# IN MEMORIAM JOHN A. RAMSDELL, M.D.

John A. Ramsdell, M.D. passed away on February 9, 2021, just shy of his 94th birthday. He and his wife Barbara, a former White Plains Beautification Foundation President, and current active Director on the Board, have been Adopt-a-Park sponsors for many years.

John held various positions during his decades-long tenure at White Plains Hospital including surgeon, Chief of Staff, President Medical & Dental Staff and on the Board of Directors. He has also served on many community organizations and boards including president of the Rotary Club of White Plains. John exemplified the Rotary motto "Service Above Self."

The WPBF Board of Directors and Associates extends our condolences to John's wife Barbara and all the family.

## **DIG THIS**

As the WPBF's Daffodil Project marches on toward its goal of planting half a million bulbs throughout the city, we distributed another 5,000 bulbs during our Daffodilly Days giveaway at the White Plains Farmers Market on Oct. 20, 2020.

Packages of 25 bulbs were given to city residents who promised to plant them in a sunny spot this fall and share their email contact information with us. Instructions for the planting and care of daffodils was sent via email to those who received bulbs.

Last year's launch of Daffodilly Days saw more than 100 25-bulb packages given out at the Farmers Market. In total, 4,200 bulbs were distributed last year.

This year WPBF purchased a total of 20,400 bulbs, half of them Narcissus Trumpet "Dutch Masters," and the other half split between Narcissus Large-cupped "Ice Follies" and "Fortunes."

The city ordered another 6,600 bulbs, 1,400 each of five varieties: the three listed above along with Narcissus Bunch-flowering "Sir Winston Churchills" and "Martinettes."

This fall's planting plans include the participation of 15 schools and other learning centers, and more than 13 new public sites and apartment complexes which were recommended by residents, the city Department of Public Works and our members.



Battle Hill resident Anthony Pilla donates a handful of \$2 bills for his daffodil bulbs.



(L-R) WPBF volunteers Jean Bello, Diane Taylor and Mary Merenda distribute daffodil bulbs to "customers" Yvette Pujols and Buki Nezaj.



WPBF President, Mary Ann DeRosa, volunteering at Daffodilly Day

## 2021 ADOPT-A-PARK

Sincere Thanks to our Very Generous 2021 Adopt-a-Park Sponsors

#### DIAMOND SPONSORS \$10,000 & Up

Amodio's Garden Center & Flower Shop\* Anonymous Good Friend Cuddy & Feder\* Gedney Farms Nursery\* Ridgeway Garden Center\*

#### **POWER OF LEGACY**

Thank you to our donors who have left charitable bequests to WPBF. We appreciate and value your gifts!

#### PLATINUM SPONSORS \$5,000 - \$9,999

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Names current as of 10/29/21 \*Denotes In-Kind \*\* Denotes Deceased



Photo By Terry Hanson



Photo By Larry Mendillo



Photo By Larry Mendillo

Photo By Larry Mendillo

WPBF is delighted that pollinator enthusiasts and eco-friendly gardeners are supporting the effort to sustain natural resources in their own back yards. Some of our neighbors have been doing this for many years. Here are images from the gardens of White Plains residents Karen and Larry Mendillo, which are bursting not only with flowers but also with birds, bees and butterflies due to the elimination of pesticides and the use of sustainable gardening practices. Artfully placed statutes add whimsy to this pollinator haven.

# **PROTECTING OUR POLLINATORS**

WPBF volunteers spent a day at the White Plains Farmers Market on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, to help distribute free native plant plugs to gardeners willing to nurture plants that attract butterflies, bees and other pollinating insects. Over 150 boxes with three plant plugs in each were distributed to appreciative gardeners. The free plant plugs were given with the request that those taking them promise to care for their plants and to provide their name and email addresses.

Many lingered at the WPBF table to share their gardening experiences and learn how to care for the plants they received. Gardeners are an enthusiastic bunch. Excitement for the art of gardening remains strong and a growing interest in protecting pollinators was evident.

Everyone can join the effort to protect pollinators. Whether you tend a small flower box or a garden of any size, here are some practical steps you can take:

- Don't use pesticides
- Plant native species to nourish native bees, visiting butterflies and other pollinators
- Protect nests and egg-laying sites by allowing some leaf litter to remain
- Spread the word



Tiarella cordifolia, Foam Flower, seen here thriving in a White Plains garden, was one of the native plant plugs offered at the White Plains Farmer's Market.

Jacqui Bergonzi and Mary Ann DeRosa are two of the volunteers who instructed gardeners about the importance of native plants in supporting pollinators throughout their life cycle.





Treasures are waiting to go home to the winning bidders at the Raffle Table of the 2013 Gala.

# IN LIEU OF GALA

White Plains Beautification Foundation volunteers enjoy a good party, which is why we normally spend about 10 months of the year planning for our Annual Fall Gala. Invitations and programs have to be designed and printed, menus and decorations planned, RSVPs gathered, silent auction prizes solicited and wrapped, speeches prepared. It's a buzz of activity beginning early in the year and continuing right up to the moment we greet our guests at the door for a fabulous evening. Normally.

In 2020, the COVID pandemic forced us to hold an unGala via Zoom, at which we honored our Essential Workers for their sacrifices and dedication to our community, with every intention of seeing you in person at a spectacular 2021 Gala.

Sadly, with the uncertainties early in the year regarding infection rates and venue capacity restrictions, we were unable to begin planning as early as is necessary for this type of event. The decision was upon us: Do we hold

another unGala? Via Zoom? But aren't we all Zoomed-out? This technology has been an amazing gift, but it can also be a reminder of the distance that has been put between us.

The Gala has always served a dual purpose. First, to enjoy your company and conversation in a festive setting; and second, to fundraise, primarily to help cover the cost of watering our gardens during the summer, a total expense of \$35,000. We are already disappointed to miss another year of celebration with you, but we are also faced with the dilemma of meeting our annual expenses.



With that in mind, a letter was mailed appealing to the public to consider an "In Lieu of Gala Gift." The response has been hopeful, and it is not too late to add your name to the list of donors who share our vision of making White Plains "a city in the park."

At our last held in-person gala we honored three past presidents, from left, Mary Merenda, Ann Edwards and Dorothy Schere, affectionately dubbed Our Queen Bees.

As we are well into the second year of this pandemic, we have to remain hopeful that 2022 will be the year of renewed, unrestricted, and stress-free gatherings and that we WILL see you at an in-person Gala where we will raise a glass – or two – to toast you, our loyal supporter!



Over 200 guests celebrated WPBF's 50th anniversary in 2015 at the historic C.V. Rich Mansion, home of the Woman's Club of White Plains.

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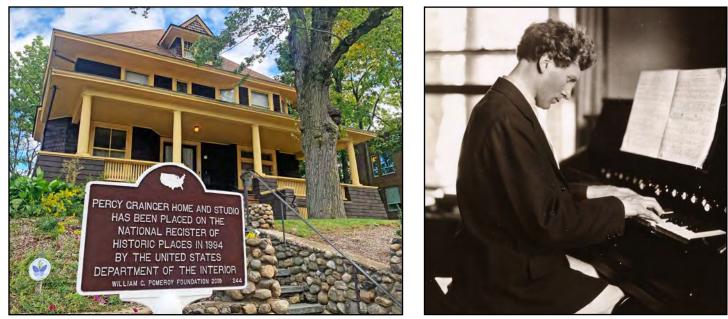
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#### Fall/Winter 2021, Page 11

# PLANTING THE SEEDS IN A COUNTRY GARDEN: A COMMUNITY COLLABORATION



Grainger sign & pollinator sign

Percy Grainger at his piano

Sometimes the best community projects start with a partnership. In October, 2020, White Plains Beautification Foundation's "Daffodil Lady" Joanna D'Addario, contacted the Percy Grainger Society, offering 500 Fortune large-cupped daffodils ready for planting on the grounds of the Percy Grainger Home and Studio, 7 Cromwell Place, White Plains.

The Grainger Home, built in the late 1800s, is a beloved White Plains historic landmark and a graceful reminder of White Plains neighborhoods from days gone by. Its place in local history was established when it became the residence of internationally renowned musician Percy Grainger and his wife, artist/poet Ella Ström-Grainger in 1921.

In the spring of 2021, the golden daffodils bloomed, complementing the setting as well as the mood and spirit, of the house. The Society celebrated with a series of open houses inviting the community to tour the house and experience just how the Graingers lived. "We want visitors to have a chance to see and learn about this historic home," noted Anne Ocone, museum coordinator at the Grainger site. During one of the open houses, WPBF's "This Blooming City" host Marie Silverman Marich taped an episode of the show that is telecast on community access channels and can be accessed via wpbf.org.

The collaboration continued when WPBF offered to donate and help plant some native plant plugs to enhance a newly planted pollinator garden that is part of a major renovation and renewal project inside and out. "Such collaboration is a good way to welcome visitors new and returning here," Ocone said.

Australian born Percy Grainger (1882-1961), is an internationally known pianist/composer, whose reputation as a composer was indelibly



Percy and his mother, Rose moved to White Plains in 1921

stamped by the success of his 1918 composition Country Gardens. During the early 20th century, he was known as a virtuoso pianist. His reputation has grown over the years due to recorded performances drawing attention to his numerous and varied compositions. Those for military bands are regarded as classics; his settings of British and Danish folksongs are acclaimed for sensitivity and appropriateness. He spent the final 40 years of his life in White Plains.

Maestro Grainger settled in White Plains on Cromwell Place in part because it provided easy access to his preferred mode of transportation, trains, to fulfill his heavy performance schedule all over the world. He could often be seen walking to the White Plains train station



Percy Grainger's restored piano in the music room

with his wheelbarrow loaded with luggage, scores, and instruments. The station master even gave him a closet to store the wheelbarrows, now located in the basement of 7 Cromwell.



The Percy Grainger Society was chartered by the New York State Board of Regents in 1964. Its mission is to promote his work and legacy with a membership community that preserves his historic house, encourages appreciation and performance of his music, and promotes a deeper understanding of the cultural, social, and economic context of his life and work.

The original kitchen appliances.

Susan Colson Susan is a board member of the Percy Grainger Society and, as a local resident, is often the caretaker of the house.



Grainger Home Daffodils



Daffodils planted by the Eagle Scouts in side yard of Percy Grainger Home

## **NOTES FROM DONORS:**

"Thanks for all you do. WP looks beautiful whenever I visit my home town."

- Joan T

"I love that our White Plains gardens are planted throughout the city. It makes such a difference in the feeling of the city." - Micaela & Charlie G

"Thank you for the extraordinary gardens in White Plains that give so much joy. They seem to get more and more beautiful."

-Laura Solomon

# **GARDEN QUIZ**

Can you identify the location of these gardens, planters and daffodils? See bottom of Page 23 for Answers.



## HERO REMEMBERED

We remember Guy Alden Terhune, 95, our friend and longtime board member, with grateful hearts and fond memories. Guy, who died April 5, became involved with WPBF as his wife Patricia's "right arm" when she preceded him on the board as our hard-working planting chairman. When he retired from Pfizer, he was called upon constantly, not only by Pat but by all of us, so eventually he became a board member too. (Pat died in 2005 and in her memory Guy endowed a lovely hillside garden at historic Purdy House on Park Avenue.)

Whether as a strong arm or as an assistant to the treasurer, he devoted quality time to the foundation in his 30 retirement years. Yes, as heroes go, he was our unsung hero.

But speaking of heroes, read on. Guy Terhune served in the U.S. Army Infantry, was injured in the Battle of the Bulge, and was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze star. In 2019 he was a participant in the Veterans Honor Flight program to Washington DC, an event that he thoroughly enjoyed.

A father of five, including daughter Elizabeth, who is also one of "ours," he was the grandfather of ten.

A life well-lived.

We miss him.



Guy Terhune and Family at the WPBF 2016 Gala

#### FINANCIAL REPORT WPBF Funds for 2020

2020 Income: \$173,365

Adopt-A-Park program (74%) Annual Gala event (19%) General donations (7%)	\$128,290 \$32,940 \$12,135
Adopt-A-Park Gala	Donations
2020 Expenses: \$173	<u>,325</u>
Programs: Garden Planting, Care & watering, Schools Garden Programs (8	\$143,859 3%)
Fundraising incl. Gala (6%)	\$10,400
Communications, Education & Admin (11%)	\$19,066
Programs	Fundraising Communciations Education & Administration

With fond memories of Guy A. Terhune A true gentleman

Renate & Cormac Daly

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Congratulations to our cable **TV** show This Blooming City and current host Marie Silverman Marich on **31** years of service on White Plains Community Media.

TBC is the longest-running, continuously-produced and hosted local show on the network!

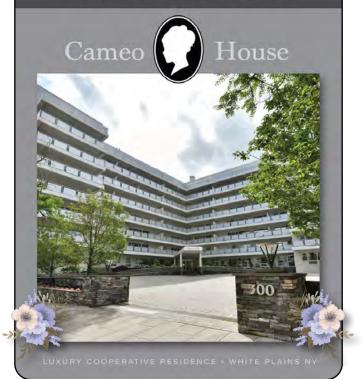
With special thanks to Beth Wallach,

founder and longtime host, the team at White Plains Community Media, and our terrific guests and viewers.

We have an archive of over 60 shows, so catch up with TBC any time at wpbf.org or tune in on Saturdays at 6:30 PM and Sundays at 10:30 AM on Fios Channel 45 or Cablevision Channel 76

And re<mark>me</mark>mber to have a blooming day every day in every wa

RESIDENT'S GUIDE



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WHITE PLAINS BEAUTIFICATION FOUNDATION, INC.



Hon. Thomas Roach, Mayor Hon. Nadine Hunt-Robinson, Council President Hon. Justin Brasch, Councilmember Hon. John Kirkpatrick, Councilmember Hon. John Martin, Councilmember Hon. Victoria Presser, Councilmember Hon. Jennifer Puja, Councilmember



<u>Thank You</u> to all of the White Plains Beautification Foundation volunteers that help keep *White Plains Beautiful* 

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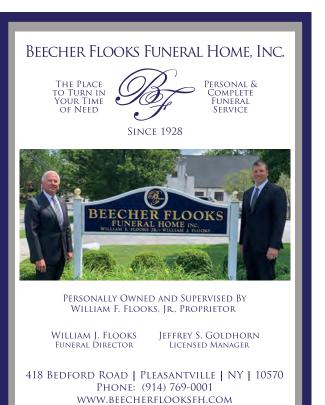


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## Thank You

to

The White Plains Beautification Foundation

for Making our City Beautiful!

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Congratulates White Plains Beautification Foundation In loving memory of Syd and Jan McNally Silverman and their many years of steadfast volunteer commitment to White Plains Beautification Foundation and its mission of making White Plains a splendid place to live, work and play.

With love and gratitude from Robert, Marie, Nicholas The Marich Family



Just wait till next year! It will be THE PARTY OF THE YEAR. Meanwhile, remove your mask, stand 6-feet away and smell the flowers. They were planted just for you!

Brian & Beth Wallach



Looking forward to another great year for The WPBF & The City of White Plains

# From the Family of Fommie & Paul Petrone

# THE DAFFODIL PROJECT

White Plains Beautification Foundation wishes to thank the

#### White Plains Department of Public Works

for its continued assistance in planting daffodil bulbs





<image><text><section-header><text><text>

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~ In Loving Memory of Roland N. Barnes ~

With appreciation and thanks to the White Plains Beautification Foundation for continuing to enhance and enrich the life and beauty of our "City Within a Park" during challenging times.

Barbara & Barry Wenglin

Bright colorful flowers and deep foliage in White Plains are always a big delight.

Honorable Ben Boykin





# WE NEED YOU!

#### Can you:

- Help boost our social media presence?
- Write an article on WPBF events?
- Find new ways to promote membership?
- Encourage sustainable gardening practices with Pollinators of White Plains?

Then come join one of our committees!

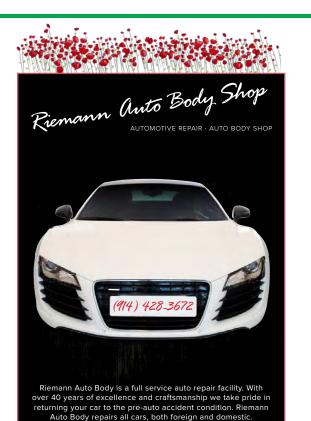
Contact us at info@wpbf.org

# **Join the Club?**

WPBF is exploring the idea of launching a separate garden club in White Plains.

If you might be interested in such a venture, please send an e-mail to **info@wpbf.org** 





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The use of sea and air is common to all; neither can a title to the ocean belong to any people or private persons, forasmuch as neither nature nor public use and custom permit any possession thereof. Elitabeth 1 of England (1533-1603)

"Adults keep saying we owe it to the young people, to give them hope,

but I don't want your hope. I don't want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. I want you to act. I want you to act

as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if the house is on fire, because it is." Greta Thunberg-World Econ. Forum-Jan. 2019

Serving the Community

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#### GARDEN QUIZ (Page 14) ANSWERS Photo 1

Planters on Mamaroneck Avenue and Main St.

Photo 2 City Hall planters at entry to building on Main St.

Photo 3

Cultivator Garden on Westchester Ave. median, westbound

Photo 4 Daffodils on Orchard St.

Photo 5 Civil War Monument on North Broadway at Main St.

## Did you know that White Plains Beautification Foundation has a Facebook Page?

Visit us at: https://www.facebook.com/wpbeautification You will know you are at the right place when you see our logo:

One Barker Avenue, Suite 230

White Plains, NY 10601

General Practice

WHITE PLAINS BEAUTIFICATION FOUNDATION

# WATCH OUR VIDEOS ON You Tube

by entering "White Plains Beautification Foundation" in the YouTube search box. *Happy Viewing!*  White Plains Beautification Foundation, Inc. P.O. Box 1614 White Plains, NY 10602

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## **CULTIVATOR GARDEN**

We are proud of the Garden we call the Cultivator Garden, created by Peter Wilcox. It is sponsored by the Martin Family and dedicated to Patricia Murray Martin. Here are two seasons of planting beautifully tended by Gedney Farms Nursery throughout the year. Our resident photographer Pat Bernstein is caught in action at the site.



Pat Bernstein

Cultivator Garden in August

Cultivator Garden in October