

Garden Tales



Atlantic County Master Gardener
Association Newsletter

Winter Edition

Volume 8, Issue 1

Coordinator Comments *By Mona Bawgus*



I wanted to take the time to thank each of our Atlantic County Master Gardeners for their hard work and dedication to our program. We are thankful to have such a wonderful group of volunteers supporting our efforts in educating the public in the area of horticulture. The Rutgers Master Gardener Program won the Governor's Environmental Excellence Award for 2010 because of such great efforts by our program and each program throughout the state (see article on page 4).

Our 2011 Class began on January 4, 2011 with 25 new students who are very eager to learn. We are looking forward to another great group of volunteers joining our program. You can find the schedule of classes inside this newsletter. If any graduated Master Gardeners would like to attend a refresher course just let Anita know one week in advance of the class.

Project meetings have begun for the planning stages of the new gardening season and it seems we have yet another year filled with wonderful ideas. Come out and join us for the meetings and remember that all of our members have a special flair when it comes to gardening and all ideas are welcome!

Stay warm and have fun ordering from the catalogs that have been arriving over the winter.

~Mona

Master Gardener's Donate to Local Food Bank



Not only are the Atlantic County Master Gardeners dedicated to volunteering time to help Rutgers Cooperative Extension educate the public about horticulture, but they have hearts of gold when it comes to helping others out in general.

As a group they donated over 215 pounds of non-perishable foods plus a turkey to the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, Southern Branch in hopes of spreading the holiday spirit to multiple families over the holidays.

Thank you to all of our Atlantic County Master Gardeners who donated to this worthy cause.

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Important Dates

02/01	Help-Line Office Re-Opened
02/02	Demo Garden Meeting 10 am
02/09	MG Day Meeting 10 am
02/10	Plant Sale Meeting 10 am
02/18	MGA Meeting w/speaker to follow
02/24	Helpline Roundtable 10 am
03/01	Greenhouse Volunteering Begins at Estell Manor
03/11	MGA Meeting w/speakers to follow

Forsythe Wildlife Refuge Project Update

by Bev Albertson

At Forsythe we are continuing to work on landscaping and planting the 6 acres around the new Visitor Contact Station at the entrance to the Refuge. In 2010, after amending and preparing the grounds, we planted forty-two trees and thirty-four shrubs throughout the area, subsequently mulching and watering and maintaining them. During the summer months (fraught with greenheads), we met indoors weekly to create an educational brochure depicting the native plants. The brochure is currently at the printers and will be available soon.

Maintenance of the site is an ongoing task and one we will be focusing on this year. Some areas still need to be cultivated; mulching is a continual necessity. Additionally, we have discussed and chose a half-dozen native perennial plant species to order as soon as they are available in the spring. We expect to plant hundreds of these perennials.

Terms of the State grant which, together with the Friends of Forsythe, is funding this project require several reports to the State this year, as well as a presentation to ENSP (The Endangered & Non Game Species Program). We also plan to host the Master Gardener Association at the Monthly meeting in June.

Our long term goal is for visitors to experience a native plant environment that is beneficial to wildlife. Visitors should be able to stroll through the garden, brochure in hand, and learn about and appreciate the natural wonder of native plants. To achieve this goal requires participation and dedication; we welcome all Master Gardeners!

Demonstration Garden Update

by Gay Pitz and Barb D'Augustine

In 2010, work in the Master Gardener's Demonstration Garden started off late because of all of the snow we had last winter. When we were finally able to get into the garden in late March, we cleaned all of the perennial and vegetable beds and added Ecosoil to them. We began clearing out a back section for a woodland garden. The picnic benches and arbor got freshened up with a sanding and re-staining. Each Master Gardener class planted a bed in the vegetable garden and the produce went to the Atlantic City Rescue Mission. When the heat and drought of summer kicked in, we realized how badly we need some kind of irrigation system.

For 2011, we will be researching drip irrigation systems to see if they will meet our needs. A watering schedule will be set up during the months of July and August or as needed. In addition to getting the usual annual garden chores done, we will mulch the paths in an effort to cut down on the weeding we had had to do in the past years. The bamboo fencing will be extended to include the woodland garden area and the existing fencing will be replaced, as needed. A composting area will be started. If anyone has any contacts, we are looking for a garden shed to store equipment. We continue to investigate some sort of sign or kiosk to display demo garden and Master Gardener information. Last year, we capped off the growing season with a picnic in the garden. All of the food recipes included veggies we had grown in the garden. We hope to make this an annual celebration of the time and effort we volunteer working in the Demonstration Garden. All Master Gardeners are welcome to join us.

Upcoming 2011 MG Classes

Feb 1	Insect I.D.
Feb 8	Backyard Habitats
Feb 15	Weed I.D.
Feb 22	Plant Pathology
Mar 1	Earthwise Lawn Care
Mar 8	Houseplants
Mar 15	Native Plants/Invasives
Mar 22	Arboriculture
Mar 29	Landscape Design
Apr 5	Eco-Complex Tour
Apr 12	Waldor Orchids Trip
Apr 19	Helpline
Apr 26	Vegetables 1
May 3	Vegetables 2—Field Trip
May 10	Small Fruit 1
May 17	Small Fruit 2—Field Trip

If you wish to sign up for a refresher class, please let Anita know 1 week in advance. Each class is worth 3 continued education credits for certified master gardeners.



Holiday Party 2010



This year's Holiday Party was held at the Mays Landing Country Club with 40 of our Master Gardeners in attendance. The perfectly placed poinsettias, fresh greenery hung by the beautiful picture windows and the finely decorated tables added to the cheerful atmosphere this fine group of volunteers brings to any event.

Paula Demarest, John Marositz, William Reed III, and Hugh Lamonaca (not in attendance) were awarded "Certified Master Gardener" certificates. All are graduates from the 2010 Master Gardener class. Congratulations to all of you.

After a fine meal was enjoyed by all the yearly "cut-throat" Pollyanna began. All sorts of gifts were picked, unwrapped, chosen and stolen. One particular gift included the words "this end up" on the beautiful

wrapping only to find it was an empty box. The gift wound up being a beautiful orchid that would not fit in the box once it was wrapped, but what a surprise John Collette had on his face when he unwrapped the gift to find nothing. And yes, that beautiful orchid was stolen from him (along with several others he had to pick) almost immediately.

Here are some of the comments our Master Gardeners in attendance had for the party:

"I don't know about this group but I felt they were corrupting my morals encouraging me to steal, ha ha." [Bill Reed, 2010]

"I can't believe they're stealing my gift AGAIN!!! I think I'm tied with John Collette and Grace!" [Gail Fisher, 2010]

"It was a great party today at Mays Landing Country Club. You and your helpers are to be congratulated for putting together a great party." [Anna Mae Maslinski, 2008]

"It was a lot of fun. Had some great laughs." [Grace Wagner, [06]

"I don't know about this group but I felt they were corrupting my morals encouraging me to steal, ha ha!"

Quoted from a fellow Master Gardener about 2010 Holiday Party



Mark Your Calendars

*With Your Monthly
Association Meetings:*

February 18

March 11

April 8

May 13

*June 10 (to be held at Forsythe
Refuge)*

July 15

August 12

New/Updated FactSheets:

- FS1140 Incorporating Native Plants in your Residential Landscape
- FS1112 Ethnic Peppers (Capsicum spp.): Chiles or Chilies (Mexican/Central American) and Ajis (Caribbean)
- FS721 Zinc: Evaluating Needs of Soils and Crops in New Jersey
- FS1139 Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Handling Guidelines for Food

For a complete listing of publications visit: <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/>



Gloria Perakovich
Class of 2005
01/09/2011





Photo Courtesy of NJDEP

Master Gardener Program Wins Governor's Award

Rutgers Master Gardener program was one of the only two statewide winners of the 2010 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award, garnering the honor in the Environmental Education/Student Activity Category.

The 2010 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards ceremony, honoring individuals, organizations, institutions, communities and businesses that have made significant contributions in protecting New Jersey's environment, was held at the New Jersey State Museum on December 15.

The Environmental Education/Student Activity Category, which honors "the educator, student, group of students or class that has planned and implemented a project/program with measurable positive environmental impacts," was presented by Robert Martin, commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP).

"New Jersey residents are the winner through the hard work of these individuals and organizations," Commissioner Martin said. "They have made the State a better place to live. We owe them all a great deal of thank."

Accepting the award on behalf of the Rutgers Master Gardener Program was Nicholas Polanin, statewide coordinator of the program, and Rutgers Cooperative Extension Agricultural and Resource Management Agent for Somerset County. For more information visit: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/eeawards/pastwin.html>

Nation's Toughest Restrictions on Fertilizer

New Jersey lawmakers passed what they and environmentalists described as the nation's toughest restrictions on fertilizer as part of a plan to reverse the declining health of Barnegat Bay. Governor Christie signed it into law on Wednesday, January 5, 2011.

Major rules established by the legislation include: establishing one state fertilizer standard, which pre-empts local municipal ordinances; requires professionals to be certified; limits fertilizer application dates to March 1st through November 15th for consumers and March 1st through December 1st for professionals; restricts the amount of nitrogen (N) allowed in products and application amounts; establishes 25 feet from all water bodies, reduced to 10 feet with proper deflector equipment and an allowed rescue treatment annually; no phosphorus can be used unless a soil test proves a phosphorus application is needed or after soil disturbance when reestablishing turf surfaces. There are some exemptions for "organic" fertilizers regarding phosphorus.

Other bills also aimed at improving Barnegat Bay's water quality also passed the Assembly, including one that requires construction crews to restore soil to its original condition after work is done. That is to allow water to soak into the loose ground rather than running off hard, packed-down ground into sewers.

Sources: James Murphy, Specialist in Turf Management, Rutgers University <http://www.app.com/article/20110105/NEWS03/110105058/NJ-enacts-toughest-US-r>

Insect Magnet by Sandy Templeton

If you want to plant something that will attract beneficial bees and butterflies late in the season, I suggest sedum. The large plant that I have near my driveway, sedum spectabile 'Autumn Joy,' is buzzing with many different kinds of insects practically around the clock. Often I can count over 20 insects on it at one time. This late-blooming plant adds interest to my garden all year long, and also has the added benefit of cold hardiness, resistance to disease, and drought-tolerance.

The pictures show the plant, and a close up of one of the many bees that find it irresistible.



Pictures by Sandy Templeton



35th Annual Home Gardeners School—Saturday, March 19th

The NJAES Office of Continuing Professional Education (OCPE) is holding its **35th Annual Home Gardeners School** on Saturday, March 19, 2011. Select four (4) workshops from 35 different choices being offered throughout the day. Topics covered include: landscape design, annuals & perennials, common plant problems and solutions, flower arranging, fruit & vegetable canning, trees and their care, flowering shrubs, vines, coffee brewing, organic butterfly gardening, making a rain barrel, healthy garden soil, proper pruning, container gardening, history of cranberries and much more.

Time: 9am-4pm

Location: Hickman Hall, Douglass Campus

Fees: \$55 on or before March 5th; \$69 after; \$10 optional box lunch (or bring your own!)

Pre-registration recommended. For more information and to register visit:

<http://www.cpe.rutgers.edu/HGS>

Master Gardener Volunteer Opportunities

Plant Sale—Come out and get involved in our meetings for our Annual Plant Sale. There are many different areas volunteers can help with. Contact Bob Varrelmann for more info.

Demo Garden—Woodland garden area work will begin soon as well as normal beginning of the season chores. Contact Barb D'Augustine/Gay Pitz for more info.

Greenhouse at Estell Manor—Beginning March 1st volunteers are requested for help with seeding, planting, watering, etc. Tools will be provided. Bring snacks and water. Contact Anita to be put on the schedule.

Forsythe Refuge—Work to begin in March. Date to be announced. Contact Bev Albertson for more info.

Atlantic City Aquarium—Planning begins for Master Gardener Day. Come out and get involved. Contact John Collette for more information.

Hope VI Program—March 24th—seed starting. Contact Mona for more information.

Upcoming Flower Shows

Deep Cut Orchid Society—February 10-13, 2011

Dearborn Market—Holmdel, NJ

NJ Flower & Garden Show—February 17-20, 2011

New Jersey Convention Center - Edison, NJ www.njflowershow.com

Philadelphia Flower Show—March 6—13, 2011

**Pennsylvania Convention Center—Philadelphia, PA
www.theflowershow.com**

Longwood Gardens International Orchid Show—March 25-27, 2011

Longwood Gardens—Kennett Square, PA www.longwoodgardens.org



Baby it's
cold
outside.

Picture by
Mona Bawgus

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Mona Bawgus
Program Associate - Agriculture

Happy Birthday

February Birthdays

6—Mona Bawgus
8—Pam Cascioli
10—Grace Wagner
20—Linda Risser-Hawn
21—Bob Varrelmann
25—Marie Benoit

March Birthdays

1—Raven Ahmed
1—John Collette
2—Carla Glass
13—Anita Wagner
16—Bev Albertson
30—Paula Demarest

Want to contribute to *Garden Tales*?

Send topic ideas, photos, or material to Anita at
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