

# Garden Tales

Atlantic County Master Gardener  
Association Newsletter



## Coordinators Comments:

By *Mona Bawous*

Hello Master Gardeners:

Working with you in the many projects throughout the community has had many rewarding moments but I would like to tell you about a very special one that I had last night. The Hope Community Garden has finally begun harvesting after their late start in planting. The excitement expressed by the group cannot be overstated. In their small 4 x 8 plot they are harvesting beans, squash, cucumbers galore, radishes, beets, kale, lettuce, herbs and broccoli rabe. They are learning spacing, the difference between good and bad bugs, watering correctly, and the effects that Mother Nature can have on a garden. But the most exciting thing I saw is that the garden is changing their lives. They share food and stories with each other. One participant asked if she could come help weed another's plot. More importantly, they are changing what they eat. One gentleman said he has been out to harvest every day and can't remember when he has eaten so many vegetables. And then he added "And I feel great". For all of you that were so generous in your time in organizing and building the garden, you should definitely try to spend some time with the plot owners now. It definitely warms a gardener's heart to see such pleasure someone gets from growing their own food.

~Mona



**RUTGERS**

New Jersey Agricultural  
Experiment Station

July

## Important Dates

- October 1 MGANJ Annual Conference
- October 8-9 Pumpkin Fair at 4H Fairgrounds
- October 10 Office Closed – Columbus Day
- October 14 Perennial Plant Conference
- October 14 MGA Meeting with speaker to follow on Rain Gardens
- October 15 BBQ/work day at AC Aquarium
- October 26 Helpline Roundtable Meeting 10 AM

Volunteer at Forsythe Refuge every Thursday at 10 AM. Contact Bev Albertson or Evonne Kaminski for more info.

Volunteer at Demo Garden every other Monday at 9:30 AM. Contact Ann Cinquina for more info.

Keep an eye on emails for volunteer dates and times for AC Aquarium and Hope Community Garden.

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# Hope Community Garden



The Atlantic County Master Gardeners take the lead in establishing and managing this garden and providing technical assistance and educational programs. We have met with the plot owners at the Hope Community Garden several times for hands on

experiences on planting/seeding the garden with crops such as squash, radish, parsley, beans, thyme, kale, broccoli raab, lettuce, and turnip greens.

Plot owners have learned how to seed, transplant, thin, properly water and harvest their gardens. In doing so the love for gardening is flourishing in the cedar beds as you can see from the pictures we have included here. Some plot owners have used their creativity to decorate their beds to make them even more attractive to folks that might walk by and want to be involved in the project.

Lately some insects were spotted in the gardens and residents were shown which were beneficial and which were harmful. Lady beetles (lady bugs) were spotted on multiple plants and harlequin bugs were spotted roaming throughout the zucchini plants. Powdery mildew was noticed also but removal of the few affected leaves should bring that to a halt.

Atlantic County Master Gardener, Sue Scarlett, has been available to the residents of Hope Community Gardens on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. This past week she took out some collard and spinach transplants for residents. She worked closely with the plot owners and answered questions they may have had as they planted and worked in their gardens.

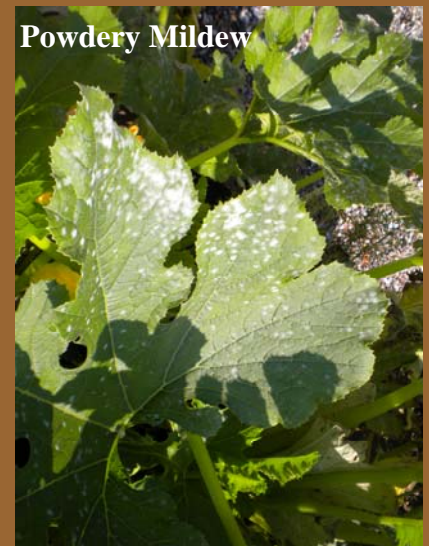


Harlequin Bug

Lady Beetle Stages



Kale



Powdery Mildew

Check out our blog at:  
<http://hopecommunitygardenac.com>

# 4H Fair/Home Gardener School



## Best in Show Award

In the Master Gardener category at the 4H Fair our 2011 winner was Carol Dupras.

Carol submitted a lettuce bowl that included the following varieties of lettuce:

Red Sails, Garlisse, Skyphos, Red Salad Bowl and some Onion Chives.



Thank you to the entire group of master gardeners who came out to volunteer at our Jersey Fresh farm stand during the Atlantic County 4-H Fair on August 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>. We had great weather for this 3 day event which helped lead many customers to our table.

The beautiful produce offered to the public was provided by the following Atlantic County Farmers: Variety Farms, Judee DeFiccio, Ed Kertz, Wuillermin Farms, Dave Rizzotte, William Boerner Jr., Formisano Farms, Marolda Farms and Frank Schoenstein. A special thank you went to each of these farmers for helping make our stand a success.



Mark Your Calendars – Registration begins fall 2011

## Rutgers 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Home Gardeners School

March 24, 2012

9am-4pm

Go to the following website for more information and pictures from the 2011 Home Gardeners School:

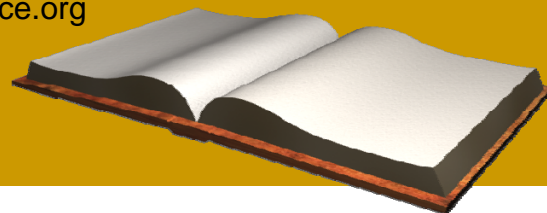
<http://www.cpe.rutgers.edu/courses/current/>

## A SEED SAVING GUIDE – FOR GARDENERS AND FARMERS

Learn how to plant the best varieties, maintain your crop “genetics”, cultivate, harvest, process and store seed. Plus a crop specific chart and resources for gaining more seed growing knowledge.

From **ORGANIC SEED ALLIANCE**

Download a copy from the following website:  
[www.seedalliance.org](http://www.seedalliance.org)



## Topics to look forward to when working the Help-Line:

- Weather related issues in the Greenhouse/Nursery
  - Phytophthora leaf and stem blight
- Disease in Lawns
  - Dollar Spot
  - Gray Leaf Spot
  - Crown Rust
  - Fairy Rings
- Stinkhorns
- Ticks and Their Control/ID

## “Green Thumb” Articles

Look to use the following Green Thumb articles as resources for clients while volunteering for the help-line. The articles are located in the “Green Thumbs” binder on the bookshelf in the help-line office:

Powdery Mildew  
Catalpa  
Cutting Back Perennials  
Asiatic Beetle  
Nutsedge  
Swallows  
Watermelons  
Spring Bulbs  
Yellow Shoulders on Tomato  
Mushrooms  
Mildew (household)

## New/Updated FactSheets

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| FS 1163 | Mail Order Vegetable Seed Sources for the NJ Gardener |
| FS681   | Varieties for New Jersey Home Vegetable Gardeners     |

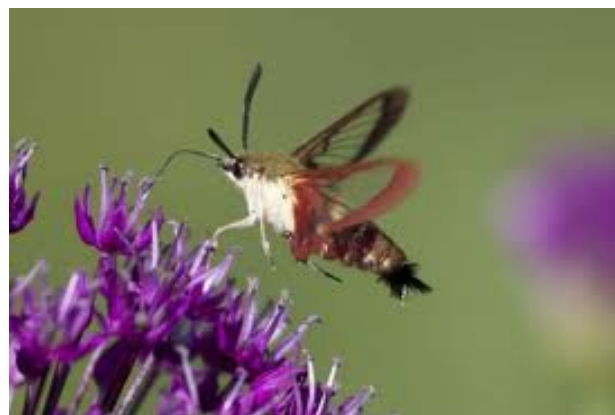
## Has Anyone Ever Seen a Hummingbird Moth? By: Nancy Jansen

They love to feed on Thistles and Butterfly Bushes during the daylight. I didn't even know what they were until some friends were over and this fellow asked me if we ever get them on our Butterfly Bushes. Then he walked over to our bush and yelled for me to come and see it. WOW! What an incredible sight!

They have a long needle-like mouthpart called a proboscis which they use to suck nectar from flowers. They grow up to two inches long and have an olive-green body with red bands across their abdomen. The proboscis stays coiled up until it is time to use it. When they come to a flower, they uncoil the proboscis and dip it deep into the flower where the nectar is. They feed just like hummingbirds!

The Hummingbird Moths love to feed on Japanese Honeysuckle, Bee Balm, Black Cherry, Green Hawthorn, Thistle, Highbush Blueberry, Evergreen Blackberry, Lilac, Red Clover and Black-eyed Susan.

Take a look at your plants and see if you can find one!!!!



**Congratulations  
Newly Certified  
Master Gardener  
Catherine Persello!!!!**

# Demo Garden



Master Gardeners were out in full force to do a clean-up/harvest in the garden just this past week. Raised beds and the native plant gardens were weeded and some mums were planted in the entrance of the garden. Swiss chard, potatoes and multiple varieties of gourds have been harvested from the raised beds.

The Luffa that was planted has become "attached" to the deer fencing and continues to delight us with beautiful yellow blooms.



Master Gardeners will be in the demo garden as needed through the fall to continue to harvest and help put the garden to rest for the winter months.

You can find these pictures and more on the Demo Garden page of our website at [www.rutgers-atlantic.org](http://www.rutgers-atlantic.org).

(Pictures courtesy of Gail Fisher)



## **MGANJ Fall Conference**

Douglas  
Campus Center

New Brunswick

October 1, 2011



Master Gardener winners for Master Gardener Association of New Jersey Fall Conference on October 1, 2011. Congratulations to individual award winner, Janice Rosania, and the group winner, Forsythe Volunteers (Dennis Craghan, Nancy Jansen, Glenn Pavlis, Patti Cassidy, Camille Griffin, Bev Albertson, Evonne Kaminski, Roz Herlands, Audrey Craghan and Maggie Smith)

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**Happy Birthday Master Gardeners!!**

October

15 <sup>th</sup>	Enrique Lago, Jr.
25 <sup>th</sup>	Catherine Persello
28 <sup>th</sup>	Gail Fisher
28 <sup>th</sup>	Nancy Jansen

December

25 <sup>th</sup>	Ann Cinquina
30 <sup>th</sup>	Pat Kennedy
30 <sup>th</sup>	Marie Frost

November

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Gay Pitz
24 <sup>th</sup>	Sue Scarlett
27 <sup>th</sup>	Anna Mae Maslinski



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Official Mail



Atlantic County Master Gardener Program  
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