

# Garden Tales

## Atlantic County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

### Coordinator's Comments

By Mona Bawgus

Hello Master Gardeners:

We finally made it to spring and can get out and dig in the dirt. With all the tasks to be done and the weeds to be pulled, I still remember why I love to garden. I see lilacs beginning to bloom and recall that wonderful fragrance that reminds me of my childhood. When the tulips and daffodils I planted five years ago open for their sixth year, it brings a feeling of familiarity and comfort. Many of my plants were gifts from fellow gardeners and each of these plants recalls that special person even as they move on the path that life takes them. To me gardening is more than a well thought out design. It is my journal of trips to botanical gardens, plant swaps with fellow gardeners, and the love of sharing knowledge and passion with good friends.

Our 2009 class is coming to an end and I think this class will be a wonderful addition. They are very enthusiastic and can't wait to get started. Earth Day was a success even with the temperatures in the 90's. Thank you all who participated. Our plant sale is moving forward and there are opportunities to volunteer for everybody. Other projects include Ventnor School Courtyard garden, Atlantic City Aquarium, Galloway Library, Galloway Community Garden, Estell Manor, and our Demo Garden. For dates and times check the newsletter or call Anita or myself. In the meantime, I hope all of you enjoy this beautiful season and take some time to smell the roses!

~Mona

### Hot! Happenings

- May 9 Galloway Community Garden Opening 12 p.m.
- May 15 Association Meeting at Gardener's Basin in Atlantic City 12-3 p.m.
- May 21 Hope VI – Flowers & Tomatoes
- May 22 Ventnor School Courtyard Garden
- May 29 Plant Sale Set –up
- May 30 Plant Sale 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- June 5 Graduation/Association Meeting 12 p.m. the home of Jackie Weiss
- June 10 After Plant Sale Meeting 10 am
- June 18 Hope VI – Container Gardens



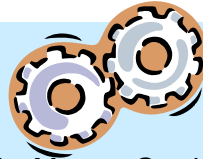
### Inside This Issue

Community Outreach I	2
Plant Sale	
Earth Day ACCC, ACUA	
Community Outreach II	3
Galloway Library	
AC Aquarium	
Help-Line	4
Volunteer Appreciation	5
Who's Who	6
Book Reviews	7
Birthdays	8



New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

## Gearing up for this Year's Plant Sale



All gears are shifting in to place. Plants have been ordered. Master Gardeners have propagated plants. "Garden Talks" are being polished up.

Nursery plants will arrive at the 4H Center on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May to find the "set-up" committee ready for their arrival. Plants will be priced, labeled and ready for purchase at 10 a.m. on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Propagated plants should be brought to the 4H center on the 29<sup>th</sup> as they will be subject to a Sanitary Inspection by the NJDA prior to sale.

The "Garden Talks" schedule has been finalized and will include container gardening, houseplant care, 4 season vegetables, herbs, attracting birds to your garden, how to have a healthy lawn, moss, and natives/seashore gardening.

We ask that Master Gardener's wear their Master Gardener shirts to make it easier for customers to identify us if they should have a question. Please bring a lunch/snack along with something to drink if you plan on staying all day. For those Master Gardeners who signed up for specific responsibilities during the sale please keep in contact with your committee chairperson to ensure all details are up to date.



## Earth Day At Atlantic Cape Community College

By Barbara D'Augustine [07]

Gay Pitz and Barb D'Augustine represented the Atlantic County Master Gardener's at the Earth Day Celebration held by ACCC at the Mays Landing campus on April 22nd. Unfortunately, the day was one of those many rainy April days we have had this year. Everything was moved inside the cafeteria building and we were next to the Rutgers table and across from the ACUA. Most of the activity at our table was from people with garden problems or an interest in the MG program. We learned that the culinary school has taken over the ACCC greenhouse and is growing organic herbs and vegetables they will use in food served by Careme's. So, if we return in December for our holiday party, you may expect to dine on local organic produce.

## Earth Day at ACUA

By Roz Herlands [09]

Earth Day at ACUA this year took place on Sunday, April 26, 2009. It was a gloriously clear, sunny, and very warm day. Our Master Gardener table and tent were out next to the community garden, where the 4-H Club had the pet llama, baby goats, pony and several other animals, and also next to the ACUA tent, where they handed packets of purple coneflower and sunflower seeds and beach plum canes. By 9:30, the first group of master gardener volunteers had set up our table with lots of different information sheets and refrigerator magnets with our helpline phone number. Behind us we had trays of nearly 300 potted Ramapo tomato seedlings to give out. By 10 o'clock, we had a non-stop stream of visitors come to our table, many picking up information sheets and all happy to receive a free tomato seedling. Several of our visitors specifically came for the tomato plant, saying that theirs from last year had been very productive; one man claimed that he picked 45 tomatoes from his plant! We also fielded lots of gardening questions. It was truly enlightening for those of us volunteers from this year's class to watch veteran master gardeners answer these questions.

## Community Outreach II



Cleanup at the Galloway Library Butterfly Garden began on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Master Gardeners worked hard weeding, raking, and pruning throughout the morning.



Over 150 Ramapo tomato plants were started from seed and eventually transplanted to 4" pots to be given away during the annual ACUA Earth Day Festivities on April 26<sup>th</sup>. In the picture to the left you see several Master Gardeners transplanting those tomatoes in the greenhouse located at the ACUA facility.

### Atlantic City Aquarium

Atlantic County Master Gardeners will have the chance to enjoy the fruits of their labor at the Spring Bloom Celebration on May 15 at the Aquarium. John Collette and several other Master Gardeners have worked an average of six hours each day, five days a week over the past eight months towards their goal of educating and beautifying the area around the aquarium. Together they found a variety of plants, flowers, trees and grasses that are different enough to create visual interest, yet still create harmony with each other and with the Basin. Research was also done to find species that can withstand exposure to both saltwater and wind.

The Master Gardeners believe that with the mixture of annuals and perennials, the gardens will always look attractive, even after the spring and summer seasons. Not only will visitors enjoy these gardens while visiting Historic Gardner's Basin, but they will have the chance to learn from what the Master Gardeners have done and use that knowledge in their own backyards as each of the plants will be labeled with both their Latin and common names.

We look forward to seeing everyone there on the 15 at 12:30 p.m!!!!!!!

Topics to look forward to on Help-Line in April/May:

- Winter Damage In Ornamentals
- Spruce Spider Mites
- Starting a Vegetable Garden
- Weed Control in Garden/Lawns
- Diseases in Lawns
- Carpenter Bees
- Deer Resistant plants
- Plants for the Shore Area
- When to put houseplants out
- Artillery Fungus
- Ants in the Home
- 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:

- March 6 – Herbs
- March 13 – De-Icing and Plants
- March 20 – Spring Lawn Care (part 1)
- March 27 – Spring Lawn Care (part 2)
- April 3 – Parsley Caterpillars
- April 10 – Cutworms
- April 17 – Hummingbirds
- April 24 – Horticultural Oils

**2009 Directory of Atlantic County Master Gardeners** – The new directory will be handed out at graduation. Please be sure to let Anita know of any changes you may have had in the past year with your address, email, or telephone number.

## New or Updated Publications:

- FS1098 – Bed Bugs – 4/24/2009
- FS1095 – Carpenter Bees – 4/24/2009

## Most Popular Publications:

- Landscape Plants Rated by Deer Resistance FS129
- Growing Tomatoes in the Home Garden FS678
- Starting Vegetable Seed Indoors FS787
- Soil Testing for Home Lawn and Gardens FS797
- Planning a Vegetable Garden FS129

For more publications visit:  
<http://www.njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/>

## Photographers Needed!



Two photographers are needed to take head-shots of the new interns during the Help-Line class on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Mona if you will be able to help.

## Mentors Wanted!!

The Class of 2009 is getting ready to graduate and we all know what that means. The help-line is coming. Please think about being a mentor on the help-line during the next several months. We are sure that your help will be greatly appreciated by the new students just beginning their required hours. If everyone could give 1 day a month we can fill these mentoring time slots in no time. Thank you in advance.

# *Volunteer Appreciation*

Our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon took place on April 24<sup>th</sup> at noon. This is our time to say what doesn't get said often enough to our volunteers. Thank You!! This luncheon is just a small token of our appreciation to all of you. Those in attendance received a gardening journal, lunch, certificates of appreciation, certificates of accomplishment, and door prizes. Howard Kyle, Chief of Staff for Atlantic County, also handed out certificates of appreciation on behalf of Dennis Levinson, Atlantic County Executive.



## **100 Hours of Service**

Pictured: Robin Lara, Barb D'Augustine, Gay Pitz, Marie Benoit, Mary Stecher, John Collette, Rachel Bogatin, Robert Varrelmann, Jackie Weiss, Sandy Templeton, and John Lonkart.

Not pictured: Jan Tarpine and Antoinette Najar.



## **250 Hours of Service**

Pictured: Kathy Olsen, Camille Griffin, Evonne Kaminski, Gloria Perakovich, Robert Varrelmann, John Collette, Ann Cinquina, Nancy Jansen, and Glenn Pavlis.

Not Pictured: Judith Ryan-Heitz, Janet D'Alessandro and Virginia Mason.



## **Top Three Performers of Each Graduating Class:**

**2005** – Evonne Kaminski (376.25), Camille Griffin (368.75) and Gloria Perakovich (359.45)

**2006** – Kathleen Olsen (476.75), Glenn Pavlis (380.25) and Nancy Jansen (366)

**2007** – John Collette (449), Robert Varrelmann (319) and George Lonkart (342.5)

**2008** – Antoinette Najar (107.25) not pictured, Jackie Weiss (104.5) and Patricia Cassidy (94) not pictured

## Anna Mae Maslinski, 2008, Mays Landing



- I became a Master Gardener because I love caring for and propagating houseplants. I am learning so much about gardening and problem solving through this program and other Master Gardeners.
- Member of Demo Garden and Plant Sale committees
- Favorite Flower: Roses, especially "Julia Child" butter gold floribunda.
- Least Favorite Flower: Orchid (Phalaenopsis). Thought it was supposed to be the easiest to care for at home but it died not long after bringing it home. Will give it another try.
- Favorite MG Class: Backyard Habitats by Pat Sutton
- Earliest Garden Memory: Helping my grandfather with his "Victory Garden." With his guidance I learned how to sow tomato seeds.
- If I had my own farm I would grow my favorites: tomatoes, corn, blueberries and give the excess to food banks.
- Most MG's don't know that I recently retired after 50 years of working in the Medical Technology field where I worked in several hospital laboratories

## Linda Risser-Hawn, 2007, Estell Manor



- I became a Master Gardener because I love growing things!!
- Member of Hospitality Committee
- Favorite Flower: any daylily – it's a perennial, comes in so many colors, and doesn't have many pests that bother it.
- Least Favorite Flower: Never met a flower I didn't like!
- Favorite MG class: Flowers for the Garden. I love flowers
- Earliest Garden Memory: My mother's small garden of peas, tomatoes, and squash at the base housing each place my Dad was stationed when I was small.
- If I had my own farm I would grow flowers and herbs. I would also have honey and eggs to sell.
- Most MG's don't know that I have a small farm and raise sheep.

Who's Who – In each newsletter we will try and introduce 2 Master Gardeners. Please help with this by forwarding Anita your information.

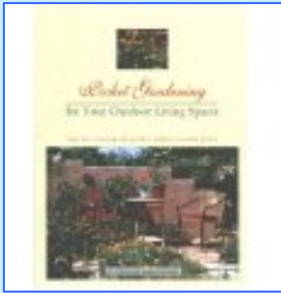


Article and pictures courtesy of Grace Wagner

These are photos of hellebores (heh-LEB-or-us), also called "Lenten Rose", in my garden. They start blooming in mid-March, and were even out when we had the snow. As the bloom stays on the plant it begins to change from white to pink. They are great plants and don't require much care. They grow 14" to 20" tall and spread. They like fertile, moist, and well drained soil. As you can see these are growing amidst stones. The flowers will last for weeks, if the weather stays cool, and the leaves will continue to grow throughout the summer. In the fall the leaves will stay green for a long time, then brown. Before the next season, remove the brown dead leaves for the new growth. So far – rabbits don't eat them either!!! I am hoping that we can plant some in the Demo garden.



Permission is granted to non-profit organizations to reprint original material appearing in this newsletter. You must credit the author and this publication, and send a copy of your publication to the editor (see back page.)



“Pocket Gardening for your Outdoor Living Spaces” by Stephanie Hainsfurther

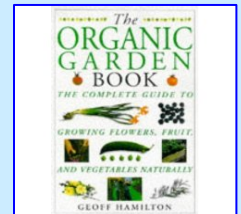
**ISBN-13:** 978-0875886725

I have been reading this book in anticipation of May planting. It is informative, interesting, and full of great suggestions for adding to one's garden bit-by-bit. The author suggests using the architecture of one's home and style of living in choosing appropriate types of gardens. This book is an easy-read with lots of beautiful garden photos.

**Review By Gay Pitz**

**The Organic Garden Book** by Geoff Hamilton  
(or: The Essential Guide to Growing Flowers, Fruit, and Vegetables the Natural Way)

**ISBN - 13:** 978-0751305005



This is my bible for organic gardening! Hamilton covers soil - in depth (no pun intended), with chapters on organic fertilizers, organic pest control, and organic weed control (including two pages on useful weeds!). There's a chapter on tools and machinery as well as a chapter on various propagation techniques. But the bulk of the book is devoted to gardens: ornamental gardens (including hedges, lawns, trees, seasonal plants, border plants, and wild flowers); container gardens; fruit trees and bushes; herb gardens; greenhouse gardens; and my favorite: vegetable gardens. The vegetables are organized by “families,” and the information on specific vegetables includes: varieties; soil and site requirements; how to plant, maintain, and harvest your crops; as well as any pests or diseases which may affect a particular vegetable. I had a creature living in my pepper plants, and this book helped me to identify and to deal with earwigs. All throughout the book, the illustrations are clearly drawn, and the photographs are definitive and educational.

**Review by Pat Kennedy**

## ***Perennial Plant Association selects its 2009 Perennial Plant of the Year.***

**Hakonechloa macra ‘Aureloa’ (golden hakone grass)**

Hardiness - USDA zones 5-9

Light – Part shade in hot climates

Soil – moist, humus-rich, well-drained

Height – 12 to 18” tall and 18 to 24” wide.



**Atlantic County  
Master Gardener Newsletter**

Published by:  
Cooperative Extension of Atlantic County  
6260 Old Harding Highway  
Mays Landing, NJ 08330  
(609) 625-0056 ext. 6123  
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Edited by:  
*Mona Bawgus*

Mona Bawgus  
Program Associate - Agriculture



**Judy Ryan-Heitz – June 11**  
**Sandy Templeton – June 11**

Did we miss your birthday? Please let Anita know if you are not on our list. And.....Happy Belated Birthday!!!



Cooperative Extension  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
88 Lipman Drive  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8525

Official Mail



Atlantic County Master Gardener Program  
Newsletter