



Garden Tales

Atlantic County Master Gardener
Association Newsletter

Coordinators Comments:

By Mona Bawgus

Hello Master Gardeners:

Wow, this has been an exceptionally busy summer. I want to thank all of the Master Gardeners that turned working the various events for making them a success and having fun at the same time. Master Gardener Day at the Atlantic City Aquarium and Gardners Basin was a time to showcase all the work you have done in the past several years. The only drawback was all the beautiful flowers were not in bloom so next year we may hold off until June.

After the many months of hard work planning and organizing the plant sale turned out to be a great success. The weather was great and the customers were plentiful. Even with all the hard work everyone still had fun.

Our biggest new project has been the Hope Community Garden in Atlantic City. Twenty some Master Gardeners turned out and spent most of the seven hours working to build the 28 raised garden beds that will be rented by the local residents of the housing authority in Ward 2 of Atlantic City. I am continually amazed at the dedication the Master Gardeners give to their projects. So many hours were spent before the beds were even built; choosing the shed, pre-drilling and assembling the beds, organizing the plantings, and organizing the future management of the garden. The feedback I have received from the community has been overwhelming. They truly appreciate all the hard work all the volunteers have done. Hopefully in the next few weeks the Grand Opening will allow the residents to enjoy their new garden.

Thank you again for all of your time and energy during this very hot summer.

Important Dates

- July 11 Demo Garden 9 AM
- July 15 MGA Meeting 12 PM
at Ann Cinquina's home
- July 25 Demo Garden 9 AM
- July 27 Helpline Roundtable Meeting 10 AM
- July 28 Margate Farmer's Market 8:30 – 2
- August 4 Margate Farmer's Market 8:30 – 2
- August 8 Demo Garden 9 AM
- August 11 Tomato Tasting at Margate Farmer's
Market 8:30 - 2
- August 11-13 4H Fair
- August 12 MGA Meeting 12 PM
At John Drexel's home
- August 22 Demo Garden 9 AM
- August 31 Helpline Roundtable Meeting 10 AM

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Hope Community Garden



The Hope Community Garden, the first of six community gardens for Atlantic City residents is scheduled to open for residents in July 2011. The first garden is in Ward 2 and there are future plans to meet with community leaders to discuss development of community gardens in each ward. The focus is on creating an environment where residents will have access to growing their own fresh produce and then educating them on how to eat and cook nutritionally. RCE and AtlantiCare will be holding educational talks in the community center adjacent to the garden.



The area, which was previously playground, has been cleared and Atlantic County Master Gardeners began the next stage on June 24th by building 30 garden beds using wood from local cedar trees. The project is a collaborative initiative among AtlantiCare, the Atlantic City Housing Authority and Urban Redevelopment Agency (ACHA) and the RCE of Atlantic County through its Master Gardener Program.



The Rutgers Master Gardeners will lead in establishing and managing the garden and providing technical assistance and educational programs.



Special thanks go out to the following

people: All of our master gardeners who participated and worked extremely hard all day; W.H. Kline representative, Gary Kemmerer, for all of his assistance with a chain saw, small front-end loader, and other various tools; Gregory Varrelmann, of All Weather Landscaping, who assisted in bringing all of the cedar wood down to the community garden site via his landscaping trailer; Kathleen McColl of the ACHA for taking care of everyone nutritionally; and the AtlantiCare volunteers who helped with the building and filling of the garden beds.



Pleasantville's So. Main Street School

“Learn Through Gardening” By Paul Demarest [10]



A few years ago, students from Pleasantville's South Main Street School were given the opportunity to become gardeners. The school has a nice enclosed courtyard area—a perfect place for a garden. With help from Mona Bawgus, the school began their gardening program. This past year, with a grant from AtlanticCare, the gardening program was expanded to include a large area in the field behind the school. The grant money paid for seeds, plants and tools, the Atlantic County Utilities Authority donated the soil and the school's administration was on board to provide support for the new program. The facilities department tilled the garden site and hauled in the soil from the ACUA.

Setting up the garden was a school-wide effort involving 335 students, their teachers and school personnel. All aspects of the project were related to the core curriculum. The upper grade students used their math skills to design the dimensions of the garden and they determined how many plants would fit in each row. Students used aspects of the garden to hone their writing skills and there was no problem fitting the garden into the science curriculum.



Now that the preliminary work was done, the Master Gardeners became involved. Mona had been working with the school nurse, Elizabeth DiDonato, to set up the program. Along with Mona, Master Gardeners Doreen Esposito, Pam Cascioli and I worked one morning a week for several weeks with close to 20 classes of students to prepare the rows, plant the seeds and plants, and weed. Kendrin Dyitt, Program Associate for the Atlantic County 4-H program, was also on hand to lend his expertise. And several parents joined the effort and worked alongside their children.

As a reward for all their efforts, on June 9, the school hosted a “salad” lunch for the students and invited guests. Assistant School Superintendent, Effie Jenkins-Smith and AtlanticCare's grants person, Samantha Kiley, along with school personnel were there to enjoy the lunch with the students. The Master Gardeners were also invited. The Director of Food Services, Ilene Ivy, prepared a grilled chicken salad using the lettuce, radishes and herbs that the students picked from the garden. There was enough salad for the whole school and the visitors.



As with any garden, the school's garden is a work in progress. Over the summer months, Kendrin will continue to work with the students and their parents to maintain the garden. There should be enough tomatoes, peppers, beans and everything else that is growing in the garden to share among the participants. Chain link fencing is on order, which hopefully will arrive soon. Two weeks ago when I was at the garden, a critter had come along and pulled out several lettuce plants, but luckily, there was still enough lettuce left to feed the whole school.

Plant Sale

By Gail Fisher [10]

On Saturday, May 21, the Atlantic Co. Master Gardeners held their annual Plant Sale. This year it was nestled on the grounds of the Galloway Public Library, instead of the 4-H Fairgrounds so that the public would be closer at hand.

It worked. We had a steady stream of customers throughout most of the day. Even the weather cooperated, with beautiful sunny weather and only a few minutes of rain late Friday afternoon, after set-up was done.

Many of you volunteered on Friday for set up, with the primary entertainment being the good-natured team effort it took to raise the new tent. It was great to see so many new faces from the class of 2011 and enjoy the friendships of the veterans. It must also be mentioned here about the super security services provided by Glen Pavlis and Bob Varrelmann, our plant sale committee chairman. They took shifts sitting in their cars in the parking lot throughout the night to guard our precious plants, and therefore earn the Lost Sleep Award!

All the plants arrived on schedule, and those propagated from our own Master Gardeners were absolutely beautiful – what a great job everyone did! The veggies were popular, especially the tomatoes and sweet peppers, and Hugh Lamonaca's purple Oxalis was gone in a blink. We will consider increasing our vegetable selections for next year.
(Continued on Page 6)



Thank you everyone for another great plant sale!

Pictures courtesy of Gail Fisher

Tapes

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

- Weather related issues in the vegetable/fruit garden
 - Powdery Mildew
 - Leaf spot
 - Anthracnose
- Disease in Lawns
 - Summer Patch
 - Dollar Spot
 - Pythium Blight
 - Copper Spot
 - Anthracnose
- Carpenter Bees
- Carpenter Ants
- Ticks and Their Control/ID
- Rhododendron Borer
- Stink Bugs

“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:

Rabbits
Vegetable Garden
Red Thread
Pot bound Christmas Cacti/African
Violets
Annual Bluegrass
Foxgloves
Companion Plantings
Red Twig Dogwood

Help Line Roundtable Meetings

By: Pat Kennedy [08]

Once a month, on a Thursday morning at 10 am in the Extension Center conference room, Master Gardeners meet at the Help Line Roundtable to talk about various gardening problems they've encountered. They review issues that arise in their own gardens (as well as their neighbors) and questions that may have come up on the help line.

Some of the subjects discussed included unidentified plants which were brought in – a common occurrence on the Help Line – and solved by looking at their distinguishing characteristics and growth habits. Mona suggested keeping a “Weed Journal.” When and how to prune specific plants is an on-going concern, too.

Questions arise regarding what to plant in a specific area. The importance of recommending native plants when Master Gardeners are asked for plant suggestions on the help line is stressed.

Other issues that were brought up at the Roundtable meetings involved problems such as aphids, ants, and other insect damage, as well as various fungus issues. Sometimes an interesting specimen is brought in, so bring your hand lens! Other critter troubles included rabbits, moles, voles, chipmunks, etc.

Specific plants discussed over the past four months were: begonias, hydrangea, butterfly bush, plumeria, gardenia, fig, witch hazel, magnolia, maple, pussy willow, thyme, fritillaria, smoke bush, forsythia, and rhododendron.



Look what crawled in to the office on a Thursday afternoon!

Say hi to the yellow-necked caterpillar. This was found on a homeowner's weeping cherry tree. This caterpillar is a key pest of ornamental, shade and fruit trees. They are found in clusters at the end of branches. They will defoliate branches but there is seldom a need for chemical control as they will not kill the tree. For more information visit: <http://bugs.osu.edu/~bugdoc/Shetlar/factsheet/ornamental/FSyellowneckcat.htm>

Hope VI Project – By Sue Scarlett [09]

The Master Gardeners have provided supportive services to Hope VI residents to assist them in learning the skills necessary to maintain their properties in the years to come. The homeowners are invited to attend monthly meetings and have developed a gardening group at the Maryland Avenue building on the care and maintenance of the properties. For the last two years I have attended some of those meetings and given talks and slides on seed starting, vegetable gardening, and planting. We have gone outside with the group and helped weed, plant and care for their building surrounding, so they can take these skills to their own homes. I have even gone to one of the homes with the entire group and identified plants and problems, showed how to use and care for different tools, and made suggestions to help in the future. As an encouragement to come to the meeting, the homeowners are given points for attending. At the end of the season these points are turned into HOPE VI dollars and they are taken to the Farm and Garden Markets by Kathleen McColl, who works with the Atlantic City Housing Authority, and allowed to purchase items to help them with their gardens (tools, pots, soil, mulch, etc). It is nice to see the same faces at each meeting and know they are learning something and are excited about it. I understand this is the last year for the HOPE VI Program but we will still be involved through their new Hope Community Garden. I know the Master Gardeners have contributed many things worthwhile to the homeowners.

Plant Sale *(continued from page 4)*

Jesse Connor's workshop on native plants for wildlife was wildly popular. All the Master Gardeners giving workshops were very well prepared and enjoyed passing along the information to those who came to learn, but we noticed that most everyone was intent on shopping for their favorite plants and preferred not to take the time to sit down for a talk. The information table was a big hit and will likely be expanded for next year – it was like an instant Helpline! Many items were sold at the Gently Used Garden Gifts table.

The advertising team did a great job, with outstanding posters, donated by John Drexel, great new sign boards made by Janice Rosania and her husband, and talented artwork by Nancy Jansen. Janice also went above and beyond duty by coordinating all the plant lists and generating all the plant information signs that were placed along the sales tables. Next year we will consider ways to be even more effective with the way we use it.

Plants that were left over after the sale were donated to the Galloway garden, The Hope VI garden and used in our own demo garden. Bob Varralmann still has Coral Honeysuckle available for sale – just in case you want to bump up your Hummingbird nectar source at home.

Our net income from the plant sale was \$2,066. There has been much discussion about the amount of work it took compared to the profit it made. Yes, it was a lot of planning and work – one could even say just a little stressful and frustrating at times. Sometimes, however, success and profits are not just measured by the money made. We were accomplishing the goals of the Master Gardener program to educate the public. We made money to help finance our bus trips and other projects, we spent time with kindred spirits who understand our plant-passions, and we gained valuable experience with plant propagation.

Much was learned, many notes were taken and plans are already being made for next year! Paula Demarest and I will co-chair the plant sale committee for 2012. We hope to serve you well.

Ladew Gardens/Awards

Ladew Garden Trip – By Barb Kennedy [08]

Despite the long hours of travel, our MG group thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Ladew Topiary Gardens in Monkton, Maryland on June 14th. Most interesting was that we got to see the world of plants, flowers and design through the vision of a bachelor, a self-taught gardener, Harvey Ladew, who purchased the estate and 22 acres in 1929 and developed his unique theme, color, or particular plant areas. Most beautiful were the sculpture garden full of topiaries of all sizes and shapes, and the Iris garden containing 65 varieties (770 plants). After our one hour tour of the Manor House, Harvey's meticulously decorated home reflecting his love of hunting, we then leisurely strolled through the gardens on a self-tour. Ladew is a non-profit organization whose mission is to maintain and promote the gardens and facilities as requested by Mr. Ladew. Shortly before his death he called upon his family and friends to help carry out this mission. It is worth visiting and is open from April 15 until mid-September/October.



During the upcoming MGANJ Fall Conference on October 2, 2010 the following Master Gardeners will be recognized for their volunteer efforts throughout this year:

Individual Award

Janice Rosania

Group Award – Forsythe Native Gardens

Evonne Kaminski

Bev Albertson

Camille Griffin

Glenn Pavlis

Nancy Jansen

Patti Cassidy

Roz Herlands

Maggie Smith

Audrey Craghan

Dennis Craghan

Congratulations to these Master Gardeners and to all of our volunteers for another successful year!!! **Thank You!**

**Congratulations
Newly Certified
Master Gardeners!!**

**Arlene Capelli
Jesse Connor
Meryl Giamporcaro
Robert Tewell, Jr.**

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Master Gardener Newsletter**

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Happy Birthday Master Gardeners!!

July

7 th	Nancy Short
25 th	John Marositz
31 st	Camille Griffin

September

August

2 nd	Thornton Hole	2 nd	Gerel Pereborow
13 th	Glenn Pavlis	24 th	Mary McDermott
19 th	Barb D'Augustine	26 th	Mary Stecher
		30 th	Rachel Bogatin

**Want to contribute to
*Garden Tales?***

Send topic ideas, photos, or
material to Anita at
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Atlantic County Master Gardener Program
Newsletter