



Master Gardener

Vol. 12 No. 1, January, 2007

News for Delaware County Master Gardeners



Calendar

**MG Meeting at Smedley – January 16th**

7:00pm

**MG Board Meeting, February 6th**

7:00 pm Smedley Park

Officers, Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs, and Class Representatives are all members of the MG Board.

All Master Gardeners are welcome to attend Board meetings.

**Grant Writing Workshop, February 7th**

6-9 pm Smedley Park.

Led by Joann Kowalski from Penn State.

Please contact the office if you wish to attend.



*Doesn't this picture represent a typical January??  
With temps in the 60s, we may see an onslaught of insects this summer.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday at Smedley – Feb 10th**

10-12 Noon

*Wreaths for Birds.*

Make and take home a wreath to help feed the birds during the winter months.

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## From the Coordinator: *Linda Barry*

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Welcome back to the Master Gardener program for 2007! We're brimming with new ideas and enthusiasm and look forward to a very rewarding year.

Our last official group activity of 2006 was the **Holiday Party**. We had 94 Master Gardeners and guests attend our volunteer recognition affair. The Social Committee, chaired by Hope Jones-Gary and assisted by Marie Trexler received many well-deserved compliments. Master Gardeners from Chester County helped to plan this year's event, and are looking forward to working with us for next year's party. Thanks to everyone who helped to make it a great success.

We welcome 21 new Master Gardeners from the class of 2005. Certificates and pins were awarded to new members attending the Holiday Party. Ten-year pins were presented to the class of 1996. Those MGs are: Liana Bauerle, Joe Daniels, Gerri Eunson, Susan Johnson, Steve Kosiak, Patty Rahi, and Linda Barry. Fifteen-year pins were presented to Diana Breen, Marcia Martin, and Gerry Paradis from the class of 1991. We also recognized Master Gardeners who have contributed 500, 1000, and 1500 volunteer hours. Those honored were Joe Daniels with **1500** hours, Carl Pfeiffer with **1000** hours, and Jane Baserga, Darlene Delany, Steve Kosiak, Chantal Wildman, and Alyce Zellers, all over **500** hours. Congratulations to all of you who have contributed so much to the home gardeners in Delaware County.

The US Airways tickets went to Steven DeShields of Oreland, PA, who purchased the Memorial Bench Donation Ticket from Tracey Carson's father. Mr. DeShields was very grateful and excited about planning his trip. We collected \$1304 in donations for the bench. The bench has been delivered, and will be installed in Smedley Park this spring.

You will find the **Volunteer Opportunities for 2007** in this mailing. Please read the list carefully. There are some changes from last year. The

final Membership List will be printed and mailed with the February newsletter. If you have sent me your committee selections for this year, they have been recorded. Any changes you wish to make in your committee choices should be sent to me by the end of January. (If you forgot to send the contact information and committee choices, please remember to send it.) We do need additional volunteers in the *Smedley Teaching Gardens*. If you would be willing to give a few hours to the maintenance and improvement of these gardens, your help would be greatly appreciated. Thanks to Marty Roelandt for being so patient in collecting this committee information and for compiling it for us. Also thanks to Barbara Meahl who prints and organizes the materials for our newsletter mailings, and updates the committee information for our new membership list.

We hope to see you at the January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting in Smedley Park, beginning at 7:00 pm. At that meeting we will elect officers and hear from the Committee Chairs about the plans for 2007. If you have questions about the volunteer opportunities, they will be addressed at this meeting.

### [Grant Writing Workshop](#)

Joyce Morrison, Cooperative Extension Director, has arranged for a **Grant Writing Workshop** to be presented in Smedley Park on Wednesday, February 7, from 6-9 pm. (Snow date is Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>) Master Gardeners, 4-H volunteers and Cooperative Extension Board members are invited. Master Gardener Development and Fund-Raising Committee members are urged to attend. Other interested members are also invited. Please call the office if you wish to participate in this workshop.

### [Master Gardener Cookbook](#)

Please submit recipes for our cookbook to Chantal Wildman before April 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### NEWSLETTER STAFF:

Editor: Barbara Smith  
Web Designer: Kathy Moyer  
Committee: Cynthia Sabatini, Linda Barry,  
Joe Daniels, Carolyn DiPaulo, Barbara Meahl, Marie  
Coyle, Mary Sambor, Carl Pfeiffer & Arlene Pugh,  
Web site address: <http://delaware.extension.psu.edu/MG/>

Cooperative extension - Email: [DelawareExt@psu.edu](mailto:DelawareExt@psu.edu)

**In case you have not been receiving MG news flashes via email from Linda, please add Linda Barry's email address ([lrb16@psu.edu](mailto:lrb16@psu.edu)) to your email address book to avoid having her emails sent to your spam folder.**



# JANUARY *TO DO* GARDENING TIPS

BY JOE DANIELS

Happy New Year Master Gardeners, and welcome to another fun year of gardening ahead of us. Since we all have large quantities of energy stored up from a remarkably pleasant winter and have rested over the holidays here are a few chores you

may wish to tackle this month. A recent article in "Green Scene," the magazine published by the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society listed 12 things to do in your winter garden that I felt were worth repeating if you don't receive the magazine or may have forgotten to read it this month.

1. Move leaf debris (preferably chopped) from lawn to flower beds.
2. Reassess and, perhaps, redesign your garden when all the "bones" are most apparent in winter. If massing and spacing are badly arranged, or if the ground forms and general proportions are wrong, winter will expose the mistakes. Move rocks and garden ornaments to more aesthetically pleasing locations if necessary.
3. Prune suckers, water sprouts, and crossing branches from trees. Prune or cut back late-blooming shrubs that form buds on new wood. Avoid trimming spring-flowering plants, such as azaleas, Pieris, forsythia, viburnum, weigela, and lilac until after flowering, or you may sacrifice bloom.
4. Submit catalog and web orders early while the choices abound.
5. Read. Research the histories and natural habitats of plants you have or are considering to help you discern their optimum growing conditions.
6. Plant a pot of grass seed for indoor cats to nibble.(Give them tiny mowers and instruct them to keep their lawn edges well trimmed.)
7. Clean, sharpen, oil and organize hand tools. Pain handles a bright color so you can find them in the garden.
8. Have machines repaired now to spare you spring headaches or being on a waiting list at the shop for mower, chainsaw, or other power-tool repairs.

9. Dig up and compost plants that were ghastly choices-a good way to bury your mistakes (and so much kinder to kill them in their sleep).
10. Conduct a bagworm check. The pointy 1-to-2 inch cocoons of these destructive moth larvae may be dangling merrily from your arborvitae right now, ready to devour host plants in late spring. Although they are fond of evergreens, search for them also on beech, maples, lindens, locusts, sycamores, and even roses. Pick off and destroy them now before an infestation warrants spraying.
11. Get at those persistent weeds that are still active in winter. While the ground is moist and still soft, uproot them before they spread, but avoid walking over the same areas of frozen or wet lawn or you may find bald spots in spring (I think it's called grass pattern baldness.)
12. Volunteer to help at the Philadelphia Flower Show!

Have a wonderful and warm January and prepare those aching bones for the gardening season ahead

**2007**  
**SECOND SATURDAYS**  
**AT SMEDLEY PARK**  
**ALL CLASSES BEGIN AT**  
**10:00 AM TO NOON**

**January 13**—Plants with Winter Interest  
**February 10**—Wreaths for the Birds  
**March 10**—Seed Starting  
**April 14**—Vegetable Gardening  
**May 12** Gardening with Children  
**June 9**—Formal Herb Gardening  
**July 14**—Tour of Smedley Gardens  
**August 11**—Vegetable and Fruit Sculpting  
**September 8** - Gourds & Birdhouses  
**October 13**—Scarecrow Making  
**November 10** - Fall Flower Arrangement  
**December 8**—Wreath Making

## Flower Show Volunteers Needed

We will be staffing the Penn State booth at this year's Flower Show on Saturday, March 3 from 3:30 during the Members Preview, and on the Opening Day, Sunday March 4 from 1 to 6 pm. Four volunteers are needed for each shift, although we would welcome additional help. Volunteers receive free admission to the show. The show theme this year is "Legends of Ireland", and our exhibit will be about common landscape mistakes (Bloopers II), including topping trees, mulch mistakes, planting too deep, bad pruning, misapplication of fertilizers and pesticides, etc.

Volunteer training will be held on Tuesday, February 20, from 3:00-5:30 in the Maple Room at Montgomery County. Snow date is Feb. 21. Show volunteers are required to attend, unless excused for a good reason.

If you are interested, please email **Gayla McCluskey**

The PHS Flower Show is also in need of Clerks and Barrier Aides to assist with judging on March 3, 6, 7, and 9 from around 8:30 am to 1 pm. Clerks record the judges' decisions while Barrier Aides create a "space" in which the judging can occur without interruption. PHS prefers that one volunteer as an Aide before working as a Clerk. There is also a need for Office Workers to tabulate the paperwork on these days from 10 am to 3 pm.

Volunteers also receive free admission to the Show. Even though this latter opportunity isn't an official Master Gardener Event, it does count towards required hours. If you are interested in volunteering, email **Carol Revak**.

**Gayla J. McCluskey**

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## Bulk Mailing Party - Volunteers needed

It's time for another bulk mailing party - this time for the Home Gardeners School brochure. We will do this on Wednesday, January 31, 2007 at 10:00 am in the Environmental Center. We all need hours (except for Joe who probably already has his) so please consider coming to help. The coffee pot will be on and there will be muffins or bagels to sustain us.

Please call Linda or me if you are planning to come just in case winter decides to arrive with snow and we need to postpone it.

**Barbara Meahl**

## Congrats



*Left: Kathy Hornberger presents a 15-year pin to Diana Breen at the Holiday party.*

*Right: Joe Daniels is shown receiving a certificate for his 1500 hours of service in 2006 from Alyce Zellers at the Holiday party held at Ridley Creek State Park.*



### MG OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

President: Kathy Hornberger  
Vice President: Lorraine Altrichter  
Secretary: Darlene Delany  
Treasurer: Liana Bauerle  
Hours Keeper: Chantal Wildman  
Coordinator: Linda Barry—610-690-7669

lrb16@psu.edu

### Committee Chairs:

Newsletter : Barbara Smith  
Arbor Day : Mary Sambor  
Elsie Mueller  
Field Trips: Gerry Eunson  
Flower Show: Gayla McCluskey  
Garden Contest June Wojtowicz  
Hotline: Liana Bauerle  
Home Gardener's School:  
Diana Breen  
Ken Paulsell  
MG Recruitment: Marty Roelandt  
Mentoring : Lisa Augustine  
Octoberfest: Anne Smith  
Ann Hofmann  
Office Mgmt: Barbara Meahl  
Social Events: Hope Jones-Gary  
Speakers Bureau: Joe Daniels  
Teaching Gardens: Hillside: Delilah Foldes  
Stephen Hinds  
Butterfly: Kathy Hornberger  
Terrace: Carl Pfeiffer  
Marion Nelson  
Shade: Maru Hollen  
Carolyn DiPaulo  
Julia King  
Taylor Arboretum: Ed Lyons  
Darlene Delany