



Master Gardener

Vol. 12 No. 2, February, 2007

News for Delaware County Master Gardeners



Calendar

MG Meeting at Smedley – February 20th

7:00pm

Seed Starting presented by Cynthia Sabatini

MG Board Meeting, March 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.

2nd Saturday at Smedley – March 10th

10-12 Noon

Seed Starting presented by Leslie Trimble



*Here's Smedley's Shade Garden in 2006—
Soon—my fellow gardeners—soon.*

Just remember "Hope springs eternal".

MG Meeting at Smedley – March 20th

7:00pm

Growing Orchids presented by Gail Sklar

HOME GARDENER'S SCHOOL

March 24th – Home Gardeners' School –
American College, 8 am-4 pm

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From the Coordinator: *Linda Barry*

Do I remember that we were talking about the unusually warm season just this time last month? I doubt that I'll hear that anymore this year! But the seed packets are arriving - the Taylor Arboretum Committee had held their first seed-starting session, so spring isn't *that* far away!

Congratulations to our new president, Kathy Hornberger and vice-president, Lorraine Altrichter. I'm looking forward to working with you for the next two years. Many thanks to our out-going president, Alyce Zellers for her leadership, inspiration and dedication to the Master Gardeners.

The new membership directory is included in this mailing. Please remember that this is confidential information and is not to be shared with non-members of the Master Gardeners. Thanks to Barbara Meahl for updating and printing the lists. We carefully checked all of your responses for contact information and committee selection. We gave the first collated copy to our new president, who announced she has a new email! Let me say that this list is updated, but expect revisions as we change homes, providers, and committee choices. If anyone else has changes or corrections, please let me know and we will publish them in the next newsletter.

The *Home Gardeners' School* brochure is

also in this mailing. Thanks to the committee's efforts in creating such a great brochure, and special thanks to MaryAnne Crawford for the beautiful brochure paper and printing. Diana Breen has designed the program and arranged for the speakers, and Ken Paulsell arranges for the facilities and other activities that we have on that day. If you would like to join this group, but hadn't made this one of your selections, you're still welcome to join. Please register early if you wish to attend the *Home Gardeners' School*. It's a really great day!

I shall include with this newsletter and (hopefully) future issues, a brief synopsis of the Board Meetings. Our Master Gardener Board meets ten times each year. Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month. If you have anything that you wish to present at these meetings, let us know and we will put it on the agenda.

I'm on vacation until February 20th. Leave voice-mails or emails, and I'll "talk" to you when I return.



NEWSLETTER STAFF:

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

NOTES FROM THE MG PRESIDENT:

A new year is here and with it is a changing of the guard. I want to thank Alyce Zellers for her dedication and hard work over the last two years as our president and for the leap forward she gave us with the introduction of the Fall Fest. Having recently completed its second successful year in operation, folks in the county and surrounding communities will be looking forward to this event for many years to come. Thank you, Alyce!

A new year is here and with it is a new set of responsibilities for me. I am resolved as your next president to serve to the best of my abilities and, with the help of all the many talented and dedicated people in this organization, to continue the high level of programming and gardening opportunities the people of Delaware County have come to expect.

A new year is here and with it is my hope that each one of you will give just a few extra hours to our organization this year: try a new committee, help out at a Second Saturday, pull some weeds in the Smedley gardens. No job is too small, every task is much appreciated. The more you do, the more people you will know, the more cohesive our organization will be.



A new year is here and with it is a resolution to make my home garden even better than last year. I am sure you have, as well. 'Better' might involve creating bigger spaces in which to grow more tree peonies, or installing that much dreamt about water garden, or finally using that homemade compost that has been developing over the last two years. Whatever 'better' is for you, as the saying goes, "Just do it!"

A new year is here and with it is my wish that each of you will enjoy a wonderful gardening season in 2007!

Kathy Hornberger



Green Thumb Schedule always at 6:45 pm

Feb 8th Iron Hill Brewery Media
March 14th Shere-e-punjab Media
(New Indian Restaurant)
April 25th Walnut Hill Restaurant School in
West Philadelphia

Merry Place Schedule 9AM—12 Noon

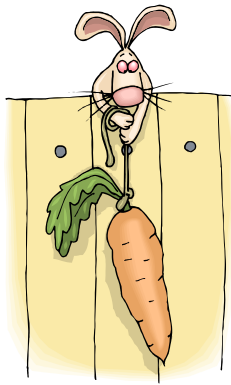
March 31st Basic Gardening
Talk for Girl Scouts working on a badge
May 12th Community Volunteer Day
June 2nd Compost Workshop

Janae Alberts

2007

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

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



FEBRUARY *TO DO* GARDENING TIPS

BY JOE DANIELS

SEASONAL:

1. Most of your gardening efforts will continue to focus on indoor gardening and planning activities.
2. Seed and plant catalogs can still be ordered to assist in your selection of plants for the garden.
3. This is a good time to continue your review of garden books and magazines.
4. Check notes from last year to see what you want to do the same and what should be changed.
5. Chart vegetable and flower gardens on graph paper. This will help in rotation of vegetables from last year and assist in knowing how many of each plant will be needed.

HOUSEPLANTS:

1. Continue to check on indoor humidity levels. Plants may need to be misted to supplement the existing humidity.
2. Orchids can be repotted after they have finished blooming.
3. Indoor plants will begin to need more water towards the end of the month. Start fertilizing the plants soon after you increase watering.
4. Try germinating plants from fruit seeds: oranges, grapefruits, lemons, tangerines or pomegranates are all good candidates. Put them in warm, moist soil and check for germination within six weeks.

BULBS:

1. The premature emergence of spring bulbs can sometimes be delayed by watering the soil and applying a layer of organic mulch.
2. Start tuberous begonias in late February or early March.
3. Check stored summer bulbs, tubers and corms. Discard any with soft spots or disease.

SMALL FRUITS:

1. Fertilize grapes and blueberries.
2. Remove dead and infested wood and mummified fruit from grapes and blueberries.

TREE FRUITS:

1. This is a good time to prune, as long as it is not done right before a heavy freeze. Best time to prune apples.
2. Peach and nectarine trees can be pruned heavily, removing a half of last year's growth to produce new shoots for next year's crop.

TREES AND SHRUBS:

1. Most ornamental trees can be pruned in late February, except maple, birch and walnut.
2. Prune summer flowering trees and shrubs now. Select relatively warm days in late February or early March where the weather is predicted to not be very cold for a few days.

Enjoy this time of year to observe and view the bare look of your garden for ideas as to what to add or eliminate. Start exercising.....you know those backs and knees will be getting a work out in the next few months. Relax and enjoy the peacefulness and quiet of the winter garden to reflect on the season to come.....as always good gardening, and see you at the February meeting.

GARDEN PLANNING IN FEBRUARY

Gather your books, catalogues, magazines, camera, and sketchbook or garden organizer along with a few pens or markers to sketch with, and maybe a few sheets or roll of tracing paper because it's time to get creative!

1. Take a walk around the garden. Observe the architecture of the garden and the vertical and horizontal structure of the plants and hardscape elements without the distraction of foliage and flowers.
2. Take a few photos of your garden from different angles, from both inside the house and outside. Looking through a camera lens offers an entirely different perspective.
3. Head back inside and flip through your favorite garden books and magazines. Look for ideas that might work in your garden and bookmark them.
4. Make a plant wish list. Flip through your plant catalogues and earmark anything and everything you're interested in. Write the list down on a piece of paper or in your garden organizer or journal for future reference.
5. Paste the photos you took into your sketchbook or garden organizer leaving plenty of room to add notes for ideas around the picture. If you're handy with a pen lay a piece of trace paper over the photographs and sketch out some ideas

WORDS FOR YOU TO WEED THROUGH



The Winter Gardener

While steeping my morning tea and preparing for my trip to work, I listened attentively to today's weather forecast. It called for blustery winds, light snow, and icy conditions. I glanced at a calendar and found an almost southern comfort in its count-down to spring.

As I left my home my breathing became momentarily gasped as cold wind carried tiny pieces of debris that whipped and fluttered across my yard. Strangely, I found folly in a vision of myself sitting on my patio sipping lemonade while watching the Great Bumble sitting on a bloom sipping nectar. Very aware and appreciative of each other, we enjoyed the serenity of the garden. I secured my hat and my journey began.

My steps were careful and strategic as I walked along the icy curbs and sidewalks taking a shortcut thru a small park. I listened to areas of thin ice crack and crumble beneath my feet. Somehow I felt a secret solace in my vivid recollection of the scents I experienced on these used to be, soon to be, fragrant pathways. My smile was hidden beneath my scarf.

Throughout the day I watched flurries, like feathers, lightly fall one upon another creating an accumulation. I had flashbacks of moments when I saw dew drops rest on petals like diamonds laid upon black velvet. My awe was thawing.

One might ask: "How do you detect bouquet in the wind's bitter bluster? When the birds, bees, and butterflies are gone and the trees are bare, how do you hear the earth's symphonies in their hallow? When nights have extended at daylights expense how do you see beyond the darkness to the event of sunlight's reemergence tapping sleeping flora on her shoulder commanding her to awaken, and the connection of their grasping hands forming a rainbow?"

The answer is simple. That's just the dormant spirit of the Winter Gardener.

Tracey L. Carson

"In the depths of winter I finally learned there was in me an invincible summer"

Albert Camus

SEND THOSE RECIPES NOW—*please*

I am in a desperate need of your favourite recipes for our cookbook, we need 150 recipes (all categories needed).

Please take a moment to send me, e-mail me (or give me one at our meetings) any recipe you have. This is very important since this is an easy fund raiser and our deadline is April 1st.

Many thanks to you all, I know you'll come through for me.

Happy gardening,
Chantal

MG OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

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

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Committee Chairs:

Newsletter : Barbara Smith
Arbor Day : Mary Sambor
Elsie Mueller
Field Trips: Gerry Eunson
Flower Show: Gayla McCluskey
Garden Contest: June Wojtowicz
Hortline: Ron Gatto,
Veronica Connor
Home Gardener's School:
Diana Breen
Ken Paulsell
MG Recruitment: Marty Roelandt
Mentoring : Lisa Augustine
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

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING NOTES . .

- I. Meeting changes includes: April 17th will be Teaching Gardens spring clean-up meeting. The meeting will begin at 6:30 pm. June 19 will be the Picnic and Plant Swap meeting , also beginning at 6:30 pm. September's meeting will be a Soup and No-Swap meeting—members will be asked to donate plants to the Fall Fest Plant Sale instead of bring plants to swap. The Holiday Party has already been scheduled for Ridley Creek State Park on December 2nd.
- II. Eight (8) Master Gardeners will attend a Grant Writing Workshop at the EC on February 7th. MGs are contributing \$100 toward the travel expenses of the presenter from Penn State.
- III. The Memorial Bench will be installed this spring and will be dedicated at the June 19th meeting. A committee has chosen a site for the bench near the Terrace Garden.
- IV. Recruitment for this year's new class begins in March. Press releases will be sent out.

There has been an increase in the amount charged each county for the presenters' travel expenses' therefore our charge for the class will be raised to \$95 to cover the increase. The Board suggested group projects for the new class.
- V. Our bus trip has been arranged by Gerri Eunson for Saturday, June 2nd. We will be visiting Brookside Gardens and McCrilis Gardens in Wheaton, MD and Behnke's Nursery in Beltsville, MD. The cost of the trip is expected to be \$55.
- VI. The Board chose to participate in the Upper Chi Health Fair on March 10th. MGs will present literature and will have drawings for free 2nd Saturday registrations.
- VII. HGS—Ken Paulsell gave an update on the Home Gardener's School
- VIII. Speakers's Bureau—Joe Daniels announced plans for a gardening series for children.
- IX. Kathy Hornberger will attend a Junior Master Gardener program sponsored by the PA Assn for Environmental Education.
- X. Chantal Wildman reported that we have 39 recipes turned in so far for the Cookbook project.