



Master Gardener

Vol. 11 No. 7, July, 2006
News for Delaware County Master Gardeners



Calendar



Saturday, July 15th, 10:00 am
Invasives Seminar
Ridley Creek State Park Mansion. Free

Tuesday, July 18th - MG meeting
6:30 pm—Styer’s Garden Center
See Page 5 for more details

No MG Board Meeting in August

August 12, 2nd Saturday
Smedley 10:00 am
Making Stepping Stones for Your Garden,

Tuesday, September 5th
7:00 pm -MG Board Meeting, Smedley

Saturday, September 16th
Fall Fest at Smedley -
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Fall Fest Meetings

Thursday, July 13
Thursday, August 10
Thursday, August 24
Wednesday, September 6
(all meetings are at Smedley—7:00 pm)

Tuesday, September 19th
7:00 pm -MG Meeting, Smedley

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From the Coordinator: *Linda Barry*

Thanks to the Hortline and Office Management committee members who worked to create a new space for the Hortline volunteers in the office. Veronica Connor, Marie

Trexler, and Ron Gatto helped move furniture from one office to the other and set up our new area. Barbara Meahl edited the contents of the file cabinets and we were able to reduce the number of cabinets in the office. We now have desks for two people and thanks to Ken Paulsell, two new chairs that actually match! The MG Board approved the purchase of a laptop computer for the second desk. It will also be available to members for PowerPoint presentations.

We have had requests for assistance with student gardens in the Children's Community Garden in Nether Providence and the Chester Youth Center in Chester. If you would like to volunteer for either of these projects, please let me know. Thanks to Kathy Hornberger and Lois Sellers for representing the MG program at the dedication of the new youth center. They now wish to have garden instruction for middle school students during the summer school program.

We have had a great representation at the Hortline updated training sessions held in neighboring counties. The last session will be here in Delaware County on June 10. These sessions address the concerns of the Hortline volunteers throughout the region, and have been extremely well-presented by extension educators. This year's topics included turf problems, caterpillar ID, wildlife pest control, stink bugs, deciduous tree and shrub ID, evergreen tree and shrub ID and invasive weeds.

Gerri Eunson has, once again, organized two great trips for us. We visited Meadowbrook Farms on June 17th, then Central Park on June 24th. Visitors to Central Park were offered a 3-hour tour featuring Frederick Law-Olmsted's garden designs. Thanks to Gerri for planning these experiences.

Please update your volunteer hours and advanced training hours either on the website or by turning in the volunteer hours sheets. If you participated in the garden tours, you may use those hours for educa-

tional update hours. Each of us needs 8 hours per year, except for the class of 2005. They are working on their 50 hour volunteer requirement.

Congratulations to Gail Sklar from the class of 2005 for earning her Master Gardener status. Gail presented the Second Saturday program on growing orchids.

We're into dead-heading and weeding season – fortunately we've had plenty of water. Good opportunity to enjoy the results of your spring labor in the garden!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES (Please call the office if you are interested):

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES CENTER

E. 7TH ST., CHESTER

Renovation of an existing plot with girls 9-13 who are enrolled in a summer camp program. Camp begins the week of July 17, and runs for four weeks from 9:00-3:30 pm. Americorp volunteers are involved. Plant donations would be helpful – they have no real budget.

CHESTER STUDENT CENTER

9TH AND BUTLER STS., CHESTER

Middle school students enrolled in a voluntary summer school program. Wish to improve landscaping on property. Program runs July 10-August 18.

CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY GARDEN, Nether Providence Township

Children from the area garden together in a community plot. Need volunteers to teach appropriate gardening practices.

TREE TENDER TRAININGS:

Cabrini College, Radnor, Tuesdays Oct. 3, 10, 17, 6-9 pm

Great Valley Middle School, Malvern, Wednesdays Oct. 18, 25, Nov. 1, 6-9 pm

More opportunities on page 5.

NEWSLETTER STAFF:

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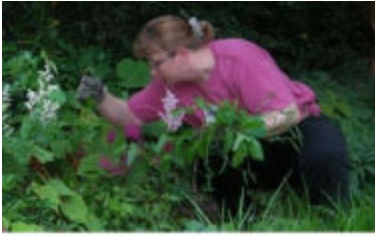
Committee: Cynthia Sabatini, Linda Barry,

Joe Daniels, Carolyn DiPaulo, Barbara Meahl, Marie

Coyle, Mary Sambor, Carl Pfeiffer & Arlene Pugh,

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FROM MG PRESIDENT . . .

Alyce R. Zellers

**A weed is a plant that is not only in the wrong place,
but intends to stay.**
- Sara Stein

**I always think of my sins when I weed.
They grow apace in the same way
and are harder still to get rid of.**

- Helena Rutherford Ely, *A Woman's Hardy Garden*, 1903

**Weeds Never Die.
- Danish Proverb**

Now is the time for exasperation. After our record breaking rainfall, the weeds have taken a stronghold and with the hot humid weather, it has been tough to deal with them. I have a hillside of daylilies that has bindweed, garlic mustard, escaped porcelain berry vine, mile-a-minute vine, assorted baby walnut and tulip poplar trees and of course crabgrass. They all seem to be cohabitating together but each one has world dominance on its mind.

When you think about weeds, the situation is quite like a global one. One particular variety feels that it has a right to claim that inch of ground while another wishes to displace the first. The situation goes downhill because they just "duke" it out by trying to become stronger than the first. Meanwhile, the poor existing plants are looking distressed and this where gardeners are like the U.N. Our job is come in and mediate an understanding between everything, but the usually the weeds do not show up at any Geneva Summit!!

Anyway hopefully you get the picture. Get out there and fight for the underdogs; the good plants that are being overtaken, strangled, sucked dry, shaded and bullied by those annoying weeds, especially invasives. If you don't, there will be a population explosion next year.

Enjoy the summer and happy weeding.

What is essential to practice the Tao is to get rid of cravings and vexations. If these afflictions are not removed, it is impossible to attain stability. This is like the case of the fertile field, which cannot produce good crops as long as the weeds are not cleared away. Cravings and ruminations are the weeds of the mind; if you do not clear them away, concentration and wisdom do not develop.
- Chang San-feng, legendary founder of T'ai Chi Ch'uan, circa 1300 A.D.

**That beautiful season the Summer!
Filled was the air with a dreamy and magical light;
and the landscape
Lay as if new created in all the freshness of childhood.**
- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

GOT PLANTS ????????????????

Last year's MG Fall Fest plant sale (our first!) was a huge financial success for us. Let's build on it! It's not too early to keep an eye out for plants you'd like to donate for our sale this September. And keep all those containers...you'll need them for your plant donations! Plan now and avoid the last minute pressure of throwing something in a pot and racing to Smedley to get in under the wire.

I would like our plant sale to be an event that people value. Because we are selling and not swapping, we need to give our plants a polished look. Please keep these points in mind: healthy plants that are labeled and in clean unbroken pots will sell well. I would be happy to label plants if I know what they are. Please bring a list of your contributions when you drop off your plants in September.

Plant categories this year are:

- | | |
|---------|------------------|
| Natives | Shade perennials |
| Trees | Sun Perennials |
| Shrubs | Houseplants |
| Cacti | Bulbs |

Questions? Contact Marion Yaglinski



JULY TO DO GARDENING TIPS

BY *Joe Daniels*

Houseplants:

1. If you will be leaving for a few days of vacation, you can help your plants stay moist until you return. Loosely cover the plants with a clear plastic bag and move them out of direct sunlight (or call a fellow master gardener to help, hmmm).
2. This is an excellent time to propagate houseplants, especially coleus, fuchsia, geraniums, wandering jew, swedish ivy, wax plant and other succulent plants.

Bulbs:

1. Divide bearded iris, using the vigorous outer portions of the rhizomes. Leaves can be cut back to 8" tall.
2. Order iris and peonies for planting this fall.

Vegetable gardens:

1. Continue to plant heat resistant vegetables like beans, chard, and cucumber.
2. Provide shade to lettuce, radishes, and spinach to discourage bolting (stretching and flowering).
3. Watch for tomato hornworms; hand-pick these large caterpillars off.
4. Prepare for your fall garden with potatoes, broccoli, carrots and other fall crops.
5. Continue to weed your vegetable garden and apply fertilizer as needed.

Small fruits:

1. Blueberries, grapes and raspberries should be covered with netting to prevent birds from eating the entire crop.
2. Strawberries, June-bearers only, should be renovated following fruiting.
3. Fertilize strawberries now.

Lawns:

1. Be careful not to cut grass too short, most should be around 2.5" to avoid drought damage problems.
2. Leave nitrogen rich clippings on the lawn to keep it greener.
3. Water your lawn in any week where there is less than an inch of rainfall.
4. If using herbicides, be cautious about applications during very hot days, injury to desirable plants increases then.
5. Aerate lawns to improve drought resistance. A step-on plug aerator is okay for small areas.
6. Maintain lawn mower, by keeping the mower blades sharpened and replacing the air filter and oil per the owner's manual.

Perennials, Biennials, & Annuals

1. Continue pinching mums and asters so that plants can flower in late summer and fall (but not much after mid July).
2. Echinacea, some sedums, and astilbe produce decorative seedpods which you may want to cut for dried arrangements, or leave them on the plants for winter garden enjoyment.
3. Deadhead (remove) dying and dead flower heads from flowering plants, unless you want them to reseed the area. Columbine and foxglove are among the many plants which will re-

seed.

4. A mid-summer application of liquid fertilizer will help to keep your flowers coming through the remainder of the summer.
5. More frequent waterings will be needed if you have a sunny, windy location. Be sure to water deeply at each watering.
6. Dig, divide and replant crowded iris plants.

Trees & Shrubs:

1. Native trees and shrubs may require additional watering if there is not at least 1" of rain per week.
2. When you shear hedges, remember to shape them so that the bottom is wider than the top if you look at the plants from the side. This will help keep growth full to the ground.
3. Many trees and shrubs can be propagated from cuttings in July and August. Most will take five or more years to reach the size of the plants you usually find in nurseries, however, producing your own plants can be very satisfying.
4. Check trees for webs of Fall Webworm.
5. Remove dead, dying, or hazardous tree limbs.
6. Remove sucker growth from trees.
7. Keep plants mulched to conserve water and cool roots (but remember don't build any Tree Volcanoes.....we'll be watching!!!!!!!)
8. A report from Michigan State University indicated that in 50 years a healthy tree can produce \$31,250 worth of oxygen, recycle \$37,500 in water, provide \$62,000 in air pollution control, and \$31,250 in soil erosion control. Consider adding a tree to your landscape this fall.

Roses:

1. If heat is excessive this month, your flowers may be about half their usual size; they should recover to normal size when the weather cools. Cut fertilization to half strength to avoid stressing the plants further.
2. Reduce problems with black spot by watering only in the morning and remove lower leaves of diseased plants to improve air circulation.

Water Gardens:

1. Remove dead leaves.
2. If mosquitoes are a problem, add a few goldfish to the water.

As I am typing this the rainfalls of the end of June are still fresh in our minds....and we think....we may not have to water for a few weeks....but ...since no one can ever figure the weather patterns that far in advance...keep a watch out in your gardens and stay cool and drink of plenty of water along with your plants....healthy for all of us. Have a great summer of gardening and remember all the fun plans you will have for your landscape this fall. when the weather cools off.....Joe Daniels



A RECOMMENDATION

Are you looking for a unique plant for your garden? If you are, or if you enjoy seeing unusual plants, I suggest you visit Triple Oaks Nursery in Franklinville, NJ. What a joy it was for me to see so many unique plants and lovely varieties of known plants recently. It may have been a rainy day, but the rain did not lessen my enthusiasm for seeing every plant Triple Oaks had for sale. The owners are extremely knowledgeable and friendly too.

Triple Oaks is located on the web at www.tripleoaks.com and on earth at 2359 Delsea Drive in Franklinville, NJ 08322 (856-694-4272). It is less than an hour from Media and they are open 7 days a week.

I do hope you get a chance to visit; enjoy their lovely display gardens and purchase some gems for your own garden. Of course, they have a few less plants for sale after we were there!

Barbara Knight

Opportunities for hours:

1. Kinder Park---A senior center located in Woodlyn, on McDade Blvd. We will be presenting a 6-week gardening series on Wednesdays from 10 to 11 AM starting July 26 going to August 30th. The schedule is as follows:

- July 26----Flower arranging
- August 2---Birdhouse making
- August 9--Painting/Decoupage clay pots
- August 16---Planting indoor containers
- August 23---Making Stepping Stones
- August 30---Making Scarecrows.

If you need hours or would just like to come and help out with the seniors, give Joe Daniels a call. (added helpers always needed).

2. Concord Twp Library
 - October 7---11AM---Scarecrow making
 - December 2----11AM----Wreath Making
3. Ridley Twp Library
 - Sept. 30---10AM---Scarecrow making-----
 - Oct.12--7PM --Composting
 - Nov.2--7PM--Winter interest in the garden.

ODDS 'N ENDS

July 18 Meeting

Monthly Meeting at Styers Garden Center in Concordville----6:30-8:00PM There is a 25% discount on all cash and carry items. Food will be available - and a short meeting - if needed. Bring your walking shoes, advil and your bankroll - and don't forget family members who enjoy gardening and shopping - bring them along to carry all your newly purchased items, and if they have time, they can shop for themselves.

Hope to see you all shopping or at least standing by the coffee bar for a tall cool iced caffeine drink to keep you going.

MG OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

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

Committee Chairs:

Newsletter :	Barbara Smith
Arbor Day :	Mary Sambor Elsie Mueller
Field Trips:	Gerry Eunson
Flower Show:	Gayla McCluskey
Garden Contest	June Wojtowicz
Hortline:	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 Fordes Stephen Hinds Butterfly: Kathy Hornberger
	Terrace: Carl Pfeiffer Marion Nelson
	Shade: Maru Hollen Carolyn DiPaulo Julia King
Taylor Arboretum:	Ed Lyons

MGs AT WORK



**"Summer breeze, makes me feel fine
Blowin' through the jasmine in my mind.**

**Sweet days of summer
the jasmine's in bloom
July is dressed up and playing her tune"**

Seals & Crofts—1971



2006 SECOND SATURDAYS
at SMEDLEY—10:00 TO NOON

**August 12—Stepping Stones—Bring own
materials for tiles—\$15**

September 9—Mums & Asters—\$7

October 14—Pumpkin carving—\$10

November 11—Ikebana—\$7

**December 9—Wreath Making—includes
materials—\$15**