



Master Gardener

Vol. 11 No. 8, September, 2006

News for Delaware County Master Gardeners



Calendar



Saturday, September 16th

Fall Fest at Smedley -
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Tuesday, September 19th

7:00 pm -MG Meeting, Smedley

Saturday, September 30th

10:00 am—Composting, Merry Place

Tuesday, October 3rd

7:00 pm -MG Board Meeting, Smedley

Tuesday, October 17th

6:30 pm—MG Meeting, Smedley
Soup 'n Swap

Sunday, December 3rd

1—4:00 pm—Holiday Party
Ridley Creek State Park

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From the Coordinator: *Linda Barry*

I hope that you've had a wonderful summer, and are looking forward to fall gardening.

Our Fall Fest on Saturday will be a wonderful kick-off to the season. We have hundreds of plants donated for the Plant Sale, and many treasures available at the Frugal Gardener table. Our presenters are prepared for the educational sessions, and we have great demonstrations going on during the session breaks, as well as tours of the Teaching Gardens. Warren Goll will have mums to give as door prizes, and Louise Hartley and Faith Price will be contributing their culinary masterpieces to taste, featuring fall fruits and vegetables. The 4-H program will have a flower pot-painting program for youngsters who attend. Do join us for the day, or for a part of the day. Set up will begin at 7 am for those who would like to volunteer to help.

Tracey Carson, Class of 2005, has donated a color printer and scanner to the Hortline. The Hortline Committee will have a bake sale table at the Fall Fest to earn some funds for ink cartridges, and other supplies that they may need. Thanks also to Tracey for applying for and receiving two airline ticket vouchers from US Airways' "Flights for 50" program. This program recognizes employees who volunteer for non-profit organizations with donations of travel. We will use these tickets as a fund-raiser. More information will be available next month.

September 30 is the deadline for us to report volunteer hours and contacts for this fiscal year. We have thousands of hours of service, but some of you have not yet entered your hours. Please consult your calendars and date books, add your time served and either enter it into the website, or send the tally sheets to the office. Barbara Meahl has been entering all of the hours sent to the of-

fice.

The Budget Committee will be working on the 2007 budget beginning in October. All committee chairs and co-chairs should submit a budget request for next year by October 3, the next MG Board meeting. Include as many specifics as you can. If you have questions concerning this process, please contact Liana Bauerle or me.

Don't forget to put our Holiday Party on your calendar. We have invited Chester County Master Gardeners again this year, and anticipate a great event. At this time we will award certificates for members with 500, 1000, and 1500 volunteer hours, as well as honor Perennial Master Gardeners from the class of 1996 with 10 year pins, and Master Gardeners from the class of 1991 with 15 year pins.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support. Hope to see you at the Fall Fest and the September meeting.

Joseph E. Myers

We were saddened to learn of the death of Joe Myers, a Master Gardener from the first class in Delaware County in 1989. Joe was the perennial Master Gardener, the first President of our association, he was active until 2002. Joe had a long list of volunteer activities that included: Hortline, Presbyterian Children's Village, Community Gardens in Chester, presented composting and pruning workshops, created a garden with Elwyn residents, participated in a Hort Therapy program at the Juvenile Detention Center in Chester County, helped to build raised beds and other gardening structures for the Cooperative Extension office when it was located in Rose Tree Park and also for the community gardens, helped to build a greenhouse at Pulaski School in Chester, set up displays for the Flower Show and organized Arbor Day events with area scouts.

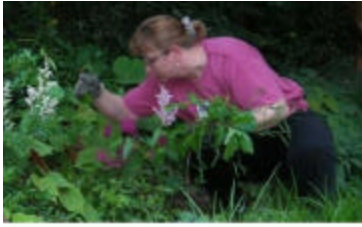
Joe demonstrated all the wonderful qualities that most gardeners possess – a love of nature and his fellow man. In his memory, we will donate to the Media Presbyterian Church Building Fund, his family request, and also to purchase a memorial bench that will be placed in Smedley Park to honor Joe and our other deceased MGs.

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.



FROM MG PRESIDENT . . .

Alyce R. Zellers

The love of *Bombus hortorum*

September is usually the time when gardeners lament the loss of summer and all the planting associated with this. I lament the loss of all the insects; one in particular is the bumble bee. As kids, my sister and I would pinch the fox glove flowers shut when they were in there but then always let them back out. They are the most placid of all the bees and if you plant Echinops or Echinacea (two favorite bee flowers) you can pet their “fur” when they are harvesting nectar. They usually raise a back leg in slight protest but continue about their business. I have never been bitten by one, just hornets, yellow jackets and honeybees. Here are a few facts about Miss Bumble Bee.

There are fifty species in North America and they have few predators other than skunks who are willing to put up with the sting. They are gentle and slow moving due to being rather round and furry. (not at aerodynamic as wasps and yellow jackets) There is a large Queen, female worker bees and a tiny male/drone. Just the Queen and workers have a stinger but not the male. They live in small nests and never swarm and they produce only enough honey to feed their young

Bumble bees’ hairy coats help them stay warm but in addition to that they are able to control their body temperature by detaching the muscles used to move their wings to rapidly produce body heat. This is why you sometimes find a motionless bumble bee on the ground or on a flower. It is not dying; just temporarily unable to fly due to it is raising its body temperature with its wing muscles. Once temperatures drop near zero, the queen goes into hibernation and the workers and drones die off. In the warm days of spring the Queen comes out of hibernation collecting nectar from early spring flowers. She again starts another colony in a space usually no bigger than half a grapefruit.

Become a Tree Tender

A free nine-hour training course on tree biology, identification, planting, proper care and community work will be offered Tuesday evenings Oct. 3, 10 and 17 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Cabrini College, 610 King of Prussia Road, Radnor. It is designed by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to increase the region’s tree cover.

The course was developed by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and Penn State Cooperative Extension. The course is free but registration is required.

For information, contact Julianne Schieffer, 610-489-4315 or jxs51@psu.edu or Mindy Maslin, 215-988-8844 or mmaslin@pennhort.org

Important Facts To Know About Bumble Bees.

- Because they live in small nests bumble bees never swarm - so you can encourage a nest or two in the garden without fear of this happening.
- Bumble bees do not produce enough honey for commercial use, just a few grams at a time to feed their young
- Not all bumble bees have a sting. Drones (smaller male bees that hatch in mid summer) have no sting at all.
- A bumble bees biggest enemy by far is a man armed with a pesticide spray. Like every other form of wildlife they are under serious threat from the chemicals we pour on the land.
- Bumble bees are much less aggressive than honey bees. Generally they will not attack a human at all, unless their life is under threat. Don’t wave your arms wildly in their presence, stand quietly and once they smell you are not a flower with pollen they will move gently away.
- Bumble bees do not lose their sting and die if they use it, as a honey bee will.
- Encourage the bumble bee in your garden or farm and she will repay your kindness by pollinating your flowers, fruit and vegetables and giving you an excellent set on your blossom

Every Autumn as the first frosts begin the mated young queens seek out a place to hibernate in safety. If you come across a live but sleepy bee in a pile of leaves in Winter don’t damage it. Its not dying, just in a deep cold sleep like a hedgehog. Put it back where you found it and cover it gently against the cold.

In the first warm days of Spring you may see the large queens flying busily about the early bulbs and flowers. These large slow bees are searching for nectar and pollen to turn into honey and food for their newly hatching brood. So the organic gardener plants lots of pollen producing flowers and leaves an unmown patch of early dandelions in the wild garden or hedgerow to feed the young queens

Come the first sharp drop in temperature and frosts the old queen, her workers and the independent drones will die. Only the newly mated queens will survive in hibernation to begin the cycle again the following Spring.

Their large size and heat-conserving hairy coats also help them stay warm. These features enable them to live in northern latitudes and alpine altitudes. Bumble bees are sensitive to habitat disturbance. In England, several species are thought to have become extinct in past decades due to land clearing and agricultural practices.

So before frost and cold weather set in, please take some time to admire the bumble bee as well as your late summer bloomers. If it were not for *Bombus hortorum*’s industrious pollination, those flowers might not set seed or fruit for next year. Oh, and one last fact on the bumble bee.

When do bees fly with their legs crossed??When they can’t find the BP station. Couldn’t resist.

Alyce R. Zellers (four months to being ex-president)



SEPTEMBER TO DO GARDENING TIPS

BY *Joe Daniels*

Seasonal:

1. Soil samples should be collected now for testing/\$9.00 at the Extension Office.
2. Enrich garden beds with compost or peat moss. Compost both fallen leaves and grass clippings as well as kitchen scraps. Learn how to compost and have the ultimate recycling.
3. Fall is harvest time, including harvest of choice seed from favorite and top-performing non-hybrid wildflowers, garden flowers, herbs and vegetables.
4. Many large garden spiders will be seen at this time. Most are beneficial and not poisonous. To reduce spiders in the home for winter, seal up cracks and spaces at the foundation and remove debris nearby.

- Houseplants:**
1. Clean up plants and prepare to bring them back indoors, before the night temperatures fall below 55 F for the winter. Remove dead leaves and stems, as well as any soil on the outside of the pot. Check for insects prior to bring plants back in.
 2. Be sure to wash windows this fall so that houseplants placed nearby can have maximum sunlight over winter.
 3. Some herbs such as parsley or sage, can be dug up, potted, and used as houseplants.
 4. To rebloom Christmas cactus for Christmas, stop weekly feedings in September. In October and November, provide darkness for 15 hours a night in a cool place (50-60 F). Water plants about twice a month.

Bulbs:

1. Early September is the time to plant irises. Add organic matter and fertilizer to the soil prior to planting. Remove dead leaves and trim fans to about 4 inches tall. Plant near the surface (top of rhizomes just visible), about 12-18 inches apart. Water often for a few weeks.
2. When the weather cools, begin planting spring-flowering bulbs (crocus, daffodils, tulips, etc.). If this September is still warm, wait until October. Discard any bulbs that are rotting or infested.
3. As a general rule, plant at a depth of 2 1/2 times the bulb's width.
4. Dig up any tender bulbs (summer flowering, e.g., gladioli, dahlias, tuberous begonias) and store them in a dark, well-ventilated area. This is best done before the temperature drops below 50 F or no later than when a slight frost has been observed on the leaves.

Lawns:

1. Continue to mow the lawn until growth ceases for the year. As the season cools, some grasses (Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue, and perennial ryegrass) will actually grow faster and more frequent mowing will be needed. If your lawn has already gone dormant due to drought, discontinue mowing. Unless you have a newly planted lawn, your lawn will need less water in the fall.
2. Fertilize your lawn in mid to late September to give it an early start for next spring.

3. Fall is an ideal time to establish a new lawn of the cool season grasses. Seed and water thoroughly, but infrequently (after grass has germinated) to encourage deep roots.
4. This is also the best time to reseed bare spots in the lawn.
5. Keep weeds from forming seeds, remove seedheads promptly. Control winter annual or perennial weeds in the lawn by applying an appropriate herbicide if weeds are extensive.

Perennials, Biennials, & Annuals

1. Start perennials from seed this month. Allow seeds of delphinium and hollyhock to self-sow.
2. Collect wildflower seed from native plants in your garden.
3. Many perennials do best planted in the fall.
4. Divide and plant daylilies, iris, peonies, and phlox. Eliminate weak or diseased plants.
5. Harvest cut flowers for drying- baby's breath, celosia, statice, and strawflower. Hang plants upside down in a dry and well-ventilated area.
6. Early fall planting of ferns will provide the best results. Plant them between or under shrubs, trees, and in other moist, shady areas. Add several inches of leaf mold or peat to the soil prior to planting for best results.

Trees & Shrubs:

1. Prior to leaves dropping, prune out all dead wood.
2. For an energy efficient landscape: place evergreens on the north and northwest sides to block winter winds. To block early morning sun, plant deciduous trees on the east, to block late afternoon sun, plant on the west. Do not plant on the south side: trees here would block cooling summer breezes.
3. When the night temperatures are in the forties and days are no longer warm, then it is time to transplant trees and shrubs. Do not add fertilizer to the planting hole. It will stimulate late growth that could be damaged in winter.
4. If you are moving plants from one area of your garden to another, be certain that they are well-watered for at least several weeks prior to moving. Plants that are drought stressed do not transplant well.
5. Now is a good time to move needle-leaved evergreens if they need to be moved to another area. Be sure to have a large enough rootball on each plant to sustain it.
6. Begin to decrease supplemental watering this month to allow woody plants time to prepare for winter. If it is a dry fall, you will need to water monthly through November.

Roses:

1. Do not deadhead or fertilize roses after September 1.
2. Prune out only diseased or damaged canes. Other pruning should be done in the spring. Fall pruning increases the chance of winter drying and damage.
3. Order your roses for fall planting.

“State News”

Over the past few months I have had the opportunity to meet many Master Gardeners and Staff across the Commonwealth. I have enjoyed getting to know you and learning about the programs you support. I am always impressed by your commitment to our program and your desire to see it grow. That is also my desire. I have approached this in two ways, helping the staff and faculty at the University level understand the scope of the Master Gardner Program across the Commonwealth and provide support and guidance to your Master Gardener Coordinators.

Understanding the scope of the Master Gardener Program has been a challenge. We have not had a state wide report in going on 3 years therefore I am not able to provide concrete information on the Master Gardener Program when asked. I have developed a team report that will help us to understand the scope of the program and I am appealing to you for your help. Yes I am talking about the dreaded Activities Report your Coordinators ask you to submit. If they do not have accurate information on your activities, numbers of hours you volunteer, and contacts you have made we do not have accurate information to use as ammunition for support. Please keep this in mind when your Coordinators start encouraging you to submit your volunteer hours!

It is also my opinion that we do not share our accomplishments with each other like we should. Congratulations to Berks County for receiving the Search for Excellence, Innovative Project Award for the “Charles Evens Cemetery Tree Identification Project” at the Northeastern Regional Master Gardener Conference. What began as a request from a cemetery to identify the trees on their property grew into a three prong educational program. First Master Gardeners were able to learn and sharpen their tree identification skills by identifying the trees, second a tree walk brochure was developed and made available for visitors and third educational training sessions were held for area teachers, scout masters, and home schoolers on tree identification methods and utilization of the tree walk. This is a great example of Master Gardeners seeing the potential in a simple request and developing a far reaching educational program. Thank you for your vision and commitment to the Master Gardener Program.

Enjoy the summer gardening season!

Ginger Pyor

State Master Gardener Coordinator

If you need hours or would just like to come and help out with the seniors, give Joe Daniels a call/ 610-485-2404. (added helpers always needed).

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

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
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 Fordes
Stephen Hinds

Butterfly: Kathy Hornberger

Terrace: Carl Pfeiffer
Marion Nelson

Shade: Maru Hollen
Carolyn DiPaulo
Julia King

Taylor Arboretum: Ed Lyons

Darlene Delany

IMPORTANT MASTER GARDENER NOTICE

SEPT 16 FALL FEST PLANT SALE

The Fall Fest plant sale is an important event for us because it raises money to fund our MG program. I hope everyone is busy potting up plants! It would be good to pot them a week or two in advance so they have a chance to settle in and look happy. Plant categories this year are: natives, trees, shrubs, cacti, shade perennials, sun perennials, houseplants, & bulbs. I would be happy to label plants if I know their names. Please keep these points in mind:

- healthy potted plants
- intact pots
- label--including flower color (PLEASE PRINT!) **OR** list of plant names & flower color (I will label)

I will be unable to accept plants on the day of the Fest. Please bring your plants to the Environmental Center on Wednesday 13, Thursday 14 or Friday 15. If you can't make any of these days, please contact me.

I'll definitely need help setting up plants on Saturday morning. Please contact me if you'd like to help. Thanks!

Questions? Call Marion or email _____

2006 SECOND SATURDAYS
at SMEDLEY—10:00 TO NOON

October 14—Pumpkin carving—\$10

November 11—Ikebana—\$7

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

FALL FEST FRUGAL GARDENER SALE

Do you have any magazines, pots, books, containers, garden art, tools or other gardening items that you would like to donate to the Frugal Gardener sale table for the Fall Festival? If so, you can drop them off at any time to Linda Barry between the hours of 8:30 to 4:30 Monday - Friday. If that is not convenient for you please call Lisa Augustine and she will make arrangements to pick the items up.

Please donate clean items in good condition. Thank you for your support!

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

ODD 'N ENDS

ALL CHAIRS! Rewrites Due By Oct. 15

If you chair any MG committee, it's that time of year again. Time to correct (or not) the entry for your Volunteer Opportunity handout. Check over your handout from 2005. Please correct any wrong information (email addresses, locations at work, chair change, etc.) and if the nature of the work has changed (expanded or perhaps been cancelled), please indicate that also.

If you chair a new committee that is not in the Volunteer Opportunities handout, please give me a short description of your committee's work and days/time, if applicable. Please send these to me by October 15th. If I do not get any response by that date, I'll assume your entry is still fine as it is.

Please email your revisions to me, Marty Roelandt _____ . Please put MASTER GARDENER in the subject heading line. Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks!

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

- September 30.....Ridley Twp Library
10AM....Scarecrow making
- September 30.....Merry Place....
10AM.....Composting
- October 7....Rachel Kolb Library/Glen Mills
11AM...Scarecrow making
- October 12.....Ridley Twp.Library.....
7PM.....Composting
- October 14.....Smedley Park.....
10AM.....Scarecrow making
- October 19.....Marcus Hook Library....
6PM.....Scarecrow making

If anyone needs some hours or just wants to help out give me a call...Joe Danielsall applications accepted.

**Cookbook Committee—
Thursday Sept 21st—7:00 pm at
Smedley. Call Chantal to RSVP -**

Green Thumb Dinners—

Come out and join the the fun -

Wednesday, September 27th—6:45 pm
HENNESSY'S RESTAURANT
3050 Pennell Road, Aston - 610-4904-6611

Thursday, October 19—6:45 pm
SABAITHAI RESTAURANT
3707 West Chester Pike (Routes 252 & 3)
Newtown Square

Call Janae so she can reserve
the right size table.— bon appetit
