



Master Gardener

Vol. 10 No. 3, June, 2005

News for Delaware County Master Gardeners



Calendar

No MG Board Meeting in August

Second Saturday, June 11th

Perennials—
Smedley Park 10 AM to Noon

Saturday, September 24th

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

Tuesday, June 21st MG Meeting

Garden Clean Up meeting. We will weed, plant,
and mulch the Teaching Gardens in

Smedley Park—

Please bring your
wheelbarrow, bucket, rake and/or shovel for
dispersing the mulch in the gardens
7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 5th—MG Board Meeting

Smedley Park—7:00 pm

Tuesday, July 19th - MG meeting

Tyler Arboretum.....Butterfly Gardening



Hope you didn't miss last month's MG meeting !
Here we are at the Great Plant Swap and Picnic. Although
the weather precipitated wearing jackets, the hamburgers,
hot dogs and other picnic fare were summer-like and very,
very tasty.

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From the Coordinator: *Linda Barry*

Our Teaching Garden committees have been working on spring clean-ups and are busy planting and mulching. The June meeting will be devoted to the gardens and completing the work begun by the committees. If you haven't become involved with one of these Teaching Gardens, but would like to be, contact one of the co-chairs. Marion Nelson and Carl Pfeiffer are co-chairing the Terrace Garden, Alyce Zellers and Kathy Hornberger co-chair the Bird and Butterfly Garden, Carolyn DiPaulo and Maru Hollen co-chair the Shade Garden, and Delilah Foldes and Stephen Hinds co-chair the Hillside Garden. We will be featuring our Teaching Gardens at the Fall Fest on September 24th.

The Plant and Seed Pick-Up on May 21st was very successful. More than 50 gardeners attended and took home dozens of vegetable plants, seeds, and flowers. Thanks to the volunteers who planted and nurtured the seeds, toted the flats to the Intergenerational Garden and also helped the day of the pick-up.

Interviews and pre-testing for the Class of 2005 will be held on June 25th and 26th. Marty Roelandt and the Recruiting Committee will be scheduling applicants. If you would like to assist this committee on those days, please contact Marty. We have had a very enthusiastic response to the press releases.

Thanks for all of your volunteer efforts in so many areas. Second quarter hours should be sub-

mitted this month. If you can submit them electronically, that's great, but if not, please send or bring your volunteer log to the office.

And don't forget, this is the time of the year to stop and smell the roses!



Delilah Foldes at the Plant and Seed Pick Up at the Intergenerational Garden in Chester.

Penn State Consumer Horticulture Website

Visit Penn State's consumer horticulture website at <http://consumerhorticulture.psu.edu>. There is access to pest and disease fact sheets, garden planning, publications and links to Penn State and industry websites.

MG OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

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Vice President: Kathy Hornberger
Treasurer: Ken Paulsell
Secretary: Tara Clarke
Hours Keeper: Chantal Wildman
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Newsletter : Barbara Smith
Mentoring : Marty Roelandt
Field Trips: Gerry Eunson
Social Events: Jennifer Dean
Arbor Day : Mary Sambor
Elsie Mueller
Garden Select : Robin Queenan
Gail Brewer
Flower Show: Gayla McCluskey
Hort Therapy: Delilah Fordes
Hortline: Liana Bauerle
Home Gardener's School:
Diana Breen
Ken Paulsell
Speakers Bureau: Joe Daniels
MG Recruitment: Marty Roelandt

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FROM MG PRESIDENT . . . Alyce R. Zellers

I always enjoy books with gardening tips, old wisdom, and other what-nots so I am including a few from 1,000 Old Time Garden Tips that was published by Organic Gardening. Although the dates are not recent, the wisdom is still applicable.

Enjoy your mistakes! For my part I like to go my own wild way in my garden, and do things wrong and find out my mistakes by myself. Nature will furnish all the instruction any one can ask for. Rose Fay Thomas 1904

In designing the planting it is a good idea to study nature. Walk along the roadside or in the fields and observe how masses are formed by the intermingling of the various trees and shrubs. These have character and grouping that is often artistically perfect. Herbert J Kellaway 1915

The basic law of how-to. Finish one job before you begin another. This advice is trite, but it is of great importance; and there are few cases where it cannot be attended to. J.C. Loudon *Encyclopedia of Gardening* 1850

Each year's experience shows that the only trustworthy plant label is none at all. That is, every tree, vine, or permanent plant should be so recorded by its position, that though labels may be lost, though the memory

may fail, and thought our place may come into the hands of another, the names of each tree or plant should be so recorded that one can readily refer to it himself and another will have no difficulty.

American Agriculturist 1885

Books as brain fertilizer? "Manuring with brains" like most proverbs, conveys an important truth. We look upon books as quite as essential implements as spades, rakes, or other garden tools. Winter is the time for study and reading. *American Agriculture* 1878

There ought to be a Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Plants. Watering without mulching afterward is not even half a kindness, for the soil is sure to bake unless you stir it the morning after.

The Garden Magazine 1908

One can with success plant anything at any time, if he takes trouble enough. J. Horace McFarland, *My Growing Garden* 1915

Blue flowers planted in the rear of the garden increase its apparent size while white, bright yellow and scarlet, by bringing the background nearer, decrease it. Monkshood and the tall blue larkspur are

excellent for rear beds.

Ida Bennett *The Flower Garden* 1904

Great care should be taken to have a liberal sprinkling of white, for the white in the flower kingdom is what the diamond is in the mineral world, necessary as a setting for all other colors, as well as for its own intrinsic worth.

The Garden, You, and I 1910

****Test this out by placing blue flowers in a vase and then adding some white ones. Bouquets are a good way to pretest color schemes for planting.

The simplest and best way to select the perennials for a garden is this. Set down the twelve months in their order and write down two names for each month- one for the first half and one for the second. I don't mean that you should restrict yourself to twenty-four kinds of flowers altogether, but I do mean that is more than enough for massing and one's first concern should be for the big masses—not for variety. The reason for this is that the most beautiful gardens are those in which one kind of flower dominates the whole garden at a time, and then gives way to another big mass, and so on; while the weak, petty, restless gardens are the ones that have too many different kinds and not enough of any one.

Whilhelm Miller *The Garden Magazine* 1908

LEAVING THE LEAVES

Because we have adopted practices of yard maintenance, autumn has become the season when real damage to the soil occurs. Each year homeowners, and lawn-services they employ, rake up the leaves from their gardens, remove every seed stalk and sweep up each bit of loose organic material and cart it away.



Leaving the leaves to decay creates new soil, encourages the activity of composting worms, insects and microorganisms, protects topsoil from erosion, protects plant roots in extreme weather, holds moisture in the soil,

and reduces rain run-off. (To name only a few advantages.) Yet, in the name of neatness, we pay to throw this resource away. In the process we create noise and air pollution and increase municipal waste removal costs. Recent advances have municipalities separating leaves from trash, trucking them to a disposal site and allowing homeowners to truck them back home for compost. Recycling at work!

Spring and summer are not overlooked by these neatness enthusiasts. Grass is mowed too short, clippings are bagged and removed, and shrubs are embarrassed by their strange new shapes. Any leaves that escaped the fall clean-up are ferreted out of their hiding places and meticulously bagged.

Having removed all of the decaying organic matter, homeowners reach for chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides to replace the natural processes which would have kept the plants healthy. In less technological times, limited energy ensured a degree of neglect to the benefit of the natural environment. Now there are few limits to our garden machines. The once peaceful yard, that provided beauty and recreation is now noisy, poisoned, and chore-dominated.

Without interference from us, nature has its own organizing and cleaning methods – using wind and rain and organic materials. May we learn and help others to learn to let the earth do its work in peace.

HELP WANTED

4-H Indoor Gardening Position Available

A part-time position is available as a 4-H program assistant for indoor gardening, beginning this summer. The job involves selecting and creating hands-on gardening activities for elementary and middle school students to use in the classroom. Other responsibilities include teacher training and ordering all materials.

We have a fall and a spring 4-H indoor gardening program, reaching around 1600 students throughout Delaware County. Work hours are flexible. Applicants must have a car and valid driver's license and be organized and self-motivated. Computer word processing skills a plus. If you think this is something you'd enjoy doing, please contact Helaine Brown, 4-H Educator, at 610-690-2655.



SECOND SATURDAYS FOR 2005...

July 9th—Pressed Flowers
August 13th—Planting & Care of Bulbs
September 10th—Garden Design
October 8th—Scarecrow Making,
Pumpkin Painting
November 12th—Holiday Ornaments
December 10th—Wreath Making

All programs are held at Smedley Park and run from 10AM to Noon. Cost is \$5 per person, except for the July, October, November and December workshops which are \$10 to cover materials for a take-home project.



JUNE TO DO GARDENING TIPS

BY *Joe Daniels*

Houseplants:

1. Provide more frequent waterings and fertilizations as the plants add summer growth.
2. Repot plants if needed, in pots one inch larger than their current pots. Some plants, such as spider plants and amaryllis prefer to stay underpotted.
3. This is an excellent time to take cuttings of house and garden plants to propagate them for even more plants for your garden or for friends (remember the Fall Fest).

Bulbs

1. Remove flowers after they fade.
2. After the tops have died down from your spring bulbs, the can be dug, divided and replanted. Do not remove the leaves until they have turned yellow and brown.

Compost

1. Keep the compost pile turned.
2. Add moisture as needed: keep as moist as a wrung out sponge.
3. Continue adding garden waste from weed seedlings, kitchen trimmings, and garden clean-up.

Vegetable Gardens

1. Heat tolerant vegetables of beans, chard, and cucumber can continue to be sown.
2. Watch out for squash bugs on squash they will appear on the underside of the leaves.
3. Complete setting out the initial plants of tomatoes and other warm season transplants - egg-plants, pepper, cantaloupe and watermelon.
4. Harvest any remaining cool-weather crops, including lettuce, radishes, carrots, scallions, asparagus.
5. Fertilize vegetables (transplants moved outside) 6-8 weeks after they were sown.
6. Be aware of flea beetles eating small holes in flower and vegetables seedlings.

Small fruits

1. Pick strawberries early in the day. Do not wash the berries until immediately before using them. Excessive rainfall will dilute the flavor of strawberries and make them more susceptible to plant diseases.
2. Renovate strawberry (June -bearing) beds after they have finished production for the year. Fertilize and water to promote new growth for next year's crop.
3. Pinch back growing tips on black and purple raspberries and blackberries.

Herbs

1. Basil and dill make excellent warm weather additions to a summer garden.
2. Pinch herbs to make plants bushier and stimulate more growth.

Lawns

1. Leave nitrogen-rich clippings on the lawn.
2. Maintain your mower by sharpening the blade at least monthly, or before the grass starts looking torn when cut, and check the engine oil.
3. Spot treat for broadleaf weed problems such as dandelions or ground-ivy.

Perennials and annuals

1. Continue pinching chrysanthemums to make them full throughout June. Stop pinching around the 4th of July.
2. Deadhead peonies after they flower.
3. Finish plantings of annuals.
4. Watch out for spider mites on ornamental plants indoors and out.

Trees and Shrubs

1. Replace disintegrated mulch; mulch should be spread beginning 3-4" away from the base of the plant and extend at least to the drip line (right below the end of the longest branch: apply 3-4" deep.
2. Prune spring flowering trees and shrubs.
3. Fertilize summer flowering trees and shrubs.
4. Newly planted trees and shrubs should be watered deeply every 7-10 days when there is less than an inch of rain in that period.

Roses

1. Start deadheading roses to encourage rebloom and improve plant health.
2. Fertilize with a granular balanced fertilizer.
3. If applying pesticides, do so in the coolest part of the day to avoid burning plant tissues. Fungicide can be applied to prevent and control black spot on roses.

Have a Great month of gardening.....and see you on June 21st.....ready to work.

FALL FEST PLANTS



Is your garden busting out of its seams? Too many plants?? Please pot up some for the **Fall Fest Plant Sale** to benefit Master Gardeners. We will be offering plants at very reasonable prices at our first

on-site plant sale. If you would like to bring them to the June or July meetings, please make sure it is tagged as to what it is e.g.: Heuchera and if you know the cultivar that would be great and we will keep it until the sale.

Burying potted plants usually works out too so they will be established by September. Thank you in advance!!
Fall Fest Plant Sale Committee.

GREEN THUMB DINNERS

The Green Thumb Dinner group is scheduled next for La Locanda Restaurant located at 4989 West Chester Pike in Edgemont on June 23rd. Their phone number is 610-353-7033.

We always meet at 6:45 pm and all Master Gardeners are encouraged to join us.

Let me know if you would like to join us, so I can reserve the correct size table.

RSVP to Janae Alberts

Starbucks' "Grounds for Gardeners" Program*

Starbucks aspires to be known not only for the quality of its coffee, but as a socially responsible company, both in the communities where it has retail locations and the countries where our coffees are grown.

To help minimize Starbucks environmental footprint, the company is committed to reducing waste generated in our stores. Starbucks partners have discovered that many of its customers are also gardeners. This discovery led to the Grounds for Your Garden program.

Coffee grounds, mixed with other materials, are an excellent source of nutrition for soil. Giving away used coffee grounds not only makes customers happy, but it reduces garbage in the landfills and contributes to a healthier environment.

Coffee grounds can be applied along with other materials as a side dressing for vegetables, roses and other plants. Coffee grounds are high in nitrogen, but are also acidic. Adding brown material such as leaves and dried grass to the grounds will help keep a balanced soil pH.

Coffee grounds act as a green material with a carbon-nitrogen (C-N) ratio of 20-1. They make an excellent addition to compost. Combined with browns such as leaves and straw, coffee grounds generate heat and will speed up the compost process. To counter the acidity of the grounds, consider adding a teaspoon of lime or wood ash for every 5 pounds of coffee grounds.

Worms fed with coffee grounds combined with other materials will flourish.

*Coffee grounds are free to gardeners. It is recommended that one takes his own container when stopping to pick up the grounds.

Grounds analysis:

Primary Nutrients

Nitrogen 1.45%

Phosphorus ND ug/g

Potassium 1204 ug/g

Secondary Nutrients

Calcium 389 ug/g

Magnesium 448 ug/g

Sulfur high ug/g