



Master Gardener

Vol. 10 No. 9, September, 2005

News for Delaware County Master Gardeners



Calendar

Saturday, September 24th



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

Thursday, September 15, 5-8 pm University of Delaware Botanic Gardens.

Start with a pest walk, tour tender perennials that were brought from the JC Raulston Arboretum in North Carolina, enjoy a program on increasing diversity in suburban landscapes. Enjoy a delicious sub dinner, and finish the evening with John Frett's famous "plant give-away." John will provide a number of plants for you to take back to the garden and evaluate.

The cost is \$10/person. Call Dot Milsom

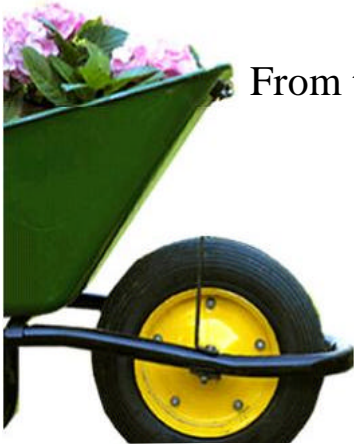
Tuesday, October 4th **MG Board Meeting—** **Smedley Park 7:00 pm**

Second Saturday—October 8th **Scarecrow Making—10:00 AM**

Tuesday, September 20th **MG Meeting—Smedley Park** *6:00 pm—Come early to* *“gussy up” the gardens before the* *Fall Fest*

Tuesday, October 18th **MG Meeting—** **Smedley Park 7:00 pm**

THIS PUBLICATION IS AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE MEDIA. The Pennsylvania State University is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admissions, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance or qualifications as determined by University policy, or by state or federal authorities. The Pennsylvania State University does not discriminate against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, native origin, race, religious creed, sexual orientation or veteran status. Direct all inquiries regarding this non discrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Director, The Pennsylvania State University, 201 Willard Building, University Park, PA 16802-2891; tel (814) 865-4700/vm (814) 863-1550/TTY.



From the Coordinator: *Linda Barry*

We welcome the Master Gardener Class of 2005 and are very happy to have them join us in our volunteer efforts. The class members will begin receiving the newsletter with this edition. Many thanks to Lisa

Augustine and Carolyn DiPaulo, Master Mentor Co-chairs, for organizing the mentors and class refreshments for this training.

Master Gardeners are welcome to attend any class. (The July newsletter listed the classes and dates.)

Budget requests from Committee chairs are due by October 4th. You may submit your requests to me or to Ken Paulsell, Treasurer. The budget will be approved at the November Board meeting.

The yearly report is due in State College on October 1. If you have not entered your volunteer hours –or sent them to the office– please do so in time for us to compile the information. Remember to report your Advanced Training hours, also. Included in this mailing is an hours reporting sheet for the third quarter.

Thanks to Chantal Wildman for organizing the donations for Operation Brotherly Love. These items were sent to the refugees from Katrina who are being housed in Philadelphia.

We had a great time judging area gardens for our Garden Contest. There were 16 entries, and we saw some wonderful gardens, and some that were not so great, but still proudly displayed. The First Place prizes will be awarded at the Fall Fest.

Speaking of Fall Fest, we have been working very hard to plan our first fall gardening symposium.

If you can't attend for the whole day, come out and visit the plant sale, enjoy the Teaching Gardens, and socialize with the MGs who will be volunteering.

Tree Vitalize
Free Ridley Creek State Park
Oct. 11, 18, 26
6-9 p.m.

Training includes: Tree biology, Urban Stresses on Trees, Tree ID, Basic Tree Pruning and Root Care, Tree Planting
610-489-4315 Julianne Schieffer or jxs51@psu.edu

Looking Ahead....

It seems early to be planning for the Home Gardener School 2006, but I have a request. When you dry your flowers and seed pods: yarrow, teasel, cattails, money plant, clematis seed heads, sea oats, hydrangea flowers, star flowers, etc. please save some for decorating at the Home Gardeners' School. Either make an arrangement or bring the dried items to the March MG general meeting for someone else to make an arrangement from them. Thank you.

Delilah Foldes

MG OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

President: Alyce Zellers
Vice President: Kathy Hornberger
Treasurer: Ken Paulsell
Secretary: Tara Clarke
Hours Keeper: Chantal Wildman
Coordinator: Linda Barry—610-690-7669
lrb16@psu.edu

Committee Chairs:

Newsletter : Barbara Smith

Mentoring : Lisa Augustine
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

NEWSLETTER STAFF:

Editor: Barbara Smith
Web Designer: Kathy Moyer
Committee: Cynthia Sabatini, Linda Barry, Joe Daniels, Carolyn DiPaulo, Barbara Meahl, Carl Pfeiffer, Arlene Pugh, Tina Coleman, Jane Baserga, Christine Gradel, Kathy Hornberger & Marion Nelson
Web site address: <http://delaware.extension.psu.edu/MG/>

Cooperative extension - Email: DelawareExt@psu.edu



FROM M G PRESIDENT . . . Alyce R. Zellers

I hope that everyone's summer was everything they wished for and if we could possibly add a wish for some rain that would complete the season.

One person's desire is sometimes another's excess, as in New Orleans, Mississippi, and Alabama. Take a moment and imagine your property, garden and house submerged under at least five feet of water for a minimum of a week. All your garden beds, annuals, perennials, shrubs that you got for a great deal, birdbaths, feeders, etc all under water. I picture this in my head and find it rather disturbing but even then I probably don't have any idea of what it is like. Having dealt with water in my basement is sufficiently distressing enough for me and I sincerely hope that none of us will have to experience this.

Having read about the destruction of the coastal marshlands that buffer New Orleans from flooding and storm surges, brings to mind how we alter nature to suit our purposes with often times a detrimental affect.

The Mississippi brought silt downstream to provide a buffer zone by creating marshes but through development it was being lost at a considerable rate. Now that this area has flooded the environmental impact of this seems rather shocking. Consider that the landfills, hazardous storage areas, industrial wastewater, sewage, gasoline, chemicals, unfortunately dead items, rotting food and all other undesirables in the water will have to be pumped out into the Gulf of Mexico without purifying

it. It would not be feasible to do this but still the thought of all that "stuff" being pumped into an ecosystem is disturbing. The oyster and shrimp fishing was already compromised. Like a stressed out garden that needs rain, I hope the Gulf can recover.

One other issue that I would like to ask you to consider regarding Katrina's affect is the fate of so many animals in that area. Yes, the Red Cross is handling a large-scale evacuation and relief effort for people but animals are also affected. The Humane Society has always helped pets that cannot evacuate with their owners and others that have been abandoned. They are currently conducting a search and rescue for pets that are stranded and trapped or their owners were forced to leave them behind because shelters would not accept them. The Zoo is struggling to feed 1,400 animals with little resources. Again think about it, you have lost your house, possessions, possibly family members and then you are forced to abandon your pet, which in some cases is their only friend. So after your donation to Red Cross, Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, etc. please consider a donation to the Humane Society, especially if you have animals yourself. FYI: **HSUS, Dept DRFHBM, 2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037** or go to HSUS.org for more information.

Thank you for allowing me to discuss this and forgo a

gardening "article" this month. You are all really caring people so I did not think you would mind.

Thanks, Alyce

The loss of coastal marshlands that buffer New Orleans from flooding and storm surges may have worsened the impact of Hurricane Katrina.

In the past, the region's wetlands have served as a natural buffer that slows hurricanes down as they come in from the Gulf of Mexico and helps protect New Orleans from storms. But all this has changed.

Experts say the construction of levies along the Mississippi river delta has hastened the decline of wetland vegetation along the coast by preventing these ecosystems from receiving the floodwater and mud that they need to survive. Joe Suhayda, a retired coastal engineer at Louisiana State University who has spent 30 years studying the Gulf

coast, says in an interview with American Public Radio, "So the hurricane can move closer to the city before it starts to decrease. So in effect, the city is moving closer to the Gulf as each year goes by."

But Dohnn Moret Williams and his dog Sebastian, Lola the bosom-smuggled lovebird, and the hundreds of other animals carried out of New Orleans are a reminder of how much people love their pets, the extraordinary measures they will take to protect them, and what a great comfort animals can provide in the face of trauma. Animals are victims of this disaster as well, and disaster relief personnel heading into Louisiana and Mississippi to rescue the animals left behind are not just helping animals. They're helping people, many of whom suddenly have nothing, to go on with their lives with a friend at their side.

Heuchera 'Lime Rickey' and Tiarella 'Neon Lights' can instantly illuminate darkened garden corners.

Since most flowering plants do best in full sun, green is necessarily the cornerstone color in every shade gardener's palette. On the upside, various shades of green can make for cool and restful spaces. However, a potential pitfall of working with a single, albeit lovely color is inadvertently creating darkened garden corners with yet even more green groundcovers -- especially when planting around anchoring trees and shrubs.

Variegated hosta and liriopé are fine for adding cream, yellow and white to the mix. But for those yearning to venture outside of the lines and bring a bit more flash and pizzazz to their shady groundcovers, there are plenty of dazzling options.

With its shocking lime-green foliage, *Heuchera 'Lime Rickey'* provides an instant splash of brilliant color. An outstanding groundcover for shade and partial sun, it blossoms in late spring and early summer. Like other *Heucheras*, this one grows in clumps that reach about 8" across. Its ruffled chartreuse foliage makes an excellent backdrop for its snow-white flowers that stand on stems reaching up to 18".

Another sure attention-grabber for shady spots is *Tiarella 'Neon Lights.'* Its large, fuzzy neon green leaves feature a black-purple pattern. *Tiarella* also grows in clumps, and this cultivar's magnificent foliage is topped off with spikes of white flowers that can reach 16" high.

Last but not least, *Hakonechloa macra 'All Gold'* is one of the few grasses that will thrive in shade. At maturity, the graceful arching leaves reach about 12 – 15". The foliage is a vibrant pure yellow. In the fall it turns shades of red and then an attractive tawny color. It colonizes easily, making it an effective groundcover in shade or part-sun.

All three of these unique dazzlers – plus many other groundcovers – can be purchased at the 2005 Scott Associates' Plant Sale Sept. 17 – 18. Any one of this trio is guaranteed to add a brilliant stroke of color to your shade garden.

Julia King is a Scott Arboretum volunteer and a Master Gardener. She lives in Ridley Park, Pa.

Need Volunteer Hours?

The Shade Garden is in desperate need of weeding. You can come out to weed the garden on your own schedule and at your own convenience. We hope to do a bit of garden maintenance at the next meeting on Sept. 20. It would be terrific if anyone can come out at 6:00 pm before the meeting to do a little work before it gets too dark.



We need volunteers that are familiar with the Shade Garden plants to be available to answer questions about the garden at the September 24th Fall Fest. This is our opportunity to show off the Shade Garden. Call Carolyn DiPaulo (610-544-3017) if you are able to help.

We need a few Master Mentors or other volunteers to prepare and set-up the snacks for the new class on Tuesday afternoons about 3:15 pm. Open dates are Sept. 20, Oct. 4 and 11. Call Carolyn DiPaulo for information.

FALL NATIVE PLANT SALE

On September 10th & 11th and also 17th & 18th, the Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve will have over 200 species of native wildflowers, vines, ferns, shrubs and trees on sale at its Visitor Center. The sale will run from 10am to 4pm each day. Plants will also be available for purchase during the week between the sale weekends (Sept 12–16th)

Saturday, October 1st—10 am to 1pm, Glenn Freeman, an expert mycologist, will talk about the morphology, life cycles and ecology of mushrooms. A walking tour after the discussion will take you around the grounds of Bowman's Hill to see the wide variety of mushrooms and other fungi that grow there. The cost of the program is \$8 for Preserve members and \$12 for non-members. Pre-registration is required .



SEPTEMBER TO DO GARDENING TIPS

BY *Joe Daniels*

Houseplants:

1. Clean up plants and prepare to bring them back indoors, before night temperatures fall below 55°. Remove dead leaves and stems, as well as any soil on the outside of the pot. Check for insects prior to bringing plants back in.
2. Be sure to wash windows this fall so that houseplants placed nearby can have maximum sunlight over winter.
3. They say to have your Christmas cactus rebloom for Christmas, stop weekly feedings in September. In October and November provide darkness for 15 hours a night in a cool place (50-60°). 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 high. 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. 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 bulbs 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° or no later than when a slight frost has been observed on the leaves.

Vegetable Gardens

1. Keep herbs producing new foliage by removing flowers and seedpods from basil, mint, parsley, sage and thyme.
2. Cold-hardy vegetables are seeded now; these include peas, lettuce, green onion sets, radishes and spinach.
3. Fall is a good time to plant many garlic varieties.
4. Harvest garlic and onions when the tops have dried up. Pull up the whole plant, top and all, let it dry, then braid garlic or onions together for winter storage and an attractive decoration. Onions with tick necks do not store well and should be used first.

Herbs

1. Start potting up some chives, parsley and other perennials for a kitchen winter garden.
2. Preserve herbs for winter use by freezing or drying them.

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. Unless you have a newly planted lawn, your lawn will require less water in the fall.
2. Fertilize your lawn in mid to late September to give it an early start for next spring.
3. This is also the best time to reseed bare spots..

Perennials and annuals

1. Start perennials from seed this month. Allow seeds of delphinium and hollyhock to self-sow.
2. Many perennials do best plants in the fall.
3. Divided and plant daylilies, iris, peonies and phlox. Eliminate weak or diseased plants.
4. 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 and Shrubs

1. Prior to leaves dropping, prune out all dead wood.
2. When night temps are in the 40s and days are no longer warm, 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,
3. 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.
4. Now is the time to move evergreens. Be sure to have a large enough rootball on each plant to sustain it.

Roses

1. Do not deadhead or fertilize roses after Sept 1st.
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.

2005 Garden Contest



Here's a few of the winners of the Garden Contest. Prizes this year include free registration to the Fall Fest and a Certificate that will be presented at 12:15 during the Fall Fest.

Congratulations



Here's some of the results:

Top left: First place Ornamental Garden of Linda and Bill Glancey in Broomall.

Lower Left: First Place in the Community Beautification Category at the Eastside Ministries in Chester.

Above: First Place in the Youth Garden at Main Street School in Upland.

Judge is June Wojtowicz .

SECOND SATURDAYS FOR 2005 . . .

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 \$10 per person for the October, November and December workshops that cover s materials for a take-home project.