



### GREEN TIMES

February 2009

Volume 8 Issue 5

**Master Gardener Meeting**  
**Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at 7pm**  
Totowa Business Center  
930 Riverview Drive, Suite 250  
Totowa, NJ

**Meet us for an early dinner at 5pm**  
Miranda's Café  
Route 23 North, Wayne NJ  
Allow 15 minutes to get to the meeting

### **"Passion of Peonies: -- The technique of planting and growing herbaceous and tree peonies." with Kathleen Gagan**

Kathleen Gagan is the owner of "Peonys Envy" in Bernardsville. This is Kathleen's third career. The first was a 20 year career in International Consulting. Then she was mom. With her kids all grown up, she has been a lady farmer for 12 years. "Peonys Envy" is a peonies farm, specializing in herbaceous and tree peonies. (peonysenvy@peonysenvy.com - 908-578-3032) The farm is a registered nursery and a display garden. It is open to the public May 1st through June 15th, throughout the peony bloom. Born in Madison Wisconsin, Kathleen has lived all over the world and now has settled down in The Garden State, putting down roots literally and figuratively.



#### **HORTICULTURAL THERAPY**

Please join us for an upcoming horticultural therapy event.

Where: Oak Ridge Rehabilitation Center in Wayne

When: March 14, 2009

For more information contact: Patricia Engrissei at 973-628-9126 or pengrissei@aol.com.

#### **EMAIL UPDATES**

If your name appears below, please send an email from your current email address to Janet Rekesius, Corresponding Secretary janrek@verizon.net so she can update her records:

Edwin Huresky: edhuresky@verizon.net  
John Paul Fannin: fanninjp@yahoo.com

Renata Gudat: al\_gudat@agilent.com  
Anna Freeman: earthann@att.net

## ELAINE'S CORNER



### To do in February

- ◆ Start some vegetable and flower seeds indoors.
- ◆ Prune fruit trees.
- ◆ Scout for tree problems like black knot on cherry and egg masses of gypsy moth.
- ◆ Let chilled bulbs warm up indoors for forcing.
- ◆ Keep the bird feeder filled. Watch out for bears!
- ◆ Late in the month, look for winter aconite, snowdrops, and primrose to begin blooming.
- ◆ Arm chair garden. I love those catalogs and magazines!

### New Lilies to consider

Two new Rutgers-developed lilies (*Lillium* species) are available on a first-come, first-served basis. 'Ramapo Red Passion' and 'Ramapo Wine Passion' are winter hardy and can bloom 2 or even 3 times in one year. They are now available through Jersey Flora, Inc. Get more details from the website — [www.jerseyflora.com](http://www.jerseyflora.com).

### 'Ramapo' and 'Moreton' tomato seed update

Both 'Ramapo' and 'Moreton' are F1 hybrid tomatoes and that means that the seed cannot be saved from the fruit to grow more fruit the following year. The seeds are sterile. However, the seeds from heirloom tomatoes can be saved and grown again. This means that if you want a tasty early season tomato like 'Moreton' or mid-season tomato like 'Ramapo', you must buy seed every year. The seeds are produced by crossing the parents who's identity is only known to Dr. Bernard Pollack, retired vegetable breeder from Cook College, Rutgers University. I will be ordering seed packets for resale through the Helpline. Negotiations for transplants are now going on for availability at the Master Gardener plant sale. Spring is just around the white, snow covered corner!

Elaine Barbour  
County Agricultural Agent

## HISTORY OF MORRIS CANAL PARK AND NATURE PRESERVE

One hundred and fifty years ago, the Morris Canal gently flowed through what is now Clifton. Through the years, road, highways, homes, and offices were built over what was once the best east-west bulk transportation system in New Jersey. In 1986, the area along Broad Street was identified as a site to preserve a portion of the canal and preserve a portion of Clifton's History. The Clifton Historical Commission, Jack Kuepfer, many volunteers, and city employees cleaned out what was previously a parkway dump area and designed what is now known as the Morris Canal Park and Nature Preserve. The park is a memorial to the past and a window to the future. The park is filled with plantings and gardens with at least three dozen varieties of trees and more than 80 memorial trees. There are several honey bee hives, 20 Mallards and 10 domestic ducks, and 50 Eagle Scout projects throughout the park. The park is used for picnics, cookouts, nature walks, artistic inspiration, quiet meditation, environmental education, gardening, weddings, and much more. For more information you can visit the Morris Canal Park Website at [www.cliftonnj.org/morriscanal](http://www.cliftonnj.org/morriscanal).

— Jack Keupfer

## UPCOMING SHOWS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- ◆ Philadelphia Flower Show - March 1-8 — For more information visit: <http://www.theflowershow.com>
- ◆ March 12-15, 2009 - Springfest, Sussex County Fairgrounds. Discount coupons at Passaic County RCE office. For more information visit: [www.springfestgardenshow.com](http://www.springfestgardenshow.com) or call 973-948-9448.
- ◆ March 21, 2009 - Garden Symposium at Stuart County Day School, sponsored by MGs of Mercer County. For more information visit: [www.mgofmc.org/symposium](http://www.mgofmc.org/symposium).

**PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW**

Start spring early this year!

The Volunteers of the Path of Hope invite you and your friends to join us on a bus ride to the Philadelphia Flower Show on March 7, 2009.

Tickets are \$55.00 per person. Price includes bus ride plus admission.

The bus will depart from Oak Farms, Route 23 South, Pompton Plains at 7:30am and returning approximately 5:00pm.

Space is limited! RSVP by February 24th. Any questions???

Contact David Obsuth at 201-434-6051 or 973-980-6051

**BOOKWORMS**

How did the bouquet of roses you got on Valentine's Day end up on your dining room table?

Amy Stewart sheds some light on the daily trek of those flowers and millions like them in her book "Flower Confidential: The Good, The Bad, and The Beautiful" (Algonquin Books/Workman Publishing, 2008).



The 305-page book, now available in paperback (\$13.95), traces the journey flowers take from farm to florist. She follows them from the California laboratories and nurseries in Latin America to the Holland auctions and customs center in Miami.

You'll learn what it takes to grow the flowers and explore the intersection of nature and technology, of sentiment and commerce.  
— Ray Edel

**A FEW FLOWER FACTS FROM "FLOWER CONFIDENTIAL"**

- ◆ In the past 10 years almost 3,500 flower shops have closed.
- ◆ Half of our flower shopping is done at super markets.
- ◆ One-third of Valentine's Day orders are placed Feb. 13, almost one quarter are called in on the 14<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ Only one-quarter of flowers we purchase are U.S. grown, most come from Latin America.
- ◆ Half of the world's cut flowers move through the auction system in Holland.
- ◆ Women make two-thirds of the cut flower purchases.
- ◆ Americans favor roses, carnations and chrysanthemums.
- ◆ We are 17<sup>th</sup> in per capita cut flower consumption. Switzerland is first.

Contributors: Elaine Barbour, Ray Edel, Patricia Engrissei, Jack Kuepfer, Jo-Ann Pituch, Janet Rekesius, Edith Wallace

Editor: Regina Imperato

**Master Gardener Association of Passaic County Officers**

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