



## GREEN TIMES

June 2010

Volume 10 Issue 6

**Master Gardener Meeting**  
**Tuesday, June 22, 2010 at 7 pm**  
Totowa Business Center  
930 Riverview Drive, Suite 250  
Totowa, NJ

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

### **“AMERICA'S GROW-A-ROW” with COLLEEN DUERR**

Colleen Duerr is the Vice President of America's Grow-a-Row. America's Grow-a-Row (AGAR) is an organization based in Hunterdon County that grows and gleans fresh, healthy produce that is then donated to food pantries, soup kitchens, crisis centers, and food banks all over the state of New Jersey. Colleen has been with the organization in both a volunteer and part-time staff capacity since 2004, two years after the program was founded by Chip Paillex. Colleen manages the AGAR Website, e-mail updates, volunteers, and educational presentations. She also handles event planning and contributes to fundraising and long-term planning. Although Colleen is not a gardener or a farmer, she enjoys using her skills in the non-profit world and having the opportunity to help feed our neighbors in need with fresh, healthy produce!



### **THE MOST IMPORTANT MEAL OF THE DAY**

At our June meeting we will be collecting boxes of cereal which will be distributed to the food pantry at the Father English Charities in Paterson.

### **NEW MASTER GARDENER A WINNER**

Laura Cluff, who completed the Master Gardener Training Program in May, has been awarded a 2010 Dr. Benjamin C. Blackburn Scholarship from The Friends of Frelinghuysen Arboretum. Laura, a graduate of Drew University, is studying horticulture at the County College of Morris in preparation for a career in her family business, Eden Farms, in West Milford.

### **SAVE THE DATE**

This year's Master Gardener Picnic will be held on July 15th. at Mary Striegel's home in Ringwood.

## ELAINE'S CORNER

### To do in June

- ◆ continue planting warm-weather crops
- ◆ fertilize rhododendrons and azaleas after flowering; prune if needed
- ◆ divide spring-blooming perennials
- ◆ move houseplants outside
- ◆ water new plantings so that they get one inch of water per week, if it hasn't rained
- ◆ continue tick control with regular mowing, carbaryl (if needed) and repellents
- ◆ buy cool season vegetable seeds (lettuce, radishes, spinach, kale, broccoli, etc) before they are returned to the manufacturer
- ◆ get a tetanus shot if you haven't had one in 8-10 years. Check with your doctor
- ◆ remove and destroy bagworm sacks from evergreens.

### To do in Summer

- ◆ continue to irrigate new plantings
- ◆ consider washing machine rinse water to irrigate, if there is a drought (no Borax)
- ◆ continue tick control (see above)
- ◆ let the lawn get a little higher (2 1/2 to 3 inches) to shade out weed seeds
- ◆ no lawn fertilizer in July or early August
- ◆ pinch back leggy plants and deadhead annuals for a longer bloom season
- ◆ net fruit to prevent the birds from eating it
- ◆ watch roses for leaf diseases and fertilize one last time in late July
- ◆ plant cool season vegetables
- ◆ destroy gypsy moth egg masses
- ◆ for grubs in the lawn, treat the turf with imidacloprid (Merit, Grub-Ex) 3 weeks after peak adult Japanese beetle population (preventative) about late June/early July
- ◆ for grubs in the lawn, treat the turf with trichlophene (Dylox) if you have more than 8-10 grubs per square foot (curative) about August
- ◆ irrigate turf before and after application
- ◆ consider insecticidal soap as a treatment for several insect pests: mealybugs, thrips, spider mites, other sucking insects

### Plant Sale Kudos

Teamwork and fabulous plants made for a successful plant sale. Thank you to the plant sale committee for their fine work and to all the Rutgers Master Gardeners who donated plants and "green elephant" items for the event. The funds go to many needed projects and programs in Passaic County.

### Road Trips

I hope that you were able to join us for at least one of our tours and trips to various historic and horticultural places in New Jersey. I had a great time and I trust that you did too. Continuing education credits as follows:

5/20	Cross Estate Garden and Wick House	4 hours
6/11	Helpline training @ CCM	4 hours
6/12	Native Plants @ Sussex County RCE	2.5 hours
6/23	Fosterfields	2 hours

### Summer Turf Thoughts

- ◆ You can "outrun" turf diseases with nitrogen. Apply about 3-4 pounds of N per 1000 square feet per year. The best time to apply fertilizer is September (1lb), then mid-October (1lb), then April (1lb)
- ◆ Remove the grass clippings only if you have turfgrass disease
- ◆ Use resistant turfgrass varieties and seeds inoculated with endophytes (try fescues)
- ◆ Raise the mower height to 2 1/2 to 3 inches
- ◆ Topdress with 1/2 inches of compost
- ◆ Aerate in early autumn to decrease thatch and compaction (and no, clippings do NOT contribute to thatch)
- ◆ Consider biological controls

See "To do in summer" above to control Japanese beetle grubs in the lawn, if you have them. Please know that irrigation systems increase the incidence of grubs because beetles love to lay their eggs in soft, moist turf. A drought tends to decrease the grub/beetle population.

(continued on page 3)

## ELAINE'S CORNER (cont.)

### Notes to Self...Company's Coming!

How quickly can I get things cleaned up and presentable inside and out with two graduations, one prom and summer visitors? What is the minimum that needs to be done? Clean toilets and mirrors. Brush and straighten fringe on rugs. Edge the beds with spade/shovel. Weed first 3-4 feet of beds, as far in as I can reach. With taller plants in the back, no one can see past the first three feet anyway. Get the lemonade ready. That should do it!

Enjoy the summer and watching the plants grow. See you at area projects and the MGAPC picnic on July 15 at Mary Striegl's home in Ringwood!

*"Where flowers bloom, so does hope"*  
Lady Bird Johnson

Elaine Barbour  
County Agricultural Assistant

## CROSS ESTATE GARDENS

On May 20, 2010 the Master Gardeners from the Class of 2010 visited the Cross Estate Gardens in Bernardsville, NJ.



Silver Maple 6ft diameter. WOW!



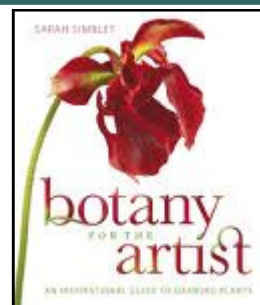
Master Gardeners Patricia Ludwig, Sherry Calise, Randy Hinton, Jeanne Pisatowski

— Howard Aschoff

## WEEDING VOLUMES

*Botany for the Artist* (April 2010, DK Publishing/HC), by Sarah Simblet, is the perfect reference work for anyone wanting a complete guide to drawing plants, as well as a great source of inspiration.

The hard cover book, which sells for \$40, is chock-full of breath-taking photographic plant portraits and drawings that interact to provide a look at the structure of plants, from roots and shoots to flowers, buds, seeds and fruit. The book also examines different approaches to drawing and painting plants, from herbaria and the florilegium to contemporary botanical illustration and design.



Simblet teaches at the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art, University of Oxford, and at the Royal College of Art in London. Her previous offerings are titled *Anatomy for the Artist* and *Sketch Book for the Artist*.

— Ray Edel

## DIG IN! ZUCCHINI RIBBON PASTA

### Ingredients

- 3/4 pound whole-wheat fettuccini
- 2 medium green zucchini (about 1 pound)
- 2 medium yellow zucchini (about 1 pound)
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 cup low-sodium chicken broth
- 1/4 cup grated (1-ounce) Parmesan cheese (lightly packed), plus 2 tablespoons
- 1/3 cup finely minced parsley leaves, plus more for garnish
- 1 cup thinly sliced basil leaves, plus more for garnish
- 1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1/2 teaspoon fresh ground black pepper

### Directions

1. In a large pasta pot, cook pasta "al dente", 1 or 2 minutes less than the package instructions call for. Drain.
2. Meanwhile, slice off ends of zucchini and discard. Cut zucchini in half lengthwise. Using a mandoline, or carefully with a sharp knife, slice zucchini into very thin (about 1/8-inch) slices, trying to keep some skin on each piece for color. Stack slices and cut in half lengthwise. Reserve zucchini ribbons in a large bowl.
3. In the pasta pot, heat the olive oil over low-medium heat. Add garlic and cook until soft and translucent but not browned, about 1 minute. Add zucchini ribbons and 1/4 cup chicken broth, raise heat to medium-high and cook until zucchini is still somewhat firm but just cooked, about 3 minutes. Return pasta to pot and add remaining chicken stock; cook for 2 to 3 minutes, until liquid has mostly absorbed into the pasta. Add 1/4 cup of the Parmesan, parsley, basil, red pepper flakes, black pepper and toss to combine. Season with salt, to taste. Serve garnished with additional parsley, basil and the remaining 2 tablespoons of cheese.

— Patricia Engrissei

If you have a recipe that features ingredients that can be grown in your garden, please email it to: [regimper@optonline.net](mailto:regimper@optonline.net).



## ZUCCHINI PIE

This pie is good as a meal or an appetizer

### Ingredients

- 4 cups zucchini sliced and quartered
- 5 eggs beaten
- 1 1/4 cups Bisquick flour
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup cheese: mozzarella & parmesan—grated
- 1 cup diced pepperoni
- 1 tsp parsley flakes
- 1 medium onion grated or chopped
- 1 dash black or white pepper



### Directions

1. Mix ingredients together
2. Put ingredients in greased pie pan
3. Bake for 45 minutes to 1 hour on middle rack at 350° or until golden brown

— Regina Imperato

## ZUCCHINI SQUARES

These squares make great appetizers

### Ingredients

- 3 cup chopped or shredded zucchini
- 1/2 cup parmesan cheese
- 1/2 cup chopped parsley
- 1/2 cup finely chopped onion
- 1 finely chopped clove of garlic
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1 cup Bisquick
- 4 large eggs



### Directions

1. Beat eggs well and add all other ingredients
2. Pour into a 9 x 13 baking dish and bake for 30 minutes at 350° until light brown
3. Cool 10 minutes before cutting into squares

— Regina Imperato

### FRIENDSHIP GARDEN UPDATE

The photos below are from the Friendship Garden, May 29, 2010. The first photo shows Patricia Ludwig and Sherry Calise installing lots of coreopsis. The second photo shows Howard Aschoff holding up the flag pole. Check out the new bee balm plants.



— Howard Aschoff

### MASTER GARDNER PLANT SALE



A wide assortment of plants for sale!



Mary Riley and Sharon Grady taking a close look at the beautiful flowers.



Tony Molinari and Mike Kealy refurbishing customers' lawnmowers

— Photos courtesy of Howard Aschoff and Jack Systma

## CLASS OF 2010 GRADUATION



Master Gardener Graduating Class of 2010



— Photos courtesy of Jack Systema

## MASTER GARDENER PICNIC 2010

Master Gardener Association of Passaic County

Summer Picnic July 2010

Please join us!

Date: Tuesday, July 15th

Time: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Place: Mari Striegel's home  
101 Cheshire Lane  
Ringwood, NJ 07456

Phone #: 973-962-7103



RSVP: Jo-Ann Pituch at 973-305-5740 by July 10th.

MGAPC will provide paper goods, beverages and super sandwiches.

If your last name begins with A-H please bring a dessert,  
I-R an appetizer and  
S-Z a salad.

Please bring enough to serve 8 people.

Bring your own chair!! Bring your BYOB!! Come rain or shine.

## FOSTERFIELDS

Road trip to Fosterfields Living Historical Farm on Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Situated one mile west of the Morristown Green, in Morris County, N.J., Fosterfields has been under cultivation since the eighteenth century. As part of the Morris County Park Commission, this 200-acre farm offers educational activities and demonstrations of turn-of-the-century to 1920's farming methods and life. Visitors are encouraged to participate in various farm-related activities. They can churn butter, crack corn and feed it to the chickens, and tend the garden. Staff are dressed in period attire and interpret the lives and roles of Foster family members, domestics, and farm laborers. They perform a daily regimen of farming and domestic chores and raise livestock and crops by historical methods.

The tour includes an introductory film, mansion tour and farm tour. A picnic area is available for lunch.

Freeholder bus leaves the Totowa Business Center, 930 Riverview Drive, Totowa at \*10AM sharp\*. We should return to Totowa by 2pm. Bring lunch and a beverage. This is a rain-or-shine event. Two (2) continuing education credits.

Cost is \$7.00 per person. Make check to PC Bd of Ag (**not** MGAPC). Limited to 40 people. First come-first served!

**PLANT OF THE MONTH: PURPLE FOUNTAIN GRASS (*Pennisetum setaceum* 'Rubrum')**



Purple fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum* 'Rubrum') grows best in full sun, to 4' tall. In NJ it is grown as an annual. Its leaves and plumed inflorescences (flowers) in shades of deep red make a striking contrast with other grasses, annuals, and perennials.

— Edith Wallace

**REMEMBERING FRIEDA WILLEY**

As Passaic County Master Gardeners we have missed Frieda Willey since she moved to Ohio five years ago. Frieda was a 2000 graduate of the Master Gardener Training class. As a Helpline volunteer for five years she managed all calls with her courteous manner and great store of horticultural information. Among her unique contributions were keeping the Master Gardener office organized and clean. She was a delegate to MGANJ and member of the 2004 bylaws committee for which she received recognition at the October 2004 MGANJ meeting. Frieda passed away in May and will be missed by her husband, two daughters, and grandchildren.

**2010 MEETING DATES**

Board Meeting Dates

(3rd Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.)

June 16, Sept. 15, Oct. 20 and Nov. 17

General Meeting Dates

(4th Tuesday - 7 p.m.)

June 22, Sept. 28, Oct. 26 and Nov. 23

Contributors: Howard Aschoff, Elaine Barbour, Ray Edel, Patricia Engrissei, Regina Imperato, Jack Systma and Edith Wallace

Editor: Regina Imperato

Send articles for next month's Green Times to [regimper@optonline.net](mailto:regimper@optonline.net).



**Master Gardener Association of Passaic County Officers**

Ray Edel, President  
 Janet Rekesius & Mary Ann Sytsma, co-1st Vice-Presidents  
 Howard Aschoff, 2nd Vice-President  
 Barbara Sanford, past President

Joan Kaynak, Treasurer  
 Patricia Engrissei, Recording Secretary  
 Regina Imperato, Corresponding Secretary  
 Edith Wallace, past President

*Cooperating Agencies:* Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and County Boards of Chosen Freeholders. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.