



GREEN TIMES

March 2011

Volume 11 Issue 3

Master Gardener Meeting
Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 7 pm
Totowa Business Center
930 Riverview Drive, Suite 250
Totowa, NJ

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

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

At this month's meeting, awards will be given to those Master Gardeners who have achieved the following milestones: 70, 100, 500, and 1000 hours, as well as 10 years of service.

In addition, coordinators of MGAPC approved projects will describe the activities at their sites and invite Master Gardeners to participate.



SPAM & RAVIOLI — YUM!

At our March meeting, we will be collecting canned meat and fish. Please bring cans of tuna, spam, stew or even ravioli to the meeting. They will be donated to a local food pantry.

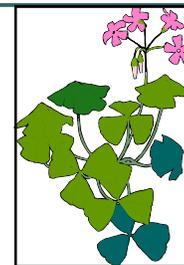
2011 MEETING DATES

Board Meeting Dates
(3rd Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.)
Mar. 16, Apr. 20, May 18,
June 15, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16

General Meeting Dates
(4th Tuesday - 7 p.m.)
Mar. 22, Apr. 26, May 24,
June 28, Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 22



ELAINE'S CORNER



To do in March

- ◆ Clean up the lawn and garden of debris
- ◆ Don't guess - soil test! \$20
- ◆ Frost seed the lawn (It is not as successful as fall seeding, but worth a try on bare soil. Buy fresh seed.)
- ◆ Apply dormant oil to plants with woolly adelgid and scale
- ◆ Control ticks on pets (yes, they're back)
- ◆ Start vegetables and perennials from seed
- ◆ Sow seeds outdoors of hardy annuals (poppies, larkspur, sweet alyssum, sweet pea, cleome, candytuft, etc.)
- ◆ Plant peas and onions late in the month (if soil is workable)
- ◆ Look for gypsy moth egg cases on trees and scrape off (they look like wads of brown paper the size of your thumb)
- ◆ Finish pruning fruit trees, grapes, roses, clematis
- ◆ Gradually remove mulch from perennials; gently press heaved plants back into the ground
- ◆ Cut down/saw ornamental grasses and other perennials with last year's tops still on
- ◆ Begin water-soluble fertilization on houseplants

Road trip

Details of the May 20 class trip will be available in the next newsletter. Yes, it's a Friday. I will have about 10-15 bus seats open. Location and cost to be determined. Continuing education credits will be awarded.

MG Class snow date

Bill Tietjen's tree fruit lecture has been rescheduled for Tuesday, March 22, 9:30am to 12:30pm at the Totowa Business Center. Same day as the MGAPC night meeting. See you there!

Publicity

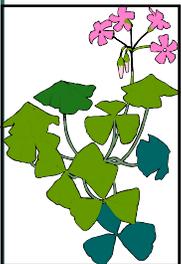
One of my goals in 2011 is to send out a press release monthly (at least) about Rutgers Master Gardener projects. If you have a digital photo (.jpeg format preferred) with a caption, please send it to me. If the photo has children's faces, written permission is needed. A write-up is good too; no more than one page. Sometimes the papers will just print the photo. It truly is worth a thousand words. Thanks for your help in getting the word out about Rutgers Master Gardeners and your good deeds!

Awards program

Join me and the MGAPC for presentation of hourly awards {70, 100, 500 (new) and 1000} based on 2010 reported volunteer time. March 22, Totowa Business Center, Riverview Drive, Totowa, 7pm. This will take place at the regularly scheduled MGAPC meeting. Congratulations to all.

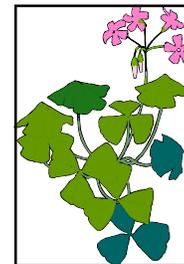
Upcoming Events

March 19 - Home Gardeners School, ocpe@njaes.rutgers.edu, www.cpe.rutgers.edu, 732-932-9271
 May 16-18 - Bee-ginner's Beekeeping course (same contact as above)



*Look all around thee!
 How the spring advances!
 - Ludwig Tieck*

Elaine Fogerty Barbour
 County Agricultural Assistant



PLANT OF THE MONTH: DURANTA

Duranta is a “new” plant to most of us who garden in New Jersey. There is no local common name. This evergreen shrub (to 10' in the ground, to 5' in a container) is native to Florida, West Indies, Mexico and warm parts of South America. Since it is fast growing, has attractive small lilac-blue flowers in clusters and yellow berries, it is extensively used in warm climate gardens. As it needs full light, may become infected with whitefly, and is sensitive to cool temperatures (minimum 50° to 55° F.) it may not thrive as a house plant, but it gives good color to a window box lacking flowers in the summer.

— Edith Wallace



SAVE THE DATE

This year's Master Gardener picnic will be held on Wednesday, July 20th at the home of Sarah and Jim McHugh, 1908 Hamburg Turnpike, Wayne NJ (Between Colfax Ave. & Black Oak Ridge Road), 973-839-0004

For a preview of the property go to: <http://picasaweb.google.com/mchugh.jim1/ShadowHillProperty#slideshow>

FOUR SEASONS OF COLOR

Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum (FOLA) sponsored a lecture and slide presentation, “Four Seasons of Color,” by renowned gardening expert Kerry Ann Mendez. The program was a special thank you to FOLA members and the Master Gardeners of Passaic County who have done so much to support FOLA's efforts to preserve and maintain Laurelwood Arboretum. More than 70 people attended the program on Saturday, February 12 at the Wayne Public Library. Mendez, the owner of *Perennially Yours* of Ballston Spa, NY, is a garden consultant, designer, writer and lecturer who focuses on time-saving gardening techniques and organic methods. At the meeting, she shared some of her tricks of the trade for creating a “wow” factor in outdoor spaces.



Mary Joachim and Bonnie Joachim, Master Gardener and FOLA board member, with speaker Kerry Ann Mendez as she signs copies of her newest gardening book.

— Alice Moskowitz

WEEDING VOLUMES

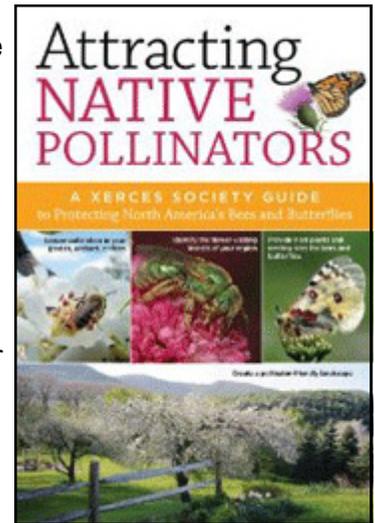
The work of bees and other pollinating insects often goes unnoticed, yet these tiny creatures have a profound impact on our daily lives. More than a third of our food supply relies on the plants they pollinate. With that in mind, the recent decline of many of North America's most important native pollinators is something everyone should pay attention to.

In *Attracting Native Pollinators* (Storey Publishing, Feb. 2011) readers can learn strategies for protecting pollinators and creating habitats that are rich in the flowers and next sites they need to thrive.

This book provides a look into the work of pollinators, including bees, wasps, flies, beetles, butterflies and moths, plus a guide to many kinds of North American bees. It also includes illustrated regional lists of bee-friendly wildflowers, advice on building nests and plans for pollinator gardens, meadows and other landscapes.

The 384-page paperback book sells for \$29.95.

— Ray Edel



BOARD MEMBER BIO: JOAN REIDL — SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Joan has been gardening all her life. Even as a child, her family always had a garden. She worked in a greenhouse (quality control) for several years and then in the office creating and maintaining the database information needed to produce the same plants she tended in the greenhouse. She graduated the Master Gardener program last year, enjoyed it immensely and was amazed at how much more there is to learn.

A POEM FOR SPRING

First a howling blizzard woke us
Then the rain came down and soaked us
And now before the eye can focus
CROCUS

Lilya Rogers

— Bonnie Joachim

PLANT SALE

At this year's plant sale, to be held on Saturday, May 14th, we will be offering used gardening-related items for sale. Therefore, we need your donations of any unwanted gardening-related items such as pots, planters, tools, books, watering cans, vases, etc. (Please be sure that all donations are in good, clean condition.)

More information on the plant sale, and how to donate these items, will be forthcoming in the next couple of months.

— Diane Behlen

DIG IN!

POTATO CHEESE SOUP

I have made this soup several times this winter and love it!

Ingredients:

- ◆ 2 Tbs. butter
- ◆ 4 oz lean ham, chopped
- ◆ 1 cup chopped onion
- ◆ 1 cup chopped carrot
- ◆ 8 cups peeled and coarsely chopped potatoes (about 3 pounds)
- ◆ 3 cups chicken broth
- ◆ 1 cup beer (or dry white wine or milk)
- ◆ 3/4 cup (3 oz) grated Gruyere cheese (or substitute another favorite)
- ◆ 3/4 cup (3 oz) grated Cheddar cheese
- ◆ 1/2 cup milk



Directions:

1. Melt butter in a large saucepan over medium heat.
2. Add ham, onion and carrot. Saute 5 to 10 minutes. Cook, covered, 10 minutes.
3. Add potatoes and broth; cover and simmer 20 minutes or until potatoes are tender.
4. Pour half the soup into a food processor and process until smooth.
5. Return to saucepan. Add beer and cheese and cook until cheese melts.
6. Add milk until desired consistency is reached.
7. Makes 11 cups; serves 7.

— Diane Behlen

PLANT PARENTHOOD

I decided long ago to forego orchids and cacti as houseplants since space is limited and it is easiest in plant shops to ignore a category when all of the plants are calling to be taken home. Then I was given an orchid (white phalaenopsis) in bloom. The flowers remained for about two months. I planned to give the plant to my orchid loving sister, but before she took it there was a spike promising a second bloom. Now a third flush of seven gorgeous flowers are on one spike and the plant has another spike, the promise of seven more.

The secret of my success is mainly luck, starting with a plant from a good florist, and placing the orchid in a well-lit site it likes. Following the instructions that came with the orchid helps, and perhaps it hears me when I threaten it with exile if it stops blooming.

— Edith Wallace



Edith's orchid in all its glory!

THE POTATO IN IRELAND

The Irish were the first to seriously consider the potato as a staple food. This decision was based on necessity: find a reliable food source or perish.

Beginning in the 12th Century, and continuing for the next 300 years, major shifts in land ownership and war drove the Irish to near starvation. The Irish oak forests were destroyed to provide fuel for England's smelting industries and to help build the British navy. In payment for their service to the British crown, soldiers from Scotland and England were granted land in Ireland. The Irish survived these times, before the arrival of the potato, on a diet of milk, cheese, cereals, and some meat and vegetables. While this was a sustainable diet for the Irish, as they continued to lose their land, the situation would get worse.

Sir Walter Raleigh arrived in Ireland in 1579 and assisted in the suppression of an Irish rebellion. For his efforts, he was rewarded with 40,000 acres of seized Irish land. For 17 years, Sir Walter was an Irish landlord and legend credits him with planting the first potatoes in Ireland.

The nine year war from 1594 to 1603 was the defining time in England's attempts to subdue Ireland. It was also the defining time for the potato.

Lord Mountjoy arrived in Ireland in 1600 to bring an end to the war with his scorched earth policy: a lethal campaign of starvation unleashed against the people of Ireland. Mountjoy's policy was devastating to the Irish. Their crops and livestock were burned and ravaged. The Irish were hungry, but planting their usual crops would be an open invitation for Mountjoy's troops to destroy them again. The potato was the answer. Mountjoy's troops could not eradicate the tuber potato without digging up all of Ireland!



As the centuries passed, the Irish farmer became increasingly dependent on the potato. It was the Irish family tradition to divide their farms equally between their sons, so Irish farms became smaller and smaller. The potato became the only crop that could be grown on a small family farm and feed the entire family. One acre of potatoes yielded enough to feed a family of ten. By 1800, the Irish were totally dependent on the potato.

During the summer of 1845, a blight devastated Ireland's potato crop, bringing with it an outbreak of cholera, dysentery, scurvy, typhus, and starvation. More than 750,000 Irish perished and another two million left their homeland for Great Britain, Canada, and the United States.

Coming to the new world of the United States, the Irish did not forget the potato that brought them through many hardships and disappointments in their homeland.

— Patricia Adelle

HORTICULTURAL THERAPY PROJECT

Place: Van Dyk's Assisted Living, West Milford NJ

Date and Time: Saturday, April 2 at 10am—Please arrive by 9am to help with the set up.

We will be making faux floral arrangements in baskets. We still are in need of 11 baskets, no larger than 6 inches in diameter, with or without handles.

Barbara Sanford and Renate Gudat are co-chairing this event.

If you have any questions please contact Barbara at 973-839-5872 or by email at basbas007@hotmail.com.

Happy Gardening!!

— Barbara Sanford

LAURELWOOD ARBORETUM READIES FOR SPRING

“Many exciting things will be happening at Laurelwood in the coming months,” said FOLA President and Passaic Master Gardener Jim McHugh. Contracts have recently been awarded for the new Sensory Garden, and construction will start as soon as weather permits. We have also begun planning for the new Visitors’ Center/Greenhouse that will provide space for expanded programming, propagation and horticultural therapy. We hope to incorporate elements of the Old Alderney Milk Barn in the new building.

Volunteer opportunities abound in planting the new Sensory Garden and developing programs for those with physical, cognitive or visual challenges.

Weekly, Tuesday volunteering will begin on Tuesday, April 5th from 9 am to 11:30 am. Please join us in the pavilion at Laurelwood Arboretum and bring small hand tools. This year we will start by focusing on renovating the beautiful rock gardens by the stream at the 2nd bridge. There will also be scheduled volunteer time on the 4th Saturday of each month from 9 am to 11:30 am, beginning on April 23rd.

Contact Debra Bryant at dlbryant52@gmail.com or 973 – 839 – 3125 for more information about Laurelwood’s many volunteer opportunities.

***MARCH 19th – Volunteer Luncheon – by invitation only – RSVP to Deb Bryant dlbryant52@gmail.com.** Thank you for your contributions to Laurelwood Arboretum and the community.

— Alice Moskowitz

AFTER THE STORM

Remember our lesson: “Right plant, right place”? Edith photographed this poor shrub after one of our many storms this winter. Right above the bush icicles were dripping from the roof directly onto the plant. What will this plant look like this spring?



— Edith Wallace



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Editor: Regina Imperato

Send articles for next month's Green Times to regimper@optonline.net.



MGAPC Officers

Ray Edel, President Barbara Cook, 1st Vice-President Joan Riedl, 2nd Vice-President Barbara Sanford, past President	Joan Kaynak, Treasurer Diane Behlen, Recording Secretary Regina Imperato, Corresponding Secretary Edith Wallace, past President
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