



GREEN TIMES

May 2009

Volume 8 Issue 8

Master Gardener Meeting
Tuesday, May 26, 2009 at 7pm
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

"EVERYTHING YOU'D EVER WANT TO KNOW ABOUT BONSAI" **with George LeBolt**

George LeBolt is past president of the MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies and has been president of the Bergen Bonsai Society, Closter for 15 years. He has presented programs along the East Coast, including at the New York Botanical Garden. He studied with Frank Okimora and Yuji Yoshimura.



UPCOMING EVENTS/VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- May:** ~ Master Gardener Plant Sale—Saturday, May 16th
~ Responsible Gardening with Dr. Doug Tallamy & garden tour of NJBG with Rich Flynn—Wednesday, May 20th (cost \$20)
~ Drumthwacket & Morven Museum and Garden bus trip—Wednesday, May 27th (cost \$12)
- June:** ~ Helpline Training at Morris Community College—June 5th
~ Holiday Open House committee brainstorming meeting—June 9th at 7 pm—Helene Christie's home at 40 Spruce Terrace Wayne
~ Lilac Saturdays at NJBG—June 13th and June 20th (rain date June 27th) 9 am—after lunch
- July:** ~ Master Gardener Picnic—July 23rd from 5 pm—8 pm, at Jim & Sara McHugh's home (details on page 4).

ELAINE'S CORNER



To do in May

- ◆ Get a soil test done every 3-5 years
- ◆ Sharpen the mower blades after every 20 hours of use
- ◆ Grass clippings can decrease fertilizer needs by 30% - Leave the clippings on the lawn
- ◆ Plant perennials, roses, trees and shrubs
- ◆ Let daffodil and other spring bulb leaves die down naturally
- ◆ Water new transplants unless it rains (1" per week)
- ◆ **Dig up seedlings for the plant sale 5/16**
- ◆ Well-rotted compost makes a great mulch and supplies a bit of nutrition
- ◆ Prune early blooming shrubs (forsythia, weigela, lilac, spirea) after they bloom
- ◆ Continue fruit spray schedule
- ◆ Control lacebug with horticultural oil or insecticidal soap
- ◆ Remove and destroy bagworms on evergreens
- ◆ Pot up or plant stored summer bulbs
- ◆ Plant tender annuals and vegetables after the spring frost (May 20)
- ◆ Continue tick control for gardeners and pets!

Bargain plants?

I can't resist those small plants in plastic bags that I find in garden centers and big box stores. So many plants for so little money. But are they worth it? Up until two years ago I would have said, "No." Last year I came up with an idea to see if the plants, bulbs, corms or tubers would grow. First, if the bag is not clear plastic, you can avoid the purchase or open the bag up and purchase it if you see green shoots, or bring the ailing plant to the attention of the management.

Once you get the items home, put the little gems in pots with potting mix. You may put a few in one pot because you are trying to determine what plants will produce roots and shoots. In about one month, you should have something green showing above the soil line - LIFE.

Carefully separate the live plants and put them out in the garden where you want them. Enjoy!

Mulch!

Two to three inches of mulch is the maximum depth recommended by Rutgers and Bartlett's Tree Care Company (in case you missed last month's MGAPC meeting). Don't you want to just get out of the car and kick the mulch off the tree trunks when you see it too high? I have said many times that if you look at children's drawings of trees, the drawings will show the trunk/root flare that spreads out at the bottom of the tree. Too much mulch is not a good thing.



"Put your hand in mine and let us help one another to see things better."
Claude Monet

Elaine Barbour
County Agricultural Assistant

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING

Sonny Brennan and Helene Christie are chairing the Holiday Open House committee for MGAPC. A planning "Brain Storming" session for our room at Skylands Manor will be held at Helene Christie's home at 40 Spruce Terrace, Wayne, on Tuesday, June 9th at 7:00 P.M. All are welcome!

BOOKWORMS

Can you really communicate with the “pests” in your garden?

Ellen Vande Visse believes that you can.

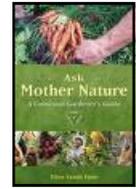
In her new book — “Ask Mother Nature: Conscious Gardener’s Guide” (Findhorn Press, 2009) — she takes readers step-by-step into her garden to encounter maggots, cutworms, slugs and other “pests.”

She introduces readers to the idea that they can make a deal with the “pests” by communicating with them rather than waging chemical warfare on them.

The 168-page paperback is a combination of spiritual development manual and garden guide.

It sells for \$14.95.

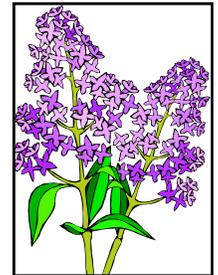
— Ray Edel



SATURDAYS FOR FUN AND LEARNING IN THE NJBG LILAC GARDEN

Dan Ryniec of Brooklyn Botanic Garden will join us June 13 and 20 (rain date June 27). We begin about 9 in the morning and end after a light lunch. Come when you will for as long as you can stay. Bring pruners. Our work of the past years made the lilac garden look even better this year. Hundreds of people enjoyed the results of our work Mother's Day weekend. We are appreciated. Lilacs bloom over a six-week period so come anytime in May to enjoy the colors and odors of one of the best lilac gardens in the state. The tree lilacs are last to bloom.

— Edith Wallace



MASTER GARDENER PICNIC

The MG Picnic will be held on Thursday July 23rd from 5 pm—8 pm, at Jim & Sara McHugh’s home. Details on page 4.

— Jim and Sara McHugh

PLANT OF THE MONTH: CORN SPEEDWELL

Corn speedwell (*Veronica arvensis*) appears in lawns and gardens, waste areas and nurseries. It likes dry sandy soils and shaded lawns and woods, but can be found in other conditions. It is most commonly noticed in spring, but may be seen throughout the growing season in cool moist areas. Corn speedwell flowers are very small, pale blue to white, and on very short stalks. They may be difficult to see. The seed pods are small, hairy and heart shaped. The stem and leaves are hairy. The lower leaves have distinct teeth. The annual plants are 2 to 10 inches in height. Considered by almost everyone as a weed, it is not an attractive plant. Other speedwells (veronicas) are found in lawns, some of them with pretty blue flowers.

Some perennial veronicas with larger flowers are used in rock gardens, alpine gardens and as ground covers. The flowers may be purple, blue, pink, or white, depending on the variety.

— Edith Wallace



Contributors: Elaine Barbour, Ray Edel, Jim McHugh, Sarah McHugh, Edith Wallace

Editor: Regina Imperato

Master Gardener Association of Passaic County Officers

Edith Wallace & Barbara Sanford, Co-Presidents
 Raymond Edel, 1st Vice-President
 Jo-Ann Pituch, Mary Ann Sytsma, 2nd Vice-Presidents

Joan Kaynak, Treasurer
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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.



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from 5pm-8pm, at Jim & Sara McHugh's home.

1908 Hamburg Turnpike, Wayne, NJ 07470
973-839-0004

Sign at bottom of drive says 1908 DonoHugh
Hamburg Turnpike between Colfax Road & Black Oak Ridge Road

[Preview](#)

<http://picasaweb.google.com/mchugh.jim1/SlideShowShadowHill02#slideshow>

MGAPC will provide paper goods, beverages and supper sandwiches.

If your name starts with

A-I Bring Appetizer

J-R Bring Salad

S-Z Bring Dessert

Please bring enough to serve 8 people

RSVP by July 10th 973-305-5740 Jo-Ann Pituch
(For a guesstimate of attendance)