



GREEN TIMES

May 2010

Volume 10 Issue 5

Master Gardener Meeting
Tuesday, May 25, 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

“THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY: INSECTS THAT ATTACK GARDEN PLANTS AND TREES” with SUSAN K. GRUBEN

Professor Gruben teaches horticulture and botany at Bergen Community College where she has been since 1991. Among the courses she teaches are: Pests of Ornamental Plants, Plant Propagation, Plant Science, Interior Plantscaping and Botany. Her other activities at the college include chairperson of the Horticulture Advisory Board, coordinator for Horticulture Continuing Education, and member of the Faculty Senate. Presently she is developing a web site for the Horticulture Program.



Ms. Gruben has a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Toledo and Master of Science in Plant Pathology from Rutgers University. She is also a member of the International Society of Arboriculture, Museum of Natural History, New York Botanical Garden, and horticulture advisor and consultant for the Glen Rock Arboretum.

READING IS FUN...DAMENTAL

At our May meeting we will be collecting children's books which will be distributed to the needy: new or gently used.

KUDOS TO A NEW MASTER GARDENER

Member of the 2010 Master Gardener Class Debra Bryant was recognized by Skylands/NJBG Association at the annual volunteer luncheon for her outstanding contributions during 2009 as "Rookie of the Year." She participated in many special events and most remarkably, made CAD diagrams of rooms in the Skylands Manor that will be of use to all groups preparing for the Holiday Open House. Debra joins other Passaic County Master Gardeners who have earned distinction from Skylands/NJBG Association as Rookie of the Year: 2001-Deb Manfredonio, 2002-Frank Dyer, 2003-Miko No, 2003-Lynn George.

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 MGAPC plant sale 5/15 at the RCE office**
- ◆ 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)
- ◆ Well-rotted compost makes a great mulch and supplies a bit of nutrition
- ◆ Continue tick control for gardeners and pets!
- ◆ Mulch - 2-3 inches maximum, whether bark, wood or compost

GreenFest in West Milford

RCE and the Master Gardeners will have a display at GreenFest, Macopin Road, West Milford, Saturday, May 22, 10am to 4pm. If you have a couple of hours, please sign up to cover the RCE/MG table. Your volunteer time at the festival counts! Call 973-305-5740.

Class of 2010

As the training class winds down, the end of the year celebration begins. Last day of class is Thursday, May 27 at the Totowa Business Center, 930 Riverview Drive. Certificates will be presented to class members who completed the class and passed the final exam. Another great year! The learning continues.

***"If you do not sow in the Spring,
you will not reap in the Autumn."***
- Irish Proverb

Elaine Barbour
County Agricultural Assistant

A GUIDED TOUR OF LAURELWOOD

Passaic County Master Gardener Jim McHugh (second from right), Vice President of Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum (FOLA), took a group of visitors from Four Seasons in Clifton, an active adult community, on a tour of the Laurelwood Arboretum in FOLA's newly acquired cart. Funds for the cart, which will make it possible for people who are physically challenged to tour Laurelwood, were donated by the Wayne Lions Club.

— Alice Moskowitz



DIG IN!

Here are three recipes for asparagus. Enjoy!

SIMPLE PAN-ROASTED ASPARAGUSIngredients

2 lb thick asparagus, uniform in diameter

1 T butter

1 T olive oil

Directions

- Melt butter and oil in large skillet over medium-high heat.
- Add asparagus and distribute evenly.
- Cover and cook until spears are bright green and still crisp - about 5 minutes.
- Uncover and increase heat to high.
- Season with salt and pepper.
- Cook until well-browned along one side - about 5 minutes.
- Transfer to serving dish and, if desired, squeeze lemon over spears.
- Serve immediately.

— Elaine Barbour



If you have a recipe that features ingredients that can be grown in your garden, please email it to:

regimper@optonline.net.

SIMPLE MICROWAVED ASPARAGUSIngredients

1 lb asparagus, uniform in diameter, if possible

2 T water

Directions

- Cook asparagus with water, covered, in microwave on high for about 4-5 minutes or until desired doneness.
- DO NOT OVERCOOK
- Drain off water.
- Drizzle with extra virgin olive oil, squeeze with lemon.
- Season with salt and pepper. Serve.

— Elaine Barbour

**ASPARAGUS SWISS QUICHE**Ingredients

10 bacon strips, diced

1/2 cup chopped onion

1 pound fresh asparagus, trimmed

1 cup shredded Swiss cheese

1 tablespoon all-purpose flour

1/4 teaspoon salt

1/8 teaspoon pepper

1 (9 inch) unbaked pastry shell

3 eggs

1/2 cup half-and-half cream

Directions

- In a skillet, cook bacon over medium heat until crisp. Remove with a slotted spoon to paper towels; drain, reserving 1 tablespoon drippings. In the drippings, saute onion until browned; drain.
- Cut eight asparagus spears into 4-in.-long spears for garnish. Cut remaining asparagus into 1-in. pieces. In a saucepan, cook all of the asparagus in a small amount of boiling water until crisp-tender; drain.
- In a bowl, toss the bacon, onion, asparagus pieces, cheese, flour, salt and pepper. Pour into pastry shell. In a bowl, beat eggs and cream; pour over bacon mixture. Top with asparagus spears. Bake at 400 degrees F for 30-35 minutes or until a knife inserted near the center comes out clean and crust is golden brown. Let stand for 10 minutes before cutting.

— Patricia Engrissei



FRIENDSHIP GARDEN KEEPS GETTING BETTER AND BETTER!

On April 10th, a small group of Master Gardeners renovated the trail that joins the lower parking lot to the upper parking lot by installing 12 large steps. This makes the steep incline much safer. Thanks to Dick Watts, Randy Hinton and Jack Sytsma.



The photo below on the left shows the newly painted tool shed used by the Master Gardeners. The photo on the right shows the newly painted flag pole base which was rusty and unsightly. We're looking pretty!



— Howard Aschoff

LILAC SATURDAYS

Join us in the lilac gardens at Skylands for our work days Saturday June 12 and June 19 (rain date June 26). Bring work gloves, rake, pruners, loppers, energy and enthusiasm. We begin about 9 and stay until after a light lunch. Dan Ryniec of Brooklyn Botanic Garden will be there to direct our work and give specific lessons in lilac care.

Lilacs bloom in the Skylands gardens from about the last ten days of April until mid-June. Peak bloom is Mother's Day weekend. Come visit us then, earlier or later, and see the biggest lilac display in northern New Jersey. For more information contact Edith at 201-444-2717.



— Edith Wallace

RARE AND WILD IN NEW JERSEY

The bald eagle is the national bird of the United States, representing our strength and our freedom. They were faced with extinction not that long ago. Alarmed by their decline in numbers, an action was taken in 1968 to ban DDT in New Jersey. Shortly thereafter, in 1972, it was banned throughout the U.S. Today, the bald eagle population has over 75 nests in New Jersey. Bald eagles build their nests along water in the tallest trees. Here in Northern NJ, there are nests on the Oradell Reservoir, Wanaque Reservoir, Parsippany, and in Rockaway. The widespread use of the pesticide DDT in the 50s and 60s was linked to the huge decline in the numbers of raptors, as they were at the top of the 'food chain', causing the birds to lay eggs with thin shells that would break upon incubation. The American bald eagle was removed from the federal endangered list in 2007.

Adult bald eagles have a full white head and tail with dark brown bodies. They have yellow eyes, beaks, and feet. Young eagles are brown overall, with some white feathers on their bodies. Both male and female eagles have similar plumage, but females are usually larger. With a wingspan of six to seven feet, bald eagles are one of the largest birds in NJ.

Right now in April and May, each eagle pair is trying to raise a family.

In January, the bald eagle adults begin courting and building their nest. A typical nest is about 5 feet in diameter, and by adding new materials to it every year, some nests become enormous, measuring up to 9 feet in diameter, and weighing over 2 tons! By early March, the females have laid their eggs, as many as three. Both the female and the male birds take turns incubating the eggs, and in about 35 days the eggs hatch. The chicks are helpless and require close care by their parents. The eaglets grow very quickly, and after 5 weeks they are able to stand up and feed themselves after the adults deliver the food. I have seen snakes, rabbits, and fish delivered to the nest via an eagle cam, available for all to look at through a site readily available at 'Duke Farm Eagle Cam' <http://www.dukefarms.org/Education/Research/Duke-Farms-Eagle-Cam/>. I have been in awe watching this site for the past two years, and strongly recommend viewing.



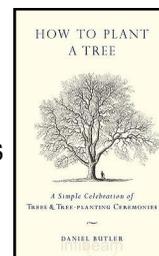
Once the young birds reach 11 weeks of age, they begin to test their flying abilities, and are now called fledglings. The parents continue to feed and protect these fledglings for the next few weeks near the nest, until the young learn to fly and hunt for themselves.

— Patricia Engrissei

WEEDING VOLUMES

I don't think you need a reason to plant a tree, but commemorating a milestone is a good one.

Daniel Butler, environmental writer and former editor of *Tree News*, the magazine for the United Kingdom's Tree Council, has come out with a 128-page hardcover book titled *How to Plant a Tree: A Simple Celebration of Trees & Tree-Planting Ceremonies* (Tarcher/Penguin, April 2010, \$15.95).



In the book, Butler lists 12 specific occasions to plant a tree: a new baby, coming of age, a new home, an engagement, a marriage, fertility, health, new beginnings, prosperity, an anniversary, a retirement and in memoriam.

The book also includes information on how to grow a tree from seed and keep it healthy, as well as ways to combat climate change and use timber responsibly.

— Ray Edel

PLANT OF THE MONTH: BEEFSTEAK BEGONIA

Beefsteak begonia (*Begonia x erythrophylla*), with its thick textured kidney-shaped leaves that are green above with pale veins and red below, is the result of crosses among several species of begonia, therefore it is not found in the wild. It is an easy to grow houseplant requiring bright light but not direct sun, more water in summer than winter, summer fertilizing, and room temperature.

Beefsteak begonias are grown for their foliage, attractive in both color and shape. The white flowers are of secondary interest, and may be removed.

While most begonias are perennials in their native habitats, beefsteak begonias usually last only a year or two but are fairly easy to propagate in spring from rhizome cuttings.

— Edith Wallace



HORTICULTURAL THERAPY

Spring is the time to plant and grow! We will be doing window box plantings at:

Lakeland Health Care

25 Fifth Ave.

Haskell, NJ 07420

When: Thursday, May 20, 2010 at 2:00 pm

Bring gloves and a trowel. Hope you can join us!

If you need information please call Barbara Sanford 973-839-5872

— Barbara Sanford

2010 MEETING DATES

Board Meeting Dates

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

May 19, June 16, Sept. 15, Oct. 20 and Nov. 17

General Meeting Dates

(4th Tuesday - 7 p.m.)

May 25, June 22, Sept. 28, Oct. 26 and Nov. 23

Contributors: Howard Aschoff, Elaine Barbour, Ray Edel, Patricia Engrissei, Alice Moskowitz, Barbara Sanford, and Edith Wallace

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Send articles for next month's Green Times to 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

Joan Kaynak, Treasurer
Patricia Engrissei, Recording Secretary
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