



## GREEN TIMES

**November 2008**

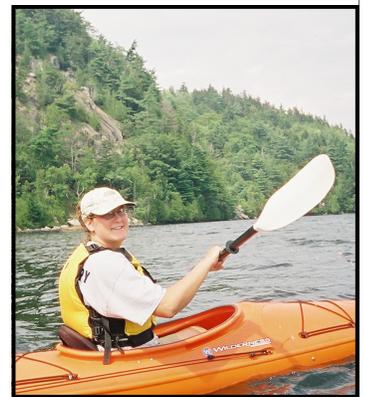
**Volume 8 Issue 3**

**Master Gardener Meeting**  
**Tuesday, Nov 25, 2008 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

### **“Native Plants of North Jersey” with Kathy Salisbury**

After graduating from Delaware Valley College with a degree in Ornamental Horticulture and from the University of Delaware with a Master's Degree in Public Horticulture as a Longwood Fellow, Salisbury began work as the horticulturist for Greater Newark Conservancy. Through her years there she worked to create school gardens and the lessons presented in them. She became Director of Horticulture, working to create the planting plan and leading the installation of a 1.5 acre teaching garden in the middle of Newark. She subsequently became Director of Education, coordinating more than 6,000 students who have visited the Learning Garden, since 2007. Salisbury has recently been hired as the horticulturist for a NJ County Park System, she is president of the Native Plant Society of NJ, an adjunct professor at the County College of Morris in the Landscape and Horticulture Technologies Program and teaches horticulture classes at a couple of area adult schools. Recently Salisbury and her husband started their own business: DeVosBury Designs, specializing in ecological landscape design and horticultural consulting.



### **JUNIOR GARDENER PROGRAM**

One of our best programs will be ending this month. For over five years Anita Murski and Leigh Brower have run a Junior Gardeners program at the Butler Library. Both leaders and young participants have enjoyed the learning and sharing aspects of gardening. If you would be interested in continuing the program in Butler or starting a similar program in another library call Anita or Leigh for advice. To view photos of the Butler Junior Gardeners visit [www.butlerborough.com](http://www.butlerborough.com). Click on “Photo Journal” then “Butler Library Junior Gardeners”.

### **MGAPC CALENDAR ON YAHOO**

The MGAPC calendar is located online at <http://calendar.yahoo.com/mgapcnj>. Please visit this site at any time to get a complete listing of scheduled events of interest.

## ELAINE'S CORNER



### To do in November

- ◆ Still time to plant spring-blooming bulbs — hurry!
- ◆ Buy fertilizer and lime for turf (a soil test kit only \$15— makes a great Holiday gift).
- ◆ Rake, or mow, and compost shredded leaves.
- ◆ Wrap young tree trunks with chicken wire for protection against antler rub.
- ◆ Drain and store garden hoses.
- ◆ Turn off water sources of outside spigots.
- ◆ Except for Iris and Peony stalks and other perennials that may be diseased, leave the foliage. It helps the crowns through the winter and may provide a winter home for beneficial insects.
- ◆ Clean, sharpen, and oil tools.

### Bat Facts

At a recent Pest Control Operators training meeting, I learned a few details about our flying mammal, the bat.

- ◆ bats eat about 3000 insects per night (feeding is heaviest at dusk and dawn)
- ◆ bats hibernate about 6 months (mid or late October to mid or late April)
- ◆ single baby bats (pups) are born about June after a one month gestation
- ◆ there are no vampire bats in the U.S.
- ◆ NJ is host to 9 bat species
- ◆ there is a Federal and state endangered bat in NJ, the Indiana bat (yes, they are in Passaic County)
- ◆ the best bat excluder for the house (if you have bats in the house) is a screen stapled on the top and 2 sides. Leave the bottom open for bats to leave. They cannot climb back under the screen.
- ◆ the cause for "white nose" syndrome/fungus has not been found yet
- ◆ IT IS ILLEGAL FOR **ANYONE** TO HARM OR KILL BATS IN NEW JERSEY
- ◆ bat houses make great Holiday gifts - contact Bat Conservation International, [www.batcon.org](http://www.batcon.org) or Bat Conservation and Management, [www.batmanagement.com](http://www.batmanagement.com).

### *Patrinia* who?

An article in the NY Times (9/25/08) had gorgeous color photos of White Flower Farm in Litchfield, Connecticut and described a mixed border of trees, shrubs, perennials, bulbs and annuals measuring 280 feet long and 20 feet wide. WOW. A plant mentioned in the article that I was unfamiliar with was *Patrinia*. Where would I look for information on this plant? Which one of my reference books on herbaceous perennials would have some facts and figures (and maybe a picture). For color photos and care information, the winners were *Ortho's Complete Perennial Book* (white cover, 2003) and Tracy DiSabato-Aust's *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden* (2007). For details on cultivars and a quick key to the species, Alan Armitage's *Herbaceous Perennial Plants* (1997) was the clear winner. Just goes to prove that one book (or even three books) on perennials is not enough.

### Lawn mowing: One More Time!

I complain about the attention that lawns demand and the investment that people put into their lawns (not me!) but truly, a lawn is nicer to walk on than junipers, and sets off homes and garden beds best. After cutting back sprawling bedding plants, I have exposed areas of unmowed turf. Sometime in the next 2 weeks, I will mow the lawn one last time to remove leaves (I mow them into the edges of the property) and to cut the shaggy lawn before cold weather and snow.

### Award Program 2008

Honored at the Annual Holiday Party and Awards Dinner are county award winners as recognized by the MGANJ (state association) and county hour recipients with 70, 100 and 1000 hours of volunteer time to Passaic County. Awards are presented before the dinner. State MGANJ award winners for 2008 were Jill Hanifan (individual award for the food pantry) and the State Group Award went to the Passaic County Horticultural Therapy team led by Barbara Sanford, Patricia Engrissei and Renate Gudat. Master Gardeners participating were: Birgit Hellen, Ray Edel, Bob Weiss, Margaret Kerstner, Barbara Cook, Marjorie Broseman, Leigh Brower, Mary Goldman, Rhea Link, Sharon Grady, Sunny Brennan, Susan Burke, Kathleen Dubbels, Mary Riley, Dick Watts, Pam Kern, Nancy McMullen, Patty Tatham, Elise Tatham, and Judith Wright. The tally for county hours for Rutgers NJAES awards is being completed as I write this. Thank you for all that you do! It is greatly appreciated!

Elaine Barbour

Assistant County Agricultural Agent

## RUTGERS GARDENS HOLIDAY DECORATING CLASSES

The weather is turning cold and the garden is quiet. Join Rutgers Gardens to learn techniques for Holiday decorating! Starting in November, they have two classes that will teach you step-by-step how to create your very own holiday decorations.

- ◆ Harvest Centerpieces and Garland for the Holidays — November 20
- ◆ Wreath Decorating and Holiday Centerpieces — December 11

For more information on these classes visit

[www.rutgersgardens.rutgers.edu/classes.html](http://www.rutgersgardens.rutgers.edu/classes.html) or call 732-932-8451.



## MASTER GARDENER HOLIDAY PARTY/AWARDS DINNER

If you plan to attend MG Holiday Party/Awards Dinner on December 11th, please send in your check for \$25.00 (per person) to:

Mary Ann Sytsma  
179 Beverly Road  
Hawthorne, NJ 07506

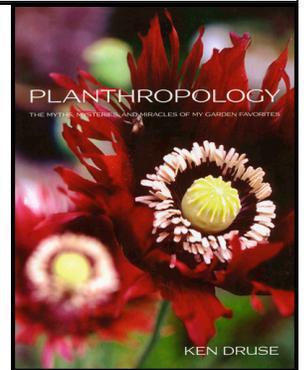
\*No later than November 26th!\* You can also send your \$15.00 2009 dues at the same time. (save a stamp!)

## BOOKWORMS

Discover the secrets behind your favorite plants in Ken Druse's newest book, "Planthropology: The Myths, Mysteries, and Miracles of My Garden Favorites" (Clarkson Potter, November 2008). In "Planthropology," Druse — author of "The Natural Garden" and "The Passion for Gardening" — celebrates the secret stories of plants and explains their importance in daily life, now and since ancient times. Using many of his own favorite plants as examples, he reveals little-known facts about rare and common beauties.

The 288-page hardcover will sell for \$50.

— Ray Edel



Ken Druse will be speaking at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum on January 22nd at 9:30 am. This will be his first speaking engagement on the topic of his new book. For more information visit <http://www.arboretumfriends.org/events.php>.

## TIME SHEETS AND AUDIENCE CONTACT FORMS

Keep track of your hours. The forms are used to calculate hourly awards - certificates, pins, and name tags. Since 2007, 15 hours on the Helpline and 55 hours on projects and programs (70 total) are required to be a Certified Rutgers Master Gardener.

## THE GARDEN HERO AWARD

Dawn Healey (MG Class of 2007) of the Pines Lake Garden Club has nominated the Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum to win THE GARDEN HERO AWARD from RareFind Nursery. First prize is \$1,000 in plants. RareFind Nursery specializes in Rhododendron and Azaleas... perfect for Laurelwood. In 2007, Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum (FOLA) entered into The Laurelwood Arboretum Project agreeing to be solely responsible for **all** horticultural maintenance and improvement in the Arboretum and all publicity and educational programs. Much has been accomplished!

**The contest is won by the most votes by email** for each entry. Please go to <http://www.rarefindnursery.com> and read about all that the Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum has accomplished since 2007 and **VOTE for Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum**. Thank-you, Bonnie Joachim - President, FOLA (MG Class of 1996)

## The Many Ways that Gardening Promotes Child Development

By James Nichnadowicz, Union County 4-H Agent

A review of the textbook, Child Development, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition by Laura E. Berk shows that children develop in 4 categories. Physically, they become more coordinated and their bodies mature. Cognitively – they learn to talk, remember, and proceed from concrete thinking to abstract. Social and emotional development encompass an understanding of themselves and how they relate to others. This brief article will discuss how gardening helps a child's development in these 4 key areas.

Based on my experience with gardening with children during the past 18 years I believe a garden can promote physical development of children. Elements, such as walkways and paving stones, help teach younger children how to walk and jump. Flowers and herbs help them to explore the senses of touch, smell and sight. Older children develop large muscle skills through digging, raking and weeding. Fine muscle coordination is enhanced by seed sowing, transplanting and thinning of seedlings.

In addition to physical coordination I believe gardening promotes development of cognitive or thinking skills in children. They learn the names of plants and tools thus learning the skill of remembering. The children learn the skill of symbolizing by drawing garden maps. As the garden is planted they group low-growing plants away from taller ones and learn how to group things. And no matter how well tended the garden there will always be insects and disease. Thus necessitating the development of problem solving skills. Lastly, if children keep a record of their gardening activities, when things were planted, the varieties used, how the ground was prepared, they learn how to repeat successes and modify failures.

While keeping track of successes and failures will help a child with cognitive skills children also need to feel good about them. A garden is a place where we can set goals – this year I will grow a head of cauliflower that doesn't bolt. When a child sets a goal, to grow a marigold, and then attains it, they feel good about themselves. Every time they see a marigold or smell a flower they will be reminded of reaching a goal and they will feel good about themselves. Feeling good about yourself or self-esteem isn't done entirely in isolation however. It requires adults familiar with horticulture or with good horticulture curriculum to help children set realistic goals.

Lastly, I believe when children garden together it helps them develop valuable social skills. A children's garden club exposes youth to group decision making, the joys and frustrations of teamwork and listening and communicating skills.

I have met many wonderful youth through gardening projects. Together we have landscaped vacant lots, planted trees in parks and built many raised beds. As a young man I was perhaps more interested in these concrete accomplishments than the development of the youth building them. Now 20 years later I see that while the projects were important the development of the youth implementing them was just as valid.

For additional information on youth development and gardening please see:

"Growing Minds: The Effect of a School Gardening Program on the Science Achievement of Elementary Students" by C.D. Klemmer, T.M. Waliczek, and J.M. Zajicek, in the July-September 2005 issue of *HortTechnology*, pages 448 to 452.

"Growing Minds: The Effects of a One-Year School Garden Program on Six Constructs of Life Skills of Elementary School Children" by Carol Robinson and Jayne Zajicek in the July –September 2005 issue of *HortTechnology* pages 453 to 457.

"Why do We Need Children's Gardens" by Catherine Eberbach and Michael Levine in the April 1996 Issue of *Public Garden*, pages 24 to 29 and 38 and 39.

"Talking About Trees: A year-long study of Boston area classrooms", by Candace Julyan in the January 1997 issue of *Public Garden*, pages 20 to 22.

*James Nichnadowicz is the 4-H Agent for Rutgers Cooperative Extension in Union County. For the past 24 years he has worked with young and*

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### Master Gardener Association of Passaic County Officers

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Jo-Ann Pituch & Raymond Edel, 1st Vice-Presidents  
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