

Through the Grapevine



The Official Publication of the Master Gardener Association of Ocean County Inc.

October 2024
Volume 33, Issue 10

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2024 – 2025

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Fall Garden Days

By Heide Dziardziel

The Master Gardeners celebrated another successful Fall Garden Days and Plant Sale on Saturday, September 21. By 10 am, the variety of house plants, trees, and bushes were beautifully displayed.

The event was well-organized, thanks to the intern class of 2024 with the assistance of our veteran volunteers. We especially commend Susan Emhardt-Servidio, Liyannys Feliz, and her team, Kathleen Athleed (Not an MG – donated cut flowers), Kathleen Tell, and Kathleen Bixby for an exceptional display of flowers and counter settings.

Customers commented that the entrance and invoicing waiting times were short, and the displays were the best they had ever seen.

Report continued next page

Fall Garden Days, By Heide Dziardziel, Continued

Visitors were greeted at the Greeter's Table, by Dawn Philpot and Jackie Dwyer and were given a little brown bag as a gift.



Megan Barney, who donated her homegrown flowers for the plant sale, has loved growing annuals and perennials for several years. This intern called for a soil test and learned about the Master Gardeners program. We are happy she is now a valuable asset.



Peggy Mott and Linda Locke were attentive to the customers and were engaged in extensive discussions with interested clients. (Photo by Mary Townsend)

Fall Garden Days, By Heide Dziardziel, Continued

I especially loved the tool table where saws and other garden tools were displayed. Mel Russer and Al Soyer taught me the use of a saber and saw.



Sandra Levine from Sandra Levine Productions was occupied shooting a video of the Master Gardeners team and Susan Emhardt-Servidio, as she explained the adulation, for her intern class 2024, and veterans. Susan extended an invitation to the public to experience the knowledge we shared with them.

The video “Still Time for Joy” will be featured on YouTube. I’m looking forward to seeing it.

(Editors note: here it is!

<https://youtu.be/upl3l4EMP7s?si=Wjc3MnrcO5L6pGxV>)

Photos from Arleen Seamon



Arleen



From Arleen Seamon



From Arleen Seamon



From Kathleen Tell



From Kathleen Tell



From Kathleen Tell



From Kathleen Tell



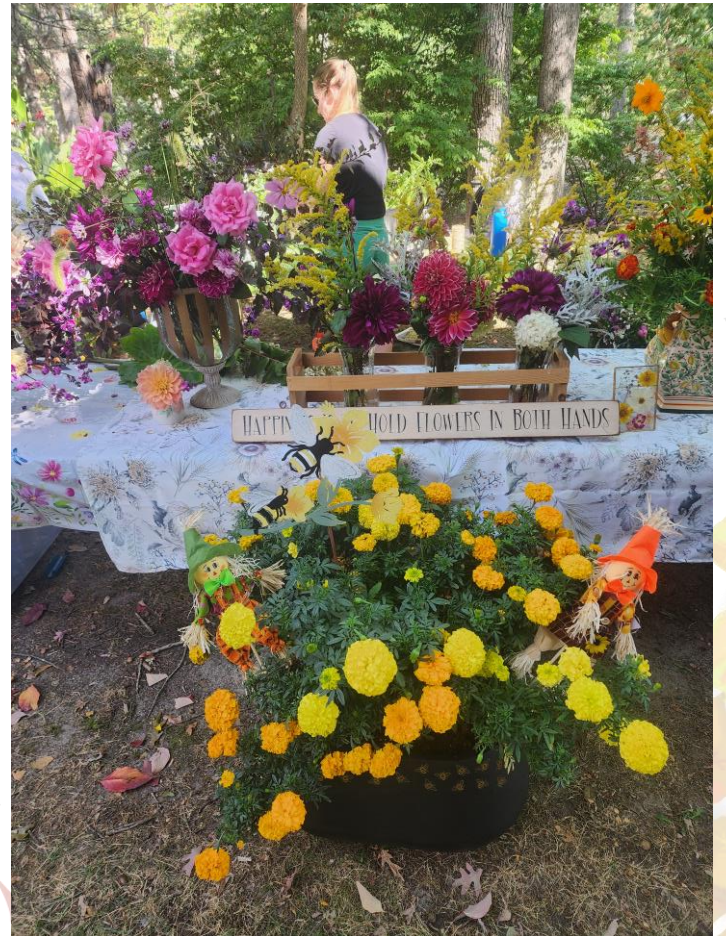
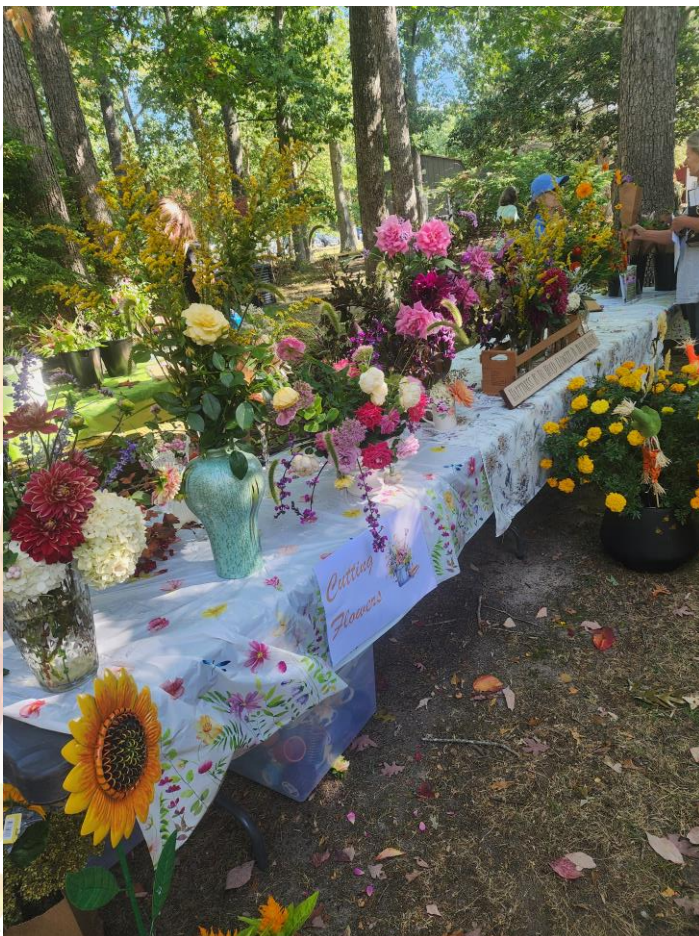
From Mary Townsend



From Mary Townsend



From Kat Schaffer



From John Blankemeyer



President's Message

by Roberta Quinn



Congratulations to the 2024 Interns for splendid Fall Garden Days! I am particularly happy to see the enthusiasm of these nice people and look forward to working with them as Certified MGs next year.

The year is winding down, but very soon we will be gearing up for the May plant sale and other 2025 activities. The Board of Directors helps many of these activities come to fruition. According to our Bylaws, the members of the Board pursue “the purposes and functions of the bylaws of MGOC Inc. ... adopt policies to use funds and support the mission of MGOC Inc.,” and periodically assess the effectiveness of those programs. Some purposes for which we organized as a corporation are “to expand the research and educational capacity of RCE” in Ocean County, and to “promote community awareness of and participation in RCE programs related to horticulture and the environment...” A very important duty the Board has as fiduciaries is “to care prudently for the assets of the corporation.” The Board takes this responsibility very seriously. MGs have asked Board members why we don’t spend all the money in our accounts. Funds equal to a year’s worth of expenses should be kept in reserve to weather the storms of poor plant sales, large amounts to be paid for capital improvements, shutdowns due to pandemics, and other factors beyond our control. Once the budgeted funds have been expended, our balance will go down to our reserve amount.

The Executive Committee also has responsibilities. As per the Bylaws, when the committee is active, the committee chairperson is responsible for submitting a written report to their Trustee liaison, the newsletter, and the Executive Committee Recording Secretary. There has been a lack of attendance and reporting from some XCom committees even though we meet only quarterly now. The Board has asked the committees to submit their balances of funds budgeted for July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, so we can be confident that there will not be overspending without seeking additional funds from the Board. This reporting is an important tool to craft our future budgets.

We will be celebrating the 35th anniversary of the RCE Master Gardener program in Ocean County next year. Let’s all work together to use our funds to reach the people of Ocean County.

Please note that only current Board members may access the MGOC Inc. records in the file cabinets in the Ag Center.

Gardening Journey

By Susan Emhardt-Servidio



Congratulations to the RMG Intern class 2024 on a successful Fall Garden Days. I can't say enough about how well your class worked together for the successful planning, preparation, execution, and clean-up of Fall Garden Days. Every one of you offered to help with the project in some way. We had a total of 153 visitors to the event. Your class embodied the meaning of teamwork. Kathy and Kay, your leadership helped coordinate 32 almost strangers into a cohesive working group. I am so proud of working with all of you and can't wait to see what you all can accomplish within the Rutgers Master Gardener Program.



Mary Jean R-M., Debbie K, John B, Mary P, Diane S, Gail Z., Barbara M., Trish S., Jackie D., Dawn W., Megan B., Kathy B., Alice C-S., Kay T., Jane C., Lily F., Susan E-S., Brielle P. (Missing Arleen S. Friday and Sat, Bill H. from Saturday's crew, Kathy M., Karen G., Janet P., Alan S., Charlotte R. Frank B., Doug S., and new transfer Shazel M.)

Hours

Please record the hours you have completed. Deadline for the 2024 volunteer season is December 15, 2024.



New form

There is a new procedure for current and new RMG projects. If there are volunteer service hours to be recorded for an RMG Committee or Project, there is a new proposal form that needs to be completed. The Committee/ Project may be subject to review yearly of relevancy to the RMG of Ocean County Program.

This is the up-to-date Mission Statement for the Rutgers Master Gardener Program:

Rutgers Master Gardener Program Mission

Rutgers Master Gardener Program, administered by the Rutgers Cooperative Extension, conducts outreach activities to educate the community with proven, research-based horticultural practices, provides inclusive, accessible programs and leverages the Extension's impact through state-wide volunteerism.

Looking Forward to 2025

Since I am not holding an Intern Class in 2025, I want to focus on programs for RMG volunteers. I will still have training programs on Ticks, Helpline, Diagnostics, Community Outreach tables, but I want to hear from volunteers what YOU want to attend in training, educational programs, workshops, or a review of RMG training classes. I will also be asking if any Volunteers would like to teach a program or workshop for RMGs. So keep a look out October 1 for a Qualtrex survey link from me.





Committee Reports



Ask A Master Gardener

County Connection

Chair: Kate MacDonald, Co-Chair: Anna McPeck

Lacey Library

Chair: Debra Cuba-Cowles

Manchester Library

Chair: Judy Richtmyer

Stafford Library

Co-Chairs: Debra Cuba-Cowles, Debbie McCabe

Point Pleasant Library

Chair : Linda Locke

Our group met twice in September to find common ground for reporting our activity while preserving the individuality of County Connection and each library's program.

As per a recent email, each AMG library program will display the Rutgers "Justice For All" declaration. Since the last issue of *The Grapevine*, County Connection assisted 59 clients, most of whom were interested in information on ticks and lawns.

Stafford Library program is ending soon, but we discussed plant issues with nine clients from six surrounding communities in addition to Manahawkin (speaking to the popularity and need for AMG in Southern Ocean County!). One client brought 20-25 plant specimens for evaluation and our team was able to assist her with all but one diseased tree.

Our last Speakers' Bureau program for this year on Winter Seed-Sowing was also well attended.

Report by Debbie McCabe





Committee Reports



Class Liaisons

Chair: Peggy Mott,

Co-Chairs: Bart Mazzei, Cheryl Clearo, Linda Locke, Silke Stutz

A big WOW and Congratulations! to the Ocean County RMG Class of 2024! The Fall Garden Days event was a major success. The arrangement of the information tables and the whole Ag Center site was well planned and nicely decorated, inviting all the visitors to welcome Fall and to enjoy and learn about so many different gardening capabilities!

We kept getting so many positive comments about each of the tables and the class members' understanding of the gardening subjects and the information available for consideration. Additionally, the interns submitted their written materials to Kelly, who assembled an online library accessed by a QR code and organized by the various table themes. Each attendee can now access the literature from each table on demand. The availability of the QR codes to further understand the various table themes, such as propagation, cutting gardens, swapping invasives for natives, rain gardens and other topics, was greatly noted and appreciated.

I would also like to compliment the Display Garden participants as visitors were very impressed with the garden – and were going to go shopping to match flowers with pumpkins!

Cannot say enough about the participants' reactions and true joy at visiting and learning more about gardening and their concerns, successes, challenges, and how they might expand their own gardening capabilities.

A big thank you to the class of 2024 and we look forward to any additional ideas you have and your active participation with the Rutgers Master Gardener program.

Report by Peggy Mott





Committee Reports



Calendar

Chair: Lynne Smith

Co-chair: Bart Mazzei

The 2025 Calendars are available at the Ag Center! Calendars are distributed to the public in several ways, including outreach events, Ocean County Connection, and the front counter at the Ag Center. We were able to have 4,000 copies of the calendar printed this year.

I am grateful for the work done by my co-editors Bart Mazzei and Delores Henry and proofreaders Suzanne

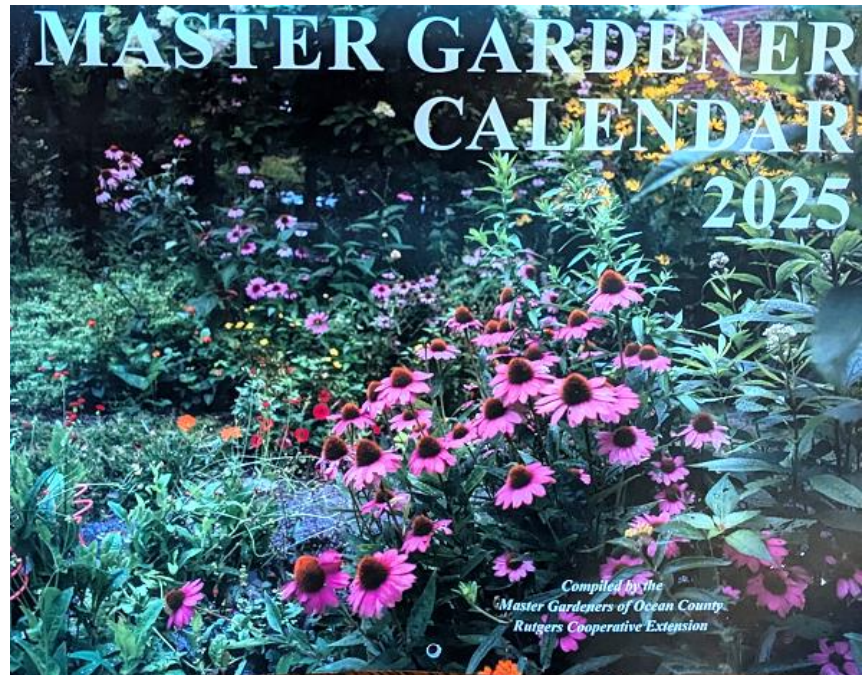
Keane and Susan Reese. Patti Dixon provided excellent content review as well as the gorgeous photo of the display garden on the cover of the calendar.

Our contributors were as follows: Janet Angell, Heide Dziardziel, Patti Dixon, S. Ann Earon, Susan Emhardt-Servidio, Joan Haldane, Delores Henry, E. Berry Jones, Suzanne Keane, Kate Macdonald, Diane Maiorano, Bart Mazzei, Nancy Osterberg, Roberta Quinn, Susan Reese, Judith Richtmyer, Mary Townsend, and Irene Wanat.

Many thanks to everyone who made this project a success.

Information on an organizational meeting for the 2026 calendar will be sent out soon.

Report by Lynne Smith



Community Garden

Chair: Rich Marine, Co-Chairs: Noreen Baris and Cheryl Clearo

- Our next food drive will be October 3, 2024, at the scheduled General Meeting.
- We are continuing to harvest and donate to local pantries.
- We are planting some Fall crops such as turnips, carrots, and onions.
- We would like to thank anyone who helped us this summer at the Community Garden. Their efforts help to make us successful.
- We are still in need of people to help out in the Garden. We are cleaning and preparing the beds for the Spring. If you need hours, we can help you.

Report by Rich Marine



Committee Reports



Cuisine Garden

Chair: Cindy McGrath, Co-Chair: Sue Priolo

As the leaves start to change color and begin to fall, our summer vegetable crops are slowing down as well. However, it was a busy month at the garden!

On September 10, Vinny held an IPM program at the garden, followed by a Luncheon at Cuisine On The Green Restaurant. It was a beautiful day and was well attended.



On September 18, the garden volunteers hosted a “Harvest Luncheon” with MGs providing lunch for the Park Maintenance Workers to thank them for all their assistance with our garden since the early spring.



Coming up:

October 6 - a fall cleanup will take place, as well as starting to repair the lumite between the beds.

October 21 - Noreen Baris will be holding a demonstration on planting our next crop of garlic. Come join us!

Report by Cindy McGrath, IPM Workshop Photos: Ann Kinney, Food Photos Sue Priolo



Committee Reports



Cut Flower Gardens

Chair: Ron Rooberg

There are still many flowers doing well at the park. There is lots of bird activity, especially in early morning before the MGs get there. We have had a number of butterflies visiting the flowers, although I did not see their caterpillars on their favorite host plants this season.

Early in the season I thought the groundhog was going to wipe the gardens out. We learned that the many types of critters at the park will meet us halfway so to speak but the groundhog wants to eat everything. I tried everything I could think of plus ideas from others to control it, using products such as Liquid Rence, Mol-Max, Critter Ridder, and others. I put a pulsating thing in each garden making an irritating sound, but it was music to their ears. We tried a thing that blasts water when it senses movement. Al had a night-vision camera, which took a picture of the groundhog walking right into the fenced area. Fencing was only minimally helpful. They are world class diggers and learners.

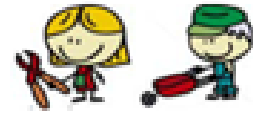
Here is something we discovered. We put individual fence rings anchored with stakes and ground staples around many plants. These stayed until the plant reached a certain size where M/M groundhog seemed to lose interest. The cages quickly blended and did not detract from the flowers. Was it too much effort for so little gain? Was the foliage rough and hard to chew as the plants matured? Who knows but this really seemed to help and will be the new plan.

Speaking just for me, I began to feel like Bill Murray in Caddyshack and we don't want that.





Committee Reports



Display Garden

Chair: Beth Kimber, Co-Chair: Caryn Muskus

We took advantage of the mild temperatures and sunny days spending every Tuesday in September working in the garden. The beds by the back entrance got a makeover where we transplanted shrubs and perennials that were asking for a more sunny location and in need of a spot where the sprinkler would reach. I don't have to tell you that we didn't get any rain in September so each week we were busy watering all our new transplants and existing beds that were suffering. In the beds out front we pruned the Pieris, the Hydrangea, the Viburnum, and the Carolina Allspice. We tackled the crabgrass that took over the compost pile and diligently dug up Lily of the Valley that persists in trying to take over the bed beneath the Holly Trees.

Both veterans and interns pitched in this month in preparation for the 'Fall Garden Days' event. The containers by the front entrance were refreshed with fall mums, cabbage, asters and ornamental peppers plus some festive pumpkins. In addition, everyone was busy weeding, deadheading, raking and carrying wheelbarrow loads of mulch to spruce up the appearance of all the beds.

It's a pleasure to work alongside so many wonderful volunteers who pitch in to care for the display garden.

Report by Beth Kimber, Photos by Caryn Muskus





Committee Reports



Education Outreach

Chair: Kathy D'Antonio, Co-chair Mark Baranyay

The ARC/Wrangle Brook Community Garden collaboration continues.

Master Gardeners volunteered over 47 hours to this project from August 28 to September 19. During that time, we had a total of 30 individual ARC participant visits. Usually, five to nine ARC participants are at the garden Wednesdays and Thursdays each week.

On September 4, six MGs went to Compassion Café in Beach Haven to support the ARC members who were working there that day. These members also work at the ARC/Wrangle Brook Community Garden. Compassion Café's mission is to provide meaningful employment and job training for adolescents and adults with disabilities.

Report by Kathy D'Antonio

COMPASSION CAFE
An extraordinarily special non-profit

THE SEA SHELL RESORT & BEACH CLUB
VOLUNTEER SUMMER HOST
THE SEA SHELL
Oceanfront at Centre Street
BEACH HAVEN

MONDAY - THURSDAY
7:00 - 11:00 a.m.
(thru September 12)

2023 STAFF

FOUNDED 2020
A REGISTERED 501(c)(3) CHARITABLE NON-PROFIT

Compassion Cafe's mission is to provide meaningful employment and job training for adolescents and adults with disabilities.



Committee Reports



Gleaning

Chair: Noreen Baris

We had 2 gleaning opportunities this last month. On September 7 my volunteers picked 870 pounds of corn at Lee Turkey farm. Then on September 17, we picked 490 pounds of apples from Giamarese Farms.

This brings our total for the year to 3,055 pounds of produce picked and donated to food banks. Thank you, Lynn Bottrell, Denise Boughton, Alan Schwarz, Joe Scutro, and Lynn Vitale.



Lynn Bottrell, Lynn Vitale, Joe Scutro and Noreen Baris apple picking at Giamarese farm.



Gleaning corn at Lee turkey farm . Lynn Bottrell, Denise Boughton, Maureen Schwarz, Noreen Baris, and Alan Schwarz.

Hydroponics

Chair: Betsy McLaughlin, Co-Chair: Bart Mazzei

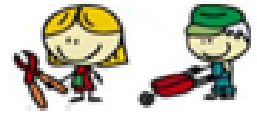
We have donated 6.25 pounds of lettuce through the end of August. Late July and August it was just too hot, so we decided to grow spinach. Well, the seed packet was NOT spinach, something is growing but we cannot identify either through photo apps or through taste. We will have to throw away since we cannot donate mystery “food”.

September 23rd, we cleaned the unit against the side wall and seeded it with oak leaf lettuce. Purchased additional growing sponges and will reseed the other unit. Tried to rinse and re-use sponges that didn’t germinate to save money but that was a failure; it’s our second year and we still have some learning curves.

Report by Betsy McLaughlin



Committee Reports



Houseplants

Chair: Debbie Asbjorn, Co-chair: Melissa Bonifacio

The Houseplants Committee showed up at the Fall Garden Days Plant Sale on September 21 with 28 different varieties of houseplants. Our sales were (very) roughly \$300. Thank you to those MGs who propagated their own plants and donated well-established plants for the sale.

There are a few Houseplant Hospital events for the remainder of the year at Berkeley Library and Manchester Library.

A Houseplants presentation will be made to Cedar Village Retirement Community, Brick Township, on October 7, as requested through the Speakers Bureau.

We are also working on a Houseplant propagation meeting and a follow up plant swap for Master Gardeners. Dates to be determined.





Committee Reports



Greenhouse

Chair: Linda Convey

Cochairs: Denise Boughton, Judy Caldwell, Grace Hagemeyer, Janet Pakrul, Mary Townsend

The GH is gearing up for another season, and there's plenty to do before we sow a single seed. We are asking all veteran GH volunteers and any newbie who wants to work on the 2025 GH Project to help us get the greenhouse ready for the season. Please join us on these dates:

- Wednesday, October 2 @ 9:30 am: Organize the greenhouse for sanitation. We need to stow all the pots and other equipment, basically clear the benches, to get it ready for cleaning.
- Wednesday, October 9 @ 9:30 am: Time to clean the refrigerator and clean/hang the lights.
- Wednesday, October 16 @ 9:30 am: While the house is being sanitized with Kleen-Grow, we will take inventory of leftover supplies to prepare the Griffin order.

These are big jobs, and we need help, so please pick a date, or two, or three? and join us. (Did I mention we have great coffee breaks?)

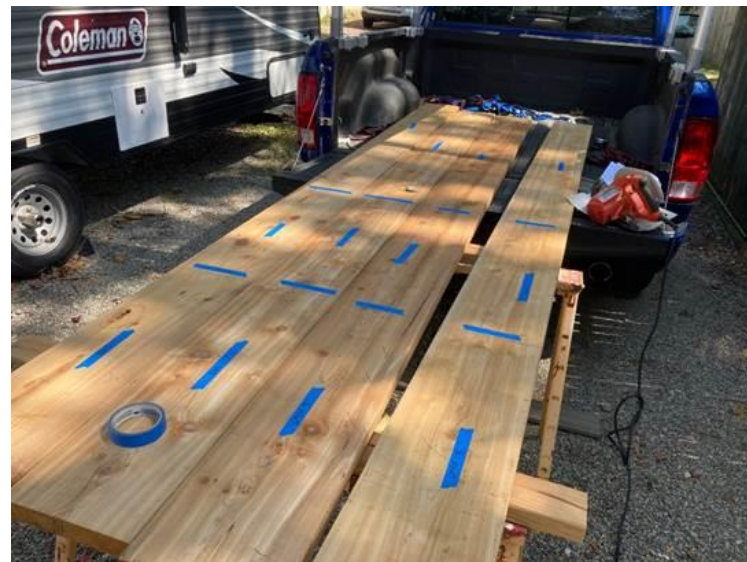
Report by Mary Townsend

Ocean County Park Operations

Chair: Al Soyster

Projects in progress:

- Building the Hydroponic Garden Greenhouse and installing solar power for the pumps and air circulation. The site has been leveled and the foundation is complete. The building should be completed in mid-October.
- Constructing new doors for the Greenhouse. The plans are complete, the wood has been purchased, and construction has begun. The doors are being constructed out of cedar for a long life.



Winter is coming!

- Please be sure that community tools are returned to the garden shed to be cleaned and sharpened over the winter for the next season.
- Please secure all pots and other items that can collect rainwater or blow around the park.



Committee Reports



Outreach

Chair: Janet Angell

The number of activities and/or preparation for RMG events going on at the same time is simply amazing. For our Outreach on the weekend of September 7 and 8 we had 17 volunteers working three events: the Lavallette Founders Day, the Beach Plum Festival at Island Beach State Park and the Point Pleasant Beach Farmers Market. Everything went well.

Opportunities for Outreach events are coming to an end now. Signup lists for Octoberfest at IBSP, Eagleswood Country Fair, and Pine Barrens Jamboree in October are full.

The New Egypt Street Fair on October 12 has several openings as does the Fall Festival at Common Grounds Community Gardens in Lakewood on November 3. (See flyer, below.) As always, sign up on Better Impact if interested.

That's all Folks!

OCTOBERFEST
October 5th
 11 am - 4 pm
 Live Music:
 The Irish Twins and Full Circle
 Craft Vendors
 Food and Beer at the Red Fox Tiki Bar
 Rescue Groups with Pets for Adoption
 Pet Costume Contest and Parade 1:30

Island Beach State Park
Swimming Area 1
Dogs on leashes invited to attend

FRIENDS
 ISLAND BEACH
 STATE PARK

COMMON GROUNDS COMMUNITY GARDEN

free admission

Fall Festival Sunday November **3**

Crafts • Petting Zoo • Kosher food
 Vendors • Garden Tour & Demos

November 3rd 1:30-4 PM
JOHN PATRICK SPORTS COMPLEX
VINE STREET, LAKEWOOD

Jewish Federation OF OCEAN COUNTY
Discover JERSEY ARTS
 OCEAN COUNTY NEW JERSEY
 EST. 1966
 NEW JERSEY STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS
 LAKEWOOD TOWNSHIP 1882



Committee Reports



Mentors

Chair: Vickie Monks Co-Chair: Roberta Quinn

Your Interns should be well on their way to completing the required hours.

The Speakers Bureau has requested that Mentors reach out to their Interns to see if they are interested in joining the Speakers Bureau. There is a need for MGs to give talks or demonstrations on various topics throughout the county. There are a few presentations in October that the Interns can observe to see if they are interested. Please contact Suzanne Keane or Sue Masoorli if interested.

State Committees

Chair: Roberta Quinn, Co-Chair: Suzanne Keane

The Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey, also known as the State Board, was formally dissolved by Ruth Carll. At a meeting of former State Board members held on September 12 in Ewing, NJ, we learned about plans for new committees:

There will be three non-decision-making committees, each with different charters. The committees are Recognition, Education, and Communication.

All MGs in the state will be receiving an email from Ruth Carll about these new committees. You will then have an opportunity to join a committee.

Those who attended the meeting in Ewing were able to sign up. I signed up for the Education committee.

Report by Roberta Quinn



Sun Shine

Chair: Kate MacDonald

Our best wishes for speedy recoveries go out to

Holly Yokum who is living at the Arbors Nursing Home in Spring Lake after a broken hip, to Joan Haldane who's husband had pacemaker surgery and to Suzanne Keane who is recovering after a fall.

Deepest Sympathies got out to Carol Jones. Her beloved sister passed away suddenly.

A big thanks to all of you that have donated cards. Get Well, Sympathy, Thinking of You and Blank cards are all greatly appreciated and keep the costs for Sunshine well within the budget. ☀



Committee Reports



Shrub Garden

Chair: Laura Docherty, Co-Chairs: Peter Ascolese and Jill Jordan

Members of the shrub garden spent the month of September preparing for two plant sales. We had requested to participate in the Jersey Friendly Yards native plant sale on September 14 and were excited to hear that we were allowed to be a part of this program. The shrub garden has been focused on increasing the number of native shrubs that we offer the community, and the process of winter sowing helped us to do that. We were able to make a profit of \$809 at the sale.

On September 21, the shrub garden participated in the Fall Garden Days plant sale. I heard Fall Garden Day was a huge success – congratulations to the interns!

Since we sold so many plants this month, we will be focusing on rebuilding our plant inventory through propagation, winter sowing, and purchasing new shrubs. We have a lot of work to do, so feel free to join us as we get ready for next year's plant sales.

Report by Laura Docherty



Native Plant Sales at the Jersey Friendly Yards Conference



Committee Reports



Speakers Bureau

Chair: Suzanne Keane, Co-Chair Sue Masoorli

Seems amazing that we are in October already. Speakers are busy this month with nine presentations scheduled.

If you are interested in helping us out next year, here is your chance to “assist” in a program to learn more about how MGs present to the community. Just contact Suzanne K. (MGSue06@gmail.com) or Sue M. (pncnurse@aol) telling at which talk you want to assist. The hour is “Outreach.”

Oct. 2 – Brick Library @11 am*: “Native Plants of Ocean County”

Oct. 7 – Cedar Village Retirement Com: “The Dirt on Houseplants”

Oct. 8 – The Garden Club of TR: “Where Does Your Candy Come From?”

Oct. 9 – Plumsted Library @2:30 pm: “Fall: Putting your Garden to Bed”

Oct. 15 – Pt. Pleasant Borough Library @ 3 pm: “Fall: Putting Your Garden to Bed”

Oct. 22 – Leisure Village West Garden Club: “Worms & Other Decomposers”

Oct. 23 – Plumsted Library @ 2:30 pm: “Where Does Your Candy Come From?”

Oct. 24 – Lk. Ridge Garden/Environmental Group: “Fall: Putting Your Garden to Bed”

Oct. 31 – Sea Oaks Garden Club: “The Dirt on Houseplants”

*Programs with times are open to the public.

Report by Suzanne Keane



Pondering Plants

by Bianca Aniski

Recently, I was the guest at a wedding held in Pennsylvania. The grounds were meticulously groomed; it was a Master Gardener's dream.

While I was walking the grounds, a guest behind me gasped when finding a crocus blooming. With an excited sputtering utterance, she exclaimed "Look - climate change – crocus bloom *only* in early spring!" Fortunately, based on RMG gardening training, I knew it was an autumn crocus, also commonly known as meadow saffron. *Colchicum autumnal* is not a true crocus. The flower was performing as intended. I attempted to allay her fears by sharing this knowledge. In our world of instant information at our fingertips and duels between who can type the fastest, the autumn crocus was quickly found. However...

On my continued exploration of the Highlands Gardens, we came across an alluring pure white iris in full bloom. Again, the agonizing cry of "climate change" echoed behind me. Personally, I do have an understanding that climate change is upon us, but I just wanted to explore the gardens' quiet majesty. The guest was frozen and typing: *autumn iris, white autumn iris, white iris with variegated leaves* – nothing showed on her screen. In another effort to quell her disturbance, I offered "try Rutgers Fact Sheets," as I slowly tiptoed away. The guest continued typing feverishly with multiple versions of searching.

In a quiet murmur, the English Garden was calling my name. "*Psst ... hey you ... look a perfect combination of gold and purple await ... come feast your eyes upon pollinators everywhere ... psst ... over here.*" I skulked further away from the dazed, screen-locked guest and found solace in asters and goldenrod. The patch was precisely described in *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer, "embroidered with golden yellow and pools of the deepest purple, a masterpiece." I lingered in the gardens until the ceremony began. Back home, I crazily searched Rutgers' ["Irresistible Iris Facts and Figures"](#) and found no answer. An obscure Iris Society corroborated rebloomers.

First thought was can Google replace Master Gardeners? I felt deep appreciation that I was not working the Ask-A-Master-Gardener Hotline that day. Hmmm, plants.



Seed Saving

By Ellen Silverman



Fall is the time to harvest not only food but its future: the seeds of open-pollinated vegetables, flowers, and especially native plants.

Why save vegetable seeds?

It is an act of tradition. Saving seeds is not new. The practice of seed-saving, the harvesting, cleaning, drying, and storing of plant embryos, has been around for years. Part of stewarding food systems is the collecting and saving seeds for over 10,000 years.

It is an act of resilience. As climate changes, growing well-adapted foods at the local level gives us the opportunity to reduce our climate impacts while also making our food system stronger and more biodiverse in the face of uncertainty.

It is an act of independence. The seed business has change in recent times. There are four major seed firms that control much of what is sold to gardeners and farmers and what varieties. Much of what they offer cannot be saved. It must be bought again the next year. Many of the old varieties of vegetables are no longer in existence.

Why save native plant seeds?

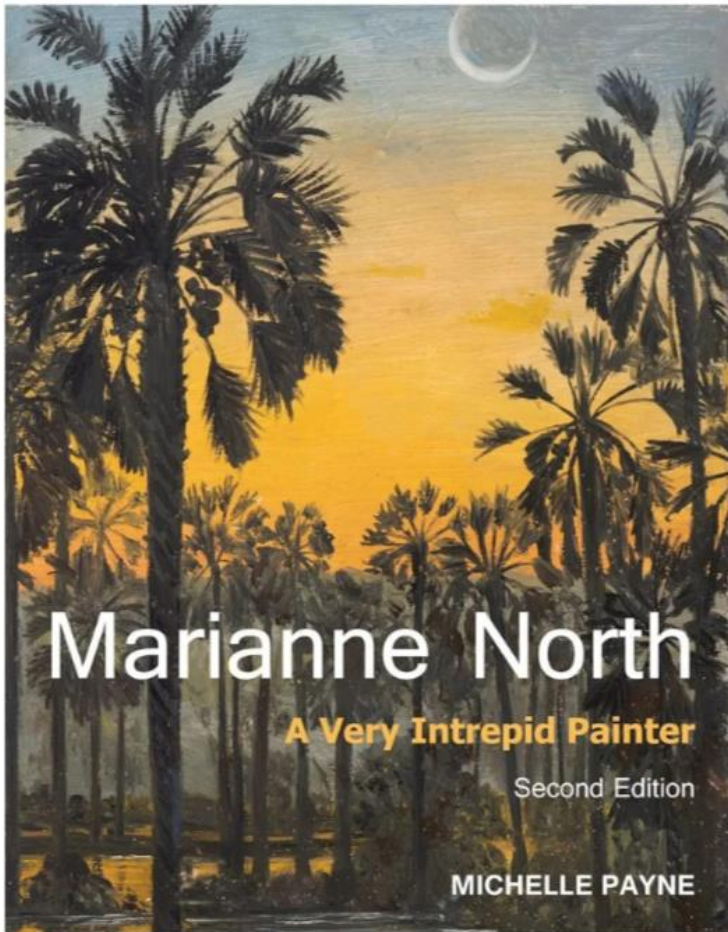
Gardeners who grow native plants in their gardens know that it is not easy to find these plants. Once you find the plants, they can cost a lot. Pluts, he plants in the local nursery may not be from an ecosystem similar to yours. Although they are native somewhere, they may not e badaptive to your garden.

Not to mention growing your own plants is educational and fun!

Stay tuned for more information about saving seeds (especially native seeds). In the meantime, it's a good time to collect seeds from native plants. Save your seeds in paper bags and envelopes, and label with as much information as you can. Share any extra with Ellen Silverman, Laura Docherty, and Jill Jordan, who will use the seeds for future winter-sowing workshops.

Read here for more information about seed saving: <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs1329/>

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Book Review

By Roberta Quinn

MARIANNE NORTH, A VERY
INTREPID PAINTER
by Michelle Payne, Revised Edition,
2016, reprinted 2023 Kew Publishing,
Royal Botanic Garden

Have you ever heard of Marianne North? I hadn't. She was born in England in 1830 and died in 1890 at the age of 59. I saw a television show with her paintings, had to learn more, and asked for this book.

Marianne came from a wealthy family. Her father was in Parliament. Marianne's lack of education in Victorian England is not surprising; however, that did not stop her insatiable desire to explore the world and record botanical wonders in art. Particularly interesting is that these specimens are shown in their natural habitats around the world.

The bold colors and exotic locales are stunning. Some places she explored were North America, Jamaica, Brazil, Sri Lanka, Tenerife, Japan, Seychelles, Singapore, Borneo, Java, and India. Many of her travels were totally on her own, an amazing thing for that time.

The collection of her paintings can be seen in a special gallery in Kew Gardens. There were 832 of her paintings in this building in 2009. I have never been to Kew, but this would be a place I would not miss.



Planting the Colors of Autumn

Some ideas from Jill Jordan

Red

Red Maple (Vivid scarlet, bright yellow, mottled red and yellow)
Smooth & Staghorn Sumacs (Red to red-orange)
Tupelo (Crimson, blood-like)
American Hornbeam (Red-orange to red)
Nannyberry (Red-orange to crimson)
Scarlet Oak (Bright to deep scarlet)
Sweetgum (Red to red-orange)
Blueberries & Huckleberries (Deep red to crimson)

Orange

Sugar Maple (Orange-red, pumpkin orange, yellow)
Shadbush (Light to vivid orange, red-orange)
Bigtooth Aspen (Orange-red, orange-yellow, yellow)
Black & Pin Cherries (Tawny orange, orange-red)

Maroon/Purple

Ashes (Maroon to maroon-yellow)
Maple-leaf Viburnum (Pale magenta to lavender)
Dogwoods (Burgundy to red-maroon)

Yellow/Gold

Hickories (Golden yellow)
Sassafras (Yellow, yellow-orange, orange-red)
Tulip tree (Pale, lemon yellow)
Basswood (Pale yellow)
Striped maple (Pale yellow)
Silver maple (Pale yellow)
American Chestnut (Yellow to yellow-brown)
Spicebush (Bright yellow)
Witch-hazel (Bright, lemon yellow)
Quaking Aspen (Bright lemon to golden yellow)
Black Walnut (Pale to bright yellow)
Cottonwood (Pale yellow to pale yellow-brown)
Birches (Pale to bright yellow)
Elms (Golden yellow to yellow-brown)
Tamarack (Golden yellow)

Browns/Tans

Oaks (Tawny to russet)
Sycamore (Yellow-brown to brown)
American Beech (Coppery tan)

Congratulations!

**Bianca Aniski, Ocean
County Master Gardener,
spearheads award winning
program**



(SURF CITY) – The New Jersey Department of Agriculture today presented Ethel Jacobsen School in Ocean County with the “Cream of the Crop” Award during a visit to the school’s classrooms, garden, and cafeteria. The presentation took place during the celebration of the 14th Annual *Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week* and the 2nd Annual Ag Literacy Week being held September 23-27.

“Ethel Jacobsen has an excellent program and adding the Agricultural Literacy component complements the outstanding curriculum already in place,” NJDA Secretary Ed Wengryn said. “They have a wonderful school garden, and a winter light garden is a regular reminder to students about how food grows and where it can originate.”

Spearheaded by school nurse Bianca Aniski, Ethel Jacobsen Elementary School has had a school garden for the last 15 years. Today’s Farm-to-School celebration included the school’s Garden Ambassadors transplanting cabbage and broccoli seedlings that were started by summer volunteers. In the garden, the plants are labeled by the students, in both English and Spanish in the world language classes.

The school also regularly participates in Jersey Tastes, where students can try different offerings. For today’s event they were given an opportunity to taste test a garden-fresh salsa created straight from the schoolyard garden. The Farm to School curriculum at Ethel Jacobsen incorporates math and Ag Literacy lessons, which include reading age-appropriate books relating to growing plants and agriculture, and a journaling project where students can create their own story from watching plants grow. Farm to School lessons are also used in science, English/Language Arts, music, art, physical education, health, wellness, cooking sessions and MyPlate Nutrition.

“With Bianca’s leadership, Farm to School here has continued to thrive, and we are excited to accept this honor,” Ethel Jacobsen Principal Frank Birney said. “The students are enthusiastic with what takes place throughout the year and it’s very rewarding to see them learn more and mature as they progress through the program.”

Read more of this press release, and more about the “Cream of the Crop” program here:
<https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/news/press/2024/approved/press240926.html>

Master Gardeners Share

Photos from the Beach Plum Festival at Island Beach State Park
From Cora Morrison



"Having a good day at Island Beach State Park with Ann and Keavy!"



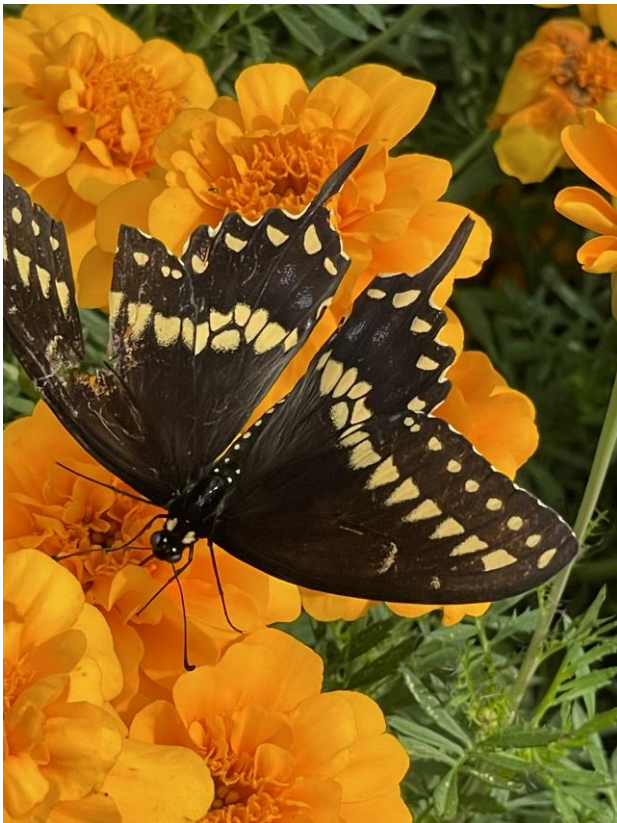
From Donna Pieretti

"Attendees from the afternoon crew!
Master Gardeners—Keavy Franzoni, Donna Pieretti and Intern, Brielle PETERSKI."

Master Gardeners Share



From Kate MacDonald



From Cindy McGrath

From Karen Gfroerer
(via Cindy McGrath)



Master Gardeners Share

From Ann Kinney



Master Gardeners Share

From Ann Kinney



Master Gardeners Share



From Sherry Seeds – “A neighbor here in Ocean Gate has grown quite the crop of hen-of-the woods. I don’t know if they’re intending to eat them. Would you dare?”



Master Gardeners Share

From Mary Townsend: Plant Sale Photos



From Kat Schaffer



From Alison Del Rio-Stellita:
What a beautiful day it was for a plant sale!

Cash sales: \$835
Credit card sales (net): \$1171
Total sales: \$2006

Master Gardeners Share



From Mary Townsend: Fall Plant Sale



From Heide Dziardziel: Fall Plant Sale





The next IPM Workshop will take place on Wednesday
October 30th from 10 am to 1 pm at the Ag. Center

This Workshop is the last scheduled Workshop of the season. In accordance with how The IPM Committee begins the season with a Valentines Day IPM Workshop Celebration in February, we will end the Season with a Halloween IPM Workshop Celebration here in October.

The Auditorium will be decorated in Halloween décor. We are leaving it up to participants to choose to come as you are, or dress up.

The agenda will be similar to the February Workshop in that it will be a
"POT LUCK BRUNCH".

There will be a one-hour EDU session from 10am to 11am, and two hours of diagnostic training.

As usual, feel free to bring in samples from home for diagnosis.

Each MG attending will receive this commemorative IPM Scout Pin



WELCOME WINTER PARTY— EVERGREEN MAJESTY

Save the Date!
Thursday, December 5, lunch time

Calloway's Restaurant and Bar
597 Route 9 in West Creek, Eagleswood Township,
2.5 miles south of Route 72.

Veterans, Interns, and guests are welcome.

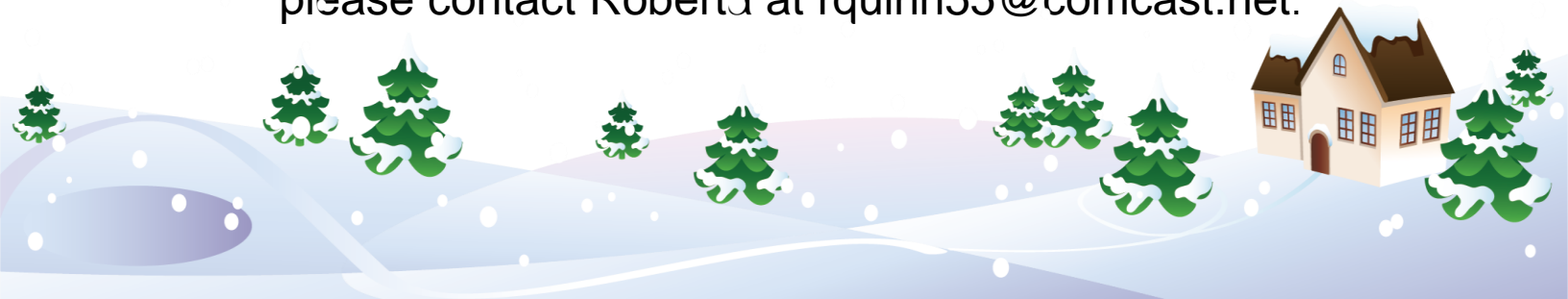
\$30.00 for a sit-down dinner and dessert.

Entrée choices: Prime Rib, Chicken Francaise, Broiled Atlantic Salmon, and Penne ala Vodka.
Vegetarian Option yet to be determined.

Dinner includes salad, mashed potatoes, green beans, and rolls and butter.

Roberta will be emailing a flyer once all aspects of the party have been confirmed, and will then be accepting reservations.

Anyone with questions or who would like to help decorate, please contact Roberta at rquinn55@comcast.net.



Announcements



SPECIAL OFFER

We know you love it!
The shrub garden still has beauty berry for sale. MG special price: \$15 each.

Contact Peter Ascolese, Laura Docherty, Mary Mackle, or Jill Jordan to buy

Chilly Chili Day
Everyone's invited!
Learn more at the
General Meeting on
October 3.



Speakers Bureau (including Interns!)
contact Suzanne Keane,
mgsue06@gmail.com


Recording Secretary (for General Meetings) – speak to any Board Member

Co-Chair –Newsletter – Contact Sherry Seeds, bestimw@msn.com




Food Collection: at the General Meeting scheduled for October 3, 2024. If you can not donate at that time there is a plastic bin in the Help Line Room.

As always, gift cards are great. We have been encouraged to donate soups, as these are good cold weather meals.



Sock Collection
October 1 through December 31
Bring your used, washed socks to the Helpline Room,
or bring them to Cheryl Clearo at the Park on Monday's and Wednesdays (October only)

Goal 15 bags! We can do it!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akp20Qkcr-o>





Follow us on Facebook
Master Gardeners of Ocean County
mgocinc.org
This is a closed group open only to
veteran MGs and interns.
Contact Jill Jordan to join.
(jillmjordan2@yahoo.com)

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Policy:

All comments or questions regarding any item in this newsletter should be directed to the editor. (See above for contact information.)

October

- 3:** General Meeting
10:30 am, Auditorium
- 14:** Columbus Day
Ag Center Closed
- 16:** BOD Meeting
9:15 am, Conf. Rm
- 18:** Chilly Chili Day
OCP Patio
- 25:** Newsletter Deadline



November

- 5:** Election Day
Ag Center Closed
- 7:** General Meeting
10:30 am, Auditorium
- 17:** Veterans Day
Ag Center Closed
- 20:** BOD Meeting
9:15 am, Conf. Rm
- 25:** Newsletter Deadline
- 28:** Thanksgiving Day
Ag Center Closed

