

# Through the Grapevine



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

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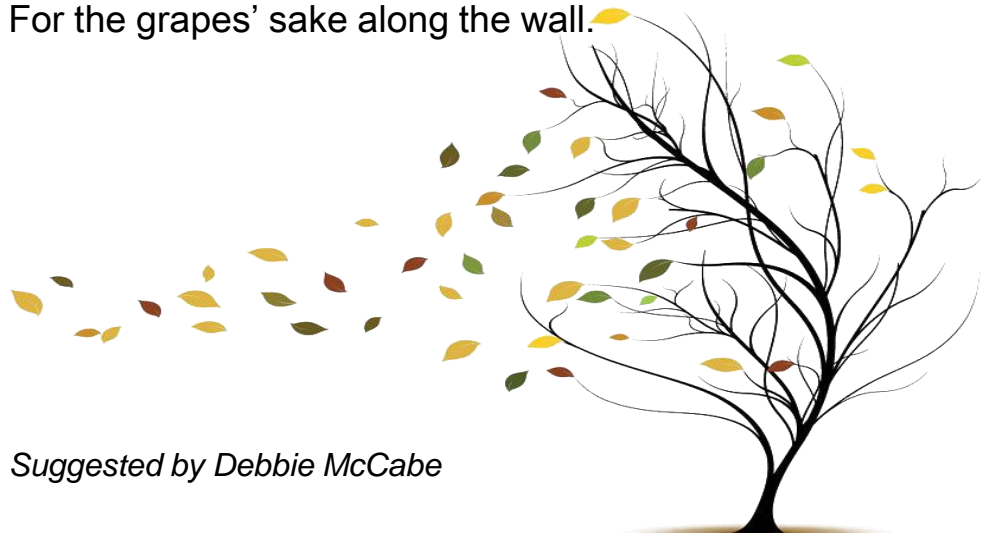
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MGOC, Inc.  
Officers and BOD  
2024 – 2025

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Jill Jordan  
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Caryn Muskus  
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Betsy McLaughlin  
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Ellen Silverman,  
Lynne Smith

October  
By Robert Frost

O hushed October morning mild,  
Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;  
Tomorrow's wind, if it be wild,  
Should waste them all.  
The crows above the forest call;  
Tomorrow they may form and go.  
O hushed October morning mild,  
Begin the hours of this day slow.  
Make the day seem to us less brief.  
Hearts not averse to being beguiled,  
Beguile us in the way you know.  
Release one leaf at break of day;  
At noon release another leaf;  
One from our trees, one far away.  
Retard the sun with gentle mist;  
Enchant the land with amethyst.  
Slow, slow!  
For the grapes' sake, if they were all,  
Whose leaves already are burnt with frost,  
Whose clustered fruit must else be lost—  
For the grapes' sake along the wall.



Suggested by Debbie McCabe

# *President's Message*

*by Roberta Quinn*



We are now entering a down time for most gardeners, but not MGs! I hope you will be doing some planting, winter sowing, or planning what to plant next year. I am revamping my sunken garden. It is in a natural depression in my backyard in lots of shade. I am rehoming hostas that were decimated by deer in my front yard and adding them to the existing ferns and hostas with some new stepping stones. I have added native plants around the top edge of this garden where there is more sun.

I invite you to think about Outreach activities to increase the visibility of the MG program in the county. I am sure many of you have heard people say they had no idea there were MGs in Ocean County. Next year is the 35th anniversary of our RMG program. Time to celebrate!

Now to the business side of MGs. There has been some confusion as to the budget process for MGOC Inc. MGOC Inc. operates on a fiscal year running from July 1 to June 30. Whatever funds remain in a committee's balance as of June 30 are put into the general fund, and then the new budgeted amount takes effect on July 1. Committees should not feel compelled to spend their entire budgeted amount if they don't need to. The committee balances requested at Executive Committee meetings are balances in the current fiscal year's budget. (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025)

Since November is a time of thanksgiving, I want to thank all of you for sharing your time and knowledge with the public, and for the friendly way in which you do so.

# *Gardening Journey*

*By Susan Emhardt-Servidio*



The end of the year is almost here. Where has the season gone? Thank you to the committee chairs for taking the time to send in your project proposals. The Board and I will be reviewing the proposals this month. Committee chairs will be notified by December 8, 2024, of the project's status for 2025. Some projects may need revision or annual review per the Coordinator's decision.

## **Reports**

I will be sending out Year-end Committee reports forms to all committees. The reports are due by December 15, 2024. As in the project proposal, think about who was served, what impact your committee had, and measurements/stats that were gathered during the year. What did your committee accomplish (a summary) this year, and what goals does your committee have for 2025? Let's show off what great things you all have accomplished by volunteering together!

## **Hours**

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

## **Survey**

Thank you to all who took the Qualtrex survey on volunteer programming. Some really great suggestions.

## **Training**

I will host one-to-two-hour volunteer training and education classes from January through April on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I will use the canvas site, and the programs will be hybrid (in-person and virtual) and recorded (if presenters allow). Training classes will be mandatory if you want to participate in the Helpline, Tick Lab, Community Outreach Events, or Speakers' Bureau. There will be a qualification on Better Impact that training classes must be completed for volunteers to sign up for these opportunities and events. I am beginning to schedule speakers, so more information will be in December's newsletter. Lots of ideas, so little time!

## **Office Closures**

Office will be closed November 5, November 11 and November 28. I will be out of the office as well November 15-19. Kelly O and Patti will be in the office if you have questions.

**Events -- Sign-up on Better Impact (if space is available)**

**November**

- 11/1: Garlic Planting at Community Garden at OCP (10-11 am)  
Houseplant Hospital at Berkeley Library (10-12 pm)
- 11/3: Lakewood Fall Festival at Common Grounds (1-4 pm)
- 11/4: Education Outreach Committee meeting (2-3 pm)
- 11/7: General Meeting with Zoom (10:30 am)  
Speakers' Bureau Meeting after Gen. meeting
- 11/8: Ask an RMG at County Connection (10 am - 2 pm)  
Ask an RMG at Lacey (10 am - 4 pm)
- 11/12: Native Seed Cleaning (11 am - 1pm)
- 11/13: Ask an RMG at Point Pleasant Library (2 am – 4 pm)
- 11/22: Ask an RMG at County Connection (10 am – 2 pm)

**December**

- 12/5: Winter Party- register with Roberta Quinn
- 12/6: Houseplant Hospital at Berkeley Library (10 am – 12 n)
- 12/11: Ask an RMG at Point Pleasant Library (2-4 pm)
- 12/13: Ask an RMG at Lacey (10 am - 4pm)

**2025 Dates**

February 7, 2025: Graduation and Awards Ceremony (Kelly O will send out invitations in December)

May 3, 2025: Spring Plant Sale

July 9-13, 2025: Ocean County Fair (Let's think of an interactive display, not just an info table.)

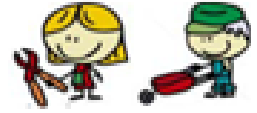
August 16-17, 2025: Butterfly Tent Event- Saturday and/or Sunday- TBD

September 19-20, 2025: Fall Garden Day/Fall Plant Sale- Friday and/or Saturday- TBD (*Veterans will host* it this year so get your thinking caps on!)





# Committee Reports



## Ask A Master Gardener

Connection - Chair: Kate MacDonald, Co-Chair: Anna McPeek  
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 Lock

Ask a Master Gardener is a unique outreach opportunity. Think Helpline face to face. No phones to answer. Phones (iPads and laptops) are for research to evaluate a client's questions and provide research-based advice.

Stafford Library completed their 2024 sessions, but Point Pleasant Borough, Lacey, Manchester, and County Connection continue programs through December. Veterans at the other four AMG sites, interacted with 52 clients, distributed 106 handouts, and collected nine email addresses from clients interested in future programs.

Topics of interest were pollinators, growing basil indoors, composting, soil testing, fig trees, hydrangeas, aloe, houseplants, deer resistant plants, fall plant sale, calendars.

*Report by Debbie McCabe*

## Class Liaisons

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

It is hard to believe that 2024 is in its final 2 months and the Intern Class of 2024 will graduate on February 7, 2025! Can't wait to have each of the graduates fully involved with the many RMG Outreach and other activities open for RMG support!

As class liaisons, we would like to commend Sue for all her dedication to making sure the classes are both viable and interesting. We thoroughly enjoyed both supporting the Intern classes and Sue with all the ABCs of making sure everything was ready for the class, and that includes all the audio-visual and computer set ups, as well as making sure the materials for the class were available and that we were able to greet and assist all who attended the classes.

As 2025 arrives, we will remain as class liaisons doing most of what we did with the Interns, but now the focus will be on the Veterans when Sue has special programs scheduled.

We send our thanks to all of the Interns, Veterans, and presenters we have assisted during the scheduled classes for making it a great experience. A special thank you to the Ocean County Agricultural Center staff for all your support! And lastly, thank you class liaisons for awesome teamwork!

*Report by Peggy Mott*



# Committee Reports



## Community Garden

Chairs: Rich Marine, Noreen Baris, and Cheryl Clearo

At the October 3 General Meeting, we collected 249 pounds of non-perishable foods, \$20 in cash, and \$85 in gift cards, which were donated to Destiny's Bridge. Thank you for your generosity!

Cheryl held her trench-composting class on Monday, September 30, 2024. Folks in attendance learned a great deal about this composting method.

Noreen will be doing a garlic planting demonstration at the Community Garden today, November 1, at 10 am.

We are still harvesting. Peppers, sweet potatoes, and lots of tomatoes are still to be donated.

We are preparing all of the beds for the spring of 2025.

*Report by Rich Marine*



# Food Collection



# Committee Reports



## IPM

Chair: Vinnie Delia, Co-chairs: Tom Barnes, Rachel Halford, Ann Kinney



Photos by Ann Kinney, from the final 2024 IPM Workshop on October 30



# Committee Reports



## Cuisine Garden

Chair: Cindy McGrath, Co-Chair: Sue Priolo

We've been harvesting the end of our summer crops at the garden and continue to donate to local pantries & the Cuisine kitchen.

We also laid down new Lumite throughout the garden paths. Noreen Baris held a garlic demo on October, we then planted our garlic for next year's crop. A huge thank you to our dedicated crew who helped make this garden so successful this season!

*Report by Cindy McGrath; Photos by Ann Kinney*



Garlic planting



Preparing walkways



Laying Lumite



TA DA!





# Committee Reports



## Cut Flower Gardens

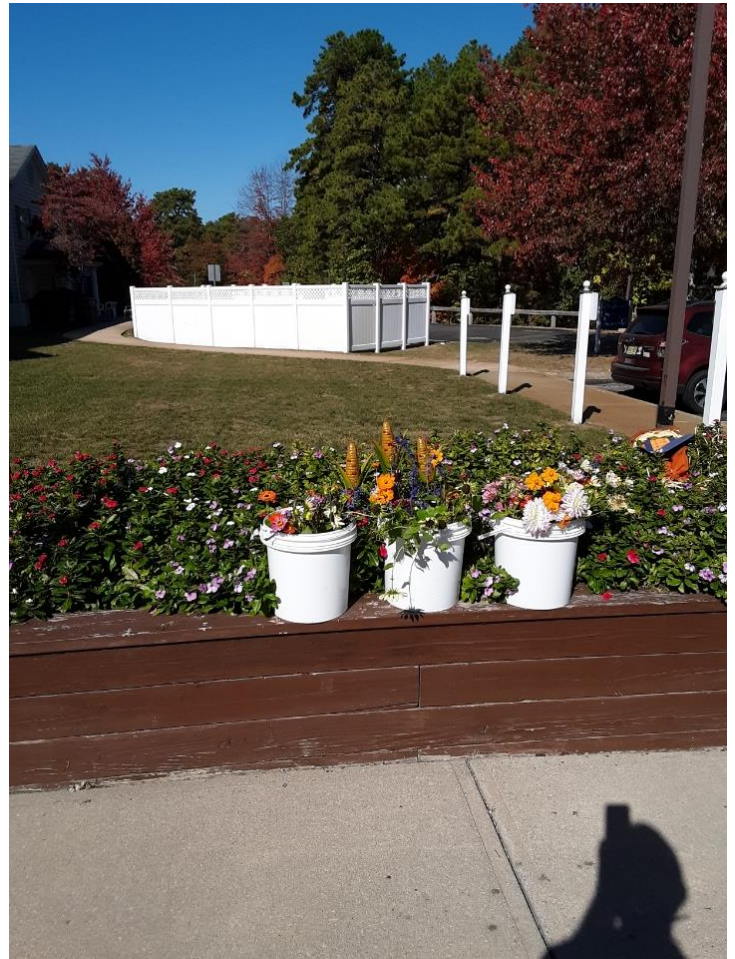
Chair: Ron Rooberg

The cut flower gardens are fading with the cooler nights. We are leaving much of the vegetation alone because the monarchs, bees, birds, and other pollinators are still very active. The monarchs' favorite is the Mexican sunflower.

We have been saving seeds from many of the plants. We are using mesh bags made for this purpose. I have had good results from purchased seeds grown in my garage. Starting seeds gathered from gardens will be a new piece.

We began digging dahlias October 23 to save them from the frost, which turns them to goo. This is the second year for dahlias, and they were greatly improved from last year. Lessons learned: good staking is a must as they break like glass; buy cheap dahlias; they may have flowers with their faces turned down or as in one case from a large retailer, there is nothing much in the bag. So that's how they make their money.

We cut and donated 44 buckets of flowers. This is up from 19 buckets last year. We will be working on the gardens all winter. Come join us. The sun shines a lot at the park.



*My most recent delivery and most likely the last of the season.*



# Committee Reports



## Display Garden

Chair: Beth Kimber, Co-Chair: Caryn Muskus

October was a beautiful month to work in the garden, and we were very fortunate to have so many Interns and Veterans come out to help. In the beginning of the month, we added some perennials and transplanted others, we pruned the large Carolina allspice and 'Limelight' hydrangea shrubs, and we watered and weeded the beds. October 23 was our last work session for the year, and we spent the day putting the garden to bed. We removed the summer annuals and cut back perennials, leaving the ones with hollow stems for the bees to hibernate in over winter. We planted daffodil bulbs in the ground and in containers. We raked the paths and mulched the beds.

2024 was a great year! We created and dedicated a new garden bed to Sue-Kay Ernst; we did not have to cancel any work sessions due to inclement weather; the automatic sprinkler system was interrupted only once all year, which was a blessing given the dry last 3-4 months; and we averaged 5-6 people volunteering at each work session;

We are so appreciative of the time and hard work, which is quite physical at times, of so many volunteers. Our goal is to offer the public a tranquil place to stroll through, observe and learn about trees, shrubs and perennials, and hopefully inspire them with ideas of plants to add to their home property. From the feedback we heard we can all be quite proud Thank you!

We will see you in March 2025.

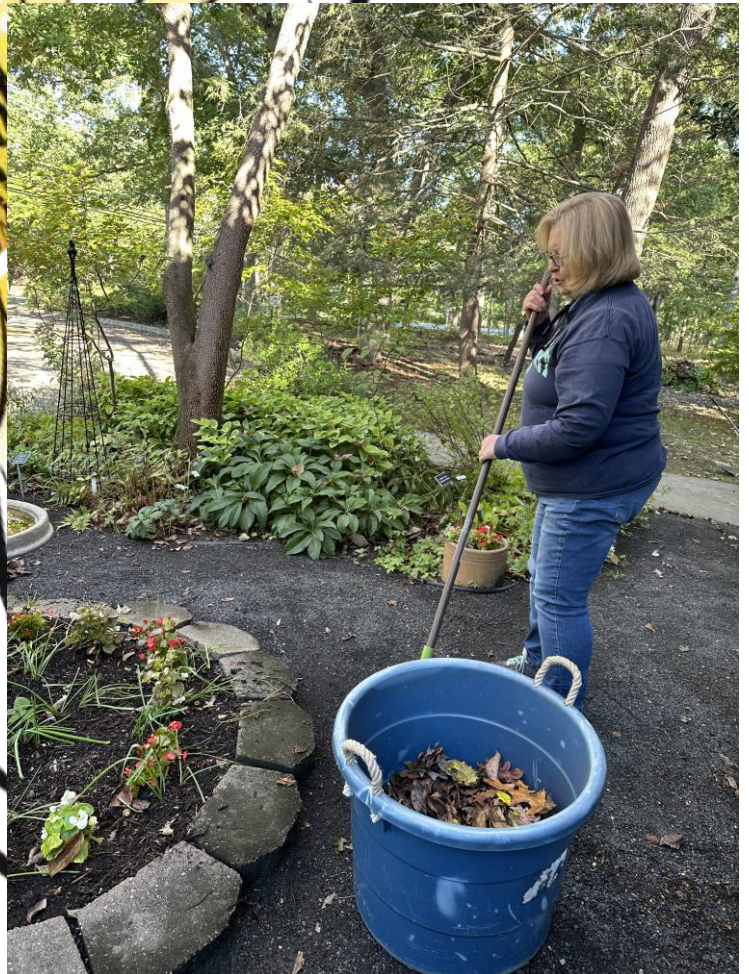
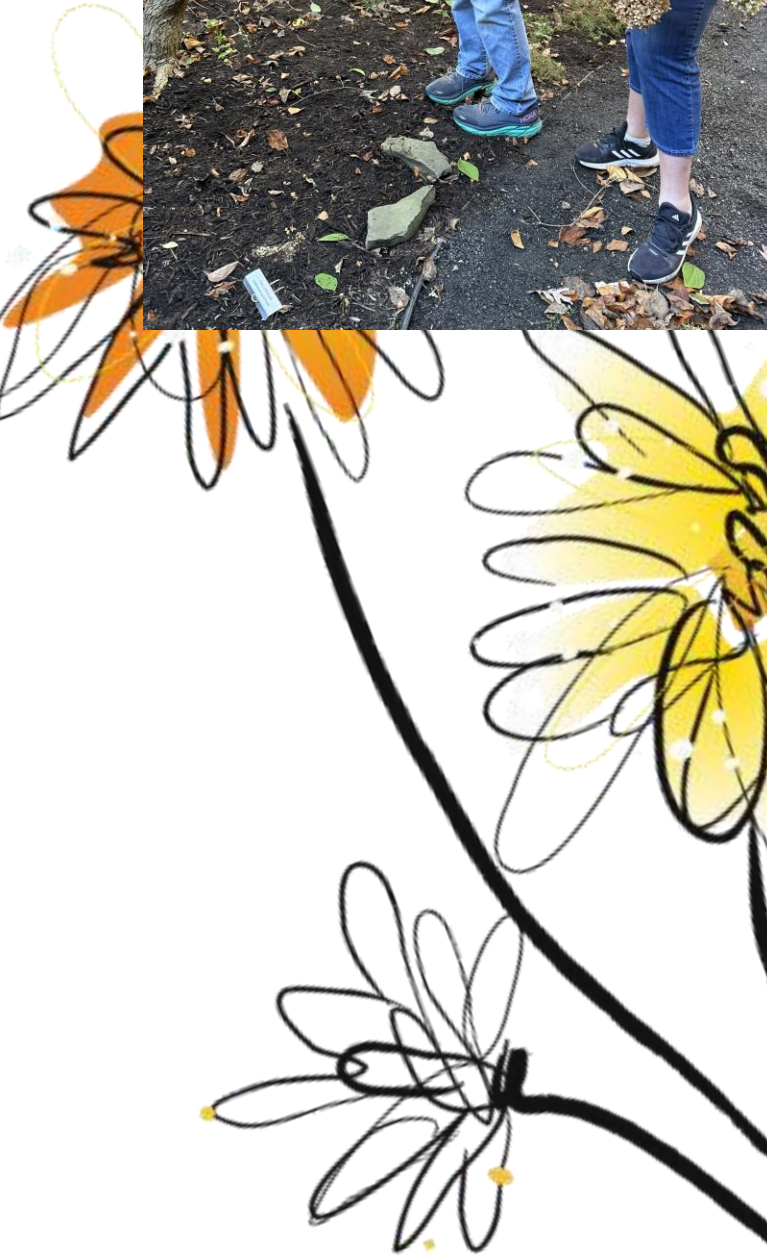
*Report by Beth Kimber*



*Photos by Caryn Muskus. More photos next page.*



More Display Garden  
Photos by Caryn Muskus..





# Committee Reports



## Education Outreach

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

The ARC/Wrangle Brook garden group and the Arc Tuckerton group have put their garden beds to rest for winter; however, we will maintain contact with them as we wait for spring. We will be doing a Christmas Cactus workshop at ARC Tuckerton November 12 and a sensory plants workshop at ARC in Brick on December 10. Other workshop will be planned for later in winter.

Jill has continued to meet with Greenbriar One's Briar Patch, assisting them with information on caring for the pollinator garden.

Elms School in Jackson will have a garden cleanup on November 21. When we have specific details, we will put on Better Impact and send an "allmgs" email.

Jackson Liberty High School has also asked for assistance from Master Gardeners. When we have more information about that we will let you know.

We will have a meeting November 4 at 2 pm to discuss ideas and set goals for the coming year. All MGs are welcome. Whether you have suggestions for projects or just want to check us out, please know you are welcome to attend the meeting. If you are interested but cannot make the meeting, contact Kathy at [Kathy.dantonio3@comcast.net](mailto:Kathy.dantonio3@comcast.net) or Mark at [mbaranyay@gmail.com](mailto:mbaranyay@gmail.com).

We would like to thank all the Master Gardeners who have participated in EOC projects. It is important that you know how much your efforts are appreciated by the schools and programs you work with. You may not always hear it, but Mark and I get many compliments and words of appreciation about you from the group members and leaders.

*Report Kathy D'Antonio*





# Committee Reports



## Gleaning

Chair: Noreen Baris

There were no opportunities for gleaning these past 4 weeks. Our total for the year still stands at 2,565 pounds of produce gleaned and donated.

## Houseplants

Chair: Debbie Asbjorn, Co-chair: Melissa Bonifacio

Houseplant Committee activities for October

- Houseplant Hospital at Berkeley Twp Library on October 4: 4 attendees for the presentation plus 2 walk-ins for plant diagnosis
- Houseplant Hospital at Manchester Library October 7: 2 walk-ins
- “The Dirt on Houseplants” was presented at the Cedar Village adult community in Brick on October 7. We were well received with 18 participants. We discussed returning to do a workshop on re-potting and propagation. Debbie will follow-up with the coordinator

The houseplant greenhouse at OCP is filling up thanks to some donations and successful propagation. There is no heat in this greenhouse so please hold your donations until spring. If you ABSOLUTELY must move plants, please contact Debbie (daasbjorn@gmail.com) or Melissa (MelisnBonifacio@gmail.com). Please do not just drop off plants in the greenhouse. Any plants received must go into quarantine before they are allowed in. We will be moving plants into the big greenhouse in the next few weeks. Help with watering is always welcome so please check Better Impact. Mondays are the usual day.

A note on repotting plants and potting cuttings: Do not use garden soil or compost as it is too heavy and retains too much moisture. Moisture invites mold and gnats. Use peat + perlite (adds air space) + vermiculite (helps retain moisture) in a proper size pot. When watering, water thoroughly, ensuring you have a steady stream coming through the drain holes. Don't let pots sit in water in the tray. If you are potting succulents or cacti, eliminate vermiculite and add 50% sand (not beach sand) to your mix. An alternative to NON-sustainable peat is coconut coir. I am a fan of this product: it is sustainable and clean (no buggies). This is available in dehydrated “bricks” that you simply add warm water to in order to rehydrate.

We will be having a two-part Houseplants workshop for MGs on November 7 and 21 following the General Meeting. Part 1 = bring your plants indoors, repotting, and propagation. Part 2 = a houseplant swap. Check Better Impact for time and to sign up.

*Report by Debbie Asbjorn*



# Committee Reports



## Ocean County Park Operations

Chair: Al Soyster



*Peter and Al excavating a huge, ancient willow bush at Ocean County Park.  
Photo from Cora Morrison*



# Committee Reports



## Outreach

Chair: Janet Angell

The end of Outreach Events is upon us. You may have seen the photos of our MGs volunteering at Island Beach State Park in last month's *Grapevine*. IBSP is one of New Jersey's secrets – a beautiful place to visit no matter the time of the year and the perfect place for an Oktoberfest! In the southern part of the county MGs represented us at the Eagleswood Country Fair. The 30th Pine Barrens Jamboree was on the October 12 and also well represented by our volunteers. It is a favorite of many who are familiar with the history and music of the area.

This brings us to the last event of the year. On November 3 we will be represented at the Fall Festival held at Common Grounds Community Gardens in Lakewood.

*Report by Janet Angell; photos by Melissa Bonifacio*



*Elaine B at Eagleswood country fair on October 5. Photo Debbie McCabe*



*Toms River Farmers Market  
L to R: Gary Tierra, Melissa Bonifacio, Bill Hegerich, a Debbie Asbjorn. (Brielle Piterksi not pictured)*



*Stafford township night out.  
In the picture Melissa Bonifacio, Terri Rekus,  
Ayala Schlossberg and Bill Hegerich,*





# Committee Reports



## Mentors

Chair: Vickie Monks Co-Chair: Roberta Quinn

Your Interns should be finished with their hours or almost done. Find out what activities they were involved in and encourage them to try to explore different opportunities next year or get more involved in what they enjoyed. You may be able to suggest some committees that meet their interests.

*Report by Roberta Quinn*



## Sun Shine

Chair: Kate MacDonald

Get well wishes were sent to Sue Masoorli as she recovers from a cardiac procedure and to Judith Richtmeyer who has been feeling under the weather.

## Trips and Tours

Currently there are no chairs for this committee. If you are interested, let Roberta Quinn know at [rquinn55@comcast.net](mailto:rquinn55@comcast.net).

The Flower Show will be in March and Longwood Gardens has undergone expansion with new areas to explore. Those could be possible trips. There are many gardens in our area that could provide educational opportunities.

Our Trips committee is not a fundraising committee and has no budgeted funds. Our ticket prices are to cover the expenses of running the trip. We could even meet at a particular venue without hiring a bus. All ideas are welcome.

*Report by Roberta Quinn*







# Committee Reports



## Shrub Garden

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

Just like other gardeners, we in the shrub garden are busy preparing our shrubs and plants for the colder months. That means all the plants we have propagated, winter sown, or repotted have to be placed in the ground or brought indoors for the winter.

Plants that have been propagated in the past year but weren't big enough to sell will go into the herb house or the hoop house. Shrubs that were root bound or outgrowing their containers and recently repotted will be replaced in the ground to keep warm.

Our crop of winter-sown perennials/shrubs will be placed in larger pots and set in the ground in the shrub garden. This is our first time trying to overwinter containers of plants that we winter sowed, so wish us luck. Usually, winter-sown plants go right in the ground after they develop their second set of leaves, but we are hoping to offer larger plants for sale next year. As long as the plants are placed in containers in the ground, they should be fine.

At the beginning of next year, we will be starting the process of winter sowing again, and we are all buying seeds from our favorite places. Some of us were able to collect native seeds from Phyllis Delesandro's beautiful yard, so our seed collection is growing.

We are looking forward to seeing what new things we can grow next year!

*Report Laura Docherty*





# Committee Reports



## Speakers Bureau

Chair: Suzanne Keane, Co-Chair Sue Masoorli

The Speakers Bureau will meet with prospective and current members on November 7 after the General Meeting, so about noon.

Here is some general information that newer MGs may not have yet heard about us:

MG speakers do more than just present power points to the Ocean County community. We also do lectures and demos.

But, before we can “present,” we need MGs to prepare and write the Power Points. We have many programs in our 2024 Speakers Bureau folder, but new topics of current interest are always welcomed, as we will update our list for 2025. Some older PowerPoints need updating as new varieties of plants or “policies” become available.

Lecture outlines need to be created by those who wish to do a demonstration. Those might be the speaker showing a procedure or all hands-on creating their own under the guidance of the demonstrator.

You don’t need to “talk” to be on the Speakers’ Bureau team. If you like sharing gardening information with friends, family, and the public, then this is the committee for you. Come join us November 7 in the Conference Room. (Hours are “Other.”)

*Report by Suzanne Keane*



# Pondering Plants

by Bianca Aniski

This month, Pondering Plants has a seasonal snippet being wedged between Halloween and Thanksgiving. For your entertainment, this gardening adventure is a mash-up between “bog spiders” and cranberries. My agricultural expedition has crawled out of Rutgers Experimental Station and floated on a crimson sea of cranberries straight to your inbox.



Recently, I excitedly attended a NJ Department of Agriculture’s Farm-to-School workshop at the Philip E. Marucci Center for Blueberry and Cranberry Research substation, which is part of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station of Rutgers University located in Chatsworth. Wanting to be somewhat informed before attending, I attempted to poke around the internet for cranberry information. The very first search entry was ... bog spiders. I would not describe myself as an arachnophobe, but I do not think of spiders as cute even though I do understand spiders are beneficial. After all, I am a Rutgers Master Gardener. I should know better.

The bog tour took place on a beautiful, crisp October morning with a light mist rising above Lake Oswego. My brain and vision were locked on high alert, scanning the landscape for the thousands of eight-legged inhabitants that purported were – everywhere - waiting for *me* to visit to *their* home.

Harvesting cranberries is an incredibly labor intense process. Observing the literal ton of cranberries floating and being rounded-up into a waiting truck was astounding. Every hair on my arm was standing at attention waiting for the herd of wolf spiders to leap off of the conveyor belt.



*Continued on next page.*

## Pondering Plants Continued

After whipping myself into cranberry bog spider frenzy, I saw ... not one spider. My whole body relaxed with a sigh of relief after leaving the bog. However, back at the substation proved to be different a different scene.

My fellow schoolyard gardeners had settled themselves comfortably into the workshop. Joyfully seated, the group anticipated a handful of cranberry taste tests. Out of the blue, the entire front row shrieked as tables and chairs lurched backward by three (3) feet. "Spider!" yelled one attendee, while another barked "Smash it!" Fortunately for the spider, the majority chorus of attendees shouted "Don't! It's a beneficial!" All attendees stood frozen in time and space, staring at a cleared spot on the floor. What would a Rutgers Master Gardener do?

Standing beside the kitchen, I found a clear glass and thin but sturdy piece of cardboard. Zigzagging my way through the stationary crowd, I captured the spider and escorted it outside to the hedge perimeter. Upon releasing the spider, the very clear markings of Widow spider were revealed. This was no "Eensy-Weensy spider;" it was the size of a quarter.

Returning to the venue, I was greeted by a clapping round of gratitude as everyone grazed on cranberry salsa, cranberry oatmeal and cranberry slaw. Hmm...spiders. More info here [FS1121](#)



## Look Out, Mr. Peanut!

By Cheryl Clearo

Just for giggles a peanut seed was planted in a container in the Community Garden this spring. We didn't know what to expect but pulled the single plant today, and – lo and behold! – we actually had some peanuts, albeit small, and while some were not completely formed, we had peanuts none the less. Laying the peanuts (actually they are legumes) end to end you can see the various sizes and stage during the growth period.

I grew peanuts many, many years ago and remember having to grow and harvest 20-30 plants in order to get a decent harvest. Once harvested, plants are dried for several weeks in a dry, well-ventilated room. After curing the peanuts, they are removed from the plant and either roasted or boiled.



# Master Gardeners Share



**From Lynda Meehan**

“I was walking in my front door and this little green alien looking visitor was right smack in the middle of my screen door!

I immediately grabbed my camera and took several great shots of this guy.

Apparently, either before during or after mating, the female Praying Mantis bites off the male’s head! perhaps he was trying to get into my house to avoid that situation!

Who knows?”

# *Master Gardeners Share*

**From Keavy Franzoni**

“I got permission to raid the sunflower farm.”



# *Master Gardeners Share*

**From Keavy Franzoni**

More pictures from the sunflower farm.





# Master Gardeners Share

From Colette Chimenti



From Keavy Franzoni

“This is in my green house for my jobs.”



# Master Gardeners Share

From Noreen Baris

Master Gardeners Visit Grounds For Sculpture

Photos Diane Emerick.



*"Bernie Rehberger is in good hands!"*



*"Noreen Baris, Karen Pakasinski, Joe Scutro, Rosemarie Witczak, and Bernie Rehberger sit down to lunch but discover the entire table and place settings are all a piece of art!"*

# Master Gardeners Share

Cora Morrison shares a vegetarian chili recipe from Chilly Chili Day.

## The Best Chili Ever ( a.k.a. 7 Bean Chili)

(This recipe makes a huge pot and it freezes and reheats beautifully, or you can scale it down for less.)

olive oil spray  
4 cups chopped onions  
10 or more cloves garlic, minced  
½ cup chopped cilantro  
1-3 dashes chili powder (or cayenne)  
3 tbsp cumin  
1 tbsp oregano  
1 tsp salt

7 (15 ½ oz.) cans of any or all of the following:

black-eyed peas  
black beans  
cannelini beans  
dark kidney beans  
Dominican red beans  
Pink beans  
Pinto beans

2 (28 oz.) cans diced or crushed tomatoes, or 3 (14 ½ oz.) cans stewed tomatoes )  
1 can water

In a 6 qt. pot, sauté the onions and garlic in oil with herbs and spices until onions are clear.

Drain and rinse beans (rinse them well and they will lose their flatulent properties!) I pour several cans into a colander and rinse them together. Throw the rinsed beans in the pot, and then add the tomatoes. Rinse the tomato cans with the water and add the water. Stir and simmer for one hour.

(also delicious over brown rice or pasta)

**Enjoy!**

# *Master Gardeners Share*

**From Suzanne Keane**

"A reason to have some bare soil. Two sparrows taking dust baths. They created these hollows to suit themselves and the bowls are now quite deep. This area is being redesigned and saw them for several days having fun. Sometimes they splash in the water tray first."



# *Master Gardeners Share*

**From Roxane DiVuolo**

“I had the pleasure of seeing this exhibit in NYC and thought it might be interesting to share.”

100 elephants, woven of lantana camara, one of the world’s top invasive weeds are migrating across the United States . A collaboration between indigenous artisans, contemporary artists and cultural institutions, it will raise millions of dollars to power human-wildlife coexistence projects and protect migratory animals making spectacular journeys across land, rivers, skies and oceans. The use of lantana to create the elephants helps remove the weed from protected areas, leaving wildlife more space to roam. Learn more at <https://thegreatelephantmigration.org/>



# Master Gardeners Share

From Kim Biehler  
"Inside and Out"



# Master Gardeners Share

From Kim Biehler

“Inside and Out”



# Master Gardeners Share

From Melissa Bonifacio



“Here are some pictures from my garden. My beautiful fig tree ‘Francescia’ that I had propagated three years ago. There is a photo of some of the figs she produced for us to eat. There is also a picture of a tomato, ichiban eggplant and string bean harvest.”





# Master Gardeners Share

More photos from Melissa Bonifacio



Photo by Gloria Bonifacio



WELCOME WINTER PARTY  
“EVERGREEN MAJESTY”  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024

PLEASE ARRIVE BY 11:30 am  
CALLOWAY’S RESTAURANT & BAR  
597 MAIN STREET, WEST CREEK, NJ 08092

SIT-DOWN MEAL. ENTRÉE CHOSEN AT THE  
EVENT. CHOICE OF PRIME RIB, CHICKEN  
FRANCAISE, BROILED ATLANTIC SALMON, OR  
PENNE ALA VODKA, WITH GARDEN SALAD,  
ROLLS & BUTTER, MASHED POTATOES & GREEN  
BEANS, DESSERT. CASH BAR.

PRICE \$30 PER PERSON.  
VETERANS, INTERNS, AND GUESTS  
ARE WELCOME.

PAYMENT DUE BY NOVEMBER 22.  
CHECKS MADE OUT TO **MGOC, INC.**  
MAIL CHECKS WITH NAMES OF ATTENDEES TO:  
ROBERTA QUINN, 2048 CRESTWOOD DR.,  
FORKED RIVER, NJ 08731 (rqquinn55@comcast.net)



# Announcements



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



## Decorators Needed!

There are a few MGs who have volunteered to  
work on Evergreen Majesty decorations, but  
more volunteers and ideas are needed.

Contact Roberta Quinn if interested at

[rquinn55@comcast.net](mailto:rquinn55@comcast.net)

We will start decorating at 10 am  
on December 5th at Calloway's.



## Sock Collection

We're off to a great start. Took eight bags  
to FedEx so far. Thank you to everyone for  
donating your socks and keep 'em coming.  
Deadline for drop off is December 2 so give  
them to Cheryl at the General Meeting or at  
the park on Mondays or Wednesdays, or  
you can always leave them in the Helpline  
room. Remember to leave them loose in a  
bag.

Goal 15 bags! We can do it!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akp20Qkcr->





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.)

## November

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



## December

- 5:** Welcome Winter Party  
See Page 34
- 18:** BOD Meeting, 9:15  
X-Com, 10:30  
Both Zoom only
- 25:** Christmas Holiday  
Ag Center Closed
- 25:** Newsletter Deadline

