

Through the Grapevine

The Official Publication of the Master Gardeners of Ocean County Inc. Produced in cooperation with the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Service

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Politics in Your Garden

By Grace Hagemeyer

November 8 is Election Day. People across the nation are tasked with one of their most important civic duties. Voting. If you are like many, your garden has gotten into the spirit, too. Your neighbors who normally stop to admire your flowers, are stopping now to see who you're voting for.

But what do you do once you cast your ballot? Win or lose, those signs need to go. Or do they? There are tons of uses for that corrugated plastic emblazoned with your candidate's name, but that's an article for another day. I want to talk about the real gem, the stake that holds it in the ground.

That unassuming metal "H" that supported your candidate through the entire election cycle is PERFECT for supporting your plants too! It can be used to tame those ungainly stalks and top heavy blooms! It can be configured in several different ways: tall, short, or even into a ring, depending on what you need it for.

Without them, my hydrangea blooms would touch the ground, my sedum would lean over my front walk, and my daughter's peppers would tumble out of their planter boxes. Who needs to go to the store for fancy plant stakes? Not us! Cruise the neighborhood the day after Election Day and pick up the best ones from your neighbor's curb.

I've collected many over the years, and this is one instance where all political parties ARE the same! Republicans, Democrats and Independents may all have different ideas about climate change, but what doesn't change is the quality of their sign holders. They're the most versatile pieces in my garden shed, and they can be yours, too.

And just like those candidates entering office soon, let them work for you!

President's Message

by Mary Townsend



Autumn – Bah! Humbug!

I don't like autumn. I don't like the falling leaves, the cooling weather, or the change to standard time – nothing, nil, nada! Nor can I get excited about fall foliage, migrating birds, and trick or treaters – zero, zip, zilch!

For me, autumn is a melancholy season. It's the harbinger of the season I like even less – winter! Br-r-r! My flowers are dying, my veggies are dead, and my shrubs are helpless against the inevitable.

Yeah, I know – the cycle of life and all that. But the autumn winds are unforgiving, winter is too long, and spring is so uncertain.

Of course, there are some highlights – Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Eve – but they're just 3 days out of a miserable season.

If you're feeling the same way, do not despair! There are plenty of MG activities to keep you going until spring.

- You can have fun replacing the covers on the Greenhouse, the Wright House, and the Hoop House. First up is the Greenhouse on Wednesday, November 2 at 9:30 am. And yes, it is fun because you never know what's going to happen so you and your fellow MGs get plenty of thrills and laughs. Contact Mary if you can help (mary_townsend@comcast.net)
- Don't like the cold? You can work indoors propagating perennials for the Hoop House. Vicki and Bernie will

share their secrets for growing new plants from ones you already own. Do you know the difference among greenwood, softwood, semiripe wood, and hardwood? Come out and learn something new and get CEUs in the process. Contact Vickie Monks to get involved (vickimonks@hotmail.com.)

The Greenhouse will begin the 2023 project in February, and the Wright House follows soon after in March. There's nothing more satisfying than nurturing a seed you've sown in winter into a salable plant in May. Just contact Cheryl Clearo (cherylclearo@gmail.com) to join the Greenhouse team and Joan Haldane (jmhaldane@icloud.com) for the Wright House.

And of course, there's the Speaker's Bureau. There's usually a pickup in requests for speakers, but if that's not your thing, you can support this effort by updating our PowerPoints or even creating a new one. Contact Suzanne Keane to volunteer (mgsue06@gmail.com)

So don't hibernate like a grumpy bear this winter. Shake off the winter doldrums and enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow MGs while working and learning.









The garden is calling, and I must go,





The Buzz: What has MGOC, Inc. been up to lately?



-  A very short General Meeting will kick off Chilly Chili Day on Thursday, November 3, on the Patio in front of the greenhouse beginning at 12 noon. Please bring a covered dish to share. Be sure to RSVP to Mary Townsend so we know how many tables to set up.
-  If you plan on attending the Holiday Party on Thursday, December 1 (12-4 pm), please mail your check (payable to MGOC, Inc) to Mary Townsend, 97 17th St, Toms River NJ 08753. Deadline: November 15. Spouses are invited. This year's theme is "Twinkle Toes." We will also remind you with an email flyer. The deluxe luncheon buffet will cost \$38 per person. Cash bar.
-  MGOC, Inc. has two Dell desktop computers (CPU, keyboard, and monitor) to give away. That's right. FREE! They are both in excellent shape and work perfectly, but they are just a little slow. If you'd like to take a look, check out the one set up in the Tick Lab. Please contact Mary if you would like to claim one.
-  Don't forget to complete the interest survey. Check your email. Your participation will help us plan future MG activities.
-  Best wishes to Robin O'Brien, email manager, who recently retired from MGs. Robin was instrumental in setting up and maintaining our Dodo Email account. We thank her for her efforts to troubleshoot the account and keep it running smoothly. Any questions regarding your "allmgs" email should now be directed to Mary until a new manager is appointed.
-  Janet Angell is looking for a co-chair of the Community Outreach Community. This vital committee is the public face of MGs at festivals and fairs throughout Ocean County. Please contact Janet or Mary if you would like to help.
-  FYI – Recently 36 MGs were dropped from the contact list and the website, most likely as a result of inactivity since Covid.
-  Happy Birthday to all MGs born in November. Your flower is the chrysanthemum, which **youth, loyalty, love, passion, friendship, and get-well-wishes** in Chinese and Japanese cultures. Buddhism says that chrysanthemums emit Yang energy (active energy). It is even believed to prevent grey hair!



Gardening Journey

By Susan Emhardt-Servidio



The chill is in the air and most gardens are beginning their winter nap. The Helpline and Tick Lab are now closed for the season, but Ocean County Park areas are still open as is the Display Garden. Planting Garlic with Noreen at the community Garden on November 7, 2022 is an hour of Continuing Education. All 2022 hours must be logged in by December 15, 2022.

With help from RMGs and staff, I will be hosting a Meet-and-Greet on November 1 for the 32 new interns of the 2023 class to welcome them into our program. There is a wait list started for 2024. I'm excited to begin the new season in January!

The Cuisine on the Green Garden (dubbed Cuisine Garden Redux) has gone through an amazing transformation.

To go from this...



to this in 3 weeks is quite impressive!



Thanks to all the helping hands: Mary T, Debbie M, Bianca A, Calla A, Sue P, Nancy B, Cindy M, Rachel H, Ann K, Elaine B, and Marguerite B. Shout out to OC Parks and Rec crews for rehabbing and rebuilding beds in the garden.

In Memoriam



Former Ag Agent and Horticultural Consultant, Charlene Costaris, passed away on October 14, 2022, after her valiant fight against cancer.

To many she was a mentor, an educator, and a friend. Charlene loved to research topics until she knew all she could and then educated the rest of us with what she found. Her articles for the MG newsletter were always well written and timely.

She helped me navigate through RCE, Rutgers and Ocean County, and was a wealth of information. She taught me to be a better speaker, writer, and plant diagnostician. She let me into her life, and I am forever grateful to have had the privilege to work with her. Her thirst for knowledge and sharing that knowledge was her gift to us all to keep grounded and growing.

Rest in peace, Charlene, and may we hear your chuckle in the rustling of the leaves.



Committee Reports



Community Garden

Noreen Baris, Rich Marine & Sue Priolo

- * The garden continues to harvest and deliver to local food pantries.
- * Newly planted chard, arugula, beets, and turnips are doing well.
- * Garlic will be planted in November. Noreen will be conducting her traditional planting class on Monday, November 7, at 10 am.
- * We will also be planting onions and carrots in November.
- * We have begun our planning for next year's bed layout.
- * Next year we will expand our use of companion planting in the garden.

Submitted by Rich Marine

Cuisine Garden

Bianca Aniski & Calla Aniski Boyd

Scan this QR code with your smart phone for a look at the Cuisine Garden's transformation.

If you don't have a smart phone, click the link below.

<https://sites.google.com/view/cuisinegardenredux/home>

Submitted by Calla Aniski Boyde





The Display Garden

Sue-Kay Ernst, Beth Kimber, & Caryn Muskus

October brought some beautiful autumn weather which many volunteers took advantage of to join us in the display garden. With so much eager help, we accomplished a myriad of tasks this month.

The curved side of the driveway got a lot of attention.

The long line of cedar shrubs was trimmed and mulched.

Most of the plants that had been patiently waiting while healed-in the compost pile since last winter finally found a home in various garden beds. The hydrangea, hibiscus, beauty bush, clematis, and irises were transplanted, watered, and mulched.

The azalea shrubs along the front of the Ag Center were trimmed back and errant vines removed to allow for a better view of the garden from the office windows.

A large hydrangea shrub was transplanted to fill in a gap by the front door.

In another bed we thinned out the Solomon seal, cleared out the mugwort, and removed a large yucca plant to open up the bed for planting next spring. Much to our surprise, while working in the bed we discovered a slate path buried under the soil and mugwort.

Everyone worked hard cleaning out the beds, (especially those persistent lilies of the valley), edging the paths, and redefining the borders with stones.

Hopefully the weather in November will be just as pleasant so we can put the garden to bed. We plan to be in the garden on November 1 and 15.

Submitted by Beth Kimber



Education Outreach

Kathy D'Antonio & Mark Baranyay



Vetnetwork, which has a food pantry for veterans in Lacey, had a planting project planned for October 6 to beautify their site. A local garden center had donated shrubs and grasses. Ocean First personnel have volunteered to do the planting.

Vetnetwork had contacted Master Gardeners for information on planting and care of the donated plants. I emailed the coordinator information about the plants and Ann Earon went on the day of the planting project and provided information on site.

The Wrangle Brook Community Garden/ARC project began October 12. Linda Heller, Nancy Osterberg, and Bob Christopher met Mark Baranyay and me at WBCG. Prior to the arrival of the ARC participants, Mark gave a tour of the garden and went over activities that he does with them at the garden.



When the ARC group arrived, MGs showed them how to clean up the garden pumpkin patch and string bean bed and how to pick the remaining string beans for seed saving. While working, the ARC participants asked many questions and were anxious to talk about what they had learned from Mark over the summer.

There will probably only be one or two sessions left for this year in the garden. All three MGs expressed interest in returning the following Wednesday and participating in the project for next year.

Mark has arranged for ARC to have their own bed at the garden next year. They will be planning over the winter and selecting vegetables to plant next year.

Submitted by Kathy D'Antonio



Committee Reports continued

Greenhouse

Chairs: Linda Convey, Judy Caldwell, Cheryl Clearo, Grace Hagemeyer & Mary Townsend

Thank you to all of the veterans and interns who assisted in the Greenhouse cleaning and sanitizing on October 14. Grow lights and bulbs were cleaned, benches were power washed, and the floor was “picked” clean. The final cleaning and disinfecting of the floor was finished the following Friday and everything was put back in its place. Once the cover is replaced we’ll be all ready for the start of growing season in February 2023.

Submitted by Cheryl Clearo



IPM

Vincent Delia

The IPM Committee went through a transitional period beginning with the Covid 19 pandemic and culminating this year with changes in membership.

Personally, on Labor Day I experienced a sudden loss of a family member that is episodic in my life.

With change comes growth, and the committee has regrouped with new members who are like buds on a branch of a tree, sprouting new thoughts and ideas that will contribute in making the IPM Committee better than ever.

Happy Thanksgiving.



Committee Reports continued

Mentors

Vicki Monks & Roberta Quinn

We still need more mentors for the class of 2023! There are 32 people in the class, and we would like 32 mentors if possible. Otherwise, some of us will need to mentor more than one person. Current interns graduating in 2023 can become mentors.

We want to make sure that all mentors understand they have to continue contacting their intern throughout the year, ideally at least once a month. You can help your intern when they are doing Helpline or Tick Lab or any other volunteer opportunities and make them feel welcome.

Getting on the mentor list is no guarantee you will be a mentor, but we appreciate all those who are willing to volunteer. Please email Roberta Quinn (rquinn55@comcast.net) or call Vickie Monks (732-458-9644) if you want to volunteer or have questions.

Vickie and Roberta will be assigning interns to mentors in late November or early December, in time for you to contact your intern before classes start.

Submitted by Roberta Quinn



Peggy Mott & Silke Stutz

This year's Open House, on November 1, is being considered a "not open house" as the class, for the first time in many years, is full (32 participants)! Therefore, we are calling the event "Meet and Greet"

The committee has updated the power point to reflect the direction and we are looking forward to meeting the upcoming class participants.

Unfortunately, as in the past, **the session is limited to the participants and the speakers.** Stay tuned for additional information about the upcoming Interns in the next newsletter!

Submitted by Peggy Mott



Committee Reports continued

OC Park Maintenance

Steve Rehberger & Ron Rooberg



We have been keeping the grass mowed and trimmed, maintaining the pollinator gardens, working on replacing the covers on the three remaining green houses, and getting ready to remove and store the canopies of the four sun shelters in the area. All of the regulars at the park pitch in and help us on the larger jobs, but everyone is invited to join us.

Submitted by Ron Rooberg

Outreach

Janet Angell

The Jersey Friendly Yards' Native Plants event on October 1 at Ocean County College was an "overall success" to quote Peggy Mott. Our MGs answered questions and traded ideas with over 100 visitors from all over the state. Our calendars, as always, were very popular. Most of the materials they brought along were depleted by the end of the event.

We were represented by our MGs at two other events on October 8. Barktoberfest 2022 was held at Island Beach State Park. Almost all our conversations with visitors dealt with the Spotted Lantern Fly. Isn't that a surprise?!

Also on that day, the 28th Annual Pine Barrens Jamboree in Wells Mills County Park, Waretown, was very well attended with 211 contacts made. Again, we answered many questions about Spotted Lantern Fly.

On Sunday, October 23 our great volunteers endured rain and wind at the Fall Festival held in the John Patrick Sports Complex in Lakewood. As usual, Spotted Lantern Fly was the hot topic, plus tick info, MG brochures, and kids activities.

So many people are aware of the Master Gardeners, and are really interested in what we do. Lots have questions about what's involved in becoming a MG. It's nice to be recognized!



Janet shares info at the Pine Barrens Jamboree.



Speakers Bureau

Sue Masoorli & Suzanne Keane

Our speakers had a busy October, and we will finish up with a good record when we complete our final three presentations this month. We enjoyed interacting with the folks at libraries and communities throughout Ocean County.

Answering their gardening concerns with research-based horticultural information is sharing the knowledge we gathered in our Rutgers classes and through the many webinars offered these past two years. The clients are friendly, anxious to learn, and sometimes even serve coffee and tea. Our demos have been well received and even some Zoom talks last winter. Hopefully the eight talks for the spring won't have to be on Zoom or cancelled.

If interested in learning how to present a program or about the Speakers' Bureau in general, please come to our open meeting Monday, Nov. 7 at 1 in the auditorium. Hope to see you then.

Submitted by Suzanne Keane

Stafford Library Outreach

Debbie McCabe & Suzanne Keane

September 26 was our last library clinic. For those not familiar with the Stafford Library Outreach, it is modeled after Helpline, but we offer face-to-face consultation with residents for plant/weed identification, plant disease and advice, insect identification and advice, and any general gardening queries.

Intern participation this year was especially laudable. At least one intern participated in each session.

Program development and publicity planning is planned in February for resuming April or May in 2023.

Submitted by Debbie McCabe



Sunshine

Kate MacDonald

Sympathy cards were sent to Denise Gomolka on the loss of her father and to the family of Charlene Costaris.

May loving memories bring them peace and comfort.



Committee Reports continued

State Board

Suzanne Keane & Roberta Quinn

The Rutgers MG Annual Fall Conference was held October 15 at the Cook Campus and via Zoom. Presentations were made by Brian Schilling, Director of RCE, Dr. Matt Elmore on lawn weeds, and Rebecca Magron on the approach to doing Helpline or Diagnostics and determining the cause of problems faced by our clients.

If you attended the Fall Conference via Zoom or in person, please give any feedback you have to Roberta rquinn55@comcast.net . The feedback is needed for planning for 2023.

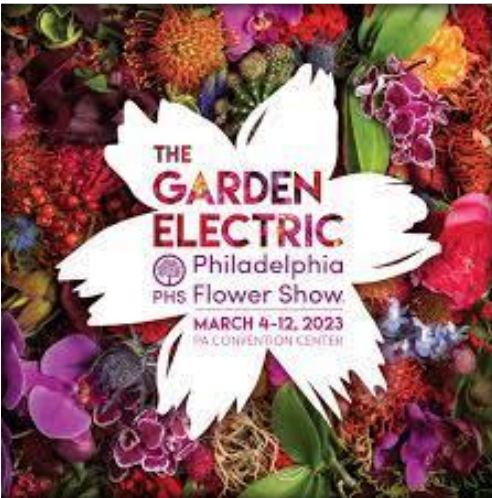
The next meeting of the MGA NJBoard delegates is in November. If you have any suggestions for topics for next year's conference, please contact Suzanne Keane at mgsue06@gmail.com or Roberta Quinn atrquinn55@comcast.net.

It is anticipated that next year's conference will also be hybrid.

Submitted by Roberta Quinn

Trips and Tours

Pat Gorwood & Roberta Quinn



MGOC will be sending a bus to the Philadelphia Flower Show on Monday, March 6, 2023. The trip will leave from Whitesville Road at 10 a.m. and return at 5:00pm. The cost is \$99 including ticket price. Further info will follow. Please send interest to Pat Gorwood at p.gorwood@yahoo.com

Submitted by Pat Gorwood

Ticks

Kath Gregitis

The tick lab closed for the year on Friday, October 28.

Tick Tally for September:

American Dog Tick	31
Lone Star Ticks	27
BLTs	1
Asian Long Horn Ticks	<u>0</u>
Total	59





Got Worms?

By Nancy Osterberg

What an amazing gardening year it has been! I am not the gardener I was at this time last year; I have had so many experiences that have really changed me in so many ways both professionally and personally. If I had to pick just one thing that I learned the most about this year, I would have to say worms.

Last February, composting and vermicomposting were the topics of the day in the Master Gardener coursework. I had been composting, with mixed success, for years but was interested in learning about vermicomposting.

I made my own vermicomposter right after that class and ordered some worms from Uncle Jim's Worm Farm, and now I am "hooked," pun intended! I have had my worm bin ever since. I love my worms and have been talking about them to anyone who will listen.

Vermicomposting was the topic I chose to display at Fall Garden Day. I took the Master Composter course in September. I, am also lucky to work with the NJ Agricultural Society's Learning Through Gardening program, where I was able to continue sharing my worms and teaching about vermicomposting at the Cranberry Festival on the weekend of October 15 and 16.

I have recently presented two workshops about vermicomposting with

Educators Across New Jersey. We made vermicomposters so that the teachers will be able to take them back to their classrooms and their students will learn about worms and vermicomposting, too.

I have an excess of worms at this time, and I am willing to share, so if anyone wants to make a vermicomposter, I would be happy to help you construct one and/or if you need worms for a vermicomposter, please reach out, by text or email, and I will help you out!

732-587-8215

learnthroughgardening@gmail.com



Nancy with an oversized red wiggler worm

The Other State Tree

By Trish Polunas



Every fourth grader in New Jersey public schools learns that our state tree is the Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*).

This tree, native to New Jersey, stately, strong rooted, and structurally beautiful, was selected to become the New Jersey State Tree by then Governor Alfred E. Driscoll and the New Jersey State Assembly on June 13, 1950. The Northern Red Oak has a long life and one in particular can be found still growing after 300 plus years at Duke Gardens in Hillsborough, New Jersey. It is called “Old Champion.”



The “other” New Jersey State Tree is the flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) a smaller tree (usually only 25 feet in height), less stately, with a shorter life span than the red oak, but deeply colorful spring through fall.

The New Jersey Council of Garden

Clubs (now GCNJ, Inc.) planted 8,000 flowering dogwood trees during World War II in honor of the women and men in our armed services who serve or served our country. A year later in 1945, the National Council of State Garden Clubs (now NGC, Inc.) adopted this project and began a Blue Star Highway system covering thousands of miles across the United States including Alaska and Hawaii.

On January 15, 1951, Governor Driscoll and the New Jersey State Assembly proclaimed the flowering dogwood to be New Jersey’s State Memorial Tree, and that flowering dogwoods be planted along highways, specifically, New Jersey’s Memorial Highways, “Blue Star Drives” in honor of men and women serving our Armed Services. Patriotism was shown by planting flowering dogwoods in our many parks and places of remembrance.

After September 11, 2001, 750 trees, including this Memorial State Tree and the Northern Red Oak were planted at Liberty State Park in New Jersey to honor the 750 New Jerseyans who died in the attack on the World Trade Center.

The flowering dogwood has taken residence outside many of our homes in New Jersey. One of the harbingers of spring with colorful pink or white bracts appearing on its branches, we enjoy the bright green leaves of summer, the red berries appearing in abundance each fall – food for the birds and wildlife – and the crimson brown leaves as fall turns to winter on the flowering dogwood.

Continued on next page.

“New Jersey’s Other State Tree” continued

To look at a tree is relaxing and healthy. Many hospital and care giving facility personnel realize how important trees are to patients and caregivers alike. Poems have been written about trees, songs sung, important decisions made while sitting under a tree, and history passed from generation to generation while the tree looked on.

A mockingbird chats from a flowering dogwood and watches your every move. Perched on a branch this unexpected feathered friend brings humor, peace, and focus. Thank you tree!



New Jersey’s “Champion” Trees

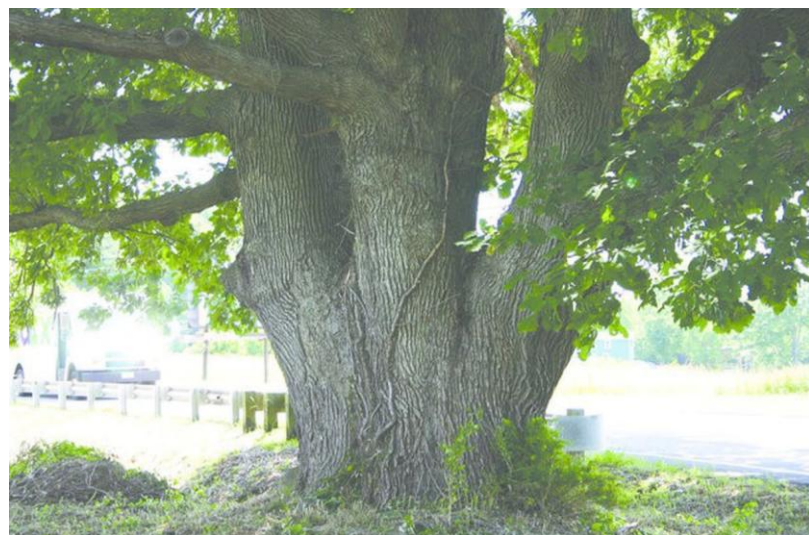
By Mary Townsend

“New Jersey’s Department of Environmental Protection [keeps a list of those it deems “champions,”](#) determined by a tree’s trunk circumference, height and crown from observations made by its Division of Forestry staff and resident. All of those figures are factored together to determine a tree’s “points” which indicate the biggest champions throughout New Jersey” (Bill Gallo Jr., NJ.Com).

Photos by Bill Gallo, Jr.



Red maple, Lower Alloways Creek Twp:
Circumference: 22 feet
Canopy: 80 feet



Swamp white oak, Franklin:
Circumference: 22 feet, 4 inches
Canopy: 102 feet

Think you have a champion tree? You can nominate a tree in your yard or elsewhere in New Jersey by completing the “Big Tree Nomination Form” online.

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/forest/docs/championbigtreenomform.pdf>

Trench Composting: Bury It!

By Cheryl Clearo

While trench composting has been around for thousands of years, the Community Garden is trying it this year for the first time in a couple of our beds.

Native Americans first introduced trench composting to the Pilgrims by teaching the newcomers to bury fish heads and food scraps in the soil before planting corn. The premise is the same today, but it is likely that we have a lot more food waste than was available in the early 1600's.

Trench composting is pretty easy and a lot less work than bin composting.

- Dig a trench in a garden bed at least the depth of the shovel head. Twelve to fourteen inches is recommended. You want it deep enough so that animals aren't tempted to dig it up.
- Put a two-inch layer of "browns" or carbons on the bottom of the trench. Dried leaves work great, but be sure to lightly crush them first. Add another two-inch layer of shredded newspaper paper, pieces of compostable food trays, cut up toilet paper rolls and/or cardboard egg cartons. The smaller the pieces, the likelihood it will decompose faster.

- Add your food waste (no meat products) the trench. Before adding my food waste to my composter bin, I tend to cut it into smaller pieces to facilitate faster decomposition. Chop up any large food pieces with your shovel if needed.
- Add disease-free organic leaves from existing plants in your garden. Avoid adding weeds, especially those that have gone to seed.
- Add another thin layer of browns if desired.
- Finally cover with soil and you're done.

The best time to practice this type of composting is in the fall. This gives it adequate time for decomposition. It can take up to six months to fully decompose and should be ready just in time for spring planting. Since you are digging down 12 inches or more it will not interfere with planting as most plants are usually planted no more than a few inches deep.

At the Community Garden, after covering the trenches, we put a cover crop (oats and barley seeds) down, applied a thin layer of compost and lightly watered. Now we simply stand back and let Mother Nature, the worms and microbes take care of the rest. Stay turned for a spring update!



▲ Bernie, Peter and Cheryl begin filling the first trench.
Putting Ron, Vicki and Mary to work on the second bed. ►

Do You Know ...

By Mary Townsend

... Why the green sea slug is green?

It's green because it contains chlorophyll and can actually photosynthesize to survive. Here's the scoop: During its development, *Elysia viridis* eats so much algae that it "sequesters" the algae's chloroplasts within its own digestive tract. Once there, the chloroplasts continue to photosynthesize. Some scientists believe that eventually there is a transfer of genes that makes the chloroplasts permanent within the slug's body so that it never has to eat again to survive. (https://www.seanature.co.uk/elysia_viridis.html) However, other scientists believe that the slugs are merely saving them to digest later. (<https://phys.org/news/2013-11-solar-powered-sea-slugs-survive.html>)

Fun Fact: The only vertebrate that can photosynthesize is the spotted salamander. (<https://www.sciencefocus.com/nature/can-any-animals-photosynthesize/>)



Figure 1. [Source: © Patrick J. Krug, Creative Commons CC BY-NC 3.0 license, via Wikimedia Co...]



<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/amphibians/facts/s/potted-salamander>

Well, now you know!



◀ How cute is this? During my research on the green sea slug, I ran across this image of another kleptoplast, the leaf sheep slug, which lives in the waters around Japan and the Phillipines. Look at that face!

You can find out more about it on YouTube: (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gu_x7bl7VU4)

Master Gardeners Share

Suzanne Keane's "Fall Garden of Joy"



New England aster
out front.



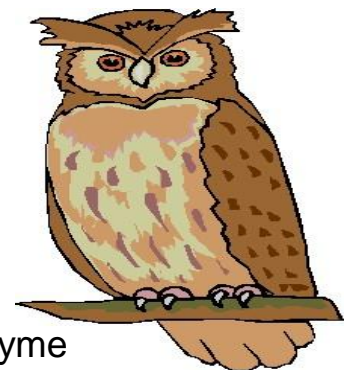
Helenium and chrysanthemum
on south side out back.



New this year- a tiny
Cyclamen (Ajuga in front).



"I did not plant these pumpkins
...the squirrels did, and it looks like
they are harvesting seeds for next
year!" Kath Gregitis



Mel Russen shares
an old English Nursery Rhyme
*A wise old owl lived in an oak,
The more he saw, the less he spoke
The less he spoke, the more he heard,
Now, wasn't he a wise old bird?*

“Master Gardeners Share” continued

A picture from Debbie McCabe



“A late bloomer in my flower garden. *Amaryllis belladonna*. AKA Jersey lily or Autumn lily.”

A picture from Roberta Quinn



“Here is my rhododendron x ‘August to Frost’ evergreen hybrid azalea.”

Two pictures from Trish Polunas



“My glorious "Other" NJ state tree, *Cornus florida*. Fall and Montauk daisies, mums, a chill in the air and leaves, leaves, leaves!”

“Master Gardeners Share” continued



I was in England this September and shot this photo at Vindolanda, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site at Hadrian's Wall in northern England. While there is only one butterfly in this picture, the sedum was alive with several of this beautiful specimen. Can anyone ID it?



Yvonne Klock



A heads up from Anna McPeck on Drumthwacket Holiday tours: The dates are not up yet but should be later this fall. Presented by area garden clubs.
<https://drumthwacket.org/visit/december-holiday-open-houses/>

From Cheryl Clearo:

Smartwool has created a program to keep socks out of the landfills and provide comfy dog beds for our four-legged “children.” I already ordered two free return bags and will be collecting socks until the end of December. The socks can be in any condition (believe me when I say some of the socks I wear at the garden are pretty disgusting even after washing and bleaching) and any color but just make sure they are clean and not attached as pairs.

Simply put in a bag and deliver to me at the Chilly Chili Day and the Holiday Party. I will pay for the shipping.

Thanks for being a Zero Hero!



Continuing Education – Free, on Zoom

4 CEUs - if you attend the whole conference

Register at tinyurl.com/7n477d5s



NPSNJ FALL CONFERENCE

Native Plants: Sustaining & Restoring Life

Saturday, November 5th

9:30AM - 3:30PM

Nature itself has a way of sustaining life on Earth. Yet nature's balance has been disturbed by human endeavors. Our 2022 Fall Conference speakers will share the science of nature and ecological function while offering ways each of us can restore natural processes through selection and use of native plants in our gardens and landscapes.

William Cullina - Essential Partners: The Remarkable Coevolution of Flowers and their Pollinators

Flowering plants have literally exploded onto the evolutionary stage about 160 million years ago to quickly become the dominant and most diverse group of plants on earth. Flowering plants owe much of this success to their conjugal partners - the bees, flies, moths, ants, butterflies, birds and mammals that move pollen from one flower to the next. In this engaging and information-filled talk, learn how plants use bribery, deception, and the lure of sex to convince these disparate characters to do their bidding.

Sue Barton - Strategies for Sustainable Landscaping

Make your landscape more ecologically sound by implementing a variety of sustainable gardening and landscaping techniques. Learn how to manage and conserve water using rain gardens, bio-swales, and rain barrels; reduce the demands of lawn care by adding meadow areas; and increase your energy savings with strategically placed layered plantings. Develop your garden as an ecosystem that supports a diverse population of beneficial wildlife and creates healthy, natural habitats

Teri Speight Dependable - Beauty for the Urban Garden

We will identify native plants that are multitaskers in the garden. Whether in the ground or a container, using native plants for beauty and food for wildlife is easy. Using natives, nativars and non-native plants offer a diverse palette for today's gardener.

Nancy Lawson - The Humane Gardener: Nurturing Habitat for Wildlife

In this myth-busting talk, learn how common growing methods divide the natural world into false dichotomies and perpetuate misperceptions about the wild species living among us. Discover practical ways to put humane gardening philosophies into action by protecting nesting and overwintering sites; eliminating unintended hazards; identifying and nurturing plants that provide food and shelter; restoring habitat with minimal disturbance to animals; and humanely resolving conflicts with mammals and other commonly misunderstood creatures.

Sarah Galloway Wild in the Garden State

"Wild in the Garden State" is a documentary connecting us to the natural world in suburban New Jersey. Dave and Sarah are city transplants with no gardening experience who want a beautiful, ecological garden. The documentary short (30 minutes) will attract experienced and new gardeners who want to spend less time maintaining a pristine – and unhealthy – lawn and more time enjoying the natural world. right in their own backyard.



Follow us on FaceBook
 Ocean County Master Gardeners
 mgocinc.org
 This is a closed group open only to
 veteran MGs and interns.
 Contact Jill Jordan to join.
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 All comments or questions regarding any item in this newsletter should be directed to the editor. (See above for contact information.)

Coming Up...

November
 3 – Chilly Chili Day
 (at OC Park)
 8 – Election Day
 (Ag Center Closed)
 11 – Veteran’s Day
 (Ag Center Closed)
 23 – BOD/XCom Mtgs
 24 – Thanksgiving
 (Ag Center Closed)
 25 – Newsletter
 Deadline

A Look Ahead...

December
 3 – Holiday Party
 21 – BOD/XCom Mtgs
 26 – Holiday
 (Ag Center Closed)
 26 – Newsletter
 Deadline

