

Through the Grapevine



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

July 2025
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The Making of an Elementary School Sensory Garden

"Growing Green: Our School Composting Initiative"

Story and photos by Kathy Bixby

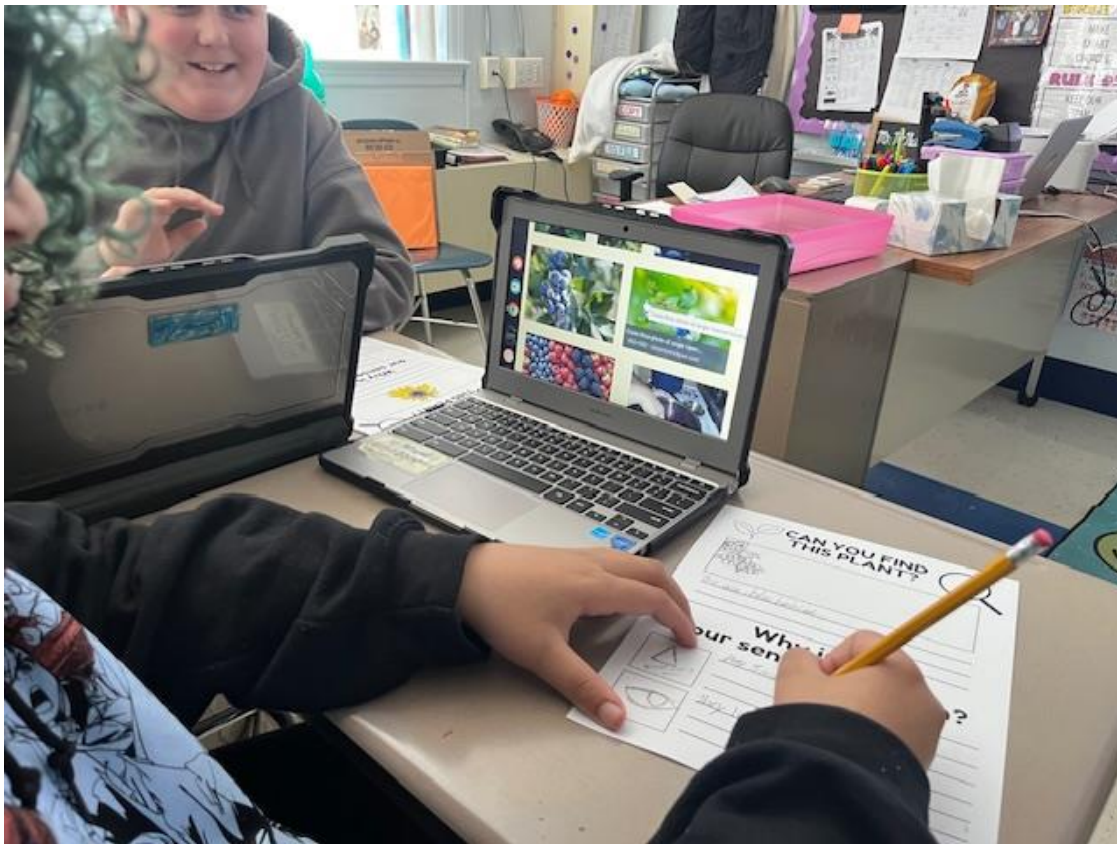
In March of 2025, Lakehurst Elementary School fifth-grade teachers reached out to Ocean County Rutgers Master Gardeners (OCRMG) to ask whether we would help the fifth-grade students to design and plant a garden. The garden project would coincide with a Project Based Learning Experience. Under the Project Based Learning Experience, students implemented a school-wide composting program with community engagement. Students educated their peers and teachers on the importance of composting and gardening.

The garden project, with the help of OCRMG, began in early March, and on June the fifth-grade students and their teachers celebrated their achievements with a Garden Day Celebration.

Many steps went into making their garden become a reality. It started with both a visit by RMGs to the classroom and the garden. During this first visit, they measured the garden and took a soil sample. RMGs Kathy D'Antonio, Mark Baranyay, and Kathy Bixby brainstormed with the teachers and students to decide what type of garden would be planted, and a sensory garden was decided upon. The students were asked to brainstorm and research the different types of sensory plants they wanted to plant in their garden.

Continued next page

Sensory Garden continued



Over the next several weeks, Master Gardeners visited the school approximately once a week to offer information and guidance both in the classroom and in the garden. The Lesson, "What Senses do Plants Spike?" became a fun way for the students to find many details about the plants they were researching. After deciding on the plants, students sifted compost, prepared soil and started seedlings in their classroom.



The next step was "all hands on deck." Students put on their gloves, picked up rakes, shovels, and pruning shears to prepare the garden.

The students then trimmed a few existing perennials, removed pavers, loosened soil, and designed a plan for the garden.

Continued next page

Sensory Garden continued

Over the course of the next six weeks, the students became very busy. Students designed borders made from landscape rocks, painted shells, rocks, wood, and pavers. They were also busy attending to watering and probing their plants in the classroom, gathering and painting pots, creating a “chaos trellis” (named by a student), preparing a teepee for peas, creating an entrance walkway, and gathering items to place throughout and around the new sensory garden to spark one’s senses.



When the seedlings were ready to be transplanted, members of the OCRMG assisted the students in correct transplanting. Many vegetables, herbs, and flowers were planted in the garden. Most were seedlings started by the students while other plants were donated.

Some of the plants included in their garden included: marigolds, nasturtium, sunflowers, lions' tails, lavender, pumpkin, cucumber, peas, tomatoes, luffa gourd, blueberry bush, eggplant, basil, mint, lambs' ear, asters, black eyed Susie, a peanut plant, borage and even cotton. All these plants “spark a sense within us”: smell, taste, touch, and sight.



Continued next page

Sensory Garden continued

We incorporated sound into the garden by adding wind chimes, bird feeders, plants to attract birds, swirling butterfly ornaments hanging from trees, and hand-made clay pot chimes with beading. Students also added two fairy houses and a tick-tac-toe board painted on the top of a log with the playing pieces painted to look like bees and lady bugs. Students also added stick art to their garden along with a motivational rock garden.

As a final step for their Garden Day Celebration, they prepared two sensory walkways. Each walkway had four sensory squares filled with different textures: pine combs, shells, pebbles, sand, and twigs. After the walkways went in, students laid newspaper and mulched the area. They then labeled all the plants with plant sticks. Each stick was color coded with colored dots to coincide with the sense it spiked.



Throughout the creation of the sensory garden, the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Center's website (ocean.njaes.rutgers.edu) was used to incorporate features into the garden that apply to all senses.

June 3 came around quickly. With everything in place, a celebration took place at Lakehurst Elementary School in the garden. The students prepared trifold displays for their big day: the Making of a Sensory Garden, another on What's in a Sensory Garden? a Composting Trifold, a Thank-You Trifold and a Sensory Garden Timeline in Pictures, (can be found in Ag Center).

They had a scavenger hunt: Can you find this plant and what senses does it spike? They served dirt pudding with gummy worms and lemonade to their guests.

The "Ask a Master Gardener" table was also part of the celebration, passing out information to the public and goodie bags to the students.

Parents, teachers, administrators, board members, and the entire school community toured the garden.

Continued on next page

Sensory Garden continued



The students are so proud of their garden and have been spending time reading, relaxing and weeding. To say that this project was both rewarding and fun is an understatement.

The smiles, the questions, the laughter, and the desire demonstrated by the students to learn about gardening and to work in the garden brought joy and excitement to all who volunteered; Mark Baranyay, Kathy Bixby, Lynn Bottrell, Denise Boughton, Kathy D'Antonio, and MJ Mitchell.





Find Your Niche

Try something new (for you) in the MG program!

We are so fortunate in Ocean County to have lots of opportunities to expand our knowledge, share it with the public, and make new friends in the process!

Have you experienced these opportunities? Those of you who joined the program during or after the Covid lockdown may not have learned about or tried these. We have knowledgeable people who are more than happy to explain what they are doing and why. New volunteers are needed to keep up with what needs to be done. A lack of participants is the common complaint of these committees. Why not visit, observe, participate in one or more of these committees while they are in action?

Are you someone who used to volunteer in certain areas in the past and haven't been there in several years? Try to revisit these opportunities. Many committees have improved in addressing the RMG mission. I tried some new things this year and plan to revisit certain activities I did in the past. We are lucky to have the opportunity to socialize in Ocean County while volunteering. There are other counties that do not socialize at all.

+++++

Regarding Board of Directors matters, we are working on getting our tax-exempt status back in NJ. We are a 501(c)(3) again with the IRS, but we are still not tax exempt. We are a non-profit corporation as far as the IRS and NJ are concerned. Treasurer Al Soyster is going to work on getting us the tax exemption from NJ. He needed the IRS to reinstate us as a 501 first. We still need an ST-5 from NJ. We are paying taxes on items we buy until then. Al is also making changes in payment request forms and in recordkeeping to make sure the Board has all the information needed. We will let you know when all that is accomplished.

I will be inducting the new officers at the July 10 meeting and giving out clothing and other awards.

Continued on next page

RMG EDUCATION COMMITTEE

I am a member of the RMG Education Committee that is planning an annual conference and field trips. I attended a meeting at Rutgers on June 12. The core group is already working on a statewide conference to be held in June 2026 at the Douglass Student Center at Rutgers. That may seem like a lot of advance planning, but under the charter of this group, we must plan it all out in detail before submitting the proposal to Ruth Carll.

We need MGs to be event coordinators for field trips that would be open to any Rutgers MG. We are hoping for at least three field trips per year. If interested, you would just be involved in that activity and not on the overall committee I am in. Do you have any suggestions for field trips anywhere in NJ or nearby states that all you think others would like to experience? One possibility we are looking into is a Rutgers research center in Cumberland County that grows fruit. Let me know if you are interested in arranging a field trip by emailing me at rquinn55@comcast.net.

The Meaning of Latin Plant Names

Here are ten for July. I will list some more next month. The information is from theseedsite.co.uk

angustifolia—narrow-leaved

arenaria—from sandy places

arvensis—of the field

bellidifolia—with leaves like those of a daisy

capensis—from the Cape, South Africa

edulis or *esculenta*—edible

farinosa—floury, powdery

foliosa—leafy

glabra—smooth

hispida—bristly



Gardening Journey

By Susan Emhardt-Servidio



The heat is on! Stay cool and hydrated as best as you can when doing outdoor events at home or volunteering.

Your 1st and 2nd Quarter hours should be logged in by now. July begins our 3rd Quarter. Don't wait until the end of the year. We are almost halfway through the volunteer year. Remember to log in your hours!

2025 Requirements for volunteers' service hours are as follows:

(Must complete and log hours by December 15, 2025.)

VETERANS – Total of 35 hours

25 Volunteer Service Hours, broken down as:

- **15** hrs. (minimum) in OUTREACH: A minimum of 3 hours MUST be served in the OUTREACH Helpline Activities, which include Helpline and Tick Lab in office or at "Ask a Rutgers Master Gardener" at outside events.
- **10** hrs. in OTHER (Other- OCP, general meetings, and admin/committee work)

10 Continuing Education (CE) Hours in Coordinator-approved programs

INTERNS Continuing from 2024 – Total of 60 hours

60 Volunteer Service Hours- broken down as:

- **40** hrs. (minimum) in OUTREACH: A minimum of 3 hours MUST be served in the OUTREACH- Helpline Activities, which include Helpline and Tick Lab in office or at "Ask a Rutgers Master Gardener" at outside events.
- **20** hrs. OTHER (Other- OCP and admin/ committee work)

NEW HELPLINE SCHEDULE:

Open days in July and August are limited to Monday and Wednesdays. The sign-ups are lacking, and calls are starting to slow down. In September open days will be Monday through Friday, AM only. If we need more coverage in July and August, I will open up Front Counter Diagnostics for those Helpline qualified.

Ticks

Tick ID shifts are pretty full, but there are still some Tick ID shifts available for those who are qualified. If you would like to do Tick ID with a mentor, please email me and I can pair you with a mentor. As ticks decrease in July and August, I will remove unfilled Tuesday and Thursday shifts. September open days will be Monday through Friday, AM only. Check out the count on the next page.

Continued on next page

The ticks are still rolling in! Our tick counts are below:

| Date | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|--------------|------|----------|----|-----|---|-----|---|----|---|----------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------|
| 2025 | American Dog | | Lonestar | | | | BLT | | | | Asian Longhorn | Gulf Coast | Brown Dog | Not a tick | Total |
| | Female | Male | F | M | N | L | F | M | N | L | Nymph | | | | |
| January | | | | | | | 4 | | | | | | | | 4 |
| February | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| March | | | 1 | 6 | 3 | | 21 | 5 | | | | | | 1 | 37 |
| April | 7 | 6 | 18 | 16 | 24 | | 20 | | 2 | | | | | 2 | 95 |
| May | 39 | 24 | 33 | 49 | 146 | | 6 | 2 | 6 | | | | | 10 | 315 |
| June | 11 | 7 | 44 | 21 | 90 | | 3 | 0 | 15 | | | | | 8 | 199 |
| Total | 57 | 37 | 96 | 92 | 263 | 0 | 22 | 7 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 22 | 625 |

Ocean County Fair RMG Table (July 9-13, 2025)

We are planning on having a more interactive table for fairgoers this year.

Wednesday, July 9- 5-8 pm

Thursday, July 10- 5-8 pm

Friday, July 11- 11 am-2 pm, 2-5 pm, 5-8 pm

Saturday, July 12- 11 am-2 pm, 2-5 pm, 5-8 pm

Sunday, July 13- 12-3 pm

Butterfly Tent Event (BTE)- August 16-17, 2025

Next BTE meeting- July 17 from 1-2:30 pm at the Ag center. Sign up on Better Impact.

And so the egg hunt begins. If you find butterfly eggs and want to donate them, call Susan E-S or drop off at the office.



Continued on next page

Missing Training for Speaker Bureau, Helpline, Tick ID and COE/Ask an RMG?

These are the links to the recordings. The quizzes are no longer available on canvas. If you watch any of these, let me know which ones so I can update you Better Impact qualifications.

Speaker Bureau Trainings

Speakers Bureau: Forms and procedures- Recording Link- <https://youtu.be/h633ZIWV0II>
OTHER- Training Speakers Bureau- 1 Hr- original date 1/23/2025

Speakers Bureau: Standards and How to Become a PowerPoint Master- Recording Link- <https://youtu.be/9ymGzgwmV-8> OTHER-Training Speakers Bureau- 2 hrs - orig. date 2/13/2025

Helpline Trainings

Hiring a Sustainable Landscaper- Recording Link- <https://youtu.be/Hq9klsa2sOU> OTHER- Training Helpline- 1 hour- orig. date 2/4/2025

Helpline is Easier Than You Think- Recording link- <https://youtu.be/-YKp6EEiF3Q>
OTHER- Training Helpline- 2 hour- orig. date 3/13/2025

Helpline: Diagnostic and Helpline- Recording link- <https://youtu.be/JfDdmi01QzA> OTHER- Training Helpline- 2.25 hour- orig date 3/27/2025

Community Outreach and 'Ask a Rutgers Master Gardener' Events Training (COE/Ask an RMG)

COE and 'Ask an RMG' training- Recording Link- <https://youtu.be/4a5yky82I4o> OTHER- Training COEand ASKanRMG- 1.25 hrs- orig date. 2/25/2025

Tick Identification Training

Tick Identification- Recording link- https://youtu.be/YMcyEv_nNYE OTHER- Training Tick ID 2.5 hrs- orig. date 3/20/2025

No tick exams until 2026. If you want to volunteer in Tick ID, contact Susan E-S for a partner.

Reminder- NO HOME REMEDIES or RECIPES when you are volunteering.

Photos from My Garden



Daylily 'Get Jiggy'



Committee Reports



Ask a Rutgers Master Gardener (All Venues)

- Brick and Manchester Libraries, Chair - [Judith Richtmyer](#)
- Connection, Co-Chairs - [Kate MacDonald](#) / [Anna McPeck](#)
- Point Pleasant Boro Library, Chair - [Linda Locke](#)
- Stafford Library, Co-Chairs – [Debbie McCabe](#)/[Debbie Cowles](#)
- Waretown Library, Chair – [Noreen Polo](#)

For the second quarter, our venues discussed gardening topics with 285 Clients, added 46 emails to Outreach, and distributed 498 handouts. Topics of interest were natives, hydrangeas, ticks, powdery mildew, zucchini issues, rose of sharon, milkweed, hackberry, Japanese stiltgrass, rhubarb, rhododendra disease, black knot, pollinators, pruning, and azalea care. Listing the topics, however, does no justice to the conversations and engagement that our veterans enjoy with our visitors!!

Think of Ask a Master Gardener at the Libraries as face-to-face helpline, an in person discussion with clients about their gardening issues.

Several Library Outreach Opportunities are available in Better Impact under Outreach-Helpline Activities. Also consider adding your name to the backup list and check back periodically as opportunities open up.

Our Venues are grateful to Sue Servedio and Patti Dixon for statistical record keeping and assistance with the occasional horticultural dilemma.

Join us at the Library!

Report by Debbie McCabe





Committee Reports



Community Garden

Chair: [Rich Marine](#)

Co-Chairs: [Noreen Baris](#) and [Cheryl Clearo](#)

- * Kathy D'Antonio and Cheryl Clearo held a joint demonstration of tomato planting and the use of ollas. Participants had a good time and learned a lot of valuable information. Thanks, Kathy and Cheryl.
- * We have finally finished most of the garden's heavy work, which included moving rain barrels, shifting cement blocks, and installing cattle panels.
- * We made our first substantial delivery to St. Joe's Church in Toms River. The 10.5 pounds included asparagus, radishes, lettuce, herbs, and spinach.
- * The only remaining crops to be planted include eggplant, squash, and some additional peppers.
- * Thanks to everyone who has been working with us in the Community Garden. We could not do this work without you.
- * If you would like to join us on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday, please sign up on Better Impact.



A note from Cheryl:

"Just wanted to share this with everyone who participated in the installation of the olla system in May: As you can see, they are doing exactly what they are supposed to. The tomato roots are seeking out the water and wrapping around the pot. I call that a success!"



Committee Reports



Education Outreach

Chair: [Kathy D'Antonio](#)

Co-Chair: [Mark Baranyay](#)

The month started with a Celebration at Lakehurst Elementary School organized by students to show their Sensory Garden to the school and to the public. If you have not read the article by Kathy Bixby in this month's newsletter, check it out. It is why we do what we do.

We also finished up a Sunflower project with a West Dover Elementary second-grade class. Master Gardeners visited the class of ten students for three Tuesdays in May and June to plant sunflower seeds and do fun projects with a sunflower-related theme. The project is in conjunction with RWJBH's "Community That Care" program. We hope to continue this project in the Fall.

Our collaboration with the Special Children's Center continues. On three Tuesdays in June, five MGs from Ocean and one from Monmouth worked with 25 Special Needs students on weeding, identifying aphids, and planting sunflowers.

Our Arc projects continue. Arc participants in their "Journeys and Discoveries program in Brick go to Wrangle Brook Community Garden Wednesdays and Thursdays, weather permitting, to tend their garden bed and learn gardening skills.

On Mondays, six Arc clients visit the Cuisine Garden to learn about caring for a vegetable garden. In addition, MGs gave an Ollas workshop at the Tuckerton site to 25 clients.

Master Gardners met with members of the Greenbriar One's Briar Patch in Brick for an informal Q&A "Coffeetime" Discussion. There were ten members of the Briar Patch there to meet with five Master Gardeners.

We also met with three residents from the Enclave at Fairways, a senior community in Lakewood. They are interested in starting a community garden and wanted some direction about where to start. We helped develop a possible plan for their garden and will provide information requested as they go through the steps to develop their garden.

Report by Kathy D'Antonio





Committee Reports



Community Outreach

Chair: [Linda Locke](#)

Co-Chair: [JoAnn Bowman](#)

Summer has certainly arrived, and our plants are begging for water – so are we! June was a slow month for COE events. There was only Summerfest 2025 in Point Pleasant Boro and three Jackson Farmers Markets. The good news is that the MGs at Summerfest spoke with 155 very cold, wet people. The numbers for the Jackson Farmers are not in.

One shift and one entire Jackson Farmers Market had to be cancelled due to lack of MG volunteers. Please continue to check Better Impact for event opportunities. COE events are fun, a way to interact with the public and easy hours.

Remember to complete the Event Summary sheet and return to the Ag Center. The Summary Sheet must be completed for every event, so Sue has the numbers she need to report our activities.

Cut Flower Gardens

Chair: [Ron Rooberg](#)

The cut flower gardens at Ocean County Park are up and blooming. Special thanks to the people that helped plant over 1,300 plants. These plants were chosen because of their popularity with pollinators, appeal as great cut flowers, and long flowering season.

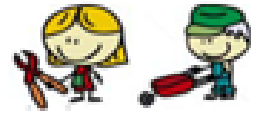
The monarch waystation -- people said we needed annuals that flower late in the season for the monarchs and everybody else to visit as they make their way to their winter quarters. Well, we've sure got them now.

We will be caring for the beds throughout the season. This involves watering, deadheading and other easy tasks. Weeding is always an issue, but we don't want anyone to weed for very long as the joy goes out of it rather quickly. Come join us when you can.





Committee Reports



Cuisine Garden

Chair: [Sue Priolo](#)

"Its flowers are very fragrant and when in season, they fill the woods with their sweet exhalations and make it agreeable to travel in them, especially in the evening."

~Peter Kalm, Swedish scientist, on Common Milkweed, 1750s



Red milkweed beetle patrolling on milkweed.

Photo by Deb Cowles

In June at the Cuisine on the Green Garden, common milkweed perfumes the air and invites butterflies, bees, beetles, and wasps, which work alongside our master gardeners. Our regular volunteers this month have been John Blankmeyer, Nancy Buzby, Deb Cowles, Jackie Dwyer, Karen Gfroehrer, Ann Kinney, and Sue Priolo. On Mondays, six ARC clients have spent time learning and helping to fill olla water pots and pot up volunteer tomato plants, which were then donated to the ARC's own garden.

The Cuisine team hosted its first community education program for the public featuring companion gardening presented by Ocean County Master Gardener, Noreen Baris. The team set up a scenic outdoor area where Noreen gave an interesting and informative talk as well as demonstrated inter-planting in a container. Nineteen attendees along with master gardeners engaged in learning, toured the garden, and received a complimentary potted companion herb plant to take home. The demonstration planter and other plants donated by Noreen and Sue were raffled. We are grateful to Noreen, Teresa, Kelly, and our fellow Cuisine gardener, Cindy McGrath, for helping to make this day a success.

June has also been a month of multitasking for our gardeners. We have harvested radishes that were grown to enrich the soil, kale for the chef's popular crispy kale chips, and garlic scapes that are great for sautéing. Other accomplishments include cleaning up and staging the grounds for our visitors, trenching the water hose, installing wooden garden bed borders, experimenting with IPM to control our wild visitors, potting up hanging planters and containers, preparing and planting more perimeter vegetable beds, and planting, labeling, and propagating more natives and herbs.

Continued on next page



Committee Reports



Cuisine Garden continued

Watering has been our most time-consuming task. John and Sue continue to work on bed irrigation. Terracotta ollas have been made and installed in perimeter garden beds and containers to help with watering. Olla-making will be the topic of the next community education program at the Cuisine Garden on Wednesday, July 2. Registration is required and space is limited.

The Cuisine wildlife have also been busy in June. Pollinators have been working in the field of blooming milkweeds, munching the parsley, and nectaring in the perennial beds. Birds are nesting in their new houses, chipmunks are scurrying around, geese are mowing the turf, and a snapping turtle made a guest appearance on our program day. Sue finally spotted our wild veggie bandit...our resident groundhog who was seen escaping over the fence! Pollinator baskets have been mounted on fence posts to serve as insect housing and bird nesting material. We love our pollinators!

We invite volunteers to garden with us in the natural surrounds of the Cuisine Garden. Help us plant, weed, water, or share your ideas. We would happily tour you about and chat about gardening. So, come pay us a visit down in beautiful Southern Ocean County. The Tuckerton area also has neat places to explore outside the golf course. Sign up for Cuisine on the Green Garden under Outreach on Better Impact.

Report by Deb Cowles



Native *Asclepias syriaca* (Common milkweed)
The most fragrant of milkweeds.
Photo by Deb Cowles

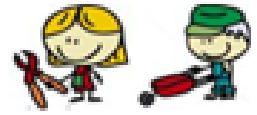


Snapper passing through on his way to the pond.
Photo by Deb Cowles

See more Cuisine Garden photos in the photo essay beginning on page 29!



Committee Reports



Display Garden

Chair: [Beth Kimber](#), Co-Chair: [Caryn Muskus](#)

June was a busy month in the Display Garden with pruning all the spring flowering shrubs, numerous azaleas, rhododendrons, pPeonies and the prolific Carolina allspice. All of our perennials are very happy with the rain and sun we were blessed with last month. The weeds, especially the soapwort, also found this weather ideal and are vigorous growers. Needless to say, weeding occupies a lot of our time as does the wheelbarrow-loads of mulch we haul and spread on each of the beds.

We cleaned up the two beds under the holly trees, removing the leaves, pruning the hellebores, and battling the lily of the valley. The goatsbeard has found a home in this shady spot and bloomed beautiful this year. The lupine we transplanted to Bed 8 last year also put on quite a show early last month. Also, the Japanese painted fern we transplanted to Bed 8 at the base of the large oak tree is very happy and spreading. We removed the lettuces and pansies in the containers by the front door and replaced them with summer annuals (Lantana, Sun Impatiens, Alyssum). We're sure to see a burst of color in July.

Report by Beth Kimber



Photo Caryn Muskus

More photos next page





Committee Reports



Display Garden photos continued



Photo Caryn Muskus



Silver Fern



Clematis

Smaller
photos
by Beth
Kimber



Primrose



Committee Reports



Greenhouse

Chair: [Mary Townsend](#)

Co-chair: Denise Boughton, [Judy Caldwell](#), [Linda Convey](#), [Grace Hagemeyer](#), [Janet Pakrul](#)

The Greenhouse is hosting a Potluck Pot Party on the greenhouse patio on Wednesday, July 23. Rain or Shine. Everyone is invited.

Part 1 is the pot party (9:30-12:30).

“Ugh,” you say? Yes, washing pots is everyone’s dreaded task, but it’s a necessary evil. You may hate it, but you need to know that when we reuse pots we are saving MGOC Inc. a lot of money by not buying new, and given our financial situation, saving money is a priority. Plus, reusing pots keeps them out of the landfill, also a priority.

So, we’re asking everyone to come pitch in. We ask those who have volunteered in the Greenhouse, Hoop House, Wright House, or Shrub Garden to help wash pots for your area. Everyone else can pick a location. Remember, many hands make the work easy. PS: wear crummy clothes.

Part 2 is the potluck lunch (12:30-2:30+)

Please bring a covered dish to share. Or you can bring beverages. You can store items in the GH refrigerator and reheat items in the microwave.

And by the way, if it rains, we will take the whole operation inside... Somewhere. Don’t worry, we’ll figure it out.

Report by Mary Townsend

Propagation Project

Chair: [Vickie Monks](#)

Co-chair: [Bernie Rehberger](#) and [Mary Townsend](#)

Do you have perennials in your garden that can be divided? Why not donate some to us? The Fall Plant Sale will be here before you know it, and our customers will appreciate anything you can contribute. Let’s divide them now, so they’ll be well rooted by late September.

Contact any one of the PP leaders if you can help. We have extra ProMix and pots if you need them.

Report by Mary Townsend





Committee Reports



The Home-Grown Garden

Chairs: [Cheryl Clearo](#) and [Bart Mazzei](#)

June was a busy month at the Home-Grown Garden. The heat at the end of the month required almost daily watering, but the HGG is bursting with life and growth.

Perhaps the most important thing we accomplished this month was putting up our recycled mailbox garden toolbox. Now we have our garden tools handy without having to bring our own. We put landscape fabric on the walkways with a thick layer of county-provided wood chips on top. Hopefully, this will help keep down the number of weeds and milkweed that plagued us last year. And it makes walking in the HGG feel like you're on a cloud. Very nice for the legs and feet!

Herbs and native plants have been planted in our pots, which were filled with beautiful, county-produced, compost. Thank you, Phyllis Delesandro and the Native Plant Committee for the donation! They are already attracting pollinators.

All of the vegetable beds have been planted with some areas left for succession planting. The garlic will be harvested in a few weeks. We'll be planting bush beans, some root vegetables, and maybe a zucchini or two in their place. And who knows? Perhaps we'll find a sad little left-over tomato or pepper plant that just needs a bit of Home-Grown Garden TLC.

Report and Photos by Bart Mazzei





Committee Reports



Houseplants

Chair: [Melissa Bonifacio](#)

The Houseplant Committee is on the lookout for a dedicated Master Gardener to step into the role of Co-Chair. We also invite more Master Gardeners to join our passionate team, as the houseplants in the Houseplant Greenhouse need your expert care and watering.

Plus, we're excited to share that we're propagating beautiful houseplants to sell at the upcoming Fall Plant Sale. Additionally, we aim to expand our outreach by setting up more Houseplant Hospitals, and we envision volunteers helping to make this happen in libraries nearby. If there's enough interest, I will gladly provide training on how to successfully run a Houseplant Hospital.

If you're interested in making a difference and joining the Houseplant Committee, please don't hesitate to contact me, Melissa Bonifacio, at (201) 921-4260 or MelisnBonifacio@gmail.com. We'd love to have you on board!



Sunshine

Chair: [Kate MacDonald](#)

Get Well wishes were sent to Diane Smith, Rosemarie Witczak and Lynda Meehan for her husband.

Get Well wishes were sent to Gail Zimmerman as she recovers from surgery.

A sympathy card was sent to Debbie Asbjorn on the loss of her mother.



Committee Reports



IPM

Chair: [Vinnie Delia](#)

Co-Chairs: [Ann Kinney](#) , [Rachel Halford](#) and [Diane Smith](#)

The Committee held a “IPM Workshop in the Park” on Wednesday, June 11. Both the picture-perfect weather and Park Committees welcomed us. Special thanks to Al Soyster and Joe Scutro for setting up the comforts of their shop with tables and chairs.

The next IPM Workshop will take place rain or shine after the August 7 General Meeting at the Ag Center. We usually get started at 11:30 am.

Participants can choose to scout outdoors or stay inside and work with our “Virtual” IPM exercise.

Ann Kinney will be presenting a 30-minute PowerPoint on what we can expect to find during the scouting portion of the Workshop. Sign up through Better Impact.

Time earned counts toward your “Total Master Garden Hours”.

Record Hours Under Other Category:
Training- IPM Workshops- IN-PERSON ONLY

Report by Vince Delia





Committee Reports



Shrub Garden

Chair: [Laura Docherty](#), Co Chairs: [Peter Ascolese](#) and [Jill Jordan](#)

The shrub garden is no longer just full of shrubs. We do have shrubs and more of them are native than previously. But we also have a whole lot of perennials and most of them are native plants that have been winter sown. Seems like there are more gardeners who are dedicated to increasing the number of native plants.

According to a publication by the Barnegat Bay Partnership, "A Guide to Landscaping with Native Plants in the Barnegat Bay Watershed," plants that are native to our area thrive in our climate and soil, require less water and fertilizer, and are less likely to need pesticides. Most importantly, natives provide the shelter and food that meet the needs of native wildlife. Also, the roots of native plants help hold soil in place, help infiltration of rainwater and even reduce pollutants in our water thru filtration.

You might ask, what are we going to do with all these plants?! Last count, we have about 2,500 seedlings, and that doesn't include the ones we have stored in the herb house when we ran out of room. We are planning to sell plants to the community at the Fall Plant Sale and at the Jersey Friendly Yards Conference (vendors at the conference can only sell natives). We would also like to have a summer sale with The Native Plant Society of New Jersey. We will keep you posted on the dates of these sales.

Report by Laura Docherty





Co-chairs: [Jill Jordan](#), [Laura Docherty](#), [Karen Walzer](#), [Mark Baranyay](#), [Ellen Silverman](#), [Irene Wanat](#), [Phyllis Delesandro](#), [Deb Cowles](#), [Elaine Biddulph](#), and [Bernadette Rehberger](#)

A collage of 18 photographs showcasing a diverse array of garden plants and flowers. The images include: a monarch butterfly on a green leaf; a small terracotta pot filled with succulents and moss; purple asters in bloom; a close-up of yellow daisies; a bumblebee on a pink hydrangea flower; a green plant with small white flowers; a swan-shaped garden ornament holding a plant; a purple iris; a purple spiky flower; a cluster of orange flowers; a pink columbine; a white hydrangea; a pink columbine; a green plant with small white flowers; a purple flower; a red flower; a white flower; and a green plant with small white flowers.



Committee Reports



Scholarship

Chair: [Lynne Smith](#)



Ava Bocchiario (left) and Ella Grote (right) with Lynn Smith

Each year the goal of the scholarship committee is to find students whose goals align with those of the organization. In 2025, we had eight applicants from six different schools, including Brick Memorial, Central Regional, Jackson Liberty, MATES, and Toms River South. Four finalists were selected for in person interviews with members of the committee. This year's recipients are Ella Grote and Ava Bocchiario. These young women are deeply committed to community outreach and volunteerism. They also share an interest in water quality.

Ella Grote lives in Manchester and attends MATES. While at MATES, she took nine dual-enrollment classes with Stockton University. Ella participated in Robotics Club, Drama Club, and Mock Trial. She also volunteers at Rutgers-Livingston Day Care Center. At the Day Care Center, she founded a program to help pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students with reading skills. She has studied martial arts for many years and is a second-degree black belt in Tae Kwan Do.

Continued on next page



Committee Reports



Scholarship continued

Plants are very important to Ella's family, She and her mother buy struggling plants and bring them home to their plant "nursey" to coax them back to health. On her application, Ella wrote about finding her passion and realizing that she always returned to thinking about the environment and developing sustainable environmental systems.

Ella will attend Worcester Polytechnic Institute where she intends to major in Environmental Engineering. WPI has a five-year combined BS/MS program that Ella is considering. She is particularly interested in soil and water quality and plans to pursue a career in water system quality.

Ava Bocchiario is a student at Jackson Liberty High School. Ava took five AP classes in high school. In addition to academics, she is also an athlete. She played travel softball and lettered in swimming, softball, and field hockey at Jackson Liberty. She is planning to major in Environmental Science at Villanova University. Ava founded the Environmental Club at her high school and rapidly grew the membership. She is an outstanding example of our organization's outreach efforts.

She met Master Gardeners at the 2024 Fall Garden Day. She then worked with MGs and Jersey Friendly Yards to plan a native plant garden at Jackson Liberty. She ordered plants from Ciccone's, and the garden will be planted soon. Environmental Club members will plant and maintain the garden. She is active in a number of community and charity events. She used an honorarium from Ocean Wise to organize a GenSea Shoreline cleanup. Ava was selected to be one of 32 new U.S Water Challenge Ambassadors. These ambassadors are part of an international citizen science project by EarthEcho International to protect local water resources and restore watersheds. Ava plans to pursue a career in hydrology, specializing in in water pollution, watershed restoration, or soil science.

Ella and Ava are going to try to fit volunteering at the Butterfly Tent Event into their schedules as they prepare to leave for college, so we may see them again soon.



Committee Reports



Speakers Bureau

Chair: [Suzanne](#) Keane

Co-Chair [Sue Masoorli](#)

We continue to wow Ocean County residents with our information and knowledge as we discuss various gardening topics in our presentations throughout the area. We enjoy the interactions with other gardening enthusiasts.

If you are interested in joining this group as a speaker, or a guest speaker for a particular talk, or a writer of a new program, just let us know. We welcome all.

July's Programs – Those with times are open to the public. (Not for MG CEUs though.)

- July 1: Toms River Library, "Where does your Candy Come From?" 10:30 am
- July 9: OC Parks and Recreation, Lakewood, "Native Plants in Containers" 10 am
- July 14: Stafford Library, "Time to Learn about Bees" 10:30 am
- July 22: Brandeis Nat. Com. Harmony Chapter, Jackson, "Native Plants of OC"
- July 24: Lake Ridge Garden & Environmental Group, Toms River, "Thyme to Learn about Herbs"
- July 26: Berkeley Library, Bayville, "Thyme to Learn about Herbs" 2 pm.

Report by Suzanne Keane



Cuisine Garden Photo Essay

By Sue Priolo and Deb Cowles



Noreen engaging visitors with history and fun facts about companion planting!

Photo by Sue Priolo



Help Wanted! Hand-watering is a full-time job but can be meditative as well! Apply to volunteer on Better Impact under Cuisine on the Green.

Photo by Deb Cowles



Breaktime! Sue says it's important to cool off and rehydrate!

Photo by Deb Cowles



Continued on next page



Cuisine Garden Photos Continued



Nature's classroom!

Photo by Deb Cowles



Perennial hanging basket will return each year: Thrilling native butterfly weed, filling coral bells cultivar & spilling geranium cultivar.

Photo by Sue Priolo

Four of our core team members
Nancy, John, Deb, and Jackie

Photo by Sue Priolo



Continued next page



Cuisine Garden Photos Continued



Dazzling dogwood on the golf course
watching over our garden.

Photo by Deb Cowles



Bird house gourd and marigold
plants grown from seeds of last
year's crops.

Photo by Sue Priolo



Swallowtail caterpillar chomping parsley.
Always plant extra for the pollinators!

Photo by Cindy McGrath



Ravishing Radish Bouquet

Photo by Deb Cowles

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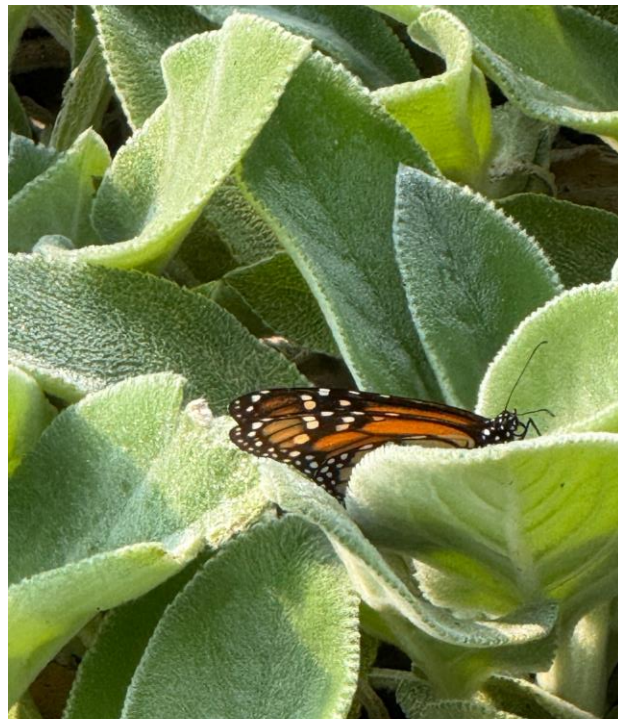


Cuisine Garden Photos Continued



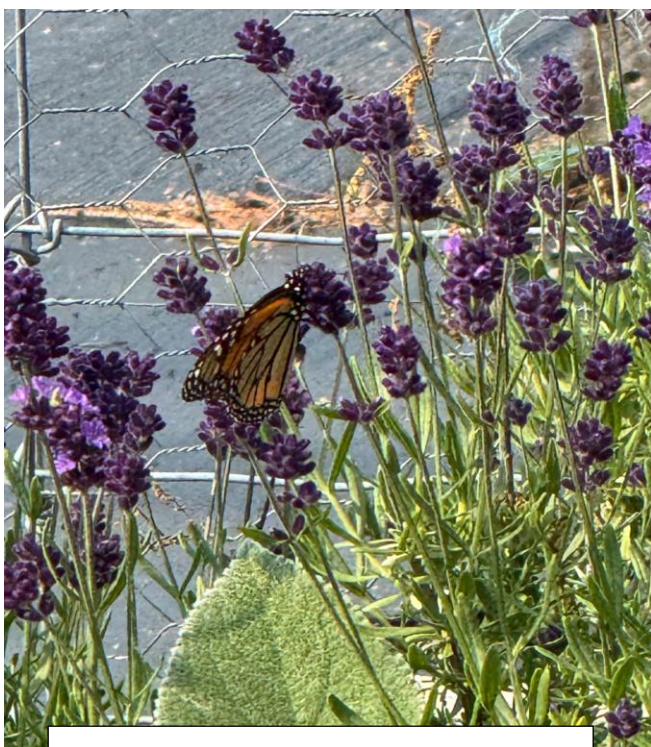
Happy face popping up in the turf...Hello!

Photo by Deb Cowles



Monarch resting on a bed of lamb's ear after feasting on nectar in the herb garden!

Photo by Deb Cowles



Monarch nectaring on lavender.

Photo by Deb Cowles

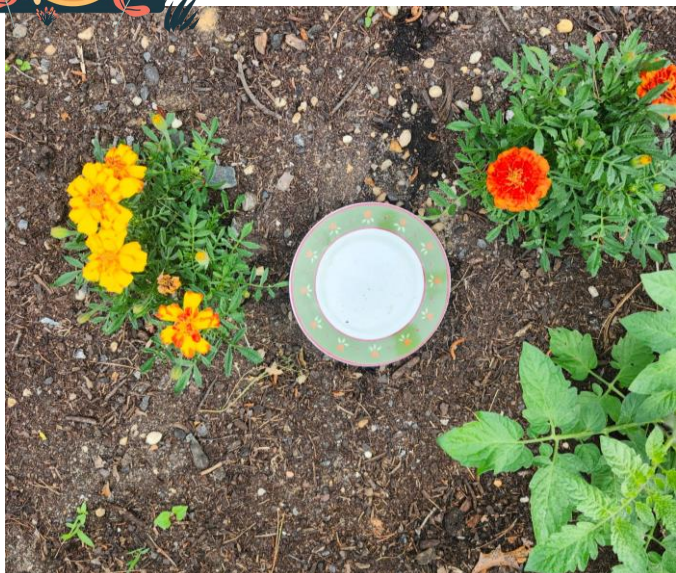


Volunteer wild strawberries add pops of color and tasty wildlife treats!

Photo by Deb Cowles



Cuisine Garden Photos Continued



Vegetable bed olla covered with a salvaged plate to prevent evaporation and mosquito breeding.

Photo by Sue Priolo



IPM Task: Inspect & address flea beetle damage on eggplant leaf.

Photo by Deb Cowles



Mechanical IPM

Photo by Sue Priolo



Live lawn ornaments!

Photo by Deb Cowles

Continued next page



Cuisine Garden
Photos Continued



White sulphur nectaring on lavender rather than crops.

Photo by Deb Cowles



Ladybug managing aphids on asclepias syriaca.

Photo by Deb Cowles



Native candy...Yum! Leaves for the deer and fruit for our taking!

Photo by Deb Cowles

Continued on next page



*Cuisine Garden
Photos Continued*



Collecting nesting material for her new house!

Photo by Deb Cowles



Snuggled in her newly nested house built by John.

Photo by Deb Cowles



Pondering Plants

By Bianca Aniski

The days are long and hot, making this a perfect time to review heat-related illness and prevention. Heat-related illness comes in many flavors: heat rash, heat cramps, heat syncope (fainting), heat stress, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke.

The math is simple: High Humidity + High Temperatures X 2-3days = OPPRESSIVE TROUBLE.

Each of the listed heat related illnesses are preventable by following simple steps and recognizing signs and symptoms that – you as a gardener may not be beating the heat – is the first step. Keep in mind that older adults, males, people with disabilities, outside workers, those with chronic medical conditions, pregnant women, and children are all affected more so. [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) provides these warning signs:

- Heavy sweating or hot and dry skin with no sweat
- Paleness, confusion
- Muscle cramps, pain or spasms, tiredness, weakness
- Dizziness, headache, fainting, nausea, vomiting
- Rapid, strong pulse or a pulse that is fast and weak,

The following Hot Tips are from the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov) and [Weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov):

- ✓ Stay hydrated; avoid sugary, salty, caffeinated, or alcoholic beverages
- ✓ Eat light, cool, easily digested foods
- ✓ Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothes
- ✓ Limit outdoor activities to the coolest part of the day
- ✓ Slow down, take breaks, stay in the shade
- ✓ Minimize direct sun exposure
- ✓ Use your AC or visit an AC location designated as a cooling center (Dial 211)
- ✓ Use portable electric fans to exhaust hot air from rooms or draw in cooler air.
- ✓ Do not direct the flow of portable electric fans toward yourself when room temperature is hotter than 90°F because dry blowing air will dehydrate you faster.
- ✓ Take a cool bath or shower
- ✓ Check on others
- ✓ [Make a Heat Action Plan](#) found on the CDC site (for me that includes gleaning peas today ... this may be a bad plan)

Summer is a period of luxurious growth. To be in harmony with the atmosphere of summer, awaken early in the morning and reach to the sun for nourishment to flourish as the gardens do. Work, play, travel, be joyful, and grow into selfless service. The bounty of the outside world enters and enlivens us.” Paul Pitchford

Gardening with Whimsy

by Lynda Meehan

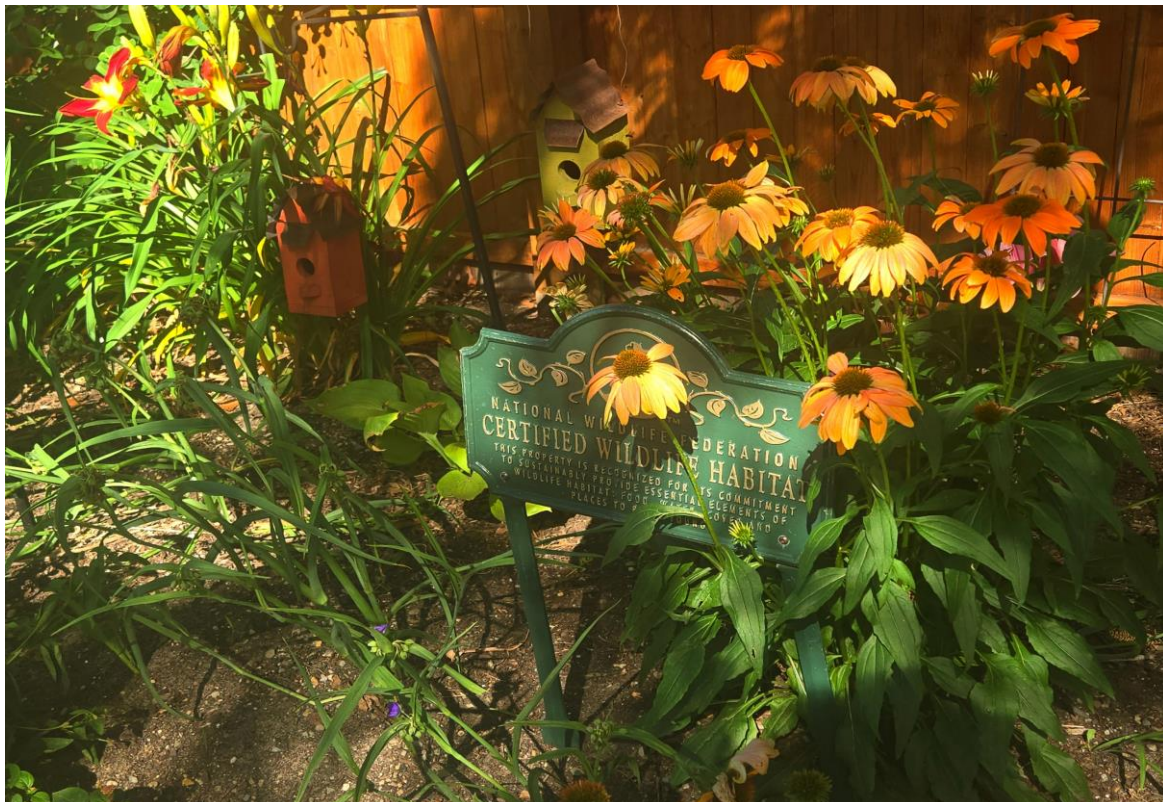
Good morning, fellow RMGs. My guess is Summer is here! Considering yesterday's temperatures reached 99*! Turns out on July 22 in 2011 temps soared to 108º! Let's not dwell on Climate Change just now but concentrate on the wonders of Nature and our gardens.

An update on the Mourning Dove second clutch. We concluded with a crow swooping in and absconding with one of two fledglings. Afterwards, once the pair completed the fledging of the remaining baby, we decided to place some inverted bamboo skewers into all the hanging plants to avoid further nesting opportunities. Mother Nature is a blessing to watch; however, there are some aspects we prefer to only see once!

My three-year-old backyard Ocean County Garden has finally begun to flourish, and many of my whimsical collection have gravitated to their new home and seem quite happy here.

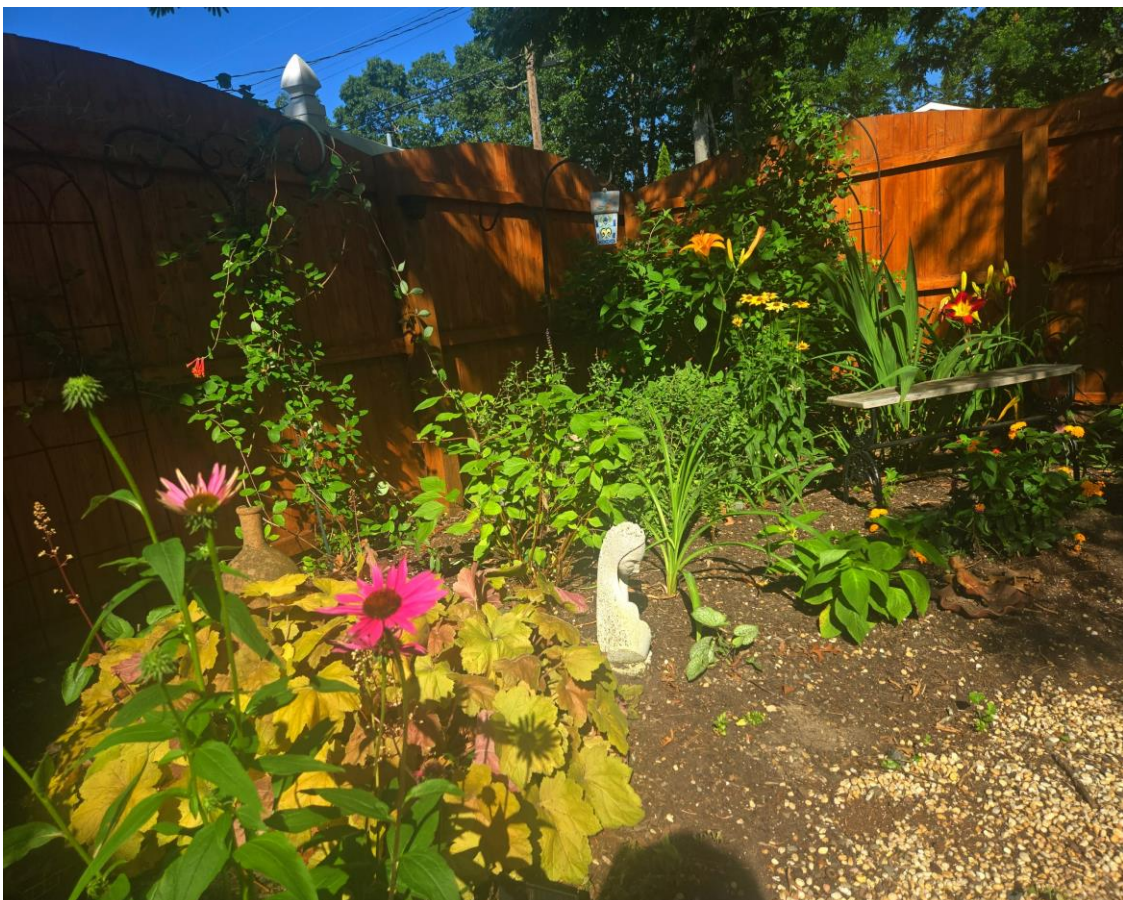
REMINDER: Brick Garden Club to Host Annual Garden Tour July 8. Details on Facebook. I've attended many Garden Tours in Essex County and in a few states, and it is always a wonderful experience, when I've got a lifetime's worth of inspiration. My ultimate dream is to hopefully someday tour British Countryside Gardens.

Stay Hydrated!



Continued on next page

Gardening with Whimsy continued



Mt. Cuba Center's "Ecological Gardening Certificate" Program

By Jill Jordan

In June, I completed the "Ecological Gardening Certificate" Program at Mt. Cuba Center.

Mt. Cuba Center, located in the beautiful Brandywine River Valley of Northern Delaware, is a renowned botanic garden committed to the conservation of native plants and about two hours from Ocean County. It offers a formal garden and over 1,000 acres of "natural lands," but the most treasured section is the "natural gardens," consisting of trails through forests, meadows, and lakeside paths, teeming with native plants and wildlife. Welcoming visitors spring through fall, Mt. Cuba is particularly well known for its spring ephemeral display in March and April and its fall foliage in autumn.



Mt. Cuba is well known for its research, particularly the "trial gardens" in which the research team evaluates native plants and related cultivars for horticultural and ecological value, highlighting the ecosystem services that native plants provide. Recent reports, which are on their website, have featured vernonia, amsonia, hydrangea, carex, helenium, and phlox.

Continued on next page

Mount Cuba continued

Mt. Cuba's mission includes educating the public about the value of native plants, both for their horticultural beauty and their ecological value. They offer engagement programs like watercolor and yoga classes, and wildlife classes such as birdwatching and caterpillar walks. They offer plant classes from basics, like why native plants are important, to gardening classes, like propagation and botany.

The "Certificate in Ecological Gardening" is a curated series of 13 classes (157 hours of class time) covering a wide range of topics including soil chemistry, plant health, arboriculture, plant communities, landscape architecture, water management, and plant identification. It is self-paced, with most students taking one to three years to complete.

I found this an exciting program to enhance my Master Gardener training. The educators were excellent, from University of DE, Penn State, Rutgers, the private sector, and the public sector (such as Bill McAvoy, the Delaware State Botanist). I also learned much from my fellow students, who poured in from throughout the east coast from NY to VA. They all brought different perspectives and knowledge but similar enthusiasm and commitment to native plants and ecological gardening.

I encourage everyone to plan a visit to Mt. Cuba Center and to explore their class offerings, both in person and online.



A Walk in the Garden

By Heide Dziardziel

June 19, 2025 was a beautiful, hot day as I strolled through the Long Beach Island Edith Duff Gwinn Gardens in Barnegat. The Barnegat Light Museum grounds, once a schoolhouse from 1903 through 1954, utilized the 1/3 acre barren grounds by transforming them into a delightful, peaceful sanctuary where native plants thrive.

Through the efforts of Carol Thim, co-chair of the Edith Buff Gwinn Gardens, who had maintained the premises for the past three years, and Joyce Hillyer, who worked the gardens for the past eleven years, their goal is to expand the variety of plants

The garden, open year-round, equipped with two heaters, placed around the fountains, provides warmth for two witch hazels, one yellow and one orange. Throughout the seasons, a variety of flowers can be seen, including a Southern magnolia, Japanese umbrella pine, a variety of annuals, and perennials. Monarch butterflies lay their eggs on milkweed, and the chrysalis can be seen as they dry their wings and fly through the garden.

This historical site is a welcoming place for visitors, and I was glad to be one of them.



Photo credit : [The Garden Club of LBI](#)

Growing As A Team In And Out Of The Garden



Our crew of Junior Master Gardeners traded their gardening tools for artists supplies this month. They came to the meeting bustling with creative ideas for their 4-H club display board. The wooden tri-fold board is 2 feet wide and 8 feet long. The children decorate it for the Ocean County Fair, which is July 9-13. The display board will be up all week at the fair and let people know about the club and its related activities.

The leaders and parents arrived with arms full of art supplies including, lettering, dried flowers, colorful stickers, and pictures of the children gardening. One of the parents, who is an elementary education teacher, brought scissors, glue sticks, crayons, and markers. The children had everything they needed to design and decorate their board.

Although the club leaders and parents were there to facilitate and oversee the project, the children did all the design work. They determined the layout of the wording, which pictures to use, and which flowers were added.

It was great to see them fully engaged and excited about putting the board together. Our Junior Master Gardeners demonstrated how talented they are with their designs. They also showed that they can work together as a team, regardless of the task. They did a great job creating a board that gives a visual explanation of what the club is all about. They were very proud of their design, as you can see in their smiles as they stand behind their creation.

Hopefully, the Master Gardeners will visit the Ocean County Fair and check out the Junior Master Gardener Club display and also visit the Division 3: Plants and Horticulture section of the fair because some of our club members are exhibiting in that division.

Meet a Master Gardener: Judith Richtmyer

By Heide Dziardziel

Judith Richtmyer has been gardening for more than 25 years. She became a Rutgers Master Gardener in 2016. Since 2016, she has participated in the education provided by the Master Gardeners to maintain her hours every year. One of her favorite topics is Container Gardening. She is on the Speakers Bureau and has lectured at various organizations on raised beds and container gardening. She participates in various outreach programs throughout the year, including the Rutgers Master Gardeners Helpline

In addition, Judith is available at the Manchester Library and the Brick Library for “Ask a Master Gardener” and “House Plant Hospital.”

In the spring, Judith works in the Wright House at Ocean County Park before the Rutgers Master Plant Sale held in May. Judith continues to educate herself with classes offered by the Rutgers teaching staff and hopes to continue gardening and educating the public for years to come.

Do You Know...

By Mary Townsend

... How to get your amaryllis to rebloom?

Well, you can follow the directions that came with the box.

Or you can do ... NOTHING!

More than likely, you got your amaryllis bulb before Christmas, stuck it in a pot, watered it, and then voila! it bloomed.

But did you know the amaryllis will also easily bloom later in the year? All you have to do is cut the bloom stalks off and grow the leaves. Treat it like a houseplant – sun, water, fertilizer, etc. And sometime in mid-June voila! It will bloom again.

And chances are that if you repeat the process after the June bloom, you'll get another bloom around Christmas.

That's why buying a bulb on sale is a really good deal.

... Well, Now You Know!



Amaryllis 'Red Lion'

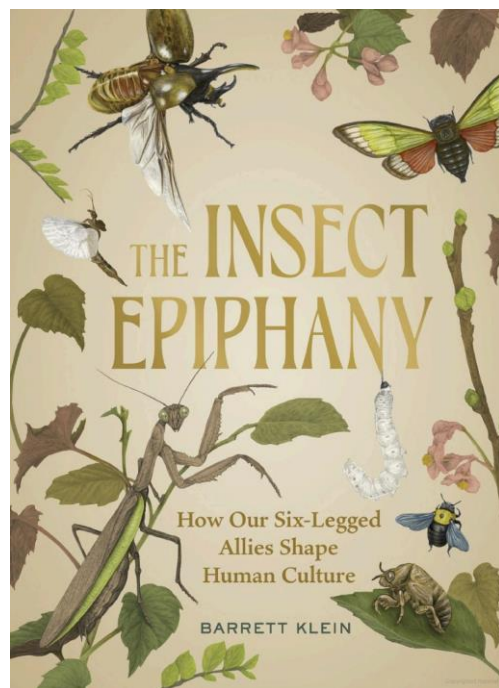
Photo credit: ADR Bulbs, Inc.

Book Review

by Kath Gregitis (AKA “The Tick Chick”)

The Insect Epiphany: How Our Six-Legged Allies Shaped Human Culture

By Barrett Klein
Timber Press
Portland, OR
2024



I have always had a fascination for “bugs” for as long as I can remember. When I was in fourth grade, my friend, Cathie, and I had a “pet” beetle. I think it was a stag beetle. It was big and black and had long antennae. We named him “Blackie J. Bugg,” and we loved him until his passing. Of course, we laid him out in a match box and gave him a lovely send-off before burying him in the yard.

I saw this book advertised in the *Asbury Park Press* and knew I just had to read it, so off to the Ocean County Library I went to reserve it. It took quite a while for the book to come in, but it was well worth the wait.

Barrett Klein studied entomology at Cornell and received his PhD from the University of Arizona. He is also an artist and has created some rather unique pieces, including a “hive helmet,” which he made by placing a recycled bike helmet into a honeybee hive. The worker bees added honeycomb to the helmet, and Klein took out the helmet and modified it with Plexiglass sings, beeswax and insect pins.

Klein has a dry sense of humor, and the book is an easy read. He goes into detail as to how insects have affected human society, history, and culture. He tells of how we have benefitted from insects---wax, lacquer, dyes, paper, silk, and even fabric made from spider web silk. Oh, and of course there is a chapter how an insect, the Praying Mantis, influence Kung Fu fighting! If you love a book with pictures, this one has almost 250 color images!

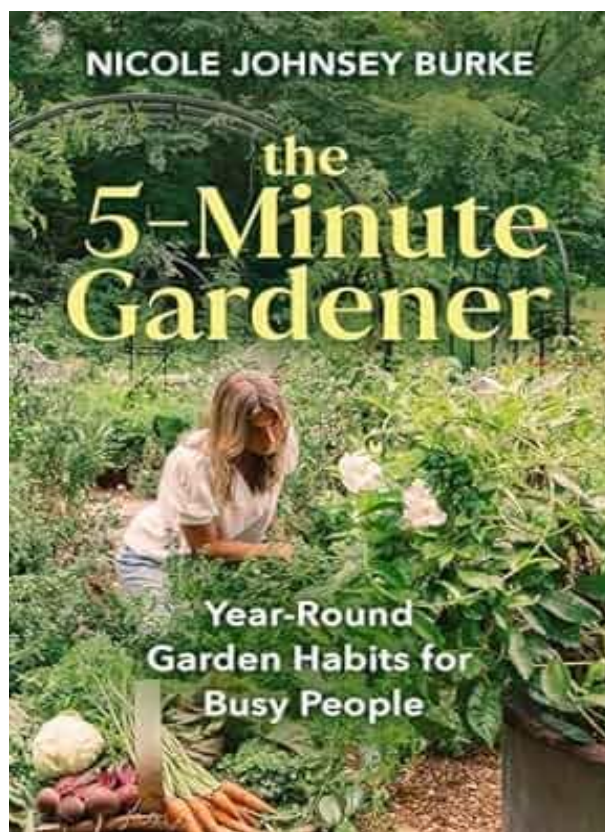
This book may not be for everyone, but I know for sure some of you will want to read it! It is available at the Ocean County Library, once I return it!

Book Review

By Roberta Quinn

The 5-Minute Gardener Year-Round Habits for Busy People

By Nichole Johnsey Burke
Hay House
Carlsbad, CA
2025



In the June newsletter, I mentioned I was interested in checking out *The 5-Minute Gardener: Year-Round Habits for Busy People* by Nicole Johnsey Burke. I didn't know its focus was entirely on vegetable and herb gardening when I put a hold on it. It is not a "how-to" book. It is a "why do you garden" book. Burke is the founder of Gardenary, Inc. and has authored two other books. She wants to bring back kitchen gardens.

The book mentions different ways you can develop habits to garden every day, all year long. "Prompts" are used to build habits. The year is divided into cold, cool, warm, and hot weather months. You apply that to wherever you live. Activities are given for each week of every month and what to do on certain days. There are a lot of checklists. Suggestions are made for what to grow in each season. Burke believes in getting out into your garden and eating its food every day or using the produce to make drinks.

If you are interested in kitchen gardens and want some structure for your days and months to keep up with the garden, then this book is worth looking into. I don't grow vegetables due to numerous critters eating them, so this book didn't do much for me other than to encourage me to do even five minutes of work pruning, planting, or weeding the plants I do grow.

Master Gardeners Share

From Deb Cowles



“Some of the master gardeners having fun propagating cuttings at Steve Kristoph’s Nursery, June 17.”

Master Gardeners Share

From Judy Caldwell



I'm loving my cottage style mostly native garden this year!!! Just saw a hummingbird on the Amelia that we grew in the greenhouse!!

Master Gardeners Share

From Melissa Bonifacio

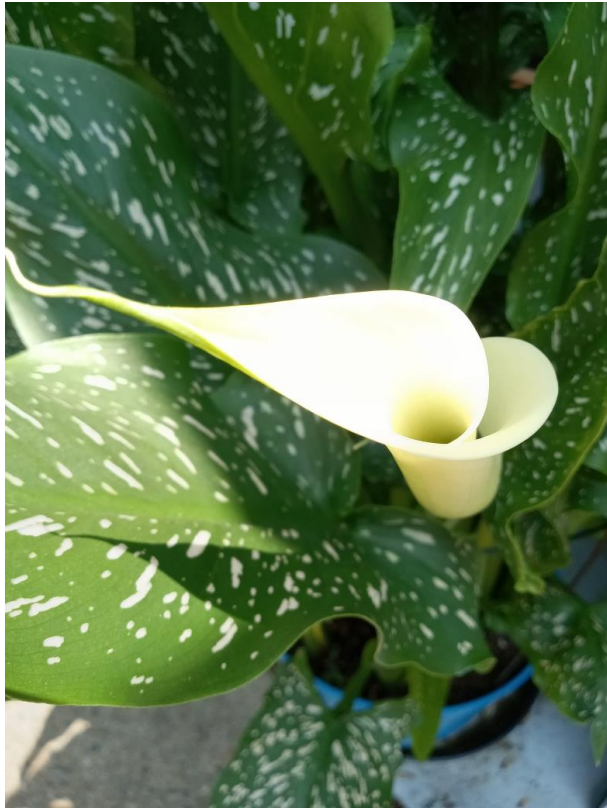
“This picture is from the Mantaloking & Bay head flower show ‘Treasuring the Bay.’

Janice Franscino, Judy Caldwell, Roxanne DiVuolo & Melissa Bonifacio pictured with the scarecrow outside the entrance of the flower show.”



Master Gardeners Share

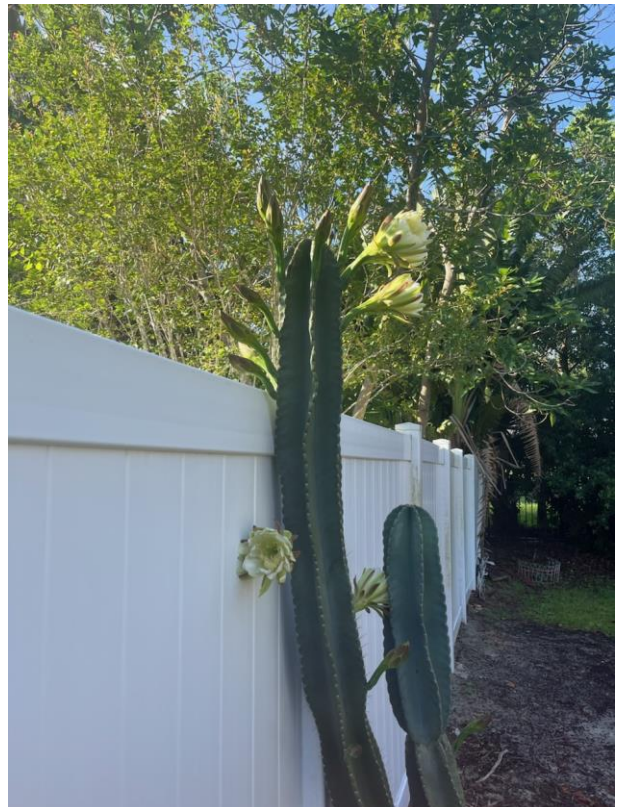
From JoAnn Bowman



“My first calla lily.”



“All callas in bloom.”



Orlando Bloom - cereus hexagonus (Florida)

Master Gardeners Share

From Bianca Aniski



Gleaning for peas turned into gleaning for squash. (See her article, page 36)

Master Gardeners Share

From Janet Pakrul



"I'm doing a pollinator friendly yard and yesterday a butterfly landed on milkweed that I purchased it's beautiful."

From Sherry Seeds



"Removing invasives can hurt. And cost \$300 😞."

"Forget not that the earth delights to
feel your bare feet and the winds
long to play with your hair."

-Kahlil Gibran



Bits and Bobs

(formerly "Announcements")



Gardening Podcasts

[A way to Garden](#) – Margaret Roach

[Plantastic Podcast](#) – Dr. Jared Barnes

[The WildStory](#) – Native Plant Society of NJ

[Joe Gardener](#) – Joe Lamp'l



Please help!

**When working in the Helpline
or Tick Lab take a walk
through the Display Garden
and water any plants that need
it.**

Saturday, July 18th, 2025 (9 a.m. - 3 p.m.)



Are you attending the Pinelands Summer Short Course?

FYI - Only the Jersey-Friendly Yards and Orchids of the Pinelands would qualify for 1 hour each (max of 2 hours CE).

[Pinelands Summer Course at Stockton University](#)

If you know of a food pantry that would welcome donations of fresh vegetables please send contact information to [Rich Marine](#) of the Community Garden.





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.

Editor:

[Sherry Seeds](#)

Proofreader:

[Mary Townsend](#)

Policy:

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

July

- 4** – Independence Day
Ag Center Closed
- 10** – General Meeting
Installation of Officers and
MGOC, Inc. awards
10:00 am Auditorium
BOD Meeting
After General Meeting
Conference Room
- 23** – Pot Luck Pot Party
- 25** – Newsletter Deadline



August

- 7** – General Meeting
10:00 am Auditorium
BOD Meeting
After General Meeting
Conference Room
- 25** – Newsletter Deadline

