

Through the Grapevine



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

November 2025
Volume 34, Issue 11

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[Ellen Silverman](#)

[Grace Hagemeyer](#)

MG Flowers Inspire Art by Al Soyster



Manasquan River Group of Artists

Sea Girt Lighthouse Art Class

September 16, 2025

Sheila Soyster, Instructor



*Many thanks to
Ocean County Master Gardeners
For the beautiful flowers!*



My wife, Sheila Soyster, taught an art class in September for the Manasquan River Group of Artists at the Sea Girt Lighthouse. The subject was flowers, and the inspiration for the class was provided by the Parks Cutting Garden. Information on the Rutgers Master Gardner Program was included in the event. Thanks, Ron, for the flowers!

President's Message

by Roberta Quinn



Since this is the last newsletter until January, I was wondering what to write. Thanks for all your hard work and volunteering over the past year. We've had some challenges, but the cooperation this group has always shown makes finding solutions easier. Some issues have been solved! I think we are in a good position if the committees can keep the volunteers they have and get some new ones to help. I would encourage you to be involved in more than one committee if that fits your schedule and interests.

The November meeting will have displays from various committees and will allow you to ask questions as to what is expected of volunteers. In 2026 we will have some enthusiastic Interns to join us. Let's invite them to experience many facets of the Master Gardener experience.

This is also the time of year to plan for the 2026 growing season. I may have bought too many bulbs that have to be planted soon. I look forward to their emergence and flowering. I must write down what I plant where.

I still haven't repotted houseplants. Benign neglect? I need to resolve to set up a schedule to check on the houseplants. I also plan to remove more undesirable plants in my backyard and add some more natives. When the leaves are down you can do a different type of yard assessment.

Have an enjoyable November and December. If you have suggestions for 2026, let me know. The meeting schedule for 2026 has not been set. I will be reserving the auditorium and the conference room soon and will let you know the dates and times of meetings when available.

Gardening Journey

By Susan Emhardt-Servidio



November is here; almost the end of the year. Already?

I hate to sound like a broken record, but all hours volunteered between 12/16/2024 and 12/15/2025 must be logged in on Better Impact by December 15, 2025. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Please do not wait until the 12/15 to do it. I have to say that most of you were much more timely with your hour log-ins this year. So many great events are made possible because of all you do. THANK YOU!

November and December happenings

Helpline and Tick ID are closed for the year.

There are four 'Ask an RMG' dates in November and two in December. At this time, they are full, but keep checking to see if anyone cancels. There is a Houseplant Hospital at Berkeley Library on December 5 that has an opening. These are good for Outreach-Helpline Activities hours.

11/4- Office is closed- Election Day

11/5- Chilly Chili Day at OCP- 12 PM-3 PM- No hours for this event.

11/6- General meeting 10 AM- Zoom link – [Click here](#)

11/7- Tulip Greenhouse Tour at Holland Ridge Farms- 10 AM-12 PM Open on Better Impact. Good for 2 hours CE

11/11- Office is closed- Veterans Day- Thank our veterans!

11/13- RCE 'Put Your Garden to Bed for the Winter' IPM program- 1 PM-3 PM in-person- no CE hours, but RMGs are able to attend as the public- MUST register- [Click here](#)

11/18- Calendar Meeting 1 PM conference room- Open on Better Impact- Other hours

11/18- RCE Drought Tolerant Plants- 6:30-8 PM webinar- MUST register- [Click here](#)

11/27- Office is closed for Thanksgiving

11/17-21- Sue on 'vacation'

12/4- Welcome Winter Party – see page 31

12/25- Office is closed

Continued

Gardening Journey continued

Project Proposals

I will be reviewing all 2024-25 project proposals from RMG program committees in November.

2026 Intern Classes

January 13 begins the 2026 Intern classes. Once I have all the interns on board, I will send an invite to all volunteers join the class on CANVAS. At this time, we have 34 applicants.

Looking forward to 2026

The RMG program has many more opportunities for Outreach in the community than we have had in the past.

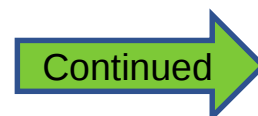
It has been apparent that volunteer help is needed in all aspects of our program, whether it is here at the Ag Center, at Ocean County Park, or at the Cuisine Garden. I am reviewing helpline volunteer attendance and incoming calls. I will be altering the Helpline open hours to one shift from 10 AM-1 PM starting in April through September. This change helps to consolidate the use of volunteer time and to adjust for the decline of incoming calls and volunteer participation. Tick ID will still have two shifts from April-July, but only one shift in Aug-Sept. I will adjust shifts as needed for increased calls/ identifications.

There will be mandatory Helpline Training and Tick Id training (only one class each) in 2026.

All working committees (OCP, Cuisine, Display, Native Plant committee) that need volunteer helpers will be required to have openings listed on Better Impact! If the committee has a core group of volunteers, they (the core grp) do not have to sign up. However, the 'extra' volunteers needed must be displayed on Better Impact opportunities. Example: There are three core volunteers in an area, but you need one to three more volunteers to handle the workload, those 'extra' needed volunteer spots must be displayed.

Wyoming is beautiful!

I plan to go back again next year for graduation, but some photos from my trip in September are on the next page.



Gardening Journey continued



Wyo Tech Classroom



Wyoming



U of Wyoming Greenhouse



On the Road



Laramie, Wyoming



Committee Reports



Ask a Rutgers Master Gardener (All Venues)

Report and new library photo by Debbie McCabe

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

Point Pleasant Borough Library

Point Pleasant Borough Library welcomes a new Chairperson, Heidi Reily. She has taken over the role from Linda Locke, who left behind a strong legacy. Heidi's reporting has been exceptional as she steps into this position.

Stafford Library

Stafford Library will be relocating to a new home before the New Year. Founded in 1980, the library has hosted Master Gardeners twice monthly during the spring and summer seasons since 2010.

November 10 marks the last "Ask a Rutgers Master Gardener" event until next spring. When the program resumes, it will be held in the new Stafford Library, which is scheduled to open in late fall.



1980



The New Stafford Library





Committee Reports



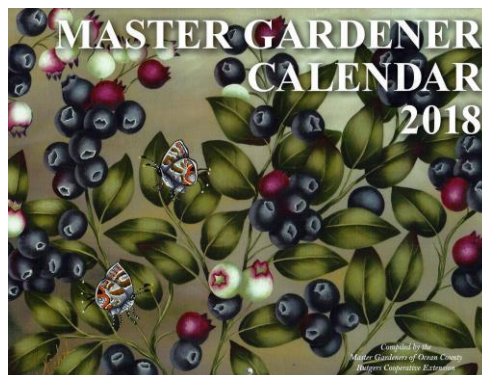
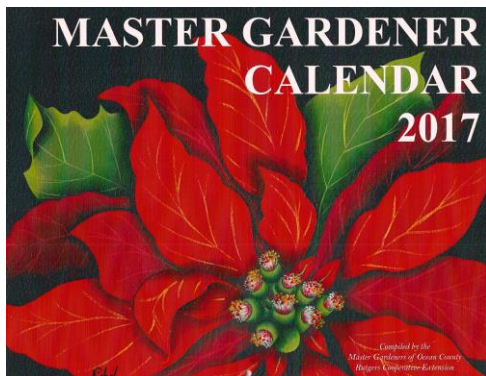
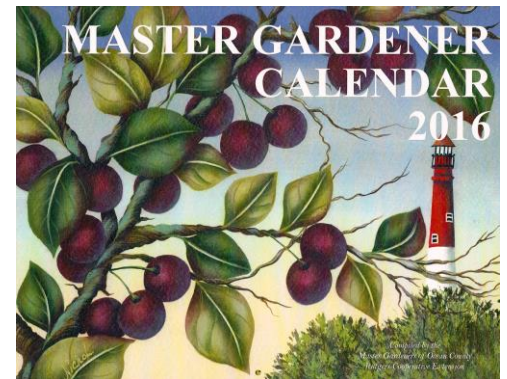
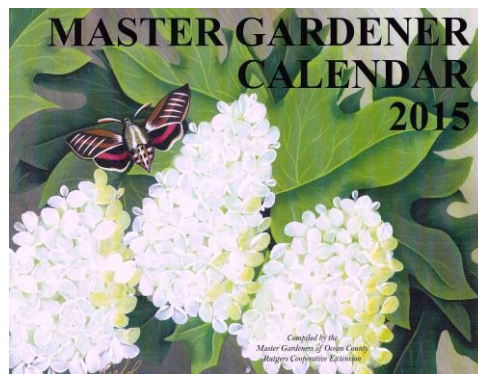
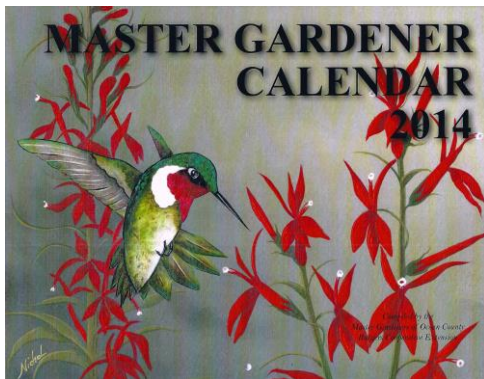
Calendar

Chair: [Bart Mazzei](#)

Report by Bart Mazzei

The Calendar Committee will be meeting on November 18, 2025 at 1 PM in the Ag Center conference room. We will discuss the proposed articles for the Master Gardener Calendar 2027 and begin deciding who will write each article. If you think you might be interested in writing, editing, or proofreading, please sign up on Better Impact and attend this meeting. If you are interested in being involved and can't attend this meeting, please email me at PerlaGirl@proton.me.

Those of you who haven't been involved in the past but enjoy writing, please come. We are lucky to have so many talented people in MOOC Inc., but we can't showcase that talent if you don't get into the game. I'm confident that the more Master Gardeners who participate in the production of our calendar, the better our calendar will be.





Committee Reports



Display Garden

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

Report by Beth Kimber, Photos Caryn Muskus

Things are winding down in the display garden. Most of the perennials have lost their luster and the leaves have begun to fall. It was a pleasure working on these chilly but sunny October mornings cleaning up after the storm and preparing the beds for winter. Our last day in the garden was spent planting a variety of native plants donated by the Native Plant Committee. We look forward to 2026 and the blooming of these native flowers including, Pussy Toes, Purple Coneflower, Golden Alexander, and Cardinal Flowers which were grown from seed during the committee's winter sowing project.

We thank all the many Master Gardeners who joined to work in the display garden in 2025. Your help was invaluable whether you came once, time and again or consistently throughout the year. Special mention to Jane Caroselli who came to every work session.





Committee Reports



Community Garden

Chair: [Rich Marine](#), Co-Chairs: [Noreen Baris](#) and [Cheryl Clearo](#)

Report by Rich Marine, photos by Cheryl Clearo

- * The Community Garden harvested and donated 300.5 pounds of vegetables and herbs to local food pantries.
- * At the October 9, 2025 General Meeting the Community Garden conducted its third annual food collection. The fourth collection will be at the annual holiday party.
- * We continue to harvest, but we are nearing the end of our summer crops.
- * Our cool weather crops, including spinach, lettuce, and carrots, have been planted and are doing well.
- * At this time we are planting onions, shallots, and garlic. Stay tuned for additional information concerning the garlic planting.
- * We have started preparing the beds for next spring. Each bed will receive some new compost, manure, ProMix, and a cover crop.
- * If you are still working on your hours or just want to help, please join us on a Monday, Wednesday, or Friday. Any time you could give us would be greatly appreciated.
- * We can not say enough about our regular crew of volunteers, who make our mission possible. Thank you for everything you do.



More “putting the Community Garden to bed” photos



Committee Reports



Cuisine Garden continued





Committee Reports



Community Outreach

Chair: [Linda Locke](#), Co-Chairs: Aileen Krupa and Mary Pelose

Report by Linda Locke

Happy Fall! You may notice a change in the COE Co-Chairs. Aileen and Mary are taking over from the hard working JoAnn Bowman. Thank you JoAnn for all you did this past year and making the transition an easy one. I will miss you. Thank you to Aileen and Mary for becoming members of this Committee.

The Pine Barrens Jamboree is a popular annual event and busy this year for the MG's working it. They interacted with 105 members of the public. Way to go!

The Seacrest Pines Senior Expo and the Fall Festival for Lakewood are both scheduled to finish out the season. Thank you to all the MG's who volunteered at the COE events to get our education message out to the public.



Pine Barrens Jamboree, October 11, 2025



Committee Reports



Cuisine Garden

Chair: [Sue Priolo](#)

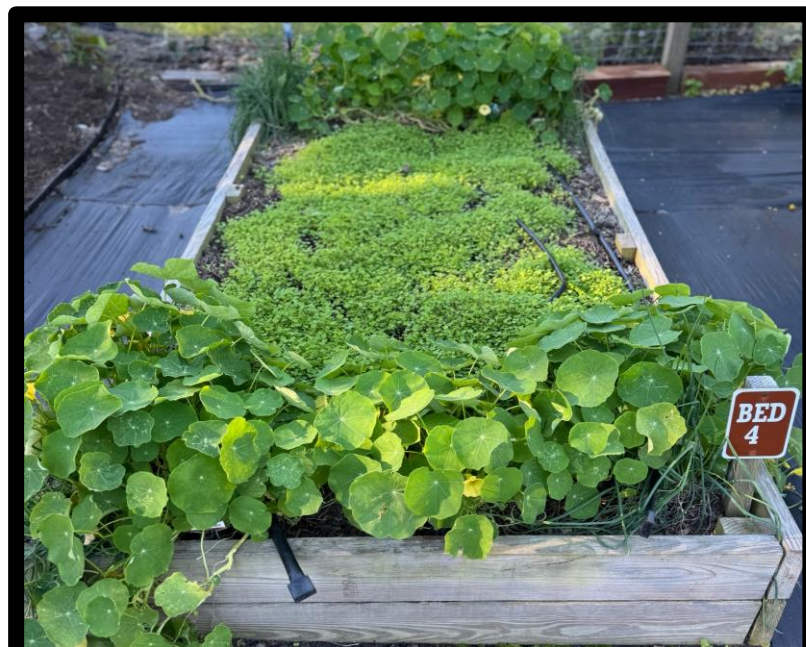
Report and photos by [Deb Cowles](#)

*The beds are now resting under blankets of clover.
Cleared are the crops but our work is not over.
For in winter, roots beneath feed the garden soil,
And in spring, we begin anew, our master gardener toil. ♥ D.J.C.*

At the Cuisine Garden, we have put our soil to sleep in a bed of garlic and under blankets of clover. Our garden is ready for its winter renewal after harvesting 1,210 pounds of vegetables that were donated to local food banks and the Cuisine's Culinary School. Moreover, the totality of these crops fills our hearts with gratitude for the opportunity to garden with friends amongst nature, and to share with those in need.

We, the Cuisine volunteers, wish our fellow Master Gardeners a wonderful winter season. Our hope is for you to join us next season at the Cuisine Garden and experience the joy of gardening on the green.

—John Blankmeyer, Nancy Buzby, Deb Cowles, Jackie Dwyer, Karen Gfroehrer, Ann Kinney, and Sue Priolo, Chair.



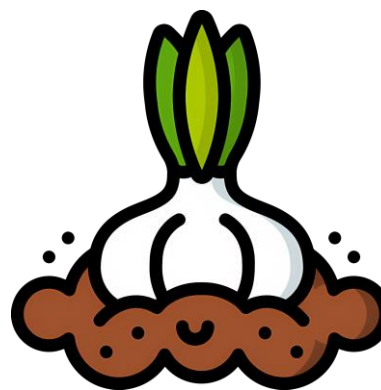
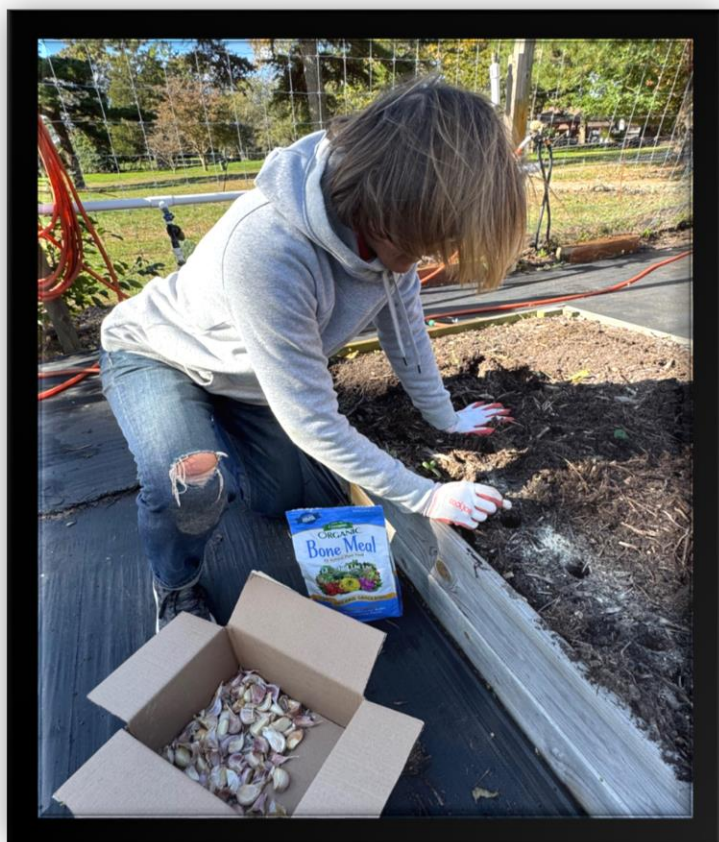
An inviting Cuisine Garden bed dressed in crisp fall linens of clover and nasturtium.

[More photos](#)

Cuisine Garden continued



Thanks to fellow RMG, Noreen Baris, for guiding us through planting our Music garlic again this year!
Music is a flavorful hardneck variety.



Noreen planting the garlic cloves pointed up, in a dibbed hole dusted with organic bone meal then covered with two inches of soil and topped with mulch.

[More photos](#)

Cuisine Garden continued

A new feline Cuisine volunteer serving as a garden IPM guardian against rodent vegetable thieves.



Our ever-hardworking Cuisine Garden Chair, Sue Priolo, clearing the last bed of tomato plants.



Committee Reports



Cut Flower Gardens

Chair: [Ron Rooberg](#)

Report and photos by Ron Rooberg

We are closing the four cutting gardens at OCP for the winter. We are digging and storing dahlias, and are taking cuttings of several plants including Mexican petunia, dipladenia, princess flower and passion flower vine.

We are gathering seeds of many of the most successful cut flowers including zinnias, salvia, galardia, marigold, cosmos, sunflower, penta, strawflower, statice and hyacinth bean vine.

This season we cut 58 buckets of flowers for donation and we donated 39.5 pounds of peppers. We sold everything we brought to the Fall Plant Sale.





Committee Reports



Education Outreach

Chair: [Kathy D'Antonio](#), Co-Chair: [Mark Baranyay](#)

Report by Kathy D'Antonio, photos by Corrine Stinemire-Tordik, the Girl Scout Leader.

Joe Conner, Judy Caldwell, Anyisia Marcel Kiel, Ron Rooberg and Mark Baranyay from the Arc/WrangleBrook group met at Field of Dreams on October 3. They were treated to a picnic hosted by the Arc's Journeys and Discoveries Program to show appreciation for Community Partners. A special shout out to Mark and Anyisia for their expertise on the kickball field.

Two of our Education Outreach projects made the Manchester Times October 25 edition. The Lakehurst Elementary School Sensory Garden and the Girl Scout Silver Award project for the Manchester Twp. Middle School Butterfly Garden.

The Girl Scouts have completed their badge requirements, however EOC will continue to work with two of the Special Needs classes at the Middle School to provide information on maintaining the Garden.

The Lakehurst fifth-graders have been eagerly working on garden tasks with Kathy Bixby and Denise Boughton. They will soon have their garden "put to bed for winter". In addition to these we have resumed the project with the Special Children's Center. On October 20 Mary Cummings, Roxane DiVuolo, Cora Morrison and Kathy D'Antonio explored Sensory Plants with the boys. On October 27 we will be planting garlic and daffodils with them.

We are thankful for the hours you put in to these projects. The groups that we work with have great regard for Master Gardener's participation in their programs.





Committee Reports



Gleaning

Chair: Noreen Baris

There has been only one gleaning we attended since August but it was a big one. Nine hundred pounds of Asian pears from Lee Orchards in Cranbury! This is a new farm for FAH, a third generation owned and operated by a lovely Asian family who told us all about the history of the operation. They only grow Asian pears on their farm. Two of my sisters and a niece joined me and we delivered the harvest to food banks all over Ocean County. This brings our total of produce gleaned to 2,109 pounds.

Please note that I sent an email out to the membership about a change in signing up for gleaning. FAH directors have asked me to make sure that everyone who attends is signed up. First go to the Farmers Against Hunger web site and sign up to get notices about a gleaning event. When you get a notice, follow the prompts to open a POINT account, so you can sign in for that event. Usually only 15 slots are available. I always send out an email about gleaning events if I can go. Please reach out to me if you have any questions!



Beautiful Lee Orchards Asian Pear Farm



Committee Reports



Hospitality

Chair: [Margaret Kerner](#)

Report by Debbie McCabe

Welcome back Margaret Kerner! Hospitality for the last year was not the same without your general meeting comments.

At the November meeting we will be selling items designed by talented former MGOC member, Phyllis Nichols. Examples are her monarch placemat (set of four) featuring the butterfly's life cycle-egg, larvae, pupa, and adult with its only larvae food source, milkweed. Another placemat set depicts our state bird, the goldfinch, state insect, the honeybee, and native plant, Echinacea.

Think — your own cheerful kitchen table, hostess gift, or holiday gift. Offerings are limited. Stop by our display early for the best choices.





Committee Reports



Houseplants

Chair: [Melissa Bonifacio](#)

Report by Melissa Bonifacio

The Houseplant Committee had a Houseplant Hospital in September at the Berkeley Library. We had four community members come to ask us questions about their plants.

We sold many houseplants at Fall Garden Day, and we gave some plants to Master Gardeners who do outreach with the community. These houseplants can be given away at a speaker's bureau event or other community outreach event, as I have no place to overwinter all these plants.

We have a few plants that will stay in the main Greenhouse over the winter, but I need some people to water these plants while they are at the garden. I have had some Wonderful Master Gardeners do this for me already, but I would like to have a possible schedule.

The Houseplant Committee will be giving a presentation on houseplants on October 30 at the Venue at Lighthouse Station.

The Houseplant Committee will be having another Houseplant Hospital at the Berkeley Library on Friday December 5 from 9:30-12:00. Right now no one is signed up for this event. Please sign up on Better Impact.

As far as the Houseplant Committee continuing, I need someone to step up to be a co-chair, or this committee will be dismantled. I can not continue to do it all myself. If we want to have plants for the spring plant sale, we will need Master Gardeners who are willing to propagate plants and places to keep these plants.



Committee Reports



IPM

Chair: [Vinnie Delia](#), Co-Chairs: [Ann Kinney](#) and [Rachel Halford](#)

Report by Vinnie Delia

The IPM Committee held its second annual Halloween “Pot Luck” Workshop on Friday, October 31. Thanks to everyone who participated. And a huge thank you to all Master Gardeners who came out and supported the IPM Committee Workshops in 2025.

Currently the Committee is busy preparing for a November 13 *Public* IPM Workshop from 1-3pm at the Ag Center focused on putting your garden to bed, diagnostics, and tactics that can be done now to proactively help avoid problems in the Spring.

This will be our third public workshop of the year; at the time of this writing there are 16 people signed up. Master Gardeners are welcome to sign up for this workshop, and can do so by contacting Teresa Becker at 732-505-3671 by November 11. There is a \$5 fee, but you will receive a free scout lens, and this commemorative IPM Scout Pin for attending.





Committee Reports



Native Plants

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

Report by Ellen Silverman

Native plant nursery:

There are still a lot of beautiful plants left, so come out and help us care for the plants and get them ready for their winter rest and maybe find some for your own garden.

Donation of Plants:

Donations of plants were made to Cuisine Garden, the Native Plant Teaching Garden. Remember, plants from the OC nursery are available for approved education outreach projects, including native plant display gardens in areas where we can teach the public. Please contact Ellen Silverman of the native plant committee if you have a project that you would like to be considered. Fall is a great time for planting.

Education:

A calendar of events are being developed now for winter sowing workshops, stay tune for more information.

Native Plant Teaching Garden at Ocean County Park:

Work parties will be Mondays in November 9:00am – 12:00pm. Please come and weed, plant, and just enjoy lovely fall days. See page 28 for more information.

The next Native Plant Committee meeting will be, November 3, 2025 at 1:00pm in the conference meeting room at the Ag Center.

Volunteers are needed in all areas of this committee, please stop by our table at the November general meeting and find out more about this committee and where and when you could volunteer with us.





Committee Reports



Ocean County Park Operations

Chair: [Al Soyster](#)

Hoop and Herb House recovering

This month the Hoop House and the Herb House were recovered. On Monday, October 20 a dedicated team tackled the uncovering of both houses in preparation of the main event on Wednesday. The team worked tirelessly and efficiently and had both structures uncovered and ready in record time.

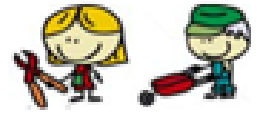


Community garden people sifting compost with Hoop House in background.

Continued



Committee Reports



Ocean County Park Operations Continued

As dawn broke on Wednesday, John Blankemeyer and Mark Baranyay led the team of wiggle-wire experts, cover-holder-downers, ladder-steadier's, and countless others in recovering both structures in four hours, including a snack break.



Photo: Laura Docherty



Photo: Laura Docherty

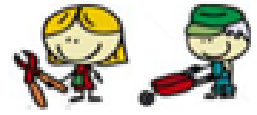


Photo: Tricia Schnepf

Continued



Committee Reports



Ocean County Park Operations

Chair: [Al Soyster](#)



Photo: Tricia Schnepf

I just want to thank all that came out to help. While too many to name (as I'm sure I'll forget someone), your assistance was invaluable to making this a fun and painless evolution.

An additional shout-out to John Blankemeyer for taking all of the leftover wrap to be responsibly recycled at the Southern Ocean County Recycling Center.



John Blankemeyer



John Blankemeyer



Committee Reports



Shrub Garden

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

Report by Laura Docherty

We have spent the month of October participating in two plant sales; the Fall Garden Day plant sale and the Jersey Friendly Yards Conference plant sale. Both sales offered primarily native plants, and it's clear that the public is dedicated to planting more natives. The combined profits for both sales were over \$1600. Many of the plants were provided by the Native Plant Nursery, and were grown from seed through winter sowing, so they were healthy plants and unique varieties.

Currently, the shrub garden is getting ready for the winter. We are pulling every single shrub, removing soil (and Asian Jumping Worms), thoroughly cleaning and soaking the roots of the shrubs, and repotting them. Our plan is to place all the repotted shrubs above ground going forward. This will keep the worms out, but creates the problem of not being able to protect the plants from the cold because they won't be in the ground.

We are reviewing methods for protecting the plants from the cold during the winter. The article "Overwintering Plants in Containers" provided by Penn State Extension (extension.psu.edu) recommends a few steps to protect plants in containers. These methods include burying the pot (we can't do that), using larger pots, and providing some protection, such as straw, shredded leaves, thermal blankets, etc. Smaller pots can also be placed in an unheated garage, shed, cold frame or a basement. Peter Ascolese just measured the area of the shrub garden with the goal of covering the entire area with lumite.

Wish us luck as we create a new version of the shrub garden.



Mentors

Chair: [Vickie Monks](#), Co-chair: [Roberta Quinn](#)

Report by Ellen Silverman

Thank you to all who volunteered to be Mentors. You will be contacted via email regarding your Intern's information when Sue Servidio is ready for you to contact them.



Committee Reports



Speakers Bureau

Chair: [Suzanne](#) Keane, Co-Chair [Sue Masoorli](#)

Report by Suzanne Keane

The Speakers' Bureau met with prospective and current members on Tuesday, October 21. Here is some general information that newer MGs may not have yet heard about us.

MG speakers do more than just present power points to the Ocean County community such as garden clubs, libraries, and other non-profits. We also do lectures and demos.

But, before we can 'present', we need MGs to 'prepare' and create the power points. We have many programs in our 2025 Speakers' Bureau folder, but new topics of current interest are always welcomed. Some older ppts need updating as new varieties of plants or 'policies' become available. We will be adding two new ones, created recently, to our Topics List for 2026.

Lecture outlines need to be created and have Coordinator approval by those who wish to do a demonstration or lecture without a ppt. As an example: the speaker showing a procedure (planting garlic) or attendees creating their own (stacking bulbs in pots), under the guidance of the MG demonstrator.

So, you don't need to "talk" to be on the Speakers' Bureau team. If you like sharing gardening information with friends, family and the public, then this is the committee for you. Come see us at the General Meeting or contact us by email.

Sunshine

Chair: Kate MacDonald



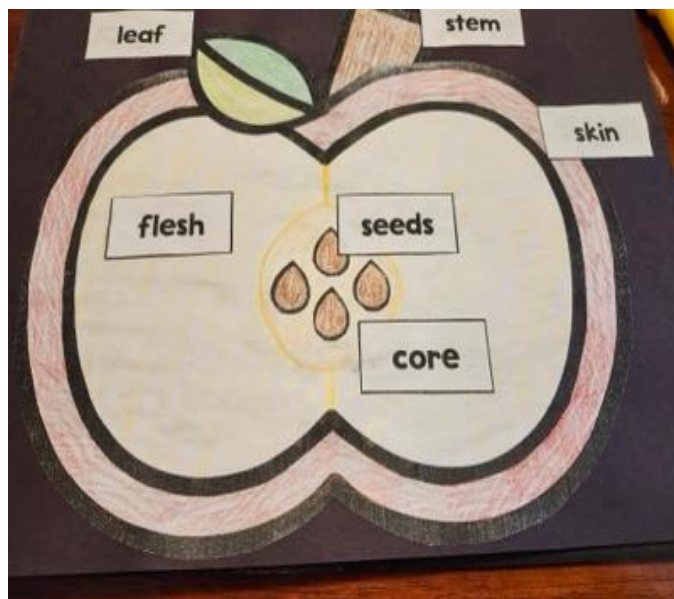
Get well cards were sent to Cindy McGrath, Rich Marine and Judith Richtmyer.

Sympathy cards were sent to Jill Jordan on the loss of her father and to Helene Hausvater on the loss of her husband. May loving memories bring comfort and peace to their families in the days ahead.



An Apple A Day ...

Although the Junior Master Gardeners were not able to coordinate as a group for fall apple picking, they learned a little bit about apples and how they grow during their club meeting this month. They created apple diagrams, which included labeling all of the fruit parts.



The children discussed the functions of the apple parts and how each part contributes to the growth and development of the fruit. They all enjoyed coloring their diagrams, so they could display them in their homes. They are looking forward to next month's meeting and working on their "Give Thanks" community service project.



Destiny's Bridge

by Noreen Baris

The chairs of the Community Garden would like to thank the membership for their very generous donations to the October food drive! The donations included 98.5 pounds of non-perishable foods, 8.75 pounds of produce, 2 tents, 5 sleeping bags, 1 back pack, a bag of toiletries, 12 bags of clothing, gift cards totaling \$75.00 and \$60.00 in cash. Denise Boughton also donated four large boxes of (all new) sweatshirts, hoodies, knit hats, scarves, fleece, and tee shirts. I barely fit it all in the truck!

I reached out to Minister Steve Brigham who organizes and helps the people living in homeless camps. He is currently overseeing five different camps. When he arrived in his truck towing a trailer, he said he was just assisting a veteran and was looking for a tent for him. (Let that sink in for a moment. A veteran. Homeless.) He was absolutely overwhelmed and grateful for this huge donation! Everything you donated will be put to good use. With the cold weather coming the warm clothing is especially appreciated.

Thank you all who donated – you are truly a compassionate and caring organization and I am proud to be a member!



Minister Steve Brigham unloading the donations from the MGs.

The Native Plant Teaching Garden at Ocean County Park

By [Karen Walzer](#)

Several years ago, Ocean County Park installed an almost 2,000 square foot native plant garden next to the park's beach complex, but more recently it's been neglected. The MG Native Plant Committee has "adopted" the garden with the goal of offering native plant education and outreach programs there, and has already begun maintenance tasks (weeding, pruning, removing invasives, etc.) to get it back into shape.

Volunteers are needed to help us add more native plants to the garden. Hours will count as outreach.

If you'd like to help us rejuvenate this garden, meet us at Ocean County Park's beach complex on **Monday mornings, starting on October 27 and continuing on Mondays until the end of November. We'll work from 9:00 to 11:30 am.** Since we'll be doing a lot of planting, bring a garden trowel if you can.

The park address is 659 Ocean Ave. (Rt. 88), Lakewood. Parking is in the first large lot on the right after entering the park from Route 88. The garden location is shown below. If you need help finding us, you can text or call me at 732-766-4990.

Thanks and hope to see you there.





Call for Volunteers — Native Plant Nursery

The **Native Plant Nursery** depends on volunteers year-round to care for and prepare plants grown from seed for educational projects, donations, and Master Gardener sales.

Volunteer Needs by Season

November – February (slower season)

- Tasks include watering, maintenance, and seed preparation.
- Time commitment:** Approximately **6–8 volunteer hours per week**, divided among **2–3 volunteers**.

March – October (active growing season)

- This is our busiest time of year with watering, transplanting, and preparing plants for sales and donations.
- Regular plant maintenance requires **at least 20 hours per week**.
- During transplanting season (**May–September**), time commitments **double**, averaging **40 volunteer hours per week**.
- 10–12 volunteers** are needed to meet this seasonal workload.

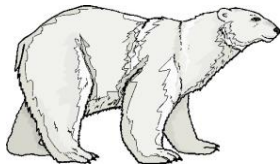
How You Can Help

- Volunteers may sign up for a time slot per week.
- No prior nursery experience required—training will be provided.
- Flexible scheduling available. Can't volunteer Monday, Wednesday, or Friday mornings? Other times can be arranged.

If you're interested in joining the **Native Plant Nursery team**, please contact [Ellen Silverman](#) of the **Native Plant Committee**.

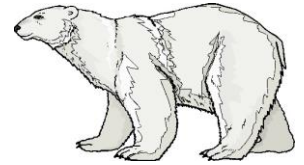
Together we can grow healthy, beautiful native plants for the Master Gardener sales and the community!

PENGUIN POLAR PARTY BLACK AND WHITE LUNCHEON TO WELCOME WINTER



**WHEN: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4
FROM 11:00 TO 2:00**

**WHERE: MANERA'S RESTAURANT
950 CEDAR BRIDGE AVENUE, BRICK NJ**



MENU

ALL ENTREES INCLUDE A HOUSE SALAD
**WHEN YOU GET TO THE RESTAURANT, YOU WILL CHOOSE ONE OF THE
FOLLOWING FOUR ENTREES:**

**(IF YOU HAVE ALLERGIES OR WANT GLUTEN-FREE,
TELL YOUR SERVER WHEN ORDERING)**

CHICKEN FRANCAISE

HOUSE VEAL- SCALLOPINE OF VEAL, PANKO BREADED AND TOPPED
WITH HOMEMADE MOZZARELLA CHEESE, FRESH SLICED TOMATOES, AND
TOPPED WITH A LEMON CAPER SAUCE

GRILLED SALMON-DRESSED IN A LEMON BEURRE BLANC

PASTA PRIMAVERA- TOSSED IN WITH SEASONAL VEGETABLES WITH A
PARMESAN CREAM SAUCE OR OIL AND GARLIC

DESSERT: CHEESECAKE OR ICE CREAM

BEVERAGES: SOFT DRINKS, TEA, AND COFFEE ARE INCLUDED.

**THIS IS A BYOB RESTAURANT, SO YOU CAN BRING YOUR FAVORITE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE. MANERA'S SELLS FULL BOTTLES OF WINE FROM
SHARROTT WINERY.**

PRICE IS \$35.00 PER PERSON. YOU CAN BRING GUESTS.

CHECKS MADE OUT TO MGOC, INC.

**MAIL TO ROBERTA QUINN, 2048 CRESTWOOD DR.,
FORKED RIVER, NJ 08731**

OR

**CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS THROUGH AL SOYSTER
(AT OCEAN COUNTY PARK OR NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING)**



DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER, 20, 2025

Master Gardeners Share

From Deb Cowles



Master Gardeners Share

From Judy Caldwell

“Following my heart with adults with disabilities.....Uncle George instilled this in me! Circa 1980. He was my husband’s “discarded “ uncle that luckily was living in some wonderful group homes but my MIL (his sister) didn’t understandably have a great relationship with him. I brought him back into the family and we loved him dearly for many years!

So happy to be reunited with so many more loving Arc participants that make my life so much more enriched!

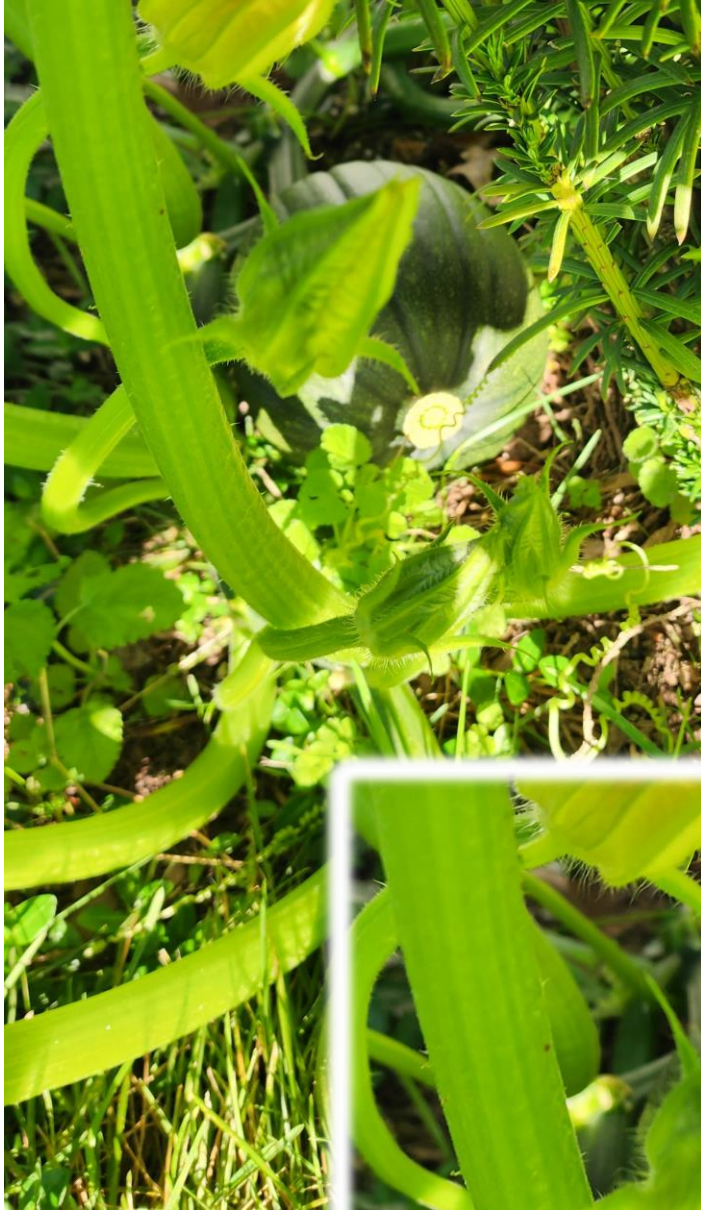
We enjoy our time at Wrangle Brook each week growing vegetables and growing ourselves! ♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥ “



Master Gardeners Share

From Kat Schaffer

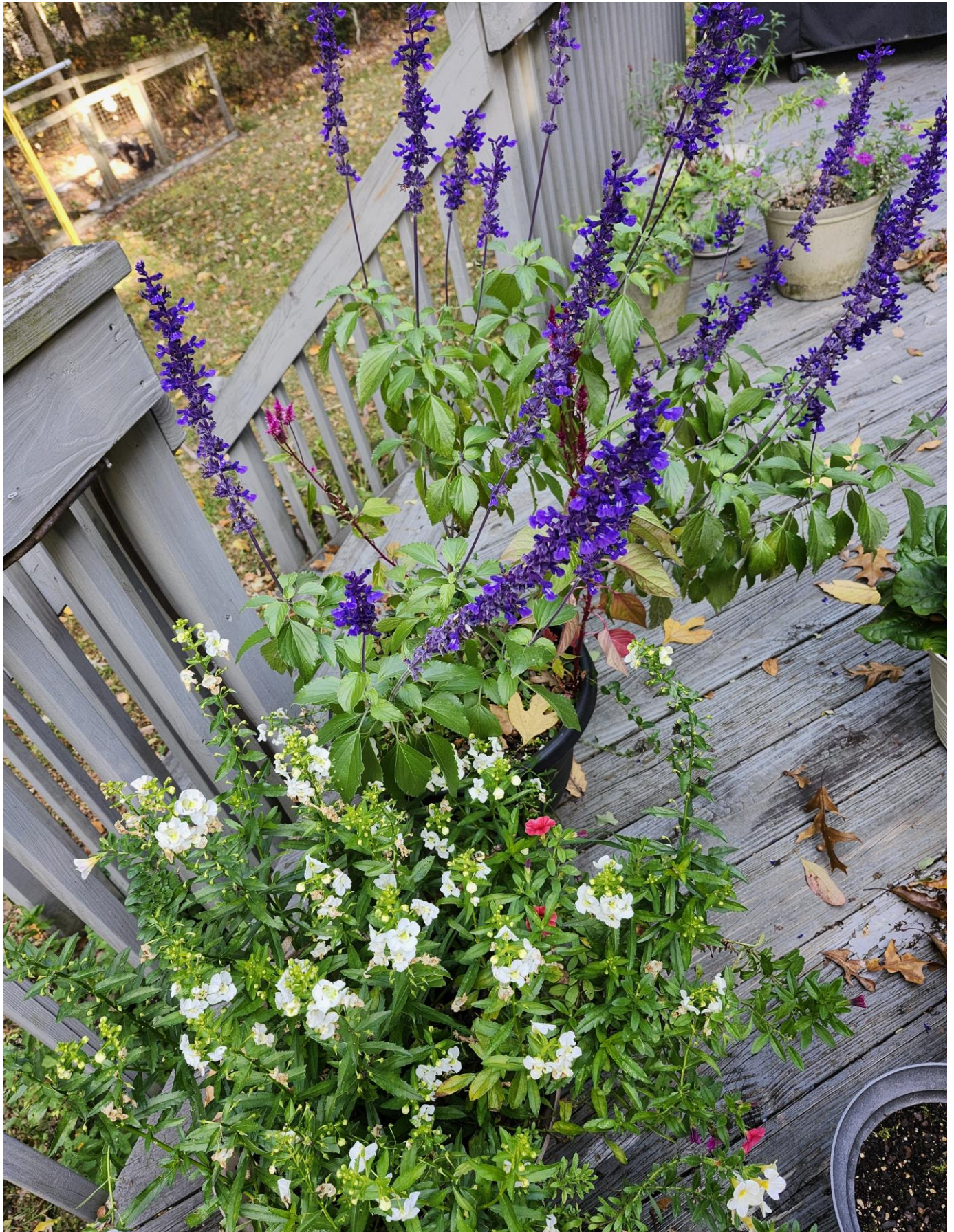
“Late mystery arrival in my yard. I believe they may be pumpkins?”



Master Gardeners Share

From Denise Gomolka

"October 21 and still blooming!"



Master Gardeners Share

More October 21 photos from Denise Gomolka



CE Opportunity (Two hours)

Tulip Greenhouse Tour at Holland Ridge Farms

Date: Friday, November 7, 2025

Time: 10am -12pm

Location: 659 Rte 524 (New Canton-Stone Taven Rd)
Allentown NJ 08501

**Sign up on Better Impact
Tour counts toward 2 hours CE**

**RMGs and guests are invited to learn and
experience how Holland Ridge Farms
plants their bulbs for next year's Tulip
display.**

**This is a free private tour of their automated
tulip greenhouse facility**

Please be at the Greenhouse by 9:50am

Guests are invited, but you **must** let Sue
know how many are coming with you.

ProMix Sale 2026

By Bart Mazzei

Dwulet's Farm and Garden in Lakewood will again be handling our ProMix sale in 2026. The price hasn't been determined, so we are not taking orders yet. The cost per bale the past 2 years was \$40, significantly better than we were able to get on our own. As soon as Ellen at Dwulet's receives prices from her suppliers, we will let you know so you can decide whether to order.

However, unless the tariff situation changes, the price per bale might be much higher. Most peat-based "soilless" growing media from Canada currently carry a 25% tariff. This includes both ProMix and Lambert's, the two products we have used before. Unless we can find an American or other sourced product that isn't subject to the tariff, we should be ready to pay more this year to grow our plants.



Bits and Bobs



Noon, November 7.

Native Plant Seed packing at the OC Park, greenhouse

Noon, November 12.

Native Plant Nursery Planning meeting at the OC Park, greenhouse

THANK YOU



Thank you to everyone who has contributed socks to the sock recycling collection so far. I've taken 12 bags to FedEx to be delivered to Smartwool.

Just a reminder that I will be collecting socks only until December 1. Collection boxes remain in the Master Gardener room and in the greenhouse.

-Cheryl

Chilly Chili Day

Wednesday, November 5, beginning at 12 noon on the greenhouse patio in Ocean County Park.

Everyone's invited.

Please RSVP to [Mary Townsend](#) if you are planning to attend and if you can bring a dish.



Remember....

There won't be a newsletter in December.

But you can still share your news with your fellow MGs either by email allmgs@emaildodo.com or on our [private Facebook group](#).

Free

The shrub garden is getting rid of about 35 to 40 Beauty Berry shrubs. However, we are keeping the American Beauty Berries. You can come to the park and take them for free or make a donation to the MGs.

Closing Thoughts

"Happiness held is the seed; happiness shared is the flower."





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:

[Cheryl Clearo](#)

Policy:

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

November

4 – Election Day

Ag Center Closed

6 – General Meeting

10:00 am Auditorium

BOD Meeting

After General Meeting
Conference Room

11 – Veteran's Day

Ag Center Closed

19 – Executive Committee

1:30 am Auditorium

27 – Thanksgiving

Ag Center Closed



December

4 – Welcome Winter Party

No General Meeting
See page 30

25 – Newsletter Deadline

25 – Christmas Day

Ag Center Closed

