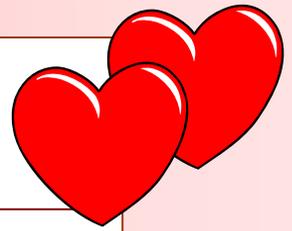


Garden Tales



Atlantic County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 2

Our Plant Sale is taking off!

Thanks to A LOT of detailed work, good ideas, quality time, and teamwork, once again we've got a really exciting plant list! The plants are extremely interesting, wildlife-friendly, and gorgeous to boot.

Starting in early March, we'll use our flyer and web site to **promote the sale** to all Atlantic County employees, and to the public via local newspapers, and in libraries and area businesses

Orders are accepted now through the deadline on April 3. You'll find detailed plant descriptions and the order form at <http://www.aclink.org/rce-atlantic>; look for "Plant Sale" under "What's the Buzz" on the home page.

Plant pickup:

- Thursday, April 12, from 3 to 7 p.m.
- Friday, April 13, from 9 am till 3 p.m.
- Where: The 4H Fairgrounds in South Egg Harbor. It's easy to find: On Route 50, between the Black Horse and White Horse Pikes.

You can help:

- Post the flyer (or leave a dozen copies) at any local businesses (with their permission, of course!) A printable .pdf file of the flyer will emailed when available. Paper copies are available at the MG office.
- Email the flyer to your friends, relatives, and club members.
- The flyer provides some handy "talking points" to help you convince friends and families, such as. "Our plants are specifically selected by Master Gardeners to grow in local soils and climate!"

HOT Happenings

Feb 20	MG Class: Plant Propagation
Mar 4 – 11	Philadelphia Flower Show
Mar 6	MG Class: Natives / Invasives
Mar 9	MG Association Meeting, 12:30 – 2:30, MG offices. Vin Thoms to lead education session.
Mar 13	MG Class: Backyard Habitats
March 24	Rutgers Home Gardeners School
April 12 & 13	MG Plant Sale Pickup
April 20	MG Association Meeting

Online extras!

The electronic edition of *Garden Tales* includes three pages of great stories and photos from Grace Wagner, Vin Thoms, Mona Bawgus, Janet D'Alessandro, and Mary McDermott .

Inside You'll Find

Committee News	2
Volunteers needed	2
Committee Meeting dates	2
HelpLine Info	2
Everybody has a story	3
Free to a good home	3
Thank You!	4
Education	5
MG Class Schedule	5
Trees are our future	6
Perspectives	6
Garden Journals	7
Garden Tips & Sources	7
Online Extras	9, 10, 11

Committee News & Updates

Plant Sale: Gloria Perakovich: Our big event is well underway. See page one for details, how you can help, and when to order your own plants.

Community Outreach: Kathy Olsen: We have many projects in the works; some are just starting to break dormancy, and others remain “under the mulch” for another month or so. Here’s what’s starting up now:

- **Estell Manor:** Planning is in full swing for the butterfly/nature garden, and the plant list for the vegetable garden is being assembled.
- Bob Kruk is organizing the **tomato and pepper seed starting** for plants to give away/sell at our Spring events. If you’d like to plant seeds and/or “host” seedlings under lights at your home, please attend the March 27 tomato planting at the MG offices.
- Janet Longo and Bob Kruk are meeting with the **Port Republic School** this month. Volunteers will be needed when the planting starts.
- **Peace Pilgrim Park:** Planning’s underway to plant a willow, two sugar maples, and a small wildlife garden.

Hospitality: Bev Albertson: Starting in March, two members will volunteer to bring desserts for each month’s Association Meetings. Yum! Thanks to the Hospitality committee for providing the desserts so far! Two *tentative* dates for your calendars include **2007 Graduation**, Friday, June 8; and **Holiday Party**, Friday December 7. Locations and details to come.

Helpline: Grace Wagner: See “HelpLine News & Info” on page 3.

Finance & Fund Raising: Debra Sandler: As soon as possible, committees should consider what their funding needs will be for the balance of 2007 and let Debra know. We’re winding down the **Book Sales** as a fund-raising tool. However, if you have good quality non-fiction books, send Michelle Brunetti Post an email with the book title and ISBN number. She can tell you if they’re saleable, before you trek to the office with the books. We’ll hold a second **annual MG Yard Sale** in early May, likely at Michelle’s house in Linwood. However, please do NOT bring yard sale items to the MG office or Michelle’s house until a week before the sale, as we do not have storage space.

Communications: Mary McDermott: The Plant Sale flyer and press release are being distributed. Articles and ideas for ongoing newsletters are welcome.

Trips, Tours, & Education: Vin Thoms. The committee will present options at the next Association meeting.

Volunteers Needed:

- **Finance & Fund Raising Committee:** Contact Debra Sandler
- **Tomato and Pepper Planting:** Contact Bob Kruk
- **Speakers for library presentations:** Contact Mona
- **HelpLine:** Fact sheet filing; contact Grace Wagner
- **Newsletter articles:** Contact Mary McDermott
- **Port Republic School gardens:** Contact Janet Longo
- **Plant sale:** plant set up and sales April 12 & 13
- **Hospitality:** Two members to bring desserts for the April MG Association meeting. Contact Bev Albertson

Next Committee Meetings:

- **Communications:** Tuesday, March 6, 12:30, MG office.
- **Community Outreach:** Friday, March 9, 11:30, MG office.
- **Tours, Trips, Education:** Following March 9 Association Meeting, MG office.
- **Tomato plants seed starting:** March 27, MG office.

HelpLine News and Info

HelpLine Office Updates

A few changes are underway to make “working the HelpLine” easier; your help is appreciated to implement a few of them.

- Filing cabinets house all our fact sheets for clients. Like an invasive weed, the “Insects, Diseases, and Pests” drawer has outgrown its space and will now span two drawers. Help is needed to divide and refile materials.
- Problem/Inquiry Log Sheet: In the box where you see "Pest, Plant, or Other," rather than simply putting a check mark, please write *which* plant or pest. This will make it easier to quickly scan through the logs to find related client questions.
- HL Office Closet: An inventory of materials will be posted so we can see at a glance what’s available for our various events.
- We'll be adding a third bulletin board, with headers so information is easy to find. When you post items on the bulletin board, be sure to remove them when they become out of date.
- Look for a new Suggestion Box. You can make suggestions for improvements to the HelpLine office, as well as suggestions for the HelpLine Manual.
- When you finish your HL shift, please tidy up the office.

Green Thumbs provide answers

Read through the bi-weekly articles Mona writes to be ready for seasonal client questions. You'll find the articles in a binder in the HelpLine office, and you can share them with clients. Recent topics covered:

- Wood burning stoves, Feb. 2
- Birdseed types, Feb. 9
- Plants & Indoor Pollution, Feb. 16
- Seed Viability, Feb. 23

What’s on clients’ minds?

Though the HelpLine is typically slow in February and March, we still get a few calls. This time of year, you can expect calls about indoor plant care and pests, plant hardiness zone questions, and when to start seeds indoors.

Updated Time Sheets are due the end of February!

USFS Weed of the Week

This tree is invasive in NJ. Find out more – and out to get rid it, at www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive_plants

Japanese Corktree,
Phellodendron japonicum Maxim. This 25-foot deciduous tree adapts to many conditions, and is often found in disturbed forests. It escapes intentional plantings through its copious seed production.



The grayish-brown bark is furrowed and ridged.



What: 8th Annual National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week

When: February 25 to March 2

Where: Washington, D.C.

Who: Organizations and Individuals who Support Invasive Weed Management and Ecosystem Restoration

http://www.nawma.org/niwaw/niwaw_index.htm

People Page

Everybody has a story!

Our new *Garden Tales* feature introduces two Master Gardeners each issue. Make a point to say hello to these MGs at the next Association or Committee meeting, and introduce yourself!

Gerel Pereborow, 2006, Galloway

- **Committee:** Hospitality
- **Favorite flowers:** Iris, Rose, Daylily
- **Least favorite flower:** Marigold
- **If I didn't join the MGs, I would be** reading even more English murder mystery novels!
- **My oddest HelpLine client** brought in a container of millipedes she found in her tub.
- **My favorite time of year is Spring**, as everything bursts with color, fragrance and life.
- **My favorite MG activity** is Field Trips.
- **My favorite MG classes** were Barbara Bromley's Turf class and Pat Sutton's Butterfly Gardens class.
- **My favorite garden-related book** is a murder mystery about undiscovered orchids in France.
- **One creature I don't mind** is a very cute box turtle who meanders through my yard.
- **Most MGs don't know** that I have a fun sense of humor.



Camille Griffin, 2005, Mizpah

- **Committees:** Communications, Plant Sale, Community Outreach projects
- **Favorite flower:** Fuschia, for its color and drape, and it reminds me of San Francisco.
- **If I were on a desert island**, the plant I'd want with me is one of those water-filled cacti.
- **My favorite time of year is Winter**, to relax and catch my breath before Spring.
- **My favorite garden tool** is a forked weeder.
- **My favorite MG class** our first class of 2005 – Indoor Plants, by Mary Eklund.
- **My favorite garden-related show** is Mike McGrath's organic radio show on WHYY, "You Bet Your Garden."
- **If I had my own farm**, I would grow and sell organic vegetables and lots and lots of perennials.
- **Most MGs don't know** that I am a retired bricklayer.



THANK YOU

- To the **Plant Sale Committee** for the long (though pleasant!) hours in many meetings choosing plants, deciding on promotions, typing up lists, and much more. A special thanks to **Janet D'Alessandro** for the prodigious hours spent assembling the plant descriptions.
- To **Vin Thoms** for fixing the drainage problem in our Demo Garden. Vin spent several hours digging and installing drainage pipes. After all the recent rain, our Demo Garden walkways remained dry!
- To **Janet Longo** for the beautiful flower arrangements, and to **Mary McDermott** for the fresh eggs – all were raffled off at the February Association meeting.
- To the **Hospitality Committee** for the delicious desserts at our February Association meeting!

FREE! to a Good Home

- Two six-inch tall Rubber Tree plants, the results of a successful propagation experiment. 4" pots. Contact Mary McDermott.
- (**Free to a Good Home** is for gardening-related items you'd like to give away to other MGs. Send a brief description of your item to mmcddmcm@comcast.net for the next newsletter.)

Happy Birthday!

3/13 Anita Wagner
3/16 Bev Albertson
3/21 Cindy Krzyzaniak

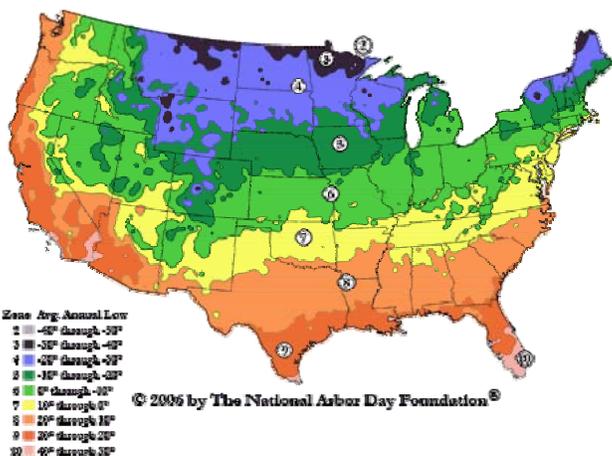


Events & Education

2007 MG Class Schedule

Classes are Tuesdays, from nine to noon, at the MG classroom. Certified MGs can earn three continuing education credits for attending classes that weren't offered or were missed in previous years. If you decide to attend a class, let Anita Wagner know the week before.

Date	Class
2/20/07	Plant Propagation
2/27/07	Plant Disease
3/6/07	Native Plants/Invasives
3/13/07	Backyard Habitats
3/20/07	Weed Identification
3/27/07	Flowers for the Garden
4/3/07	Insects
4/10/07	Landscape Design
4/17/07	HelpLine
4/24/05	Vegetables I
5/1/07	Vegetables II
5/8/07	Small Fruits I
5/15/07	Small Fruits II
5/22/07	Tour of Triple Oaks Nursery



Is it getting warmer?

Based on the latest comprehensive weather station data, The National Arbor Day Foundation has just released a new 2006 arborday.org Hardiness Zone Map which separates the country into ten different temperature zones to help people select the right trees to plant where they live. See

<http://arborday.org/media/zonechanges2006.cfm>

Rutgers Classes and Programs

- **31st Annual Home Gardener's School, March 24.** This one-day class offers "expert instruction in the most innovative gardening and landscaping subjects available," at the Rutgers Campus in New Brunswick. To register (\$45 to \$65; discounts available) or to see the online brochure with detailed course descriptions, go to <http://www.cookce.rutgers.edu/courses/current/ah0201cb.html>
- **Rutgers Bee-ginner's Beekeeping.** This three-day course runs Friday, April 13, through Sunday Saturday, April 15, in Bordentown, NJ (near Trenton). The course covers basics of bee biology, hive management, honey extracting, hive assembly, and more. See <http://www.cookce.rutgers.edu/courses/current/AE0401CC.HTML>.
- **Rutgers 2007 Gardening Series.** Three or more different classes are offered monthly. March classes include Pruning Techniques; Houseplants, Orchids and Epiphytes; and Beginner Topiaries and Spring Centerpieces. See <http://www.rutgersgardens.rutgers.edu/classes.html> for dates and times.



Bring your enthusiasm to the community!

Mona would like volunteers to co-present with her at two upcoming library talks. Take a look, and give Mona a call:

- May 5, Saturday, 10 am, Ventnor Library. Topic: **Getting ready for spring planting.**
- June 6, Wednesday, 6:30 pm Margate Library: Topics: **Seashore plants, native plants, "break out of the mold," and organic techniques.**

Perspectives

Trees are our Future

info provided by *Bunny Mason*

"You can pamper all the perennials you want, but to cultivate hope in the garden, plant a tree." That's Colin Tudge's view in his new book, [The Tree](#). Tudge says that human progress is entwined with trees, and trees can make the difference in a world that's underfed and overheated. Major tree-focused initiatives include the Green Belt Movement, founded by Professor Wangari Maathai, Nobel Peace Prize laureate for 2004. The Movement has planted more than 30 million trees to provide fuel, food, shelter and income for rural Africans.

Inspired by the Green Belt Movement, the United Nations has recently launched "Plant for the Planet: Billion Tree Campaign," a world-wide effort to plant at least a billion trees during 2007. To date, individuals, communities, organizations, business and industry, civil society and governments have pledged over **200 million** trees.

To pledge a tree, or for more information on the Billion Tree Campaign, see <http://www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign/index.asp>); the "Related Links" provides an additional dozen or more tree-related sites.

I couldn't believe my eyes...

By *Bob Kruk*

It was late August, and our pear tree was dropping many ripe pears to the ground. When I looked out the kitchen window, I saw our horse and goats eating the pears.

Out of the woods came two deer, walking ever-so-slowly toward to the pear tree. The goats and deer met nose-to-nose, and after smelling each other, they all enjoyed having a feast on the pears. It was a great sight to see!



Aliens or Alliums?

For an eye-popping look at "surrealistic digital macro photography" of flowers, see www.aliennature.com . Here's a sample to whet your appetite.



(Photo credit: Rodrigo Pedrolli and Michael Murphree).

A MG Holiday gift

by *Bunny Mason*

My walk away gift from our MG Holiday party was the book [Seeds of Change](#) by Herman J. Viola and Carolyn Margolas. The book examines the huge changes since the contact between Old and New Worlds by Columbus.

It is the story of the transfer of plants and animals, migrations of populations, flourishing and squandering of environmental resources, changing ecosystems, cultural and biological diversity, and our role and responsibility in global change since that contact. I have yet to finish the complete text, but it is in the history of the first harvest to the present spring that we can learn to safeguard the seeds of the future. Cause and effect. All things are connected. This is a great gift and will be browsed much in the days to come. An interesting history read. Thank you to the giver!

Tips and Sources

Garden Journal: A simple approach

In the December 2006 Gardener News, David Daehnke writes about keeping a garden journal. "It may seem sensible... But often the practice gets lost in busy spring days..." Daehnke says choose a format you are most comfortable with, whether it's a computer for writing logs or making charts, a beautiful bound book, or a simple but tough notebook that can handle muddy hands. Daehnke's journal is a simple three-ring binder that he can take right into the garden.

Here are his tips for an effective journal:

- Divide the notebook by month, using the pages from a calendar as the dividers. Include ruled paper, graph paper, and a few transparent plastic envelopes in each month.
- On the calendar, capture brief notations of planting/transplanting dates.
- At the end of each month, Daehnke clips out the month's weather chart from the newspaper. That helps to track high and low temperatures, frost dates, and precipitation.
- Note plant growth, blooming times, insect and pest appearances, and more to help you spot trends.
- Note when you order plants and their proposed locations.
- Note timing / planning of seeding/transplants for increased vegetable production – and note the yield from each harvest.
- For IPM, note when you first see insects; which plants are affected; what control is used and when; and if the control works.
- The journal is a handy place to keep soil test results, garden layout ideas, photos, empty seed packets, and ideas for changes to be made in future seasons.

Daehnke writes a monthly column for the Gardener News; also see www.thegardeningguru.com .



Recycling/Seed starting idea

Recycle those clear plastic egg cartons for seed starting. Poke drainage holes in the egg baskets, fill with planting medium, and sow your seeds. You can cover the plantings using the clear carton tops to create a mini greenhouse while the seeds are germinating. Then as the plants get larger, move the top to the bottom, to catch water drainage. – *contributed by Camille Griffin.*



Old Roses on the Web

by Bunny Mason

With spring around the corner (we hope!), those who are fans of old roses may want to view these websites:

The Antique Rose Emporium (Texas)

www.weareroses.com

Ashdown Roses (South Carolina)

www.ashdownroses.com

Pickering Nurseries (Ontario, Canada)

www.pickeringnurseries.com

The Roseraie at Bayfields (Maine)

www.roseraie.com

Vintage Gardens Antique Roses (California)

www.vintagegardens.com

Looking for groundcover alternatives?

Cornell University's "AllStar Groundcovers" web site provides a wealth of info on groundcovers for landscape, roadsides, and more. You'll find detailed information on plant characteristics, growing conditions, and ability to compete with weeds and other plants.



The plants were tested in Ithaca, NY, and Riverhead, NY (on Long Island). Take a look and start planning a new groundcover look!

(Epimedium photo credit: Darrell Probst) <http://www.entomology.cornell.edu/Extension/Woodys/CUGroundCoverSite/GroundcoverMain.html>

**Atlantic County
Master Gardener Newsletter**

Published by:
Rutgers Cooperative Research &
Extension of Atlantic County
6260 Old Harding Highway
Mays Landing, NJ 08330
(609) 625-0056 ext. 6123
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Edited by:



Mona Baugus
Program Associate - Agriculture

In the next issue of Garden Tales

"What one garden-related thing will you do differently this year from last year?" Send your brief answers (200 words or less) to Mary McDermott via email or on paper.

**Want to contribute to
Garden Tales?**

Garden Tales is written and produced by Mary McDermott, following each Association meeting. Send topic ideas, photos, or material to Mary at mmcddmcn@comcast.net



Official Business

Atlantic County Master Gardener Program Newsletter



NJ AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
RUTGERS
COOPERATIVE RESEARCH & EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

On-line Extras

Start Your Own Pineapple Plant *by Vin Thoms*

While you're waiting for spring, grow your own Pineapple house plant. First, get a pineapple from your local grocery store. Choose a mature pineapple that has healthy, firm, green leaves (not yellow or brown) and with a fruit skin that is golden brown -- not too green.

Grab hold of the entire set of leaves, twist hard and it will come out with a bit of stalk. Strip off some of the lower leaves, exposing up to about an inch of the base. Carefully slice off the fleshy part at the base to bare the stalk. The small brown-colored bumps below the leaf scars are root primordia (baby roots waiting to grow) and there may even be a few short roots at the base of the crown (the picture at right shows a crown with a *lot* of roots). Though these won't be the roots that will grow in the next step, try not to damage these.



Let the crown dry out for a few days to allow the cut end and the leaf scars to heal and prevent rot. Then place the crown in a glass of water and change the water every few days. Place the crown away from any temperature extremes, and in about three weeks you'll see healthy root growth forming.



Once roots appear, plant the pineapple in a fast-draining potting soil such as a Bromeliad or Cactus Potting Soil mixed with one-third perlite. The soil should always be slightly moist -- not wet (which will promote rot) and not dry. In six to eight weeks the stalk will really start sending out strong roots. Do not rush this process or fertilize at this point. After about two months, the pineapple should be supporting itself as a new plant.



A pineapple is a tropical plant and frost or freezing temperatures will kill it. Your pineapple can divide its time between your house and your porch or garden, getting at least six hours of bright light each day. During summer, set your plant on a sunny porch or bury the pot in your garden. Enjoy!

(Also see <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/2003/12-5-2003/pineapple.html>)

(Photo credits: <http://www.rickswoodshopcreations.com/Pineapple/pineapple.htm>)

What's in *your* garden?

Here are a few more ideas to liven up your winter garden. Send your photos of plants with interesting winter features to mmcddmcm@comcast.net

- The **Mahonia** in my garden were blooming the first week of February, but closed up when the temps plummeted. This is what Mahonia looks like in bloom – usually in late fall or winter. The plant should be in shade or part shade. Of my two plants, the one in the shade is definitely doing better. I first saw this plant at the New York Botanical garden. The first plant I ordered online but the second I found at a local nursery, so they are becoming more popular. They prefer moist soil and a pH of 6.5 to 7. I had to adjust the soil in my yard which was more on the acidic side. I have pruned it somewhat but it really doesn't need to be. Mahonia will grow from 3 to 6 feet tall and 3 to 5 feet wide. The yellow flowers turn into blue berries that look like grapes -- hence its common name, Tall Oregon Grape. (Photo credit: Jennifer Rehm). – *Mona Bawgus*
- **Narcissus indoors:** Remember the bulbs we planted after the November MG Association meeting? After a couple of months in the garage fridge, and then a sunny window, I was rewarded with these cheery blooms, despite temps of 4 degrees outside. – *Mary McDermott (and photo)*.



On-line Extras

MG Class Revisited: “Hardy Tropicals in the Delaware Valley”

By Grace Wagner

Joe Kiefer of Triple Oaks Nursery & Herb Garden surely read my mind as I came in from 11 degrees outside to hear about Tropical Plants. Brrrr... Indeed, what irony!

Joe began with the idea that we can grow tropicals in Zone 7 if we protect them. He offered four protection methods that can make the difference between tropical “survivors,” “thrivers,” or “dead as a door nail.” The first method, mulching and heaping leaves and pine needles, seemed to be Joe’s favorite. The second method involved a “Wall-o-Water” approach: fill a container with water and wrap it around the plant. As the water changes to ice, it releases heat. The third approach was a David France Enclosure, which fully encases the plant. The fourth protective device was the Umbrella Greenhouse. Joe also noted that snow is a great (and cheap) insulator -- hence the term “blanket” of snow. All these protection methods work on small to medium-sized tropicals. By the time the plants have grown large, these measures are impractical except for mulching or raking up leaves (preferably oak leaves which leave air pockets around the plants).

Joe explained the 1991 USDA Zone Map and the American Horticultural Society Heat Zone Map, which places our area more or less in Zone 7A, depending where you live in South Jersey. Our properties might have two or more different microclimates depending on the type of soil and heat. Our garden surroundings can also determine good locations for tropicals. For instance, a brick wall, a body of water, or a paved road can change the temperature in a microclimate. Location is everything with tropicals.

Joe went on to exclaim, “Banana trees thrive in New Jersey!” Believe it or not, you skeptics! Joe shared his enthusiasm as he clicked through slides of windmill palms, dwarf palmetto plants, cold-hardy needle palms, and many thriving banana trees in places like Manayunk, PA; Princeton, NJ; and all around the Delaware Valley. He claimed the “survivors” were those plants that made it through a couple of bitter winters, made a comeback, grew (but not very well), surviving one or two more years. “Thrivers” are those plants that face the bitter cold elements, and die off. Then by some means they adapt either by producing thicker plant cells (seen in a Colorado study of bananas) or ways unknown, and come back cold hardy as stronger, more luxurious plants.

He wrapped up our session with info about Triple Oaks’ forum website and about John DiOrio’s garden in Heislerville, NJ (off Rt. 50). Gardeners who visit DiOrio’s garden will find all kinds of tropical hardy species as well as plenty of “hummers” during peak season. Lastly, Joe highly recommended reading David Franco’s book, [Palms Won’t Grow Here and Other Myths](#). Joe’s looking forward to the Master Gardener’s class visit to Triple Oaks in the spring -- a warm thought for a bitterly cold day.



Hardy bananas in Mays Landing. Left: *Musa Basjoo*, third year in the ground. Right: Mix of one- and two-year old hardy bananas, interplanted with non-hardy cannas and alocasias. (Photo credit: Mary McDermott)



On-line Extras

Surprise Garden Visitor: This one slipped in, but didn't go unnoticed...

By Janet D'Alessandro

In September 2002, my husband searched the Internet and found a spec home worth taking a look at. Though the house wasn't what we wanted, the land it faced across the street was perfect. With only three lots left in this community of 24, we could hardly believe the beautifully wooded one-acre parcel was still available. A week later it was ours and within a month I was digging in "our" backyard. It was October and the builders had only completed the foundation. But surreptitiously I planted bulbs in the woods, about 20 feet behind our "house."

That first spring, clusters of tulips and daffodils popped up in unexpected places outside our windows. But a surprise garden visitor that greeted me a few weeks later that year—and one that returns annually – is this lovely Lady's Slipper. I snapped the left-hand photo of the Lady's Slipper on my property. I verified its name by checking out a great web site called www.2bnthewild.com. The photo on the right, by Daniel Reed, the sketch by Daniel, and the Lady's Slipper description below are reprinted with permission:

(*Cypripedium acaule*)

Pink Lady's Slipper is also known as Moccasin Flower.

Plant Type: This is a herbaceous plant, it is a perennial.

Leaves: This plant has basal leaves only. There are two and each is entire. This is the only Lady's Slipper with basal leaves only.

Flowers: The flowers are irregular in shape. They are pink. Blooms first appear in mid spring and continue into late spring.

Habitat: Forest with acidic soil



The 'moccasin' and 'slipper' in the names reflects the Indian and white settlers view of what the flower looked like. Unlike the Yellow Lady's Slipper, which has been decimated by over collection, these lovely flowers are fairly common in forests of the Cumberland plateau.

Lore: Its presence may have been thought by the native Americans to induce spirit dreams

Medical Uses: This plant was considered a substitute for the preferred Yellow Lady's Slipper as a medicinal plant. Used as a sedative/antispasmodic, it was substituted for the European valerian. It has been used for male and female "disorders."

Similar Species: [Yellow Lady's Slipper, *Cypripedium calceolus*](#)

Also see:

http://www.fcps.edu/StratfordLandingES/Ecology/mpages/pink_ladys_slipper.htm ;

www.extension.unh.edu/wildlife/Pub/r_lady.pdf ;

<http://www.hort.cornell.edu/departament/faculty/wmiller/HORT300/plantlist3/sld024.htm> ;

http://www.botany.wisc.edu/wisflora/scripts/type_index.asp



Daniel Reed