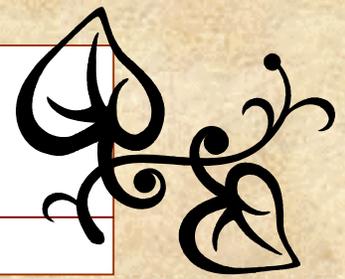




# Garden Tales



Atlantic County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 8

## Atlantic County Master Gardeners Feature Jersey Fresh at 2007 4H Fair

### Coordinator's Comments

By Mona Bawgus

The Master Gardeners were busy at the 4H Fair this year, selling Jersey Fresh produce donated by several local farmers. Jersey Fresh had been a longtime mainstay at the 4H Fair but in past years due to logistics, it had been absent. Fairgoers were thrilled to have the produce back. They were amazed at the variety of food which included kale, collards, herbs, eggplant, summer and fall squash, hot and sweet peppers, corn, and -- of course! -- Jersey tomatoes.

Along with selling produce, the volunteers were busy answering a multitude of gardening questions. Questions about oak galls killing oak trees in backyards ranked among the highest concern.

Children visiting the booth were greeted with several examples of butterfly chrysalises that were in various stages of development. Kids made caterpillar and butterfly crafts as well.

A special thanks to Stacy Davis for organizing the booth, as well as the many volunteers that manned the booth for the three days. Overall we reached a large number of local residents who were not aware of the many benefits that cooperative extension has to offer.

Jersey Fresh was a hot commodity at the 4H Fair



### HOT Happenings

- Sep 29 Margate Fun Fest
- Oct 3 HelpLine Committee meeting, MG office, 12:30.
- Oct 9 Estell Manor Backyard Habitat, 9 am
- Oct 12 MG Association Meeting, 12:30, MG offices
- Oct 13 MG Annual Conference, New Brunswick (carpooling available; call Mona)
- Oct 19 Perennial Plant Conference (possible carpooling)



inside this issue

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Green Thumb articles   | 2  |
| HelpLine hot topics  | 2  |
| Education Opportunities  | 2  |
| Committee / project updates  | 3  |
| Everybody has a story  | 4  |
| MG Activities & projects   | 5  |
| Plant profile: Barberis  | 6  |
| Plant profile: Lonicera  | 7  |
| Latin Pronunciations   | 8  |
| Critter Corner   | 9  |
| Poet's Corner  | 10 |
| Online Extras: Pages 11 – 16: Our gardens, Black Walnut, Demo Garden, Garden Travels, 4H Fair, Bartram's Garden Tour, Marilyn Stewart garden |    |

# Information and Education

## “Green Thumb” Articles

Look for these helpful articles in the Archive in the MG office, or in your “MG NewsBits” emails:

- Bagworms, 8-3
- Hydrangea Propagation, 8-10
- Cut Flowers, 8-17
- Tomato Problems, 8-24
- Daylilies, 9-7
- Powdery Mildew, 9-14
- Beneficial Insects, 9-21
- Pruning trees, 9-28



## Rutgers 2007 Garden Series Classes

This series has been cooking along since May, and has returned after a summer hiatus for a variety of fall classes offered at Rutgers’ New Brunswick classrooms. Grab a friend or two and take a day trip; here’s what’s on the schedule:

- October 6: Preserves from the garden
- October 20: Fabulous figs (MG education credits)
- November 3: Winter interest in the garden (MG education credits)
- November 15: Harvest Centerpieces and garlands
- December 13: Centerpiece and wreath
- For more info, see [www.Rutgersgardens.rutgers.edu](http://www.Rutgersgardens.rutgers.edu)

## Rutgers Fall Home Gardener’s School

*By Mary McDermott*

Twice yearly, Rutgers hosts full-day Gardener’s Schools, offering over 25 different 60- to 90-minute courses in New Brunswick. I went to the Fall program September 15, along with 350 other NJ gardeners. With all that experience in one place, enthusiastic and energetic discussions erupted everywhere – though some classes seemed to generate more emotion than others. I attended “Gardening with Deer in the Area,” and the room was fairly vibrating with people quite eager to share their positive and negative experiences. (It may not have been a good class for vegetarians, however.) Another class that had nearly everyone sharing their tips and successes was “Movin’ on In,” devoted to the outs and ins of overwintering tender plants. Bruce Crawford led a lively and informative class on ornamental grasses, and I’ve already used what I learned to order grasses for fall planting. The Spring Gardeners School is set for March 15. Watch this newsletter and emails for more information.

## HelpLine Questions to Expect

With September and October’s cool nights, we get calls about changing plant needs and changing insect behavior. Based on 2006 and 2007 HelpLine logs, here are some topics you can expect calls about. Check the file cabinets for fact sheets and info.

- **Lawns:** Fall lawn care – seeding, fertilizing, grub treatments.
- **Shrubs & Trees:** pruning, planting guidelines; chrysanthemum care.
- **Pests:** chiggers, hornets, European pine sawfly, black ants.
- **Transitions:** bringing houseplants back indoors; overwintering figs, cyclamen, and amaryllis; digging and storing cannas, elephant ears and other tropicals.



## Perennial Plant Conference Oct. 19

This year’s conference at Swarthmore College will be Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. The full-day conference offers internationally known speakers, a perennial plant showcase, a book sale, and more. Courses range from propagation, containers, outdoor living, photography, garden design, asters for the mid-Atlantic Region and more. See the brochure for info and registration at [http://www.scottarboretum.org/global-photos/07\\_per\\_bro.pdf](http://www.scottarboretum.org/global-photos/07_per_bro.pdf) There will likely be MG folks carpooling, so start planning your day – this is a great conference!

## New MG Badges

Rutgers’s new logo now appears on our MG badges. Anita Wagner put new badges in all members’ mailboxes in the HL office. Please re-use your plastic badge sleeve and be sure to use the new badges when out in the community.

## MG NJ Annual Conference Oct. 13

All Association Members are encouraged to attend this event in New Brunswick. There will be carpooling organized. We will recognize two awards: A group award for the Estell Manor Backyard Habitat, and an Individual Award to Mary McDermott for the Newsletter. Congratulations!

# Committee News & Updates

## **Community Outreach Committee: Kathy Olsen**

- **Estell Manor Backyard Habitat, Kathy Olsen:** Excellent progress over the summer. Currently outlining specific longer-term activities and uses of the gardens. We're looking for volunteers to give presentations about the gardens. George Lonkhart will run a compost demo at the gardens; and Amy Menzel and John Collette are identifying and listing all the garden plants to create a pamphlet and signage. If you have suggestions for the gardens and/or would be willing to lead presentations on some aspects of the gardens, contact Kathy or Mona. We're also looking for volunteers with a talent for landscape design to help with organizing our gardens. Next planning session: Oct. 2, 9 am: We will measure all the beds in preparation for ongoing design and planning. Volunteers welcome!
- **Port Republic: Janet Longo:** We've received funding for a third section, which includes a pathway used by the students. We're considering something interactive for students as they use the path. Ideas and volunteers are sought; contact Janet. We'll be visiting the Camden Children's Garden for more ideas.
- **Ocean Life Aquarium: Michelle Brunetti Post:** The big ornamental grasses look great; they've achieved the appearance of the big fish swimming among sea grass. The next steps are spreading the clamshell mulch; watch for an email with a date.
- **Demo Garden: Mona Bawgus:** The weeding/maintenance is caught up and the gardens look good. A new birdhouse and feeder were built by Vin Thoms. A fall cool season vegetable crop is ready to be planted.
- **Galloway Library: Mona:** We met with the librarian, and we now have a design and plant list for a butterfly garden. We'll finalize the budget before we purchase plant and landscape materials. On Oct. 25 and 26, we will be cutting sod and amending with EcoSoil. Volunteers greatly needed; contact Mona.
- **Fun Fest Margate: Mona:** Sept. 29: 4H has invited us to participate in their space to promote the MG program. We're looking for volunteers: three people per shift (9 am - noon; noon - 2:45; 2:45 - 6:00). Contact Mona to volunteer if you didn't get to sign the sign-up sheet. This is our first time at this event.
- **Lion's Club of Absecon** has asked for our help in assembling a Sensory Garden for the sight impaired. The garden would highlight different textures, sounds, smells. If interested, call Mona. This sounds like a wonderful project with a very engaged client.

**Communications Committee: Mary McDermott:** All MGs are invited to contribute photos, stories, or ideas for the monthly newsletter. We will hold a general communications planning meeting before the October Association meeting – all interested Association members are welcome.

**Help Line Committee: Grace Wagner:** Look for several new books in the MG library; older reference books and videos have been moved to the cabinets below the bookshelves. We're looking to replace the filing cabinets and we continue to update our Fact Sheet filing system. Next meeting: Oct 3, 1 pm, MG HelpLine office. All interested members are welcome.

**Speakers Board Committee: Mona:** Several presentations are in the works, including:

- Galloway Library: Mary McDermott, Bunny Mason and Mona led a talk on Propagation September 26.
- The AC Housing Authority has requested a presentation on Fall Garden Clean up on Oct. 16, 5 pm. Need presenters/co-presenters; contact Mona.
- The Northfield Garden Club has requested a talk on IPM (integrated pest management) in January. Mona will lead the talk and would like co-presenters.

**Trips, Tours, & Education Committee: Vin Thoms:** The Bartram's Garden and Japanese Garden Tour was September 18; see the "Online Extras Photo Gallery" for Gay Pitz's photos.

# People Page

## Everybody has a story!

Each month we introduce two members of our Master Gardener Association. The next time you see these folks, say hello and introduce yourself.

### Gay Pitz, 2007, Mays Landing

Communications Committee



- My favorite...
  - Flower: Wild orange day lilies
  - Book: Nature Girl, by Carl Hiaasen
  - Hobbies: Spending time with my 5-month old grandson in Baltimore. And driving a '56 white Thunderbird!
  - Wild creature in my garden: My boyfriend.
  - MG class: Wine and the vineyard tour.
  - Favorite garden drink: Mt. Gay and tonic.
- My family thinks my gardening is... improving and more interesting
- If I owned my own farm, I would probably have horses.
- What's keeping me busy: My son getting married in New Orleans on October 20. He's an architect living in Louisiana and is working on Brad Pitt's global greenhouses being built in New Orleans.

### Bob "The Bug Man" Varrelmann, 2007, Egg Harbor City



- My favorite...
  - Plant: Hosta
  - Time of year: Fall
  - Gardening Drink: Cabernet
  - Volunteer activity: Helpline
  - Wild creature: Red-tailed hawk
  - Gardening Tool: Razr Weeder hand tool
- My family thinks my gardening is: excessive.
- Least favorite gardening activity: weeding.
- If I was stranded on a desert island, the one plant I'd want is a grapevine (to make cabernet).
- Oddest helpline question: A woman had a "mass" one inch in diameter and 3 feet long moving across her driveway, which turned out to be a migrating colony of millions of fungus gnat larvae.
- Most MGs don't know: I have an antique rototiller from the 1940s.

# THANK YOU

... to **Kathy Schoonover** for hosting the August Association meeting at her lovely home and gardens! And thanks to all members who brought a dish for a fabulous lunch!

... from **Nancy Jansen**: I am almost completely healed from my broken foot! "Thank You" to all of the Master Gardeners and interns for their good wishes and support. The plant you sent to me was gorgeous and I loved telling all of my friends where it came from.



Association Meeting at Kathy's house in full swing.

## Happy Birthday!

8/19 Barb D'Augustine  
9/2 Gerel Pereborow  
9/16 Vin Thoms  
9/18 Bette DelGrosso  
9/24 Mary McDermott  
9/26 Mary Stecher  
9/30 Rachel Bogatin  
10/8 Debra Sandler  
10/23 Michelle Brunetti-Post  
10/28 Nancy Jansen  
10/28 Carol Strahlendorf



## Congratulations New Certified MGs!

Jan Tarpine  
Bob "The Bugman" Varrelmann  
Marie Benoit

## MG Activities and Projects

### It's election time!

Our MG Association elects new officers at the end of each year: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. To make sure everyone gets a chance to participate in the December elections, we start gathering nominations now. At our September Association meeting, a nominating committee was formed, made up of Gay Pitz, Kathy Olsen, and the current Association officers (Michelle Brunetti Post, Deb Sandler and Mary McDermott). The committee members are collecting names for nominations to each of the offices. Self-nominations are greatly welcome -- just contact a nominating committee member before the October meeting. The committee will also contact people who've been suggested by others as possible candidates to determine their interest level. In October and November we'll finalize the nomination slate and send out election ballots. Members will vote on or before the December meeting, and the new officers will be announced at January's meeting -- at which time they'll take over their new roles. To learn more about the roles and responsibilities, what to expect, and how much fun these jobs can be, contact any current officers.



From Kim Hesse:  
The Port Republic School Garden at the end of the school year looks fantastic!



### Want to contribute to *Garden Tales*?

*Garden Tales* is produced by Mary McDermott, following each Association meeting.

Send topic ideas, photos, or stories to Mary at [mmcddmcm@comcast.net](mailto:mmcddmcm@comcast.net)

### Grape Harvesting at the RAREC

By Barb D'Augustino

On September 12, Glenn Pavlis, George Lonkart, and I volunteered to help Gary Pavlis for the fall grape harvest at Rutgers Agricultural Research & Extension Center (RAREC) in Bridgeton. We met two RAREC employees who showed us to the vineyard: 16 rows that included four rows each of two varieties of white wine grapes and two of reds.

Gary showed us how they test the grapes to ensure the sugar content is high enough for harvest. He used a hand-held meter into which he squeezed some of the juice. When we looked through a hole in the end, we could see a scale that registered the sugar content. He said the pH is also critical but there is no way to test that in the field.

A herbicide specialist at RAREC was conducting an experiment on the white wine grapes we picked to see what combination of herbicides resulted in elimination of the weeds with the least detriment to the productivity of the vines. Because of this experiment, we first harvested all of the grapes from every other plant in the treated rows. One of the RAREC employees then weighed and recorded each plant's grape production.

After we completed this harvest, we went back and took the rest of all of the white wine grapes. Of course, we had to sample some in the field. All of the wine grapes have seeds, but the grapes were delicious. The reds were expected to be harvested in another two weeks when their sugar content would be right. Gary was delivering the harvest to a facility near Great Adventure where it will be made into wine.

While grape harvesting is not as back-breaking as picking vegetables, it is still work. Gloves and a sharp pruner were the only requirements. After a couple of hours in the vineyard, we lunched at the Old Centerton Inn, which was a stagecoach stop in the 1700's and has delicious food. It was the perfect end to the harvest.

# Plant Profile: *Berberis thunbergii*

## How did it get its bad reputation?

By Kathy Schoonover

In 1864, the Russian botanist Carl Maximowicz sent seeds of *Berberis thunbergii* (Japanese barberry) from the mountains of Japan to the St. Petersburg Botanical Gardens. From there, the seeds traveled to the Arnold Arboretum in Boston, and by 1896, Japanese barberry was growing at the New York Botanical Garden.

A hundred years later, the compact, woody shrub has worn out its welcome in the northeastern U.S., where it is classified as an invasive plant capable of disturbing local ecosystems. What happened?

As is the case with all “imported” plants, it was impossible to predict exactly how the species would behave in its new environment. In Japan, where it has co-evolved with other native species, selective pressures such as environmental factors and plant competition keep populations of *B. thunbergii*--a vigorous and adaptive plant--in check. Not so in the northeastern U.S., where a different set of selective pressures operates to give the plant free reign.



Japanese barberry tolerates shade, drought, extreme winters, and a wide variety of soil conditions. It has a seed germination rate as high as 90% and is easily propagated by stem cutting or layering. Though deciduous, it leafs out in early spring and retains its leaves late in the season. The plant's high success rate and its beauty--it is a mid-sized shrub with an arching habit and colorful burgundy foliage--make it a popular choice of landscapers.

Each barberry shrub can produce thousands of yellow flowers in May, which in turn become the red berries eaten by birds, who deposit the seeds in other locations. This, along with the human element, has been responsible for Japanese barberry's spread. Because of the plant's vigor and adaptability, it has displaced native plants. It can do this either through competition for space or by changing the soil pH so that it is no longer hospitable to the native plants. Because the barberry has a spine under each leaf or rosette of leaves, dense patches of the shrub can act as a barbed-wire fence and displace native wildlife.



The answer, in theory, seems simple: Stop planting new shrubs, remove existing ones, and pull all new seedlings. In practice, however, more complex human elements are at play: Even in Connecticut, where the Japanese barberry has been declared one of the most destructive invasive plants in the state, annual in-state sales of the shrub are estimated at \$15 to \$20 million.

Mark Brand and Yi Li, plant scientists at the University of Connecticut, are trying to develop a sterile form of the plant using genetic technology similar to that which produces seedless watermelons, so future gardeners may likely have their Japanese barberry and plant it, too.

*Berberis thunbergii* is pronounced BEAR-ber-is thun-BERG-ee-eye

Sources:

1. [www.advance.uconn.edu/2005/050321/05032108.htm](http://www.advance.uconn.edu/2005/050321/05032108.htm)
2. [www.umext.maine.edu/onlinepubs/htmpubs/2504.htm](http://www.umext.maine.edu/onlinepubs/htmpubs/2504.htm)
3. [http://www.columbia.edu/itc/cerc/danoff-burg/invasion\\_bio/inv\\_spp\\_summ/Berberis\\_thunbergii.htm](http://www.columbia.edu/itc/cerc/danoff-burg/invasion_bio/inv_spp_summ/Berberis_thunbergii.htm)



# Plant Profile: Diervilla Lonicera

## Diervilla Lonicera at the Woody Plant Conference

By Virginia Mason

While attending the Woody Plant Conference, Mona and I had the opportunity to stroll the Swarthmore campus landscape plantings. There was a shrub that caught our attention because of its attractive copper foliage, and I decided to do a little research on it. The plant is called Diervilla lonicera 'Copper'. Its common name is Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle of the family Caprifoliaceae. It is a cultivar of the northern bush-honeysuckle and was named after Dr. Dierville, a French surgeon who introduced the plant form of Lonicera.

This honeysuckle is a low shrub (3 to 4 feet) that sprawls to form mounds and is not as unrestrained as the Eurasian species of Lonicera. It is a native plant of the Northeast and can be grown as an understory plant in dry to moist, well drained soils. It's hardy in zones 3 to 7 with an American Horticultural Society heat zone rating of 8 (>90 to 120) to 5 (>30 to 45) (American Horticulture Society Northeast SmartGarden Regional guide) and a sun to shade light recommendation. The yellow (most common) to red tubular flowers appear in the leaf joints in groups of three as a terminal cluster in early summer. While true honeysuckles have rounded berry like fruit, the bush-honeysuckle has a dry, pointed, vase-like capsule with a flaring tip ending in thin hairs. To see a picture of the capsule, go to

<http://www.cnr.vt.edu/DENDRO/DENDROLOGY/syllabus/factsheet.cfm?ID=423>.

This honeysuckle can be propagated from seed on the soil surface, but needs to be cold stratified for three months or softwood cuttings can be used. The reddish orange of the fall foliage creates good winter interest. The natural range for the bush-honeysuckle is given as "Newfoundland to Saskatchewan, south to North Carolina, Tennessee, Indiana, and Iowa," from *Native Plants of the Northeast* by Donald J. Leopold. A Lonicera that is not invasive and a native may be worth some consideration as an addition to the garden, not to mention it's a plant with eye appeal!

The Woody Plants conference was an experience with vivid pictures, interesting and often entertaining speakers, and an opportunity to walk away with much more knowledge than we arrived with.

(The photos at right show the Diervilla Lonicera; Mona is pictured with a pink Clethra )



### Seed collecting envelopes

Instead of tossing all those "postage paid" envelopes from junk mail into the recycle bin, set them aside. Choose those without open address windows, and use the envelopes to collect and store seeds. They're easily labeled, they don't trap moisture, and they're a great way to share seeds with fellow gardeners.

### What's in Season in the Garden State

This bi-weekly email publication profiles currently available Jersey Fresh produce and farmers. The September 17 issue covered beach plums, summer and fall produce, and the farm-chef connection of Formisano Farms and Borgata Casino. "What's in Season" also lists Jersey Seafood availability. Previous issues highlighted Jersey Fresh aji dulce, baby bok choy and cilantro. See

<http://www.njfarmfresh.rutgers.edu/>

# Pronouncing Plant Names

## Plants and their Latin names

By Gloria Perakovich

Here's the next installment in our continuing series of pronouncing Latin names of familiar plants:

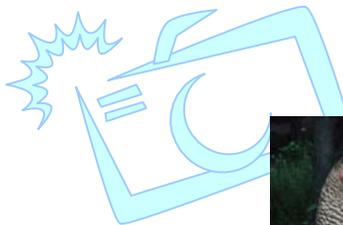
- **nepeta** (NEP-a-ta or ne-PEE-ta) - catnip - MINT FAMILY
  - Full or part sun. Ordinary soil and watering. Tolerates dry soil, heat, and neglect. Self-sows if you let it.
- **nicotiana** (ni-ko-shee-AN-a) - NIGHTSHADE FAMILY
  - Full or part sun. Grows best and makes the best leaves in deep, rich, moist soil. Survives even in adverse conditions, but then makes only small leaves and soon goes to seed. Easy to grow from seedlings started in spring indoors like tomatoes. Leaves are very high in nicotine. Used as an insecticide in greenhouses and gardens since the 1700's.
- **perovskia** (per-OV-skee-a) - Russian sage - MINT FAMILY
  - A small Central Asian genus of salvia-like herbs or sub-shrubs. Easy to grow in full sun and well-drained soil. Plants in shade will sprawl. Propagate by summer cuttings.
- **platycodon** (PLAT-i-KO-don) - Balloon flower - BELLFLOWER FAMILY
  - This border plant blooms in the summer in moist, well-drained soils. Increase by spring division. Because it is slow to emerge in the spring, mark its location to prevent accidentally digging it up during spring clean-up.
- **ranunculus** (ra-NUN-kew-lus) - BUTTERCUP FAMILY
  - This species is easily grown outdoors in any ordinary garden soil and is easily propagated by division in spring or fall.
- **sidalcea** (si-DAL-see-a) - MALLOW FAMILY - Prairie mallow
  - Good border plants. Cultivar "Loveliness" is thirty inches high with shell-pink flowers.

## Won't you guess my name?

The 8/28 *New York Times* called the Rolling Stones, those "rugose rockers." Whoah.. as in our little Rosa Rugosa? Yep! Rugose means full of wrinkles; having small or fine wrinkles – and Rosa Rugosa was so named because of its wrinkled leaves.

## Seen around the Garden

Carol Strahlendorf had a few unusual garden visitors: A volunteer monster gourd plant that nearly took over her poolside garden – and into the pool! And a squirrel with a sweet tooth, treating himself to a hummingbird feeder.



Send photos  
of your  
garden for  
the next  
newsletter!

# Critter Corner

## Praying Mantis

by Virginia Mason

While visiting Longwood Gardens, I happened upon a praying mantis lounging on a Blue Mist Spiraea, Bluebeard 'Grand Bleu' (*Caryopteris x clandonensis*). We all probably know the usual facts about this unusual creature. For instance, its life span is from spring to fall of one year after emerging from an egg sack called an "ootheca." The young nymphs undergo six to seven molts, voraciously feeding until they mature and grow until the mating season in late summer.



It has been noted that the female will sometimes eat the male after or during mating, providing the hungry mantis with an instant source of energy. That tremendous appetite is carnivorous in nature and is not limited to just insects. The mantis will hunt and strike mice, birds, frogs, newts, and soft-shelled turtles. It is an impressive predator and is camouflaged well in its environment. Its name is derived from Greek "mantis" meaning diviner or prophet. The way the front legs are held up as though in prayer is credited for the common name. They are also known as "soothsayers," "devil's horses," "mule killers," and "camel crickets" as their saliva was mistakenly thought to poison livestock.

However, did you know that the praying mantis has been a figure in some mythology? According to Dan Feldman (Entomology Dept. Colorado State), "In France people believed a praying mantis would point a lost child home. In Arab and Turkish cultures a mantis was thought to point toward Mecca, a site of considerable religious interest. In Africa they were thought to bring good luck to whomever they landed on, and could even restore life into the dead. Here in the U.S. they were thought to blind men and kill horses. Europeans believed they were highly reverent to God, since they always seemed to be praying. And in China, nothing cured bedwetting better than roasted mantid eggs." Praying mantis exist across the world. For more info, visit; <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/2000/2154.html> or <http://insected.arizona.edu/mantidinfo.htm>. Mantids can be seen loafing or fluttering about from late September to early October. Don't let the lazy posture fool you; the mantis devours with lightning speed.

## Saddleback Caterpillar

By Janet D'Alessandro

While checking out my plants one day for the usual suspects—black spot, bag worms, rust and other life-threatening conditions—I came across a 1 inch "woolly" caterpillar. It had a green midsection that was the same color as the leaves of my Carolina Allspice, where he rested. I assumed this critter was munching on the plant's leaves, the evidence being the color of his green midriff.



Grabbing a pencil, I coaxed him into a specimen jar so I could ID him later. Luckily, I did use a pencil, as the saddleback caterpillar has poisonous spines on its four large projections (tubercles) and many smaller ones that stick out from the sides of its body.



Found on deciduous trees, shrubs, grasses and other garden plants (including cannas) in late summer, the poisonous hairs or spines on the body of this caterpillar are connected to underlying poison glands. Contact with them can result in a burning sensation followed by inflammation that can swell and be as painful as a bee sting.

He's gone now, having been sacrificed for research purposes. Had he lived, he would have morphed into a moth, *Sibine stimulea*. Keep your eyes out for these distinctive creatures, as they are active through October. For more information go to [www.ext.vt.edu/departments/entomology/factsheets/saddle.html](http://www.ext.vt.edu/departments/entomology/factsheets/saddle.html) , [www.ca.uky.edu/entomology/entfacts/ef003.asp](http://www.ca.uky.edu/entomology/entfacts/ef003.asp).

## Atlantic County Master Gardener Newsletter

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Mona Bawgus  
Program Associate - Agriculture



### Poet's Garden Corner

By Kathy Schoonover

Poetry isn't usually part of *Garden Tales*, but we're seeing a trend across disciplines of merging the humanities and science. And of course, there is so much poetry about flowers and gardening that we see each day. Here's a poem by Robert Herrick that presents an amusing, tongue-in-cheek metaphor. I've also seen the poem titled as "To the Virgins, To Make Much of Time."

#### Gather ye Rosebuds

Gather ye rosebuds while ye may,  
Old Time is still a-flying:  
And this same flower that smiles today  
Tomorrow will be dying.

The glorious lamp of heaven, the sun,  
The higher he's a-getting,  
The sooner will his race be run,  
And nearer he's to setting.

That age is best which is the first,  
When youth and blood are warmer;  
But being spent, the worse, and worst  
Times still succeed the former.

Then be not coy, but use your time,  
And while ye may, go marry:  
For having lost but once your prime,  
You may for ever tarry.



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Atlantic County Master Gardener Program Newsletter



NJ AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION  
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MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

## Online Extras: Our Gardens

### Backyard Habitats in our own back yards

By Bette Del Grosso

After taking Pat Sutton's "Back Yard Habitat" class, I decided I wanted a habitat of my own. I have enough room in my yard; however, I wasn't sure how to go about the design. I decided to go on the butterfly garden tours that Pat Sutton leads.

There are three different private garden tours each weekend from July through September. My three Sunday tours were in Goshen, North Cape May to Rio Grande, and Cape May. Each tour consists of about six gardens. In each, the owner would give a garden tour – and often offer cool lemonade or iced tea and muffins or brownies. If you were real lucky and the hosts were in their gardens digging, or if seeds were ready to be picked, you even got to bring home a garden sample.

All the gardens were unique in their own ways, which I found very enjoyable. Everyone on the tours was extremely friendly, and all the hosts who were also very knowledgeable. I recommend everyone should go on at least one of the tours, even if you aren't looking to make a habitat of your own. Just seeing the wonderful gardens is a joy! Here are some scenes from the local gardens I visited.



### September's flower is the Aster

Asters are blooming now in Mary McDermott's garden, hosting many happy Monarchs.

### Plant Sale Beauties

Janet D'Alessandro

Here are some of my MG Plant Sale '07 beauties from a different perspective: featuring Monarda (Bee Balm), Asters, Coreopsis and Nepeta (Catmint).



# OnLine Extras: Black Walnut friends and MG Demo Garden

## Black Walnut can play well with others

By Virginia Mason

For those of you who have had problems growing anything around or near your Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*), take heart. The juglone toxin (an allelopathic substance – see the July/August newsletter for more details) produced by the roots and in the leaves, bark, and wood of Black Walnut and Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*) does not affect all plants. A few of these unaffected plants are:

- Japanese Maples (*Acer palmatum*)
- Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
- Rose of Sharon (*Hibicus syriacus*)
- Black Raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis*)
- Pansy Viola
- Zinnia, Melons, Squashes
- Peach and Cherry trees
- Astilbe
- Crocus
- Sweet Woodruff (*Galium odoratum*)
- Cinnamon Fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*)
- Nodding Trillium (*Trillium cernuum*)

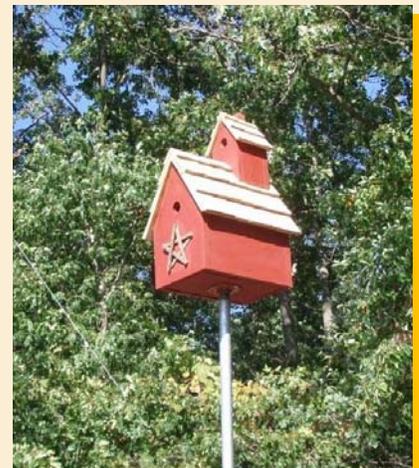
To see entire list of plants, go to <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/1000/1148.html> . This fact sheet also cites plants that will not grow within 50 feet of the drip line of a Black Walnut. They recommend caution when you buy Persian Walnut trees that may have been grafted to black walnut rootstock. It further mentions that when used for bedding, black walnut woodchips or sawdust can affect horses – and when the tree is shedding in May, the pollen can cause allergy reactions in horses and humans. If you are going to compost walnut leaves, the toxic effect breaks down in two to four weeks, but breakdown in soil could take up to two months; bark composting for safe mulch takes a minimum of six months. General information about Black Walnut can be found at: <http://hort.ufl.edu/trees/JUGNIGA.pdf>

Here are some plant combinations to avoid due to allelopathic competition, as provided by William E. Klingeman, Plant Sciences Department, University of Tennessee:

- Beneath black walnut, avoid pines (unless in well-drained soils), birch, crimson clover, crabapple (or edible *Malus* sp.), alfalfa, tomatoes, lettuce and honeysuckle
- Goldenrod beneath sugar maple, tulip poplar or black cherry
- Kentucky bluegrass or red fescue around azalea, barberry, yew, forsythia or dogwood
- Sassafras beneath boxelder, elm or silver maple
- Black cherry with pine or red maple
- Sweetgum under southern red oak

## This week at the Demo Garden

- A butterfly on the butterfly weed (*Asclepias*).
- Robust asparagus accompanied by self-seeded Matt's Wild Cherry heirloom tomatoes.
- New birdhouse built by Vin Thoms.



# On-Line Extras Photo Gallery 1: Garden Travels

## Longwood Gardens

By Virginia Mason

I have been at Longwood Gardens frequently as I was recently taking their Perennials class. It is worth visiting, as all our MG's probably know, so I've enclosed some photos to spark the imaginations of those who have not yet made the trip. For those who want more info: [www.longwoodgardens.org](http://www.longwoodgardens.org) for general events and hours, or [www.longwoodlearning.org](http://www.longwoodlearning.org) to research educational programs available.



## Denver Botanical Gardens

By Michelle Brunetti Post

Here are some photos from my vacation trip to the Denver Botanical Garden. It was an amazing place, with so much growing in such a dry climate and high altitude. We saw a low-water use garden with lots of Rocky Mountain natives and gorgeous, soft light greens in various hues. In the conifer garden, it was wonderful to see Colorado Blue Spruce growing in its own environment, looking much healthier than it looks here in NJ.



# On-Line Extras Photo Gallery 2: Scenes from the 4H Fair

Photos by Kim Hesse



# On-Line Extras Photo Gallery 3: MG September Trip: Bartram's Garden, Pennsylvania MG Gardens, Japanese Gardens

Gay Pitz shot these and many more beautiful photos from the trip. You can see the full slide show at <http://photoshow.comcast.net/watch/JG3Nc9KM> (select "watch" when the window pops up). The slide show is organized so Bartrams Garden photos are first, then the PA MG Gardens, then the Japanese Gardens.



# On-Line Extras Photo Gallery 4: Marilyn Stewart Garden Tour

Photos by Kim Hesse. Following the July MG Association Meeting at Grace Wagner's home, Grace brought MGs to visit the breathtaking gardens of her friend Marilyn Stewart.

