



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Westchester County



Master Gardener Newsletter November 2009

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Wednesday, November 18th Master Gardener monthly meeting @ CCE Valhalla beginning @ **12:30 pm**. JoAnn will present a Power Point presentation on olives, their cultivation, picking and pressing on the Greek island of Paros in October.

The Home Gardening Lecture Series Committee requests that you **come early at 10 am** to help fold, label and organize the series' 2010 brochure for a mass mailing/ distribution through the postal service and the Westchester Library System. We have a mailing list of approximately 1,800 who receive this brochure so all hands on deck please! Master Gardener Photo Contest calendars are offered for sale in the Home Gardening Lecture Series brochure.

Wednesday, December 9th @ 12:30 pm The annual Master Gardener Holiday Party this year will be hosted at the beautiful home of Dorothy Schere, 14 Winslow Road located in the historic Battle Hill section of White Plains. Please begin thinking ahead as to what savory or sweet food item you would like to contribute. This popular end of the year event celebrates all our hard work throughout the year and provides an opportunity to kick back and relish our friendships.

UPDATE ON MASTER GARDENER TRAINING 2010

Following a week of interviews in mid-September and a final selection process thereafter, a new class of 19 Master Gardener trainees has been chosen to begin training on Tuesday, January 19th, 2010. An enthusiastic and full of promise group, they represent the following Westchester communities: Ossining, Mt. Vernon, New Rochelle, Chappaqua, Mt. Kisco, Scarsdale, Bronxville, Rye, Port Chester, North Salem, Croton-on-Hudson, White Plains and Briarcliff Manor.

Veteran Master Gardeners are invited to attend training sessions which you may have missed out on in the past or to keep updated, with a few exceptions due to space constraints on field visits. Training 2010 will run every Tuesday from January 19th through March 30th with the exception of Tuesday, February 16th which is Presidents' Week. A schedule of classes will appear in the January newsletter and sign-up will be via email and limited to 3 classes per veteran attendee.

HELP WANTED:

Nancy Rice (2008) and Lisa Haldane (2008) have done a remarkable job of dovetailing Master Gardener and homeowner schedules for Lower Westchester's M.G. Site Visit Program over the past 18 months and would like to step down and move onto other M.G. projects. Working as team lightens the load so please email JoAnn (jdt34@cornell.edu) if you and a buddy would be willing to serve as Site Visit coordinators for lower Westchester in 2010.

In addition, Krys Mernyk (1996) who has volunteered tirelessly over the years in numerous Master Gardener projects and currently heads up the weekly Q & A *Ask the Master Gardener* column for the Journal News has announced that she is looking to pass the baton at the end of the year and has offered to train her replacement. This column is shared with Master Gardeners from Rockland County and is a great way to increase your own horticultural knowledge. The commitment is approx. 5 hours per month once you're over the learning curve. Please email Anna (als227@cornell.edu) if you are interested in being Westchester's Q&A coordinator.

Krys has requested that we include the following in this newsletter:

"For the last three years (since 2006) I have had the pleasure of working with many MGs in producing the Question & Answer column for the Journal News. The focus was and is the sharing of pertinent materials with the general public. We have been able to produce, on a weekly basis, information focusing on seasonal gardening needs of the public but have also been able to change when the need from predominantly ornamental plants changed to vegetable questions. My gratitude and thanks to the many wonderful MGs who have made all this possible. I will continue to contribute articles but at this point, it is time to focus on some other interests in CCE."

Sincerely,

Krys Mernyk MG

CCE thanks Nancy, Lisa and Krys for their contribution in making these projects so successful.

TWO OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST:

As in the past, Master Gardeners are asked to help staff the speaker registration table and the CCE information booth at the annual Turf and Landscape Conference scheduled this upcoming January on **Wednesday, January 13th** @ the County Center in White Plains. More information will be forthcoming as to how many volunteers will be needed in the December newsletter.

Thanks to Judy Sandwell's (2008) due diligence with the help of some Master Gardeners like Joan Sheridan, the updated and newly formatted 2010 Speaker's Bureau brochure is expected to go out this week to garden clubs and organizations. If you know of any organization that might be interested in receiving a brochure, please advise Patris (pyb2@cornell.edu) with their contact information and c/o point person.

SOME HORT. NEWS...

Even into November as we do fall clean-up in our Master Gardener demonstration gardens or in our own gardens for that matter, questions such as how do I prevent late blight from surviving the winter and what should I do next spring, continue to be discussed. Go to this link for some important information that may put your mind at ease:

http://northeastipm.org/newsandreports/2009fall/Fall09_LateBlight.html