

~A Message from your President~



TRIFECTA

“Trifecta” - a term used to describe any successful or favorable phenomenon or characteristic that comes in threes.

Our Master Gardener group has had 2 major fund raisers this year with one more to follow.

- In March we had a VERY successful auction at the end of the Flower Show that surpassed our previous year's total by about \$1500.. This event helps to fund Diana's position, as our Horticultural Coordinator.
- Last week-end, at our Plant Sale, we were gratified when we tallied the total sales to find that we had made more than \$1000. over the '08 sale. This is great news as we will be distributing money for community “seed projects” in the next few weeks and also awarding scholarships in the Fall. Many thanks to the many hands that make these events happen. A special thanks to Marilyn Brinnick who continues to work tirelessly on our Plant Sale fundraiser.

Our third event is a new one for us. On August 8<sup>th</sup>, we will present a “Backyard Locavore\* Tour.” This fundraiser will benefit our new home at Tidewater Farm in Falmouth. The Master Gardeners and the Master Food Preservers will be working together on this fun tour. More details will follow but plan to come and learn strategies to grow, raise, and preserve your own food. You won't be disappointed.

Three great events. Let's make it a trifecta perfecta!

\*A locavore is someone who eats food grown and produced locally.

*Beth Owens '02*

Backcove YardScaping Demonstration Project

WorkDays June 18-20

The Back cove project needs your help. We will be planting phase II on June 18, 19 and 20th. Things are looking good; we just need to continue this amazing visible effort that so many have already contributed to. To sign up or FMI please contact Amy at 780-4205 or awitt@umext.maine.edu.



June 2009



## Upcoming Events



**June 6** Rhododendron Auction and Flower Show, 10 am, The Barron Center, Portland, FMI call Jerry Goodall at 797-2956

**June 18** Annual Peony Bloom & Ice Cream Social, Gilsland Farm, Maine Audubon

**June -August** Tate House events on Wednesdays 10-12 FMI 774-6177 or [www.tatehouse.org](http://www.tatehouse.org)

**July 10** Maine Beaches Conference, SMCC, FMI please email: [kngrant@maine.edu](mailto:kngrant@maine.edu)

**August 8** Backyard Locvore Tour, 10-3, FMI contact Andrea Herr at 780-4205

## Asian Longhorned Beetle Outreach Volunteer Training

**June 16 Augusta  
8:30-3 pm**

This is a free training to help spread awareness about the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB). The ALB is an invasive pest that poses a serious threat to the trees and forests of Maine. The best defense is early detection by people who work with trees and those who enjoy the outdoors. To learn more about the beetle please visit:

<http://massnrc.org/pests/alb/>

Between 2 and 3pm there will be a tree ID at the Pine Tree State Arboretum.

**Note: There will also be a training offered in Portland later this spring.**

## Garden Angel Recipients

Master Gardeners, do you know someone who would benefit from the help of a Garden Angel? This person should be someone who can no longer garden independently and has limited financial means. The Angel would help with a small vegetable or flower garden one or two hours each week.

If you know someone in your neighborhood that would fit this criteria please contact Amy Witt at 780-4205 or [awitt@umext.maine.edu](mailto:awitt@umext.maine.edu)

## Preserving the Harvest Workshops

Hands on preservation workshops will teach you the basic steps to success for canning and freezing. Contact Lois for more information about upcoming classes. 780-4205 or [lwell@umext.maine.edu](mailto:lwell@umext.maine.edu)

## Directory Changes

Let us know if you have any address, phone number or email changes. Please update your directory:

Laura Randall [LauraRMaine@hotmail.com](mailto:LauraRMaine@hotmail.com)

Louisa Moore [lrandmoore@gmail.com](mailto:lrandmoore@gmail.com)

Olga Schimmer [jaziel@fairpoint.net](mailto:jaziel@fairpoint.net)

Melissa Newell [Melissa.newell@fairpoint.com](mailto:Melissa.newell@fairpoint.com)



## Backyard Locavore\* Tour

Strategies to grow, raise, harvest and preserve your own food

**Saturday August 8  
10 am-3pm**

Come join this fun filled and knowledge sharing self-guided tour event. Detailed maps with addresses of the northern loop through Cumberland, Falmouth, Yarmouth areas and the southern loop through Cape Elizabeth are part of the ticket booklet.

Proceeds will benefit the new home of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension at Tidewater Farm in Falmouth.

We need helpers for all the gardens to direct traffic as well as general help with the event.

If you want to know more contact Andrea at 780-4205 or email [aherr@umext.maine.edu](mailto:aherr@umext.maine.edu)

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Volunteer Gardeners needed in Yarmouth

Amanda Devine is the Stewardship Coordinator for the Royal River Conservation Trust. She is looking for Master Gardeners who could be a source of help and knowledge. She is involved in installing native shrubs and small trees. Please contact Amanda if you are interested in this project. 221-6477 or [adevine@rrct.org](mailto:adevine@rrct.org)

### Master Gardener Plant Sale

I want to thank everyone who participated in the 2009 Master Gardener Plant sale. We had a lot of great looking plants, a lot of good publicity and the people started arriving at 7:30. We purchased \$500 worth of plants from Carlin Farms. Everything else was donated by Master Gardeners. I was especially pleased with the good quality. After expenses we are netting a little over \$3,300. This is a fantastic amount.

There were some plants left over. They are going to benefit the community garden projects, the gardens at the Center for Grieving Children on Forest Avenue and garden angel projects.

As you work this summer think about dividing to get ready for next year's sale. I do have a place where I can winter over plants. You can either drop them off at the Extension Office and let me know so I can pick them up or I will pick them up at your house.

Thanks again to everyone who participated. It would not have been a success without you.

*Marilyn Brinnick (99)*

### Walnut Tree Project

Looking for 10 Master Gardeners who would like to participate in growing walnut trees. If you are interested please let me know. More specifics to come.

*Diana 780-4205 [dhibbard@umext.maine.edu](mailto:dhibbard@umext.maine.edu)*

## General Information

### Need More CLYNK Bags?

The May 16 Plant Sale generated more than plant material revenue for the Master Gardeners, it generated a wonderful opportunity to distribute CLYNK bags that will ultimately generate even more revenue for the Scholarship Fund. The bottle deposit refunds from every specially marked bag returned to a Hannaford's CLYNK window are deposited in the Scholarship Fund. The Cumberland County Master Gardener Board will award college scholarship funds to deserving applicants who are pursuing a horticultural career. The need for funds for scholarships doesn't stop. This is an ongoing program of Master Gardeners. We hope you won't stop with just one filled CLYNK bag! Get more bags.

How do you stay supplied with specially marked bags? Call the Cooperative Extension Service at 780-4205, e-mail Diana Hibbard [dhibbard@umext.maine.edu](mailto:dhibbard@umext.maine.edu), or e-mail Barbara Hager [bohbhagr@maine.rr.com](mailto:bohbhagr@maine.rr.com). We will make arrangements to keep you supplied.



### Recording Your Master Gardener Hours

Recording is easy!

You will find the link when receiving your MG newsletter or here it is again for your convenience:

[http://www.umaine.edu/umcecumberland/ccmg/MG\\_monthly\\_report.html](http://www.umaine.edu/umcecumberland/ccmg/MG_monthly_report.html)

**Please send hours only one time for each month. It gets much too confusing if I receive multiple entries. You might send hours at the beginning of each month when you receive your newsletter for the previous month. And always keep track yourself so we can compare notes if need be.**

Thanks for your help.

Diana

Mulches**Black Plastic**

Pro: effective weed control, inexpensive, warms soil, retains moisture

Con: short life, repels water, smothers soil and kills earthworms, environmentally destructive

**Porous Landscape Fabric**

Pro: effective, inexpensive, warms soil, holds moisture without excluding water

Con: environmentally destructive (made from petroleum, winds up in the landfill) provides no nourishment

**Straw**

Pro: controls weeds, keeps soil temperature even, holds moisture, prevents splash of soil-borne disease spores. Nice barefoot.

Con: nutrient poor, may have weed seeds in the form of stray grain in the straw

**Compost**

Pro: some weed control and moisture retention, disease prevention, feeds plants throughout the season

Con: expensive if purchased, not great at weed prevention

**Grass Clippings**

Pro: some weed control, holds moisture, feeds plants and improves the soil when tilled in

Con: may cause too much heat, may have weed seeds, may be contaminated with herbicides

**Newspaper**

Pro: excellent weed control, retains moisture, long lasting if used in stacks,

Con: does not improve soil texture, nutrient poor

**Shredded Bark/Wood Chips**

Pro: long lasting, attractive, retains moisture

Con: expensive, can exude chemicals that harm tomato plants, does not improve soil texture unless tilled in, but then ties up nitrogen, nutrient poor.

**Shredded Leaves**

Pro: free, retains moisture, improves soil texture without needing to be tilled in

Con: weed control only moderate, labor intensive as leaves need to be shredded (from book *1000 Gardening Questions*)

Tea Scones

2 c. unsifted all-purpose flour

1/2 c. sugar

2 t. cream of tartar

1 t. baking soda

3/4 t. salt

1/2 c shortening

1/2 c. raisins, currants, dried cranberries or fresh or frozen blueberries

2 eggs slightly beaten

1/4 c. milk



Sift dry ingredients together. Blend shortening with pastry blender until mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add remaining ingredients. Mix with fork; divide into two parts and turn each part out on floured board. Do not over handle. Flatten with rolling pin or floured hands into circles, about 1/2 inch thick. Cut into triangles and put on greased and floured baking sheet. Bake in a hot oven (400 degrees) for 15 minutes or until golden.

Judith Long (00)

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Published and distributed in furtherance of Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 20, 1914, by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, the Land Grant University and the State of Maine and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Cooperative Extension and other agencies of the U.S.D.A. provide equal opportunities in programs and employment.

If you are a person with a disability and will need any accommodations to participate in any program, please call Dick Brzozowski at 1-800-287-1471 to discuss your needs. Please contact us at least 5 days prior to this event to assure fullest possible attention to your needs.

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