

June 2010

Volume 1,
Issue 2

Logo Contest

Prize for Winning
Logo Design

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East Brunswick Community Garden New Jersey, USA

"There are no gardening mistakes, only experiments" Janet Kilburn Phillips

Senior Center Community Garden Plot and Donations

By Daphne Speck-Bartynski

Garden Shed Ground Rules

- Please only borrow tools not supplies left in the shed
- Please be sure when removing items to put them back in a neat fashion
- When closing the shed please be sure that the bottom lock is placed into the hole before closing the doors

These last few weeks were productive in the community garden. The senior center plot is fully planted and all of the plants, except for a bug that has nibbled some of the eggplant leaves, look healthy and prolific. We will use an approved product to rid the eggplant from this unwanted pest. I weeded the plot yesterday, and thank you to the committee members who volunteered to help water it.

For those of you who are unaware, we had our first donations made to the senior center on June 4. Our first few pounds were donated. Now there is a tomato-meter on the side of the shed to help us reach our goal of one hundred pounds of donations for the senior center, helping to provide our elderly population with fresh nutritious food, by this summer's end. The meter will be filled in when increments of ten pounds have been donated to the senior cen-

ter. There is a scale and a logbook in the upper right corner of the shed for us to record donations that are made. Anyone can donate their extra produce from their garden to the senior center, but the senior center plot is being grown strictly for donations to the senior center. Sharon Reilly-Marosy who is the Assistant Director of the senior center (Department on Aging) indicated that the best time to take the donations over to the senior center is between the hours of 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Monday through Friday. The donations should be given directly to the kitchen coordinator, Jimmy Takla. If the kitchen coordinator is not available when you bring the donations to the senior center, then you should bring the fresh vegetables to the office. My committee can help others make donations from their plot if needed. Happy gardening.



Green Genius



Marjorie Bigbie has created her own personal multi-tasker. Crafted from a regular 5 gallon bucket, but filled with everything that she needs to garden, and doubles as a stool to use when weeding!

For You Pick Farms in Middlesex Check out:
<http://www.pickyourown.org/NJcentral.htm>

Spotlight: Tony & The Bean Stalk

By Gabrielle Saylor-Moore

For weeks gardeners have been wondering to themselves and out loud, "What could be tall enough to grow up 8-10' in a 10x10 plot?" Well East Brunswick, I went and got answers! Meet Tony Rodriguez the creator of the structure in plot H-19. Tony hails from Portugal and has im-

they need their support structure to be taller than that.



Tony also has hot Portugal Peppers, Turnips, Navicas, Collard Greens, Tomatoes, and lettuces.

Tony definitely gets growing a bountiful crop honestly, his family in Portugal are farmers and make sure to

From building the structure to planting he is doing his family proud. A family that is rapidly expanding since Tony is getting married in two weeks!

Tony, East Brunswick Gardeners wish you all the luck...and keep those beans a growing!

Garden Insects: Cabbage Whites (*Pieris rapae*)

By: Dave Moskowitz

Those white butterflies flitting around the garden are Cabbage whites (*Pieris rapae*). They are probably the most common butterflies in New Jersey. The common name that includes “cabbage” should probably be a bit of a warning for gardeners.



The adult females lay eggs on cabbage plants and other plants in the Brassica such as broccoli, cauliflower, radish, collards and kale. So, if you are wondering what’s eating your cabbage or other Brassica crops it’s likely to be the caterpillar of the Cabbage white.

Control should be pretty simple. Just pick off the caterpillars and throw them outside the garden fence. No need to worry that they will just come back. The adults are so common, that even if you remove every caterpillar, the adults are likely to simply lay more eggs. So just be diligent and keep an eye on your Brassica crops.

One other interesting ecological note is that the Cabbage white demon-

strates why we need to worry about invasive species. The Cabbage white was historically a Eurasian species that was first accidentally introduced near Quebec around 1860 and then again in 1871 near New York. In as short a time as 1890, it was described as



“painfully common” near Philadelphia and as “exceedingly common” near New York City. Since that time, it has expanded to include virtually all of North America and is a serious agricultural pest in most of its range. Having said that, it is now firmly entrenched as part of our butterfly fauna and is actually a pretty little butterfly. So, enjoy the adults as they fly around the garden, but keep an eye on your plants, lest you share some\most of them with a caterpillar!

East Brunswick, Victoria, Australia

Our next event is July 3 – our “Dig Day Afternoon” – stay tuned! We’ll be turning soil, cutting ribbons, kids activities....will be great. We will take some video and upload it to Facebook for all the “other” East Brunswick gardeners to enjoy....



Picture taken by Linda and Chris Bowen of EB, NJ while in EB Australia

Hope you’re enjoying some spring sun! It’s all grey skies down here....my own garden is looking quite lame right now, cauliflower is blooming as are broad beans, but aphids have attacked a whole section of the flowery parts and it’s all a bit bleak. So I’m off to the nursery for rainbow chard and carrots and marigolds! -Liz. EB Australia

Bolted Lettuce: What is it? And what to do with it?

Text Source: <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu>

Bolting is a common problem experienced by lettuce growers. Bolting is the undesirable formation of flowers and seeds. Bolting destroys the flavor of the leaves by making them bitter and tough. It is caused by high temperatures, long periods of high light intensities, and drought. Lettuce has an internal counter that keeps track of the number of daylight hours the plant receives. Once a critical number of hours are received, the plant sends up its flower stalk.



The exact number of hours varies from cultivar to cultivar. Apparently, lettuce goes through four distinct stages of growth; juvenile/vegetative, adult/vegetative, adult/intermediate, and adult/reproductive. The plant can handle environmental stresses quite well when vegetative. However, once the intermediate stage is reached, environmental stresses, such as high temperatures or drought, will cause the plant to bolt.

Sauteed Bolted Lettuce

Ingredients

Bolted Lettuce
small onion
tomato
salt & pepper
garlic

What to do

Boil the bolted lettuce with a small onion. Then sauté it with a tomato, salt, pepper, and garlic. It was actually very good similar to spinach but milder.

From: Tony Riccobono

*The East Brunswick, NJ Garden received lots of press last month,
but most impressively we received a letter from
Congressman Rush Holt!*

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Congress of the United States

Chair
Select Intelligence Oversight Panel
Committee on Appropriations

Committee on Education
and Labor

Permanent Select Committee
on Intelligence

Committee on Natural Resources

April 30, 2010

Mr. David Moskowitz

East Brunswick, New Jersey 08816-3621

Dear Mr. Moskowitz:

Thank you for sending me information about the East Brunswick Community Garden. It sounds like a very worthwhile endeavor and a real community builder. I was very interested in the connection you have made with another East Brunswick – one that is far away from the 12th Congressional District! It seems that gardeners – no matter where they live – want to share information about their crops and their way of life. That's a good thing for our foreign relations and a prime example of global good neighborliness.

I want to commend you for your leadership with the Community Garden. I hope someday, when I am in East Brunswick, I will get a chance to visit it. Thank you once again. If I can ever be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact me at my West Windsor office at (609) 750-9365.

Sincerely,

RUSH HOLT
Member of Congress

RH/gk



News From the EB Garden Committees...

Community Garden Plot

Committee Chair:

Tony Riccobono

Donna C has arranged the herb garden donated some herbs and cleared the paths by hand! Paul helped set the asparagus in A22 and is setting up the rubarb in B22. He and Josh have tilled many plots. Lorraine S helped in planting corn and donated sev-

eral plants. Jim has been working on beans and cukes, as well as watering and donating plants. Jerry and Stephanie have been working on the Asian garden and planted and donated some of the pumpkins squash and melons. Marilyn and Nancy worked hard on getting our initial

plots dug as well as planting potatoes onions celery and shallots. Claudis helped in tilling several plots and Gabrielle donated corn seeds. We have several lettuce heads ready for donation under the crooked awning.

Rain Barrel Info

Rain Barrel History

The East Brunswick Community Garden now has a rain barrel. The rain barrel is a simple contraption that helps conserve water during dry periods and/or drought. The Community Garden rain barrel is set up under the gutter and down spout of the Community Garden shed and collects rainwater runoff from the roof. A hose connection and ball valve regulate the flow of saved water from the rain barrel.

Rain barrels can be an important conservation method for all home gardeners. Rain barrels provide a source of collected rainwater when the primary

water source may be out of reach or at a premium. The rainwater collected in the Community Garden rain barrel may be used by any Community Gardener at any time.

While commercial rain barrels may be a little bland, new, more decorative models are now being marketed which will provide an aesthetic dimension to just about anyone's garden. The rain barrels may be purchased from our local home improvement centers or constructed at home. A 75-gallon rain barrel like the one at the Community Garden is priced at about \$90.00 at Lowes. The rain barrel is a simple, relatively

cost effective conservation measure that we hope all the Community Gardeners will take advantage of both at the Community Garden and at home.

The rain barrel was generously donated to the East Brunswick Environmental Commission by the East Brunswick Lowes. The rain barrel, roof gutter and down spout were installed with the hard work of Rich Wolfert and Steve Gottlieb. Please thank them the next chance you get.

Reach for the green.....Enjoy your gardens!

Lettuce Salad Recipe

Lettuce cut to bite size pieces (shh, don't tell anyone, I use a knife!)

½ cup roasted almond pieces

½ cup shredded carrots

Dressing

¼- ½ cup olive oil
¼ cup fresh lemon juice or white vinegar or a combination of both

3 tbs water

¼ tsp sugar

1 tsp. mustard

1-2 cloves garlic, chopped

Salt & black pepper

Mix all ingredients (I pour everything in a glass jar, close it tightly and shake)

Mix together the lettuce and carrots, add the dressing and mix well, then add the almonds.

Lettuce salad for special occasions or today's dinner

By Liti

When I was growing up in Israel vegetables were part of every meal. Israeli salad, simply called "Salat", with cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers and other fresh veggies were part of every meal together with cooked, steamed or fried other vegetable. For special dinners my mother made her delicious "lettuce salad for guests". I do not have any lettuce on my plot, but as I was reading Tony's messages about the lettuce being ready to pick I could almost smell the dressing my mother poured on that "only for guests" dish, just before serving. It was romaine lettuce my mother used but you can use any kind. (Recipe at Left)

Coming up at the EB Garden...

Monday, June 21 from 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Rutgers Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners and Interns, will be at the gardens on Monday, June 21 (Hello, Summer!) from 6:00 - 7:00 PM to help you troubleshoot and share garden tips as we move into the growing season.

We hope this will be the first of many enjoyable, informative sessions to come, so come on out and ask any questions you may have right in the garden! This way we can see the actual plants and guide you towards a possible solution.



June 30th between 6:30 and 8PM

Deborah Cornavaca, a member of the EB Garden Social Committee is inviting everyone for Succulent Snacks and cool drinks on Wednesday June 30th between 6:30 and 8PM. Please bring your garden gloves and a strong back, we will be **weeding** our gardens and helping those who need assistance **weeding**. Perhaps the community gardens need some cleaning up too. Anyone who can pitch in is welcome, If you just want to visit, we look forward to seeing you. Consider bringing a chair & insect repellent.



Logo & Scarecrow Competition

Submissions for the Logo Competition can be emailed to gabriellesaylor@gmail.com. Submissions will be posted in the News Letter for everyone to vote on their favorite one.

Start brainstorming about your scarecrow design! Last years winner Hannah Moskowitz is still beaming! More details will follow about submitting and judging.



Hannah Moskowitz Winning scarecrow 2009



Can you find your plot?