



Need a Name!*

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter for Members

Upcoming Events

1/8 5pm
Dine and Donate at
Oceanview Brewery

1/20 5:30pm
Monthly Meeting
MBTS clubhouse

Next speaker:

1/20 Linda Peters,
Master Gardener, will
present a workshop
on gardening using
kitchen scraps.

Special Event:

2/13 5:00 pm
Garden Club get
together hosted by
Chris Coppa.

*"Name our newsletter"
suggestions taken at the next
meeting! Think of a name and
we will vote on suggestions!

Newsletter Committee

Pat Ranier
Linda Barbour
Tina Siatkowski

*To plant a garden is
to believe in
tomorrow.*

Audrey Hepburn

Operation Christmas Cheer Event a Success!

On December 17th, 15 of Santa's elves gathered at Millville By The Sea's clubhouse to wrap, pack, and decorate 120 gift bags for the Operation Christmas Cheer project. The event was smooth sailing as several of the elves had met at the clubhouse the night before to pre-plan. The pre-planning definitely helped as the bags were packed with goodies and loaded into cars in just 2 ½ hours!

Two large rooms of the clubhouse were occupied with different packing stations as sounds of laughter and talking mingled with the Christmas music playing

overhead. The elves worked together like clockwork and Christmas cheer abounded. Marian Dowling, photographer for the Coastal Point, volunteered her time to take photographs.

Afterwards, the group had a chance to sit down together and eat a nice lunch of sandwiches, chips and cookies that Sandy provided.

So many people helped and donated that it's impossible to list them all in this small space, however a special shout out to Lili Oller for her many contributions and the 15 businesses that made this day possible! Also, hubbies Jay Boggs and Jack Daniels for their assistance during the day!



Most of the crew!



What 120 amaryllis bulb boxes look like!



Lili shows off packed bags!



Linda at the cookie tin station.



Beautiful gloves and scarves donated by Lili.



Ruth and Sandy hold finished bags.

In the Garden



Photo by Tina Siatkowski

Golden ragwort in a backyard garden.

Golden Ragwort: A Love/Hate Relationship

Golden ragwort (*Packera aurea*) is a hardy plant that elicits mixed feelings among gardeners. Known for its bright yellow flowers, and one of the first spring bloomers, golden ragwort is often seen as a troublesome weed due to its toxicity to livestock. The plant contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids, which can cause severe liver damage in animals if digested over time. Golden ragwort in backyard gardens can be also troubling, as the plant produces up to 120,000 seeds per plant and spreads through underground rhizomes. Managing golden ragwort can be challenging—it can take over whole gardens and lawns if not contained.

Despite its downsides, golden ragwort plays a crucial role in ecosystems. As a first bloomer, (after first bloom, you will get about 4 weeks of blooms) it provides essential nectar for various pollinators and supports at least 77 insect species, some of which are rare.

If you decide to plant golden ragwort in your garden, consider a place where a groundcover is needed, to make thinning and maintaining the plants less of a hassle.

Golden ragwort does best in partly shady areas, with moist to wet soil, but tolerates full sun as well.

Getting to Know ...



Photo by Tina Siatkowski

Sandy Daniels

Sandy, our co-president, has resided in Millville by the Sea with husband Jack since 2016. She has been a member of Coastal Gardeners since January, 2018.

Sandy's passion for gardening has its roots in New Milford, CT, where she and Jack lived for 27 years. The community garden inspired Jack to build raised garden beds on their 2.5 acre property. They loved the town, with New England's longest village green and its seasonal activities. But their greater love of the shore brought them to our area.

During COVID, Inland Bays Garden Center sold vegetables, qualifying them as an agricultural resource that could remain open. During this time, Sandy was hired as its events coordinator and found a new talent and passion. Working at Inland Bays has educated her on using natural soil amendments geared to our coastal soil. Always eager to learn new things, her next goal is learning about ridding pests, mold and bacteria with natural solutions.

Q&A Corner

Can I overwinter my passionflower vine outside?

Yes! Reduce watering and stop fertilizing when flowering season is over. Mulch heavily around the vine as cold weather approaches. If the vine is planted near a foundation or other heat reflecting source, the better. The whole vine may die back depending on how cold it gets, but the root structure should survive. Prune the vine in late winter. New growth should appear in spring.

Source: Heather Rhoades, Founder of Gardening Know How