



Visit the official Brookside Estates HOA website for news and announcements
www.Brookside-Estates.org

You'll find meeting minutes, important announcements, HOA documents,
and a link to let you e-mail the board with any questions or concerns.

Current Items of Interest

IMPORTANT REMINDER - if you paid your 2007 HOA dues in installments, the final installment must be sent to Mid-Atlantic Management Corp. on or before June 1st. Mid-Atlantic will not be sending out a billing for the final payment, so please don't forget to mail in your payment! Checks can be sent to:

Brookside Estates HOA, 925
C/O Mid-Atlantic Management Corp.
90 South Newtown Street Road, Suite 7
Newtown Square, PA 19073

You may also pay online with your credit card by going to www.mamc.com and selecting "Homeowners" from the list on the left-hand side.



The Brookside Estates Yard Sale will be held on Friday June 1st from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturday June 2nd from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Advertising for the event will be placed in several local newspapers, so the turnout should be really good! If you'd like to help with posting signs or other activities related to the yard sale, please contact Lisa at 610 932-2603 or Doris at 610 932-3498.



The Brookside Estates annual HOA meeting will be held at the Oxford Senior Center (12 East Locust St) on Thursday June 14th. The meeting will start at 6 p.m. Two board positions will be voted on at this meeting. You will be receiving information in the mail within the next few days on candidates running for election. If you will be unable to attend the meeting, but would like to cast your vote, a proxy voting form will be included in the mailing.

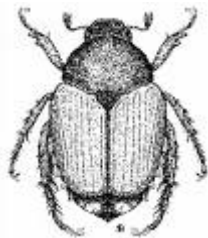


IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION



With warmer weather finally here, please be extra watchful of children playing in our community. The posted speed limit on all roads within the Brookside Estates development is 25 mph.

Parents - please advise your children that it is not safe to play around the storm drains and wetlands. A word of caution could help prevent an injury.



HOT TOPIC: Japanese Beetle Control



Just when you've finally got the dandelions under control, Mother Nature throws another pest at your yard – Japanese beetles. These insects first showed up in New Jersey in 1916, and have been wreaking havoc on trees, shrubs, and flowers ever since. Planning your attack strategy now will greatly reduce the impact of Japanese beetles on your plants come July.

Quite a few people run out and buy beetle traps at the first sign of Japanese beetle activity, but this tactic is generally not effective, and can ultimately attract more beetles to your yard, especially if neighbors are not using traps. There are a number of insecticides on the market for beetle control. To kill the beetle larvae ("grubs"), look for products containing Imidacloprid, also known as Merit™. These can be found in the form of granules that can be disbursed with a broadcast spreader or in a wettable powder form that can be sprayed on and around trees and other plants. Application of insecticide needs to begin 20 days before the adult beetles are expected to become active (in our area this typically occurs during the last week of June continuing through July). Application of sprays may be needed every 5 to 10 days during the periods of heaviest adult activity. When using pesticides always read and follow label directions carefully to prevent injury to humans, pets, and the environment.

*A more "organic" approach to controlling Japanese beetles involves letting their natural enemies go to work. Two biological agents that provide good results are bacterial milky disease, sold under the brand name "Milky Spore", and Entomopathogenic Nematodes, natural parasites of the grubs. Look for products with nematode strains of *Steinernema carpocapsae* (Continued on page 3)*

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found in products such as Biosafe, Biovector, Exhibit, and Scanmask to get rid of the beetle grubs. These biological techniques won't give the immediate results of chemical insecticides, but they are far less toxic to humans, animals, and beneficial insects, such as honeybees.

Another technique for Japanese beetle control includes planting trees and other plants that are not attractive to the beetles. Among these are arborvitae, baby's breath, begonia, buttercups, carnations, cornflower, daisies, dogwood (flowering), firs, forget-me-not, forsythia, hollies, hydrangeas, lilacs, lilies, magnolias, maple (red or silver only) pines, poppies, snapdragon, sweet pea, violets, and pansies.

Hand-picking beetles from plants can also keep their numbers down, especially if you can remove the "scouts" who arrive early and put out chemical signals to other adult beetles. Destroy them by dropping them into a container of soapy water. The beetles are less active in the early morning and late evening, so catching them may be easier at these times.

For additional information about controlling Japanese beetles and their grubs, visit your local library, garden center, or the Internet.

In The Garden

Heirloom Seeds

In the "good old days" gardeners could use seeds from one year's crop to start plants for the next year. But today, with numerous hybrid plants and genetically modified varieties, seeds often turn out to be sterile, or are not going to result in the plant the gardener wanted. Quite a few gardeners are now going back to "heirloom seeds". These are seeds that can be passed down through generations. There are a number of sources for this type of seed. Websites include www.seedsavers.org, www.heirloomseeds.com, and www.amishlandseeds.com. Many garden centers and organic grocery stores now carry "heirloom seeds". For gardeners who would prefer a more "organic" garden, or who just wish they could find a tomato that tasted as good as those their parents and grandparents grew, heirloom seeds are the answer. Happy planting!



The Recipe Box

Strawberry Rhubarb Pie

The recipe for this tasty pie comes from www.familyfun.com. It's a real crowd pleaser!

CRUST

*2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
1 tbsp. sugar
1/2 tsp. salt
6 tbsp. cold butter
1/3 cup shortening
6 to 8 tbsp. ice water*

FILLING

*4 cups sliced strawberries
2 cups rhubarb, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
3/4 cup sugar*

*1/4 cup flour
1 tsp. orange zest
1 tbsp. butter
1 egg*

1. To make the pie crust, place the flour, sugar, salt, butter and shortening into the bowl of an electric mixer or food processor. Blend until the mixture resembles a coarse meal. Add the ice water, a tablespoon at a time. When the dough sticks together, remove it from the mixer or processor. Divide it in half and place on waxed paper. Pat each half into a pancake, wrap, and refrigerate for half an hour.

2. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. For the filling, mix the strawberries and rhubarb with the sugar, flour and orange zest in a large bowl. On a lightly floured surface, roll out half of the pie dough to a 1/8-inch thickness. Fold it into quarters, set it in a 9-inch pie plate, then unfold. Snip the edges evenly, allowing a slight overhang. Add the filling and dot with butter.

3. Roll out the remaining dough and use a pastry wheel or knife to slice it into 3/4-inch wide strips. Weave the strips over the filling and flute the edges. Beat the egg in a small bowl, then brush the wash over the top of the pie. Bake for 45 minutes, or until the filling bubbles and the crust slightly browns. (If the crust browns too quickly, lightly cover it with foil.) Makes 6 to 8 servings.