

# Master Gardeners of Bergen County February 2020 – mid-month update

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## *MG meeting Tuesday, Feb. 25*

1 Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack, 1<sup>st</sup>-floor meeting room. Refreshments at 7 pm; announcements at 7:20 pm; program to follow.

Our speaker is Michael Wilson, a specialist in rock gardening, who will provide a slide presentation on the ABC's of rock gardens. He will explain three critical subjects for the successful culture of alpine plants in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area. Part 1 "alpine ecology" explains the native habitat, while Part 2, "building and maintaining," explains growing alpine plants at low elevations. Part 3, the "compendium of plants," lists those plants that perform well in our area.

Michael is the horticultural laboratory technician for Cornell University Cooperative Extension Service of Rockland County and an adjunct professor of environmental studies at Ramapo College. He retired in 2009 after 20 years at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, where he managed the rock gardens, and he previously trained at the NJ Botanical Garden.



Michael Wilson

Michael grows alpine plants at home and is active in the Watnong Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society.

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## *Volunteer opportunities*

### *Teaneck Creek Conservancy*

**Date and time:** Wednesday, April 22, 9 am-1 pm

**Location:** Fycke Lane entrance to the park (across from the Thomas Jefferson Middle School), Teaneck. You can park on Fycke Lane.

[Teaneck Creek Conservancy](#) will host an invasive species pull and tree planting along the edge of Teaneck Creek. MGs are needed to help with the removal of invasives and supervise and assist with new plantings for a group of about 65 corporate volunteers. You're asked to go person-to-person to ensure that no one leaves air gaps under the roots, the soil isn't overly compacted, and deer cages are properly installed, etc. You can come for the four-hour event, or from 11 am-1 pm for the planting only.

The organization will provide some gloves, clippers, spades, and shovels. You can bring your own tools and a kneeling pad. Register by sending an email to [Allie Fellema](#), conservancy associate, with your name and she will send a volunteer form to you. You also can call Allie at 973-670-2753 if you need additional information.

## Thielke Arboretum

**Date and time:** Saturday, April 25 and Sunday, April 26, 9 am-3:30 pm

**Location:** 460 Doremus Ave., Glen Rock.

[Thielke Arboretum](#) needs volunteers to help with its Arbor Day weekend celebration. (The event itself runs from 10 am-3 pm both days.) You can do a morning or afternoon shift or both.

Jobs include helping with the native plant sale and tree giveaway and staffing a table for children's activities like leaf rubbing and more. Some help is also needed Friday, April 24 with set-up and decorating. Other ways to help can be to post fliers on social media and in public spaces like libraries.

**Contact:** [Jean Epiphan](#) or [Herb Arbeiter](#).

- **Herb Arbeiter**

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### Last call! Volunteer hours are overdue. Remit now or your hours won't be counted

#### **By Donna Karpel**

Some of you still have not submitted your volunteer report for 2019. This means a loss of money for the Rutgers Cooperative Extension. RCE gets money based on the number of volunteer hours you report.

There are two ways to report your hours.

1. **Excel form:** The form be used on any PC and emailed. This is the **easiest and most accurate** way to track hours. Do not create your own spreadsheet.
2. **Paper form:** Please write neatly. If I can't read it, I can't enter it. You must mail the form to me at the address on the form. Be sure to keep a copy for your records.

Both forms can be found on the lower right of the home page of our [website](#) under "Volunteer Reporting." The forms will download directly to your computer from the link. No password is needed to download the forms. **Do not use the online system.**

When using the Excel form, remember to change the file name from "V&EAR Email Form" and save with your name and year of reporting. Send the entire spreadsheet as an attachment to your email. Do not separate your education and volunteer hours into two or more reports; do not save your file as a pdf and send; and do not send as a shared (Google) drive. Enter only one date per line, especially if you're submitting a paper report.

To maintain your certified MG status, each year you must send in your 25 volunteer hours and 10 hours of education. *Without completing and reporting both the full volunteer and education hours, you aren't considered certified.* If there are extenuating circumstances why you were unable to fulfill the requirements or if you have questions or need help, please contact me at 201-327-8835 or [donna9189@gmail.com](mailto:donna9189@gmail.com).

**We're changing our email distribution system. Some of you will receive an email in the next week from [info@mgofbc.org](mailto:info@mgofbc.org) (Miriam Taub, corresponding secretary), to test the new system. You'll be asked to hit reply to indicate you received the email. Please reply so we're assured the new system is working. Thanks!**

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## **Coming up**

*A selection of meetings and events open to the public.*

- Feb. 19**      **7 pm, Hasbrouck Heights Garden Club**, 2nd floor, library meeting room, 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights. Speaker: Mark Gussen, director, Closter Nature Center. Topic: The amazing world of mushrooms. Greetings and refreshments at 6:30 pm.
- Feb. 20-23**    **Connecticut Flower and Garden Show**, Connecticut Convention Center, 100 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, CT 06103. Visit the [website](#) for the schedule of demonstrations and seminars, ticket prices, hours, and directions.
- Feb. 24**      **7:30 pm, Ho-Ho-Kus Garden Club**, Ho-Ho-Kus Community Church, 400 Warren Ave., entrance on Sycamore Avenue, Ho-Ho-Kus. Speaker: Walter Perry, Perry's Florist and Gardens. Topic: New impatiens hybrids.
- Feb. 29-  
March 8**      **Philadelphia Flower Show**, Pennsylvania Convention Center, 12th and Arch streets, Philadelphia, PA 19107. Visit the [website](#) for exhibits, events, tickets (available online), hotel packages, and more.
- March 2**      **11:30 am, Tenafly Garden Club**, Davis Johnson Park and Gardens, Tenafly. Speaker: Dr. Linda Rohleder, coordinator, Lower Hudson Partnership Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM). Topic: Invasive plants. Suggested donation \$10. All donations go to scholarships awarded at the end of the year. Reservations 201-568-8254.