

# Master Gardeners of Bergen County July 2021 – Potting Shed Mid-Month Update

## THINGS TO DO

### 2 MG gardens on display July 31

Janet Schulz, Class of 1988, and Paul Sisko, Class of 2021, will open their gardens to MG of BC members July 31 at the times below.

**Janet Schulz:** 16 Colonial Drive, Wyckoff; 1-4 pm. Park on the street.

**Paul Sisko:** 113 Fardale Ave., Mahwah; 10 am-3 pm. From the driveway between the stone walls, park on the mulched soil or white stone area on the right or far left or continue straight and park on the grassy areas along the drive or at the barn/studio and turnaround area near the large red sculpture. Enter from either the front or rear of the garden; entrances will be marked. Call Paul at 201-280-5764 (cell) for an additional parking area if you have difficulty walking.

### Herbal bitters workshop at Garretson Farm

Join participants July 17 at Garretson Forge & Farm to explore the history and traditional uses of digestive bitters — a blend of bitter and aromatic herbs used to support digestion as well as tonify the body. They are often, but not exclusively, used to enhance cocktails.

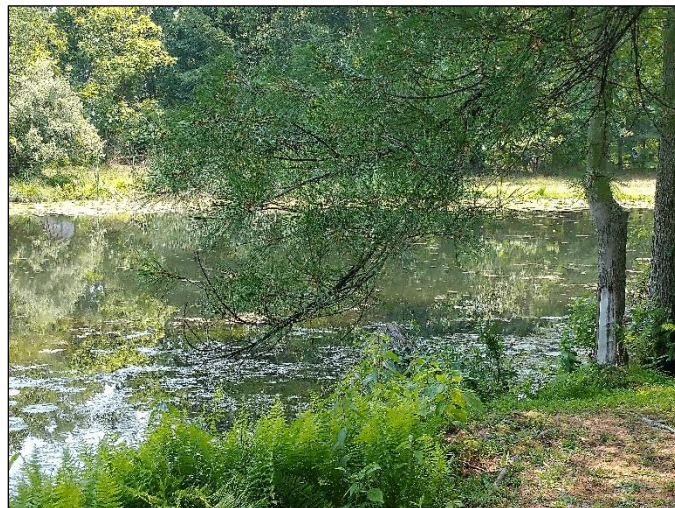
The event will run from 10:30 am-noon outdoors at the farm, 4-02 River Road, Fair Lawn, where you'll harvest herbs to create a seasonal bitters blend that can be used as a tonic and for digestive support in any beverage or as a cocktail ingredient. Fee includes a bottle of bitters that you'll formulate and blend; \$20 Garretson members/ \$25 non-members. Register in advance by sending an email to [Liz Scholl](mailto:Liz.Scholl@bergenmg.org).

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### It's a ladybug larva!



Barbara Pisacane (Class of 2009) and Laura DeFlora (Class of 2011) correctly identified this half-inch-long bug. Melody Corcoran, Class of 2016, found it on a white snakeroot leaf at McFaul Environmental Center.



A quiet moment at the Gardens of Wyckoff.

### Crescent Avenue — 1 road, 2 stops

**By Janet Schulz, Class of 1988**

How many streets in Bergen County can boast two attractions within a mile? Just drive to Crescent Avenue, Wyckoff, and you are there.

The Gardens of Wyckoff, 387 Crescent Ave., is a 12½-acre park containing a deer-protected rose garden, perennial border, pond, and walking trails. It's located at Crescent and Godwin avenues with the entrance on Crescent.

Just down — or up — the road, depending on which way you're traveling, is the James McFaul Environmental Center, 150 Crescent Ave., a county park where you'll find a wildlife sanctuary, deer-protected flower garden with a gazebo, and an herb garden. It has walking trails, a pond with swans, and benches to sit and enjoy nature. These gardens are maintained by the MG of BC.

## HORTICULTURE

Here are three reminders for garden success in July from Bruce Crawford, program leader in home and public horticulture at Rutgers. For his complete list of July "gardening notes," visit the Garden Club of New Jersey [website](http://www.gardenclubofnj.org).

- Weed and fertilize your containers. Water as needed, which is usually once per day.
- Reapply mulch to retain moisture should it have become thin or disturbed through replanting of annuals or perennials or from weeding.
- Give a serious cutback to hanging baskets to renew the plants for a late July through September display.

## The Culver's root fan club

Bruce Crawford, program leader in home and public horticulture at Rutgers, has chosen Culver's root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*) as his July plant of the month.

### By Bruce Crawford

Why are certain plants popular with gardeners and others not? It is a pattern that I have always found interesting, but suspect will never understand fully. Currently, one of the popular trends that will hopefully become the norm is adding native plants to the garden.

These plants are beneficial for sustaining both the adult and the larval forms of our local insect populations. In addition, plants that provide color, height, and texture during the summer months have also become very popular. Culver's root, botanically known as *Veronicastrum virginicum*, has all of these virtues, yet for some mysterious reason, it has yet to gain recognition within the gardening community. . . Click [here](#) to read more.



Rutgers University photo

*Veronicastrum virginicum*  
'Lavender Towers'

## VOLUNTEER SITE NEWS



Barbara flashes the "I love you" sign.

### Hot? Humid? Who cares?

As you can see by their smiles, Barbara Pisacane, Class of 2009, left, and Caroline Newman, Class of 2019, were not discouraged by the hot, sticky weather as they tidied up a divinely fragrant stand of milkweed at Thielke Arboretum July 6.

The milkweed is a fairly recent addition to the grounds. As we worked, several monarchs were flitting from one flower to the next. It didn't look like they were stopping for nectar, but perhaps the ladies were dropping eggs.

- Liz Gil, Class of 2019



Photos by Liz Gil  
Caroline Newman deep in milkweed.

## WEBINARS

**July 20, 6-7 pm:** Pennsylvania Horticultural Society sponsors Art in the Garden - Serena Saunders. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

**July 21, 7-8:30 pm:** Penn State Extension sponsors Insect Pest Awareness for Home Gardeners. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

**July 24, 10-11 am:** North Carolina State Extension, Buncombe County Center, sponsors Cottage Gardening. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

(*Things to do' continued from page 1*)

## Garden Conservancy Open Day July 17

Visit two gardens in Stockton, Hunterdon County, July 17 through the Garden Conservancy's Open Days program. Fee: \$5 Garden Conservancy members/\$10 non-members. Children 12 and under are free. You must register in advance; no walk-ins. Masks are required at the discretion of the owner.

- **Pretty Bird Farm** will be open from 10 am-4 pm and is described as a flower and vegetable garden on a hillside location overlooking the Rosemont Valley. Click [here](#) for details, photos, and to register.
- **The Garden at Federal Twist** will be open from 10 am-6 pm and is described as having a meadow, water feature, scenic view, substantial native plants, and a woodland/shade garden that's nature-friendly and organic/toxin-free. Click [here](#) for details, photos, and to register.

## Hackensack River Greenway cleanups

The Friends of the Hackensack River Greenway through Teaneck will sponsor two upcoming cleanups. The goal is to pick up trash, free trees from invasives, and plant natives where possible. Bring gloves, loppers, and clippers. Masks are required.

Register for the clean-up by sending an email to [teaneckgreenway@gmail.com](mailto:teaneckgreenway@gmail.com). Before attending, check the [website](#) for cancellations or schedule changes.

- **July 17:** 10 am-noon, Terhune Park, 550 River Road, Teaneck. Park on Hillcrest Avenue off River Road. Meet at the park's southern entrance.
- **Aug. 1:** 10 am-noon, Mary S. Topolsky garden and trail, River Road, Teaneck. Park on Cadmus Court or across River Road on Kipp Street.

## FARMERS MARKETS

**Englewood Farmers Market**, Depot Square Park, North Van Brunt Street and Demarest Avenue. Fridays, 11 am-6 pm through Oct. 29.

**Paramus Farmers Market**, Petruska Park hockey rink, 475 Farview Ave. Wednesdays, noon-6 pm through Oct. 13.

**Ramsey Farmers Market**, Main Street train station. Sundays, 9 am-2 pm through November. For a list of rules, vendors, and other information, click [here](#).

**Ridgewood Farmers Market**, train station parking lot, Godwin and West Ridgewood avenues. Sundays, 8:30 am-2 pm through Nov. 21.

**River Vale Farmers Market**, Town Hall parking lot, 406 Rivervale Road. Thursdays, 2-6 pm through October.

**Rutherford Farmers Market**, Williams Center Plaza. Wednesdays, 11 am-6 pm; Saturdays, 8 am-2 pm through October.

**Teaneck Farmers Market**, municipal parking lot, Garrison Avenue and Beverly Road. Thursdays, noon-6 pm through October. Face coverings and social distancing required; no pets.



## THIS AND THAT

### When was your last tetanus shot?

Old news but worth repeating: While most people associate tetanus with stepping on a rusty nail, there are other ways to get tetanus. According to the [Cleveland Clinic](#), tetanus spores are everywhere such as in soil, dust, and animal waste. If you get a wound or scratch while gardening, you may be susceptible to tetanus.

If you haven't been immunized for tetanus recently, check with your doctor whether to have a T-Dap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) shot or TD (tetanus and diphtheria) shot. Recommended frequency is every 10 years, the Cleveland Clinic advises.

*- Idea submitted by Janet Schulz, Class of 1988*



**These rocks rock!** Make an armchair visit to Rockland Farm in Canaan, NY, via [YouTube](#) thanks to Joseph Cooper, Class of 2008, who created the video of this garden.