

Did you go to the orchid show?



Orchid lover and judge Carrie Buchman in front of the North Jersey Orchid Society's display at its show and sale at the Douglass College Center Jan. 14. Hundreds of gorgeous plants were on display from New Jersey and Pennsylvania orchid societies and vendors. See story on page 2.

Photo by Janet Schulz, Class of 1988

Jan. 31 is the deadline to enter your 2022 volunteer hours in Better Impact

The MG of BC has set Jan. 31 as the deadline to enter 2022 volunteer and continuing education hours in the Better Impact system. To retain your **certified MG status**, you must complete a minimum of 25 hours of annual volunteer service and 10 hours of annual continuing education.

Click [here](#) for the Better Impact login page. If you don't have or don't remember your username and password for Better Impact, contact [Karen Riede](#), horticultural assistant, or [Suzanne Danzig](#), volunteer records chair.

Certification as an MG is valid for one year only; **certified MGs** must be recertified every year by completing the required number of volunteer and continuing education hours and being up to date with annual dues.

Instructions to record hours in Better Impact are on the site's "welcome" page. Recording hours will be faster and easier if you've kept a list of the date and location of your volunteer activities at official MG of BC sites and MG-sanctioned activities, for example the Bergen County Fall Harvest Festival or Holiday Open House.

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MG of BC meeting – Jan. 17

Jason Grabosky: Giving Trees Space and Watching Them Grow

1 Bergen County Plaza,
Hackensack
1st-floor meeting room

Refreshments at 7 pm;
announcements at 7:20 pm;
program to follow



Jason Grabosky

Jason Grabosky is a professor in urban forestry in the Dept. of Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources at Rutgers University. He teaches classes on trees, and his research is generally focused on urban tree management and the intersection of the green and grey infrastructure.

Jason will discuss a set of research studies over the past several years and their take-home messages. He'll talk about designed soils and other methods for soil with pavement and how soil access influences survival and then tree growth over time. He'll also provide his long-term observations on an experiment running from 1997 to 2022.

Welcome back to 1 Bergen County Plaza!

This will be our first in-person meeting since February 2020; there's no Zoom option. Parking is available on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th floors of the employee parking garage; handicapped parking is available in front of the building as well as next to the elevators in the garage. Hope to see you Jan. 17!

New Year's (garden-related) resolutions anyone?

**By Janet Schulz,
Class of 1988**

Have you made any New Year resolutions? Me neither. But maybe we ought to. It's only natural to want to improve either ourselves or our surroundings. How about this year we make our gardens better. How to do that? I hope you have a few ideas of your own, but just in case let me make a few suggestions for you to consider:



Janet Schulz

- Take a pad and pencil and write down what you think you may want to change or what you really liked about your garden last year. Planted too many zucchinis or tomatoes last year? What about adding more color using annuals this year? Just by asking yourself a few questions now will put you on the right track to achieve this year's goals.

- Keep a record. This will allow you to go back and revisit successes as well as failures. Are there really failures in the garden? Sure, we have all killed a few plants, maybe even hundreds, but hopefully we have learned why we were not successful.
- Before you open all the catalogs that arrive, make sure you know where you will plant what you are ordering. Before planting anything ask yourself is this the best place for this plant? Enough sun? Maybe too much? How about the soil? Does it need more drainage or possibly more compost? If you think about these things and come up with the correct answers you will be on your way to the best garden ever.
- Remember different heights, colors, and textures make for a perfect garden.

These are but a few ideas to help you along on your garden journey. Do you have any others you might want to share with us? Why not surprise us and give us your ideas. Send them to either [me](#) or to [Miriam Taub](#).

Did you go to the orchid show?

By Janet Schulz, Class of 1988

I read about the North Jersey Orchid Society Show and Sale in the Potting Shed and thought since I can't garden outside, I might as well enjoy looking at some beautiful blooms inside.

I have bought orchids in the local supermarket and thought I might want to branch out and grow one that's a little different. Miriam Taub [Class of 2011] and I went to the show, and we were not disappointed.

Oh how beautiful and exotic they all were! There were literally hundreds to choose from. What to buy? Do I have the proper conditions to be successful in growing anything other than a supermarket variety?

I needed expert advice, so I sought out Carrie Buchman from the North Jersey Orchid Society. [Carrie was featured in the January Potting Shed.] I explained my growing conditions. No, I do not have a greenhouse. I have hot water heat so there are radiators under the windows; I have hard water.

After answering a few more questions Carrie advised that I could grow a Paphiopedilum. This orchid requires morning sun, an east window, and never wants to dry out. There are fine hairs on the root that must remain wet, so I will take it to the sink every few days or so, let the water run through, drain well, and return to its spot. It ought to be in flower for at least two months.



Photo by Janet Schulz

Path. Supersuk 'Eureka'

Of course, I chose one that had variegated leaves so even when it's not in bloom, it is attractive. Like I said, always love the leaves! If this works well maybe next year I can try a different variety.

(Horticulture, continued on page 3)

(Horticulture, continued from page 2)

Plant and garden trends for 2023

From the Royal Horticultural Society

Britain's Royal Horticultural Society lists nine gardening trends, including seaweed compost and resilient lawns, for 2023. Click [here](#) to read the article from House Beautiful magazine.

From the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society names eight gardening trends to try in 2023 “reflective of the growing popularity of climate-wise gardening practices, new fall gardening ideas, and the continued popularity of houseplants.” Click [here](#) to read the article on the PHS website.

From Monrovia

Veranda.com reports six garden trends for 2023 — including waterwise plants — from the team at Monrovia. Click [here](#) to read.

Upcoming flower and garden shows

Feb. 18-April 23: [New York Botanical Garden Orchid Show](#), 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, NY.

Feb. 23-26: [Connecticut Flower and Garden Show](#), Connecticut Convention Center, 100 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT.

Feb. 24-26: [NJ Home and Garden Show](#), NJ Convention and Exposition Center, 97 Sunfield Ave., Edison.

March 4-12: [Philadelphia Flower Show](#), Pennsylvania Convention Center, 1101 Arch St., Philadelphia, PA.

March 26-April 9: [Macy's Flower Show](#), Macy's Herald Square, 151 W. 34th St., New York, NY.

CONFERENCES

13th Annual Community Garden Conference

March 4, 9 am: Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 353 E. Hanover Ave., Morris Township; also available via Zoom. Fee: \$75 with lunch; \$60 without lunch. Click [here](#), then scroll down to March 4 for more information and to register.

(Volunteer hours, continued from page 1)



If you still need help, send an email to [Karen Riede](#) or [Suzanne Danzig](#).

Rutgers Cooperative Education (RCE) of Bergen County multiplies our recorded hours by \$32.39 to place a dollar value on the work we MG of BC volunteers do. The purpose? So our county commissioners and others realize what a fantastic value RCE offers Bergen County. The \$32.39 is the current hourly figure from the US Dept. of Labor for “skilled volunteer service” in New Jersey.

Note: If you can no longer put in volunteer hours, you can remain a member of the MG of BC and continue to receive the Potting Shed by paying your annual dues. However, you won't be considered a certified MG. Instead, you'll be considered an MG of BC alum.

WEBINARS

For your convenience, all times are Eastern.

Jan. 19, noon: Smithsonian Gardens sponsors Secrets of Light and Grow Lights. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Feb. 1, 1-2 pm: Kansas State University sponsors More Plants From Your Plants: Introduction to Vegetative Plant Propagation. Free. Click [here](#) for the summary of 2023 webinars and to register.

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

The Garden Club of Hackensack will host a pasta dinner fund-raiser Jan. 27 from 6:30-8:30 pm at the Hackensack Troast Athletic Club, 74 Troast St., Hackensack. Park in the M&M building lot at 116 Holt St. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$15 for children. To purchase tickets, send an email — with “ticket request” in the subject line — to GardenclubofHackensack@gmail.com.

SPOTLIGHT ON ... MG OF BC SPEAKERS BUREAU

Six Master Gardeners volunteer their time for the MG of BC Speakers Bureau. We'll be featuring each of the speakers in upcoming Potting Sheds beginning with Linda Flynn, who joined the Speakers Bureau in 2019. If you're interested in volunteering for the Speakers Bureau or have a topic to suggest, contact [Arnie Friedman](#), Speakers Bureau chair and Class of 2004. Arnie can help you structure a presentation. Check out the [Speakers Bureau section](#) of our website.

Linda Flynn, Class of 2016

Linda's topics: Gardening for Butterflies and Birds; The Secret Life of Herbs.

Linda's back story: I am a retired fifth-grade science teacher who taught in Hackensack. I had already been planting flowers in my yard and the yearly appearance of a number of butterflies that came to my garden intrigued me. I started to plant milkweed specifically for the monarchs and thoroughly enjoyed their visits all summer long.

Eventually, I applied for a school grant to create a butterfly garden in the schoolyard. I created activities for student teams to learn about different butterfly species and to identify native plants that provided the best nectar for butterflies and bees. I encouraged all my students to plant small butterfly gardens of their own.

It was during my teaching years that I signed up for a two-week training session with the [Monarch Teacher Network](#) program. This was when I learned how to raise and tag monarch butterflies. I learned how to collect monarch eggs, raise them indoors in plastic storage boxes by providing them with plenty of milkweed leaves, and clean out caterpillar "frass" in the boxes two times a day.

When school started again, I would bring in the last of the early fall monarchs that I had raised so that the students could witness the tagging process and take turns releasing them from the school butterfly garden. After documenting my experiences with my students for the Monarch Teacher Network, I was awarded a grant to go to Mexico to visit the monarch hibernation sites in the mountains. It was a nature experience that was mind blowing — certainly a highlight in my lifetime.

I retired in 2015 and joined the MG of BC training program. What an eye-opener to learn about soil quality and proper planting procedures and being introduced to

a barrage of plant species. The work hours required at the different historical sites were my favorite sites.

For several years I have been a member of the [Invasives Strike Force](#) with the NY-NJ Trail Conference. I am assigned park trails and collect data by estimating the number of invasive species in a designated area. I record an approximate number of invasive plants and submit photographs of each zone surveyed.



Linda Flynn

About Linda's presentations:

My first is Gardening for Butterflies and Birds, which was based on my own personal experiences. My second topic is The Secret Life of Herbs. This topic materialized when I was first introduced to "live" herb plants in the gardens of the Hermitage. I was a

member of the team that was assigned to re-create a colonial-style herb garden just outside the kitchen of the historical building.

I became enchanted by the variety of herbs and was trained to be one of the MG herb garden tour guides for special events at the Hermitage, including the ladies' tea parties.

Linda in a nutshell: The teacher in me is still going strong but now my students are my peers, and I always enjoy the personal interaction with the audience after my talk has ended.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Bergen County

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