



From the Potting Shed February 2016

Master Gardeners of Bergen County

SAVE THE DATES!



February 23

7:30 pm

One Bergen County Plaza,

1st-floor meeting room

Hackensack

Bringing “The GARDEN Back to the Garden State”

Presented by Christina Chrobokowa

Christina Chrobokowa, a New Jersey native and owner of Dragonfly Design, has held a deep appreciation of nature since childhood. This appreciation matured into service for the protection of her region’s most precious natural resources of forests, streams, and wildlife.

Christina served as a dedicated member of the Raritan Headwaters Association for 15 years and was board president for six of those years. She also chaired Horticulture and Conservation Committees of the Garden Club of Somerset Hills, which earned her an NJ Zone Conservation Award. She was also a member of the Peapack Gladstone Environmental Commission and contributed to a 10-year Community Forestry Management Plan.

Throughout that time, Christina refined her horticulture expertise at Rutgers University and experimented with native plantings and design on her own property. She has shared her innovative gardens with the public through the Master Gardeners, garden clubs, and the Garden Conservancy Open Days program. She continues to increase awareness of indigenous garden design by lecturing through non-profit and community organizations.

This diverse history has given Christina the ability to achieve balance in her designs. Initially, the property is seen through the lens of the homeowners and the utility that they seek. With that in mind, she evaluates the site, the microclimate, and the existing flora and fauna. The design that follows balances the homeowners’ needs with the property’s natural order. Through her work with Dragonfly clients, Christina has learned that good landscape design is about recognizing connections. Neither Mother Nature nor the elements are bound by property lines. As homeowners, we are connected to our property. Our property is connected to that of our neighbors. And we are all part of a much larger landscape.

Volunteer hours were due in January. Please remit now!

We use the information from the V&EAR for our Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) and Rutgers University reports as well as the annual recertification of Master Gardeners. And, RCE receives additional funding based on total number of reported volunteer hours.

There are two ways to report:

1. **Excel form:** Can be used on any PC and emailed. This is the easiest and most accurate way to track hours. Do not create your own spreadsheet even if you are a skilled Excel user.

2. **Paper form:** Paper has to be mailed, and you need to make a copy for records.

Both forms can be found at www.mgofbc.org. If you haven’t downloaded new forms (particularly paper) recently, please download the November 2015 versions from the website. The Excel form has the most accurate list of approved sites (the only entries that should go under the location column).

When using the Excel form, remember to save the file with your name and year of reporting. If you need help renaming your file, please ask. Send the entire report as one spreadsheet. Do not separate your education and volunteer hours into two or more reports, and do not send two or more spreadsheets. Do not skip lines when you enter data. Only enter one date per line, especially if you are using the paper version. If I can’t read it, I can’t enter it.

There are examples of volunteer and education forms on mgofbc.org. They can be found under MG of BC Forms. They may answer your questions on how to list volunteer or education activities. If you need additional help, I have a document that can be emailed with more instructions.

If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to call or email.

- Donna Karpel, donna9189@gmail.com, 201-327-8355

Contents	Page
Save the Dates	1
Membership News	2
Master Gardener Syllabus	3
Volunteers Needed/Site News	3
Shows, Conferences, & Workshops	4
Garden Club & Plant Society/Grapevine	5

Links are clickable and are noted in [blue](#).

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Meet Joseph Papa, Class of 2015



Hardly half a year has passed since Joe's graduation as an MG, and he has been elected VP and taken on the job with utmost confidence thanks to a background in both horticulture and business management.

Joe grew up in Jersey City and Bogota. During family vacations at a bungalow in Belford, Monmouth County. Joe, age 7, would help his grandmother plant and harvest string beans and squash and pick figs using only organic techniques she learned in her native Italy. His gardening chores would continue during weekend visits to his grandparents' home in Paterson. This experience became the body of knowledge that he adheres to today in all his gardening pursuits.

Joe attended Bogota High School and in 1968 received a BS in business administration from Rider College (now Rider University) in Lawrenceville. College was followed by a 15-year career with JCPenney where he was responsible for buying product in various categories of women's sportswear. In 1983, he left JCPenney as a merchandising/sales executive and traveled extensively to Asia and Europe.

Meanwhile, with energy to spare, he served on the board of the Fairway Condo Association in Teaneck for 18 years. Among other responsibilities, he had oversight of grounds and landscaping: He maintained and enhanced a diverse assortment of plant material in a 4.5-acre plot.

In 2004, Joe became a member and plot holder of the Teaneck Community Garden. It was there under the auspices of township management that he became a Community Garden Committee member. This committee developed a master plan for the reconstruction of its three-acre garden as well as the development of rules and regulations for its management.

In 2011, Joe joined the Teaneck Garden Club where he met Jane Furman (a past president), who encouraged him to become an MG. In 2012, he became the horticultural director of the Teaneck Garden Club and Greenhouse, responsible for the propagation of approximately 18,000 plants for the club's annual sale. Through this sale the club provides the township with 5,000 annuals; maintains a number of gardens; provides educational programs for the nearby Hawthorne Elementary School, such as a junior garden program; and offers community outreach and a scholarship.

He developed a master garden plan for Hawthorne and has lectured on the soil/food web and composting. He is presently participating on a committee of the Benjamin Franklin School's Eco-Action Team.

Does Joe have time for anything else? Wife Annemarie, a personal trainer and avid gardener who came from a small village in Germany, keeps him hopping with their favorite sports, tennis and platform tennis, while he practices his German language skills on her or their bilingual daughter, Christina. He is also a fly fisher, practices yoga, and is an avid dancer.

What led him to join the MG class? First, Jane Furman and "to be more challenged, learn more, as well as share my knowledge with others." Welcome, Joe, to our MG of BC, and may our organization benefit from your energy and enthusiasm.

- **Barb Johansson**

President's Message

Let the gardening begin! ... Well, at least the shows. If you're itching for a horticultural fix, here are four suggestions. Remember the lectures count as educational requirements, and you can find links to all events on our website at www.MGofBC.org.

Feb. 11-14 [New Jersey Flower & Garden Show](#)

Feb. 18-21 [Connecticut Flower and Garden Show](#)

March 5-13 [Philadelphia Flower Show](#)

March 17-20 [Springfest Garden Show](#)

I'd also suggest to sign up quickly for the 40th Annual Rutgers Home Gardeners School. Some lectures have already sold out.

On an organizational note, we have many wonderful volunteers who keep our association running smoothly, and we are always looking for new talent to be our future leaders. At this point we can use help with Outreach, Publicity, and a few other areas. If you can help or would like to learn more, please contact me directly at Joseph@MGofBC.org. Thank you.

Wishing everyone a happy winter!

- **Joseph Cooper**

**Rutgers Cooperative Extension
of Bergen County
Master Gardener Syllabus for Winter 2016**

All classes, except field trips, held at 1 Bergen County Plaza; 4th floor, Hackensack. Joel Flagler (Flagler@aesop.rutgers.edu), 201-336-6780; Dail Reid (Reid@aesop.rutgers.edu), 201-336-6788

Dates, topics, and speakers are:

- Feb. 5 Plant Propagation/Physiology, Joel Flagler
- Feb. 12 Lincoln's birthday, no class
- Feb. 19 Turf IPM: Lawn Culture and Pest Management, Joel Flagler
- Feb. 26 Most Common Landscaping Mistakes, Dail Reid
- March 4 Invasive Plants; meet at NJ/NY Trail Conference Headquarters, Old Darlington Schoolhouse (corner Ramapo Valley Road/Route 202), Linda Rohleder
- March 11 Landscape Design: Basic Elements, Arnie Friedman
- March 18 Springfest Flower Show; NJ State Fairgrounds, Augusta; meet 10 am sharp in lobby; free onsite parking
- March 25 Good Friday, no class
- April 1 Hotline Training, Dail Reid
- April 8 Woody Plants: Small Trees, Joel Flagler

Note: Next semester begins Friday, April 15 and ends June 10.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED/SITE NEWS

Teaneck Creek Conservancy

We welcomes volunteers year round. Anyone interested in gaining some outdoor winter hours is welcome to come on Wednesdays from 9 -11 am. Information: Call Denise Slusarev, 917-975-1400.

The Hermitage Master Gardeners

Winter sowing in gallon-size plastic jugs



Pictured: Anne Marie Lander, Linda Flynn, Anna Fisichella, Dot Owens, Monica Buesser

Josie Ko suggested we try Winter Sowing, which is an outdoor method of seed germination invented by Trudi Davidoff. To make your own miniature greenhouses, gather gallon milk/water jugs. Poke holes in the bottom for drainage and the top for ventilation. Cut jug open horizontally so you can add moistened potting soil 2-3 inches deep. Do not cut all the way around; leave a few inches for a hinge to keep top and bottom together. Put hardy perennial seeds on top of soil; cover with a thin layer of soil. Duct tape jug back together. Label jug! Remove cap. Put outside in sunny area. By early spring you should have plants in your mini greenhouse. We are growing herbs to increase the size of our garden this year. Come help Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 9:30 am. For more information, visit

<http://www.agardenforthehouse.com/2012/11/winter-sowing-101-6/>.

- **Monica Buesser, mkbuesser@gmail.com**



Helleborus blooming in a Wyckoff garden Dec. 24, 2015.

SHOWS, CONFERENCES, & WORKSHOPS

All lectures count toward education requirements.

Saturday Feb. 27, 9 am - 3:30 pm

Union County Home-School-Community Conference 2016

Get Your Vegetable Garden Growing

Rutgers School of Health Related Professions (SHRP)
Scotch Plains Campus (UC Vo-Tech Campus)
1776 Raritan Road
Scotch Plains



If you want to set up a school or community garden, you've come to the right place. Our third annual Community Garden Conference will be held Feb. 27 at the Union

County Vocational-Technical Schools campus in Scotch Plains featuring workshops hosted by Extension experts who will help ensure a successful harvest for your students or civic group. If you don't have a school or garden group yet, no worries! The Community Garden Conference is also open to individual and home gardeners. All are welcome.

The purpose of this conference is to help you start a home, school, or community garden. These gardens can be used as outdoor classrooms to teach math, science, and nutrition. This conference is taught by Rutgers Cooperative Extension faculty with support of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Registration deadline: Feb. 17, \$25 fee

Saturday, March 12

Master Gardeners of Mercer County Changing Conversations in the Garden: A Garden Symposium

Stuart Country Day School, Princeton
Information: www.mgofmc.org/symposium;

Mail registration required. Have fun and get education hours!

[New Jersey Flower and Garden Show](#)

February 11-14

[Connecticut Flower & Garden Show](#)

February 18-21

[Philadelphia Flower Show](#)

March 5-13

[Springfest Garden Show](#)

March 17-20

[Rutgers Home Gardeners School](#)



40th Annual Rutgers Home Gardeners School

Saturday, March 19 | 9 am - 4 pm | New Brunswick

Bee a dear and bring a donation for the Center for Food Action



Useful Links

Many local garden centers give MG discounts. See the list at mgofbc.org/useful-links.html. Bring your membership card when shopping.

The Garden Club Grapevine

- Feb. 1** **7 pm, Sundial Garden Club**, Meadowbrook Elementary School, 50 Piermont Ave., Hillsdale. Topic: "Horticulture Along the Silk Road." Speaker: Michael Wilson.
- Feb. 5** **2 pm, Demarest Garden Club**, United Methodist Church, 109 Hardenburgh Ave., Demarest. Topic: "A Peek Inside the Artist's Garden." Sit back, relax, and enjoy a presentation of beautiful gardens while listening to peaceful background music. Speaker: Bob Crane.
- Feb. 9** **7 pm, Ramsey Area Garden Club**, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 55 Wyckoff Ave., corner of Woodland Avenue, Ramsey, across from the Ramsey Library. Topic: Seasonal floral arrangement demonstration. Speaker: Carol Anton.
- Feb. 10** **7:30 pm, Garden Club of Oakland**, Oakland Senior Center, 20 Lawlor Drive, Oakland. Topic: "The Nature of the Meadowlands." Speaker: Jim Wright, environmental deputy warden at the Celery Farm Natural Area, Allendale.
- Feb. 11** **7 pm, Garden Club of Teaneck**, Rodda Center, 250 Colonial Court, 2nd floor, Teaneck. Enter from Palisade Avenue; handicapped parking/access from the lot up the hill. Topic: Why a butterfly garden is essential to wildlife, especially butterflies. Speaker: Dr. Hubert Ling.
- Feb. 29** **7:30 pm, Ho-Ho-Kus Garden Club**, Community Church of Ho-Ho-Kus, 400 Warren Ave., Ho-Ho-Kus. Topic: "The Artful Landscape: Plants and Design at Wave Hill." Speaker: Laurel Rimmel.

Contact Lucy Malka at lmalka@optonline.net or 201-791-3562 to submit information for the Garden Club Grapevine. *Publication deadline is no later than the 25th of the prior month.*

The Plant Society Grapevine

- Feb. 13** **10:30 am, Watnong Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society**, Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Haggerty Education Center, 353 East Hanover Ave., Morris Township. Topic: "A Collectors Point of View." Speaker: Janet Schulz. No charge for this event.
- Feb. 17** **7 pm, Bergen Passaic Native Plant Society**, Bergen Regional Medical Center auditorium, 230 E. Ridgewood Ave., Paramus. Topic: "Naturescaping Your Property." Speaker: Elaine Silverstein. Contact: bsuther@gmail.com.
- Feb. 21** **10 am, Bergen Bonsai Society**, Closter Nature Center, 154 Ruckman Road, Closter. Topic: Pot sale and swap. BYO tree; leaderless workshop. Contact: 201-771-0343. bergenbonsai@gmail.com

Contact Catie Farahat at cwfarahat@scatteringlight.com to submit information for the Plant Society Grapevine. *Publication deadline is no later than the 25th of the prior month.*

As a reminder, the Master Gardeners of Bergen County does not share or sell its mailing list to non-members. We keep all membership information confidential and for use by members only. If you receive email from other organizations, we did not give permission for their use of our membership list. We would appreciate it if our members would not share our list with non-members or use it for any unauthorized purposes as it is for official MG use only. When sending an email to the MG mailing list, please remember to address it using the "bcc" option instead of "to" in order to keep the list of recipients from being visible.

Please share photos of your volunteer work or of your garden. We would all like to see photos of Master Gardeners at work either at volunteer sites or in home gardens.