



From the Potting Shed November 2016

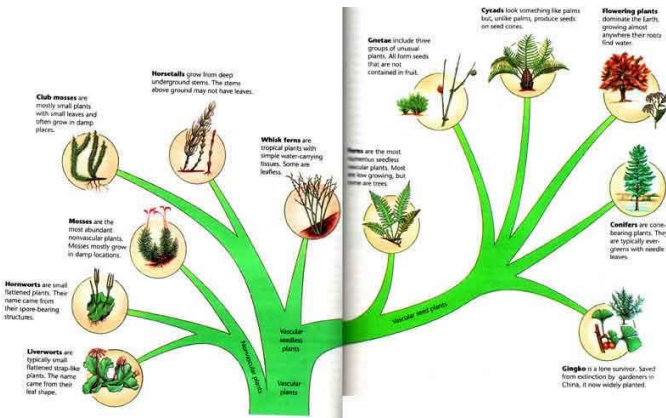
Master Gardeners of Bergen County

SAVE THE DATES

Tuesday, Nov. 15, 7:30 pm

Bruce Crawford Presents: Plants Through the Ages

1 Bergen County Plaza,
1st-floor meeting room, Hackensack
Refreshments at 7 pm
Announcements at 7:20 pm



Bruce is no stranger to Master Gardeners throughout New Jersey. His contributions to education through Rutgers University are a testament of his passion. There's always something new to learn, and Bruce is going to share a glimpse of how the life of plants all began.

How often do we look around at the various plants in our gardens and never give a thought to how long they have been on Earth or what the Earth was like when they were in their formative stages? The continents have been continuously shifting and the climate changing over the past 400 million years. These changes impact the development of the "family tree" of plants.

This presentation is a fun look at this family tree: How the Earth's continents most likely appeared during various time periods and how plants developed and changed in accordance with the change in continents and climate.

Bruce will also offer plants for sale.

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



Tuesday, Dec. 6
Location and time to be announced

Master Gardener Holiday Party December MG Meeting



From the President's Desk

As I finish up my third and final year as president, I'm happy to announce that our organization has set up an annual process of recognizing individual members on their anniversary of becoming a Master Gardener of Bergen County. Recognition pins will be given for the anniversary of five, 10, 15, 20, and 25 years. In the past, Rutgers has recognized Master Gardens solely on the anniversary date but has since added a second criteria of yearly certification of volunteerism.

Starting next year we will recognize members who are certified Master Gardeners. We have not recognized members in three years. See the list (attached to the email with this issue) of members who will be receiving a pin for their anniversary. Special thanks to Donna Karpel, Karen Pennell, John Walters, and the MG Board for making this happen.

Happy anniversary, and thanks to all our members who serve the organization and our communities.

- Joseph Cooper

In Memoriam

Carol A. Thielke, Master Gardener Class of 1993, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family at the age of 91 on Oct. 24, 2016. A memorial service was held Oct. 28 at the Community Church of Glen Rock. Contributions in Carol's memory may be made to the Friends of the Glen Rock Arboretum, P.O. Box 34, Glen Rock, NJ, 07452 or to the Community Church of Glen Rock, 354 Rock Road, Glen Rock, NJ 07452.

MG OF BC NEWS



Meet Denise Trezza, Class of 2004 By Miriam Taub

Visit De Trezza's basement and you'll find almost everything you need to create the ultimate Christmas display: Lights, ornaments, bows, garlands, silver balls, wreaths, fruit, Santas, and Christmas trees in all shapes

and sizes. Multiple utility shelves hold dozens of storage boxes filled with the MG of BC's inventory of decorations used for the annual Holiday Open House at Skylands Manor.

When De (short for Denise) began her MG classes, she said "my ears perked up" when she learned that Skylands was a volunteer site. She was attracted to Skylands for two reasons: She and her husband Tom were married at Skylands in 1980 and, she says, "I love to decorate."

De has volunteered at Skylands since 2003, and this is the fourth year that she is co-chair (with Laura DeFlora) of the Skylands Open House Decorating Committee. This year the committee will turn the Skylands' study and library into a seasonal fairy walk as part of the overall theme of "A Gardener's Holiday." Other garden clubs also will decorate rooms as well as the eagles at the entrance to Skylands, the Carriage House, and Pump House. The funds raised go to the New Jersey Botanical Garden/Skylands Association, the non-profit that supports the property.

De estimates that she easily volunteers 100 hours or more for the four-day event. However, the actual planning begins in February when the theme is chosen; committee meetings and planning continue through the summer and fall. Come late November, "we schlep," De

says of the set-up in preparation for the four days of the open house and a day of clean-up.

The high-energy De, who is 60, grew up in Waldwick and considers herself a "Bergen County girl." Her career history is varied: Early on, she worked in the pathology lab at Hackensack Hospital and from there went into medical sales. After that, she sold artwork and accessories on her own and then co-owned a business called Total Interiors where she selected and installed artwork for hospitals, nursing homes, and other large facilities. For a while she worked for Metropolitan Plant Exchange selling plant installation and maintenance services for commercial buildings. And last year, she retired after 14 years at Pier 1 Imports in Woodcliff Lake.

All that design and decorating added up. When De and Tom bought their property, part of a former sheep farm, in the Blossom Hill section of the Township of Washington in 2001, De had a blank slate to work with. She also had the know-how to design and furnish their home. While she knew what she was doing with the inside, she admitted she needed help with the outside. That's when a friend talked her into enrolling in the MG program.

One day after their home was built, De said she sat on the deck and had a "brainstorm": She envisioned the design for the entire backyard. (She did seek professional help for the drainage.) At the time, the backyard had four heritage oaks (two remain), a maple, an orange blossom, a blue spruce, and a crabapple. She incorporated other trees, shrubs, and perennials to complement them and to have color and texture year-round. Since De and Tom now spend half the year in their second home in Hollywood Beach, FL, she wants the yard to be as maintenance-free as possible.

Meanwhile, inside the house, De's basement will be action central over the next few weeks as committee members rummage through the decorations to pull what they need for their various displays. Not everything is used each year, and De says committee members are very generous about lending their own furniture, plants, and decorative items to the cause.



MG T-shirts for sale

If you like to wear our colors, now's the time to order an MG T-shirt in dark green. Sizes are S, M, L, XL, and XXL. They run narrow, so order accordingly. To order a T-shirt, contact Mark Penchinar at penchymd@yahoo.com or 551-486-2037 with your contact information, quantity, and size. The cost is \$14 each. Order deadline is Nov. 15. All orders must be paid on delivery; delivery date is TBD.

VOLUNTEER SITE NEWS

New Jersey Botanical Gardens/Skylands

Volunteers needed for the Skylands Holiday Open House (theme: A Gardener's Holiday)

Set-up: Monday, Nov. 28; Tuesday, Nov. 29; and Wednesday, Nov. 30: Unpack and set up trees and install lights, decorations, etc., working under the guidance of a Decorating Committee member. Set-up is 9 am-4 pm each day. Please indicate how many hours you expect to be available (minimum 2-3, more if possible).

Docents: Thursday, Dec. 1; Friday, Dec. 2; Saturday, Dec. 3; Sunday, Dec. 4: Time slots are 10-noon, noon-2, and 2-4. We need two MGs to monitor the room, answer questions if possible (anything from "where's the bathroom?" to "what kind of a plant is that?"), control traffic flow, and make sure the display is not damaged. Two chairs per room are provided for you. Select your day and time slot. Please allow time to walk from the parking lot to the house so the prior volunteer is relieved on schedule.

Set-up and breakdown: SUVs or trucks are needed to transport material to Skylands on Sunday, Nov. 27 at 1 pm from Laura DeFlora's (208 Sunrise Drive, Wyckoff) or Denise Trezza's (570 Van Emburgh Ave., Township of Washington). Trip reversed on Monday, Dec. 5.

Volunteers instructions: Sign in first at the Carriage House (where bathrooms are available). We are decorating the study and library. Our theme is "A Seasonal Fairy Walk." Dress in layers for comfort.

To sign up: Contact Barb Johansson at barbjohansson@optonline.net with your name, e-mail address, phone number, and day and time slot you want to volunteer. For more information, call Barb at 201-664-2698. She will confirm availability of your choice of day and time.

Note about travel time: Travel time to/from your house to Skylands can be added to your volunteer hours.

NJBG/Skylands

Carriage House Concert: Abbie Gardner Saturday, Nov. 5, 2 pm

Singer and dobro player Abbie Gardner brings you contemporary folk with Craig Akin on upright bass. Carriage House Visitor Center. Click [here](#) to purchase tickets: \$15 in advance plus \$1.75 per ticket handling fee, \$18 day of show at the door if any tickets are left.

Limited to the first 75 responders. Sponsored by American Wear.

Audubon Fall Nature Walk Sunday, Nov. 13, 10 am

Join us as we walk through the garden and fields looking for the many wonderful birds, berries, and plants that populate the gardens in autumn. Meet at the Carriage House. Rain or snow cancels. Free. Presented by the Bergen County Audubon Society.

Skylands Manor Tours Sunday, Nov. 13, 11 am-3 pm

NJBG volunteer docents lead visitors on a tour of the architecture and history of Skylands Manor. Fee: \$7 adults; \$5 seniors and students ages 13-18; \$3 ages 6-12; free under 6.

Wreath-Making Workshops Saturday, Nov. 19, 10 am and 1 pm

An annual tradition at NJBG. In these two workshops you'll learn how to assemble and decorate wreaths to grace your home using a variety of fresh and dried materials. You'll make a wreath to take home with you. Materials provided; bring clippers and any special ribbon or decorations you might wish to use. Reservations required. Click [here](#). Fee: \$30 members, \$35 non-members.

Family Woodland Hike Sunday, Nov. 20, 1 pm

An easy, child-friendly hike in the garden's woodlands where you'll learn a bit about the plants and animals around you in a hike designed to fit the group. Smaller children may need to be carried. Wear sturdy shoes. Meet at the Carriage House. Rain cancels. Free.

Thielke/Glen Rock Arboretum

Holiday Décor Workshop Saturday, Dec. 3, two sessions

In memory of the indomitable spirit of Carol Thielke, one of the founding members of the Thielke/Glen Rock Arboretum, a holiday décor-making workshop will be held Saturday, Dec. 3 in Fellowship Hall of the Glen Rock Community Church, 354 Rock Road. Two sessions are available: 10 am-noon or 1-3 pm. Pre-registration is required at www.glenrockarboretum.org.

Cost is \$25 per individual decoration or wreath, which includes all fresh greens, decorations, ribbons, baskets, and some containers. A professional floral designer will be on hand to help. If you have something special to include in your decoration, bring it along. Also bring your gloves, pruners, and small pliers, if you have them.

- **Carolyn Gretchen, publicity chair**
Thielke/Glen Rock Arboretum, 201-991-8140

SHOWS, CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

2016 Northeast Regional Urban Extension Conference, Nov. 29 and 30 at Rutgers-Newark

This regional conference at the Paul Robeson Campus Center will highlight research and projects across disciplines that are helping to build more resilient, sustainable, and healthy urban communities. For more information, visit www.cpe.rutgers.edu/urbanext.

HORTICULTURE NEWS

Preparing the Garden for Winter

By Arnie Friedman

As the days shorten and the weather turns cool, we gardeners begin to think about putting our gardens to sleep for the winter and cleaning that mess of leaves on our lawns. The first thing my crew and I do is clean up perennial beds. With the cool nights and first frost most of the summer perennials go dormant leaving a mushy pile of greens. We cut these back with pruners or just yank out by hand to avoid the buildup of mold and unwanted fungus from attacking our dormant root systems. At the same time, I look around for erratic canes of roses that might attack us along walks or break off in winter snows and I cut them back. (I leave my rose pruning for March.)

Ornamental grasses. Experts are of two minds on the need to cut them back for winter. My general rule is that if they're tall and have pretty flower heads I leave them for spring. I like the look of the tall fronds in the winter, even poking out of the snow. Some flower heads on native grasses are a food source for over-wintering species. If grasses are matted down or are bending over a path we cut them down to a foot or so above the ground. I say the experts are of two opinions here because some say that leaving the stalks all winter encourages crown rot and others will tell you leaving the foliage protects the crown from frost and winter burn. You must decide for yourself. For me it becomes an esthetic and practical choice plant by plant.

Tender plants: I protect tender plants like my fig tree and my spring-blooming camellia. I tightly wrap the fig with an insulated foam sheet with dead leaves piled inside as it's not a winter-hardy plant in this zone. My camellia bush is on its edge of the hardiness zone. Since the spring-blooming variety has set buds for spring I try to protect the plant from winter wind burn by putting up

stakes around the bush and stapling burlap as a wind break.

Broadleaf evergreens: I have a lot of broadleaf evergreens in my landscape. Plants like cherry, skip laurel, holly, and rhododendron are very susceptible to what we commonly call winter burn. Basically, this is desiccation or the drying out of the green leaves as a result of the heavy winter winds. In winter — with little rain and root systems that are dormant — the plant can't replenish the moisture dried out by the heavy winds.

To counteract this, I have my plants sprayed in late November with an anti-desiccant like Wilt-Pruf®. This is an environmentally safe application of a light wax that coats the leaves and seals them from evaporation of moisture. One caveat: If we have a warm second half of February or a mild March, the anti-desiccant can get washed off the leaves. So a second application at the end of February is prudent.

Caution: If you spray too early in the fall, the wax will be washed off with the first rain. You must wait until it's staying cold for the wax to work. I suggest that you let a professional apply the anti-desiccant using a high-pressure powered sprayer. Trying to spray by hand is a killer because the wax gets very thick in the cold and clogs a hand sprayer. If you spray while the days are warm, then the wax will wash right off the leaves.

Leaves: The sustainable and environmentally correct thing is not to remove your leaves from your property. The use of blowers, vacuums, bulldozers, and trucks to haul away mountains of leaves burns a lot of fossil fuel, fills our air with carbon waste, and clogs our landfills. Ground-up leaves take up one-tenth the space of whole leaves and are a great source of nutrients for your soil.

The responsible thing to do is grind up leaves with your mower as they fall and either leave the pieces where they lie or blow or rake them into your beds as mulch. Ground-up leaves are an excellent soil amendment. They'll save you buying mulch in the spring. Shallow-rooted plants like rhododendrons and ilex do not like when their root systems are cleaned of the surface duff. They like the rich, nutrient soils that hold plenty of moisture through the winter and summer. For more information, visit the website [Love 'Em and Leave 'Em](http://Love'EmandLeave'Em), a project of Westchester County, NY.

Useful Links

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

FARMERS MARKETS

Closter Farmers Market

20 Legion Place
Through November; Sundays, 9 am-2 pm

Fort Lee Farmers Market

Fort Lee Community Center outdoor plaza, 1355 Inwood
Ter. www.fortleenj.org
Through Nov. 20; Sundays, 8 am-2 pm

Nyack Farmers Market

Main Street parking lot; www.nyackchamber.org
Through Nov. 26; Thursdays, 8 am-2 pm; Saturdays, 8 am-1 pm

Ramsey Farmers Market

NJ Transit Railroad Station, Main Street (outdoors)
www.ramseyfarmersmarket.org
Through Nov. 27; Sundays, 9 am-2 pm

GARDEN CLUB GRAPEVINE

- Nov. 3** **7:30 pm, Garden Club of Harrington Park**, Harrington Park Library, 10 Herring St.
Speaker: Patricia Libutti, Teaneck Garden Club. Topic: Herbally yours.
- Nov. 9** **7:30 pm, Wyckoff Area Garden Club**, Wyckoff Public Library, Monroe Room, 200 Woodland Ave.
Speaker: Paul Kubaryck. Program: Ground covers and broadleaf evergreens.
- Nov. 10** **7:30 pm, Teaneck Garden Club**, Rodda Center, 2nd floor, 250 Colonial Court. Speaker: Elaine Silverstein. Topic: The sustainable garden.
- Nov. 15** **7:45 pm, Glen Rock Garden Club**, Glen Rock Municipal Annex, 678 Maple Ave. Speaker: Elaine Silverstein. Topic: Naturescaping (restoring sustainability to the natural landscape).
- Nov. 15** **7:45 pm, Ho-Ho-Kus Garden Club**, Brighton Gardens Assisted Living, 5 Boroline Road, Saddle River, off E. Allendale Avenue adjacent to Route 17 South. Speaker: Don Torino, president of the Bergen County Audubon Society. Topic: Attracting hummingbirds and backyard certification as a natural habitat.
- Nov. 16** **7 pm, Hasbrouck Heights Garden Club**, Hasbrouck Heights Library, 2nd-floor meeting room, 320 Boulevard. Speaker: Bruce Crawford. Topic: Shrubs for all seasons in the garden.
- Nov. 17** **6 pm, Garden Club of Oakland**, Colony Florist, 762 Franklin Ave., Franklin Lakes.
Workshop: Alan Margreither, Jr., Colony Florist floral designer, will help club members design a festive fall harvest arrangement for their holiday tables.
- Nov. 21** **7 pm, Sun Dial Garden Club**, Meadowbrook Elementary School, 50 Piermont Ave., Hillsdale.
Speaker: Jane Ackerman. Program: Japanese flower arranging demonstration.

Contact Lucy Malka at lhalka@optonline.net or 201-791-3562 to supply information for the Garden Club 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.