



SAVE THE DATE



Treasure Our Trees Oct. 7

Fall conference of the
Rutgers Master Gardeners
Association of New Jersey

“Treasure Our Trees” is the theme of the **Rutgers Master Gardeners Association of New Jersey’s** annual conference to be held Saturday, Oct. 7 at the Cook Student Center, 59 Biel Road, New Brunswick 08901.

This annual conference gives Master Gardener volunteers throughout New Jersey the opportunity to meet other MGs as well as hear and learn from experts in the field of horticulture. A highlight of the conference is the annual state awards given to individual and team MG efforts as nominated by their county program leadership.

The day will begin with registration at 8 am followed by opening remarks at 8:45. The event will conclude at 3:30 pm. Featured speakers and their topics are:

- Dr. Jason Grabosky, professor of urban forestry, Rutgers University, will present the keynote address “Here We Go Again,” which will focus on tools for plant selection as communities go through tree removals due to insect or disease outbreaks.
- Paul Cowie, president of Paul Cowie and Associates, Inc., is certified as an arborist by the International Society of Arboriculture and is an NJ-certified tree expert. Paul’s topic is “The Diagnostic Process.” He will talk about a systematic process for diagnosing tree ills, focusing on the process more than on specific insects and diseases.
- Matthew Simons, supervisor of forestry operations-transmission, Pepco Holdings, Inc., will speak about “Electric Utility Arboriculture and Vegetation Management.” His presentation will address the reason that electric utilities need to perform tree pruning and other vegetation-management activities as well as show how NJ electric utilities perform this work using approved national standards — in compliance with state and federal regulations — and in an environmentally responsible manner.

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- Brian McDonald, forester, NJDEP Forest Service, will present an overview of the Urban and Community Forestry/NJ Forest Service and how it assists municipalities in funding managing, and sustaining their urban forest and tree canopy.

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From the President’s Desk



Although the Master Gardeners of Bergen County does not present lectures or hold meetings in the summer, our committees are busy at work on future events, projects, and tasks. We have been fortunate over the years to have talented members heading up our committees, but a few will be retiring so we are looking for your help or a recommendation. We will need help in the following areas: Equipment manager, outreach coordinator, and garden club liaison. Experience varies depending on the position, and our current leaders are here to train and guide you into the position.

Please consider helping us continue our mission of educating, organizing, and beautifying Bergen County. Remember all hours involved with these positions count toward volunteer hours. For details, feel free to contact me or the current chair (named below).

A special thank you to Lucy Malka (garden club liaison); Joe Papa (equipment manager); and Dail Reid (community outreach). Thank you for making the Master Gardeners of Bergen County one of the best in the country!

Happy gardening.

- Joseph Cooper

MG OF BC NEWS



Meet Elizabeth Choby, Class of 1998 By Miriam Taub

Elizabeth Choby, a psychoanalyst and psychotherapist by profession, employs gardening for her own therapy. “Because psychotherapy and psychoanalysis are somewhat abstract, I enjoy the concreteness of working with plants and

soil,” she said.

The Ridgewood resident has a fenced corner property with a second fence around her vegetable garden. She said she believes in the “old country gardening approach -- gardening for good food.” And, speaking of old-fashioned, she’s proud of the old-fashioned flowers, such as rose campion, evening primrose, garden phlox, blue leadwort, and dame’s rocket, which populate her yard and have meandered into her neighbors’ yards.

Elizabeth, who is 69, grew up in Johnstown, PA, one of seven children. On the Choby side of the family, “every generation gardened,” she said, a tradition that they brought with them from Slovakia. Mostly, she said, her parents and extended family members raised vegetables; flowers were secondary. The Chobys had a root cellar and her mother canned fruits and vegetables, while her father, a dentist, had an apple orchard, plum and pear trees, and hazelnut bushes, among other flora. (In addition, she pointed out, he specialized in baking pies.) When Elizabeth was 12, her father gave her a strip of garden and advised her to “grow what you want.” Her choice at the time was primarily flowers.

After high school, Elizabeth went to Carlow College (now Carlow University) in Pittsburgh where she earned a BA in psychology followed by a master’s degree from the Boston College School of Social Work where she met her now ex-husband.

After getting married, they spent two years in Saudi Arabia for her husband’s job with Chase Manhattan Bank. It was when he later worked for a private bank in New York City that they moved to Upper Saddle River. “I always wanted to be in the suburbs,” she recalled vs. living in New York City. While she worked in the garden, their son, Haig, a toddler at the time, would watch his mother plant and weed. “In his baby language he

learned the name of some plants,” she said, though he couldn’t pronounce them very well.

After a divorce, Elizabeth moved to Ridgewood. Her parents, now deceased, helped with the landscaping. Elizabeth said she bought two linden trees — the national tree of the Slovak Republic — for \$40 each and planted one at her home and the second on her parents’ lawn in Pennsylvania.

Professionally, Elizabeth has worked at West Bergen Mental Health Care for 30 years and has a private practice for adult patients, specializing in the treatment of trauma. When she first learned about the MG program, Elizabeth said it took two years to arrange her work schedule so she could attend Friday morning classes.

Elizabeth volunteers almost exclusively in the NJ Botanical Garden’s lilac garden, which comprises more than 200 lilac shrubs planted in the 1920s. The pruning, weeding, and mulching of the lilacs can take several months for the volunteer lilac team. Meanwhile, at home, she has 12 lilac bushes including some unusual varieties like syringa chinensis alba.

While Elizabeth said she has no plans to retire at this time, eventually, she said, she’d like to “straighten up my house” and to move to Indiana where her son and his family live.



On the Oregon Trail

Pat Fromm, Class of 2011, was among 1,400 MGs from the United States, Canada, and Korea who attended the 2017 International Master Gardener Conference “Follow the Oregon Trail to Great Gardening,” hosted by the Oregon Master Gardener Association in July. Pat reported that the week-long event in Portland included

classes, lectures, food, entertainment, and fun, as well as tours of the Columbia River Gorge, iconic gardens, nurseries (some not open to the public), wine country, Eco-District, and Portland's urban farm scene, among others. Classes covered a broad range of topics including diagnosing plant problems, sustainable turf, growing berries in containers and raised beds, dry farming, weed-less gardening, tools, and garden smarts (beating aches and pains).

The good news is that the next international conference will be held in Valley Forge, PA, June 17-21, 2019. Mark your calendars! Click [here](#) to visit the conference's website. For photos of this year's event, visit [Instagram](#) or [Flickr](#). In the search feature at the top of the Flickr home page enter "2017 IMGC." You don't have to sign up to view the photos.

SHOWS, CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

Week of Aug 21: Nature journaling for kids

Thielke Arboretum's fifth annual Nature Journaling Workshop for elementary-level students will be held rain or shine the week of Aug. 21 at the arboretum, 460 Doremus Ave., Glen Rock. The workshop will be led by trained adult nature journalists, including Lucy Malka, Class of 2005.

Two sessions are scheduled:

- Nature Journaling Session 1 is for students entering grades K-2. This session will meet from 9:30-11:30 am Aug. 21 and Aug. 22. The cost is \$40 per child, materials included.
- Nature Journaling Session 2 is for students entering grades 3-5. This session will meet from 9:30 am-noon Aug. 23-25. The cost is \$60 per child, materials included.

Click [here](#) to register for the workshops. From the home page, click on "Calendar of Events." Then, from the left navigation bar, click on "Nature Journaling 2017." Registration is limited to 12 so each student can receive individualized attention. Outdoor tips: Dress accordingly and use sunscreen, bring a hat, water bottle, insect repellent, and sunglasses.

MG OF BC TRIPS AND TOURS

Aug. 16, 10:30 am, NYBG with Kim Eierman

Kim Eierman, who speaks, teaches, writes, and consults on EcoBeneficial landscapes and native plants, will lead a tour of the [New York Botanical Garden](#). The tour

charge is \$150 limited to the first 20 people who sign up. For 20 participants, the cost will be \$7.50 per person. If fewer people sign up, the \$150 will be divided by the number of participants.

To sign up, send an email to Josie Ko at josie_ko1@hotmail.com. Josie will notify you of the cost when she has the final number of participants. *Deadline to sign up is Aug. 6.*

Kim is a certified horticulturist, an accredited organic land care pro, and a certified naturalist. Kim teaches at the NYBG, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and Go Native U at Westchester Community College.

Note: There's no charge for admission to the NYBG grounds on Wednesdays. Payment is for Kim who is leading the tour. The Chihuly exhibit is *not* included on this tour.

Sept. 14, 11 am, Mt. Cuba, Hockessin, DE

The [Mt. Cuba Center](#) is a botanical garden that inspires an appreciation for the beauty and value of native plants and a commitment to protect the habitats that sustain them.

Walking through the Mt. Cuba Center is a unique experience that changes with the seasons. You'll see thousands of types of plants native to the eastern United States.

The cost of the guided group tour is \$12 per person with an optional lunch for \$15 per person. To sign up, mail a check for the \$12 or \$27 per person so it arrives no later than Aug. 27. Mail to:

Master Gardeners of Bergen County
PO Box 542
Glen Rock, NJ 07452-0542
Attn: Bruce Walencyk

OTHER TRIPS AND TOURS

Aug. 6, 2 pm Frelinghuysen Arboretum

Learn some of the history and enjoy the beauty of the [Frelinghuysen Arboretum](#) grounds during a tour on the first Sunday of the month through October. Meet in the lobby of the Haggerty Education Center. The cost is \$3 per person, and exact change is appreciated.

The arboretum is located at 353 E. Hanover Ave, Morris Township 07960.

FARMERS MARKETS

Englewood Farmers Market, corner of N. Van Brunt Street and Demarest Avenue; through Oct. 27; Fridays, 11 am-6 pm

Fort Lee Farmers Market, Fort Lee Community Center outdoor plaza, 1355 Inwood Ter.; through Nov. 19; Sundays, 8 am-2 pm

Hackensack Farmers Market, 1 Bergen County Plaza; through Aug 30; Wednesdays, 11 am-2 pm

Glen Rock Farmers Market, Borough Hall parking lot (1 Harding Plaza); through Oct. 15; Sundays, 10 am-2 pm

Hasbrouck Heights Farmers Market, Central Avenue and the Boulevard; through mid-October; Tuesdays, noon-6 pm

Nyack Farmers Market, Main Street parking lot www.nyackchamber.org; through November; Thursdays, 8 am-2 pm

Oakland Farmers Market, Borough Hall lot on Route 202; through Oct. 26; Saturdays, 9 am-1 pm

Paramus Farmers Market, Petruska Park north parking lot, 471 N. Farview Ave.; through Oct. 12; Wednesdays, 2-6:30 pm

Ramsey Farmers Market, Main Street train station www.ramseyfarmersmarket.org; through Nov. 26; Sundays, 9 am-2 pm

Ridgewood Farmers Market, train station parking lot, Godwin and W. Ridgewood avenues; through Oct. 30; Sundays, 9 am-3 pm

River Vale Farmers Market, 406 Rivervale Road; through Oct. 26; Thursdays, noon-6 pm

Rutherford Farmers Market, Park Avenue at the Williams Plaza; www.rutherford-nj.com; through Oct. 28; Wednesdays, 11 am-6 pm; Saturdays, 8 am-2 pm

Teaneck Farmers Market, Beverly Road and Garrison Avenue; through Oct. 26; Thursdays, noon-6 pm

Tenafly Farmers Market, Washington Street and Tenafly Road; through Oct. 28; Sundays 10 am-2 pm

Treasure Our Trees fall conference

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- Bruce Crawford, director of the Rutgers Gardens, will describe the garden's strategic plan, educational and member programs, and the recently awarded Historic Horticultural Landmark designation by the American Society for Horticultural Science.

The conference features two optional post-conference tours:

- The Botanical Gardens at Rutgers and plant sale (unlimited registration);
- The Living Wall at the Institute of Food, Nutrition, and Health: This 1,300-square-foot wall is the largest living wall in New Jersey and holds more than 6,000 plants representing 72 species (registration limited to 60 people).

Registration is \$35 per person with a \$12 optional lunch. Registration closes Oct. 2, and no walk-ins are permitted into the conference. To register, click [here](#).

Bergen County Rutgers Cooperative Extension Office

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Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, the State University of NJ, US Department of Agriculture, and Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Rutgers Cooperative Extension educational programs are offered to all without regard to race, religion, color, age, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. Rutgers Cooperative Extension is an Equal Opportunity Employer.