



# From the Potting Shed November 2017

Master Gardeners of Bergen County

## SAVE THE DATE

### MG meeting – Nov. 28

1 Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack  
1<sup>st</sup>-floor meeting room

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

### Poinsettias: Past and present



Dr. Steven Fischer, professor and horticulture program coordinator at Bergen Community College, will discuss the past, present, and future of poinsettias. The poinsettia has attracted a worldwide following as a landscape plant and a blooming plant for the holidays

since its introduction in 1825 by Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first U.S. minister to Mexico (1825-29) and an amateur botanist.

Fischer has taught horticulture at BCC since 1978. He has a B.S. degree in ornamental horticulture from Delaware Valley College of Science and Agriculture and an M.S. and Ph.D. in horticulture/entomology from the University of Maryland. His doctoral dissertation was poinsettias. Fischer is a member of the BCC Horticulture Advisory Committee and an adviser to the board of directors of the New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association (NJLCA).

Fischer will have poinsettias available for purchase.

### From the President's Desk

As you may have read in a past article, we are looking for Master Gardener members who can help us continue our vision by chairing a committee. I'm thrilled to announce all positions have been filled. A special thank you to Mark PENCHINAR, Class of 2016, who has agreed to be the chair of Community Outreach, and Beverly SNYDER, Class of 2011, who will be chair of the Trips and Tours Committee.



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

On behalf of the board, we look forward to Mark's and Beverly's participation as committee leaders and board members.

On a personal/educational note, if you are like me and you DVR every garden show out there, you may recognize the name Joe Lamp'1 from "Garden Smart," "Growing a Greener World," and other TV programs. Joe will be the headliner at the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Mercer County Symposium March 24, 2018.

This annual event includes some of the best speakers in the country, and next year is no exception. If you are interested in learning more, check out our [website](#) for details and sign up early. This event sells out every year.

Happy gardening.

- *Joseph Cooper*

## MG OF BC NEWS

### 2018 MG of BC slate of officers

Per Article II, Section 4 of the Master Gardeners of Bergen County By-Laws, the Nominating Committee (Lida Gellman, Lucy Malka, and Karen Pennell) was selected at the September Executive Board meeting.

The slate of officers to serve in 2018 was presented and confirmed at the October 2017 Executive Board meeting and presented at the general meeting. There were no additional nominees from the floor when the slate of officers was presented to the general membership.

*(Continued on page 2)*

The following slate of officers for 2018 will be presented for a vote at the Nov. 28 meeting:

President	Carolyn Gretchen
Vice President	Melody Corcoran
Treasurer	Bruce Walenczyck
Recording Secretary	Suzanne Danzig
Corresponding Secretary	Smadar Shemmesh

## Meet Christiane Oliveri, Class of 2013



*By Miriam Taub*

It was Christiane Oliveri's husband, Tony, who suggested she do something for herself by enrolling in the Master Gardener program. At the time (2012), Christiane was helping their son, Michael, who has muscular dystrophy, get settled in California. She wasn't interested in gardening classes.

Meanwhile, Tony printed the application and told her all she had to do was complete the form (she did) and go for the interview (she went).

Her first semester in the MG program was rocky, she said, with those classes about bugs. But the spring semester was "glorious," she added, once perennials were on the syllabus and she met people who shared her passion for gardening.

Born in Egypt to Lebanese parents, Christiane and her three sisters and two brothers were raised in Cairo. Their neighborhood was filled with Egyptians, Greeks, Italians, Armenians, French, and British. To communicate with neighbors, you'd have to learn a few sentences in each language, she said. Christiane spoke French and Arabic at home and school. However, since she was exposed to different languages, she said it was easier for her to later learn to speak English, Italian, Spanish, and Indonesian. Currently, she's learning Portuguese via her iPhone.

When it came to choosing an occupation, "I wanted to be an artist from day 1," Christiane said. However, art was not a career path that her mother approved. Instead, her mother advised her to go to college and paint "on the side." Christiane obliged. After high school, she became an architecture student at Ain Shams University of Engineering in Cairo. It was while she was a college student that Christiane and her family attended an engagement party where she was introduced to Tony

Oliveri from Bergen County, NJ, the man who would become her husband. At the time, Tony (now retired) worked for American Express in a joint venture with an Egyptian bank called the Egyptian American Bank. They married in 1980 at the Great Pyramid of Giza and a wedding photo shows them riding a camel.

After graduation, Christiane worked as an architect before she and Tony moved to Oradell. As she explained, the yard of their hilltop home consisted of an arborvitae hedge at the back and a privet on the side. She was busy raising their two children, Lisa and Michael, so landscaping would have to wait.

After several years, Tony's job took them to Indonesia where servants helped run the house and take care of the children. Christiane learned the language and "took any classes I could get my hands on." Among those classes was Chinese brush painting. Several of her paintings are displayed in her home along with sculptures she created of clay, metal, and stone.

When they returned to Oradell in 1992, Christiane had the chance to create her garden. Michael, then about 8 or 9, wanted to earn some pocket money like his peers were earning. Christiane came up with an idea: He could help her with gardening but only if his friends were involved so the task was not too strenuous for him alone.

Christiane started by ordering two truckloads of topsoil from D'Angelo's Farm. She recalled the "Pied Piper" scene as Michael, followed by his friends each with his own wheelbarrow, ran toward the Oliveri driveway eager to work and earn some cash. As she shoveled the soil into the wheelbarrows, Michael and his friends would dump the soil into what would become her flower beds.

Christiane, 62, said her philosophy is to treat the garden as a child and coddle the root systems. "I'm constantly transplanting things," she said. "I look at the garden as a painting. If I need a pink or a blue, I go get it."

Currently, Christiane volunteers as a docent at Thielke Arboretum and will create a project for the Skylands Manor Holiday Open House. Over the years, she has volunteered in a soup kitchen and with the Border Babies program at UMDNJ in Newark.

She also founded the former T-Zone teen center that operated for six years in donated space. As many as 100 kids from River Edge and Oradell would show up on Fridays when the center was open. Christiane has also painted on silk, experimented with mosaics, and is learning to play the guitar. And, she can cook Lebanese (her mother put together a book for her with the family recipes), Egyptian, Italian, and some Asian food.



### **Monarch mania**

Christiane Oliveri snapped this photo of monarchs her in Oradell garden recently. The plant is Aster tataricus "Jindai."



### **Sunshine News**

#### **Memorial tree for MG Jane Furman**

If you'd like to contribute to a memorial tree for Jane Furman, Class of 1993, who died June 7, please send your contribution to Janet Austin, 634 Johnson Court, Teaneck, NJ 07666. Make the check payable to "The Township of Teaneck." Your donation is tax-deductible.

The tree will be planted in a Teaneck park (Jane lived in Teaneck) by the Department of Public Works through Teaneck's Trees of Love program. A plaque will be installed near the tree. The tree will be selected and planted in the spring.

### **SHOWS, CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS**

#### **Nov. 12, 2-4 pm: 'Painting Central Park' at Greenwood Gardens**

Roger Pasquier, author of "Painting Central Park," will speak about his book and the enduring inspiration provided by the landscapes of Frederick Law Olmsted. From Central Park's creation in 1860 until now, many major American and European painters have painted aspects of the park. Roger is an art historian and ornithologist who grew up playing and birdwatching in Central Park. A book signing and wine and cheese reception follows. [Greenwood Gardens](#) is located at 274 Old Short Hills Road, Short Hills.

Cost: \$25 members or \$85 with book; \$35 non-members or \$95 with book. Registration required. To register, click [here](#).

#### **Nov. 18, 10 am-noon: Lecture and salve-making workshop at Frelinghuysen**

Rachel Mackow, owner of [Wild Ridge Plants](#), Pohatcong (Warren County), weaves together the ecology of common native and non-native plants with their modern and historical uses as food and medicinal remedies at the [Frelinghuysen Arboretum](#). Her presentation will be followed by a salve-making workshop using those "essential weeds at our feet." The event will be held in the arboretum's Haggarty Center, 353 E. Hanover Ave., Morris Township.

Cost: \$20 members; \$25 non-members. Register by Nov. 11. To register, click [here](#) and scroll down to "Nov. 18" in the left column. Then click on "Register with PayPal" at the bottom of the event description. You don't need a PayPal account to register.

#### **Nov. 18, 10 am or 1 pm: Make a wreath at NJBG**

Learn how to assemble and decorate wreaths to grace your home using a variety of fresh and dried materials during the annual wreath-making workshop at the [New Jersey Botanical Garden](#). Materials provided; bring clippers and any special ribbon or decorations you might wish to use. The event will be held in the Carriage House, 2 Morris Road, Ringwood.

Cost: \$20 members; \$25 non-members. Reservations required. To register, click [here](#), or call 973-962-9534.

#### **Nov. 19, 1-3 pm: Cooking with ginger at Frelinghuysen**

Chef and master gardener Cynthia Triolo will go beyond gingerbread and work with candied, fresh, and powdered ginger in sweet and savory dishes. The event will be held in the arboretum's Haggarty Center, 353 E. Hanover Ave., Morris Township.

Cost: \$20 members; \$25 non-members. Register by Nov. 12. To register, click [here](#) and scroll down to "Nov. 19" in the left column. Then click on "Register with PayPal" at the bottom of the event description. You don't need a PayPal account to register.

#### **Bergen County Rutgers Cooperative Extension Office**

**Joel Flagler** Agricultural/Resources Management Agent & County Extension Dept. Head 201-336-6780

**Karen Riede** Horticulture Consultant 201-336-6788

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.

## VOLUNTEER SITE NEWS

### Garretson Forge and Farm

By Lida Gellman

Time again to get ready for Dutch Christmas at [Garretson](#), 4-02 River Road, Fair Lawn.

#### **Sunday, Nov. 26, 1-4 pm: Wreath workshop**

Create wreaths, swags, and other holiday decorations for your home and for Garretson to sell using fresh-cut greens and natural decorations. Space is limited, so if you want to make one wreath or more for yourself or for Garretson to sell, you must preregister by calling Garretson at 201-797-7545.

Cost (includes all materials): \$20 members; \$25 non-members. *No charge if you are making wreaths for Garretson to sell.*

#### **Thursday, Nov. 30, 10 am-2 pm: Deck the halls**

This is the day we need many hands as we decorate the house and grounds for Dutch Christmas. This is a busy, fun day; please try to attend.

#### **Saturday, Dec. 2, 10 am-4 pm: Dutch Christmas**

Come see the house in all its splendor. The holiday sale will include craft vendors along with Garretson goods, gift shop goodies, our wonderful hand-crafted wreaths, a bake sale, and, of course, Sinter Klass holding court by the fireplace. Bring the little ones for a great photo op.

### Thielke Arboretum

By Bruce Walenczyk

#### **Sunday, Nov. 5, 2-4 pm: Fall storytelling and journey-stick hike**

Children in grades 2-4 are invited to the [Thielke Arboretum](#) for a storytelling session followed by a hike. The arboretum is located at 460 Doremus Ave., Glen Rock.

Julie Della Torre, professional storyteller, will share stories with the children. During a hike that follows, each child will collect leaves, twigs, nuts, etc., to attach to a "journey stick." Finally, the group will gather to retell the stories of the walk while sharing apple cider. Australian Aborigines and Native Americans used journey sticks as oral maps to retell the story of their travels.

Cost: \$12 for a member's child; \$15 for a non-member's child.

### New Jersey Botanical Garden - Skylands

#### **2017 volunteering at the Skylands Manor Holiday Open House**

By Denise Trezza and Laura DeFlora  
Co-chairs, Holiday Open House

Get a head start on the holidays by participating in the annual Skylands Manor Holiday Open House. This year



Bergen County MGs are decorating the Great Hall, which will include a 14-foot Christmas tree. (The photo at left is of the 2016 tree.) The overall theme of the event is "A Magical Holiday"; the MG of BC exhibit is based on the theme "the Nutcracker Suite."

You can earn volunteer hours by helping to set up or break down the MG of BC exhibit or by

acting as a docent during the event. Travel time to/from your house and Skylands can be counted toward your volunteer hours. Time your trip, or use the time estimated on [MapQuest.com](#). The address is 2 Morris Road, Ringwood. For information on how to volunteer, see "How to volunteer" on page 5.

#### **Transport of materials to Skylands: Sunday, Nov. 26**

SUVs or trucks are needed for the set-up and breakdown. At 1 pm, meet at the home of Laura DeFlora, 208 Sunrise Drive, Wyckoff, or Denise Trezza, 570 Van Emburgh Ave., Township of Washington. *This trip will be reversed Monday, Dec. 4.*

#### **Set-up/decorating: Monday, Nov. 27 and Tuesday, Nov. 28**

Volunteers will unpack and set up trees and put on lights and decorations under the direction of a Holiday Open House committee member. Time slots are 9-11:30 am, 11:30 am-2 pm, and 2-4:30 pm.

#### **Docents: Thursday, Nov. 30; Friday, Dec. 1; Saturday, Dec. 2; and Sunday, Dec. 3**

Two volunteers are needed per shift to monitor the room, answer questions (if possible), help control crowd flow, and be sure the display isn't damaged.

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Two chairs are provided per room. Please allow time to walk from the parking lot to the manor house so the previous volunteer is relieved on schedule. Time slots are 10 am-noon, noon-2 pm, and 2-4 pm.

### How to volunteer

To volunteer, send an email to Barbara Johansson at [barbjohansson@optonline.net](mailto:barbjohansson@optonline.net) with the following information:

- Your name, e-mail address, and telephone number; and
- The day(s) and time slot(s) you want to volunteer.

You can also send an email to Barbara if you have any questions about volunteering for the Holiday Open House.

### Instructions for your shift

Prior to the start of your shift, sign in at the Carriage House (where the bathrooms are located). Dress in layers as the temperature could vary.

### Instructions for emergencies only

If you sign up but can't work your shift, call Barbara at 201-664-2698 and be sure to leave a message. She asks that you clearly state your full name and telephone number and say "I am calling about Skylands" and the reason for your call. She will return your call as soon as she can.

### Useful links

Many local garden centers give discounts to MGs. See the list on our [website](#). Bring your membership card when shopping.

## FARMERS MARKETS

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

**Ramsey Farmers Market**, Main Street train station; outdoors through Nov. 26; Sundays, 9 am-2 pm

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Time to renew your MG of BC membership for 2018. Click [here](#) to download the membership renewal form. Mail the completed form with your check for \$20, made payable to MG of BC, to Terri Pegg, 54 W. Magnolia Ave., Maywood, NJ 07607. You may want to include an additional amount as a donation to the MG of BC. Donations are welcome!

## HORTICULTURE GRAPEVINE

- Nov. 2**      **7:30 pm, Garden Club of Harrington Park**, Harrington Park Library, 2nd floor, 10 Herring St., Harrington Park. Speaker: Chris Rubino, sales manager, Monrovia Growers. Topic: Trends in horticulture.
- Nov. 6**      **11:30 am, Tenafly Garden Club**, Davis Johnson Park and Gardens, Tenafly. Speaker: Arnie Friedman. Topic: Less lawn, less maintenance. Fee \$10; proceeds to benefit the Tenafly Garden Club Rutgers Gardens Scholarship Fund.
- Nov. 8**      **7 pm, Friends of the Hackensack River Greenway Through Teaneck**, Rodda Center, Room MP 1, 250 Colonial Court (enter from Palisade Avenue), Teaneck. Speaker: Julia Somers, executive director, NJ Highlands Coalition. Topic: Highlands of New Jersey. Business meeting followed by speaker at 7:30.
- Nov. 8**      **7 pm, Wyckoff Area Garden Club**, Wyckoff Public Library, 200 Woodland Ave., Wyckoff. Speaker: Sharon Ma. Topic: Grow succulents all year indoors.
- Nov. 8**      **7:30 pm, Garden Club of Oakland**, Oakland Senior Center, 20 Lawlor Drive, Oakland. Speaker: Paul Kubarych. Topic: Landscape design in your garden.

- Nov. 9**      **7 pm, Teaneck Garden Club**, Rodda Center, Room MP 2B, 250 Colonial Court (enter from Palisade Avenue), Teaneck. Speaker: Bill Muzychko, fig grower. Topic: Growing figs.
- Nov. 13**      **7 pm, Sun Dial Garden Club**, Meadowbrook Elementary School, 50 Piermont Ave., Hillsdale. Speaker: Marc Gussen, naturalist, Closter Nature Center. Topic: Hydroponics - a gardening alternative to dirt.
- Nov. 13**      **7:30 pm, Bergenfield Garden Club**, Cooper's Pond clubhouse, 133-153 W. Church St., Bergenfield. Speaker: Karyn Glover. Topic: Mushrooms.
- Nov. 14**      **7 pm, Ramsey Area Garden Club**, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 55 Wyckoff Ave. at Woodland Avenue, Ramsey. Speaker: George Nixon. Topic: Dragonflies and damselflies.
- Nov. 14**      **7:45 pm, Glen Rock Garden Club**, Municipal Annex, 678 Maple Ave., Glen Rock. Speaker: Tom Vielbig, board president, Friends of the Glen Rock Arboretum. Topic: Exploring new opportunities at the Thielke Arboretum.
- Nov. 15**      **7 pm, Hasbrouck Heights Garden Club**, Hasbrouck Heights Library, 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor meeting room, 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights. Speaker: Shannon Mulligan-Mayernik, herbalist and plant medicine maker. Topic: Medicinal herbs.
- Nov. 15**      **7:45 pm, Allendale Garden Club**, 5 Boroline Road, Saddle River (Brighton Gardens). Speaker: Eric Rohsler, Rohsler's Allendale Nursery. Topic: Meet the Rohslers.
- Nov. 21**      **7 pm, Backyard Garden Club**, sponsored by the Friends of the River Vale Free Public Library, River Vale Library, 412 Rivervale Road, River Vale. Speaker: Ruth Hayden. Topic: Private gardens designed by Chinese painters.

***Deadline for the Horticulture Grapevine is the 25<sup>th</sup> of the prior month.***

- To submit information about garden club meetings, contact Josie Ko at [josie\\_ko1@hotmail.com](mailto:josie_ko1@hotmail.com).
- To submit information about plant society meetings, contact Catie Farahat at [cwfarahat@scatteringlight.com](mailto:cwfarahat@scatteringlight.com).

The Master Gardeners of Bergen County doesn't share or sell its email/mailling list/membership directory to non-members or to other organizations. Our membership information is confidential and for use by members for official MG use only. Please don't share our list with non-members or use it for any unauthorized or commercial purposes. When sending an email to the MG list, 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'd all like to see photos of Master Gardeners at work at volunteer sites or in home gardens.**