



From the Potting Shed August 2018

Master Gardeners of Bergen County

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, Oct. 6 Rutgers MG fall conference

Topics as diverse as Frederick Law Olmstead, foraging, and the Hackensack River are on the agenda for the 2018 Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey Annual State Conference. The conference is scheduled for 8 am-3:30 pm at the Cook Student Center, 59 Biel Road, New Brunswick. This year's theme is "Plants: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow."

Kirk Brown, a speaker and re-enactor of Orefield, PA, will assume the role of Frederick Law Olmsted during his presentation of "Olmstead, American designer of public spaces in the 18th century: Historical horticulture and plantings linked to modern living."



Among his achievements, Olmstead was a surveyor, seaman, merchant/clerk, farmer, author, abolitionist, world traveler, and publisher.

Kirk will give a dramatic presentation on the life of the father of landscape architecture who created cities out of the American wilderness and began a conservation movement still challenging the world today. Click [here](#) to visit Kirk's website.



Leda Meredith, PhD, holds a certificate in ethnobotany from the New York Botanical Garden where she has been an instructor since 2002. She is the author of seven books, including "Northeast Forager," and is a teacher for the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Her topic is "Foraging food and beauty in the 21st

century garden." Click [here](#) to visit Leda's website for recipes such as wild mallow seed pudding and fruit leather as well as for instructions on how to make carob powder.

Contents	Page
MG of BC News	2-3
Agriculture News	4
Volunteer Site Events	4-5
Volunteer Site News	5
Farmers Markets	5-6

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

Captain Bill Sheehan, Hackensack Riverkeeper, is the citizen steward of the Hackensack Watershed. His topic is "How it can all go wrong and what we can do about it."



Bill holds a 25-ton Launch/Tender Master's license. It is from the helm of a boat that Bill introduces the audience to the river during his slide show. Click [here](#) to visit the Hackensack Riverkeeper website.

Attendees will earn five CEUs (up from 4.5 last year) toward MG education hours. You can earn additional CEUs for attending an optional tour of either [Rutgers Gardens](#) or the [Living Wall](#). Make your choice during registration.

The cost is \$40 per person with an optional \$12 box lunch. For more information, click [here](#).

From the President's Desk

By Carolyn Gretchen

Summer is in full swing! Although you will need to continue to deadhead, weed, and especially water, do take the time to enjoy the fruits of your labors. Sit back and enjoy. Speaking of fruits: If you have an abundance of garden produce, please share with your neighbors and your local food pantries. This is a great time to visit other gardens also. If you see something you like, take a picture or jot it down in a notebook so you can remember it for your own garden. Stealing ideas is allowed for gardeners.



(Continued on page 2)

Upcoming events

- **Sept. 23:** Monthly MG meeting; refreshments and socializing at 7 pm; announcements at 7:20; program at 7:30; 1 Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack.
- **Sept. 29-30:** Bergen County Fall Harvest Festival, Van Saun Park, Paramus; MG of BC will have a tent. Details when they become available.
- **Oct. 6:** Rutgers Master Gardener Fall Conference; see details on page 1.
- **Oct. 23:** Monthly MG meeting.
- **Oct. 26:** Breakfast for the MG Class of 2019, 1 Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack.
- **Nov. 10:** MG Class of 2018 graduation at McFaul Environmental Center, Wyckoff.

Horticultural therapy program at the NJ Veterans Home, Paramus

Report from Joel Flagler, Bergen County agricultural agent

The NJ Veterans Home in Paramus is the site of a new horticultural therapy program spearheaded by MGs Carolyn and Dennis Gretchen. They secured support for the idea from Susan Moran, Veterans Home supervisor of volunteers, and Anthony Elia, supervisor of recreation. Additional support came from Elizabeth Schiff-Heedles, CEO of the Veterans Home, and the MG of BC Board, which voted to approve the new project and pledged sustained participation.

Carolyn and Dennis developed a site plan and budget, which was approved by the Veterans Home Board of Trustees. The program officially started in March. The staff made purchases and secured soil, flowering plants, herbs, wind chimes, tools, and more. MGs helped with the site preparation, and several gardens have been created including a butterfly/pollinator garden and a 911 memorial garden. Monrovia donated several large hydrangeas for this garden, which I delivered.

Future enhancements include a water feature and sensory garden. MGs will plant 1,000 daffodil bulbs along the garden perimeter this fall for spring display.

The veterans who participate talk about how much they enjoy the new gardens. Dick, 94, asks to be taken to the garden every day. He is one of the regulars and appreciates the garden for a personal escape as well as to commune with nature.

I am a registered horticultural therapist and I established horticultural therapy programs at the VA Medical Centers

in Lyons and East Orange. These federal grant-funded programs bring the benefits of horticulture to many veterans who have unique physical, mental, and social challenges. The new program in Paramus is expected to meet with similar success.

Help wanted

- ✓ **Fall Festival:** Our MG of BC Fall Harvest Festival contacts are [Mark Penchinar](#) and [Karen Pennell](#). Contact either of them to help at the festival.
- ✓ **Trips and tours:** Have you visited a place you'd like to share with the group? This is one of our favorite things. Contact [me](#) if you'd like to arrange a single tour or multiple tours.

Thank you!

A special thank you to Karen Pennell, our liaison to the Rutgers MG Association of NJ state meetings, and for being a gracious mentor. She is always contributing.

Happy gardening!

MG OF BC NEWS

Meet Patricia 'Pat' Libutti, Class of 2012



By Miriam Taub

It's not often you meet an individual who has had more than one or two careers. Patricia O'Brien Libutti said she's had four: 1. real estate sales; 2. artist, printmaker, and art teacher; 3. educational psychologist; and 4. college librarian. The real estate career was short, starting at age 13 as a receptionist for her parents and continued when she received a real

estate license after college.

Pat, 75, lives in Teaneck with her husband of 51 years, Bruce, and their dog, Buddy, a husky-golden retriever mix whom she describes as "curious, affectionate, and disobedient." The Libuttis have a daughter, Susan, who has two sons and a daughter.

Pat grew up in Watertown, NY, and northern New Jersey. After DePaul Catholic High School in Wayne,

(Continued on page 3)

Pat studied art education at Montclair State for a year. Her father thought she was having entirely too much fun at Montclair so she finished her education at Seton Hill College (now Seton Hill University) in Greensburg, PA, where she got a bachelor's degree in art education. She then continued for a master's degree in art education at Tyler Art School/Temple University. She continued to have fun, she said.

Pat then embarked on a career in teaching and printmaking. However, as a result of printmaking solvents that triggered a severe reaction, she was told — at age 28 — that she shouldn't return to the art classroom. Her next move was to apply for a fellowship through Temple University "to study creativity instead of doing it." After earning her Ph.D. in educational psychology at Temple, she worked with gifted programs.

Next, a fascination with early computers in the classroom led Pat to earn an MLS from Rutgers and work as a librarian at Fordham University Manhattan, ThinkQuest, and Rutgers University. Her joy at the time (the 1990s), she said, was coming up with winning publication proposals for trade books where she would ask as many as 30 experts to contribute a chapter each. The focus of these books was how the Internet is changing our lives.

"I got a chance to meet a lot of people and see what they could bring to a topic," she explained. Her books, including "Librarians as Learners, Librarians as Teachers: The Diffusion of Internet Expertise in the Academic Library," are available on Amazon. She received two national library associations' awards in 2007 for her mentorship of librarians in publication.

Meanwhile, Pat's interest in gardening goes back to the 1960s when she had a huge herb garden in Pompton Plains where she lived at the time. She credited her late uncle, Richard Chapin, with encouraging that interest. She said he let her "wander around" with him in his greenhouses as he experimented with hoses and tape to create the first commercially successful automated drip irrigation system. When the Libuttis moved to Teaneck to a house surrounded by trees, Pat added house plants to her list of interests.

It was her close friend Janet Austin, MG Class of 1991, who encouraged Pat to enroll in the MG program after Pat retired. (Janet recently relocated from Teaneck to Minnesota.) Pat enrolled in the Class of 2012. As an MG volunteer, she has designed the kitchen garden at the Hermitage, grew herbs in the Garden Club of Teaneck greenhouse for planting each spring at Van Saun, and prepared an education program for kids at Van Saun, one of which is called "Just Basil."

Pat also enjoys lecturing on herbs around Bergen County garden clubs and speaking/cooking at herb-themed collaborative events in which an audience takes part in a lunch or dinner while Pat cooks. For recipes, handouts, and articles on these lectures visit the [Urban Herban](#).

Currently, Pat volunteers as publicity person for the Hackensack River Greenway through Teaneck and works with native plants and prepares event announcements. She's also a member of the Garden Club of Teaneck, a member of three book clubs, and treasurer for the local League of Women Voters. She has been the newsletter editor of the Garden Club of Teaneck and local LWV.

Genealogy is another of Pat's passions. She can trace her family's maternal side — her Chapin roots — in the United States back to 1635. She's used her research skills to create a [history](#) of the Garden Club of Teaneck (founded in 1932), and she compiled the 100-year [history](#) of her parish, Church of St. Anastasia in Teaneck in 2009.

Who doesn't want to own an MG T-shirt or apron?



You have until Aug. 16 to order Rutgers MG apparel, such as a T-shirt, polo shirt, sweatshirt, apron, cap, or lanyard. The apparel is available during a trial period, and sales will close Aug. 16 at which time the vendor will collect the orders and production will begin.

According to Pat Schanzlin, president of the Rutgers MG Association of New Jersey, products will not be shipped immediately "as you would an Amazon order. This is because bulking the order allows for much better pricing." The words "Master Gardener" appear in big letters on the back of the T-shirt and sweatshirt. (You can see a photo on the website.) All items are in Rutgers red.

Pat added that the product line may be expanded if the current offering proves to be popular. The plan is to open the website for 30 days next winter. Click [here](#) to view and purchase the MG apparel.

Share your funny stories

What's the dumbest thing you've ever done gardening-wise? Does it involve tools, containers, shrubs, trees, perennials, planting, pruning? Describe your situation, and don't hold back. We'll publish the results in the September *Potting Shed*. Send your story to janet-schulz@hotmail.com by Aug. 25.

AGRICULTURE NEWS

Have you seen the SLF?

The NJ Department of Agriculture is asking for everyone's help in identifying areas where low numbers of the spotted lanternfly (SLF) may be found. The SLF was recently found in parts of Warren County. It was first located in Pennsylvania in 2014.

The SLF makes use of more than 70 different plant species, including fruit, ornamental, and woody trees;



vegetables, herbs, and vines and includes agricultural crops like grapes and hops. It strongly prefers the invasive "tree of heaven" (*Ailanthus altissima*). Click

[here](#) to email pictures of suspect insects to the NJ Department of Agriculture or call the New Jersey Spotted Lanternfly Hotline at 1-833-223-2840 (BAD-BUG-0) and leave a message detailing your sighting and contact information.

The SLF is native to China, India, Vietnam, and East Asia. It has a history of being an excellent hitchhiker, having the ability to stay connected to vehicles that travel across state borders. The insect's movement into new areas happens through the relocation of adults, nymphs, or egg masses. The NJDA and US Department of Agriculture ask everyone who travels to and from Pennsylvania to inspect their vehicles for the insect before returning to New Jersey. Click [here](#) for photos and more information about the SLF.

Longhorned ticks found in Bergen County

In our June issue, we told you that the longhorned tick had been found in Union and Middlesex counties by animal health experts. (Last year, the longhorned tick was confined to Hunterdon County.) Click [here](#) for a story from The Record/northjersey.com in which the tick was recently identified in Bergen County.

VOLUNTEER SITE EVENTS

Hackensack River Greenway through Teaneck

Cleanup at Indian Pond

Friends of the Hackensack River Greenway through Teaneck will remove invasive vines and plants from the trail at Indian Pond within Andreas Park. Bring gloves, clippers, loppers, and/or shovels. Meet at 10 am Saturday, Aug 18 by the tennis court next to the parking lot in Andreas Park, near the Department of Public Works, 1600 River Road, Teaneck. The group will work until noon. Click [here](#) to visit the organization's website.

New Jersey Botanical Garden/Skylands

Parking at NJBG: On Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day, a State Park parking fee of \$5 for NJ-registered vehicles and \$7 for non-NJ-registered vehicles is charged. The address of the NJBG is 2 Morris Road, Ringwood. Click [here](#) to visit the NJBG website.

Rave On (classic rock) in concert

Revisit rock and roll's early years played by [Rave On](#) at 6:30 pm Friday, Aug. 3. Bring a lawn chair; concert moves to the Carriage House in bad weather. Cost: \$5.

Skylands Manor tours

NJBG volunteer docents will lead visitors on tours of the architecture and history of Skylands Manor from 11 am-3 pm Sunday, Aug. 5. Cost: \$7 adults; \$5 seniors and students ages 13-18; \$3 ages 6-12; free under 6.

Audubon-led butterfly walk

Join the Bergen County Audubon Society at 1 pm Sunday, Aug. 12 for a walk through the gardens and fields looking for the many butterflies that visit the NJBG. The group will identify the butterflies and discuss the host plants and nectar sources crucial for their survival. Rain cancels.

(Continued on page 5)

Concert: From opera to Broadway

Soprano [Justyna Giermola](#) and baritone [James Michael](#) offer an evening of arias and show tunes from Mozart to Gershwin beginning at 6:30 pm Friday, Aug. 17. Bring a lawn chair; concert moves to the Carriage House in bad weather. Cost: \$5.

Family woodland hike

Come to an easy, child-friendly hike in the garden's woodlands at 1 pm Sunday, Aug. 19. Here you'll learn 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, and meet at the Carriage House. Rain cancels.

Wildflower walk in the shade

Join wildflower garden volunteers Darlene Nowak and Sandy Zenkel at 10 am Saturday, Aug. 25 to check out the delightful flowers and ferns in the shady, wooded wildflower garden. Wear sturdy shoes, and meet at the Carriage House. Rain cancels. Cost: \$5.

Teaneck Creek Conservancy

Walk the woods to identify trees

Arborist Ryan Duff of Almstead Tree and Shrub Care Co. will lead a discussion during a nature walk with an emphasis on identifying common trees in our area and in the conservancy, 1 Puffin Way, Teaneck. Time is 10-11 am Saturday, Aug. 18. This is the third of four sessions. Each session focuses on identifying specific trees throughout the seasons. The final session will be Oct. 13. Click [here](#) to visit the Teaneck Creek website.

Bird walk with Audubon

Members of the Bergen County Audubon Society will lead a bird walk around the 46-acre conservancy from 9:30-11 am Sunday, Aug. 19. Meet in the parking lot at 1 Puffin Way, Teaneck.

Thielke Arboretum of Glen Rock

The Thielke Arboretum of Glen Rock has scheduled a hands-on nature journaling workshop for children at the arboretum, 460 Doremus Ave.

Children will explore the arboretum and then learn the basic elements and principles of art. Children take home their very own nature journal. This is a hands-on supervised workshop; supplies will be provided.

- > Grades 3-5: August 20, 21, and 22; 9:30 am-noon; \$60 per child.
- > Grades K-2: Aug. 23 and 24; 9:30-11:30 am; \$40 per child.

Each program is limited to 12 participants and will be held rain or shine. Depending on the weather, children should wear boots, bring drinking water, sunscreen, and a hat. Close-toed shoes are recommended. Click [here](#) to register.

VOLUNTEER SITE NEWS

Thielke Arboretum of Glen Rock

Volunteers recently cleared the trail at the northern portion of the arboretum by weeding and removing obtrusive objects. A Boy Scout volunteer continued his project to complete the new trail that runs parallel to Diamond Brook and meets the trail that we were clearing.

- **Pete Bernich**

FARMERS MARKETS

Dumont Farmers Market, Sorosis Park, Park and West Quackenbush avenues; through Oct. 27; Saturdays, 10 am-3 pm.

Englewood Farmers Market, Depot Square Park, North Van Brunt Street and Demarest Avenue; through Oct. 26; Fridays, 11 am-6 pm. Information, click [here](#).

Fort Lee Farmers Market, Plaza at the Fort Lee Community Center, 1355 Inwood Ter.; through Oct. 15; Sundays, 8 am-2 pm.

Glen Rock Farmers Market, 1 Harding Plaza; through Nov. 18; Sundays, 10 am-2 pm.

Hasbrouck Heights Farmers Market, Central Avenue and Boulevard; through Sept. 25; Tuesdays, 2-7 pm.

Oakland Farmers Market, Borough Hall lot, Route 202; through Oct. 20; Saturdays, 9 am-1 pm.

Paramus Farmers Market, Petruska Park north parking lot, 475 Farview Ave.; through Sept. 26; Wednesdays, 3-7 pm.

Ramsey Farmers Market, Main Street train station; through Nov. 25; Sundays, 9 am-2 pm. Information, click [here](#).

Ridgewood Farmers Market, train station parking lot, Godwin and West Ridgewood avenues; through Nov. 18; Sundays, 9 am-3 pm. Information, click [here](#).

(Continued on page 6)

River Vale Farmers Market, 406 Rivervale Road; through Nov. 1; Thursdays, noon-6 pm. Information on Facebook, click [here](#).

Rochelle Park Farmers Market, Midland School parking lot, 300 Rochelle Ave.; through Nov. 10; Saturdays, 9 am-2 pm. Information on Facebook, click [here](#).

Rutherford Farmers Market, Park Avenue at the Williams Plaza; through Oct. 27; Wednesdays, 11 am-6 pm; Saturdays, 8 am-2 pm. Information, click [here](#).

Teaneck Farmers Market, Beverly Road and Garrison Avenue; through Oct. 25; Thursdays, noon-6 pm. Information, click [here](#).

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



‘Horticulture Grapevine’ deadline Aug. 25

The deadline for the September Horticulture Grapevine, which lists area garden club and plant society meetings open to the public, is Aug. 25.

- Submit information about garden club meetings to Miriam Taub at Miriam.taub@verizon.net.
- Submit information about plant society meetings to Catie Farahat at cwfarahat@scatteringlight.com.

MG of BC policy

The Master Gardeners of Bergen County doesn't share or sell its email/ mailing 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.

Useful links

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

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.

Please share photos of your volunteer work or of your garden. When submitting photos, please identify everyone in the photo by first and last name. Submit photos to janet-schulz@hotmail.com.