



SAVE THE DATE

MG meeting in 2 parts – May 22

Paul Tappenden: All about foraging

3-4:30 pm Thielke Arboretum foraging walk (rain or shine) followed by the regular evening presentation
1 Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack
1st-floor meeting room

Refreshments at 7 pm; announcements at 7:20 pm; part 2 of the foraging program to follow

Ever wonder what edible plants may be residing in your garden or in a forest or park? Do you know what



medicinal benefits a plant may have? These are two of the questions forager Paul Tappenden will answer during a two-part meeting May 22.

Paul will lead a walk from 3-4:30 pm at the Thielke Arboretum, 460 Doremus Ave., Glen Rock, where you'll forage for edibles. You'll be surprised at the

plants you never knew could be eaten. The walk will be followed by the regular meeting at 1 Bergen County Plaza. There's a \$15 charge for the walk. See "Registration instructions" in the next column. You don't have to attend the foraging walk to attend Paul's evening presentation.

Paul is a forager, folk herbalist, teacher, and author. Over the past 40 years of living in Rockland County, Paul has made a study of the local native and invasive plants and their uses and has explored their edibility and medicinal properties. His studies in these areas emphasize the traditional Native American uses of plants as well as other ethnobotanical traditions.

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Links are clickable and are noted in **blue**.

Paul runs hands-on workshops as well as programs on foraging and survival skills. He also organizes nature walks and programs at local farms, summer camps, scout troops, and schools. His talks and presentations to audiences of all ages cover wild foods cuisine, local flora and their uses, and medicinal plants. He has posted a series of videos on the Suburban Foragers YouTube channel.

Registration instructions for the foraging walk

You must register for the foraging walk prior to May 22 by contacting Donna Faustini at donna.faustini@gmail.com or 201-280-3446.

The cost is \$15 per person. Make checks payable to the MG of BC. You can give your check (or cash) to Donna on the day of the walk or mail your check, no later than May 15, to:

MG of BC Foraging Walk
PO Box 542
Glen Rock, NJ 07432-0542

Again, you don't have to attend the foraging walk to attend Paul's evening presentation.

From the President's Desk

By Carolyn Gretchen

You know what they say about April showers. As I type this, it's raining again. I know they bring May flowers, so I'm looking forward to that. Now comes the serious decision-making: What plants will you plant? The nurseries already have their summer-loving annuals. Take your pick for the unofficial Mother's Day planting date. That being said, MGs receive discounts at a variety of garden centers. Click [here](#) for the list on our website.



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Lots to do in our gardens in May, but don't be overwhelmed by it all. Keep it simple. If you have spring flowering shrubs, like forsythia, prune them back when done flowering.

Deadhead the flowers from your spring bulbs, but don't cut the plants. They're feeding the bulbs for next year.

If you started your warm-weather veggies indoors or under cover, be sure to harden them off for two weeks — outside during the day, inside at night — before planting outdoors. And, finally, bring some color into your garden by planting your favorite annuals among your other treasures.

Now after you've worked so hard, treat yourselves to a gardener's delight. New York Botanical Garden will feature a beautiful display of Georgia O'Keeffe's Visions of Hawaii May 19-Oct. 28. In contrast to her desert displays, these pictures are filled with glorious color. Or, perhaps you'd like to stay closer to home. Plan a visit to the Presby Memorial Iris Gardens, 474 Upper Mountain Ave., Montclair. Many events/tours are usually planned for Memorial Day weekend.

Meanwhile, our designated volunteer sites are gearing up, and they need you. Meet up with your gardening partners, and have some fun, along with great exercise. Many Earth Day celebrations have been scheduled and the MG of BC will have a presence at several of them. Special thanks to Mark Penchinar, our Outreach chair, an amazingly low-key, very easy to work with organized person, and all of you who signed up to help at these locations. Thanks to all of you for your support.

Happy gardening!

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

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MG OF BC NEWS

Meet Lynn Curtin, Class of 2013

By Miriam Taub

Prior to a reunion of Woodhull Prep, Lynn Pfister was reintroduced to one of her classmates, Dick Curtin. It was a small class so everyone knew everyone else. Lynn was a widow, and Dick, who was divorced, asked to escort her to the reunion. A week later, they went to dinner when he told her he had always been in love with her and wasn't going to "mess up" this opportunity. A year later they were married. Today Lynn and Dick Curtin have been married 32 years.



Lynn, a Montvale resident, was born and raised in Flushing, NY. After Woodhull Prep, she attended Susquehanna College (now Susquehanna University), a small Lutheran college preferred by her parents. She majored in French, though her parents preferred she take up music.

Both French and music have played key roles in Lynn's life. After graduation, she taught French in grades 3-6 in Locust Valley, Long Island. No books, just conversation, she explained. Lynn also has a master's degree from St. John's University in Queens and has taken summer classes at the Sorbonne ("all of a sudden you *really* had to speak French," she said) and at Laval University in Quebec.

Outside the classroom, Lynn had married and she and her first husband settled in Flushing. They had two sons: Richard lives in Raleigh, NC, and works in computers, and Paul lives in Bonaire, GA, and is a university baseball coach with two children. It was through her husband's job at IBM that they found their way to Montvale in 1978 so he could be "right up the block" from work. When he died suddenly, Lynn said she had no desire to move as her sons, then 14 and 11, were settled in their school and community. To ease the transition for them, she stopped teaching.

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At the time of Lynn's fateful high school reunion, Dick Curtin lived in Annapolis, MD. As Lynn explained, her sons approved of the impending marriage but specified that Dick had to relocate to New Jersey. "I was lucky the kids were OK having a stepfather and having someone who loved their mother," she recalled. Her husband, a 401(k) plan specialist works out of their home. They have a cat named Zoomer.

When she returned to work, Lynn taught French in the Wayne junior and senior high schools and was director of the French Club. To enhance her students' education, she and Dick chaperoned classes to France through an organization called Promotours during several summers. Lynn retired 12 years ago and "loves retirement," she reported.

Lynn, who is 75, enrolled in the MG Class of 2013 after seeing an article in the newspaper. "I always thought I would love it, and so I did," she said. She volunteers at Van Saun and the Hermitage. At Van Saun, she and fellow MG Donna Karpel started a pollinator garden within the zoo. She's also taught mini classes on the topic of herbs during the zoo's special event days. Meanwhile, at the Hermitage, she and Kathleen Sullivan recently took over as site coordinators after Monica Buesser relocated.

While Kathleen manages the Tuesday volunteers, Lynn manages the Wednesday group and serves as an educator and docent for Hermitage house and property tours. They both guide an afternoon session with Daisies and Brownies to help them earn their gardener-related badges.

On her own property, Lynn has an herb area and a double fence to keep out varmints. Deer jump the outer fence but not the inner fence. However, the inner fence is useless against the squirrels, chipmunks, and groundhogs, she chuckled.

Music has always played a part in Lynn's life. She learned piano as a child and, in college, studied the organ. For a while, she was a substitute organist in area churches. About 20 years ago, she made a snap decision to take flute lessons. A former student of Lynn's introduced Lynn to her own flute instructor. When the instructor asked if Lynn would like to take lessons, she said "yes." The instructor replied: "I'll be there at 8 on Tuesday." Today, she plays her Muramatso flute in the Rockland County Concert Band. They rehearse weekly and she performs in concerts up to 10 times a year as well as with duets, trios, and with choirs.

Lynn also has been the program coordinator of Ridgewood's Westside Presbyterian Church concert series for five years. She arranges six concerts a year

by contacting either the artists' representatives or the artists directly. She enjoys knitting, reading, and visiting Colonial Williamsburg where she and Dick take classes and attend lectures. Lynn said she's also considering a fall trip to France. "My French is getting rusty," she said. Finally, every teacher's dream come true: One of her former students now teaches French at Indiana University.

Edith and Inge: Our newest 'Lifetime Members'

Edith Wallace and Ingeborg "Inge" Langer, both from the MG Class of 1998, have been named "Lifetime Members" of the MG of BC. The "Lifetime Member" designation is given to those who have been members of the MG of BC for 20 years and have performed more than 1,000 hours of volunteer service.

Edith Wallace, the "lilac lady," lives in Fair Lawn after what she said was a "big mistake" by living in Morris County for a year. "I missed you all," she said.



Edith Wallace, right, receives her MG of BC Lifetime Member certificate from Carolyn Gretchen, president, at the April 24 MG meeting. Inge Langer will receive her certificate at a later date.

What's the best thing about being an MG? Edith replied: "The many friends and

acquaintances, continually learning new things, and the variety of opportunities for participation."

Edith's volunteering has been at NJBG/Skylands where she has aided in the identification, labeling, mapping, surveying, photographing, and maintenance of the lilac garden. In addition to being active in the lilac garden, Edith volunteers as a Sunday garden tour guide. She is currently an NJBG delegate to the Garden State Gardens Consortium (GSGC) and part of its speakers' bureau. In fact, Edith lectured about lilacs at our March meeting. For more information about Edith, visit her [website](#).

"When I visit a garden it is a delight to be recognized by a staff member who is also a GSGC delegate," she said. Edith described herself as a gardener who visits many gardens each year — eight so far in 2018.

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Inge, who lives in Park Ridge, said that volunteering over the years introduced her to a variety of gardens. "Each one was interesting and challenging," she said, "though I have settled in to spend most of my time in the perennial garden at Skylands." Inge recalled volunteering at Van Saun where the endangered California condors [in the zoo] had everyone wondering if they would mate and raise a chick. "The animals there became our friends. It was a wonderful place to garden with our Class of 1998," she said.

THIS AND THAT



How sweet it is
MGs at the Hermitage collected more than 100 gallons of sap from 15 maple trees in February and boiled it into maple syrup in March. It takes 320 ounces of sap to produce one eight-ounce bottle of syrup. Become a supporter of the Hermitage by clicking [here](#), and a bottle of this fresh, all-natural syrup will be reserved for you.

MG OF BC TRIPS AND TOURS

Tuesday, May 29, 11 am. Hortulus Farm Garden and Nursery, 60 Thompson Mill Road, Wrightstown, PA 18940. Registration deadline May 18.

Hortulus Farm is a 100-acre 18th-century farmstead and nursery operation set in the beautiful, rolling hills of Bucks County. The gardens were created by famed garden and event designer Renny Reynolds and noted garden author Jack Staub and have been called both "one of Pennsylvania's secret treasures" and "a garden of world-class charm."

Cost: \$35 per person for the garden and museum/house tour. Drive to the farm on your own (about 30 minutes from Trenton), and bring your lunch. Register by sending an email to Josie Ko at josie_ko1@hotmail.com. Then, mail your check for \$35 per person, payable to the MG of BC, no later than May 18 to:

MG of BC
Attn: Bruce Walenczyk
PO Box 542
Glen Rock NJ 07452-0542

Participants will receive details a week before the tour.

OTHER TRIPS AND TOURS

Wednesday, June 27, 8:15 am. White Flower Farm and Bellamy-Ferriday Garden bus trip. Registration deadline May 21. Sponsored by the Master Gardener Association of Passaic County.

Enjoy a bus ride to Morris, CT, to visit [White Flower Farm](#), the well-known mail order nursery, which features 10 acres of display gardens including a 280-by-20 foot perennial border. The group will get a one-hour guided tour followed by time for lunch and to shop at the farm. Bring your own lunch or order in advance for \$15. Following lunch, the bus will take the group to the nearby [Bellamy-Ferriday Garden](#) in Bethlehem for a tour of the property including its formal parterre garden.

Cost: \$75 for bus transportation and guided tours. Optional lunch \$15 (deli sandwich, chips, cookie, and beverage). Seats are limited; registration deadline May 21. Bus leaves at 8:15 am from the Preakness Shopping Center, Wayne, and return approximately 7 pm. To register, contact Lourdes Osorio at osoriolb82@gmail.com or 1-862-926-7264.

Tuesday, June 12, 8:15 am. New York Botanical Garden bus trip. Sponsored by the Tenafly Garden Club.

Enjoy the NYBG in spring and the [Georgia O'Keeffe exhibit](#).

Cost: \$50 includes admission to the Georgia O'Keeffe exhibit and a tip for the driver. *Tickets are non-refundable.* Bus departs from Tenafly at approximately 8:15 am and the NYBG at 4 pm. For additional information or to sign up, call Vivian DeMarco at 201-944-3925.

PLANT SALES

May 5 8 am-2 pm, Garden Club of Oakland, Ponds Reformed Church, Oak Street and Route 202. Annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs, and hanging baskets.

May 5-13 Various times, Teaneck Garden Club, foot of Lindbergh Boulevard off Glenwood Avenue, Teaneck. Saturday, Sunday 9 am-3 pm; Monday, Wednesday 9 am-noon; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 5-8 pm. House plants, annuals, perennials, herbs, and vegetables.

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**May 5-6, 13 10 am-4 pm, NJ Botanical Garden/
Skylands**, 2 Morris Road, Ringwood.
Perennials, annuals, vegetables, herbs,
trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers,
hanging baskets, and potted plants. MGs
available to offer advice.

May 12 9 am-noon, Ho-Ho-Kus Garden Club,
Town Green, Sycamore Avenue and
Franklin Turnpike. Plants from members'
gardens; donations from local nurseries
and Bergen Community College. (Plants
inspected by the state before they can be
sold.) Gently used garden tools and
ornaments; bake sale.

May 12 9 am-2 pm, Ramsey Garden Club, NJ
Transit train station, Main Street.
Hanging baskets; annuals and
perennials; and slightly used garden
stuff.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Recognition pins to be distributed at May meeting

By Donna Karpel

The annual process of confirming individual members on their anniversary of becoming a Master Gardener of Bergen County is finished for 2018. Recognition pins are ready to be handed out to members, listed below, who've completed five, 10, 15, and 20 years.

If your name is listed below and you'd like to pick up your recognition pin at our May 22 meeting, please contact me at donna9189@gmail.com or [201-327-8835](tel:201-327-8835) prior to noon May 21 and I'll bring your pin to the meeting. If you were eligible for a pin last year and didn't pick it up, let me know and I'll bring the appropriate pin to the meeting.

Help keep MG contact information current. If you recognize any of your former classmates or friends on the list who've moved, please let me know — whether or not you have new contact information for them. If members of your class aren't listed, it may be because I don't have contact information for them. Should you have such contact information, I would also like that also.

20-year pin, 1997

Ackerman, Joan
Tencza, Sylvia

15-year pin, 2002
Hanna, Marianne

10-year pin, 2007
Moran, Bernice

5-year pin, 2012
Clark, Mandy
Drop, Stephen
Faustini, Donna
Gilligan, Bill
Kenney, Joan
Leveen, Serpil
Levitan, Fred
Libutti, Pat

If you're unsure if you are to receive a pin (from this year or last year), contact me.

Passaic County seeks associate to manage MG program

Seeking a full-time job? The Passaic County Extension Service is seeking an associate to be responsible for coordinating and operating the county Master Gardener program. Requirements include a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution in an agricultural science, such as plant science, horticulture, ornamental horticulture, entomology, plant pathology, or related field or an equivalent combination of education and/or experience. For details, including salary, click [here](#).

We're on Facebook

The MG of BC is now on Facebook. Click [here](#) to visit our page. View photos and gardening tips. Share a comment and like us.

VOLUNTEER SITE NEWS

Garretson Forge and Farm

299 springs and counting. . .

[Garretson Forge and Farm](#) will celebrate its 299th spring in colonial fashion at a spring festival from 10 am-4 pm Saturday, May 5 at the farm, 4-02 River Road, Fair Lawn. Costumed docents will give tours of the house, and MGs will give tours of the gardens.

Activities include children's games, maypole dancing, an open hearth cooking demonstration, and a plant sale featuring heirloom perennials, natives, and pollinators. A small selection of heirloom, organic vegetable plants may be available (depending on the weather) as well as milkweed plants to attract monarch butterflies.

Garretson, settled in 1719, is one of the oldest historic sites in Bergen County. This Dutch Colonial homestead was home to six generations of the Garretson family.

Hackensack River Greenway

Photography talk and walk

Meet photographer Rachel Banai at 9 am Saturday, May 5 at the sitting area of the Mary S. Topolsky Garden and Trail within Terhune Park, 640 River Road, Teaneck, for a half-hour to discuss photography. After that, the group will photograph the Greenway until 11 am. Park on Kipp Street opposite the garden entrance.

Volunteers needed for spring planting

Help plant natives and shrubs along the newest section of the Greenway from 10 am-noon Sunday, May 6. Meet in the Mary S. Topolsky Garden and Trail, 640 River Road, Teaneck. Bring gloves and garden tools. Park on Kipp Street opposite the garden entrance.

Bird walk with Nancy Slowik

Naturalist Nancy Slowik will lead a walk from 10 am-noon Sunday, May 20 along the Brett Park section of the Greenway. Bring binoculars to see the many birds that come to this part of the Eastern Flyway along the Hackensack River. Meet at the swing bridge on Riverview Avenue, near Sanzari's New Bridge Inn, 105 Old New Bridge Road, New Milford. Park on the street.

The Hermitage



Melody Corcoran and Sal Lagattuta at the [Hermitage](#), 335 N. Franklin Turnpike, Ho-Ho-Kus.

Finally a weather forecast without any snow or rain. As a result, MG volunteers began spring garden preparations. The April 10 work crew of Melody Corcoran, Noel Schulz, Arta Pagano, Linda Flynn, Sue Robinson, Sal Lagattuta, and Kathleen Sullivan dug up the Victory Vegetable Garden to prepare the ground for this year's bounty.

Peas were planted, and yard debris was cleared from garden beds in anticipation of the emergence of the herbs and flowers. Kathleen fertilized the acid-loving shrubs and roses and gave a little boost to the historical herb garden as well.

- Linda Flynn



Arta Pagano and Noel Schulz at the Hermitage.



Arta Pagano and Linda Flynn

New Jersey Botanical Garden/Skylands

Spring wildflower walks May 5 and 19

Join Darlene Nowak and Sandy Zenkel, wildflower garden volunteers, to check out the many delightful spring bloomers in the wildflower garden at [NJBG/Skylands](#), 2 Morris Road, Ringwood. Wear sturdy shoes, and meet at the Carriage House. The May 5 walk begins at 10 am, while the May 19 walk begins at 1 pm. Rain cancels. Cost: \$5.

Splendor in the lilac garden May 12-13

Enjoy NJBG's large collection of these sweet-scented and prolific spring beauties in the peak of their bloom at this time of year. Members of NJBG's lilac team will be available from noon-4 pm to answer questions.

Sunday guided garden tours begin May 13

NJBG docents take you on a tour of what's blooming around the NJBG. These free tours will be available every Sunday afternoon at 2 pm through October. Meet at the Carriage House, and wear sturdy shoes. Rain cancels.

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

HORTICULTURE GRAPEVINE

Deadline for the Horticulture Grapevine is the 25th of the prior month.

- To submit information about garden club meetings, contact Josie Ko at josie_ko1@hotmail.com.
- To submit information about plant society meetings, contact Catie Farahat at cwfarahat@scatteringlight.com.

- May 1** **7 pm, Hackensack River Canoe and Kayak Club**, Central Unitarian Church, 156 Forest Ave., Paramus. Speaker: Frank Mortimer, Northeast New Jersey Beekeepers Association. Topic: Overview of the world of bees and beekeeping. For more information, contact Robyn Lowenthal at Catboat3@gmail.com or 201-314-4462.
- May 3** **7:30 pm, Garden Club of Harrington Park**, upstairs at the Harrington Park Library, 10 Herring St., Harrington Park. Speaker: Esther Ross, club member. Topic: Garden-related travels from five members (originally scheduled for January).
- May 15** **7 pm, Backyard Garden Club**, sponsored by the Friends of the River Vale Free Public Library, 412 Rivervale Road, River Vale. Speaker: Hollace Hoffman. Topic: Gardening in deer country.
- May 15** **7 pm, Ramsey Area Garden Club**, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 55 Wyckoff Ave. at Woodland Avenue. Speaker: Ron Binaghi, owner of Stokes Farm, Old Tappan. Topic: Pros and cons of organic vs. conventional flower and vegetable gardens with examples.
- May 15** **7:45 pm, Glen Rock Garden Club**, Municipal Annex, 678 Maple Ave., Glen Rock. Speaker: Don Torino. Topic: Gardening for butterflies.
- May 16** **7 pm, Garden Club of Oakland/Wyckoff Area Garden Club joint meeting**, Oakland Senior Center, 20 Lawlor Drive, Oakland. Speaker: Bruce Crawford, director of Rutgers Gardens. Topic: Color theory in the garden.
- May 21** **7:30 pm, Ho-Ho-Kus Garden Club**, Ho-Ho-Kus Community Church, 400 Warren Ave., entrance on Sycamore Avenue, Ho-Ho-Kus. Speaker: Dorothy Smullen, NJ Mycological Association and teacher/naturalist at the NJ Audubon Society. Topic: Wildflowers and weeds with examples.
- June 1-2** **11 am-4 pm, Van Vleck House and Gardens garden tour**, begins at 21 Van Vleck St., Montclair. Annual Roses to Rock Gardens tour of Montclair area private gardens. Start either day with an optional presentation by speaker Jenny Bakshi of Urban Oasis Landscape Design, at 9:30 am at Van Vleck House. For more information, click [here](#) or call 973-744-4752.
- June 3** **10 am-5 pm, Women Gardeners of Ridgewood secret gardens tour**. For information and to purchase tickets, click [here](#).

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.