



# From the Potting Shed November 2018

Master Gardeners of Bergen County

## SAVE THE DATE

### MG meeting – Tuesday, Nov. 27

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

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

### Robert Lyons presents: Confessions of an attention-deficit gardener

An unembarrassed account of using annuals  
and tender perennials to create brilliant  
landscapes that change every year

Dr. Robert Lyons knows all too well from personal experience the challenges of living with ADD (or ADHD), such as hyperactivity, attention span, the ability to concentrate, ease of distraction, and reaching closure.

While it may be relatively easy to pinpoint ADD's impact relative to



everyday life, it may come as a surprise that a gardener with ADD may exhibit some very interesting behaviors and preferences related to his or her gardening practices and likes and dislikes.

From a purely light-hearted, observational, and non-scientific perspective, Robert will describe his own gardening habits, plant acquisition philosophy, use of color, and garden maintenance practices resulting from a life-long affair with ADD.

Robert has a BA in biology from Rutgers University and earned a PhD from the University of Minnesota. He served on the faculty of Virginia Tech and North Carolina State University where he taught about herbaceous plants. He is past director of the Longwood Gardens graduate program in public horticulture.

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Links are clickable and are noted in blue.

He's now a retired professor emeritus in landscape horticulture at the University of Delaware. Bob has been an avid photographer for more than 30 years, lecturing nationally on horticultural photography. His work has been published in numerous print and electronic publications.

### From the President's Desk

By Carolyn Gretchen

Congratulations to the members of the Class of 2018 for their informative and well-presented projects at the Bergen County Fall Harvest Festival.



They are an enthusiastic, creative, and hard-working group of MGs. A special thank you goes out to MGs Fred Guidotti, Nora Hamawi, Patrick Lull, Charlie Maietta, Barbara Pisacane, Noreen Postman, Robert Durham, and Jeff Chan for their outstanding help and support in the MG tent.

Time to celebrate our 2018 MG class! Their graduation ceremony will take place at noon Nov. 10 at the McFaul Environmental Center in Wyckoff. Please join us in welcoming them into our community.

The following Friday (Nov. 16) the MG of BC Board will provide breakfast — as is our tradition — for the 24 students in the Class of 2019 during their weekly class at 1 Bergen County Plaza. This will be our first opportunity to meet, greet, and welcome them.

Although late fall weather can be unpredictable, the more time we put into cleaning up our garden beds now, the better off we'll be in the spring. Take care to also clean your tools and pots for next season. Home Depot has cleaning vinegar that will do the trick. This is also the time to stand in your garden and dream of the changes and additions you'd like for next year.

Happy gardening!

## SPOTLIGHT ON . . .

### . . . 2019 MG of BC slate of officers

A Nominating Committee of three MGs (Donna Karpel, Lucy Malka, and Karen Pennell) was formed to select the 2019 slate of officers.

The 2019 slate was presented and confirmed by the MG board via email. The Nominating Committee will present the following 2019 slate to the general membership for a vote at the Nov. 27 meeting:

President	Carolyn Gretchen
Vice President	Melody Corcoran
Treasurer	Bruce Walenczyk
Recording Secretary	Suzanne Danzig
Corresponding Secretary	Miriam Taub

### . . . 2018 volunteering at Skylands Manor Holiday Open House

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

This year Bergen County MGs are decorating the Great Hall of Skylands Manor for the four-day Holiday Open House Nov. 29-Dec. 2. The overall theme of the event is "A Country Manor Holiday." The MG of BC exhibit is based on the theme "Tally Ho! After the Hunt."

Below are the three ways to earn volunteer hours for this event. You may include travel time to and from Skylands in your volunteer hours. You may time your trip or use the estimated time on MapQuest to determine your total travel time.

#### 1. Transport of materials to Skylands: Sunday, Nov. 25

SUVs or trucks are needed to transport decorative items to the manor, such as artificial trees, boxes of ornaments, garlands, and wreaths and lights. To help in the transportation, meet at 1 pm at the home of Laura DeFlora, 208 Sunrise Drive, Wyckoff. Contact Laura at [lauradeflora@gmail.com](mailto:lauradeflora@gmail.com) if you plan to help with the transportation.

#### 2. Set-up/decorating: Monday, Nov. 26-Wednesday, Nov. 28

Volunteers will unpack, set up, and fluff trees, then add lights and decorations under the direction of a Holiday Open House committee member. Time slots are 10 am-noon, noon-2 pm, and 2-4 pm. Contact Susan Sheridan at [swsheridan78@gmail.com](mailto:swsheridan78@gmail.com) to volunteer.

#### 3. Act as docents: Thursday, Nov. 29-Sunday, Dec. 2

Two volunteers are needed per shift to monitor the room, answer questions, help control crowd flow, and ensure the display isn't damaged. 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. Contact Susan Sheridan at [swsheridan78@gmail.com](mailto:swsheridan78@gmail.com) to volunteer as a docent.

#### 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 can vary.

#### Instructions in an emergency only

If you sign up but can't work your shift, call Susan Sheridan at 201-281-0639 or 201-664-2120 and be sure to leave a message. Please clearly state your full name and telephone number, say "I am calling about "Skylands," and state the reason for your call. She will return your call as soon as possible.

## MG OF BC NEWS

### Meet Tammy Laverty, Class of 2015

*By Miriam Taub*

Tammy Laverty admitted that in the 1980s she planted her first vegetable garden under a maple tree. She's learned a lot about gardening since then.



Tammy, 61, a Ridgefield Park resident, grew up in an apartment in North Bergen as an only child. ("I kind of liked it," she said.) Tammy added that she's always liked flowers, but her real love is all types of animals, so today her garden's main goal is to attract and support birds, butterflies, and insects.

After graduation from North Bergen High School, she got a job at the Martex sheet company's New York sales office where she remained for 30-odd years.

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She moved among departments — accounting, travel, and capital assets — and weathered multiple takeovers. The travel department was her favorite though. Her office managed the salesmen who worked across the United States. In those pre-Internet days, she recalled, “We actually hand-wrote airline tickets.”

Eventually, the takeovers got the better of her and she decided to change careers. Despite a prospective drop in pay, she began the veterinary tech program at Bergen Community College. She loved the idea of working with animals. But the task of drawing blood was not her cup of tea so she decided against completing the training. Meanwhile, Tammy’s priority became caring for her mother, Dorothy, who was diagnosed with cancer and had come to live with her. After her mother died, Tammy saw the MG program advertised in the newspaper and she enrolled in the Class of 2015.

While an MG student, Tammy said she followed the standard advice that she should visit all the volunteer sites to get a feel for each one and the work involved. That’s when she found her niche at the Butterfly and Native Garden in Overpeck Park. She and Pat Knight are the only MGs to maintain that site along with Don Torino, president of the Bergen Audubon Society.

During this past sweltering summer, Tammy noted that they — along with two students from the Class of 2018 — took turns watering the garden every few days. Her reward was when a hummingbird hovered in front of her face in the spray from the hose. “I felt like a kid for the rest of the day,” she said, adding, “This is the kind of thing you can only tell other gardeners.”

Unlike the Butterfly and Native Garden, her own backyard is mostly shade. When she and her husband, Robert “Bob” (now deceased), bought the property three decades ago, Tammy pointed out that the backyard was “grass only” with a detached garage that “came down in a yank.” They replaced that garage with a smaller one and, over time, pulled out the grass and planted native trees and shrubs such as wild hydrangea. “They’re not as pretty as other hydrangeas, but the pollinators love them,” she explained.

Since her yard is too shady to raise vegetables, Tammy has a plot in the Ridgefield Park community garden where she grows Swiss chard, radishes, dill, tomatoes, and zinnias. And though she doesn’t eat tomatoes, her coworkers at the Ridgefield Park Public Library are happy to have them. Tammy has been working part-time at the library for “four or five years,” mostly at the circulation desk.

Tammy explained that she’s notoriously not good at keeping track of time. “When my husband would ask

what time we were going somewhere, I’d say ‘3-ish,’ ” she said by way of example. Bob gave her a watch that had “ish” printed after each number on its dial.

Tammy’s other interests include everything arts and crafts. She and her mother used to create Christmas ornaments for the family. Now Tammy paints with watercolors and does printmaking and ceramics. “I enjoy the process of working with clay and colors even if it doesn’t come out the way I want,” she said. She’s currently taking a beading course. Tammy also is a member of the Bergen County Audubon Society and participates in Project Feeder Watch by periodically counting and reporting the number of birds that visit the pole feeder attached to her deck.

In addition to her rescue dog, Molly, who is partially blind, Tammy is raising a handful of black swallowtail caterpillars (courtesy of MG Sharon Ma) that will spend the winter in her garage.

## HORTICULTURE



*Photo submitted by Edith Wallace*

### Do you recognize me?

Karen Riede identified this plant as pilewort (aka American burnweed or *Erechtites hieracifolia*). It’s a member of the aster family and has yellow flowers that look as if they’re in a tube and seeds with a tuft of white hairs for wind distribution. The seed heads are more attractive than the flowers. The plants may grow to 8 feet tall and are most often seen in weedy sites. They should remain abundant until our first frost.

## OUT AND ABOUT

### Garden Club of Bergenfield

Get an early start on the holidays at the club's holiday brunch from 11 am-2 pm Sunday, Dec. 2 at the Cornerstone, 84 Broadway, Hillsdale. The cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. Mail check, payable to the Garden Club of Bergenfield, to the club at PO Box 575, Bergenfield, NJ 07621. For more information, call Pat Faley at 201-387-7801.

### Frelinghuysen Arboretum

All events are held in the arboretum's Haggarty Center, 353 E. Hanover Ave., Morris Township. Events are free unless noted. Visit the [website](#).

### African violet show and sale

"African Violets on Safari" is the theme of the 56th annual show and sale sponsored by the Tri-State African Violet Council. Both African violets and other gesneriads will be on sale. Hours are 1:30-4:30 pm Saturday, Nov. 3 and 10:30 am-2 pm Sunday, Nov. 4. Tri-State members will be available to answer questions.

### 2018 tree symposium

Join the Morris County Park Commission for a multi-faceted look at trees, these critically important members of our ecosystem, from 10 am-3 pm Saturday, Nov. 10. Speakers include John Beirne, Willowood Arboretum's superintendent of horticulture, and William Bryant Logan, author of "The Thousand Year Wood: Our Enduring Reliance on Trees."

Register by Nov. 3 for this event. The cost is \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members. Earn 4.5 CEUs. Click [here](#) to register, and scroll down to Nov. 10 in the left column. Bring lunch; beverages will be provided.

### Orchid lovers program

Love orchids? Come to the American Orchid Society's Northeast Judging Center beginning at 10:30 am Saturday, Nov. 17. An educational program will be followed by orchid judging at noon. Anyone may bring an orchid to be judged.

### Garden Club of Harrington Park

Create a Thanksgiving centerpiece for your table at a workshop sponsored by the Garden Club of Harrington Park. Gerri Gibney, club president, will conduct the workshop at 2 pm Sunday, Nov. 18 upstairs at the Harrington Park Library, 10 Herring St., Harrington Park. Registration required by contacting Gerri at [themerchantmouse@aol.com](mailto:themerchantmouse@aol.com) or 201-768-2615. A fee will be charged to cover the cost of materials.

### Garretson Forge and Farm

Garretson Forge and Farm is located at 4-02 River Road, Fair Lawn. Events are free unless noted. Visit the [website](#).

### Holiday wreaths and swags

Create wreaths, swags, and other holiday decorations for your home or for Garretson using fresh-cut greens and natural decorations at a wreath-making workshop from 1-4 pm Sunday, Nov. 25.

Space is limited, so if you want to make a wreath for yourself, be sure to register by calling at 201-797-7545. The cost of the workshop, which includes all materials, is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. If you plan to make a wreath for Garretson to sell, there's no charge.

### Decorators needed to deck the halls

Garretson needs many volunteers to get the house and grounds decorated for the upcoming Dutch Christmas. Come to the decorating event from 10 am-2 pm Thursday, Nov. 29.

### Dutch Christmas with Sinter Klass

Come see the house in all its splendor from 10 am-4 pm Saturday, Dec. 1. Among the activities are a holiday sale featuring baked goods, craft vendors, Garretson goods, gift shop items, and hand-made wreaths while Sinter Klass will hold court by the fireplace. Bring the little ones for a great photo op.

- Lida Gellman

### NJ Botanical Garden/Skylands

NJBG is located at 2 Morris Road, Ringwood. Events take place in the Carriage House and are free unless noted. Parking is free at this time of year. To volunteer, call the NJBG office at 973-962-9534. Visit the [website](#).

### Skylands Manor tours

NJBG volunteer docents will lead visitors on a tour of the architecture and history of Skylands Manor from 11 am-3 pm Sunday, Nov. 4. Cost: \$7 adults; \$5 seniors and students ages 13-18; \$3 ages 6-12; free under 6.

### Annual membership meeting

NJBG members and interested parties are invited to attend the NJBG Association's annual meeting at 10 am Saturday, Nov. 10. The agenda includes a review of last year's activities and a description of 2019 plans. New board members will be elected. To nominate a candidate for the Board of Directors, call the NJBG office at 973-962-9534.

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### Audubon's autumn nature walk

Bergen County Audubon Society will lead a walk through the gardens and fields looking for late fall migrating birds and migrant and resident species that will spend the winter in New Jersey. Meet at the Carriage House at 10 am Sunday, Nov. 11. Rain or snow cancels.

### Wreath-making workshops

Learn to assemble and decorate wreaths to grace your home using a variety of fresh and dried materials. Materials will be provided; bring clippers and any special ribbons or decorations you might wish to use. Call the NJBG at 973-962-9534 to reserve your space for the 10 am or 1 pm workshop Saturday, Nov. 17. The cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members.

### Family woodland hike

Take an easy hike in the garden's woodlands at 1 pm Sunday, Nov. 18. 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, and meet at the Carriage House. Rain cancels.

### Van Vleck House & Gardens

Van Vleck House & Gardens presents its annual open house and shopping from 10 am-4 pm Friday, Nov. 16 at 21 Van Vleck St., Montclair. Peruse the wares of 14 vendors and the opportunity to visit inside the Van Vleck House, which will be decorated for the holidays.

An all-new Van Vleck express model train and village display will be in the Van Vleck greenhouse. Tickets are \$10 at the door; free admission for Friends of Van Vleck. Visit the [website](#).

### Tenafly Nature Center

Beer lovers, this is for you! A seasoned brewer will introduce you to the world of beer during an outdoor beer-brewing workshop from noon-3:30 pm at the center, 313 Hudson Ave., Tenafly.

Learn how beer is made and how different combinations of simple ingredients lead to many different tastes. You'll have a chance to ask questions about beer, brewing, and food pairing, as well as to sample several different brew styles.

This program is intended for adults 21 plus, and IDs will be checked at the beginning of the event. In the event of rain the program will be held under cover. The cost is \$35 each for members and their guests and \$45 for non-members. Click [here](#) to register. Visit the [website](#).



### Living wall

Janet Schulz poses in front of the living wall at the Rutgers [Institute for Food, Nutrition, and Health](#) during the 2018 MG conference Oct. 6.

Next time you visit the Rutgers campus, be sure to see this three-story installation with 46 species and more than 5,200 plants.



### 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.

### Useful links

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

## VOLUNTEER SITE EVENTS

### The Hermitage



Photo by Kathleen Sullivan

**Tea for two or more:** Sal Lagatutta and Arta Pagano helped guests make Victorian Era bouquets according to “The Language of Flowers” at the Hermitage’s garden party tea Sept. 30. MG volunteers meet Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:30 am-noon at the National Historic Landmark, 335 N. Franklin Turnpike, Ho-Ho-Kus. All are welcome. Visit the [website](#).

### Veterans Home special project

#### **By Carolyn Gretchen**

With a new year came new inspirations. It started with a personal need to honor those who’ve served our country. Dennis Gretchen and I went online to see who was in charge of volunteers at the New Jersey Veterans Home, Paramus, and to offer gardening services. We were put in touch with Susan Moran, supervisor of volunteers, and Anthony Elia, supervisor of recreation. Both Susan and Anthony were very enthusiastic about the idea. A meeting was set up in late January to discuss possibilities. Our MG of BC Board voted to approve the special project and to support it going forward.

Dennis and I developed a site plan and budget, which was approved by the Veterans Home CEO and Board of Trustees. While the program “officially” began in March, the extensive March/April snowfall delayed the

groundbreaking. However, this allowed for trips to purchase gardening tools, pots, and sensory-stimulating items, such as wind chimes and flags. As the weather warmed, herbs and early flowering plants were planted in raised beds built and donated by the organization Jersey Cares. These beds have been replanted according to the changing seasons. To date, several garden “rooms” have been developed, including a 9/11 memorial garden and a butterfly/pollinator garden. Plans include a water feature, perennial grasses by the gazebo, and a fern display in the shade of the many old established trees.

In return for their efforts, our MG volunteers have a sense of fulfillment as we see the happiness the vets experience as they “escape” into their garden. Dennis and I are building friendships both with staff and our veterans during our weekly volunteering.

As a complete surprise and honor, the Veterans Home staff arranged a ribbon-cutting ceremony and blessing for the garden and presented a beautiful plaque to Dennis and me as a thank you for bringing this touch of nature for our vets to enjoy.



*Carolyn Gretchen, MG of BC president, holds plaque given to her and Dennis Gretchen for their volunteer work at the NJ Veterans Home in Paramus. From left: Matt Schottlander, CEO of the Veterans Home; Joel Flagler; Carolyn; Dennis (partially hidden behind Carolyn); Anthony Elia, supervisor of recreation at the VA Home; Susan Moran, supervisor of volunteers at the VA Home; and MG Donna Faustini.*

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### **Renew your MG of BC membership now**

Don’t let your MG of BC membership lapse. Click [here](#) to download the membership renewal form for 2019. Mail

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the completed form with your check for \$20, made payable to the MG of BC, to Terri Pegg, 54 W. Magnolia Ave., Maywood, NJ 07607. You can include an additional amount as a donation to the MG of BC. Donations are welcome!

## Speakers Bureau needs your help

### *By Arnie Friedman*

The Master Gardeners Speakers Bureau is the source for volunteers who typically speak at garden clubs, libraries, and other organizations. I've been doing the lion's share of speaking engagements for the past few years, but I need help. I'm limited to the number of subjects I'm knowledgeable about.

We have a large, bright, active membership. Some of you could help, no doubt. For example, you can prepare a talk about:

- Your volunteer site;
- The great gardens you've visited on vacation; or
- Your gardening specialty. For example, if you raise dahlias, then talk about dahlias. If you love to raise organic vegetables, then talk about organic vegetables.

All you need is knowledge and lots of pictures about what you do or love. I'll be glad to help you shape your knowledge and pictures into a talk. Please come out of the woods and help me with the Speakers Bureau. Contact me at [Arnie1@Mindspring.com](mailto:Arnie1@Mindspring.com) or 201-707-5149.

## FARMERS MARKETS

**Glen Rock Farmers Market**, 1 Harding Plaza; through Nov. 18; Sundays, 10 am-2 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](#).

**Rochelle Park Farmers Market**, Midland School parking lot, 300 Rochelle Ave.; through Nov. 10; Saturdays, 9 am-2 pm.

## HORTICULTURE GRAPEVINE

***Deadline for the Horticulture Grapevine is the 25<sup>th</sup> of the prior month. Submit information about garden club meetings that are open to the public to [Miriam Taub](#).***

- Nov. 1**      **7:30 pm, Garden Club of Harrington Park**, Harrington Park Library upstairs, 10 Herring St., Harrington Park. Speaker: MG Wiebke Hinsch, former docent at NYBG. Topic: Gardening with bulbs. Visit the club's [website](#).
- Nov. 5**      **11:30 am, Tenafly Garden Club**, Davis Johnson Park and Gardens, Tenafly. Speaker: Sharon Lynch, Bergen County African Violet Society and African Violet Society of America. Topic: Care and culture of African violets. Reservation required by calling 201-568-8254.
- Nov. 8**      **7 pm refreshments, 7:30 pm program, Garden Club of Teaneck**, Rodda Center, multipurpose room 2B, 250 Colonial Court (enter from Palisade Avenue), Teaneck. Speaker: Michael Mitchell, Rose Gardens by Michael and past president Garden State Rose Club. Topic: Roses. Visit the club's [website](#).
- Nov. 12**     **7 pm, Sundial Garden Club**, Meadowbrook School, 50 Piermont Road, Hillsdale. Speaker: Douglas Goodell, nature photographer. Topic: Images of China. Visit the club's [website](#).
- Nov. 12**     **7:30 pm, Garden Club of Bergenfield**, Cooper's Pond. Speakers: Susan Schultz and Linda Hull, wellness advocates with experience in essential oils. Topic: Essential oils 101.
- Nov. 13**     **7 pm, Ramsey Area Garden Club**, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 55 Wyckoff Ave. (corner of Woodland Avenue), Ramsey. Speaker: Carol Anton, professional floral designer and the club's horticultural chair. Topic: Demonstration of floral arrangements with a Thanksgiving theme. The arrangements will be raffled off to club members.

- Nov. 14**      **6:30 pm refreshments, 7 pm meeting, Hasbrouck Heights Garden Club**, Senior Center, 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights; entrance on side of building. Speakers: Walter and Daniel Perry of Perry's Florist, Glen Rock. Topic: A multisensory tour of the holiday season from flowering plants to cut flowers to cut greens.
- Nov. 14**      **7 pm refreshments, 7:30 pm meeting**, Wyckoff Area Garden Club, Wyckoff Public Library, 200 Woodland Ave., Wyckoff. Speaker: Eva Kunkura, writer, photographer, and recipe developer. Topic: Recycling and the art of reducing plastic waste.
- Nov. 14**      **7:30 pm, Bergen Passaic Chapter of the Native Plant Society**, New York-New Jersey Trail Conference headquarters, 600 Ramapo Valley Road (Route 202), Mahwah. Park in the lot or the Ramapo County Reservation, a short walk through the woods. Parking and trail are not lighted, so bring a flashlight. Speaker: Tracy Hanson, ecologist/naturalist. Topic: How to encourage birds in our gardens.
- Nov. 20**      **7 pm, Backyard Gardeners**, sponsored by the Friends of the River Vale Free Public Library, 412 Rivervale Road, River Vale. Topic: Gardeners' forum; attendees will discuss their recent gardening successes and challenges.

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.

**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](mailto:janet-schulz@hotmail.com).**