



From the Potting Shed October 2018

Master Gardeners of Bergen County

SAVE THE DATE

MG meeting – Tuesday, Oct. 23

1 Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack
1st-floor meeting room

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

Bruce Crawford presents: Public gardens - yesterday, today, and tomorrow

Dating back more than 400 years, public gardens originally focused on medicinal plants. In the Victorian period and throughout the 20th century public gardens developed into lavish displays of newly discovered plants from around the globe as well as the latest and ever-more-showy cultivars. The mission of public



gardens is once again shifting, as the needs of the community increasingly focus on environmental issues as well as food insecurity.

In addition, more and more individuals suffer from “plant blindness,” an issue in which people do not recognize plants in their environment and the importance of plants in the biosphere. Bruce will address how Rutgers Gardens and other public gardens across North America are working to address these issues and turn the pages of public horticulture to the next chapter.

Bruce is the director of Rutgers Gardens and an adjunct professor in the Landscape Architecture Department at Rutgers University. In addition to managing, designing, and developing the 180 acres of Rutgers Gardens, he teaches and shares his love of fun and unusual plants

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with students, garden clubs, Master Gardeners, community groups, and garden visitors. Much to his dismay, he rarely meets a plant he doesn't like.

From the President's Desk

By Carolyn Gretchen

We have such dedicated MG superstars among us. Janet Schulz, a 30-year active member, has started a trend. Because of her many years of service, the organization at the state level is now providing 30-year pins. Close behind Janet are our 25-year members Charlene Cain and Barbara Johansson. Our Award for Excellence winners this year are Dania Cheddie and Janet Schulz. They'll be recognized for their achievements on screen at the Rutgers Master Gardeners Fall Conference Oct 6. Congratulations, ladies! You make us proud.



The Class of 2018 did a wonderful job at the Bergen County Fall Harvest Festival. Special thanks to the students who put forth excellent projects and to all the MG volunteers who came out to help.

Welcome fall! We can look forward in anticipation to our favorite fall flowers, pumpkins, gourds, and gorgeous leaves. We, as gardeners, still have some tasks left before we hang up our tools. Summer annuals are waning, so it's time to clean up and change over your pots and borders to fall displays.

Although most bulbs have been planted, October is the best time to plant lily and tulip bulbs, if either you're fortunate enough to have property that's fenced or you don't have a deer problem. Lawn care is easier, too. You can cut higher and less frequently. If your catalogs are arriving or you're thinking of changing your garden space, now's your time to dream and create.

Happy gardening!

SPOTLIGHT ON . . .

Skylands Manor Holiday Open House - a great volunteer opportunity

Join MG of BC volunteers during the Skylands Manor Holiday Open House, a fund-raising event sponsored by the Skylands Volunteer Association to benefit the New Jersey Botanical Garden. The MG of BC's Decorating Committee will adorn the manor's Great Hall based on the theme "A Country Manor Holiday."

Volunteers are needed to assemble and decorate faux trees; string lights; hang wreaths; and act as docents to greet visitors and answer questions during the event itself.

Dates and times are:

- **Setup:** 10 am-4 pm Monday, Nov. 26; Tuesday, Nov. 27; and Wednesday, Nov. 28. We generally recommend two-hour shifts, but you're welcome to stay longer.

At left, the "Nutcracker Suite"-themed fireplace in the Great Hall decorated by MG of BC volunteers in 2017.



- **HOH event:** 10 am-4 pm Thursday, Nov 29; Friday, Nov. 30; Saturday, Dec 1; and Sunday, Dec. 2. Volunteer shifts are usually two hours in length.

The HOH is a good opportunity to add to your volunteer hours for 2018. And, if you're a member of the Class of 2019, the HOH is a great way to get a head start on your hours for certification.

To volunteer for the setup or as a docent, call Susan Sheridan at 201-664-2120. Susan will coordinate shifts. All hands welcome!

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.

Tally ho! Equestrian gear needed

Can you loan any of the following equestrian-related items to the MG of BC's Decorating Committee for use during the Holiday Open House at Skylands Manor? The items below will be used to complete the design of the Great Hall. Vintage or older is good. Your items will be handled with care and returned after the event.

- Riding boots;
- Riding helmets;
- Top hats;
- Crop;
- Red jacket;
- Any other equestrian-type items.

Contact De Trezza (detrezza@aol.com or 201-757-7406) or Laura DeFlora (lauradeflora@gmail.com or 201-960-9358) to volunteer your items.

MG OF BC NEWS

Meet Lynette Stewart, Class of 2017

By Miriam Taub

During the time Lynette Stewart was a dual major in sociology and psychology in college, she thought she might want to become a social worker. However, after two college internships in the field and the thought of two years of graduate school, she decided that social work wasn't for her. Instead, after college graduation she pursued the retail industry where she'd worked part-time during college. From retail she went into advertising and spent 35 years working for some of the nation's premier ad agencies.

Lynette, 63, a Teaneck resident, grew up in Washington Heights. Both her mother and grandmother were good with house plants, she recalled. "They had great green thumbs." Meanwhile, Lynette's attempt at growing her first plant (baby's tears) was a flop. Not enough sunlight reached her bedroom window, which faced a courtyard.



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Following graduation from George Washington High School, she went to Hunter College in one of the last classes to get free tuition. After receiving her bachelor's degree, she got a job in the accounting department at FAO Schwarz where she uncovered a theft ring. She got promoted to a bookkeeper but she didn't find that appealing nor did she find it appealing to be a phone representative.

Still in her early 20s, Lynette took a break to get married to Conrad Stewart, whom she met at a church dance in high school — "our eyes met across the room," she said — and to find herself career-wise.

Through an employment agency, she got a job in the media planning group of Dancer Fitzgerald Sample where she was the only minority. When given a chance to work in the media buying group for a month, she found the area more diverse and interesting and asked to switch departments. As a result, media buying became her specialty. She later worked at BBDO for 16 years, which she considers a career milestone. At BBDO, she became a media supervisor in charge of a group of buyers and accounts.

However, the ad industry changed drastically over the last 20 years of Lynette's career, she said. "Where there were at least 100 ad agencies when I was an assistant, maybe five are left," she lamented. In the mid-1990s, she explained, European agencies started buying US agencies. Buyouts resulted in fewer jobs and, for Lynette, several layoffs. Her final advertising job was in the accounting department at Omnicom where there was "less stress and no more long hours."

Meanwhile, Lynette recalled visiting the Philadelphia Flower Show and speaking with a recruiter for horticultural careers who mentioned hort therapy. Lynette said she was intrigued but felt she wasn't interested in returning to school. Around the time that Lynette was to be laid off from her accounting job — half the jobs in her department were being outsourced to India — she saw the newspaper ad for the MG Class of 2017. It seemed like the right time to enroll. "I loved the program, the volunteer opportunities, and meeting people," she said of her MG training.

Coincidentally, when the hort therapy program at Bergen Regional (now New Bridge Medical Center) was announced as an MG volunteer site, she dove in. "I felt this was what I was made for," she said. "I like working in the greenhouse and like working with the patients." She's done hort therapy projects at the Garfield Middle School, the Ridgefield Senior Center, and, this summer, at SESCIL (Southeast Senior Center for Independent Living) in Englewood. She's also pulled weeds at the VA

Home in Paramus in preparation for a prospective hort therapy program at that site.

Lynette also has volunteered at the Hermitage where she's participated in the maple syrup tapping, and she's been involved in the seed giveaway at Garretson. This summer Lynette and classmate Smadar Shemmesh co-managed a vegetable garden behind the Center for Food Action in Englewood. As of early September, they harvested 260 pounds of produce and herbs for the CFA's food pantry.

Her other interests include reading (she read the entire *Outlander* series in one summer); yoga; herbology and aromatherapy; and travel. She labels Italy as her adopted country. For their 25th anniversary, Conrad surprised her with a trip to Tahiti: He told her to pack for warm weather but it wasn't until they were at LAX that she learned their destination. For their 40th anniversary next year, Conrad is planning an equally fabulous destination, she said. The Stewarts have one son, Justin, 33, who works for the US Postal Service.

Lynette admitted to finding her gardening passion later in life. "If I had known I would be doing this when I was in college I might have majored in horticulture, but then I would have missed out on all the experiences and opportunities I had during my advertising years," she said. "Things in life happen the way they do for a reason. They help us to grow. I guess I'm doing what I'm meant to do in the here and now."

VOLUNTEER SITE NEWS

Items of interest from our Master Gardener sites.

Garretson Forge and Farm

By Linda Flynn

Monarch butterflies and caterpillars were the star attraction of Garretson's recent butterfly festival, which attracted about 50 attendees.



The event featured the actual tagging of butterflies (at left) with the assistance of MG Linda Flynn who hand-raised the specimens and has been tagging monarchs for years.

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MG volunteers included Jane Nicholson, Christine Belli, Louise Mullin, Anne Carmen, April Barth, and Linda Flynn. Because of rain, the event was moved indoors where butterfly posters were displayed and a craft table was set up for the children.

Each child selected a butterfly from the collection and was asked to record his/her name, the tag number attached to the butterfly's wing, and the butterfly's gender (see photo below). The young lepidopterists then took their tagged monarchs outside to the porch and gently placed them on a bouquet of flowers from the farm's butterfly garden. Most of the monarchs took flight shortly afterward to begin their 2,000-mile migration to Mexico.

Participants were introduced to the benefits of growing pollinator-friendly plants to attract butterflies. Discussions included the annual fall gathering of monarchs in Cape May as they migrate south, the reduction of available milkweed for the monarchs, and how the use of pesticides has decreased the monarch population.

Eventually, even the adults, including MG volunteers, got a chance to tag and release some of the monarchs. The Garretson farmhouse provided an opportunity for visitors to become citizen scientists and assist the [Monarch Watch](#) organization in collecting valuable data about these iconic butterflies.

TAG #	F/M	Lepidopterist	TAG #	F/M	Lepidopterist
942	♀	Geo	961	♂	Jane
946	♀	Gia	962	♀	T.J.
947	♂	Jacob	963	♀	Chris
948	♀	AME-NA	964	♂	Amelia
950	♀	RENE	965	♀	Anne
951	♂	SANDY	966	♀	Clara
952	♂	T.J.	967	♀	April
953	♀	ELL	968	♀	Greg
954	♀	Abby	969	♀	T.J.
955	♂	J. J.	970	♀	Anne
956	♀	EVIE	971	♀	Greg
957	♂	ALEX	972	♂	Jan
958	♂	Bob			
959	♀	EWIE			
960	♂	Abby			

OUT AND ABOUT

A selection of events happening this month at MG volunteer sites and other locations.

Garden Club of Englewood

"It's in the Stars" is the theme of the club's free flower show at the Knickerbocker Country Club, 188 Knickerbocker Road, Tenafly. Hours are 3-5 pm Friday, Oct. 12 and 10 am-1 pm Saturday Oct. 13.

Frelinghuysen Arboretum

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

Gesneriad show and sale

The arboretum's Gesneriad Society will sponsor a free show and sale of the beautiful, diminutive, exotic cousins of African violets from 11 am-3 pm Sunday, Oct. 7. Plant experts will be on hand to answer your questions during a Q&A session from 1-2 pm.

Plant taxonomy class: What's in a name?

Horticulturist Marc Zukovich, owner of [Sterling Horticultural Services](#), will discuss the true meaning behind plant names, their classifications, and where they originated. A history of plant taxonomy and systematics will be covered, as well as the future direction of the plant classification system. The discussion will include Latin names, ID of plant families, and the differences between cultivars and varieties.

Register by Oct. 4 for this program scheduled from 7-8:30 pm Thursday, Oct. 11. Earn 1.5 CEUs. Cost: \$12 members; \$15 non-members. To register, click [here](#) and scroll down to Oct. 11 in the left column.

Wild about mums?

Come to the 45th annual show and sale sponsored by the NJ State Chrysanthemum Society. Hundreds of judged entries will be on display, and potted mums and arrangements will be on sale to benefit the Rutgers Scholarship Fund. This free program will run from noon-4:30 pm Saturday, Oct. 13 and 11 am-4:30 pm Sunday, Oct. 14.

A world without flowers: A brief geologic history of plants

Jamie Boyer, VP for children's education at the [New York Botanical Garden](#), will lead participants in a journey through the geologic history of plants from the earliest moss-sized plants that ventured onto land to the first swamps and forests on Earth.

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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.

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Jamie will explore the world of plants that existed before the dawn of flowering plants as well as the origin of leaves, roots, wood and seeds, and the major extinctions that changed the world.

Register by Oct. 21 for this event scheduled from 1:30-2:30 pm Sunday, Oct. 28. Earn 1.5 CEUs. Cost: \$25 members; \$30 non-members. To register, click [here](#) and scroll down to Oct. 28 in the left column.

Garretson Forge and Farm

[Garretson Forge and Farm](#), 4-02 River Road, Fair Lawn, will host its annual harvest festival from 10 am-4 pm Sunday, Oct. 14. Return to the 1800s farm period with open hearth cooking demonstrations, tours of the house and gardens, children's activities, and re-enactors in period costume.

Limited late summer organic vegetables and herbs will be sold as well as Garretson's hard-neck garlic. October is the time to plant garlic so stop by and get some for your garden.

- *Lida Gellman*

Hackensack River Greenway through Teaneck

Walk and talk

MG Patricia O'Brien Libutti will lead a "walk and talk" of the Mary S. Topolsky Garden and Trail from 10-11 am Saturday, Oct. 6. Meet at 640 River Road, Teaneck.

Brett Park cleanup

Friends of the Hackensack River Greenway through Teaneck will sponsor a clean-up of the Upper Brett Park Trail from 10 am-noon Saturday, Oct. 20. Volunteers will cut intrusive vines, pick up litter, and generally make the trail a good place to walk.

Meet at the swing bridge at the end of Riverview Avenue/Old New Bridge Road, 105 Old New Bridge Road, Teaneck, near Sanzari's New Bridge Inn. Street parking is available. Bring gloves and tools such as a shovel and loppers.

Laurelwood Arboretum

Take a free guided tour of the arboretum, 725 Pines Lake Drive West, Wayne, at 12:30 pm Sunday, Oct. 21. Cart tours will be available for those who can't walk. Meet at the Knippenberg Center for Education. Visit the [website](#).

New Jersey Botanical Garden/Skylands

The NJBG is located at 2 Morris Road, Ringwood. Click [here](#) to visit the website. Parking is generally free at this time of year unless noted below.

Harvest fest

Volunteers are needed to help with various activities during the Harvest Fest Oct. 13-14. The event will include hayrides, pumpkin and face painting, applesauce making, booths, exhibits, and many free activities for children. For adults, there's the beer garden, food, all-day music and dancing, an autumn plant sale, and free garden tours. Parking is \$5 per car. Free parking for volunteers.

Help is needed at these times: Saturday, Oct. 13 and Sunday, Oct. 14: 9:30 am-12:30 pm; 12:30-4:30 pm; or all day. To volunteer, send an email to info@njbgo.org or call the NJBG at 973-962-9534.

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, Oct. 14. Cost: \$7 adults; \$5 seniors and students ages 13-18; \$3 ages 6-12; free under 6.

Family woodland hike

Stretch your legs during an easy hike in the garden's woodlands at 1 pm Sunday, Oct. 21. 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.

Teaneck Creek Conservancy

The Teaneck Creek Conservancy is located at 20 Puffin Way, Teaneck. Visit the [website](#).

Honey from hive to jar

Watch beekeeper Danny Senter of [Senter Honey Bee Farm](#) spin, filter, and bottle honey during a demonstration from 7-9 pm Thursday, Oct. 4. The honey is from his hives located at the Teaneck Creek Conservancy.

Four seasons tree ID series

Arborist Ryan Duff of [Almstead Tree & 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. Time is 10-11 am Saturday, Oct. 13. This is the last of the four sessions focused on identifying specific trees throughout the seasons.

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Thielke Arboretum of Glen Rock

The arboretum has installed a new StoryWalk® book, *The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything* by Linda Williams. The book will be displayed through December at the arboretum, 460 Doremus Ave., Glen Rock. The StoryWalk is an outdoor reading experience for children. Visit the [website](#).

Useful links

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

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 Terrace; through Oct. 15; Sundays, 8 am-2 pm.

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

Oakland Farmers Market, Borough Hall lot, Route 202; through Oct. 20; Saturdays, 9 am-1 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](#).

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.

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

- Oct. 3** **2 pm, Demarest Garden Club**, Demarest United Methodist Church social hall, 109 Hardenburgh Ave., Demarest. Speaker: Mary Jo Sichak, Passaic County MG, educator, naturalist, and photographer. Topic: A garden safari – a fun photographic look at life in her garden and the creatures that pass through.
- Oct. 4** **7:30 pm, Garden Club of Harrington Park**, Harrington Park Library, 10 Herring St., Harrington Park. Speaker: Marc Zukovich, owner of [Sterling Horticultural Services](#). Topic: 12 dependable perennials plus shrubs for small gardens.
- Oct. 8** **7:30 pm, Garden Club of Bergenfield**, Cooper's Pond, West Church Street, Bergenfield. Speaker: Bill Devine, owner of [Rosetta's Farm Spices](#). Topic: Chili peppers – so misunderstood.
- Oct. 9** **7 pm, Ramsey Area Garden Club**, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 55 Wyckoff Ave., corner of Woodland Avenue, Ramsey. Speaker: MG Joe Lamela. Topic: Starting plants from seed and integrated pest management (IPM).

- Oct. 10** **7 pm refreshments, 7:30 meeting and program, Wyckoff Area Garden Club**, Wyckoff Public Library, 200 Woodland Ave., Wyckoff. Speaker: Jean Epiphan, ecologist and research project coordinator, Rutgers Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Natural Resources. Topic: Native ferns of Bergen and Passaic counties. Information: Linda Vreeland, 973-975-5207.
- Oct. 10** **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 Trail Conference lot or the Ramapo County Reservation, a short walk through the woods. Parking and trail are not lighted, so bring a flashlight. Speaker: Amy Rowe, environmental and resource management agent for Essex and Passaic counties. Topic: Using rain barrels and rain gardens to stop storm water runoff, reduce water use, and improve water quality.
- Oct. 10** **7:30 pm, Garden Club of Oakland**, Oakland Senior Center, 20 Lawlor Drive, Oakland. Speaker: Frank Mortimer, president of the [Northeast NJ Beekeepers Association](#). Topic: The ABCs of honeybees - facts, myths, and why honeybees are so important.
- Oct. 11** **7 pm refreshments, 7:30 program, Garden Club of Teaneck**, Rodda Center, 250 Colonial Court, Teaneck; enter from Palisade Avenue. Teaneck. Speaker: Joseph Lelinho, beekeeper and president of [Hilltop Honey](#). Topic: The queen and her city.
- Oct. 16** **7 pm, Backyard Gardeners**, sponsored by the Friends of the River Vale Free Public Library, 412 Rivervale Road, River Vale. Speaker: MG Patricia O'Brien Libutti. Topic: Defending against the deer – how to think about your plants.
- Oct. 16** **7:45 pm, Glen Rock Garden Club**, Municipal Annex, 678 Maple Ave., Glen Rock. Speaker: Tom Bender, club president and plant specialist at Metropolitan Farm. Topic: Fall is for planting.
- Oct. 17** **6:30 pm refreshments, 7 pm program, Hasbrouck Heights Garden Club**, 320 Boulevard, 2nd floor, Hasbrouck Heights. Speaker: Julianne Watson of [R&S Landscaping](#). Topic: A garden never sleeps.
- Oct. 22** **7 pm, Sundial Garden Club**, Meadowbrook School, 50 Piermont Road, Hillsdale. Speaker: Caren White, garden steward for the herb garden at Rutgers Gardens. Topic: Putting herbs to work in your garden.
- Oct. 29** **7:30 pm, Ho-Ho-Kus Garden Club**, Community Church of Ho-Ho-Kus, 400 Warren Ave., Ho-Ho-Kus; entrance on Sycamore. Speaker: MG Kathleen Sullivan, site coordinator at the Hermitage. Topic: Plantings at the Hermitage from Victorian era to World War I.

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