



# From the Potting Shed September 2018

Master Gardeners of Bergen County

## SAVE THE DATE

### MG meeting – Tuesday, Sept. 25

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

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

### Composting and compost tea presented by Virginia Lamb

Backyard composting is a simple and effective way to reduce waste and greenhouse gas production while creating a valuable soil amendment. Learn what you can and can't compost; tips for quickly creating compost; how to make compost tea and compost using worms; and uses for finished compost, referred to as "black gold" by seasoned gardeners.



Virginia Lamb

Instructor Virginia Lamb last spoke to the MG of BC in September 2012.

Virginia is an environmental educator with more than 20 years of experience in recycling, waste reduction, soil ecology, and organic gardening. The former recycling coordinator for Galloway Township and Monmouth County, Virginia has been a freelance educator/consultant since 2000.

Her clients include Rutgers University, [Footprint Power](#), and [Honey Brook Organic Farm](#) as well as many environmental groups and garden clubs throughout the state. Virginia is currently pursuing an MS degree in soil science at UMass Amherst.

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

### From the President's Desk

*By Carolyn Gretchen*

As we leave the unpredictable weather of this summer, let's welcome the autumnal equinox, or the first day of fall, on Saturday, Sept. 22. We can hope for cooler days, longer nights, and the gorgeous colors of fall.



As gardeners, we'll face a new variety of tasks. As the cooler weather comes, it's time to reseed our lawns, clean our flower beds, plant bulbs, and brighten our pots with an array of fall flowers of your choice.

But, Master Gardeners can't be all work and no play. We have some wonderful conferences to attend, beginning with the **Bergen County Fall Festival on Sept. 29-30 at Van Saun Park in Paramus**. Visit the MG tent, and enjoy the projects of the Class of 2018. Each project has a child-friendly activity also. Special thanks to Karen Pennell for arranging the volunteer staffing for this event. She is amazing! Then, treat yourself to the **Rutgers Master Gardeners Conference on Saturday, Oct 6 at the Cook Student Center, New Brunswick**. Not only will we honor our Award for Excellence recipients, Janet Schulz and Dania Cheddie, but you'll also see the video magic of our own Joseph Cooper as all the honorees will be viewed in a new format. The theme this year is "Plants: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow." Come learn from recognized experts while earning five CEUs toward education hours. [Registration](#) is online through Eventbrite to keep costs down. (See detailed registration instructions on page 4.)

Another thank-you goes to Jeff Chan, our energizer bunny, who just keeps giving! With Karen Riede's assistance, he has staffed an MG table with volunteers at two upcoming events:

- Bergen County annual senior picnic, Wednesday, Sept. 12 from 10 am-3 pm at Van Saun Park.
- Bergen County Family Fun Fest, Saturday, Sept. 22 from noon-4 pm at Van Saun Park.

Have fun in and out of the garden!

### Meet Arta Pagano, Class of 2016



Arta Pagano

#### **By Miriam Taub**

As if working in her own yard in Tenafly and volunteering at the Hermitage and Garretson Forge and Farm isn't enough, Arta Pagano works two plots in her local community garden (lots of milkweed and tomatoes) and digs and plants in the garden of an 85-year-old friend in Ho-Ho-Kus.

Arta started working at the Hermitage with other MG student in her class and is now in charge of the World War II victory garden. She volunteers at the Hermitage Tuesdays or Wednesdays, or both. She produced a map of that garden, which contains World War II-era vegetables like tomatoes radishes, rutabaga, peas, Swiss chard, kohlrabi, beets, turnips, lettuce, and broccoli rabe. Broccoli rabe? She chuckled as she explained that the broccoli rabe, which seemed out of its time element, didn't do very well in the victory garden.

Arta credited Monica Buesser (MG Class of 2013 who has since relocated to Connecticut) with motivating her and making her feel welcome at the Hermitage. Monica would contact volunteers in advance and notify them what was planned for the workday, Arta explained. The agenda often required physical labor, such as unearthing bricks that hadn't seen the light of day in a century and using them to mark the boundaries of the kitchen garden.

Another heavy lifting chore: Collecting and boiling sap to make maple syrup that the Hermitage gives away. Nevertheless, Arta said of the Hermitage, "The grounds are magical, and the old house has such a good vibe to it." She added: "You're getting your hands dirty with like-minded people."

On Thursdays she's at Garretson, where the volunteers work from 10 to 2 and break for lunch under a shade tree, often sharing fresh-picked fruits or vegetables from the farm.

Arta, 65, grew up an only child in Englewood, CO. She had cousins who lived on a farm in eastern Colorado whom her family would visit, usually in the spring and summer. The adults were full-time farmers who'd put in long hours, gather for a hearty lunch, and return to the tractors and fields for an afternoon of back-breaking work. Seeing this true farm-to-table lifestyle — and learning to milk a cow — seeded Arta's interest in gardening. After graduating from high school in 1970, she obtained a BS degree in child development from Colorado State University in Fort Collins. Then she was off to Boulder where she taught preschool.

After four years, Arta looked skyward for a career change. She became a flight attendant for TWA where she was based in Chicago, then St. Louis, and "finally an opportunity to transfer to New York." It was there that a mutual friend introduced her to Frank Pagano, a professional drummer who grew up in Glen Rock. They have been married for 31 years and have a son, James, a sound engineer who's currently living at home. Before moving to Tenafly 23 years ago, they lived in Englewood Cliffs and then Englewood.

Meanwhile, the airline industry was changing. After TWA's three bankruptcies and its sale to American Airlines in 2001, Arta and fellow TWA employees were furloughed. One consolation: A lifetime American Airlines pass to fly free on standby. Her many destinations include Paris; Germany; Austria; Italy; Taos and Santa Fe, NM; Colorado; and St. Martin in the Caribbean. She was back to teaching preschool (Leonia) and later worked in a day care center in Upper Saddle River until funding disappeared.

Eventually, Arta said, she saw the "calling all gardeners kind of thing" in the newspaper, and she enrolled in the MG Class of 2016. As she explained, "I have three passions. I love to fly, I love to garden, and I love children."

Earlier this summer, her yard became a Certified Wildlife Garden through the Bergen County Audubon Society. She has four raised beds on the property – three containing vegetables and one for pollinators. All are surrounded by wire fencing to keep out the deer.

Arta is also a member of the Tenafly Garden Club. Her other activities include repurposing lumber as a canvas for painting nature scenes. In fact, her wildlife garden certificate is displayed on a salvaged plank from the Hermitage. Last year she used her canning equipment to pickle watermelon rind. And maybe one day, she said, she'll return to Denver to get a degree in hort therapy.

"I've got lots of energy," Arta said. "Being a flight attendant, I never sat down. I like to be busy."

## Help wanted: Organizing skills needed for MG committees

If you're interested in chairing a Master Gardener committee or perhaps want to try out your organizing skills for an MG event, [Carolyn Gretchen](#) would love to hear from you. You'll earn volunteer hours for the work below. Come on! Try it, you may like it.

**Trips and tours:** Do you have a knack for travel planning? We're looking for a volunteer to arrange a fall trip for members. Typical trips include a visit to a nearby public or private garden, an arboretum, or farm. Enjoy talking and socializing at lunch after your tour. Lunch can be included with the cost of the tour, or participants can buy their own lunches.

**Outreach:** Do you like to socialize? Do you possess the power of persuasion? MG events, as well as local environmental and other fairs, require staffing by MG volunteers. Use your skills to organize volunteers for such events. It's a great way to meet and work with other MGs.

Again, contact [Carolyn Gretchen](#) to volunteer or for more information.

## MG of BC Class of 2019 begins Oct. 5

Know anyone who wants to become a Master Gardener? The Class of 2019 will meet for the first time Friday, Oct. 5 at 1 Bergen County Plaza. The program fee will be \$250. For more information, contact [Karen Riede](#) or call the Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Bergen County office at 201-336-6788.



## Sunshine News

It is with much sadness that we report Janet Schulz's husband, Ted, died Aug. 2.

### Bergen County Rutgers Cooperative Extension Office

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

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

Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, the State University of NJ, US Department of Agriculture, and Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Rutgers Cooperative Extension educational programs are offered to all without regard to race, religion, color, age, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. Rutgers Cooperative Extension is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## VOLUNTEER SITE NEWS

### Garretson Forge and Farm



Thanks to the hard work of many MGs, [Garretson Forge and Farm](#) has been able to make weekly donations of fresh, organic vegetables and herbs, pictured above, to a local food pantry. This season's harvest includes red onions and heirloom varieties of tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini, and long beans — all of which are organically grown on the farm.

Come join the volunteers every Thursday from 10 am-2 pm and the second and fourth Sundays from 1-4 pm. Garretson is located at 4-02 River Road, Fair Lawn  
- *Lida Gellman*

### Washington Spring Garden

Washington Spring Garden in Van Saun Park, Paramus, has thrived this summer with the perfect mix of sunshine and rain. The mature rhodies and azaleas are so lush and are eager to put on another beautiful display next spring as are the younger plants that we have nursed back to health. In addition, the perennials have pleased so many walkers, who express their appreciation when they see us at work.

Our dedicated volunteers — albeit small in numbers — accomplish so much to keep the garden looking fresh and tidy. Many thanks to Peter Bernich, Jeffrey Chan, Pat Vellas, and Freddy Levitan for remaining so dedicated to this lovely Bergen County treasure. We meet on Thursdays from 8:30 am-noon, and new volunteers are welcome. Bring gloves, hand tools, and something to drink.

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Contact [Suzanne Danzig](#) if you have questions. As the fall approaches we will have lots of fall cutback and pruning to do.

- **Suzanne Danzig**



Photo by Peter Bernich.

Suzanne Danzig (left) and Pat Vellas pose in Washington Spring Garden after spreading mulch at the entrance.

## SHOWS, CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

### Last call for the Rutgers MG conference!

The deadline to register for the Oct. 6 Rutgers Master Gardener Association of NJ Annual State Conference is Oct. 1. The event will run from 8 am-3:15 pm at the Cook Student Center, 59 Biel Road, New Brunswick. This year's theme is "Plants: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow." Attendees will earn five CEUs toward education hours.

To register, click [here](#). In the upper right, click on the green "Tickets" box. Select the number of tickets, and, if desired, an optional box lunch. Then click "Checkout." Under "Registration Information," follow the instructions to complete the form.

You can pay by credit card, check, or pay at the door by cash or check. ***No one will be permitted to enter the conference unless a registration form is submitted online.***

If you pay by credit card, you can print your ticket(s), or save the summary form on your phone.

If you order lunch, your printed ticket will look like you're printing two of the same ticket. The second ticket is for your lunch and will indicate your lunch choice in small print at the bottom.

Again, the deadline to register is Oct 1. Refunds are available until seven days before the event.

### Useful links

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

## OUT AND ABOUT

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

### City Green

[City Green's](#) annual fall fund-raising event, a harvest dinner, will be held at the City Green Farm Eco-Center, 171 Grove St., Clifton, at 5:30 pm Saturday, Sept 29. The event will feature live music and local, seasonal dishes with City Green's fresh-picked organic produce. During the cocktail reception, guests can explore the native flower gardens, the farm animals, and the whimsical features of this unique space. The cocktail reception will be followed by a four-course, sit-down, farm-to-table dinner sponsored by local chefs.

Proceeds from the event benefit City Green's work creating access to local, organically produced food and beautiful green open spaces in the urban communities it serves. Tickets are \$100 each. To purchase, click [here](#).

### Frelinghuysen Arboretum

353 E. Hanover Ave., Morris Township; all events are in the Haggarty Center. Visit the [website](#).

### Free dahlia society show

See a dazzling display of hundreds of dahlias in all shapes, sizes, and colors at the North Jersey Dahlia Society annual show from 1-3 pm Saturday, Sept. 8. Dahlia growers come from all over the tristate area and beyond to display their stunning blooms.

### Botany and the Bible

View the arboretum's plant collections through the lens of the Old Testament from 2-3:30 pm Sunday, Sept. 16. *You must register by Sept. 9.* Dr. Jon Greenberg returns

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for the fifth year to discuss more than 5,000 years of history during a Biblical botany walking tour.

Learn something new from a very old source, even for experienced horticulturists. Earn 1.5 CEUs for attending. Cost: \$12 for members; \$15 for non-members. To register, click [here](#) and scroll down to Sunday, Sept. 16 in the left column.

### **Beyond daffodils**

Move beyond ordinary tulips and daffodils and discover some unusual fall-planted bulbs at 6:30 pm Thursday, Sept. 27. Learn how to plant, fertilize, and maintain them for years of lasting and practically care-free enjoyment. Earn 1 CEU for attending. This program may be held outdoors so dress for the weather. Cost \$10 for members and non-members. To register, click [here](#) and scroll down to Thursday, Sept. 27 in the left column.

### **Garden Conservancy**

Visit the spectacular two-acre Silas Mountsier garden at 25 Rutgers Place, Nutley, from 10 am-4 pm Saturday, Sept. 8. Cost: \$7. For more information and directions, click [here](#).

### **Hackensack River Greenway through Teaneck**

Friends of the Hackensack River Greenway through Teaneck will clean up the Andreas Park trail from 10 am-noon Sunday, Sept. 16. Bring gloves, shovels, loppers, and/or other tools. Meet by the Andreas Park tennis court. From River Road in Teaneck, turn west onto Grenville Avenue. Park near the tennis court. Click [here](#) to visit the organization's website.

### **The Hermitage**



Bess Rosencrantz (center), one of the last owners of the Hermitage, at a Victorian tea, circa 1917.

The [Hermitage](#) is having a garden party tea at 1 pm Sunday, Sept. 30 in its herb and perennial gardens, 335 Franklin Turnpike, Ho-Ho-Kus. Guests will eat scrumptious finger sandwiches and sweets on the grounds of the National Historic Landmark, which was a tea room a century ago. Tea for the event will be brewed from herbs grown at the Hermitage.

Space is limited to 50 guests who are invited to dress in period clothing if they wish. Or, guests can borrow a Victorian hat decorated with dried flowers from the Hermitage gardens.

In addition, MGs will give tours of the Victorian kitchen gardens and teach guests about the "language of flowers," which Victorian elite used to send coded messages to their lovers and friends. You may cut some herbs to make your own flower message.

Click [here](#) to purchase tickets (\$45 each), which include an indoor tour of the Hermitage, witness to centuries of American history including the 1782 marriage of Aaron Burr, the third vice president of the United States. Proceeds will support upkeep of the Hermitage.

### **Laurelwood Arboretum**

Come to a hands-on houseplant 101 workshop in the arboretum's Knippenberg Education Greenhouse at 4 pm Thursday, Sept. 20 with Passaic County MG Mary Jo Sichak who will cover the proper choice of plant, soil, container, and location indoors. Participants will pot and take home a plant to start or enhance their indoor garden. Cost: \$25. Space is limited. To register, click [here](#). The arboretum is at 725 Pines Lake Drive West, Wayne.

### **New Jersey Botanical Garden/Skylands**

**A note about 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 website.

### **Fall wildflower walk**

Join the wildflower team at 1 pm Saturday, Sept. 8 to check out the magical sights and sounds of fall in the woodlands of the wildflower garden. Wear sturdy shoes, and meet at the Carriage House. Rain cancels. Cost: \$5 donation.

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### **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, Sept. 9. Cost: \$7 adults; \$5 seniors and students ages 13-18; \$3 ages 6-12; free under 6.

### **Potluck lunch for volunteers**

NJBG volunteers are invited to the annual get-together to celebrate another great season in the garden at noon Wednesday, Sept. 12. Bring a bowl of something tasty to share, and meet fellow volunteers. *You must register by calling the NJBG office at 973-962-9534.*

### **Family woodland hike**

Stretch your legs during an easy hike in the garden's woodlands at 1 pm Sunday, Sept. 16. 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.

### **First day of autumn nature walk**

Members of the Bergen County Audubon Society will lead a walk through the gardens and fields at 10 am Sunday, Sept. 23. Participants will look for and identify the migrating birds and butterflies that visit the NJBG. The group will discuss the many important trees, shrubs, and plants that provide much-needed food and cover during migration. Meet at the Carriage House.

## **Teaneck Creek Conservancy**

### **Bird walk with Audubon**

Members of the Bergen County Audubon Society will lead a bird walk around the 46-acre [Teaneck Creek Conservancy](#) from 9:30-11 am Tuesday, Sept. 4. Meet in the parking lot at 20 Puffin Way, Teaneck.

## **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](#).

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

- Sept. 6**      **7:30 pm, Garden Club of Harrington Park, Harrington Park Library**, 10 Herring St., Harrington Park. Speaker: Caren White, the “herb lady” garden steward for the herb garden at Rutgers Gardens. Topic: Growing herbs in containers.
- Sept. 7**      **2 pm, Demarest Garden Club**, Demarest United Methodist Church social hall, 109 Hardenburgh Ave., Demarest. Speaker: Jim Wright, nature specialist and author. Topic: The wonder of the Meadowlands.
- Sept. 12**     **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: Nancy Slowik, native plant consultant. Topic: Basic plant identification followed by a field identification workshop Sept. 16.
- Sept. 12**     **7:30 pm, Garden Club of Oakland**, Oakland Senior Center, 20 Lawlor Drive, Oakland. Speaker: Tom Bender, plant curator at Thielke Arboretum of Glen Rock. Topic: Fall flowering native plants.
- Sept. 12**     **7:30 pm, Wyckoff Area Garden Club**, Wyckoff Public Library, 200 Woodland Ave., Wyckoff. Speaker: Donna Dorsey, [Goffle Brook Farms](#). Topic: Fall gardening. Members will also present their “good, bad, and ugly” experiences from their spring and summer gardens including a slide show of their gardens.
- Sept. 17**     **11:30 am, Tenafly Garden Club**, Davis Johnson Park and Gardens, Tenafly. Speaker: Eric Nelsen, historian, Palisades Interstate Park Commission. Topic: Millionaires row on the Palisades. For more information, call 201-568-8254; \$10 donation to the Tenafly Garden Club Inc. for the Rutgers Gardens Scholarship Fund.
- Sept. 18**     **7 pm, Backyard Gardeners**, sponsored by the Friends of the River Vale Free Public Library, 412 Rivervale Road, River Vale. Speaker: Janet Schulz, MG and recipient of the 2018 MG of BC Award for Excellence. Topic: Beyond daffodils — a review of the spring blooming bulbs best planted in the fall.
- Sept. 24**     **7:30 pm, Ho-Ho-Kus Garden Club**, Community Church of Ho-Ho-Kus, 400 Warren Ave., Ho-Ho-Kus, entrance on Sycamore Avenue. Speaker: Marc Gussen, Closter Nature Center. Topic: Edible mushrooms.

*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.*