



SAVE THE DATE

Annual MG holiday party

Tuesday, Dec. 3
noon - 2 pm

2020 students welcome!

Start the holiday season by catching up with friends and former classmates and meeting new Master Gardeners during our annual holiday party, which will be held from noon-2 pm in the Education Building at the Van Saun Park Zoo, Paramus.



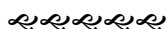
Photo courtesy of Eileen Cammarano

Sandwiches and beverages will be provided.

Please bring one of the following based on the first letter of your last name:

A to P Appetizers or salads

Q to Z Desserts



Mark your calendar - 2020 MG meetings

Jan. 21, Feb. 25, March 24, April 28, May 19, Sept. 22, Oct. 20, and Nov. 17

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Links are clickable and are noted in blue.

From the President's Desk

By Carolyn Gretchen

A very special thank you to our board members who adjusted their schedules to attend the special bylaws committee review meeting at 5 pm Nov. 26. All your input was appreciated. We will continue to work together for the best possible outcomes.



During this very busy time of year, please take some time for yourself. Plan on joining us Dec. 3 at the Van Saun Park Zoo Education Building from noon-2 pm to enjoy the company, the great food, and some relaxation time among friends at our annual holiday party.

Not yet sure of what to give/get during this gift-giving season? Why not think about gift certificates to some top-notch gardening centers, especially those online? Ask around. Fellow gardeners will be most happy to share their favorites with you. Plants in this season are also just outstanding. There is always the traditional poinsettia, but don't forget about the beautiful amaryllis. There are so many gorgeous types now. Think about enhancing your indoor plant stands and containers. How about seasonal table runners, plates, and candles? You can keep nature with you in different forms all year long.

Although the weather at this time of year is unpredictable, it is even more so recently. Seize your opportunities when you can. Shield your precious outdoor plants/trees/shrubs from icy winds and penetrating frosts. Protect your Helleborus niger (Christmas rose) flowers by placing a layer of straw or similar material around their base. If you have small evergreens in pots, you can enhance them with white twigs or red berries from holly.

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Were you lucky enough to plant snowdrop bulbs in time for winter? If so, you will be rewarded when you see them popping through the snow. Shhh, did I say snow? You have to admit everything looks beautiful with a clean blanket of white.

Check out the beauty of the geometric shapes of bare trees and tree branches. If you haven't enjoyed the concept of four-season gardening, it's never too late.

Happy gardening!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

2020 MG of BC officers elected

Congratulations to the following officers who were elected at our Nov. 26 meeting and will take office in January.

President	Melody Corcoran
Vice President	Suzanne Danzig
Treasurer	Pat Vellas
Recording Secretary	Jane Nicholson
Corresponding Secretary	Miriam Taub

How to report your volunteer hours for 2019; no password needed to access the forms

By Donna Karpel

If you've completed your volunteer hours for 2019, you can send your report (V&EAR) this month. If you have volunteer commitments for December, be sure to complete your report and send it in January. *Do not send partial reports; wait until you've completed your volunteering before sending in a report.*

You can report your hours via Excel form or paper, as explained below. The information from the V&EAR is used for our Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) and Rutgers University reports as well as the annual recertification of Master Gardeners. RCE receives additional funding based on total number of reported volunteer hours.

Here are the two ways to report your hours:

1. Excel form: You can use the form on any PC and email it to me. This is the easiest and most accurate way to track hours. (Do not create your own spreadsheet.)

2. Paper form: Paper forms must be mailed, and you need to keep a copy for your records. The mailing address is on the form.

Both the Excel and paper forms can be found on the home page of our [website](#) under "Volunteer Reporting." *No password is needed.* If you haven't downloaded the forms recently, be sure to download the current versions. The November 2018 Excel form has the most accurate list of approved sites, which are the only entries that should go under the location column.

Do not use the online volunteer reporting system as it's not ready for 2019 data entry!

When using the Excel form, remember to change the file name from "V&EAR Email Form" and save with your name and year of reporting. Example, Mary Smith 2019. If you need help renaming your form, please ask. Send the entire report as one spreadsheet. Do *not* separate your education and volunteer hours into two or more reports, and do *not* send two or more spreadsheets. Enter only one date per line, especially if you're submitting a paper report. (If I can't read it, I can't enter it.)

Under education hours you can include the following:

- Any MG workshops and lectures at the meetings;
- Lectures, educational courses, conferences, and docent-led tours at almost any venue including, but not limited to, garden clubs, Rutgers, NYBG, NJBG, association meetings, guided tours, seminars, workshops, etc.

Do not include any of the following:

- Travel time, lunch, socializing;
- Tours of other MG gardens and Garden Conservancy open garden tours;
- Online research and reading (online or magazines, books, etc.).

If you have questions or need help, don't hesitate to contact me at 201-327-8835 or donna9189@gmail.com.

2 new site coordinators

By Melody Corcoran

Two members of the MG Class of 2019 have stepped up to take on the position of volunteer site coordinator.

- Herb Arbeiter is coordinator at Thielke Arboretum. His contact info is arbeiter@optonline.net and cell 646-373-7328.
- Gideon Karlick is coordinator at Hackensack River Greenway through Teaneck. His contact info is gideonk1@aol.com and cell 917-670-1078. Texting is the best way to reach Gideon.

If you have any questions about these two sites, do not hesitate to contact Herb or Gideon.

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Renew your membership for 2020

Don't let your MG of BC membership lapse. See the 2020 membership renewal [form](#) on the home page of our website. Mail 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. If you'd like, you can include an additional amount as a donation to the MG of BC. Donations are always welcome.

Note: Beginning in March, the *Potting Shed* will be delivered only to paid-up members. To continue receiving the Potting Shed, be sure to send your dues to Terri as instructed above.

If you missed our November meeting . . .

Marc Gussen, director of the Closter Nature Center, assisted by his daughter Willow, 7, presented a program on hydroponics at our November meeting. Marc demonstrated how this rosemary plant can thrive in nutrient-enriched water. And, no soil, no pests. Marc sees a future for old warehouses that can be converted to grow fruits and vegetables close to the people who will buy and eat them.



SPOTLIGHT ON ...

MG of BC volunteer sites open during the winter

If you enjoy the great outdoors during the cold weather and want to earn volunteer hours the following sites are open and available to you. Check with the site coordinators for more information.

Bergen New Bridge Medical Center, 230 E. Ridgewood Ave., Paramus

Various days and times; a background check and tuberculin test are required to work at this site. Site coordinator: [Lynette Stewart](#)

Winter activities: Help maintain greenhouse by watering plants, removing dead foliage, checking for insect infestation, and treating plants when necessary. Propagate plants and flowers for annual plant sales at Christmas, Valentine's Day, and Mother's Day. Create floral arrangements and planters and assist with sales. You may help the horticultural therapist oversee the residents as they plant seeds and transplant cuttings.

The Hermitage, 335 N. Franklin Turnpike, Ho-Ho-Kus

Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9:30 am-noon, weather permitting; other days/times for specific activities. Site coordinator: [Kathleen Sullivan](#)

Winter activities: Choose and plant vegetable seeds; plan May plant sale; trim trees; train and run maple sugaring event; collect sap and prepare maple syrup.

Note: Free tour of the museum at 10 am Dec. 4 for MGs who volunteered in 2019; contact [Lynn Curtin](#) to register.

Thielke Arboretum, 460 Doremus Ave., Glen Rock

Stewards, docents, and ambassadors needed year-round. Stewardship hours: Tuesday and Saturday, 9 am-noon, weather permitting. Site coordinator: [Herb Arbeiter](#)

Winter activities for stewards: Prune, trail work, organize supplies and tools; late winter plantings; install deer protection and maintain existing deer protection; winter sowing; collect and organize botanical specimens. **Note:** Park in the pool parking lot. Come prepared to work outdoors; dress in layers; insulated waterproof boots are best.

For more information about docent and ambassador volunteering, click [here](#). **Year-round activities for docents:** Assist in instruction or program administration for children's groups, scouts, and small tours.

Year-round activities for ambassadors: Welcome guests at the education center and answer questions.

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.

HORTICULTURE



Buckeye Yard and Garden Online, Ohio State University

Below is information about another new pest - Beech Leaf Disease. Reprinted from Branching Out, an integrated pest management newsletter for trees and shrubs published by Cornell University. Contact Karen Riede, horticulture consultant, if you suspect Beech Leaf Disease. Be sure to include a photo of the tree, leaf, or infestation. She and Joel Flagler can then review your findings and advise what to do.

- Arnie Friedman

Beech Leaf Disease reported in Westchester County

Beech Leaf Disease is so new a pest that the name may change as research reveals more information about this newest threat to this important and valued tree species. The disease has been observed to affect American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), and oriental beech (*Fagus orientalis*).

It causes striking darkening of green interveinal tissue on beech leaves. Affected leaves may also become necrotic, stunted, leathery, distorted, and crinkled. Dead beech buds have also been observed, and beeches may show thinning of the leaf canopy as affected leaves are eventually lost.

Beech Leaf Disease has been confirmed in several places in Westchester County, most recently on American beeches in Greenburgh and White Plains. Other New York state, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Ontario, Canada, locations have been documented including the first sightings of the disease, seven years ago, in northeastern Ohio.

BEYOND THE GARDEN GATE

Peter Bernich to sing in holiday concerts with the Orpheus Men's Chorus

The 40-plus men of the Orpheus Club Men's Chorus, which includes Peter Bernich, Class of 2016 and first tenor, will perform two holiday concerts in Ridgewood — at 7:30 pm Dec. 14 and 4 pm Dec. 15 at the Ridgewood United Methodist Church, 100 Dayton St. The concert features music from Praetorius, Brahms, Mendelssohn, Morten Lauridsen, Hoagy Carmichael, Louis Armstrong, Jerry Herman, Meredith Wilson, and the Temptations. The chorus also has been invited to perform at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City at 7 pm Dec. 19.



Peter Bernich

Click [here](#) for more information and to purchase tickets for the Ridgewood concerts. You'll also hear a sample of the chorus's music.

VOLUNTEER SITE NEWS

Happy holidays and a happy new year



Wreath created by MGs at the Hermitage.

Photo by Kathleen Sullivan

OUT AND ABOUT

Frelinghuysen Arboretum

'Gingerbread Wonderland'

Marvel at the creativity, skill, and sense of optimism that characterizes the Gingerbread Wonderland, a charming and ecumenical exhibit of hundreds of edible structures. This is the 28th year of this event, which is open from Dec. 6-15 in the arboretum's Haggarty Center, 353 E. Hanover Ave., Morris Township. Times are 10 am-4:30 pm; Fridays until 7:30 pm.

Cost: \$2 per person; children under 2 free. Reservations required for groups of eight or more by calling 973-326-7601. Visit the [website](#).

Garretson Forge and Farm

Garretson is located at 4-02 River Road, Fair Lawn. Visit the [website](#).

Deck the halls, the homestead, the outdoors

Join Garretson volunteers as they decorate the homestead for the holidays. Many hands are needed to spend an hour or two for this fun task from 10 am-2 pm Thursday, Dec. 5. Contact [Lida Gellman](#), site coordinator, for more information.

Annual Dutch Christmas

Visit the Garretson house in its Christmas splendor from 10 am-4 pm Saturday, Dec. 7. A holiday sale will include craft vendors as well as Garretson goods, gift shop goodies, hand-crafted wreaths, bake sale, and Sinter Klass holding court by the fireplace. Bring the little ones for a great photo op.

The Hermitage

Join in the lighting of the Hermitage's 50-foot tree while carolers entertain at 4 pm Sunday, Dec. 8. You can sing along (lyrics will be handed out) and then enjoy hot chocolate afterward.

The event is free; donations are appreciated. The Hermitage is located at 335 N. Franklin Turnpike, Ho-Ho-Kus. Visit the [website](#).



Anne Marie Lander

NJ Botanical Garden/Skylands

Holiday Open House

Skylands Manor will be decorated floor to ceiling for this year's theme of "Fantasy!" to celebrate the sparkle and spirit of the season. (Each year, the Manor House takes on a different look.)

The MG of BC's Holiday Open House Committee will decorate the Manor House dining and breakfast rooms re-imagined as a journey from the icy halls of a snow queen's castle to the welcome re-emergence of spring.

Enjoy a self-guided tour of the Manor House at your own pace from 10 am-4 pm Dec. 5-8; the last ticket is sold at 4 pm. No baby strollers are permitted in the Manor House. The NJBG is located at 2 Morris Road, Ringwood. Parking is free at this time of year. Visit the [website](#).

Cost: \$10 adults; \$8 seniors; \$5 children 6-12; under 6 free. Group tour information call 973-962-9534.

Reservations required for the evening reception (6-8 pm Saturday, Dec. 7) with champagne, light refreshments, and valet parking: \$45 members/\$50 guests and non-members. Call 973-962-9534 for more information. Click [here](#) to buy tickets.

Rutgers Floriculture Greenhouse



Rutgers University photo

The Rutgers Floriculture Poinsettia Trials are an annual event featuring more than 90 varieties of poinsettias propagated and grown in the greenhouse and then formally evaluated for the horticultural market.

These plants, which include some of the most exotic varieties of poinsettias, will be displayed during an open house from 10 am-3 pm Dec. 2 followed by a poinsettia sale from 11 am-3 pm Dec. 3-6. The [Rutgers Floriculture Greenhouse](#) is located at 64 Nichol Ave., New Brunswick.

THIS AND THAT

Videos for armchair garden enthusiasts

Take an online, armchair tour of three gardens — created by Joseph Cooper, Class of 2008 — on YouTube.

Denver Botanic Gardens on [YouTube](#)

This 23-acre botanical garden features more than 60 areas, including conservatories, a sunken amphitheater, water features, a science pyramid, and exhibition areas.

Notable specialty gardens are the Bonsai Pavilion and Tea Garden, Dwarf Conifer Collection, Cactus and Succulent House, Japanese Garden, Rock Alpine Garden, Scripture Garden, Step Garden Waterway, and a Monet Pool. You can also visit the [website](#).

Betty Ford Alpine Gardens on [YouTube](#)

The Betty Ford Alpine Gardens in the Rocky Mountains in Vail, CO, is the world's highest botanical garden at an

altitude of 8,200 feet. Included are waterfalls, a meditation garden, alpine garden, bog garden, conifers, woodland garden, perennial borders, observation points, amphitheater, schoolhouse garden, and education center. You can also visit the [website](#).

Sisko Gardens and Sculptures on [YouTube](#)

This video features the gardens and sculptures of Paul and Janet Sisko in Mahwah, often open to the public during the Garden Conservancy's Open Days program. For more than 30 years, this 3½-acre garden has been cultivated into a magnificent terraced property. Highlights include gardens, sculptures, gravel paths, pond, pool, terraces, studio, and stone walls.

FARMERS MARKETS

Ramsey Farmers Market, Eric S. Smith Middle School, 2 Monroe St.; through March; Sundays, 10 am-2 pm.

Class of 2019 graduation at McFaul



Photo by Nikki Sahatjian (daughter of Marie Alfano)

From left to right: Sitting Diane Van Kempen, Keith Mazanec, Cynthia Drennan, Caroline Newman; second row, Lucy Jickling, Lillian Katz, Maria Bushman, Marie Alfano, Jeannie Yoo, Lorraine Bogert, Carol Ennis, Jerry Rotunda, Karen Riede, horticultural consultant; back row, Joel Flagler, Larry Bauer, Ed Drennan, Zoran Vukasovic, Gideon Karlick, Herb Arbeiter, Lisa Yoler, Harriet Steiner, Sandi Liberti, Elizabeth Gil.

HORTICULTURE GRAPEVINE

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

- Dec. 5** **7:30 pm, Garden Club of Harrington Park**, upstairs in the Harrington Park Library, 10 Herring St., Harrington Park. Program: Hands-on holiday workshop to create a wreath or arrangement; conducted by Gerri Gibney, club president. Materials supplied; reservations required. Contact Gerri at 201-768-2615.
- Dec. 8** **11 am-3 pm, Garden Club of Bergenfield**, holiday brunch at Vitale's Restaurant, 293 Queen Anne Road, Teaneck. Mail your check for \$27 per person, made payable to Garden Club of Bergenfield, to Garden Club of Bergenfield, PO Box 575, Bergenfield, NJ 07621. Reservation deadline Dec. 3. For more information email [Rosa Eaches](#).
- Dec. 11** **7:30 pm, Bergen-Passaic chapter, Native Plant Society of New Jersey**, NY-NJ Trail Conference headquarters, 600 Ramapo Valley Road (Route 202), Mahwah. Holiday party and seed swap. Please bring a snack or beverage and seeds of native plants collected from your garden. You do not have to bring seeds to attend or participate.
- Dec. 13** **Noon-2 pm, Demarest Garden Club**, holiday party at Madeleine's Petit Paris, 416 Tappan Road, Northvale. If interested in attending, complete the form on the "contact us" section of the club's [website](#) by Dec. 4. Be sure to include your phone number, and you'll receive a call from a club member.
- Jan. 2** **7:30 pm, Garden Club of Harrington Park**, upstairs in the Harrington Park Library, 10 Herring St., Harrington Park. Program: Members' night - winners and losers in the garden; members will "show and tell" of their own gardens, gardens visited, or anything garden-related. Hosted by Esther Ross, club member.

The Master Gardeners of Bergen County doesn't share or sell its email/ mailing list/ membership directory to non-members or to other organizations. Our membership information is confidential and for use by members for official MG use only. Please don't share our list with non-members or use it for any unauthorized or commercial purposes. When sending an email to the MG list, address it using the "bcc" option instead of "to" in order to keep the list of recipients from being visible.

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.