



From the Potting Shed November 2019

Master Gardeners of Bergen County

SAVE THE DATE

MG meeting – Tuesday, Nov. 26

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

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

Marc Gussen presents: Hydroponics

Marc Gussen, director of the Closter Nature Center, will lecture, accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation, on hydroponics - the art of soilless gardening. Marc will walk us through the history of botany and agriculture and discuss plant nutrition and the future of food production.



Marc Gussen

Marc has been presenting environmental education programs to children and adults for more than 20 years. He holds a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University, where he conducted research for NASA's Mars Space project. He received NJ Audubon's Informal Educator Award. Marc loves to share his knowledge on topics ranging from wildlife and mycology to Native American primitive skills and hydroponics. The [Closter Nature Center](#) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of 136 acres of woods, streams, wetlands, and trails in Closter.



2020 MG meeting schedule

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

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From the President's Desk

By Carolyn Gretchen

With Thanksgiving coming, November is a celebratory time of year for family and friends later this month. It's also an active time for the MG of BC. On Friday, Nov. 8, our board will embrace the Class of 2020 with a breakfast in the learning center at 1 Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack. On Saturday, Nov. 16, the outstanding Class of 2019 will have its graduation ceremony at noon at McFaul Environmental Center in Wyckoff. All MGs in good standing are invited. The Class of 2018 will provide a luncheon for the graduates and guests.



Keep your eyes open for information from Hank Annunziata, hospitality chair, about our popular holiday party in December. If you haven't signed up to help at NJBG's Holiday Open House, please consider doing so. It's a great time to get to know other members better and to enjoy the guests who come to view the decorated rooms.

Our general meeting Nov. 26 is a very important one. The board will meet at 5 pm to review, comment, and vote on the updated bylaws draft. This document will then be presented to the general membership for a vote at least 20 days prior to the final copy.

The beautiful colors of fall are waning now, signaling a time to finish tidying up our gardens and prepare our plants for winter. You may still be able to plant tulip bulbs, but don't walk on wet soil. You'll do more harm than good. The caveat for this time of year is it's also time to map out what we'd like to do to enhance the gardens for next year and peruse the new garden catalogs if you've not already done so. Enjoy, and happy gardening!

MG OF BC NEWS

Here's the 2020 MG of BC slate of officers; vote scheduled for the Nov. 26 meeting

A Nominating Committee of three MGs (Karen Pennell, Janet Schulz, and Lida Gellman) was formed to select the 2020 slate of officers.

The 2020 slate was presented and confirmed by the MG board at its Oct. 22 meeting. The Nominating Committee will present the following slate to the general membership for a vote at the Nov. 26 meeting:

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

Melody Corcoran, Class of 2016, is the current vice president and volunteer site liaison. Suzanne Danzig, Class of 2008, is the current recording secretary and site coordinator for Washington Spring Garden in Van Saun Park. Pat Vellas, Class of 2014, is taking on her first board role as is Jane Nicholson, Class of 2017. Miriam Taub, Class of 2011, is the current corresponding secretary.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Bergen County MG program syllabus for fall 2019

All classes are 10:30 am-12:30 pm in the 4th-floor learning center at 1 Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack, unless noted. Any MG may attend. For more information contact:

- Joel Flagler, agricultural agent: Flagler@aesop.rutgers.edu or
- Karen Riede, horticultural consultant: karen.riede@rutgers.edu; 201-336-6788.

Dates, topics, and instructors are:

- Nov. 1 (class runs until 1:30 pm); plant pest management workshop; Rich Buckley
- Nov. 8; soil science; MG of BC breakfast; Joel Flagler
- Nov. 15; pruning - the basics; Joel Flagler
- Nov. 22; ethnobotany - people/plant relationships; landscape IPM; Joel Flagler
- Nov. 29; no class (Thanksgiving holiday)
- Dec. 6; horticultural therapy - elders, developmentally disabled; Joel Flagler
- Dec. 13-Jan. 3, 2020; holiday recess

- Jan. 8; North Jersey Ornamental Horticulture Symposium: Landscape Day, County College of Morris, Randolph; register on your own
- Jan. 10-Feb. 28; winter recess
- March 6; classes resume in the learning center

BEYOND THE GARDEN GATE

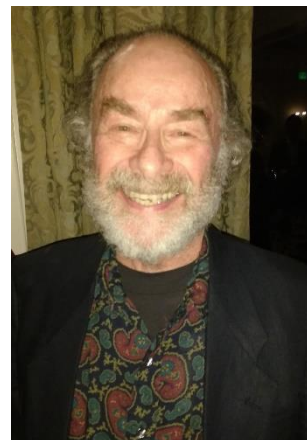
Richard Karp honored by Teaneck Creek Conservancy

Richard Karp, Class of 2011, was one of three recipients of the 2019 Teaneck Creek Conservancy's Award for Environmental Excellence. He was honored at Teaneck Creek's 11th Annual Sustainability Dinner in October.

Rich initially volunteered as a "weed warrior" at the Teaneck Creek Conservancy and eventually became a member of the organization's Eco Art Committee. "This led to my participation with the Friends of the Hackensack River Greenway (he's a former president of the organization and a current board member), Hackensack Riverkeeper, and the New Bridge Landing Authority."

Rich said he has brought "ideas, passion for the environment, administration, and hard physical work to all of these organizations."

Rich holds an MA in fine arts and education from CCNY. He describes himself as an abstract expressionist painter, working primarily in oils. "Landscapes and my affinity for nature have played a large part of my inspiration," he said. "Years ago, I converted my garage into my studio. It's so great as I can work at any time day or night."



Richard Karp

Pete Bernich sings in Ridgewood

Pete Bernich, Class of 2016 and first tenor with the Orpheus Men's Chorus of Ridgewood, will be singing Christmas carols during Ridgewood's Winterfest Saturday, Nov. 30. The event takes place from 11:30 am-1 pm at Van Neste Square, East Ridgewood Avenue and South Walnut Street.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

2019 Award for Excellence winners



Miriam Taub, left, and Donna Faustini received certificates at our October meeting as the MG of BC's Award for Excellence winners. Award winners from all the MG associations statewide were recognized at the Rutgers Master Gardeners Association annual conference.

Miriam, Class of 2011, is corresponding

secretary, garden club liaison, and co-editor of the *Potting Shed*. Donna, Class of 2012, is program chair.

Spend \$20 for a good cause; renew your membership for 2020

It's that time of year. Don't let your MG of BC membership lapse. See the 2020 membership renewal form that was sent along with the *Potting Shed*. 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.

Help! We need a volunteer to talk about recycling and composting

By Arnie Friedman

As coordinator of our Speakers Bureau, I have received several requests for a talk or demonstration on the topic of "composting and recycling" in general or "composting garden and kitchen waste." If you have knowledge in this area, please volunteer to speak on the subject. You'll receive volunteer hours for your time developing and giving your talk and you'll be reimbursed for any talk-related expenses.

Please don't be shy. This is an important topic that many groups would like to know more about. If you need help organizing a talk, I'd be happy to help. Contact me at Arnie1@mindspring.com or call me at 201-707-5149.

OUT AND ABOUT

Frelinghuysen Arboretum

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

2019 Tree Symposium

Learn about the great tree men and women of America; the many botanical taxa of maples; bringing back the American chestnut and dogwood; and hazelnut breeding at Rutgers.

The 2019 Tree Symposium, sponsored by the Morris County Park Commission, will run from 10 am-3 pm Saturday, Nov. 9.

Cost: \$40 members/\$45 non-members. For more information and to register, click [here](#). Then scroll down to Nov. 9 in the left column. Bring a brown bag lunch.

Essential oil workshop

In this holiday gift-making workshop, discover the wonders of essential oils, the plants, and the history of aromatherapy. Take home three gift items. The one-hour workshop is from 1-2 pm Sunday, Nov. 10.

Cost: \$30. For more information and to register, call the arboretum at 973-326-7601 from 9 am-4:30 pm.

NJ Botanical Garden/Skylands

The NJBG is located at 2 Morris Road, Ringwood. Parking is free at this time of year. Visit the [website](#).

Holiday wreaths

Make a holiday wreath at one of two wreath-making workshops – at 10 am and 1 pm Saturday, Nov. 23. You'll learn how to assemble and decorate wreaths using a variety of fresh and dried materials. As you learn, you'll make a wreath to take home. Materials provided; bring clippers and any special ribbon or decorations you might wish to use.

Cost: \$20 members/\$25 non-members. Reservations required by calling the NJBG office at 973-962-9534.

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.)

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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; last ticket sold at 4 pm. No baby strollers are permitted in the Manor House.

Cost: \$10 adults; \$8 seniors; \$5 children 6-12; under 6 free. Group tours available by calling 973-962-9534 for details. Reservations are required for the evening reception (from 6-8 pm Saturday, Dec. 7) with champagne, light refreshments, and valet parking included. \$45 members/\$50 guests and non-members. Call 973-962-9534 for more information. Click [here](#) to buy tickets.

Thielke Arboretum

Making strong durable rope was a skill of our ancestors. Learn how to make cordage with expert survivalist Joe Blevis. You'll use local plant fibers to make your own. Joe is a member of [Earth Living Skills](#), a collective of instructors who run survival-type programs.

Cost: \$20, all materials provided. Space is limited. Click [here](#) to register. The arboretum is located at 460 Doremus Ave., Glen Rock.

VOLUNTEER SITE NEWS

MG students give facelift to planters at Bergen New Bridge Medical Center

By Miriam Taub

Thanks to three students of the Class of 2019, the raised planters at Bergen New Bridge Medical Center have been refurbished. Lucy Jickling, Keith Mazanac, and Harriet Steiner have been working since early spring to bring new life to the faded, weed-filled planters that sat near the gazebo outside the back of the center's main building.

The students were motivated to get involved with horticultural therapy after hearing Ilona Toth Robins, the hort therapist at Bergen New Bridge, speak to MG students about the site, which is an official volunteer site for the MG of BC.

Once on site, they started by examining what they had to work with; developed a budget to cover the cost of repairing and repainting the planters; amended the soil; and added more soil. Their idea was to plant native and deer-resistant perennials, in a variety of textures and

fragrances, that will bloom from spring to fall. The target audience was the long-term-care residents of the facility.

In the spring, Lucy and Harriet weeded and prepared the raised planters for the annual Earth Day ceremony during which able residents placed stones with the name of a loved one in the memorial section of the grounds. The memorial section was where Harriet used hammer and chisel, as well as small round stones, to create a dragonfly on the ground. The dragonfly will symbolically "carry their thoughts into heaven," Harriet explained.



Class of 2019 members Lucy Jickling, Keith Mazanac, and Harriet Steiner pose at Bergen New Bridge Medical Center with one of the planters that they refurbished over a period of several months.

Meanwhile, when the funds became available in mid-July, Keith undertook the refurbishing. Harriet credited Keith with singlehandedly removing and replacing damaged sections of the planters. Without Keith this project wouldn't have happened, she said.

Once the repairs were completed, the wood had to be scraped and painted. The MGs choose blue, one of the hospital's colors, to replace the faded pink and lavender paint. They scraped, primed, and gave two coats of paint to each planter.

They visited Rohsler's Allendale Nursery for the soil and peat moss to amend and raise the level of the soil within the planters. Once the planters were completed, it was

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too late in the season to plant perennials, so they planted yellow mums (yellow is Bergen New Bridge's second color) and other fall annuals.

The trio is already thinking ahead. For next season, Harriet said they have two things on their wish list: The first is outdoor furniture and umbrellas where the residents can sit comfortably in the shade with their caregivers and family members and the second is a water source to maintain the plantings. The current water source is about 200 feet away.

Harriet praised head groundskeeper Jacob Weaver and Andrew Pucia and Jeff Einto who helped the MGs clean up after the soil was delivered and provided a water tank during the initial plantings.

As a result of these improvements, Harriet said she hopes that the residents can experience the "freedom of nature, enjoy the birds singing, the butterflies, and maybe even touching and smelling the flowers."

"We had fun working together," she noted. "We got so much back. It'll be a beautiful place for residents and all to enjoy."

Lynette Stewart is the MG of BC's site coordinator for Bergen New Bridge Medical Center. Email [Lynette](#) if you'd like to volunteer there.

If you missed our October meeting . . .

Anne Meore, right, a registered horticultural therapist, gave a lecture and slide presentation at our October meeting. Anne is garden projects coordinator for Bon Secours Charity Health System, Suffern, NY. Among other things, she showed the transformation of an empty outdoor area into the [Garden of Hope](#), a therapeutic, accessible garden space at Good Samaritan Hospital that she designed and manages and uses to conduct horticultural therapy programming.



FARMERS MARKETS

Oradell Farmers Market, 618 Veldran Ave. (post office parking lot); through November; Sundays, 10 am-3 pm.

Ramsey Farmers Market, Main Street train station; through Nov.18; Sundays, 9 am-2 pm.



Photo by Miriam Taub

Pick a color

These beautiful heads of cauliflower were on sale in Teaneck at the last farmers market of the season.

Help fight hunger

At this time of year, food donations are needed more than ever. Please bring a canned, jarred, or boxed non-perishable grocery item to our Nov. 26 meeting to be donated to the Center for Food Action, Bergen County's non-profit food bank. See the list of most-needed food items on the [CFA website](#). You can also donate funds online. Every little bit helps.

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

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HORTICULTURE GRAPEVINE

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

- Nov. 4** **11:30 am, Tenafly Garden Club**, Davis Johnson Park and Gardens, Tenafly. Speaker: Michael Mitchell, designer and builder of rose gardens. Topic: Rose garden at Davis Johnson Park.
- Nov. 11** **7 pm, Sundial Garden Club**, Meadowbrook Elementary School, 50 Piermont Ave., Hillsdale. Speaker: Thomas Bender, plant curator at Thielke Arboretum. Topic: Native deer-resistant plants and grasses and winterizing the garden. Visit the club's [website](#).
- Nov. 11** **7:30 pm, Garden Club of Bergenfield**, Cooper's Pond, 133-153 W. Church St., Bergenfield. Topic: Holiday decorations, hands-on participation for club members. One lucky winner will take home the final arrangement. Email [Rosa Eaches](#) if you'd like to attend as a guest/non-member so the club can have enough materials available.
- Nov. 12** **7 pm, Ramsey Area Garden Club**, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 55 Wyckoff Ave., corner of Woodland Avenue, Ramsey. Speaker: John Sullivan, American Orchid Society judge since 1998. Topic: Growing orchids in your home.
- Nov. 13** **7:30 pm, Wyckoff Area Garden Club**, Wyckoff Public Library, Monroe Room, 200 Woodland Ave., Wyckoff. Speaker: Kay Joo, owner, Beers Flower Shop, Ridgewood, who will create a Thanksgiving floral basket. Refreshments at 7 pm. Visit the club's [website](#).
- Nov. 13** **7:30 pm, Bergen-Passaic chapter, Native Plant Society of New Jersey**, NY-NJ Trail Conference headquarters, 600 Ramapo Valley Road (Route 202), Mahwah. Topic: End-of-season discussion and idea sharing. What were your greatest successes this year? What would you like to do better next year? Are you using native plants for fall color? Do you need to add native grasses to your garden? Do you need more color in early spring and fall?
- Nov. 14** **7:30 pm, Garden Club of Teaneck**, Rodda Center, Room 2B, 250 Colonial Court, Teaneck; enter on Palisade Avenue. Use upper parking lot for handicap accessibility. Speaker: Marc Gussen, director, Closter Nature Center. Topic: Hydroponics - the art of soilless gardening. Refreshments at 7 pm.
- Nov. 19** **7 pm, Backyard Garden Club**, sponsored by the Friends of the River Vale Free Public Library, River Vale Library, 412 Rivervale Road, River Vale. Topic: Recap of the gardening season; attendees will discuss recent gardening successes and challenges in an informal roundtable discussion.
- Nov. 20** **7 pm, Hasbrouck Heights Garden Club**, upstairs library meeting room, 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights. Speaker: Mary Jo Sichak, Passaic County MG and teacher/naturalist at Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood. Topic: Indoor gardening. Refreshments and short meeting precede speaker.
- Nov. 24** **2 pm, Garden Club of Harrington Park**, upstairs in the Harrington Park Library, 10 Herring St., Harrington Park. Speaker: Gerri Gibney, club president, who will conduct the annual Thanksgiving workshop to create a centerpiece for your table, living room, or to give as a hostess gift. Cost: \$18 members/\$23 non-members. Register by emailing [Gerri Gibney](#) or calling her 201-768-2615. Space is limited.

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](#).