



From the Potting Shed January 2020

Master Gardeners of Bergen County

SAVE THE DATE

MG meeting – Tuesday, Jan. 21

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

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

Chris Rubino presents: Plants for 2020

Chris Rubino of [Monrovia](#) is back to speak about Monrovia's new plants for 2020 and what worked in 2019. (He last spoke to us in 2017.) He will review exciting new cultivars, the re-introduction of some old-time favorites, as well as the best new products throughout the industry. Learn what's trending in flowering shrubs, ornamental grasses, edibles, and annuals and perennials from one of the leading growers in our country.



Chris Rubino

Chris is a native of Buffalo, NY, and a graduate of Cornell University. His relevant work experience includes retail nursery sales; landscape design, installation and maintenance; golf course maintenance; research on nutritional deficiencies of vegetable crops; American Rose Society test garden in Buffalo; the Cornell Plantations and Arboretum; Walt Disney World Co. Epcot Center Land Pavilion/Walt Disney Animal Kingdom; and Monrovia nursery sales in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, New Jersey, and New York.

He currently travels extensively to domestic and international gardens learning and looking for new ideas for American gardens.

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

From the President's Desk

By Carolyn Gretchen

I'd like to take this time to warmly thank the MG of BC board and committee heads and workers for all your support these past two years of my tenure as president. Please join me in welcoming and supporting Melody Corcoran as the new president for the 2020-2022 years.



Kudos to the holiday party crew! We enjoyed the company, the food, and the ability to socialize in one big room. A special thank you to all who enhanced our party with appetizers, salads, and desserts.

Cold weather and snow here in the Northeast can't deter us gardeners. Although it's not ideal weather to go outdoors, we can still garden. Houseplants are the hot items now. This is due not only to the weather, but also because of more limits on spaces to plant. As we age, many of us will choose smaller spaces because of ease of care, or we will garden elsewhere.

January is also a time of reflection. If you don't keep a garden journal, have you ever thought of doing so? You can make your own or buy a commercial one. Think about what really delighted you, and what didn't do well for you. You can change it up. Gardens are not static, so do you need to separate your perennials to share with others, or bring more color in, or make it a four-season garden?

There are some beautiful things that will bloom in the coldest of weather. Check them out in your gardening books, and plan for the early spring into summer. Peruse the seed catalogs. Treat yourself to some soil-warming heating mats or grow lights on a timer so you can start your plantings early. Look up when the ground is predicted to be warm enough to plant. And, put it all in your journal so you have a reference for the coming years.

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Make a commitment to care for this Earth. Ban as much plastic and paper use as you can from your home. Use your reusable bags at the grocery store. Try to add a green tip weekly, monthly, whatever you can do. Even baby steps are helpful.

This will be the last time I can borrow Joseph's line: Happy gardening. Thank you, Joseph!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Revised bylaws, Appendix up for a vote at the Jan. 21 meeting

A change in the bylaws of the MG of BC will be up for a vote by the membership at the Jan. 21 meeting. The bylaws were recently updated and an Appendix added. These changes and the new Appendix were presented at the November meeting of the Executive Board. The amended bylaws and Appendix will be approved if accepted by a two-thirds vote of the certified Bergen County Master Gardeners who attend the Jan. 21 meeting.

The following is a summary of the changes:

- The Vice President will serve as a delegate or alternate to the Rutgers Master Gardener Association of NJ (RMGANJ).
- The Recording Secretary will also distribute final copies of the minutes to the webmaster, collect year-end reports, and take on the duties of the Archivist.
- The Corresponding Secretary will take on the duties of the Sunshine committee.
- The Treasurer will file reports and/or fees in order to maintain non-profit status.
- The Community Outreach Liaison will include these two additional subcommittees: Publicity and Speakers Bureau.
- The Newsletter committee will take on the duties of Garden Club Liaison.
- The Program committee will include two subcommittees: Program and Trips and Tours.
- The Nominating committee will be appointed in May instead of September. This committee will present a slate in September instead of October. The vote will take place in October instead of November.
- Term limits for officers were changed. This was voted on and approved at the Nov. 15, 2016, board meeting and approved at the general meeting in May 2017.
- A Lifetime Membership designation was added. This was approved at the Feb. 27, 2017, board meeting and approved at the general meeting in May 2017.

- An Appendix was added; the Appendix contains the job descriptions of the committees and subcommittees.

Volunteer hours are due; no password needed to download the forms

By Donna Karpel

Volunteer hours are due now! And, you can download the reporting forms from the home page of our [website](#); no password is needed.

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 or use a shared drive. Do not send a PDF of the excel file.*
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 right side of the home page under "Volunteer Reporting." Click on either form and it will download directly to your computer.

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. 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.

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Do not include any of the following:

- Travel time, lunch, socializing;
- Tours of other MG gardens or 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.

Renew your membership for 2020

To the 50% of MGs who have renewed your membership for 2020, thank you. To the 50% of MGs who haven't yet renewed your membership, don't let it lapse.

Beginning in March, the Potting Shed will be delivered only to paid-up members. To continue receiving the Potting Shed, be sure to follow the instructions below.

You'll find 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. *Thank you for renewing as soon as you can!*

THIS AND THAT

Visit Denver-area artworks online; no waiting in line

Joseph Cooper, Class of 2008, has posted to YouTube three new videos featuring sculptures and murals in the Denver, CO, area. Enjoy both indoor and outdoor art without having to board a plane.

Benson Sculpture Garden on [YouTube](#)

Located in Loveland, the Benson Sculpture Garden has provided a unique outdoor setting for showcasing sculpture since 1985. Currently, there are 164 pieces of art on permanent display by world-renowned artists. The collection includes representational, stylized, and abstract sculptures in a variety of mediums such as bronze, stone, wood, ceramic, glass, metal, and mixed media.

Denver street art, RiNo Art District on [YouTube](#)

The RiNo Art District is located just north of downtown Denver in the old industrial area of the city known as Five Points. Artists began inhabiting the area in the 1990s for the vacant and inexpensive industrial buildings

in which they could house their studios. The art extends beyond gallery walls in this neighborhood with its colorful and innovative street murals in alleys and on buildings.



Photo by Joseph Cooper

Among the street art in Denver's RiNo (River North) arts district is this painting on a fence with sage advice. See Joseph's video of this and dozens of other art works on YouTube.

Museum of Outdoor Arts on [YouTube](#)

Established in 1981, the Museum of Outdoor Arts (MOA) is located at the Englewood Civic Center. The collection has more than 50 works of art spread throughout Englewood, Greenwood Plaza, and Denver. The art in this collection includes paintings, kinetic sculptures, bronze statues, and earth-based conceptual works.

And ... 2 videos of the 2019 Holiday Open House

Visit YouTube to see Joseph Cooper's videos of the 2019 Skylands Holiday Open House [decorations](#) and [volunteers](#). Just add popcorn.

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Sunshine: Feel better, Agnes

Agnes Adler, Class of 1990, is out of Valley Hospital and getting some rest and rehabilitation at the Jewish Home at Rockleigh, 10 Link Drive, Rockleigh. Call 201-784-1414 for information and visiting hours.

Recipe: Curried Chickpea Spread

Here's the recipe for the curried chickpea spread that Donna Karpel brought to the MG of BC holiday party in December. Thank you, Donna!

Ingredients

- 8 Tbsp mayonnaise
- 1-3 tsp curry powder to taste (will depend on the strength of the curry powder)
- 4 tsp fresh lemon juice
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 2 (15 ounce) cans of chickpeas, drained and rinsed in a colander
- 8 Tbsp raw, unsalted cashews, chopped
- 5 Tbsp raisins, chopped
- 2 stalks celery, diced
- 2 scallions, diced

Directions

1. Whisk together mayonnaise, curry powder, and lemon juice.
2. While chickpeas are in the colander, run warm water over them. With your fingers, remove the skins, which will pull off easily. Put chickpeas in food processor and pulse several times to chop coarsely. Place in large bowl.
3. Add cashews, raisins, celery, and scallions to chickpeas and stir gently. Add most of the mayo mixture and fold in. Taste, and add rest of mayo if needed* plus sea salt and pepper to taste.

* Will depend on brand of chickpeas and how well they are drained.

OUT AND ABOUT

Duke Farms

Duke Farms is located at 1112 Dukes Parkway West, Hillsborough. Visit the [website](#).

Growing microgreens at home, Jan. 13, 1-2:30 pm

Microgreens are great in, or as, a salad, an accent to any dish, or a sandwich topper. You can grow them at

home year-round. In this 90-minute class, you'll learn about the wide variety of microgreens that can be grown; techniques and tools that will aid in their production; and common pitfalls to watch out for as you start your own growing at home. Samples will be available for tasting. You will seed your own tray to take home.

Cost: \$10. Click [here](#) to register.

Mystery walks, Jan. 19, Feb. 9, and March 22, 1 pm

Take a two-hour exploration of Duke Farms on foot led by an experienced educator. The theme of each of these three walks will be seasonal in nature, but the location of the walk won't be revealed until you get there. Dress for the weather, bring a refillable water bottle and be prepared to walk two to three miles on trails of varying conditions.

Cost: \$10 per person for each walk; select one, two, or all three. To register, click [here](#).

Frelinghuysen Arboretum

Spinning with plant fibers – making yarn the old-fashioned way, Jan. 19, 1-2 pm

Enjoy a hands-on experience of making yarn from flax, bamboo, cotton, and more. Try your hand at spinning these different fibers on drop spindles and a spinning wheel. This event is sponsored by the Morris County Park Commission and will be held in the arboretum's Haggerty Center, 353 E. Hanover Ave., Morris Township.

Cost: \$15 per person. For more information or to register, call the arboretum at 973-326-7601 from 9 am-4:30 pm. Visit the [website](#).

CONFERENCES

North Jersey Ornamental Horticulture Symposium, Jan. 6-8, 9 am-3:15 pm. Dragonetti Auditorium, County College of Morris, 214 Center Grove Road, Randolph.

Turf Day is Jan 6; Tree Day is Jan. 7; Landscape Day, chaired by Joel Flagler, is Jan. 8. For more information, click [here](#).

Cost for certified MGs: Walk-in registration only (preregistration is closed); \$60 per person, per day; proof of MG certification required. Walk-in registrants will not receive lunch.

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Rutgers Home Gardeners School, March 21, 9 am-4 pm. Hickman Hall, 89 George St., New Brunswick.

The Home Gardeners School is made up of 40 individual workshop sessions covering an array of horticulture topics. This format allows you to select the workshops most relevant to your gardening interests. You can choose four workshops — two in the morning and two in the afternoon.

Among the new workshops for 2020 are Starting a Small Farm One Step at a Time; Top 10 Garden Apps; Garden Accessories Alias Garden Bling; Planting for Honey Bees – Seasonal Planting; Basics of Butterfly Gardening; Trellises in the Edible Garden.

Cost for certified MGs: \$70 on or before Feb. 29; proof of certification required. For more information and to register, click [here](#). *Workshops fill up fast!*

Note about parking: All visitors must register their vehicles online with the Rutgers Department of Transportation Services. A link will be provided via email when you register. Be sure to register your car before arriving on campus.

Rutgers Introduction to Organic Land Care, four-session course Feb. 6, 13, 20, and 27, 8 am-5 pm; snow date March 5. Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Somerset County, 310 Milltown Road, Bridgewater.

Learn ecologically sound management practices and how to create low-maintenance landscapes. The course focuses on promoting healthy soil, enhancing biodiversity, and reducing polluted runoff from managed landscapes.

More than 20 university and industry experts will teach the class and share their experiences of how to successfully transition a landscape to organic management.

Cost: \$125 per day or \$475 for the four sessions. \$50 for optional print materials; otherwise materials will be distributed electronically. One-day options available. You may take an optional exam based on the course content, provided you attend all four sessions. Breakfast and lunch included. For each day's program and speakers and to register, click [here](#).

FARMERS MARKETS

Ramsey Farmers Market, Sundays, 10 am-2 pm. Indoors at Eric Smith School, 2 Monroe St., Ramsey.

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 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](#).

- 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.
- Jan. 8** **10:30 am, Wyckoff Area Garden Club**, Monroe Room, Wyckoff Public Library, 200 Woodland Ave., Wyckoff. Speaker: Jeffrey Van Pelt, authority on roses and rose care. Topic: Top 10 roses for your garden. Refreshments at 10 am. Visit the club's [website](#).

- Jan. 8** **7:30 pm, Bergen-Passaic chapter, Native Plant Society of New Jersey**, NY-NJ Trail Conference headquarters, 600 Ramapo Valley Road (Route 202), Mahwah. Speaker: Jean Epiphan, ecologist and research project coordinator at the Rutgers Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability. Topic: Five great New Jersey trees.
- Jan. 13** **7:30 pm, Garden Club of Bergenfield**, Cooper's Pond, 133-153 W. Church St., Bergenfield. Topic: Recycling. If you have knowledge in this area, please volunteer to speak about it. Annual club membership fee: \$15.
- Jan. 14** **7 pm, Ramsey Area Garden Club**, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 55 Wyckoff Ave., corner of Woodland Avenue, Ramsey. Speaker: Rich Flynn, head landscape designer, [NJ Botanical Garden](#), Ringwood. Topic: The landscape legacy of Skylands at the NJBG.
- Jan. 15** **7 pm, Hasbrouck Heights Garden Club**, 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights. Speaker: Mark Gussen, director, Closter Nature Center. Topic: Hydroponics. Greetings and refreshments at 6:30 pm.
- Jan. 27** **7:30 pm, Ho-Ho-Kus Garden Club**, 400 Warren Ave., entrance on Sycamore Avenue, Ho-Ho-Kus. Speaker: Chris Rubino of [Monrovia](#). Topic: New plants from Monrovia.

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](#).