

### Virtual meeting – Tuesday, Oct. 19

Announcements at 7:20 pm; program to follow.

Click [here](#) to join the meeting at 7:15 pm.

Meeting ID: 926 9258 8641; password: 692429

### Lesley Parness Beyond the Potted Palm: Victorians and Their Houseplants



Lesley Parness

The Victorian Era was also England's golden age of plant exploration. It was a time, said Lesley Parness, a garden historian and writer, when the public's growing interest in natural history and obsession with "collecting" came together around plants.

The variety of houseplants available for purchase burgeoned during Queen Victoria's reign. Ever after, Brits and Americans have been in love with them. Lesley said that not only can houseplants complement and enhance any room's decor, but also NASA studies confirm their ability to remove indoor air pollution. Leslie will discuss the plants that populated Victorian parlors, how to care for them, and simple ways to bring a Victorian touch to plant-scaping your home.

Lesley has worked in public gardens in the United States and abroad for four decades. In 2017, she retired as superintendent of horticultural education for the Morris County Park Commission where she oversaw programming and interpretation at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Willowood Arboretum, and Bamboo Brook Outdoor Education Center.

She is a founding member and past president of [Garden State Gardens](#), a non-profit consortium of New Jersey's public gardens. According to her [website](#), currently she's "enjoying my own garden and spending time with like-minded plant people." She last spoke to the MG of BC in April 2018 on the topic of medicinal plants of the Civil War.

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

### From the President's Desk

#### By Melody Corcoran, Class of 2016

I hope you all had a chance to go to the Bergen County Fall Harvest Festival in September. The weather cooperated with bright, sunny skies. When I visited on Sunday morning, it seemed like a lot of Bergen County was there at the same time; it was crowded, and parking was at a premium. There were craft vendors, food trucks, carnival rides, the Bergen County 4-H exhibits, and, most important, the exhibits from the Master Gardener Classes of 2020 and 2021.



Because of the pandemic, many of the 2020 and 2021 class members had previously only "met" each other online during the educational portion of their training. This did not stop them from managing to finally get together in person and put together exhibits with educational demonstrations, posters, and flyers and with hands-on activities for children. Kudos to both classes for successfully presenting their informative exhibits.

Thanks also to those Master Gardeners who worked behind the scenes to make this year's Fall Harvest Festival a success. MG volunteers helped with organizing, setting up, and taking down the exhibits. MG volunteers were also there during exhibit hours to provide assistance, refreshments, and support to class members.

If you didn't make it to the festival this year, put it on your calendar for next year and come out to support Bergen County's future Master Gardeners.

**[Editor's note:** See photos from the Fall Harvest Festival in a separate file sent with the *Potting Shed*.]

## HORTICULTURE



Photo courtesy of Dr. Marilyn Figueroa

### Garden Club of Teaneck volunteers create 'gem' of a pollinator garden

#### By Dr. Marilyn Figueroa, Teaneck Garden Club

A new pollinator garden near the Garden Club of Teaneck's (GCT) greenhouse invites bees, butterflies, and birds to rest awhile at the end of Lindbergh Boulevard.

This 26-x-37-foot hidden gem is located amid two community gardens, the greenhouse, and the township's garden debris recycling area. The area was originally planted with crape myrtle, holly, spirea, and boxwood. In recent years, the area had become overgrown with weeds and invasive vines.

GCT volunteers spent many hours this spring weeding, clearing, mulching, and preparing the land. Once ready, volunteers planted native species of plants known to attract a variety of pollinators. The plantings loosely followed a design done by [S&K Wildflower Rescue and Nursery](#). This newly created pollinator garden is a work in progress. We hope to clear and plant additional areas surrounding the garden in the coming years.

The GCT received a grant from the Bergen County Audubon Society (BCAS) that covered some costs including those of an educational sign and native plants. The pollinator garden has been certified by BCAS as a [Certified Wildlife Garden](#).

If you love nature and wildlife, please visit our garden. Enter under the arbor newly planted with *Lonicera sempervirens*, a native species of honeysuckle with red trumpet flowers that hummingbirds love. Walk the short stone path, enjoy the flowers in bloom, read about pollinators, sit awhile on the bench, and catch sight of the monarchs and hummingbirds feeding on the flowers.

The pollinator garden is open to the public. From the GCT's greenhouse parking area (at the end of Lindbergh Boulevard) look for the garden behind the tall grasses that curve around the parking area. Click [here](#) to visit the GCT website.

### Spotted lanternfly resources

Have you spotted the spotted lanternfly (SLF) yet? MGs have reported seeing them in Wood-Ridge, Edgewater, Teaneck, and Palisades Park. The best method for eradication is to stomp them or crush with a fly swatter.

Here are some SLF resources:

- Eyewitness News [report](#) from August with a brief overview of the SLF;
- Rutgers University SLF [information](#) and links;
- SLF [tool](#) to report a sighting to the NJ Department of Agriculture;
- Penn State Extension [webinar](#) with the invasion history, biology, and why we're concerned about the SLF;
- Penn State Extension [list](#) of factsheets, videos, and webinars to learn about and safely manage the SLF.
- Penn State Extension [article](#) about the tree of heaven, the host tree for the SLF; and
- YouTube [video](#) showing how residents of Bordentown blended an SLF search-and-destroy mission into a pub crawl. Get out your fly swatter!



Photo by Suzanne Danzig

An SLF on Suzanne Danzig's deck in Edgewater.

### Elaine's native plant resources

Elaine Silverstein, co-leader of the Bergen-Passaic Chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Jersey, spoke at our September virtual meeting about creating a native plant habitat. She offered the following mail-order sources for native plants. Enjoy browsing their websites:

- [Toadshade Wildflower Farm](#), Frenchtown;
- [Wild Ridge Plants](#), Alpha;
- [Earth First Native Plant Nursery](#), Egg Harbor Township;
- [Pinelands Direct Native Plants](#), Columbus;
- [The Pollen Nation](#), Bridgeton; and
- [Izel Native Plants](#), Maryland.

## THINGS TO DO

### NJ Botanical Garden Harvest Fest Oct. 2

The NJBG's Harvest Fest will be 10 am-5 pm, Oct. 2 at Ringwood State Park, 1304 Sloatsburg Road, Ringwood. Rain date is Oct. 3. Among the festivities: Crafters, garden tours, a plant sale, exhibits, music and dance, a fairway of booths and exhibits, and, of course, food. For the kids, there's pumpkin painting, applesauce making, hayrides, and free games.

Admission is free. Parking is \$5. Proceeds benefit the NJBG. Visit the [NJBG website](#).

### Cleanup of Andreas Park in Teaneck

Join volunteers of the Hackensack River Greenway through Teaneck for a cleanup of the Andreas Park area from 10 am-noon, Oct. 3. Parking is available near the tennis courts on Grenville Avenue, off River Road, Teaneck. Brings gloves, loppers, and clippers. Masks required.

### Garretson Farm Fall Festival Oct. 10

Garretson Forge & Farm will host its annual Fall Festival from 10 am-4 pm, Oct. 10. The festival will feature the 1800s farm period with open hearth cooking demonstrations, tours of the gardens, hands-on children's activities, and re-enactors in period costume. Admission is free.



Garretson's hard neck organic garlic drying in preparation for the Fall Festival.

Available for purchase:

Limited late-summer organic vegetables and herbs, dried herbs, luscious strawberry and raspberry jams, lavender sachets, and Garretson's hard neck organic garlic.

October is the time to plant garlic, so stop by and get some for your garden. Garretson Forge & Farm is located at 4-02 River Road, Fair Lawn. Visit the [website](#).

### Bergen County Art in the Park: Exhibits and music Oct. 16 at Van Saun

The 57th annual Bergen County Art in the Park show and concert is scheduled for 11 am-3:30 pm, Oct. 16 at Van Saun Park, Lot 4, Area F. Rain date is Oct. 17.

More than 100 adult visual artists representing a wide scope of artistic diversity within Bergen County will display their works during this exhibit and sale. The day will include mono-print demonstrations throughout the day by Guttenberg Arts and a watercolor demo by local artist/teacher Tenn Lu.



Photo courtesy of Linda Cross

Guitarist Dean Shot entertains at Art in the Park 2019. Linda Cross of the Bergen County Division of Senior Services (in sunglasses) with her artwork.

For your entertainment, listen to Mike Brocato and [Sharp Edge](#), which describes itself as a "house burnin' rock and roll blues band." They'll be onstage from 12:30-3:30 pm.

### Tour the Butterfly and Native Garden

The Bergen-Passaic Chapter of the Native Plant Society of NJ will tour the Butterfly and Native Garden in Overpeck Park, Leonia, one of the MG of BC volunteer sites. Chapter co-leaders will lead the tour from 2-4 pm, Oct. 17. The group will look for any fall-blooming plants as the garden prepares itself for winter.

The address is 40 Fort Lee Road, Leonia. The garden is located behind the equestrian center.

### Teaneck Library outdoor book sale

A buck goes a long way at the Friends of the Teaneck Public Library pop-up book sale noon-4 pm, Oct. 3 in the library parking lot, 840 Teaneck Road.

Hard-cover books are \$2; paperbacks are \$1; and kids book are two for \$1. Rain date is Oct. 17.

*Please observe social distancing and wear a mask, even though the sale is outdoors.*

## SPOTLIGHT ON ....

### Volunteers needed before, during, and after the Skylands Manor Holiday Open House

The MG of BC Holiday Open House (HOH) Committee is looking for volunteers to help with this year's event at Skylands Manor, Ringwood, from Sunday, Nov. 28-Monday, Dec. 6. The HOH is a great way to meet other MGs and to have fun.

Volunteers are needed to assist with transport, drop-off, setup, and cleanup prior to and after the event. Duties include assembling and decorating trees, stringing lights, and placing theme-based decorative items in the Main Hall, which the MG of BC is decorating this year. In addition, volunteer docents are needed during the event to answer questions and to ensure the safety and security of both attendees and the decorative items in each room.

The Skylands Manor HOH is an annual event sponsored by the Skylands Association to raise funds to restore and add to the New Jersey Botanical Garden's landscaping and buildings. For example, funds helped pay for a new roof to the Carriage House and are going toward restoration of the Pump House.

MG groups, garden clubs, and other organizations volunteer to decorate a room or rooms within the Manor House based on a theme chosen earlier in the year. This year's theme is "An Artists' Holiday." The MG of BC's Decorating Committee will re-imagine the Main Hall as a travelogue following a young artist's bicycle tour of sites in the cities and countryside of France that inspired the Impressionists.

Here's the schedule:

- Drop off decorations: After 1 pm, Sunday, Nov. 28;
- Setup: 10 am-4 pm Monday, Nov. 29 and Tuesday, Nov. 30;
- HOH event: 10 am-4 pm, Thursday, Dec. 2; Friday, Dec. 3; Saturday, Dec. 4; and Sunday, Dec. 5; and
- Cleanup/breakdown: Dec. 6.

If you have a few hours to spare, the HOH Committee would appreciate your help. To volunteer, call Sue Sheridan, Class of 2013, at 201-664-2120 who will coordinate shifts.

**Reminder:** No MG volunteer hours are required in 2021. However, any time volunteered will count toward your lifetime hours. In addition, your travel time to and from Skylands counts toward volunteer hours.

- Maria Bushman and Sue Sheridan



Photo by Joseph Cooper

The lavabo, decorated by the MG of BC, for the 2019 Skylands Holiday Open House.

### Is your garden club interested in decorating a room at the Skylands Manor HOH?

The "Withdrawing" Room (or ladies parlor) within Skylands Manor has become available for decorating for this year's Holiday Open House fund-raiser. Decorating the Withdrawing Room is separate from the MG of BC's participation in the HOH.

If you're a member of a garden club or community service group, or you're a devotee of HGTV, here's a way to show off your skills with ornaments and embellishments. Contact [Deb Manfredonio](#), HOH coordinator and member of the Skylands Association, for details about decorating the Withdrawing Room.

Please note that each individual or organization must supply its own decorations whether new, handmade, or hand-me-down. A few artificial Christmas trees may be available from the Skylands Association.



### Did you know?

All MG of BC volunteer sites are open (except Davies Arboretum) and await your return. For a list of sites, locations, and contact information, visit our [website](#). From the home page, click on "Volunteer Sites." The great outdoors is calling this fall. Be a part of it!

## WEBINARS

### **Bruce Crawford weighs in on Lespedeza**



*Photo by Janet Schulz*

*Janet Schulz, Class of 1988, reports that while she cuts her Lespedeza (above) down to the ground each fall, it's a fast grower and gets to be about 10 feet tall. It required a Sawzall when she wanted to share a "cutting" with a friend. But is it invasive?*

#### **Comment from Bruce Crawford, manager of horticulture, Morris County Park Commission:**

"Lespedeza thunbergii has never yielded seedlings in the many years that I have grown it. It's a great plant to place atop a wall or on a bank where it can drape down. We planted 30 or so along Ryders Lane at the entrance to the [Rutgers] Gardens several years back. It proved to be very salt-tolerant and no seedlings. It did not like to have its crown covered with woodchips. The plant [in the photo] looks like the cultivar 'Gibraltar' and I see no reason why this plant would not make a fine addition to your garden."

*If you have a horticultural question for Bruce, send to [info@mgofbc.org](mailto:info@mgofbc.org).*

## HORTICULTURE GRAPEVINE

**Oct. 5, 7-8 pm, Bogota Public Library via Zoom:**  
Speaker: Janet Schulz, Class of 1988. Topic: Preparing Your Garden for Winter. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

**See additional webinars in the October Mid-Month Potting Shed.**

**Oct. 4, 6:30 pm:** Rutgers Cooperative Extension's Earth Day Every Day series sponsors YOU Can Be a Citizen Scientist. Free. Click [here](#) for more information, the fall schedule, and to register.

**Oct. 5, 7-8 pm:** Ocean County Dept. of Solid Waste Management sponsors Vermicomposting - Using Worms to Make Compost. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

**Oct. 5, 7 pm:** Wild Ones sponsors The Nature of Oaks - The Rich Ecology of Our Most Essential Nature Tree. Free. Click [here](#) for more information, to register, and to join Wild Ones. **Note:** Doug Tallamy is the speaker.

**Oct. 6, 6-7 pm:** Philadelphia Horticultural Society sponsors Designing Your Garden with Birds in Mind. Fee: \$25 members/\$30 non-members. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

**Oct 6, 6:30-7:45 pm:** Penn State Extension sponsors Gardening for All Seasons - Bulbs, Rhizomes, Tubers, and More. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

**Oct. 7, noon-1 pm:** Smithsonian Gardens sponsors Saving Seeds - Saving Memories, Diversity, or Funds? Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

**Oct. 8, noon:** National Garden Bureau sponsors Hyacinths and Other Fall Bulb Planting. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

**Oct. 8, noon-1 pm:** Penn State Extension sponsors Fall Foes, Flops, and Friends. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

**Oct. 12, 6:30 pm:** Rutgers Cooperative Extension's Earth Day Every Day series sponsors In The City! Safe Soils for Urban Gardening. Free. Click [here](#) for more information, the fall schedule, and to register.

**Oct. 12, 7-8 pm:** Jersey-Friendly Yards sponsors Spiders - They Can Be Your Friends. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

**Oct. 12, 7-8 pm:** Native Plant Society of New Jersey sponsors Lawns into Meadows - Growing a Regenerative Landscape. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

**See 'Webinars' on page 6**

**'Webinars' continued from page 5**

**Oct. 13, 5-6 pm:** Holy Name Medical Center sponsors The Relationship Between Plants and Healing. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register. Click [here](#) for the Holy Name October calendar.

## MG OF BC NEWS

### Election of 2 MG of BC officers scheduled for Oct. 19 meeting

The slate of officers for 2022 was presented and confirmed by the MG Board at its Sept. 28 meeting. The following slate will be presented to the general membership for a vote at the Oct. 19 virtual meeting:

- President, Melody Corcoran, Class of 2016; and
- Vice president, Elizabeth "Liz" Gil, Class of 2019.

The Nominating Committee, composed of Janet Schulz, Joseph Cooper, and Karen Pennell, was formed to select the officers who will serve a two-year term.

Meanwhile, the remaining three officers — Keith Mazanec, recording secretary; Miriam Taub, corresponding secretary; and Pat Vellas, treasurer — will all serve the second year of their terms in 2022.

The reason to stagger the election (with two officers elected one year and three the next) is so all officers' terms do not expire in the same year.

#### **Bergen County Rutgers Cooperative Extension Office**

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

**Karen Riede**      Horticultural Assistant 201-336-6788

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## FARMERS MARKETS

**Englewood Farmers Market**, Depot Square Park, North Van Brunt Street and Demarest Avenue. Fridays, 11 am-6 pm through October.

**Fair Lawn Farmers Market**, New Song Church parking lot, Fair Lawn Avenue and Craig Road. Wednesdays, 11 am-3:30 pm through Oct. 20.

**Harrington Park Farmers Market**, Highland Field, Tappan Road. Sundays, 10 am-2 pm through October.

**Paramus Farmers Market**, Petruska Park hockey rink, 475 Farview Ave. Wednesdays, noon-6 pm through Oct. 13.

**Ramsey Farmers Market**, Main Street train station. Sundays, 9 am-2 pm through November. For a list of rules, vendors, and other information, click [here](#).

**Ridgewood Farmers Market**, train station parking lot, Godwin and West Ridgewood avenues. Sundays, 8:30 am-2 pm through Nov. 21.

**River Vale Farmers Market**, Town Hall parking lot, 406 Rivervale Road. Thursdays, 2-6 pm through October.

**Rutherford Farmers Market**, Williams Center Plaza. Wednesdays, 11 am-6 pm; Saturdays, 8 am-2 pm through October.

**Teaneck Farmers Market**, municipal parking lot, Garrison Avenue and Beverly Road. Thursdays, noon-6 pm through October. Face coverings and social distancing required; no pets.



### ***Thank you, Master Gardeners***

for contributing to the October *Potting Shed*: Maria Bushman, Dania Cheddie, Joseph Cooper, Melody Corcoran, Suzanne Danzig, Laura DeFlora, Donna Faustini, Karen Riede, Karen Pennell, Theresa Schneider, Janet Schulz, and Sue Sheridan.