

Virtual meeting – Tuesday, Sept. 28

Announcements at 7:20 pm; program to follow.
Click [here](#) to join the meeting before 7:20 pm.

Elaine Silverstein

Designing and Planting with Native Plants: Creating a Native Habitat

Horticulturist Elaine Silverstein was trained in sustainable landscape management at the New York Botanical Garden where she continues to study botany, ecology, and landscape design. She was featured in the July Potting Shed. You can tour her garden; see page 2.

Elaine will begin with a definition of a habitat and will present a basic model of a native habitat garden. She'll describe, step by step, how to create a garden that's both beautiful and welcoming to insects, birds, and other wildlife.



Elaine Silverstein

Her focus is on the practical: What's a native plant? Which native plants are best adapted to my site? How can I find native plants? How do I lay out the garden? How do I care for it once it's installed?

Elaine has a small horticulture practice in Bergen County where she advises clients on sustainability techniques and designs gardens based on native plants. She also speaks to local gardening and community groups and volunteers in the community. She is founder and co-leader of the Bergen-Passaic Chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Jersey and is co-chair of the Glen Rock Shade Tree Advisory Committee.

Visit our website: To read past *Potting Sheds*, visit our [website](#) and sign in at the bottom of the home page. From the "Members" section, click on the "Documents" menu, then "Newsletters," and then the date of the *Potting Shed* you want to read. If you don't have a username and password yet, send an email to info@mgofbc.org with the username and password you want to use. Passwords are case-sensitive and limited to 10 letters/numbers (no special characters).

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From the President's Desk

By Melody Corcoran, Class of 2016

Fall will officially be here in a few short weeks, and many garden plants that were blooming beautifully a short while ago are starting to look tired and worn out. But the fall-blooming perennials are hitting their stride now and are ready to take over the job of feeding the wildlife still looking for both pollen and nectar.



On sunny days in my garden, the mountain mint is covered with all sorts of pollinators including honeybees, butterflies, and solitary bees and wasps of numerous kinds. The wild ageratum, or blue mist flower, and the garlic chive blossoms are also very popular. The Joe Pye weed and anise hyssop have their share of visitors, too. The goldenrod flower buds are just beginning to turn yellow; once they are in full bloom, they will be feeding a host of pollinators fueling up before the winter.



Photo by Melody Corcoran

There are many other fall-blooming perennials for pollinators including purple asters, sedum

Honeybee enjoys wild chive blossoms.

Autumn Joy, chrysanthemums, bee balm, rudbeckia, and perennial sunflowers. While not winter-hardy in this area, pineapple sage blooms now, has very attractive red flowers, really does smell like pineapple, and is a magnet for hummingbirds.

What plants do you have blooming and feeding the pollinators in your garden right now? The variety of pollinator insects still active is amazing. Go outside and check them out.

THIS AND THAT



Photos by Donna Faustini

2021: The year she got her she-shed

By Donna Faustini, Class of 2012

I always wanted a greenhouse. I wanted someplace to start my seeds and watch my seedlings grow. This year my husband decided it was about time he would make my dream come true. He built this lean-to shed alongside his existing shed, without plans, just a vision from me. There's a door on the right [see photo, above right] with a lily rain spout to catch water. There are shelves for planting, storing fertilizer, etc., and, of course, planting seedlings. There's also a potting table and an area to hang my tools. The window opens on a hinge for aeration. Since the roof is not a tight seal, in the summer I get air through that, too. I'm planning to run electric for the colder days of spring.

It's exactly what I wanted. Not too big. Just right for me and my seedlings to grow without pests, plenty of natural light, and — best of all — a place for me to relax and enjoy all the benefits of gardening. So, if you have a shed, you can have a lean-to greenhouse. Happy gardening!

WEBINARS

Sept. 1, 6:30-7:45 pm: Penn State Extension sponsors The Grass Can Be Greener - 10 Common Mistakes You Might Be Making. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 8, 3-4 pm: Ecological Landscape Alliance (ELA) sponsors Designing for Dry Stone Walling in the Landscape. Free for members/\$10 non-members. Click [here](#) for more information, to register, and to join the ELA.

Sept. 9, noon-1 pm: Smithsonian Gardens sponsors Plants, Passion, and Perseverance - A Focus on Positive Solutions and Experience Gained. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 9, 7 pm: Friends of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum sponsors A Year of Blooming Bulbs. Free. Click [here](#),

then scroll down to Sept. 9 in the left column for more information and to register.

Sept. 10, noon: National Garden Bureau sponsors Combination Containers for Fall. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 11, 9-10:30 am: Penn State Extension sponsors How to Create a Spectacular Fall Garden. Fee: \$5. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 14, 7-8 pm: Jersey-Friendly Yards sponsors Soil, Water, and Light - Tips for a Successful Garden Design. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 16, noon-1 pm: Smithsonian Gardens sponsors Seeds and How to Find Them. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

THINGS TO DO

Guided walk along the Hackensack River

The Friends of the Hackensack River Greenway through Teaneck will sponsor a guided walk at Fairleigh Dickinson University on the subject of marine life in the Hackensack River led by Dr. Marion Clary, chair of FDU's Department of Biological Sciences. The walk will begin at 9:30 am, Sept. 5.

Park in the FDU lot south of Route 4 and meet on the Teaneck side of the pedestrian bridge over the Hackensack River. The bridge is on the southwest side of the parking lot.

Bergen County Fall Harvest Festival Sept. 17-19 at Van Saun Park

Are you ready for some festival-ing? Bergen County's Fall Harvest Festival is set for Sept. 17-19 at Van Saun Park, 216 Forest Ave., Paramus. In addition to the Master Gardener tent, activities will include the 4-H tent, animals, a craft fair, carnival rides, pumpkin picking, food trucks, and entertainment.

Parking and admission are free.

Hours are:

- Sept. 17, 6-9 pm for the midway, rides, and food.
- Sept. 18, 10 am-5 pm for the exhibits, craft fair, and entertainment; noon-10 pm for the midway, rides, and food.
- Sept. 19, 10 am-5 pm for the exhibits, craft fair, and entertainment; noon-8 pm for the midway, rides, and food.

Tour Elaine Silverstein's native garden

The Bergen-Passaic Chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Jersey invites you to tour the garden of Elaine Silverstein, chapter co-leader, from 1-3 pm, Sept. 19 in Glen Rock. Send an email to bergenpassaic@npsnj.org for the address and directions.

Elaine will speak about creating a native habitat at our Sept. 28 virtual meeting. See the story on page 1.

Van Vleck plant sale Sept. 10-12

Van Vleck House & Gardens will sponsor its fall plant sale Sept. 10-12 with a curated mix of perennials and annuals to provide visual interest into late autumn. Members can shop Sept. 9. Click [here](#) for hours and other details. Van Vleck is located at 21 Van Vleck St., Montclair.

HORTICULTURE



Photos by Kathleen Sullivan

Fungus among us

The rainy summer has produced a wonderful crop of mushrooms at the Hermitage. We identified these through Seek by iNaturalist, a citizen science app. From left: Panthercap (*Amanita pantherina*), Giant Puffball (*Calvatia gigantea*), Golden Reishi (*Ganoderma curtisii*), and Spring Fieldcap (*Agrocybe praecox*).

- Kathleen Sullivan, Class of 2010

Editor's note: Click [here](#) for information about and to download the Seek by iNaturalist app. The Hermitage is located at 335 N. Franklin Turnpike, Ho-Ho-Kus.

FARMERS MARKETS

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

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 September *Potting Shed*: Melody Corcoran, Donna Faustini, Sharon Ma, Janet Schulz, and Kathleen Sullivan.

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Van Saun Zoo volunteers



Photo by Sharon Ma

Volunteers from the MG Class of 2018 cleaned up the pollinator and herb gardens at the zoo Aug. 25. From left, Edith Terzano, Louise Mullin, and Elizabeth Andrew (Edith's sister). We observed a black swallowtail on the rue in the herb garden, and a yellow swallowtail on the mountain mint in the pollinator garden.

This is really a fun site because there are chickens walking around us; one beautiful rooster often walks in the pollinator garden as we work as if he was inspecting our work.

From time to time, we would hear the train beeping its horn as it approaches the garden, and we would stand up and give the young children and their families a friendly wave!

If you're interested in volunteering, send an email to [Jeffrey Chan](#), site coordinator, for information.

- Sharon Ma, Class of 2018

HORTICULTURE GRAPEVINE

Sept. 7, 7-8 pm, Bogota Public Library via Zoom:
Speaker: Janet Schulz, Class of 1988. Topic: Beyond Daffodils. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.