

Virtual meeting – Sept. 20

Zoom meetings will continue through December

Announcements at 7:20 pm; program to follow.

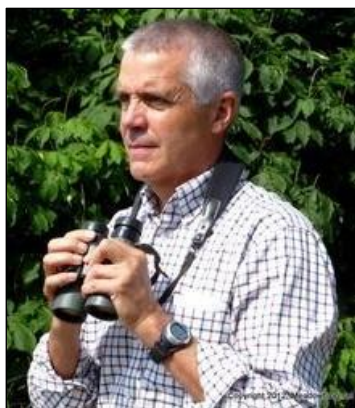
Click [here](#) to join the meeting at 7:15 pm.

Meeting ID: 926 9258 8641; password: 692429

Jim Wright: High Mountain and the Clove

High Mountain is a 1,160-acre nature preserve in Passaic County. The Clove is a geological and historic gem located at the north end of the preserve. Too few people know about either, according to Jim Wright.

Jim, a local nature writer and author of the Bird Watcher column for The Record, has been visiting and learning about High Mountain and its Clove for more than a decade. Jim will discuss the scenic small ravine itself, a nearby waterfall, rare plants, local wildlife, and a human history that predates the Lenapes by more than a millennium.



Jim Wright

Jim will also talk briefly about local efforts to get New Jersey to ban rat-poison bait stations. These poisons are lethal to raptors, other wildlife, and pets.

Jim is a deputy warden at the [Celery Farm](#), a 107-acre freshwater wetland in Allendale. In addition to writing, Jim is a blogger with an environmental bent; author of "The Real James Bond"; and is on the council of the New Jersey Chapter of the Nature Conservancy.

Thank you ...

to those MGs who voted whether to meet in person starting in September or via Zoom until the end of the year. The tally was: Ready to meet in person, 13; continue meeting via Zoom through year end, 26; will meet either in person or via Zoom, 18.

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From the President's Desk

By Melody Corcoran, Class of 2016

Goldenrod is a native perennial that is drought tolerant and great for late-season pollinators. It is starting to bloom in my garden, so I know that fall is just around the corner.



Goldenrod is often blamed for causing hay fever, but that is not true. Its pollen grains are large, heavy, and sticky and fall to the ground when disturbed; they cannot be carried by the wind and then inhaled.

Ragweed, however, has pollen grains that are small, light, and easily dispersed by the wind. Ragweed blooms at the same time as goldenrod and causes autumn hay fever, not goldenrod.

Folk wisdom tells us that planting goldenrod near your door will bring good fortune to your household. The stiff stems of the plant are reputed to be divining rods that can be used to search for water, gold, silver, and lost objects. In the language of flowers, goldenrod symbolizes good fortune, hope, and wealth.



Photo by Melody Corcoran

That's goldenrod — not ragweed — in Melody's yard.

Though bitter, the young leaves of the plant can be used sparingly in salads or cooked like spinach. The dried leaves and flowers can be used in making tea.

(Continued on page 6)

SPOTLIGHT ON . . . GARLIC

A garlic-growing experience

By Edith Terzano, Class of 2018

Garlic, the edible bulb of a flowering plant in the Allium genus, is a close relative to various onions, shallot, leek, and chives. Although I use garlic in cooking, I became intrigued, wanted to learn more, and decided to grow it.

Turns out that there are two main varieties of garlic: Hardneck and softneck. Hardnecks differ from softnecks in that hardnecks form a stiff, mature stalk that grows upward from the bulb. They form edible scapes that come up above ground from the center of the bulb. Their cloves are formed through a process called *vernalization* where the garlic is exposed to cold by staying in the ground over the winter.



Photo courtesy of Gary Terzano

Edith Terzano with garlic swag.

Hardnecks usually have fewer but larger cloves in each bulb (4-12), a shorter shelf life, and skin that is thicker and more brittle. There are three main varieties of hardnecks: Purple Stripe and Rocambole are hardiest and best for gardeners in the northeastern United States and Canada; Porcelain grows best in milder climates.

Softneck garlic is usually found in grocery stores. It has soft, flexible leaves at maturity and does not form scapes. Softnecks mature more quickly than hardnecks, grow better in warmer winters, and do not require cold exposure to make bulbs. Although they may have more cloves and can stay fresh and firm longer, softneck cloves have a milder flavor. There are two main types of softneck garlic: Artichoke and Silverskin.

In November 2021, before the first frost, I planted six large, healthy cloves that I received from my sister, Catherine Grippi, a member of a community garden in Collingswood. Being careful to keep the papery covering of the clove intact, I planted each in enriched soil, pointy end up, about 2 to 3 inches deep and at least 6 to 8 inches apart. I mulched the bed (straw, mulch hay, or leaf litter) to protect the cloves over the winter, keep nutrients and water in the soil, and reduce weeds.

By early spring, garlic shoots appeared, and by mid-June the bulbs were ready to be harvested. At this point, I was delighted to learn that I had planted softneck garlic.

Garlic does not poke out of the ground like onion, so timing is everything when harvesting: Harvesting too soon results in small cloves that don't store well; keeping the bulbs in the ground too long results in separated cloves that are usable but may not store well.

Best time to harvest? When the leaves start to brown, stop watering. Then, when about half of the bottom leaves are dying off and upper leaves are still green, it is time to harvest. (The green supports the protective covering that allows better storage.) Harvest on a dry, cloudy day, three to four days after rain. Dig carefully around each plant and gently lift it from the ground.



Photo by Edith Terzano

Harvested garlic must be cured (dried) before storing. It stores best when it is cured with its leaves on because the bulb draws energy from the leaves and roots until all the moisture evaporates. Leaves also act as a fungicide.

I chose to hang the garlic in my basement in small bunches, bulb-side down, where it was cool, dark, and had adequate air circulation. Best to dry it away from direct sunlight or rain as it can change the flavor of fresh garlic. After three weeks, the skin shrinks and turns papery; roots shrivel and feel stiff; leaves are browned and dried. It was ready to prep for storage.

Using scissors, I removed the leaves of some bulbs at the neck and trimmed the roots to a quarter inch or a half inch. Dirt and loose papery skin of the bulb wrap flaked off. Garlic can be stored in a mesh bag or wire mesh basket in a dry, dark, cool place where it will get some air circulation. I braided the leaves of a few bulbs to make a garlic swag.

The leaves can be intertwined with other herbs (rosemary, thyme, bay leaves, chili peppers). Tip: Garlic keeps fresher when stored as a bulb. Also, do not store garlic in the refrigerator; it can sprout and become bitter. Now it's ready to enjoy. I was amazed and enthralled while learning about this versatile little plant, best summarized this way:

"...Historians expound on it, herbalists swear by it, gardeners nurture it, cooks revere it, vampires fear it."

- Oregonlive.com, October 2012

HORTICULTURE



Photos by Arnie Friedman

Chamacyparis "Gold Mop": Colorful, and deer hate it.

Deer problem? Try these plants

By Arnie Friedman, Class of 2004

One of the biggest gardening issues facing us living in suburbia is how to live with the burgeoning deer population. At my house I have tested dozens of different plants. After trial and many errors here are some of my favorite deer-proof, go-to plants:

Chamacyparis: This group of shrubs and trees all seem to resist deer foraging. My favorite cultivar is "Gold Mop" (above). It takes sun and part shade, is easy to prune to any height, and has a wonderful color.



Aurelia cordata "Sun King" can spread 6 to 8 feet wide.

Aurelia: This yellow-green native shrub (at left) stands out in the garden. Over time it can grow very wide and is a good garden filler.

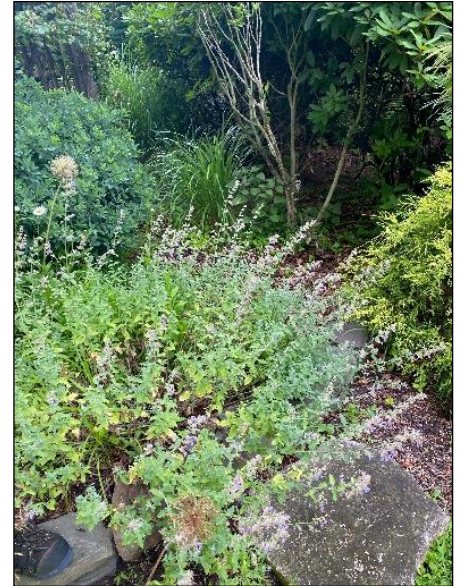
Leucothoe: This low-growing shrub is a trusted plant for the shade garden.

Ilex crenata: This is a great boxwood lookalike. Since boxwoods are now prone to a blight that

causes them to die off, I have been planting this ilex in many places. They will take part shade well and are very hardy.

Carex pensylvanica: This is another evergreen plant that's a great deer-proof ground cover. It is grass-like but only grows no more than 12 inches high. Cut it back once a year to keep it looking its best.

Salvia nemorosa: This group (at right with the purple flowers) seems to be hated by the deer. It's a great perennial that's extremely hardy and a great plant to encourage pollinators.



Salvia nemorosa

Spirea: This is a native shrub that flowers mid-summer and comes in varieties of all green and/or red-tinged yellow leaves.

Umbrella pine: This is one of my favorite evergreens. It is a family by itself and has soft needles of dark green. A great deer-proof specimen tree.

Hellebores: I love these evergreen perennials that have such great flowers early in the spring.

Hypericum: There are many to choose from. For a low filler plant, I like "Aubrey Purple." The taller shrub-like Hypericums are a good medium plant for borders. A low-spreading ground cover is Hypericum "Calycinum" (at left).



Hypericum "Calycinum," aka St. John's wort

Juniper: I will end with this old faithful of garden shrubs. I don't like its prickly foliage and that's true of the deer, too. They hate it.

FOUR QUESTIONS FOR...



Photo courtesy of Don Torino, Bergen Audubon

Victoria Fuentes in the Butterfly and Native Garden. Best wishes in your studies at Longwood Gardens!

Victoria Fuentes has gone from the MG of BC Class of 2022 to the two-year [Professional Horticulture Program](#) at Longwood Gardens. As she settles into her new role as a student and worker in Kennett Square, PA, she answered four questions for the Potting Shed.

How did you get interested in horticulture? Plants have always been a big part of my life growing up. My family had a farm in Peru so naturally everyone had a strong inclination toward plants. I remember my grandmother having a pretty extensive rose garden, many of which she hybridized herself. She taught me to tune into the magic a garden can have.

However, horticulture as a career never crossed my mind until we were locked in during the pandemic and I had quite a bit of time to really think about something that would make me happy. Of course, instantly I recalled back to the times I shared in the garden with my family and knew it was something I at least had to give a shot.

Are you interested in any particular aspect of horticulture? Currently, I am interested in the public gardens aspect of horticulture. Teaching the public how to grow their own food, about pollinators, and even how to create their own natural habitats. And that's just to name a few of the advantages of this sector and the good it does.

Now more than ever, connecting different communities to plants and their importance is vital.

I'm also interested in doing work in a large-scale conservatory. It is a unique experience I'm looking forward to during my time at Longwood Gardens.

What did you do horticulturally before you signed up for the MG Class of 2022 and what do you do now related to horticulture? Before signing up for the Master Gardener program, I was volunteering at the Butterfly and Native Garden at Overpeck Park. They are really great folks doing a lot of good work who don't get the recognition they deserve. So, shout out to them!

Currently, I am at Longwood Gardens after getting into their two-year Professional Horticulture Program. I'm very excited for my journey here.

What type of career do you envision in horticulture? I'm not sure where my journey will take me, but I am definitely looking toward a career that will give back somehow. Whether that be a position within public gardening or conservation work, I'm open to see where I'll land. The possibilities are endless!

WEBINARS

For your convenience, all times are Eastern.

Sept. 7, 12:30 pm: University of Kentucky sponsors Chaos to Contentment-The Making of a Garden. Free. Click [here](#), then scroll down to Sept. 7 for more information and to register.

Sept. 9, noon-1 pm: Penn State Extension sponsors Fall Flops and Their Fixes. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 13, 3-4 pm: Oregon State University sponsors Compost Can-do: Develop a System That Meets Your Needs. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 13, 7-8 pm: Jersey-Friendly Yards sponsors Reduce, Reuse, Recycle in Your Yard. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 28, 6:30-7:45 pm: Penn State Extension sponsors Gardening for All Seasons-Brambles, Blueberries, and Strawberries. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 29, noon: Smithsonian Gardens sponsors Many Layers of Invitation our Gardens Offer. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

FALL FESTIVAL NEWS

Support Class of 2022 interns at the Fall Harvest Festival Sept. 17-18

*By Karen Riede, horticultural assistant,
and Joel Flagler*

Save the dates for the Bergen County Fall Harvest Festival Sept. 17 and 18 in Van Saun Park, 216 Forest Ave., Paramus.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension will occupy two educational tents: Master Gardeners and their displays fill one tent while the Bergen County 4H takes the other. Other displays include those from our community partners, such as the Bergen



Welcome to the MG of BC tent (from the 2021 Fall Harvest Festival).

County Utilities Authority (BCUA) and the Bergen Bonsai Society.

Five groups of three MG interns each from the Class of 2022 have chosen the following topics for their tabletop educational projects along with hands-on crafts for children: Spotted lanternfly; pollinator gardens; container gardens; cut-flower gardens; and composting.

On Saturday late morning, Bergen County Commissioner Tracy Silna Zur will announce a new fresh food initiative starting with the donation of two pallets of apples from Demarest Farm in Hillsdale to a Westwood food bank for distribution to its clients. Zur is also chair of the Bergen County Board of Commissioners.

Among the displays and offerings at the Fall Festival are a farmers market featuring homemade donuts from Secor Farms in Mahwah (they sell out quickly each day) and cider. Demarest Farm will donate apples for display and contribute to the food pantry. Stone House Nursery in Wyckoff will sell mums.

In addition, the Fall Festival features a midway, food trucks, high-end craft vendors, and activities for children. Visit the MG tent on Saturday, Sept. 17 and Sunday, Sept. 18 from 10 am-5 pm. Support the interns from the Class of 2022 and check out their amazing displays.

Please bring non-perishable food items to donate to the Bergen County Food Task Force.

MEETING NOTICES

Sept. 8, 7:30 pm: Garden Club of Harrington Park, upstairs in the Harrington Park Library, 10 Herring St., Harrington Park. Speaker: Tom Bender, Bergen-Passaic Chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Jersey. Topic: Deer-Resistant Plants with an Emphasis on Natives.



Tom Bender

Sept. 9, 2 pm: Demarest Garden Club, United Methodist Church, 109 Hardenburgh Ave., Demarest. Speaker: Mary Jo Sichak, Passaic County MG. Topic: Moths Matter.

Sept. 21, 4-6 pm: Bergen-Passaic Chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Jersey. Meeting and field trip to the Lorrimer Sanctuary, 790 Ewing Ave., Franklin Lakes.

'Best overall garden'



Donna Faustini, Class of 2012 (left) and daughter Nicole Faustini (who lives in Nyack) won the top prize of "best overall garden" in the 2022 Nyack Community Garden contest for their Italian-themed garden. Their crops included Italian peppers; eggplants; Roma, San Marzano, and oxheart tomatoes; purple and green basil; purple and Tuscan kale; celery; escarole; curly and flat-leaf parsley; and more. A panel of judges from outside the garden assessed the garden plots in late July.

War on weeds at the Hermitage



Photo by Liz Gil, Class of 2019

The weeds kept coming despite the drought, but Maggie Raywood, Class of 2021, was determined to spruce up around the Gothic Revival-style house in preparation for the Hermitage's craft and plant sale in August.

(President's desk, continued from page 1)

After the Boston Tea Party in 1773, goldenrod tea was one of the many herbal "liberty" teas that were replacements for the tea dumped into the harbor.

After World War I, Henry Ford asked Thomas Edison if he could find a domestic source of rubber. The war had caused the price of rubber to soar and highlighted the possibility of foreign supply problems. Edison, who was performing botanical research at this time, found that goldenrod contained latex. He even developed a 12-foot-tall goldenrod that matured in one growing season. Edison was able to make goldenrod rubber, but the process was not economically feasible.

Goldenrod – not just a colorful late season bloom!

EVENTS

Native seed collecting at Thielke Arboretum, Sept. 11, 10-11:30 am: Learn about native plants; site, sun, and soil requirements; collect seeds; and take home a mini greenhouse. Seed envelopes and soil provided.

Please bring an empty, gallon-size water/milk container for the hands-on, seed-sowing lesson. Space is limited. Fee: \$20 for non-members; members get 20% off. Click [here](#) for more information and to register. Rain date is Sept. 18. The address is 460 Doremus Ave., Glen Rock.

Butterfly Festival and release of monarchs, Garretson Forge & Farm: Sept. 11, 1-3:30 pm: Garretson is located at 4-02 River Road, Fair Lawn.

Harvest Fest at New Jersey Botanical Garden, Oct. 1, 10 am-5 pm: A fun-filled family weekend with hayrides, pumpkin painting, games, face painting, applesauce making, booths, exhibits, and free activities for children. In addition, enjoy food, music, dancing, a plant sale, free garden tours, photo ops, and more. Click [here](#) for more information. Free admission; parking is \$5 a car. Rain date is Oct 2. The address is 2 Morris Road, Ringwood.

To volunteer at NJBG, send an email to info@njbg.org.

CONFERENCES/TRAINING

Speak for the forests: Train to be a 'woodland steward' Sept. 22-25

Registration is open for the 2022 Woodland Stewards Program sponsored by the New Jersey Forestry Association with partners Rutgers Cooperative Extension and the NJ State Forest Service. This 3½-day residency program will be held at YMCA Camp Linwood MacDonald in Sandyston, Sussex County, Sept. 22-25. The program fee is \$75. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Register for the hybrid 2022 Rutgers MG State Conference Oct. 15

You can attend the Rutgers Master Gardener State Conference in person or via Zoom this year. It's scheduled for Oct. 15 from 8 am-1 pm. Registration fee is \$5. Click [here](#) to register for the conference. Then scroll to the bottom right and click on "Log in/register now," where you can enter your user name and password for an existing account or create an account.

In-person registration is limited to 150 people at the Cook Student Center, 59 Biel Road, New Brunswick.

Note: If you have any log-in issues, follow the instructions in the left column to email the ANCOR help desk.

FARMERS MARKETS

Fair Lawn Farmers Market, New Song Church, Fair Lawn Avenue and Craig Road. Wednesdays, 11 am-3:30 pm through Nov. 23. Click [here](#) for flyer.

Harrington Park Farmers Market, Highland Field, 160 Tappan Road. Sundays, 10 am-2 pm through October.

Hawthorne Farmers Market, library parking lot, 345 Hawthorne Ave. Sundays, 10 am-1:30 pm through Oct. 30. Click [here](#) for Facebook page.

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

Ridgewood Farmers Market, train station parking lot, Godwin and West Ridgewood avenues. Sundays, 9 am-3 pm through Nov. 21.

River Edge Farmers Market, 215 Continental Ave. Thursdays, 3-7 pm through September. Click [here](#) for Facebook page.

River Vale Farmers Market, Town Hall parking lot, 406 Rivervale Road. Thursdays, 2-6 pm through Oct 27. Click [here](#) for a list of vendors.

Rutherford Farmers Market, Williams Center Plaza. Wednesdays, 11 am-4 pm; Saturdays, 8 am-2 pm through Oct. 29. Click [here](#) for flyer.

Teaneck Farmers Market, municipal parking lot, Garrison Avenue and Beverly Road. Thursdays, noon-6 pm through Nov. 17. Click [here](#) for Facebook page.

Westfield Garden State Plaza: Parking lot between Macy's and Route 17. Sundays, 9 am-2 pm through Nov. 20. Produce and food vendors, food trucks, kids' activities. Click [here](#) for more information.

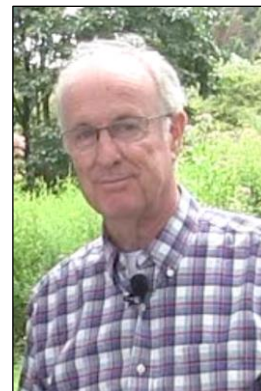
THIS AND THAT

On the radio . . .

Bergen County ag agent Joel Flagler is scheduled to be a guest on Alison Stewart's "All of It" talk show on WNYC 93.9 FM Sept. 2 from noon-1 pm.

On YouTube . . . Lourdes chats with Doug Tallamy

Our friend Lourdes Osorio, Passaic County MG and creator of the [Native Plant Channel](#) on YouTube, spoke with Dr. Douglas Tallamy, a leader in the native plant movement. Click [here](#) to see and hear Doug discuss ecological landscaping ideas for all homeowners.



Doug Tallamy

Lourdes met with Doug at the University of Delaware [Botanic Gardens](#) where she filmed the video and shared his photo. Click [here](#) to visit his website, Homegrown National Park. "He is always a pleasure to listen to and learn from," Lourdes said.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Bergen County

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

Karen Riede Horticultural Assistant 201-336-6788

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