

Meeting news

Mary Jasch Private Gardens of NY, NJ, CT, and Eastern PA

Tuesday, April 18
Refreshments at 7 pm; announcements
at 7:20; meeting to follow

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

Mary Jasch is the publisher of [DIG IT! Magazine](#), the art and science of East Coast gardening. She also produces two to three guided “garden party” bus trips to private and public gardens a year, both day and overnight. Her next trip will be in June.



Mary Jasch

“Many of the outstanding gardens in my presentation were visited on the bus trips,” she noted. “Others resulted from profiles for DIG IT! Magazine and also my freelance articles. Gardens large and small, city and country, were chosen for their unique qualities, personalities, and plantings.”

For 23 years, Mary owned and operated an interior landscape business that designed, installed, and maintained corporate interior plantings, outdoor container gardens, and retention basins as sound ecological habitats. She earned a BS degree, magna cum laude, in natural resources management/applied ecology from Rutgers University.

This is our annual joint meeting with the Master Gardeners of Passaic County.

What's inside

Page

Spotlight on ... the Speakers Bureau	2
Volunteer Site News	3-4
Webinars	4
Going Back in Time	5-6
President's Desk (continued from page 1)	6
Meetings-Events-Classes	7

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

From the President's Desk

By Melody Corcoran, Class of 2016

Are the climbing plants in your garden vines or bines? Is there a difference between vines and bines?

Vines climb and support themselves using tendrils, aerial roots, or small adhesive disks called holdfasts.



Grapevines and clematis use tendrils that wrap around a support, such as a pole or trellis; tendrils are modified leaves, stems, or petioles.

Climbing hydrangeas use aerial roots, which attach to masonry or other rough surfaces. Virginia creeper and Boston ivy use holdfasts, which attach best to smooth surfaces. Aerial roots and holdfasts may cause damage if the supporting surface is not in good condition.



Photo courtesy of Bruce Crawford

Lonicera sempervivens 'Mandarin,' aka trumpet honeysuckle, a twining vine.

Bines, unlike vines, climb and support themselves by twining their flexible stems around a supporting structure. Some bines, such as hops, have stiff hairs on the stems that assist with the climbing. The higher the stems climb, the tighter they hold on to the support.

(Continued on page 6)

SPOTLIGHT ON ... MG OF BC SPEAKERS BUREAU

Five Master Gardeners volunteer their time for the MG of BC Speakers Bureau. This issue features Arnie Friedman, Speakers Bureau chair. Contact [Arnie](#) if you're interested in volunteering for the Speakers Bureau or have a topic to suggest. In fact, Arnie can help you structure a presentation. Check out the [Speakers Bureau](#) section of our website.

Arnie Friedman, Class of 2004

Arnie's topics: Making the Blues Go Away; The History and Method of Home Landscape Design; Gardens on Tour Europe/North America; Water in the Garden; Stone in the Garden; Beginner's Bonsai.

Arnie's back story: How did I get here? Well at 75 it has been a long and very interesting road. As a child growing up in Teaneck, right here in suburban Bergen County, I always loved helping around my parents' garden. Although as city folks relocated to a house, they hadn't a clue about gardening. I tried and, by trial and error, learned some things.

For many years I worked in retail with my father and eventually owned the family furniture business. But I never stopped gardening. I eventually had my own home, first in Tenafly, then Englewood for 20 years, and now in Upper Saddle River for 25 years. At each house I would garden as an outlet from the business world. I would work in the early mornings in my garden for an hour or two before work. On weekends I would drag my young ones to nurseries to buy annuals and vegetables and go home to plant.

My wife and I loved stonework and built patios, garden walls, and planted many trees. In 2001, I left the business world. I always felt I needed to do something else with my life, and with my wife's encouragement and help, I changed my life. Actually, we both went to the New York Botanical Garden where we got certificates in Landscape Design, Gardening, and Horticulture.

In 2003, I turned my furniture delivery truck into an old used pickup and off I went to build gardens. Over the years I hired a small crew and started doing projects for homeowners in New Jersey and Westchester. As I got older, I did less of the physical labor and more of the designing and project management. Today I am semi-retired. A longtime employee and friend now has the landscape construction business and I just do design and project planning for him a couple of hours a week.



Photo by Jean Friedman, Class of 2004

Arnie Friedman at Herons Bonsai, south of London, in 2022.

During the remake of my work life, I also remade my volunteer self. When in the retail world I was head of a merchants association, member of the board of the Hudson County Chamber of Commerce, and president of a furniture-buying cooperative. With time on my hands, I volunteered for the Upper Saddle River Shade Tree Commission and was its chairman for 10 years.

I studied urban forestry and learned a lot about trees this way. About the same time, my wife introduced me to Joel Flagler and the MG of BC. A friend had introduced her to master gardening and when she signed up for the class so did I. It's been a big part of our lives ever since. We both have served on the board. I was president for several years, and Jean was treasurer for the association as well as for the Agricultural Extension office.

Today I am still a gardener but not nearly as strenuously involved as when I was younger. I have a new gardening endeavor, and that is the care and development of bonsai. It has dovetailed well with my knowledge of horticulture and taught me interesting new things about plants and how they grow. It is not just a branch of gardening but an introduction to the world of Zen and an ancient practice involving the eye, the mind, and the living world.

Studying bonsai has led to my most recent talk, Beginner's Bonsai, in which I try to share my experiences and expanding knowledge with other gardeners.

VOLUNTEER SITE NEWS



Photo by Terry Cohn, Class of 2020

Native plant gardens at the NY-NJ Trail Conference HQ.

2 more volunteer sites to open in early April

Two MG of BC volunteer sites will open for the season the week of April 3. Visit the [Volunteer Sites](#) section of our website for a description of these and our other sites. Enjoy your volunteering!

NY-NJ Trail Conference headquarters

The first workday at the NY-NJ Trail Conference headquarters is Sunday, April 2 from 9 am-noon. Workdays are scheduled twice a month from April through October and occasionally on weekdays. **Note:** You can earn volunteer hours for work done at the Trail Conference headquarters only.

Click [here](#) to register in advance. The NY-NJ Trail Conference headquarters is located at 600 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah. Visit the [website](#).

What to bring: Bring your own tools, work gloves, and water. There is a well-supplied tool shed with shovels, tarps, and other specialized tools.

Parking and restrooms: Park in the lot adjacent to the headquarters building. Restrooms and a water fountain are available in the building.

For more information: Contact [Terry Cohn](#), site coordinator, via email or call her at 201-290-9576.

New Jersey Botanical Garden

By Dania Cheddie, Class of 2013

We plan to start working in the gardens Wednesday, April 5, weather dependent. We meet behind the Carriage House by the two sheds at 9 am and continue until noon. During the hot summer days, most groups start earlier and finish early.

To volunteer, download the [NJBG Volunteer Application](#). The completed application can be emailed, faxed, or mailed. Instructions are at the top of the application. An open house for new and current volunteers is scheduled for Saturday, April 22 (Earth Day weekend), from 10 am-noon in the Carriage House.

The GPS address for the NJBG is 2 Morris Road, Ringwood. Visit the [website](#).

What to bring and wear: We have some tools, but you may want to bring gloves, pruners, sunscreen, and bug spray. Wear clothing and shoes appropriate for gardening. Some areas may be soggy.



Photo courtesy of NJBG

A peek at the rhododendron garden.

Parking and restrooms: Parking lot A is the closest to the Carriage House. Water and a volunteer bathroom are available in the Carriage House.

For more information: Contact [Dania Cheddie](#), site coordinator. You also can call her at the NJBG at 973-962-9534.

(Continued on page 4)

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

Cooperating agencies: Rutgers, the State University of NJ, US Department of Agriculture, and Bergen County Board of Commissioners. 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.

(Volunteer site news, continued from page 3)



Photos by Melody Corcoran, Class of 2016

Pea Day planting at Garretson Forge & Farm

This year's annual Pea Day at Garretson Forge & Farm brought out eight volunteers on a very chilly Sunday to plant Cascadia edible podded peas from High Mowing Seeds. The seeds are organic, and the plants are open pollinated. We plant about 40 feet of double rows and each year have a bountiful harvest to donate to a local food pantry. Peas are easy to grow, but it's important to plant early enough so they can mature while the weather

is still cool. Mid-March is an ideal time to plant them for a spring harvest; a second crop can follow in the same bed. Top left photo: Gary Puzio, Class of 2021, Chris Belli (2015), Barbara Patete (2009), and Jane Nicholson (2017) mark out a planting bed. Top right photo, back to front: Janet Stofkoper (2023), Jane Nicholson, Chris Belli, and Barbara Patete plant peas.

- Lida Gellman, Class of 1999 and site coordinator

WEBINARS

For your convenience, all times are Eastern.

April 5, 12:30 pm: University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension sponsors How to Read a Seed Packet. Free. Click [here](#) to register.

April 5, 4 pm: AARP sponsors Healthy Living: Organic Gardening 101. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register. AARP membership not required.

April 5, 6-7:30 pm: Penn State Extension sponsors Veggie Series: A Productive Garden from Spring to Fall. Fee: \$5. Click [here](#) for more information and to register. Registration deadline April 2, 11:59 pm.

April 5, 7-8 pm: Penn State Extension sponsors Know Your Natives: Flowering Trees. Fee: \$10. Click [here](#) for more information and to register. Registration deadline April 4, 11:59 pm.

April 10, 10-11 am: North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Buncombe County Center, sponsors Fruit Trees for Home Gardens. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

April 11, noon: AARP sponsors Growing Herbs in a Container Garden. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register. AARP membership not required.

April 11, noon-1 pm: Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station sponsors Planting Fruit Trees. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

April 12, 12:30 pm: University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension sponsors Tulip Tips. Free. Click [here](#) to register.

April 19, 7-8:30 pm: Native Plant Society of New Jersey sponsors Who's in Your Garden? The Life and Times of Insects and Others All Around Us. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

See more webinars in the April Mid-Month Potting Shed.

GOING BACK IN TIME

MG volunteer site history: First, there was McFaul, then the Bergen County Zoo

By Miriam Taub, Class of 2011

Before the Master Gardener program began in New Jersey, there was Ralph Pearson, Rutgers Cooperative Extension agricultural agent in Bergen County.

Meanwhile, in the state of Washington, two extension agents were exploring ways to meet the needs of the backyard gardener. Their response to intense public demand for information about plant problems became the "Master Gardener" program. It began in 1973 in Seattle, according to Washington State University Extension where it all started. Now the program is in all 50 states, all 10 Canadian provinces, and Korea.

In 1984, Ralph Pearson brought the MG program to Bergen County, the first county in New Jersey to participate. At that time, the program offered training but no formal volunteering.

"When I came in 1987, we did not have volunteers in the parks," recalled Joel Flagler, current ag agent. By the end of the 1980s, he continued, "It became clear that the [Bergen County] Parks Department needed help from the MGs, and this was something we could do to make ourselves useful. That's how the [volunteer] concept originated."

After Bergen created its MG program, it was followed by Union County, then Essex County. Ocean County joined in the early 1990s, to name a few. Currently, Rutgers is searching for a statewide MG coordinator and consumer horticulture coordinator. This first-time-ever faculty position "speaks to how much value Rutgers University places on the MG program ... recognizing how much the MGs reflect on Rutgers as outreach ambassadors," Joel noted.

But, back to the early years of Bergen's program: MGs were expected to find ways to be useful in their communities. The volunteering was "very loosey-goosey," Joel said. "The volunteering piece has always been a part of the Master Gardener program. There was no culture to



A peacock, among McFaul's wildlife.

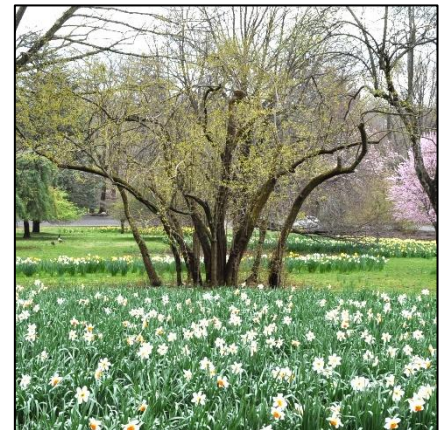


Photos by Joseph Cooper, Class of 2008

Magnificent magnolia with a touch of daffodils at McFaul Environmental Center where there's always something in bloom. Even in winter, you can admire its wonderful conifer collection.

support volunteering until I came in and worked with the Parks Department."

Under then-director of the Bergen County Parks, Wolfgang Albrecht, the McFaul Environmental Center in Wyckoff became the first MG volunteer site. McFaul, an 81-acre wildlife sanctuary with nature trails, gardens, and educational science exhibits, was originally named the Wyckoff Wildlife Center.



McFaul's Daffodil Hill

However, the name was changed to the James A. McFaul Wildlife Center in 1987 to honor McFaul, who was the Bergen County ag agent from 1958-1961 and brokered the sale of the former pig farm to Bergen County. Then in 1990, the name was

(Continued on page 6)

(MG volunteer site history, continued from page 5)

changed to the James A. McFaul Environmental Center to reflect the park's programs more accurately. Among the MG tasks at McFaul was a major bulb planting in the fall creating what's now known as Daffodil Hill. "Way before bulb-a-palooza it was MG-palooza," Joel said referring to McFaul's annual bulb planting.

Currently, MGs are involved in multiple garden tasks in McFaul's various gardens, such as its herb, perennial, rhododendron, daffodil, and ornamental grasses gardens, as well as in its garden beds and specimen trees and shrubs areas. Joseph Cooper, Class of 2008, is the MG site coordinator. He's been volunteering at McFaul since 2007 when he was an MG intern and worked alongside MGs who served for more than 20 years.

At the time, Joseph recalled, John Grill, Class of 1994, was the MG site coordinator. (John died in September 2022.) As John entered his 80s, he wanted to reduce his responsibilities, so Joseph took over as site coordinator about 10 years ago.

"Just being there year after year to see how the trees and shrubs have grown and changed the shape of the landscaping is amazing to experience," Joseph said. "It is also interesting to see how we are adjusting to the changing climate and the exploding deer population. It challenges us to think about future-proofing issues, such as what plants to use and how they will work in the evolving environment we live in." Contact [Joseph](#) to volunteer at McFaul; volunteering will begin in May.

Meanwhile, the Bergen County Zoo in Van Saun Park also needed plantings in its many nooks and crannies. As a result, the MG presence was beefed up there. Joel recalled that Cliff Gerenz, Class of 1992, filled a major role at the zoo by creating an "elite team" to transform the old Dutch historic area of the zoo with plantings.

Jeffrey Chan, Class of 2011, recalled volunteering when Cliff and Walter Traubel, Class of 1991, were in charge. (Walter died in 2017.) Jeffrey has been site coordinator



Photo by Sharon Ma, Class of 2018

The herb garden at the Bergen County Zoo.

for about six years, he said. Volunteers maintain the herb garden as well as the planters in the "nooks and crannies" throughout the zoo.

This season, Jeffrey said, there's a new project for volunteers. At management's request, volunteers will speak to audiences in the zoo's amphitheater about what they do in the gardens. Contact [Jeffrey](#) to volunteer at the zoo; volunteering will begin April 3.

Bergen's RCE office also worked with the Bergen County Environmental Council to involve MGs in major plantings. Over the years, Joel estimated that MGs have planted "tens of thousands of plants" with the Environmental Council alone. "MGs are responsible for every entrance planting for every county park. Where there's a park ID sign at its entrance, we did all of them." In fact, some entrances have been beautified multiple times as plants have had to be pruned and replaced. New for 2023: Plantings at Bergen County's golf courses.

While the last few years were a setback for in-person volunteering, Joel said, "We're looking forward to seeing everyone in person this year. We'll have a number of beautification projects this year and we'll need all hands on deck."

Contact [Miriam Taub](#), who can help you tell the story of how your site became an MG of BC volunteer site.

(President's desk, continued from page 1)

Wisteria, morning glory, honeysuckle, and hops are all examples of twining vines or bines. Bines can twine either clockwise from right to left or counterclockwise from left to right. This twining movement is called circumnutation, and the direction of this movement is determined by species and genetics. Ninety percent of twining plants climb counterclockwise; 10 percent climb clockwise. Morning glories, honeysuckle, Japanese

wisteria, and hops twine clockwise. Pole beans, Chinese wisteria, and Dutchman's pipe twine counterclockwise.

Whether you call your twining plant a bine or a vine, make sure you train it in the correct direction. If you wrap the twining stem in the wrong direction, it will unwind itself and you will find it in a heap on the ground. Just re-wrap in the opposite direction and your plant will be happy.

MEETINGS-EVENTS-CLASSES

April 1, 10 am-noon, Mary S. Topolsky Garden, 640 River Road, Teaneck. Volunteers needed for continued cleanup of this newest MG of BC volunteer site. Park on Kipp Avenue across the street from the park. Bring water and tools. For more information, email [Harriet Steiner](mailto:Harriet.Steiner@bc-nj.org), site coordinator, or call her at 201-741-6756.

April 3, 7-8:30 pm, Mahwah Public Library, 100 Ridge Road, Mahwah, and via Zoom. Speaker: Janet Schulz, Class of 1988. Topic: Deer Oh Dear: How to Cope and Plant with Deer in Mind. Click [here](#) to register to attend in person. Registration closes April 2 at 7 pm. Click [here](#) to view on Zoom. Meeting ID: 838 1215 2337; passcode: 791336. No registration required for Zoom attendance.

April 3, 7 pm, Sundial Garden Club, Hillsdale Free Public Library, 509 Hillsdale Ave., Hillsdale. Speaker: Anthony Bracco of Bracco Farms. Topic: Adapting Small Farm Methods to a Backyard Garden.

April 6, 7 pm, Thielke Arboretum, 460 Doremus Ave., Glen Rock. Speaker: Arnie Friedman, Class of 2004. Topic: Making the Blues Go Away-Lawn Alternatives. Fee: \$10; 20% discount for Thielke members. Click [here](#) to register. Space is limited.

April 6, 7:30 pm, Garden Club of Harrington Park, Harrington Park Library, second floor, 10 Herring St., Harrington Park. Speaker: David Daehnke, "The Garden Guru." Topic: Ornamental Grasses. Click [here](#) for more information.

April 11, 7 pm, Ramsey Area Garden Club, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 55 Wyckoff Ave., corner of Woodland Avenue, Ramsey. Speaker: Suzy Ludwig, club member. Topic: Here Then Gone ... the Beauty of Fleeting Ephemerals.

April 12, 7 pm, Wyckoff Area Garden Club, Wyckoff Public Library, 200 Woodland Ave., Wyckoff. Speaker: Donna Dorsey, club member and owner of Goffle Brook Farm. Topic: What's New and Exciting for 2023 - The Importance of Annuals in the Garden. Refreshments at 6:30 pm.

April 19, 6 pm, Hasbrouck Heights Garden Club, Hasbrouck Heights Public Library, second floor, 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights. Speaker: Marc Gussen, director of the Closter Nature Center. Topic: Amazing Wildlife in Our Backyards. Refreshments at 5:30 pm.

See more meeting notices in the April Mid-Month Potting Shed.

Leonard J. Buck Garden in bloom

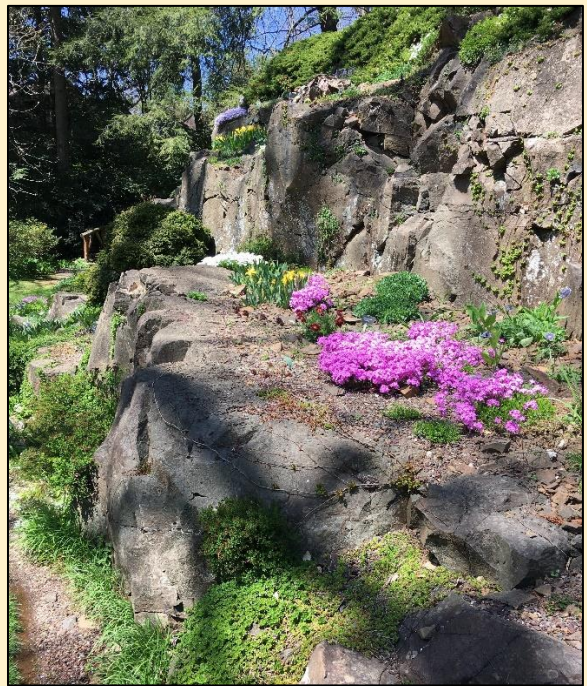


Photo by Janet Schulz, Class of 1988

If you want to see more of the Leonard J. Buck Garden in Far Hills, sign up for the May 11 docent-led tour. The tour is \$10 per person (to pay for the docent) and is limited to 15 people. Mail your check for \$10, payable to the MG of BC, to: MG of BC, PO Box 71, New Milford, NJ 07646. Be sure to write "T&T" (trips and tours) in the memo line of the check. Send an email to [Janet Schulz](mailto:Janet.Schulz@bc-nj.org), Trips and Tours chair, with your name and cell phone number. *You must register in advance. No walk-ins will be permitted.* Meanwhile, the Buck Garden will hold its annual plant sale April 22 and 23. Click [here](#) for the address, hours, and other information.

Want to know more about bees?

Rutgers Agricultural Experiment Station is offering a self-paced, online course — titled Bee-ginner's Beekeeping: The Basics of Apiculture — that teaches students how to start, maintain, and care for a honeybee colony. You can complete the course between April 3-30. It's estimated to take 16-17 hours.

The fee is \$300; \$275 for MGs. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.