

Introducing the Master Gardeners of Bergen County: Speakers and topics

Instructions for garden club program coordinators or program coordinators of other organizations:

Review the topics below and decide what's of interest to your audience. Then click [here](#) to contact our Speakers Bureau coordinator with your preferred topic(s) and one or more dates/times you'd like the speaker to address your club or organization.

Instructions for Master Gardeners: If you'd like to join the Speakers Bureau, click [here](#) to contact our Speakers Bureau coordinator who can help you structure a presentation.



Christine Kozar is a retired middle-school teacher. Her main focus is on starting or expanding gardens. She is also available to work with young people who want to explore gardening, the environment, and/or ecosystems.



Arnie Friedman is a former instructor at the New York Botanical Garden and an NYBG-certified landscape designer.



Robyn Lowenthal runs a therapeutic horticulture program for developmentally disabled adults. She enjoys growing tropicals, annuals, perennials, shrubs, and vegetables and is passionate about plant propagation.



Lynne Proskow is a lifelong organic gardener, who is passionate about healthy food, healing nature through eco-restoration, and teaching the benefits of regenerative gardening practices.

Presentations/Topics

Getting Ready for Spring

Are you eager for spring to arrive? Here are the chores you should be doing now before you step into your garden. This slide show covers winter through spring chores and includes ideas to make the most of your yard, streamline your gardening habits, and keep you busy until you can actually be outside. **(CK)**

Deadheading, Dead Leafing, or Pruning: What Should I Be Doing?

Do you wonder what you should do for your plants at what time of the year? A discussion, with slides, to help pinpoint which tasks you need to do and when. Specific information will be shared for individual annuals, perennials, shrubs, and trees. **(CK)**

Daffodils and Beyond: Spring Ephemerals for Fall Planting

Daffodils, tulips, crocus, and hyacinth are wonderful harbingers of spring. Very little relieves the winter doldrums as much as the sight of the first crocus or an early daffodil from your window. We'll delve a little deeper into these old favorites and introduce you to others that you can plant this fall to provide a burst of joy come spring. **(CK)**

Adding Natives to Your Garden: Native plants are becoming more important as insect and bird populations decrease. Learn why including native plants in your landscape will help solve the crisis, how natives can improve our environment, and which plants are native to our area. **(CK)**

Making the Blues Go Away

A history of the lawn and its place in our national psyche including the negative impact that today's traditional "blue grass" lawns have on our environment. Alternatives that any homeowner can employ to create a better environment and support our wildlife. **(AF)**

The History and Method of Home Landscape Design

A survey of how landscapes and gardens developed over the centuries followed by a simple method for creating a landscape design for your own home. **(AF)**

Gardens on Tour Europe/North America

These two talks each stand alone or in a series. Each is a personal tour of large and small gardens either in Europe and England or in the United States and Canada. The images were collected in recent years from the perspective of two garden designers who are avid travelers and students of both classic and contemporary gardens. The talks cover famous classic gardens as well as some small hidden gems found off the beaten path. **(AF)**

Water in the Garden

A survey of the historic importance of water in landscapes and how many types of water features can be integrated into any landscape. The effects of storm water in the garden and how rain gardens and other techniques can be used to reduce water damage and improve the environment. **(AF)**

Stone in the Garden

A survey of the stones and paving materials used to create patios, walks, and walls in a home landscape. **(AF)**

Beginner's Bonsai

A personal journey of discovery into the world of bonsai covering the history and terms and concepts of this ancient discipline. As a personal experience we will see the early attempts at creating ancient-looking trees in miniature and how the skills can be developed using modern-day tools and resources. The bonsai ideas and approach to plants is a lesson that goes beyond the creation and care of miniature trees in a pot with lessons that apply to fine gardening in general. **(AF)**

Gardening the Green Way

A discussion, with photos and text, of the fundamentals of vegetable gardening emphasizing environmentally friendly techniques. **(RL)**

Vegetable Gardening 101

Explore all you need to know to start growing your own vegetables. **(RL)**

Container Vegetable Gardening

Whether you live in an apartment with a small balcony or have a large backyard, container vegetable gardening allows you to cultivate a variety of vegetables and flowers in an easy and manageable way. You'll learn everything you need to grow your own vegetables successfully, including appropriate containers and soil, planning, planting, and pest and disease control. In addition to a PowerPoint presentation, there will be time for a Q&A. **(RL)**

Wellness in the Garden

Explore how to achieve wellness — the state when the diverse dimensions of a person's life are in balance — in the garden. **(RL)**

All About Coleus

This PowerPoint presentation covers the history of coleus, tips for growing gorgeous coleus, different types of coleus, coleus propagation, designing with coleus, and dealing with insects and diseases that affect our coleus plants. **(RL)**

Plant Propagation Workshop (allow 90 minutes)

Participants will learn to propagate from seed, stem cuttings, leaf cuttings, and air layering. We will discuss tissue propagation and grafting. Limited to 10 participants; must have a workspace with tables and easy access to water. **(RL)**

Container Gardening in Small Spaces and Introduction to Self-Watering Containers

Do you have a small space, poor soil, or do you face other challenges? The benefits of container gardening could be an answer. So many options, from hanging baskets to grow bags, annuals, perennials, vegetables, and herbs including DIY self-watering containers, DIY potting mixes, peat vs. coco coir. All you need to get started. Handouts included. **(LP)**

A Natural Journey, Bee-ing Curious and Enjoying Herbs

A lifelong herbal journey growing annual and perennial herbs discovering how to use and preserve them for culinary, medicinal, and decorative purposes. Herbs are pollinator friendly, too, so be sure to make room for herbs in your garden spaces. Handouts included. **(LP)**

Crazy Composting Year-Round: Ins and Outs

Have you always wanted to compost or want to learn more? Do you love composting because it's beneficial to having a healthy garden and keeps food waste out of our landfills and benefits the soil? The speaker discusses the Bokashi method she uses indoors during the winter using a 5-gallon bucket with a lid and effective microorganisms. She will demonstrate how easy and effective this is for producing "black gold," a gardener's best friend. Handouts included. **(LP)**

Regenerative Gardening: How You Can Help Create Biodiverse Ecosystems

Using a regenerative approach, going beyond sustainable, to create healthy ecosystems that support biodiversity and help to sequester carbon in the soil. It all starts with understanding and caring for the soil. Simple things you can do to help mitigate climate change starting in your own garden. **(LP)**

Starting Seeds, Indoors and Out and Intro to Microgreens

Starting seeds will save you money over transplants and give you access to many more varieties. This talk covers potting mixes; containers; peat vs. coco coir; timing; and watering and light requirements so you can grow successful plants. Introduction to Microgreens examines these quick, easy-to-sow-and-grow superfoods that are fun to grow. **(LP)**

Creating a Backyard Eden

You can cultivate a thriving, sustainable ecosystem using native plants and nature-based solutions. Taking small steps can truly make a difference. **(LP)**

Winter Sowing Seeds

Do you want to get a jump on spring? Are you interested in growing plants inexpensively? It's rewarding and fun and gives you something to look forward to. Grab your milk jugs and salad trays and upcycle those yogurt and deli containers to get your garden started. All methods discussed as well as the why's (some seeds need stratification) and how's. This presentation can include a workshop. **(LP)**

Planting Fall Bulbs Using Containers

Have you heard of the "lasagna" method of planting bulbs? Make some beautiful displays and keep those pesky critters from digging them up so you get to enjoy them. This presentation can include a workshop. **(LP)**

The Importance of Trees

This presentation is geared toward an elementary-school-age audience. A teacher, school administrator, and/or parent must be present. **(LP)**