

# From the Potting Shed

June 15, 2025

[www.mgofbc.org](http://www.mgofbc.org)



## ***MG of BC picnic***

***Tuesday, June 17, noon-2:30 pm***

***Van Saun Park, 216 Forest Ave.,  
Paramus, Pavilion I (eye)***

***north of Walden Pond on the road leading to  
the Howland Avenue exit***

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Links are clickable and are noted in **blue**.

## **Laurelwood Arboretum tour June 29**

### ***By Suzy Basu, Trips and Tours coordinator***

Join us for a two-hour guided walking tour of [Laurelwood Arboretum](#) Sunday, June 29 from 10 am-noon. Just a 30-minute drive for many of us, Laurelwood is a perennial favorite among gardeners and for good reason.

While spring blooms may be done blooming, the arboretum offers 30 acres of interest: A native plant demonstration garden, pollinator garden, wetlands garden, and sensory garden are just some of the highlights. The longer format allows plenty of time to explore and ask questions — and we know MGs love to ask questions. We'll walk about one mile over mostly shaded, smooth paths.

After the tour, those who'd like to stay a bit longer are welcome to bring a snack or bag lunch. We'll gather informally under the pavilion to socialize and enjoy the surroundings.

Cost is \$5 per person. CE credit is available depending on the final length of the tour. Guests are always welcome.

To join us, please email Trips and Tours coordinator Suzy Basu at [mgofbc.trips@gmail.com](mailto:mgofbc.trips@gmail.com). RSVP is required.

Laurelwood Arboretum is located at 725 Pines Lake Drive West, Wayne. Carpooling help is available upon request. Meet in the parking lot.

## ***Ridgefield Park Earth Day in the rain***



***Photo by Stephen Mazzella, RP social media coordinator***

Rain didn't stop the June 14 Ridgefield Park Earth Day event. Vendors and organizations set up in the DPW garage. From left Jeffrey Chan, Sharon La Monica, and Lynne Proskow. Peter Cammarano, not pictured, also volunteered. MGs offered factsheets and other information while Lynne gave out numerous projects for kids, such as coloring sheets, milkweed seed packets, pollinator-friendly seed discs, insect scavenger hunt sheets, and healthy plants word search sheets and crayons.



## VOLUNTEER SITE NEWS

### At McFaul: 3 volunteers + 532 plants = a stunning main entrance



*Photo by Michele Schaper, McFaul Environmental Center*



*Photo by Ben Weiner*

Above left, Ben Weiner, Melody Corcoran, and Joseph Cooper after installing annuals at the McFaul Environmental Center entrance. Above right, Joseph and Melody assess their blank slate.

#### **By Joseph Cooper, site coordinator**

The McFaul Environmental Center in Wyckoff sees a lot of visitors every day, including school buses filled with children, adult day-care groups, residents of senior living facilities, the handicapped, and various other tour groups that come for lectures and programs. All guests enter through the main entrance, so we prioritize keeping this area and other prominent spots in the park well-maintained.



*Photos by Ben Weiner*

McFaul entrance before the plantings.

showcases perennials at both the back and front edges of the flower bed with annuals positioned in the mid-front. The park's director provided a variety of flats that included Dusty Miller, begonias, snapdragons, marigolds, cleome, and alyssum, allowing us the creative freedom to design as we wished.



We began with a concave line that blended into random patches of various plants. Together the three of us planted 532 plants in this bed into the design we envisioned. To create a layered appearance, we placed the taller plants at the back, so as you come in, or go out, you get a different viewpoint.

The main entrance, designed by the Bergen County landscape architect, features a three-sided layout that

**More volunteer site news on page 3**



## VOLUNTEER SITE NEWS

### Washington Spring Garden



Janet Stofkoper, left, and Suzanne Danzig.

#### **By Suzanne Danzig, site coordinator**

Janet Stofkoper and I (above), site coordinators for Washington Spring Garden in Van Saun Park, completed a long-awaited planting of annuals and perennials with some assistance from a park employee.

Over the years, several areas in the garden experienced deer browsing that wiped out some of the older plantings. Our focus was to fill in these areas with mostly shade-loving and deer-resistant plants, among them are variegated liriopse, *Helleborus orientalis*, ligularia, and heuchera/coral bells.

All totaled we planted 56 perennials along with filling seven large planters with annuals. Among the annuals planted were angelonia, calibrachoa, purple and white alyssum, and dichondra/silver falls. We have already gotten several compliments and thank you's for the beautification. The MG picnic will be diagonally across parking lot 6 from WSG, so take a stroll over and enjoy this peaceful oasis.

## EVENTS

### **Visit Paul Sisko's garden June 28**

You're invited to see Paul Sisko's 3.5-acre garden June 28 from 10 am-3 pm during the Garden Conservancy's Open Days program. The address is 113 Fardale Ave., Mahwah. There's no charge for MGs and interns. "Just show up and sign in as Master Gardeners, with guests if you wish," Paul said.

### ***How do 'yew' trim a 40-foot hedge?***



#### **By Arnie Friedman**

While traveling around the Cotswold District of England, we spent several nights in Cirencester, a pretty town made wealthy by the wool trade. This yew hedge, more than 300 years old, rises behind the wall of the local abbey. It's the tallest hedge in Europe reaching 40 feet. Scientists have been trying to understand why it's so strong and disease resistant. I took the picture from the car in typical English weather.

[Editor's note: Click [here](#) to see more photos of this yew hedge and how it's trimmed.]

## THE BUG REPORT

[Editor's note: Spotted lanternflies? Milkweed invaders? Bergen County entomologist Matt Bickerton answers questions from the Potting Shed.]

### Do you entomologists predict an abundance of spotted lanternflies this year?



Look closely at the SLF nymphs lined up on this milkweed stem.

The spotted lanternfly is obviously here to stay. I have seen quite a few nymphs this year so far clustering on things like my fig tree or dropping out of my silver maple trees. It's not clear they are causing any significant damage to these plants.

In spite of this, we don't expect epic numbers of adult lanternflies this year. These bugs frequently show explosive populations during the first two years of establishment into a new area with suitable vegetation (tree of heaven in particular). In northeastern New Jersey, we are seeing the same patterns we have seen everywhere else. We don't expect to see as many adult lanternflies later this summer as we saw back in 2022-2023 during their initial population surge because some kind of equilibrium has been reached.



Photos by Miriam Taub

### What's happening on these milkweed leaves? Reminds me of an "everything" bagel.

You've got a lot of aphids on this milkweed. They are probably green milkweed aphid (*Aphis asclepiadis*). You might see orange aphids (oleander aphids) on the milkweed later in the summer. Aphids have an unusual and fascinating life cycle and at this stage they are mostly females. Their live offspring are actually clones of themselves — viviparous parthenogenesis.

These plants can usually sustain aphids without too much damage. And if you leave them alone and watch, you will eventually see lady beetles, parasitic wasps, and other predators come and clean them up for you!

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### Work in the Trail Conference HQ garden

The NY-NJ Trail Conference seeks Habitat Helper volunteers June 29 to work in the native plant garden at its headquarters, 600 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah. Click [here](#) to register for the work session from 9 am-noon.

### Save the date: July 18 in Teaneck

Teaneck Creek Conservancy will need volunteers to work in the Woodland Peace Garden and Peace Labyrinth July 18 from 9 am-noon for a "blast" when many volunteers help to accomplish work during a span of a few hours.

Look for details and registration information in the July 1 Potting Shed.