

Master Gardeners of Bergen County

January 2019 – mid-month reminders and updates

MG meeting Tuesday, Jan. 22

1 Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack, 1st-floor meeting room. Refreshments at 7 pm; announcements at 7:20 pm; program to follow.

Our speaker this month is MG Arnie Friedman. His topic is “Making the blues go away.” Arnie will present his survey of the development of the modern practice of surrounding homes with lawns. He will offer alternative solutions for creating landscapes that are much more eco-friendly, easier to care for, and perhaps prettier to look at.

Renew your Master Gardener membership

Click [here](#) to download the MG of BC membership renewal form for 2019 so your membership doesn't lapse. Mail the completed form and your check for \$20, made payable to the MG of BC, to Terri Pegg, 54 West Magnolia Ave., Maywood, NJ 07607. You can also include an additional amount, as donations to the MG of BC are always welcome!

2018 graduates: You're now Master Gardeners and must send your dues to Terri Pegg and report your volunteer and education hours to Donna Karpel. Without both, you won't be considered certified. See item below on how to report volunteer hours.

NOTE: If your dues aren't received by Feb. 26 (the February meeting), your information won't appear in the 2019 print copy of the Membership Directory. If your dues are received after that date, your information will be included only in the online directory that appears on the MG of BC website.

Volunteer hours are due now

By Donna Karpel

No password is needed to download the forms from the home page of our [website](#) under “Volunteer & Education Reporting Forms.” ***Do not use the online reporting system as it's not ready for data entry.***

To maintain your Certified Master Gardener status, each year you must send in a record of your 25 volunteer hours and 10 education hours. (Plus, you must pay your dues every year.) *Without completing and reporting your volunteer and education hours (plus dues), you aren't considered certified.* If there are extenuating circumstances why you were unable to fulfill the requirements, please contact me at 201-327-8835 or donna9189@gmail.com.

Interns (Class of 2019 members) do not need education hours.

There are two ways to report your hours:

1. **Excel form:** This form can be used on any PC and emailed. This is the easiest and most accurate way to track hours.
2. **Paper form:** The paper form has to be mailed, and you need to make a copy for your records. The mailing address is on the form. Please write neatly. If I can't read it, I can't enter it.

Again, both forms can be found on the right side of the home page of our [website](#) under “Volunteer & Education Reporting Forms.” The forms will download directly to your computer from the link.

When using the Excel form, save the file with your name and year of reporting, for example, Susan Smith 2018. Send the entire spreadsheet as an attachment to your email. Do *not* separate your education and volunteer hours into two or more reports; do not save your file as a pdf and send; and do not send as a shared (Google) drive. Enter only one date per line, especially if you’re submitting a paper report.

If you have questions or need help, don’t hesitate to contact me at 201-327-8835 or donna9189@gmail.com.