

Master Gardeners of Bergen County January 2020 – mid-month update

MG meeting Tuesday, Jan. 21

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

Our January speaker is Chris Rubino of [Monrovia](#), whose topic is Monrovia's new plants for 2020 and what worked in 2019. (He last spoke to us in 2017.) He will review exciting new cultivars, the re-introduction of some old-time favorites, and the best new products throughout the industry. Learn what's trending in flowering shrubs, ornamental grasses, edibles, and annuals and perennials from one of the leading growers in our country.



Chris Rubino

Please note: We will vote on a change to the bylaws of the MG of BC at the Jan. 21 meeting. The bylaws were recently updated and an Appendix added.

These changes and the new Appendix were presented at the November meeting of the Executive Board. The amended bylaws and the Appendix will be approved if accepted by a two-thirds vote of the certified Bergen County Master Gardeners who attend the Jan. 21 meeting. The bylaws and Appendix are attached with this newsletter.

Volunteer hour reporting: Please read!

Rutgers Cooperative Extension gets money based on the number of volunteer hours you report. However, reports submitted incorrectly delay the process.

Donna Karpel continues to receive 2019 volunteer reports that aren't usable because, for example, they're sent in PDF format or placed on a shared drive. **You must submit your volunteer report according to the instructions so Donna can simply copy and paste your information into a master file.** If Donna sends a report back to you for clarification, please reply to her promptly. Without having the answers to her questions, she can't add your information to the master file.

If you have questions about how to prepare your report, please contact Donna at 201-327-8835 or donna9189@gmail.com.

Once again, here's how to submit your volunteer report:

- Download the forms (Excel or paper) from the lower right of the homepage of our [website](#) under "Volunteer reporting."
- **When using the Excel form:** Save the file with your name and year of reporting. For example, Susan Smith 2019. Enter only one date per line. Email the Excel form as an attachment to your email to Donna. The Excel file should contain both your education and volunteer hours in one report. Do not send two separate Excel files.
- **When using the paper form:** Enter only one date per line, and print neatly so Donna can read your report. Keep a copy for your records, and mail the form to Donna at the address on the form.

To maintain your status as a certified MG, each year you must report your 25 volunteer hours and 10 education hours and pay your dues. Without both the full volunteer and education hours plus dues, you aren't considered certified. (MG students don't need education hours.) If there are extenuating circumstances why you were unable to fulfill the requirements, please contact Donna.

Message from the outgoing president

By Carolyn Gretchen

I'd like to thank the board, committee chairs, and general membership for your support these past two years. It's been quite a ride. It offered many opportunities to learn and grow, interact, and problem solve.

Please join me in welcoming our new and renewed Executive Board members: Melody Corcoran, president of the MG of BC following her role as vice president; Suzanne Danzig, moving into the vice-president's position; Pat Vellas, the new treasurer; Jane Nicholson, the new recording secretary, and Miriam Taub, continuing as corresponding secretary. Please join me in wishing them the very best of luck and our continuing support.

With the change of personnel will come new ideas. As the new officers present them, I encourage them to seek feedback from experienced members and friends. It's always a team effort that yields the best results. Clearly and succinctly define the benefits and results. In other words, pay attention to the aspect of "what's in it for them?" And finally, enjoy the connection with research and gardening, as outlined in our mission statement. It's why we do what we do. There's beauty and importance in every season. Honor it and contribute to it.

Webinars

You can earn a maximum of three education hours per year by attending webinars.

Mosquitoes and Ticks: Safety and Control for All, Thursday Jan. 16, 6:30-9:30 pm

Speaker: Taryn Creapeau, Middlesex County entomologist. Free. Click [here](#) to register. After registering, you'll receive a confirmation email with instructions.

Designing Small Gardens with Big Attitudes, Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2 pm

Speaker: Kerry Ann Mendez, author and garden consultant. \$12. To register, click [here](#).

Gardening for the Birds, Feb. 19, 7-8:30 pm

Speaker: Charlie Nardozi, TV show host and author. \$9.99 before Feb. 1. For details and to register, click [here](#).

Sunshine

Fred Guidotti, Class of 2016, is recuperating at home after a short hospital stay. Contact him at 630 Ackerman Ave., Westwood, NJ 07675.

Become an education docent at Thielke Arboretum

Thielke Arboretum of Glen Rock is seeking education docents; no experience necessary, you'll be trained. Find out about this volunteer opportunity (and earn two volunteer hours) during a luncheon from 1-3 pm Sunday, Feb. 2 in the arboretum's Environmental Education Center, 460 Doremus Ave., Glen Rock.

The luncheon will serve as a thank you to current education docents and an introduction to MGs and Class of 2020 students who may be interested in volunteering. Contact [Laura DeFlora](#) of Thielke's Education and Planning Team, to request an E-vite.

Flower shows

[Virginia Flower and Garden Expo](#), Jan 24-26

[Antique and Garden Show Nashville](#), Jan. 31-Feb. 2

[Connecticut Flower and Garden Show](#), Feb. 20-23

[Philadelphia Flower Show](#), Feb. 29-March 8

NJ Flower and Garden Show, April 23-26 (no website at this time)

Coming up

- Jan. 27** **7:30 pm, Ho-Ho-Kus Garden Club**, 400 Warren Ave., entrance on Sycamore Avenue, Ho-Ho-Kus. Speaker: Chris Rubino of [Monrovia](#). Topic: New plants from Monrovia.
- Feb. 3** **7 pm, Sundial Garden Club**, Meadowbrook Elementary School, 50 Piermont Ave., Hillsdale. Speaker: Lisa Skoglund, beekeeper in Montvale. Topic: A year in the life of a beekeeper.
- April 19** **2:30 pm, Laurelwood Arboretum**, Knippenberg Center for Education, 725 Pines Lake Drive West, Wayne. Speaker: Douglas Tallamy, author, professor, and expert in plant-animal interactions. \$30 members/\$55 non-members (includes one-year membership to the Friends of the Laurelwood Arboretum). Click [here](#) to buy tickets; limited seating.