

# Master Gardeners of Bergen County February 2021 – mid-month update

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## **MG virtual meeting – Tuesday, Feb. 23 via Zoom**

**Announcements at 7:20 pm; program to follow; see Zoom link below**

### **Robert Lyons presents: Outstanding Herbaceous Plants - RX for Long-Lasting Color in the Landscape**

Color, color, color has been the guiding mantra for gardeners and commercial landscapers alike for more than two decades. Dr. Robert Lyons, who last spoke to the MG of BC in November 2018, says this philosophy of gardening has led to an enthusiastic use of colorful plant materials in garden design and an expectation that brilliant color be present all the time.

Designing to meet the demands of this style may sound challenging, but not, he said, if you know the wide array of ornamental plants that will help you realize your goals. Robert's talk will expose and highlight annual and tender perennial plants, both brand new and tried and true, which have long-lasting flowers, eye-catching foliage, unique ornamental features, and great potential for striking impact in the garden.



**Robert Lyons**

To attend the meeting, click on the link below a few minutes before 7:15 pm to allow the meeting organizer enough time to let attendees into the meeting.

<https://rutgers.zoom.us/j/92692588641?pwd=a3l5VlpxTzljWkgwUndlb3Z0Q1pLQT09>

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## **Membership reminder**

Beginning in March, only paid-up members will receive the *Potting Shed*. If you haven't already done so, please remit your 2021 dues of \$20 to the MG of BC. Click [here](#) for the membership renewal form on the homepage of our website. Instructions are on the form.

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## **MG volunteer and educational requirements suspended for 2021**

The Rutgers MG program has suspended all volunteer and educational requirements statewide for 2021. Volunteers **will not** need to meet the annual requirements to maintain their status with the RMG program.

All in-person events, classes, programs, MG meetings and events, and other group activities organized by or under the auspices of Rutgers Cooperative Extension have been suspended through March 31, 2021.

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## Arum italicum subspecies italicum: One hot flower!

Bruce Crawford, program leader in home and public horticulture at Rutgers, has chosen *Arum italicum* as his February plant of the month.

### By Bruce Crawford

With the chilly temperatures of winter well entrenched in our gardens, evergreen foliage clearly plays an important role in providing interest throughout this season. Conifers serve an important role in providing the bones for the garden, but there is still a need for detail plantings as we stroll our walkways and paths.

One plant I have greatly enjoyed over the past 30 years for winter foliage and form, as well as for its “hot” flowers come spring, is the Italian Arum: *Arum italicum* subspecies *italicum*. . . Click [here](#) to read more.



Rutgers University photo

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## Things to do at Thielke Arboretum

Thielke Arboretum is located at 460 Doremus Ave., Glen Rock. Visit the [website](#).

### Winter ID tree walk

Join Jean Epiphan, Thielke Arboretum’s forest ecologist and stewardship director, for a walk to identify trees by examining twig and bud structure, tree form, bark characteristics, and more at 2 pm Feb. 21. Dress for the weather including waterproof, insulated boots. Mask must be worn at all times. Fee: \$10; a 20% discount for Thielke members. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

### Doodle, draw, and discover winter trees

This virtual workshop will get you started doodling winter trees and leave you with the skills to continue a practice drawing on your own. Fee: \$10; a 20% discount for members. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

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## Webinars

**Feb. 16, 7-8 pm:** Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Ocean County sponsors backyard Reptiles. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register. On the registration page, click on “Event Material” for the handouts.

**Feb. 16, 7-8:15 pm:** Penn State Extension sponsors Houseplant Master Class - Troubleshooting Problems. Fee: \$5. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

**Feb. 18, noon-1 pm:** Smithsonian Gardens sponsors Getting the Most of Your Late Season Display. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

**Feb. 18, 7 pm:** Fine Gardening sponsors Seed Starting Tips and Techniques. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

**Feb. 20, 9:30-11 am:** Master Gardeners of Monmouth County sponsors Healthy Soil for the Home Garden. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register. On the registration page, click on “Event Material” for the handout.

**Feb. 22, March 1, and March 8 (three sessions), 6:30-8 pm:** Rutgers Cooperative Education sponsors Gardening @Home series - Houseplants 1. Fee: \$30 for the three sessions. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

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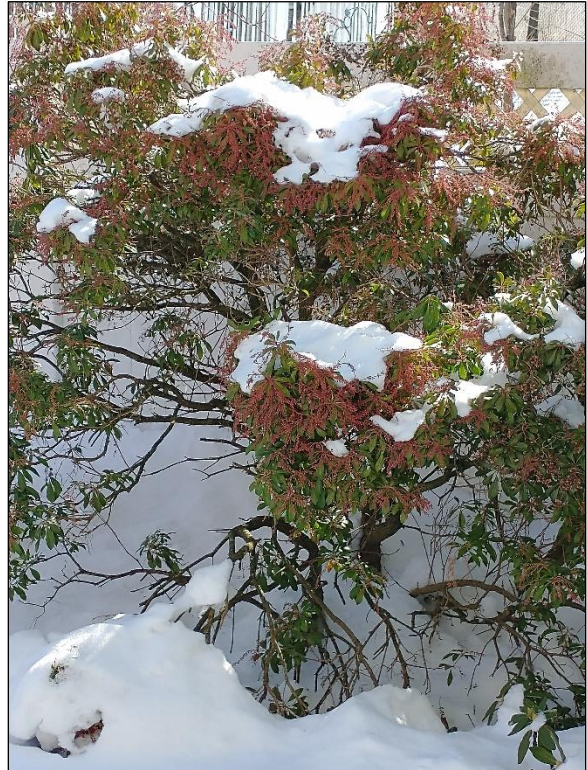
**Feb. 23, 3:30-4:30 pm:** Teaneck Creek Conservancy sponsors Hibernating Animals Native to Northern New Jersey. Free. Click [here](#) for the Teaneck Creek Facebook page at the time of the event. The event will be recorded and available for viewing at any time on the Facebook page. You don't need a Facebook account to attend the event.

**Feb. 27, 10-11 am:** Mid-Atlantic Horticultural Therapy Network (MAHTN) sponsors Horticultural Therapy in Educational Settings. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register. Visit the organization's [website](#).

**Feb. 27, 9:30-11 am:** Master Gardeners of Monmouth County sponsors Meet the Pollinators and Plan Their Paradise. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register. On the registration page, click on "Event Material" for the handout.

**Feb. 27, 10-11 am:** North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Buncombe County Center, sponsors Gardening in Earth Boxes. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

## **Can spring be far behind?**



*Photo by Miriam Taub*

This andromeda is prepared to bloom soon, or isn't it?

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## **This and That**

Enjoy this 24-minute [tour](#) of Ninnie's cottage garden in southern Sweden. "During these trying times it is so relaxing," reported Helen Driscoll, Ramsey Area Garden Club, who submitted this item.

## **Horticulture grapevine**

**Feb. 17, 2-3 pm, Tappan, NY, Public Library on Zoom.** Speaker: Arnie Friedman, Class of 2004. Topic: Garden Tours of Europe. Click [here](#) to register.