

Master Gardeners of Bergen County

October 2021 – Potting Shed Mid-Month Update

HORTICULTURE

*Bruce Crawford, manager of horticulture, Morris County Park Commission, has chosen yellowroot (*Xanthorhiza simplicissima*) as his October plant of the month.*

Yellowroot - a curious and great groundcover

By Bruce Crawford

Many years back I recall enjoying some pleasant conversation over dinner with a number of horticulturists. One of the individuals at the table turned to my neighbor and inquired what plant, in their opinion, was the best groundcover for the garden. Without hesitation, the person responded “yellowroot.”

Dumbfounded, I continued to eat my meal in silence, as I had never heard of this wonderful groundcover. As of this writing, that dinner was 25-30 years ago. I have since seen and used yellowroot on numerous occasions and agree wholeheartedly with that unhesitating response. Yet, I still remain dumbfounded as to why this plant remains unknown to so many! [Click here](#) to read more. . .



Photo courtesy of Bruce Crawford

Detail of the yellowroot leaf

Leave the leaves for wildlife

Your leaves are valuable. They support pollinators and other invertebrates. Read this [article](#) from the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation to learn more about why leaves are not litter.

A National Wildlife Federation [blog post](#) reminds gardeners that leaves are free mulch and fertilizer. And a Better Homes & Gardens [article](#) offers statistics about leaves and landfills that are mind-boggling.

(Continued on page 2)

Contents	Page
Horticulture (continued from page 1)	2
Webinars	2
Things to Do	2
Volunteer Site News	2-3
Farmers Markets	3

Links are clickable and are noted in [blue](#).

Meeting reminder - Tuesday, Oct. 19 Lecture and election of officers

Announcements at 7:20 pm; program to follow.
Click [here](#) to join the meeting at 7:15 pm.

Meeting ID: 926 9258 8641; password: 692429

Lesley Parness, a gardener and writer, will discuss the plants that populated Victorian parlors, how to care for them, and simple ways to bring a Victorian touch to plant-scaping your home. Her talk is titled Beyond the Potted Palm: Victorians



Lesley Parness

and Their Houseplants. Leslie last spoke to the MG of BC in April 2018 about medicinal plants of the Civil War.

Two handouts to help you follow along were sent in the email with the *Potting Shed*.

Election of officers

Prior to the lecture, members will elect two officers for two-year terms. Nominees are Melody Corcoran, Class of 2016, for president (the current president), and Elizabeth “Liz” Gil, Class of 2019, for vice president.

Meanwhile, the remaining three officers — Keith Mazanec, recording secretary; Miriam Taub, corresponding secretary; and Pat Vellas, treasurer — will serve the second year of their terms in 2022.

The reason to stagger the election (with two officers elected one year and three the next) is so all officers’ terms do not expire in the same year.

(Continued from page 1)

Speaking of worms . . .

You can do your part to control the spread of the jumping worm. Learn how in this [article](#) from Cornell University Cooperative Extension Tomkins County. According to Cornell, "From September until the first hard frost, their population will double and may reach damaging levels."



Photo by Melody Corcoran

A jumping worm in Ridgewood.

Melody Corcoran, MG of BC president and Class of 2016, wrote about jumping worms in her column in the July 2021 *Potting Shed*.

- Information submitted by Terry Cohn, Class of 2020

WEBINARS

Oct. 18, 6:30 pm: Rutgers Cooperative Extension's Earth Day Every Day series sponsors The Past, Present, and Future of Combined Sewers in New Jersey. Free. Click [here](#) for more information, the fall schedule, and to register.

Oct. 19, 6-7 pm: Native Plant Society of New Jersey sponsors We Are the Ark - Acts of Restorative Kindness to the Earth. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Oct. 20, 7 pm: Fine Gardening sponsors Small Shrubs with Big Impact. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Oct. 20, 7 pm: Wild Ones sponsors Wasps - Their Biology, Diversity, and Role as Beneficial Insects and Pollinators of Native Plants. Free. Click [here](#) for more information, to register, and to join Wild Ones.

Oct. 20, 8:30-9:45 pm: Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation sponsors Our Wild Watershed - Monarch Butterflies. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Oct. 21, 1 pm: Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation sponsors Climate Change and Land Use Change Impact on Pollinators. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Oct. 25, 6:30 pm: Rutgers Cooperative Extension's Earth Day Every Day series sponsors In The City! RU Wildlife Wise - Successfully Navigating the Urban Wild. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

THINGS TO DO

Maywood Green Fair Oct. 16

Maywood's Green Team will sponsor a Green Fair from 11 am-5 pm, Oct. 16 at Memorial School, 764 Grant Ave., Maywood. The MG of BC will have a display table along with the Tenafly Nature Center, Hackensack Riverkeeper, HarBee Beekeeping, Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, Thielke Arboretum, Bergen County Clean Communities, Maywood Recycling Advisory Board, and the Maywood Public Library.

Tour the Butterfly and Native Garden

Don Torino, president of Bergen Audubon, will lead a tour and give a talk at the Butterfly and Native Garden, one of our MG of BC volunteer sites, Oct. 17. Meet at 2 pm in the equestrian center parking lot, 40 Fort Lee Road, Leonia. The event is sponsored by the Bergen-Passaic Chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Jersey and is open to the public.

VOLUNTEER SITE NEWS

Five MG of BC volunteer sites remain open and are eager for help. Come join MGs for a variety of activities. For more information, contact the site coordinators below. Visit our [website](#) for more site information. From the home page, click on "Volunteer Sites."

Butterfly and Native Garden, 40 Fort Lee Road, Leonia, behind the equestrian center: Come by on Tuesdays from 9:30 am-1 pm through mid-November to help with general maintenance of the garden, such as weeding, controlling invasives, watering, and planting.

Contact: [Pat Knight](#)



At the Butterfly and Native Garden.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Garretson Forge & Farm, 4-02 River Road, Fair

Lawn: Many hands are needed for fall chores before the site closes in mid-December. Garlic and shallots will be planted and remaining late vegetables (butternut squash, birdhouse gourds, and tobacco) need to be harvested.



Cannas and dahlias will be dug up, cleaned, and boxed in pine needles to overwinter in the cellar. Tender perennials will be dug up, potted, and brought to the greenhouse. Asparagus will be cut to the ground, bed-

weeded, fertilized, and covered with salt hay. The group meets Thursdays from 10 am-2 pm and the second and fourth Sunday from 1-4 pm.

Contact: [Lida Gellman](#)

The Hermitage, 335 N. Franklin Turnpike,

Ho-Ho-Kus: Volunteering during the cold-weather months may include general cleanup and trimming of bushes, small trees, and shrubs. Help decorate the exterior of the house for the holidays by making wreaths, garlands, etc. When the timing is right in January, MGs set aside a day for winter sowing of plants for the grounds or the spring plant sale. Volunteering on the grounds winds down in the dead of winter. Maple sugaring happens closer to the spring. MGs meet Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:30 am-noon.

Contact: [Liz Gil](#)

McFaul Environmental Center, 150 Crescent Ave.,

Wyckoff: MGs will work "until it gets too cold," said Joseph Cooper, site coordinator. The group is pruning trees and shrubs on Wednesdays from 8:30 am-noon with a coffee and bagel break at 10 am.

Contact: [Joseph Cooper](#)

Teaneck Creek Conservancy, 20 Puffin Way

Teaneck: Most of the site is closed for renovation, but volunteers meet Wednesdays from 9-11 am to work in the area near the outdoor classroom accessible from Fycke Lane. Meet at 9 am in the parking lot of the Teaneck Creek Conservancy building, 20 Puffin Way.

Contact: [Denise Slusarev](#)

FARMERS MARKETS

Englewood Farmers Market, Depot Square Park, North Van Brunt Street and Demarest Avenue. Fridays, 11 am-6 pm through October.

Fair Lawn Farmers Market, New Song Church parking lot, Fair Lawn Avenue and Craig Road. Wednesdays, 11 am-3:30 pm through Oct. 20.

Harrington Park Farmers Market, Highland Field, Tappan Road. Sundays, 10 am-2 pm through October.

Ramsey Farmers Market, Main Street train station.

Sundays, 9 am-2 pm through November. For a list of rules, vendors, and other information, click [here](#).

Ridgewood Farmers Market, train station parking lot, Godwin and West Ridgewood avenues. Sundays, 8:30 am-2 pm through Nov. 21.



River Vale Farmers Market, Town Hall parking lot, 406 Rivervale Road. Thursdays, 2-6 pm through October.

Rutherford Farmers Market, Williams Center Plaza. Wednesdays, 11 am-6 pm; Saturdays, 8 am-2 pm through October.

Teaneck Farmers Market, municipal parking lot, Garrison Avenue and Beverly Road. Thursdays, noon-6 pm through October. Face coverings and social distancing required; no pets.

Thank you, Master Gardeners

for contributing to the October Mid-Month *Potting Shed*: Herb Arbeiter, Terry Cohn, Joseph Cooper, Lida Gellman, Liz Gil, Pat Knight, and Denise Slusarev.