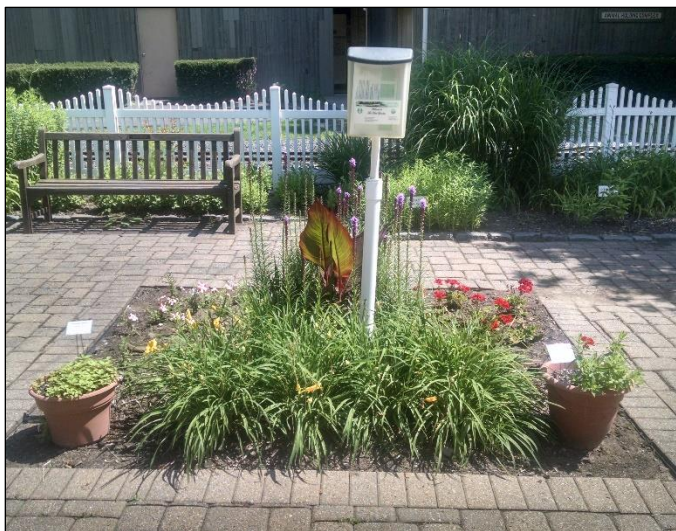


Master Gardeners of Bergen County

June 2022 – Potting Shed Mid-Month Update

SPOTLIGHT ON . . . VOLUNTEER SITES



Maps of the garden are available in the container above the Stella D'oro daylilies, cannas, tulips, daffodils, and annuals at the Bergen County Zoo.

Bergen County Zoo at Van Saun Park: Interacting with the public while gardening

Volunteer days and hours: Mondays 9 am-noon; other days/times can be arranged at the volunteer's request. You can start working as early as 8 am. Visit the [website](#) for the Bergen County Zoo, which is where most of the activity takes place. The address is 216 Forest Ave., Paramus.

What's unique about your volunteer site? As we work, visitors may ask questions about garden issues, the zoo exhibits, etc. We can talk about the sundial, the plants, and we explain — especially to the young people — the use and care of the plants.

What do you do during a typical volunteer shift?

How many MGs show up? We typically attend to our demonstration herb garden, and we manage the floral displays around the zoo. The demonstration garden is composed of three sections laid out in a grid pattern. Each section is divided by bricks to make nine plots, each of which contains different plants with markers identifying the plants.

(Continued on page 2)

Contents	Page
Spotlight on . . . Volunteer Sites (continued)	2
Pollinator Week (continued)	2
Horticulture	3
Five Questions for Keith Mazanec	4
Things to Do	5
Webinars	5
This and That	5

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

Pollinator Week is June 20-26

Pollinator Week (June 20-26) is a time to raise awareness for pollinators and what we can do to protect them. Pollinator Week is an annual event, first celebrated in 2007, to support pollinator health. It was started and is managed by [Pollinator Partnership](#), a non-profit organization based in San Francisco. Its mission is to promote the health of pollinators — critical to food and ecosystems — through conservation, education, and research. It works to protect pollinators and their habitat with projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico and globally.



According to [Govtrack.us](#), Pollinator Week was created via U.S. Senate resolution 580 in September 2006 “recognizing the importance of pollinators to ecosystem health and agriculture in the United States and the value of partnership efforts to increase awareness about pollinators and support for protecting and sustaining pollinators...”

The Pollinator Partnership offers a guide to select plants for each region of the United States. Click [here](#) for the guide titled “Eastern Broadleaf Forest - Oceanic Province,” which includes New Jersey.

In the North Jersey area, four locations have scheduled Pollinator Week events:

(Continued on page 2)

(Bergen County Zoo, continued from page 1)



Two sections of the herb garden at the Bergen County Zoo.

The plots must be weeded, watered, and otherwise taken care of. Some plants are perennial; others are planted in the spring for the entire season. Typically, two volunteers show up, but they aren't Master Gardeners.

When that work is done, there are other projects that can be attended to such as the adjacent pollinator garden and planting spring bulbs in the fall at different locations within the zoo. In addition, there are planters throughout the site as well as bare plots. The zoo will provide the plants, we can put them in existing containers or in the ground.

Do volunteers work as a group? Individually? Please describe. Work can be done in a group or individually.

Is the work physically demanding? Yes, there is a lot of physical work. But like anything else, the reward is in the finished product.

Are any special skills needed at your site? No special skills are necessary. If you wish to present a program, public speaking skills are helpful.

Are there any volunteer opportunities at your site that are not strictly "gardening"? If so, describe.

We have been asked to present programs for special events such as Family Day or Members Night. We've also had planting programs for children. Some events are held in the amphitheater. They are advertised on the Friends of the Bergen County Zoo [website](#) and to those who are zoo members.

What, if anything should volunteers bring with them? Hand tools and long-handled tools, gloves, water, and snacks. Wheelbarrows and specialized tools are provided.

Where do you park? You can park in the zoo's parking lot, which fills up after the zoo opens at 10 am.

Anything else you'd like to say about your site.

The interesting thing is that we get to interact with the public, especially the children. Parents always have questions. Mondays are when the home-schooled children visit the zoo. Bathrooms are located in the Education Center.

- Information from Jeffrey Chan, Class of 2011

Site coordinator: Jeffrey Chan, 201-723-7422, ichan11918@msn.com

(Pollinator Week, continued from page 1)

Thielke Arboretum: 10 am-noon, June 25 at the arboretum, 460 Doremus Ave., Glen Rock. This event is for children ages 5-11 accompanied by an adult. Attendees will move through a series of stations, each covering a different aspect of pollination and pollinators and staffed by docents. The event includes games, activities, and prizes for the kids. No registration required. It's free; a \$5 donation is suggested. Park in the adjacent municipal pool parking lot. Visit the [website](#).

Laurelwood Arboretum: 10 am, June 25 at the arboretum's Knippenberg Center for Education, 725 Pines Lake Drive West, Wayne. Lourdes Osorio, Passaic County MG, will give a free, educational presentation titled Gardening to Attract Pollinators. Lourdes is also a board member of the Friends of the Laurelwood Arboretum and she created the Native Plant Channel on [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#). Click [here](#) for more information about the lecture on the Laurelwood website.

Frelinghuysen Arboretum: 10 am-2 pm, June 25, outdoors under the big tent, 353 E. Hanover Ave., Morris Township. The Friends of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum has arranged a family friendly event that includes activities and exhibits focused on those all-important insects and birds that pollinate the flowers. Experts will be available to talk about butterflies; honeybees and their hives; birds; and other insect pollinators.

Guides will lead walks to identify insects at work in the garden and will explain the clever ways that flowers attract them. Horticulturists will be available to tell you what plants will attract pollinators to your own garden from early spring through the fall. Visit the [website](#).

Butterfly and Native Garden: 10 am-1 pm, June 26 at the garden, located in Overpeck Park, 40 Fort Lee Road, Leonia. Volunteers will offer "open house" tours. Park near the equestrian center and enjoy this native plant garden focusing on the needs of butterflies, moths, and birds.

In Edgewater: Suzanne's rooftop garden over the garage



Southeast view: Manhattan.

By Suzanne Danzig, Class of 2008

My garden is about 21 feet by 15 feet. I installed it last year. The previous owner actually built the garden over the garage with the membrane, soil, irrigation, fencing, etc., but never planted anything. When we purchased the house, it was a rooftop of weeds. I actually took soil away and added sand and gravel to make the soil more porous [since] it was a little too rich and dense for what I wanted to plant. I brought the pea gravel up to create the path, and the border is stone from the yard. I did have one helper who has been my go-to guy when I have big jobs.



Photos by Suzanne Danzig

Northeast view: GW Bridge is visible through the trees.

I bought all my plant material from Rohsler's Allendale Nursery. The plantings are Mexican feather grass, allium bulbs, allium millennium, *Gaura lindheimeri*, sedum John Creech and sedum Angelina, dianthus with 10-inch to 12-inch stems, and creeping thyme. The surrounding stonework and fencing were in disrepair, so we reinstalled and replaced a lot of the bluestone and the bluestone caps around the garden. It had sprinkler heads, but I disconnected them because the plants I used like it dry. I can always reconnect if need be. The garden is filling in nicely, and it's a peaceful setting to read or sip on my wine as I watch the skyline light up at night.

Diervilla: No coddling required

Bruce Crawford, manager of horticulture, Morris County Park Commission, has chosen Diervilla as his June plant of the month.

By Bruce Crawford

I have long concluded that plants requiring little to no attention are often overlooked in favor of those dependent upon endless hours of care and coddling. The first time I was introduced to northern bush honeysuckle, botanically known as *Diervilla lonicera*, was around 1990. It was growing in a public garden that was in serious need of care. With weeds growing lushly through the surrounding shrubs, the *Diervilla* stood weed free, with its glossy foliage and unpruned, dense arching branches looking attractive and seemingly well-maintained. . . [Click here](#) to read more.



Photo courtesy of Bruce Crawford

***Diervilla lonicera* growing wild in New Hampshire.**

FIVE QUESTIONS FOR . . .

Keith Mazanec, Class of 2019, answers five questions for the Potting Shed. Keith volunteers at Thielke Arboretum. Pre-Covid, he also volunteered at Bergen New Bridge Medical Center and, as an MG intern, was a member of Joel Flagler's horticultural therapy team. Keith is also the recording secretary for the MG of BC.

What prompted you to become a Master Gardener?

I became interested in gardening, specifically organic gardening, in the mid-1980s. Over the years, I planted assorted types of vegetable gardens. After retiring, I became aware of the program through an ad in the local newspaper, The Gazette. It was time to get back to class for a more formalized education into the life of plants.



Keith Mazanec

What's the most important thing you've learned or been exposed to as a Master Gardener? One of the most important things the class taught me was Integrated Pest Management and how the impact of what we do as gardeners affects the environment. I enjoyed learning about hydroponics and plan on exploring that further in the coming months. Also, what I learned about soil science and crop rotation has been very beneficial. I am also grateful to the class for introducing me to some awesome like-minded individuals who share similar interests and whom I enjoy working with.

Have your interests in gardening changed over time? If so, how?

I would say that over time I have become more interested and familiar with different types of native plants. The last year I replaced several invasive plants and shrubs with natives to encourage pollinators and hummingbirds and look forward to them becoming established in the garden. Also, I have taken a greater interest in container gardening and have moved most of my in-ground vegetables into containers and raised beds.

Briefly describe your own garden. Do you have a home garden project planned this season? My home garden is a variety of vegetables, herbs, perennials, and annuals. Last season I built an arbor out of conduit and trellis and had moderate success in growing pumpkins vertically. Currently, I am growing various types of tomatoes, cucumbers, beets, eggplants, peppers, pole

beans, lettuce, basil, fennel, parsley, Swiss chard, mints, and oregano. I've also been following my creative muse by incorporating garden art and colorful annuals to highlight different areas of my garden.

Do your interests in gardening extend beyond the MG of BC and your garden? For now, I am primarily focused on planning, planting, and maintaining my home garden. I like to visit different gardens and arboretums to get new ideas and, as mentioned earlier, am interested in learning more about hydroponics. As a former teacher, I appreciate the value of horticultural therapy and would like to contribute in that area as well.

We need volunteers!

The MG of BC needs your help with two volunteer programs. For more information, contact [Liz Gil](#), Class of 2019, and our volunteer site coordinator.

Mary S. Topolsky Garden and Trail at Hackensack River Greenway needs a site coordinator

The Mary S. Topolsky Garden and Trail, part of the Hackensack River Greenway Through Teaneck, needs a site coordinator to assess the garden's needs, coordinate volunteers, and design and plan how to make this garden and trail shine. Candidates should be certified MGs who are current on dues. The garden is located at 640 River Road, Teaneck.

Work with 4-H members

Work with younger gardeners in cooperation with 4-H youth development to encourage them to connect with nature and develop a passion for gardening and the gardens of Bergen County.

A new Green Thumbs 4-H Club is being created to respond to requests for school gardens and related projects. New Jersey 4-H, a program of Rutgers Cooperative Extension, will train MGs. As MGs, we encourage this collaboration. A background check is required to work with youth.

Serpil Leveen, 1944-2022

Serpil Leveen, Class of 2012, died June 3. She was 78. Serpil Sisik Leveen was born in Ayrançi, Turkey, and lived in Hillsdale for many years. She was a professor of economics at Montclair State University for decades and the chair of the Economics Department. She was also a member of the Sundial Garden Club of Hillsdale. She was predeceased by her husband Barry Leveen in 2016. A graveside service was held at Beth El Cemetery, Paramus, June 6.

THINGS TO DO

3 Bergen gardens on display June 25 during Garden Conservancy's Open Days

Visit three Bergen County gardens through the Garden Conservancy's Open Days program: The gardens of Paul Sisko, Class of 2021, in Mahwah; the garden of Noel Schulz, Class of 2016, in Waldwick; and the garden of Lourdes and Alfredo in Ho-Ho-Kus. Click [here](#) to visit the Garden Conservancy's "Bergen County Open Day" page for more information and to buy tickets.

Note: You can visit Paul Sisko's gardens with no fee June 18. See immediately below.



Photo by Paul Sisko

Raised beds, one of the features in Paul's gardens.

Visit Paul Sisko's gardens in Mahwah

Paul Sisko, Class of 2021, will open his 3.5-acre gardens and sculpture site to Bergen and Passaic County MGs and interns from 10 am-2 pm, June 18. The address is 113 Fardale Ave., Mahwah. Enter the driveway between the stone walls and park along the driveway. If you have mobility issues, park on the right prior to the red steel and stone sculpture.

Tour Laurelwood Arboretum – on foot or get a ride in the cart

Laurelwood Arboretum is offering free, guided walking or cart tours of the property beginning at 10:30 am, June 26. Meet at the entrance patio of the Knippenberg Center for Education. The arboretum is located at 725 Pines Lake Drive West, Wayne. Visit the [website](#).

WEBINARS

For your convenience, all times are Eastern.

June 16, 10-11 am: North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Buncombe County Center, sponsors Heavenly Hydrangeas. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

June 16 or June 23, noon-1 pm: Los Angeles County Public Works sponsors Organic Gardening. Free. Click [here](#) for more information, a list and description of other webinars, and to register.

June 18, 11 am: Rockbridge Area (VA) Master Gardeners Association sponsors Plant ID - There's an App for That. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

June 21, 2:30 pm: University of Illinois Extension sponsors Four Seasons Gardening Series - Natives vs. Cultivars. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

June 21, 7 pm: Friends of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum sponsors Creating a Pollinator Paradise in Your Own Backyard. Cost: \$10 members/\$15 non-members. Click [here](#), then scroll down to June 21 in the left column for more information and to register.

June 22, 12:45-2 pm: AARP Virtual Community Center sponsors Wealth of Wellness - The Health Benefits of Spending Time Outdoors. Free. AARP membership not required. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

June 30, 3 pm: National Garden Bureau sponsors Ask the Experts About Roses. Free. Click [here](#) to register.

THIS AND THAT

Wine lovers: Looking for a new career?

Rutgers University will offer a grape and wine certificate program beginning Aug. 1. The program consists of four weeks of classroom instruction (8 am-4 pm Monday through Friday in New Brunswick) followed by a four-week paid internship at a local winery.

The program will prepare you to launch a new career in the wine industry. The course itself costs \$4,495 per person; enroll by July 1 and pay the early bird discounted fee of \$3,950. There's a \$50 non-refundable application fee. Click [here](#) for more information including financial aid options.