

# Master Gardeners of Bergen County

## November 2021 – Potting Shed Mid-Month Update

### HORTICULTURE



Photo courtesy of Bruce Crawford

Flowers of “October Skies.”

#### A great plant that needs wider distribution

*Bruce Crawford, manager of horticulture, Morris County Park Commission, has chosen aromatic aster (Aster oblongifolius) as his November plant of the month.*

#### By Bruce Crawford

Sometimes, you simply need to work with a plant for a number of years before you suddenly “discover” its beauty and come to appreciate that plant. This plant may not provide an incredible show throughout the entire season, but it contributes to the garden in ways that even members of its own family cannot attest.

For the past 17 years I have used *Aster oblongifolius* “October Skies,” commonly known as aromatic aster, in various designs and seen it at various public gardens. It struck me as a good plant, but it was not until the past few years when I came to the dumbfounded realization that this was a great plant in need of wider distribution and recognition! . . . Click [here](#) to read more.

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

#### Meeting reminder - Tuesday, Nov. 16

Announcements at 7:20 pm; program to follow

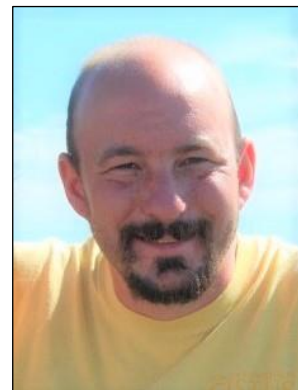
Click [here](#) to join the meeting at 7:15 pm

Meeting ID: 926 9258 8641; password: 692429

#### Plant Geeks Are Us - Oddball Plants for Oddball People

Adam Wheeler will join us virtually when he explores the world of unusual and uncommon woody plants focusing on rarities best suited for Northeast landscapes.

Adam earned a BS degree in urban forestry and landscape horticulture at the University of Vermont. In 2004, he began working at [Broken Arrow Nursery](#) in Hamden, CT, where he now manages plant propagation, container production, mail order, and the acquisition and development of new plants.



Adam Wheeler

Adam will post his lecture slides on the Broken Arrow Nursery website after the meeting. Visit [Lecture Slides Broken Arrow Nursery](#). The password is “rainfall” (without the quotes).

#### MG of BC spring 2022 meeting dates

Jan. 25  
March 22

Feb. 22  
April 26

May 24

## VOLUNTEER SITE NEWS

### Holiday Open House is calling

#### *By Sue Sheridan, Class of 2013*

There are still volunteer opportunities to set up for and to be a docent at the Holiday Open House at Skylands Manor. Get in on a fun experience and the chance to meet other MGs.

- **Setup:** We need volunteers Tuesday, Nov. 30 from 10 am-4 pm for setup. Normally, the day is divided into two-hour shifts, but the volunteering will be opened up for two volunteers to stay the entire day but no later than 4 pm.
- **Docents:** Docents are needed throughout the Manor House during the Holiday Open House event (Thursday, Dec. 2-Sunday, Dec. 5) in two-hour shifts. The MG of BC supplies the majority of docents for the entire event as we are by far the largest group participating. Please consider a shift as a docent. Remember, travel time to and from Skylands may be added to your volunteer hours.

To volunteer, contact Sue Sheridan at 201-664-2120 or by email at [swsheridan78@gmail.com](mailto:swsheridan78@gmail.com).

The New Jersey Botanical Garden/Skylands is located at 2 Morris Road, Ringwood. For those who want to attend the Holiday Open House, click [here](#) for information and ticket pricing.

## WEBINARS

**Nov. 16, 7-8 pm:** Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Ocean County sponsors Garden Railroads (an outdoor miniature railroad with strategic plantings around it). Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

**Nov. 16, 7 pm:** Wild Ones sponsors the Self-Perpetuating Landscape. Speaker is Larry Weaner, landscape designer. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

**Nov. 17, noon-1 pm:** Penn State Extension sponsors Pruning Young Trees for Strength, Structure, and Form. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

**Nov. 17, 7 pm:** Fine Gardening sponsors Put Public Garden Inspiration to Practical Use. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

## HORTICULTURE

*(Continued from page 1)*

### 2 of my favorite fall tools

#### *By Janet Schulz, Class of 1988*

My two most-used tools in the fall are the curved, serrated knife, at left in the photo, and the hori hori knife, also known as a root knife, at right.

The curved, serrated knife is indispensable for cutting hosta leaves as well as any other perennials that need to be cut down in the fall. The hori hori knife is great not only for planting bulbs but also for digging out the roots of weeds.



Fall faves: Janet's curved, serrated knife (left) and hori hori knife.

I like to spray the handles of my garden tools with DayGlo paint so I can see where I dropped them. The curved knife was painted purple and the hori hori was yellow. As you can see, they are in need of repainting.

## THIS AND THAT

### Joel quoted in online 'Yes' magazine

Joel Flagler was quoted in an online article titled Planting a Life — and a Future — After Prison, which appeared in the online "Yes" magazine. Click [here](#) to read the article about a residential and employment program on a North Carolina organic farm that helps formerly incarcerated women find a new path.



Joel Flagler