



SAVE THE DATE

June 21



Annual Master Gardener Picnic Tuesday, June 21, noon - 2 pm

Van Saun Park, Pavilion 1
(next to Walden Pond and before the Howland Avenue exit)

Spouses are invited. The MG of BC will provide entrees and beverages. Members should bring appetizers or desserts.

- Last names starting with A to M: Bring a dessert.
- Last names starting with N to Z: Bring an appetizer.

Volunteers are needed to help with the setup at 10 am and the cleanup at the end. Contact Hank Annunziata at hunnunz@optonline.net or 201-837-0062 to volunteer.

From the President's Desk



Well, it's been a productive year so far: We purchased new equipment, filled several committee chairs, had a terrific joint lecture program with Passaic County Master Gardeners, and even had a mushroom walk, to name a few tasks completed this year. And now it's time to take our summer break. Although we are not meeting until September, there is plenty of work going on behind the scenes, so follow the newsletter and website to learn about events and MG news. We will announce updating our bylaws, member awards and recognition, the MG/4-H fair, and much more, so stay tuned.

Wishing you a wonderful summer!

- Joseph Cooper

Contents	Page
Save the Date	1
MG of BC Trips & Tours	2
MG of BC News	2
Membership News	2
Volunteer Site News	3-4
Garden Club Grapevine	4

Links are clickable and noted in **blue**

Useful Links

Many local garden centers give discounts to MGs. See the list at mgofbc.org/useful-links.html. Bring your membership card when shopping.



Sunshine News

Carol Thielke

We've learned that Carol Thielke, MG Class of 1993, has been quite ill and the illness has interfered with her normal activities. Long active in Master Gardener activities and leadership, Carol's tireless efforts for so many years to advance the state of the Glen Rock Arboretum led to it being named in her honor in 2009. We want her to know that her fellow Master Gardeners are thinking of her and wishing her well as she faces some serious medical issues. *Carol, you are in our thoughts and prayers.*

Dedication for Sally Ditton

Please join the Wyckoff Area Garden Club for the dedication of a bench and a Korean mountain ash (*Sorbus Ainifolia*) in honor of Sally Ditton, MG Class of 2001, at 10 am Saturday, June 4 at the McFaul Environmental Center, 150 Crescent Ave., Wyckoff. Light refreshments will be served.

Bergen County Rutgers Cooperative Extension Office

Joel Flagler Agricultural/Resources Management Agent & County Extension Dept. Head 201-336-6780

Joe Papa Horticulture Consultant 201-336-6788

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MG OF BC TRIPS AND TOURS



**Tuesday,
June 28**

LongHouse Reserve

founded by **Jack
Lenor Larsen**,

internationally known textile designer, author, and collector. Jack's home, LongHouse, located on 16 acres in East Hampton, NY, was built as a case study to exemplify a creative approach to contemporary life. LongHouse contains 13,000 square feet divided into 18 spaces on four levels. The gardens present the designed landscape as an art form and offer a diversity of sites for the sculpture installations.

Click on [About Longhouse Reserve](#) or watch LongHouse Reserve on [YouTube](#).

\$50 tour and bus
\$70 tour, bus, and lunch; gratuities are included

Reservations: Email josie_ko1@hotmail.com. In addition, make check payable to Master Gardeners of Bergen County; mail to Bruce Walenczyk: Master Gardeners of Bergen County, PO Box 542. Glen Rock, NJ 07452-0542. Sign-ups will be effective when payment is received. Details for meeting place/time will be emailed.

MG OF BC NEWS

Dail Reid's Retirement

After 18 years as the horticultural consultant of Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Dail has retired. We'll miss her expertise in all areas of plant, tree, soil, bug, etc., care. Please join us Friday, June 10 at Rohsler's Allendale Nursery, 100 Franklin Tpke., Allendale, as we say goodbye and wish her well. Drop in from 10 am to noon to thank her. Feel free to shop while you're visiting. Master Gardeners get a 10% discount at Rohsler's. Food and refreshments will be served.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Meet Sereno Danese, Class of 2007

By Barbara Johansson

Reno (as most people know him) lives in Tenafly, the town where he was born (at home) and attended high school. As a child he used to watch his father growing

vegetables and his mother propagate flowers from cuttings. He says she could grow anything and had the quintessential green thumb. Gardening was just part of their life. And, his father owned the ubiquitous fig tree, an essential in any Italian's garden, which still produces fruit from suckers 80 years later.

Now Reno and his wife, Michele, live a short drive from Davis Johnson Park where he has been the MG site coordinator for many years. Married for 64 years (they met when they were 15 and 13), they have a close-knit family with son Mark, daughter Ellen, three grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Reno, who is 85 years old, gives all credit to Michele as the wonderful compassionate mother who keeps the family close. Having lost their daughter Kathy at the young age of 34, they are very concerned that all the children be tested for colon cancer, the disease that took her life. "No, you never get over losing a child," he said.

After high school, Reno was drafted, went into the Army Corp of Engineers, from there was accepted into Officer Candidate School, and came out a 2nd lieutenant. Under the GI Bill, he was able to attend Fairleigh Dickenson University in Teaneck. After 9½ years — now with a wife and three children and working full time while going to school — he earned his degree in mechanical engineering. Work for Bendix Corp. took the family to Denver. After that, he went to work on the Apollo rocket project at the Martin Corp. during the beginning years of space research. His claim to fame was meeting Werner Von Braun "for 15 seconds" while working on that project.

Always an active person, he learned to ski, played softball and tennis, and still "plays at golf." Reno is a prostate cancer survivor and attends a support group at Hackensack University Medical Center that he believes gives encouragement to men who were recently diagnosed. He can tell them "Look at me, I'm still alive!"

Having been a volunteer driver for the Red Cross, he and Michele now deliver Meals on Wheels. He is on the Tenafly Green Team, where they are developing a community garden. His church, St. Cecilia in Englewood, has an Office of Concern where Reno is involved with the food pantry. He and Michele have given their children a perfect example of compassion; as a result, their children are following in their parents' footsteps with involvement in the Home Front Project that provides secure living quarters for single mothers and their children.

We can take pride in our fellow Master Gardener Sereno Danese, whose energy and concern for others contributes much to enrich the lives of many.

VOLUNTEER SITE NEWS

Flat Rock Brook Nature Center

The volunteer gardeners at Flat Rock Brook Nature Center are busy this spring doing some cleaning up, planting, and — as always — removing invasive plants. We have cleaned up the butterfly and patio gardens and are working on the meadow, pond, and rocky outcropping. We have also started to clear areas near the main entrances to the Nature Center where there will be major installations of native plants later in the season to upgrade and beautify these areas.

We would love to have more Master Gardeners join us in these projects. We garden every Wednesday from 9 - 11 am. The address is 443 Van Nostrand Ave., Englewood. For more information contact Kathy Silberstein at kathy644@aol.com.

- **Cynthia Sumner**, css572@gmail.com

The Hermitage



Work continues on Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9:30 - noon. We have just about completed the structure of the kitchen garden and have begun the planting. Linda Flynn, Melody Corcoran, and Arta Pagano are shown in the

photo planting bee balm in the new kitchen garden. On June 4, the Friends of the Hermitage will have a community garage sale from 9 am - 4 pm. And, we will have a plant sale/exchange. Please bring your unwanted plants and we will find them a happy home (no knotweed, garlic mustard, or poison ivy; we've already got plenty!). Plants may be dropped off at any time that the Hermitage is open and left next to the old shed (by the brick pile).

Tea & Tours will begin Thursdays in June from 1:30 - 3:30 pm. Contact me at mkbuesser@gmail.com for available dates or if you can help by being a docent, baking goodies, or pouring tea. Period costumes are appreciated.

- **Monica Buesser**

Classes at The Hermitage

We learned that the MG classes for Girl Scouts at The Hermitage have become the most popular of all Hermitage scout programs. Led by Lynn Curtain, MG Class of 2012, we teach how people living at The Hermitage in the 18th and 19th centuries grew herbs as medicine, for dyeing cloth, and to keep insects out of their homes. More than a dozen scout troops from around Bergen County learned how to grow their own

plants from seed this year. They also made crafts from herbs grown in our children's sensory garden. If you would like to help out in these or other educational programs and tours, we'll be holding training classes for "herb docents" June 9 and 16 at 2 pm at The Hermitage, 350 North Franklin Tpke., Ho-Ho-Kus. Please e-mail me at kmsrhc@verizon.net to sign up or ask questions.

MG interested in horticultural therapy may also want to join our activities with disabled adults from ECLC Pride. Every Tuesday at 11 am, weather permitting, these enthusiastic young adults come to The Hermitage to help us maintain the grounds. For more information, contact Monica Buesser at mkbuesser@gmail.com.

- **Kathleen Sullivan**

Thielke Arboretum

Popular Fishing Derby June 26



Know any young anglers in your family or neighborhood? Invite them to one of our most popular family events. The Thielke Arboretum, 460 Doremus Ave., Glen Rock, is again sponsoring the popular fishing derby for youngsters ages 5-13 on Sunday, June 26 from 10 am - noon at the pond on the property. Cost is \$10 per child, and online registration is required. (Only online registration is accepted.) The registration form will be online at www.glenrockarboretum.org in the near future. Participation is limited to 40 children, so early registration is advised. Members of Trout Unlimited will be on hand to teach and assist young anglers with their casting skills.

To make this a successful event for the children, the pond will be stocked for the derby. Prizes will be awarded for the best fisherperson in each of three age categories, plus a prize for the most fish caught. Profits from the event are earmarked for the Environmental Education Center Fund for the Arboretum. Bring your fishing gear and bait. We will provide bait, if you need it. Need more time? Stay after the event and fish to your heart's content. Bring sandwiches and beverages and stay to enjoy a picnic lunch. This is a rain/shine event so dress accordingly.

- **Carolyn Gretchen**, *publicity chair*
201-991-8140, www.glenrockarboretum.org

Country Music Benefit Concert



Friends of The Thielke Arboretum, 460 Doremus Ave., Glen Rock, will host its first Country Music Benefit Concert on Friday, June 17 beginning at 6:30 pm; music at 7. Come join us to enjoy the beautiful

outdoor scenery while you listen to great country songs played by the band, Free Country.

Free Country plays great contemporary country songs with a rock and roll edge. Covers include contemporary hits by Kenny Chesney, Zac Brown Band, and Blake Shelton, as well as classics by legendary artists, such as Johnny Cash and Merle Haggard.

There's no greater pleasure than listening to the music you love in a charming outdoor setting. Bring lawn chairs, invite your friends and family, and enjoy the evening. Suggested donation is \$5 per person. Only non-alcoholic beverages are permitted.

- **Carolyn Gretchen, publicity chair**
201-991-8140, dcgretchen76@gmail.com

Washington Spring Garden



For the fourth year now Washington Spring Garden has benefited from a wonderful company policy at NICE Systems in Paramus. May is community outreach at NICE Systems, when employees go into the local community and offer their assistance in whatever way they can. Once again they contacted me to see if we could use their help in the garden, and who would turn down a few able bodies - 15 to be exact? On May 5 we pulled out every rake, every barrel, every broom, and lots of Dunkin' Donuts coffee and put them to work alongside our dedicated crew.

The timing could not have been more ideal with Mother's Day right around the corner and the azaleas in full bloom. By the end of that day WSG was shining. Our deepest gratitude goes to the wonderful volunteers from NICE Systems.

- **Suzanne Danzig**

THE GARDEN CLUB GRAPEVINE

June 21 **7 pm, Backyard Garden Club**, River Vale Library, 412 Rivervale Road; follow detour signs during road reconstruction. Topic: Recycling and backyard composting. Speaker: Angela Bonano-Lynch, solid waste technical advisor, Bergen County Utilities Authority.

Contact Lucy Malka at lhalka@optonline.net or 201-791-3562 to supply information for the Garden Club Grapevine. Publication deadline is no later than the 25th of the prior month.