



SAVE THE DATES!



7:30 pm, March 22

One Bergen County Plaza

1st-floor meeting room

Hackensack

This will be a joint meeting with the Master Gardener Association of Passaic County.

SHADE REVEALED: HOW TO GARDEN SUCCESSFULLY IN LOW LIGHT (REALLY!) BY AUTHOR AMY ZIFFER

Amy has been helping clients create beautiful residential gardens since 1998. She is a former staff editor at *Fine Gardening* magazine and a Master Gardener. Her freelance work as a garden writer and photographer has appeared in *Reader Digest* books, magazines such as *Yankee*, *Fine Gardening*, and *Horticulture*, her own books, and other publications. She frequently lectures and teaches about gardening across the Northeast.

Shade plants are not created equal. Since the early 1990s, Amy has been experimenting to find the best shade-adapted plants for the northeast. "Shade Revealed," a talk abundantly illustrated with beautiful photography, focuses on what makes some shade plants better performers than others. Amy also presents a clear approach to designing your shade garden for the best chances of long-term success. This program was the basis for Amy's new book, *The Shady Lady's Guide to Northeast Shade Gardening* (2014, University Press of New England).

Note: Look for Amy's PDF file in the meeting reminder email from our corresponding secretary, Serpil Leveen. Please print and bring to the March meeting.

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

From the President's Desk



As I notice the snowdrops and witch hazel in bloom, it reminds me that spring is just around the corner and there are things to do in the garden. Here are a few gardening tasks for March:

- * Clean and sharpen garden tools.
- * Soil testing: Know what your PH and soil conditioning are. This is especially important in areas where you may be considering putting new plants.
- * Remove debris or winter mulch from beds. If bed are soggy, use a kneeling pad or lay down a wooden plank to distribute your weight and avoid compacting the soil.
- * Compost or fertilize plants.
- * Pruning: Remove any diseased, dead, weak, or crossing branches. Especially look for hanging branches in trees and shrubs.
- * Check your plants for winter or animal damage.
- * Check planters for winter damage.
- * Clean out bird houses.
- * Cut back ornamental grasses.
- * Start propagating cuttings from over-wintered plants.
- * Start seeds for cool weather vegetables.
- * Divide plants likes hostas and daylilies.

Although there is plenty to do, don't overdo it! Just as the plants are waking up from a winter rest, your muscles may not like a sudden jolt of activity, so start slowly and enjoy the process. For inspiration and more tips, check out the flower shows and [Rutgers Home Gardeners School](#).

Happy gardening!

Joseph Cooper

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.

HORTICULTURE NEWS

From the Green Side

Arnie Friedman



I recently received a short, interesting article from the Bartlett Research Labs about boxwood problems. I have seen a lot of this at clients' and friends' homes where boxwoods were planted and thrived for years. The article answered many of my questions about this problem and points to a method of dealing with this common malady.

Experiencing boxwood blues? The ROOT of the problem might be below ground.

Usually, only dying branches are clipped off and sent in to a lab, but the actual problem is not located on the branch. When boxwood shrubs decline in this manner, the real issue is usually located in the root collar/basal stem area, the roots themselves, or the soil. We often see declining boxwoods with buried root collars, soil moisture issues, or root disease. Any of these stress factors may trigger dieback and decline. If you are managing a boxwood that exhibits these symptoms, collect a root sample to send to the lab for Phytophthora testing. Also, take a blade and scrape away bark from the root collar and lower stems to check for discoloration in the underlying tissue, as this may indicate disease or decay, which will help explain the branch dieback.

What everyone needs to remember is that Phytophthora is a group of fungi that are very common in our area. Hot weather, droughts, and poor soil hygiene are big contributors to this endemic problem. If you think this is a problem in a garden you tend, send in a sample of roots or branch color for analysis. Or, try taking a picture of the base area. Use a knife to scrape back bark at the plant base and look for the tell-tale tissue discoloration.

Remember if this is the true cause of dieback in boxwoods on your property you will continue to have the problem even if you replace the plant with a new healthy specimen. You must either eradicate the soil's fungus or move to and plant in a new area where there might be no problem.

TRIPS & TOURS

Wednesday, June 8

Bus trip to Chanticleer Garden, Wayne, PA

Wyckoff Area Garden Club (WAGC)

\$55 for the bus and tour

\$70 for the bus, tour, and box lunch from a gourmet deli

To reserve your spot on the bus, please make check payable to WAGC and include your email address and phone number and mail to: Fran Di Giorgio, 164 Greenhaven Road, Wyckoff 07481.

Questions? Write to Catie Farahat at cwfarahat@scatteringlight.com.

SHOWS, CONFERENCES, & WORKSHOPS

March 5 - 13

[Philadelphia Flower Show](#)

March 17 - 20

[Springfest Garden Show](#)

All lectures and workshops count toward Master Gardener educational requirements (shopping does not count).

March 19 9 am - 4 pm

Rutgers is having its 40th Annual Home Gardeners School lecture series. [Click here for details.](#)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Sunshine News

Jane Furman is recuperating from numerous hospitalizations due to pulmonary problems. She would love to hear from you. Please send a note or card with get-well wishes to:

Jane Furman
8902 30th St. East
Parrish, FL 34219

VOLUNTEERS SITE NEWS

Bergen Regional Medical Center (BRMC) Horticultural Therapy (HT) Program 230 E. Ridgewood Ave., Paramus

This program provides residents of BRMC's long-term care with opportunities to interact with plants to improve their quality of life under the direction of horticultural therapists. Visit www.bergenregional.com; from the lower right of the home page, click on "Become a volunteer" and click on the application, which is a must before you can volunteer at this site. The HT Program is open 12 days a month year-round. **10:30 am - 12:30 pm and 1:30 - 3:30 pm.**

Contact: Katherine Sabatino at kajsab@earthlink.net or 908-233-1529.

Butterfly and Native Garden at Overpeck Park, 40 Fort Lee Road, Leonia

This is a wonderful start-up garden close to the Equestrian Center with a focus on native plants that attract butterflies and pollinators. **Tuesdays 9:30 am - 1:30 pm**; tentative start date will be April 26 or May 3.

Contact: Pat Knight at gspmk@hotmail.com or gspmk@optimum.net, cell 201-321-0263.

Davis Johnson Park, 137 Engle St., Tenafly

This site contains gardens and paths including a redesigned rose garden, a greenhouse, maintenance facility and meeting room, gazebo, brick patio, walking paths, landscaping, and flowerbeds. **Tuesdays 9 - 11 am.**

Contact: Reno Danese at renodanese@optimum.net or 201-567-8672.

Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, 443 Van Nostrand Ave., Englewood

A 150-acre nature preserve and education center open to the public for trail walks, nature study, and other passive recreation. Volunteers are restoring the native habitat in the gardens around the building as well as in the meadow, woodlands, and around the pond. These gardens are filled with New Jersey-area native plants that attract birds, beneficial insects, and other wildlife. Like all gardens, they require regular, ongoing maintenance. Gardeners also participate in informal teaching sessions about gardening topics, such as integrated pest management techniques; low-maintenance ground covers, which can be used to replace lawns; and deer-resistant plants. **Wednesdays 9 - 11 am** beginning the first week of April through October.

Contact: Kathy Silberstein at kathy644@aol.com.

Garretson Forge and Farm, 4-02 River Road, Fair Lawn

Garretson, built in 1719, is the oldest continuously farmed homestead in Bergen County. Garretson is farmed organically and boasts an extensive herb garden, native plant gardens, and heirloom vegetable beds. It is a monarch butterfly way station with a large milkweed area and provides many butterfly-friendly plants for other butterflies as well. Garretson is also the home of the first Community Seed Bank in Bergen County.

Thursdays 10 am - 2 pm and the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month from 1 - 4 pm; starts March 22.

Contact: Lida Gellman at LB922@aol.com or 201-461-4204.

Hackensack River Greenway, 1404 (approximately) River Road, Teaneck

Throughout its 3.5 miles of trails you will encounter wetlands as well as lowland and upland woods, abundant wildlife, and native plant viewing opportunities. The northern terminus coincides with Historic New Bridge Landing, an important Revolutionary War site.

Contact: Rich Karp at rich1201@mac.com or 201-357-4048.



The Hermitage, 335 N. Franklin Turnpike, Ho-Ho-Kus

The Hermitage is a National Historic site, NJ state park, and museum on 5 acres. We have a historically accurate kitchen garden (1860s - 1890s), which was

restored in 2010 by Master Gardeners, and many other types of gardens to maintain. **Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9:30 am-noon, weather permitting.**

Contact: Monica Buesser at mkbuesser@gmail.com; cell phone 201-264-5790 (text me). Provide email address to receive weekly email about activities and weather-related cancelations.

McFaul Environmental Center, 150 Crescent Ave., Wyckoff

The McFaul Environmental Center is a year-round, 81-acre wildlife sanctuary featuring a waterfowl native pond, animal exhibits, a boardwalk, nature trail, and more. Gardens include specialties such as Daffodil Hill, rhododendrons, ornamental grasses, herb garden, hosta garden, and various memorial plantings. **Wednesdays 8:30 - noon; coffee and bagel break at 10 am; start date: early March.**

Contact: Joseph Cooper at Joseph@MGofBC.org.

New Jersey Botanical Gardens/Skylands, 2 Morris Road, Ringwood

The NJBG includes 96 acres of specialty gardens including formal, lilac, wildflower, moraine, hosta, and a greenhouse. We invite you to join the NJBG/Skylands Volunteer Team. There are many areas of volunteer opportunities at Skylands, the largest and most active is that of gardening volunteers. Other volunteer opportunities include non-gardening activities and special events. Some of the special events are the annual Holiday Open House, summer concerts, special plantings, and plant sales. **Wednesdays 9 am - noon; meet at the Carriage House. 3rd Sunday of each month 1:30 pm; meet at the Carriage House.** Bring gardening gloves, insect repellent, and sunscreen. Special events dates and time vary. Emails are sent with information about these events.

Contact: Dania Cheddie at compnet299@optonline.net or 973-962-9534 or info@njbg.org

VOLUNTEERS SITE NEWS continued

Overpeck Park Memorial, Henry Hoebel area, Fort Lee Road, Leonia

The World Trade Center Memorial honors each county resident lost during the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. **Starts early spring.**

Contact: Lillie Steinberg at kenyita2@verizon.net or 201-836-4609; please contact me for day and time.



Sensory Garden at the Russell Farms Community Park, Russell Avenue, Wyckoff

Groundbreaking for a sensory garden, which will be located within the Russell Farms Community Park, is scheduled to begin in early

2016. The sensory garden is designed to provide opportunities for people of all ages to interact with the environment and for the physically and educationally challenged to enjoy and benefit from a sensory-rich landscape. Volunteers will be needed to plant the plant material after the hardscape has been installed and to maintain the landscape during the spring, summer, and fall for a few hours once a week. As the project evolves, more details will be available.

Contact: Susan Gurak at susan@gurak.com or 201-891-0379.

Teaneck Creek Conservancy, 20 Puffin Way, Teaneck

Working with community leaders and the Bergen County Parks Department, the founding team crafted a restoration plan and, in 2006, the Teaneck Creek Park emerged with more than 1.3 miles of groomed trails, an outdoor classroom, and ecological art exhibits that make this oasis unlike any other. **Wednesdays 9-11 am year-round.** Kick-off breakfast for start of the spring season April 13 at 9 am in the building adjacent to the parking lot.

Contact: Denise Slusarev at 917-975-1400.

Tenafly Nature Center, 313 Hudson Ave., Tenafly

The Tenafly Nature Center protects nearly 400 wooded acres atop the Palisades. The preserve's native hardwood forest, streams, wetlands, and pond serve as an oasis for wildlife and provide opportunities for environmental education, recreation, and renewal for our community. **Tuesdays 10 am - noon.**

Contact: Anne Lander at amlander@verizon.net or 201-767-3756 for dates and times

Thielke Arboretum, 380 Doremus Ave., Glen Rock



The arboretum is a wetlands forest, with nature trails, gardens, a spring-fed pond, and a sparkling brook. Set on 11 acres, the arboretum serves as a natural habitat for birds, butterflies, amphibians,

and water fowl while supporting many species of trees and plants, the majority of which are native to this area.

Tuesdays 9 am - noon; Saturdays 9:30 am - noon; starts end of March, weather permitting. Weeding, pruning, cleanup of winter debris, and general maintenance. Wear boots/sturdy shoes; bring gloves, name-labeled favorite tools (trowels, pruners, kneelers, shovels, wheelbarrows, rakes), and drinking water.

Contact: Hank Annunziata at hannunz@optonline.net or 201-837-0062; or Bill Gilligan at gilligw@att.net or 201-444-0235.

Bergen County Zoo (Van Saun Park), 216 Forest Ave., Paramus

There are many gardens within the zoo including the Demonstration Herb Garden, the Butterfly Garden and the Children's Garden with the theme "Plants with Animal Names." This year's project is a Milkweed Display Garden with information about the monarch butterfly. Work includes planting, tree pruning, demonstration gardens, children's gardens, some weeding. **Mondays 9 am - noon (8 am start in July and August).**

Contact: Cliff Gerenz at cgerenz@msn.com or 201-791-0293.

Washington Spring Garden, Van Saun Park, Section D

Meet the volunteer crew Thursday, March 24 at 9:30 am for a brief walk-about and an overview of activities to maintain this beautiful treasure. **Thursdays 8:30 am - 12:30 pm (or any amount of time you can spare) beginning in April.** Use parking lot 4 or 6.

Contact: Suzanne Danzig at suzannedanzig@gmail.com or 201-218-4093.

MASTER GARDENER NEWS

New Rutgers Smartphone APP

Rutgers Office of Communications is pleased to announce the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station mobile smartphone app. This app will allow stakeholders to stay connected with the Rutgers NJAES, home of Rutgers Cooperative Extension, via their mobile smartphones. Users can access publications including all fact sheets, news, events, county office locations, and more.

Users can find the closest RCE office, view NJAES events, browse the newsroom, view the NJ Weed Gallery, and search publications.

The app is available through iTunes. Feedback can be sent to green@aesop.rutgers.edu. Visit njaes.rutgers.edu/app/ for download details.

THE MARCH GARDEN CLUB GRAPEVINE

- March 3** **7:30 pm, Garden Club of Harrington Park**, Harrington Park Library (second floor), Harrington Park. Topic: "Annuals and Their Colors in *Your Landscape*." Speaker: Chris Raimondi, owner, Raimondi Horticultural Group.
- March 4** **2 pm, Demarest Garden Club**, United Methodist Church, 109 Hardenburgh Ave., Demarest. Topic: "Butterflies and Native Plants." Speaker: Don Torino, Bergen County Audubon Society.
- March 7** **11:30 am, Tenafly Garden Club**, Davis Johnson Park and Gardens, Tenafly. Topic: "Container Gardening." Speaker: Bruce Crawford.
- March 7** **7 pm, Sun Dial Garden Club (Hillsdale)**, Meadowbrook Elementary School, 50 Piermont Road, Hillsdale. Topic: "Designing the Mixed Border." Speaker: Marc Zukovich, president of Sterling Horticultural Services.
- March 8** **7 pm, Ramsey Area Garden Club**, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 55 Wyckoff Ave., corner of Woodland Avenue, Ramsey, across from the Ramsey Library. Topic: "The ABCs of Bees: Fact, Myths." Speaker: Frank Mortimer.
- March 9** **9:30 am, Garden Club of Oakland** in a joint meeting with the **Wyckoff Area Garden Club**, Wyckoff Library (behind the Wyckoff Municipal Building/Fire Dept., entrance on Franklin Avenue), Wyckoff. Topic: "Winter Garden." Speaker: Marc Zukovich, president of Sterling Horticulture Services.
- March 10** **7 pm, Teaneck Garden Club**, Rodda Center multipurpose room 2B, 250 Colonial Court (enter from Palisade Avenue), Teaneck. Topic: How-to techniques and tools that are sparing of effort, time, money, and the environment. Speaker: Regina Carlson.
- March 15** **7 pm, Backyard Garden Club**, sponsored by the Friends of the River Vale Free Public Library, 412 Rivervale Road, River Vale. Topic: "Invasive Species in Our Area." Speaker: Marc Gussen, naturalist and director of the Closter Nature Center.
- March 15** **7:45 pm, Glen Rock Garden Club**, Glen Rock Municipal Annex, 678 Maple Ave., Glen Rock. Topic: "Insects: the good, the bad, the ugly." Speaker: Joe Papa.
- March 17** **7 pm, Hasbrouck Heights Garden Club**, senior citizen center (first floor), 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights. Topic: "Art and Design in the Small Garden." Speaker: Janet Schulz.

PLANT SALE

- April 30** **9 am - noon, Garden Club of Harrington Park perennial plant sale** Harrington Park Library/Borough Hall parking lot, 10 Herring St. (corner of Herring Street and Harriot Avenue). A wide selection of perennials will be offered from old-time favorites to new and unique varieties for both shady and sunny locations, premium nursery stock, plus lots of "home grown" direct from our members' gardens.

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

THE PLANT SOCIETY GRAPEVINE

- March 3** **7 pm, Hunterdon Chapter, Native Plant Society of New Jersey**, Hunterdon Medical Center auditorium, 2100 Wescott Drive, Flemington. Topic: "Deer Resistant Native Plants." Speaker: Rachel Mackow, co-owner of Wild Ridge Plants. Contact: hunterdon@npsnj.org.
- March 5** **10 am - 4 pm, Native Plant Society of New Jersey**, Medford Leas, Medford, 2016 annual meeting. Contact: npsnj.org.

The Plant Society Grapevine (continued)

- March 9** **7 pm, Bergen Passaic Chapter New Jersey Native Plant Society**, Bergen Regional Medical Center auditorium, 230 E. Ridgewood Ave., Paramus. Topic: "Reading the Forest." Speaker Donald "Doc" Bayne.
- March 13** **10:30 am, Watnong Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society**, Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Haggerty Education Center, 353 E. Hanover Ave., Morris Township. Topic: "The Layered Garden." Speaker: David Culp. Contact: Noel Schulz, programs director, noelschulz@verizon.net.

Contact Catie Farahat at cwfarahat@scatteringlight.com to submit information for the Plant Society Grapevine. *Publication deadline is no later than the 25th of the prior month.*

As a reminder, the Master Gardeners of Bergen County does not share or sell its mailing list to non-members. We keep all membership information confidential and for use by members only. If you receive email from other organizations, we did not give permission for their use of our membership list. We would appreciate it if our members would not share our list with non-members or use it for any unauthorized purposes as it is for official MG use only. When sending an email to the MG mailing list, please remember to address it using the "bcc" option instead of "to" in order to keep the list of recipients from being visible.

Please share photos of your volunteer work or of your garden. We would all like to see photos of Master Gardeners at work either at volunteer sites or in home gardens.