



SAVE THE DATE

**MG Meeting
Tuesday, Sept. 27**



Monticville Reservoir
Ringwood Borough, Passaic County

The New Jersey Highlands: Treasures at Risk by George M. Aronson

**1 Bergen County Plaza
1st-floor meeting room, Hackensack
Refreshments at 7 pm
Announcements at 7:20 pm
Program to follow**

George Aronson is a Morristown-based photographer who specializes in nature, scenic, and landscape photography. His program will illustrate the abundant scenic, natural, and historic gems of the North Jersey Highlands: roughly 900 square miles of sparkling lakes, swift-flowing streams, reservoirs, wetlands, forests, rocks, and mountains in seven northern counties. The Highlands have been aptly called New Jersey's "last frontier." This area contains most of the remaining large areas of open land to be found in the entire metropolitan region and is home to the black bear, bobcat, and coyote.

This land is mostly privately owned and is disappearing at the alarming rate of 5,000 to 10,000 acres per year. Legislation has created a means of slowing down this rate, but the land is still under great controversy. So come and see this beautiful area where our own NJ Botanical Garden is located.

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Links are clickable and are noted in blue.

From the President's Desk



On Saturday, Oct. 1, the Rutgers Master Gardeners Association of New Jersey will hold its annual conference. The purpose of the event is to recognize Master Gardeners from around the state with the "Award for Excellence." The Award for Excellence was established as a means of annually recognizing the contributions and service of our volunteer members who trained and were certified under the Rutgers University Master Gardener Program.

Award for Excellence winners have provided a high degree of service to their communities. In addition, they have generously contributed their expertise, creativity, professionalism, and leadership to the Master Gardener Program throughout their years of membership. I'm honored to announce that the Master Gardeners of Bergen County Executive Board has selected Suzanne Danzig and Jeffrey Chan for their extraordinary dedication and volunteerism.

Suzanne Danzig, Class of 2008: Suzanne is the site coordinator of the beautiful and historic Washington Spring Garden at Van Saun Park. Meanwhile, at the New Jersey Botanical Garden, Suzanne has led tours for preschoolers. She is also in her third term as the recording secretary of the Master Gardeners of Bergen County.

Jeffrey Chan, Class of 2011: Jeff can be depended upon to be one of the faces of the Rutgers Outreach Program in Bergen County. He can be seen at numerous one-day events, including Party for the Planet, Ridgewood's Earth Day, and the Bergen County Fall Harvest Festival. He also volunteers at two sites in Van Saun Park.

Please join me in congratulating Suzanne and Jeffrey!

- Joseph Cooper

MG OF BC TRIPS AND TOURS

Sleepy Cat Farm, Sept. 13, 10:15 am

146 Clapboard Ridge Road, Greenwich, CT.

Charge: \$250 for the MG group. Amount will be divided among participants. (i.e., \$250 divided by 10 participants = \$25 per person).

The registration deadline is Sept. 4. To register, send an email to josie_ko1@hotmail.com. Josie will total the number of participants when registration is completed. When registering let her know if you will drive and take passengers. Josie will coordinate rides, if available, for anyone who needs a ride. The tour will be led by owner Fred Landman.

The 13-acre gardens of Sleepy Cat Farm have evolved over the past 18 years through a close collaboration of the present owner and Virginia-based landscape architect Charles J. Stick. The most recently developed portion of the landscape, which borders Lake Avenue, includes an extensive greenhouse and potager.

The newly constructed "barn," distinguished by its half-timbered French Normandy vocabulary, is surrounded by thyme-covered terraces that provide an elegant stage set for a fine collection of garden ornament, sculpture, and boxwood topiary. The visitor's experience of the garden unfolds as pathways lead from garden room to garden room in a carefully orchestrated series of discoveries.

The central portion of the garden is distinguished by two parallel garden spaces. The first is dominated by a long reflecting pool, terminated on the north end by a wisteria-covered arbor and on the south end by a pebble mosaic terrace and fountain basin. One of the great surprises of the tour is the adjacent garden space.

Bordered by a precisely clipped serpentine hornbeam hedge, the green architecture of this room is meant to frame the view to the Chinese pavilion (Ting) positioned on a small island in the middle of a pond teeming with koi.

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.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

2016 NJ State Conference

Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension

Food for Thought

Rutgers Master Gardener Association
of New Jersey



October 1

Course Code: AH02031A17

Register at

<http://www.cpe.rutgers.edu/rmgani/>

Fall Conference 2016: It's an exciting day each year where we learn gardening techniques, meet Master Gardeners from around the state, and honor those from each county with the Award for Excellence.

There are two optional post-conference tours:

- [The Botanical Gardens at Rutgers](#); and
- [The Living Wall at the Institute of Food, Nutrition, and Health](#).

In addition, the conference will feature a Garden Market where you can find one-of-a-kind plants, books, and tools.

Donations Needed

This year Bergen County will have a table at the Garden Market. Please bring your extra bulbs, cuttings, root stock, and seeds to the Sept. 27 Master Gardener meeting. Or contact John Walters at 201-965-6546 or jwaltersrealestate.com for a pick up.

Rutgers Community Garden Training Program

Share your knowledge with community groups interested in creating a community vegetable garden.

This new curriculum for MGs to use to educate neighborhood groups about starting and maintaining a community vegetable garden will be taught at three dates and locations in the fall:

- Wednesday, Sept. 28 at the Rutgers Cooperative Extension office of Monmouth County, 4000 Kozloski Road, Freehold;
- Thursday, Oct. 6 at the Trailside Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside; and
- Friday, Oct. 14, at the Camden County College Regional Emergency Training Center, 40 Woodbury-Turnersville Road, Blackwood.

Each program runs from 9 am to 3:30 pm and will contain the same agenda: starting a community garden, harvesting and food safety in the community garden; composting; and keeping pests out of the garden. An on-site tour of the vegetable garden is optional. The one-day program counts toward 5.5 hours of specialized training to achieve the status of Rutgers MG Community Garden Educator.

The cost is \$35 and includes program materials and lunch. For additional information and online registration details, including where to mail your payment, visit [Rutgers Community Garden training](#).

Checks must be postmarked by Friday, Sept. 23 for all locations.

Garden Club of New Jersey's Gardening Study School - Course III

Oct. 4-5 with optional exam Oct. 7

This course will be given at Holly House, Rutgers Gardens, New Brunswick. For more information, a brochure, and the registration form, visit gardenclubofnewjersey.com.

Course III will cover topics such as rain gardens; techniques for growing outdoor flowers; teaching tour of the greenhouses at Cook College; plant taxonomy and classifications; pruning techniques – a hands-on class; and factors influencing plant growth.

Master Gardeners earn 5 CEUs per day or 10 CEUs for taking both days of the course.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Meet Bruce Walencyk, Class of 2013

By Barb Johansson



Bruce is one of our newest Executive Board members and our new treasurer. When asked why he had chosen to accept this position, he promptly but modestly provided his resume, which listed his impressive credentials for the job.

Bruce was born in New Jersey and grew up in Saddle Brook. He attended St. John's University in Queens and graduated in 1973 with a BS in economics/finance. By 1978, he had received an MBA from Fairleigh Dickinson University while working at several banking institutions. He then worked for 20 years as an investment banker followed by positions as vice president-finance, treasurer, and CFO at a number of different organizations until he retired in 2009.

Now living in Saddle River, Bruce has turned his interests to assisting his community. Over time, he served as a member of the Saddle River Zoning Board, the Planning Board, and the Borough Council. Currently, Bruce is most enthusiastic about his volunteer work as a commissioner and chairman of the Housing Authority of Bergen County, the organization that develops and manages affordable housing for seniors, disabled veterans, and those in need in Bergen County.

Bruce, who is 64 years old, said he enrolled in the MG program "to learn more about proper gardening on our property and to meet people with like-minded interests." After graduating from the MG program in 2013, Bruce has been volunteering as a docent at the Thielke/Glen Rock Arboretum leading groups of school children on tours where they are taught about plants growing in the wetlands, trees, and pollinators. Bruce enjoys the youngsters and is always delighted when they discover something new, such as pollen on a finger stuck into a flower.

At home, he mows his lawn, takes care of monarda, echinacea, cactus, and agastache (all donated by Donna Karpel). He's planted milkweed for the monarchs and is thinking about becoming a beekeeper. As for other interests, Bruce and his wife Liz of 42 years vacation at least once a week during the summer in Spring Lake at the Jersey Shore. He and Liz also work together in the yard planting, pulling weeds, trimming, etc. Quite a difference from his 36 years in the corporate world.

HORTICULTURE NEWS

September Garden Chores

By Arnie Friedman

The summer is winding down, but there is still lots to do in the garden. Weeds seem to be out of control this year. Keep weeding and adding mulch to suppress their regrowth. Remember keeping a good layer of mulch on beds will "feed" your garden with all the nutrients it needs. Grass clippings will turn to mulch and do the same for your lawn.

Some people have asked me about large areas covered with too many weeds to pull by hand. There are a number of good designers and architects who have in recent years taken to creating meadows of native plants in place of lawn or at the edge of woods. The idea is to create a natural-looking landscape with lots of flowers that will feed birds and butterflies and help our environment.

This is a time of year many think of pruning. Sure there are many plants that have grown too big and need cutting back. However, be sure to check with a good source on which plants to trim in the fall and which to trim in the spring. In general, anything that flowers in early spring should *not* be trimmed now.

Plants like hydrangea macrophylla, azaleas, and rhododendrons have already set buds for next year, and pruning them will remove their flowers. Remove damaged or weak branches from trees and large shrubs that may fall or break during winter storms. I like to leave my tree hydrangea flower heads on, as well as my ornamental grasses that are flowering and anything that has seed pods or fruits. They look good all winter as they dry and wave in the winter landscape, and they provide a source of food for the birds that don't migrate south.

September is a great time to seed your lawn. The weather is cool but not cold enough to stop growth. Seeding now will help grow a dense lawn that will fight the invasive weeds. There is plenty of time still for the grasses to germinate and grow enough to withstand the frost. Remember to seed with tall fescue seed mixes. As I said several months ago, when shopping for a tall fescue grass mix, look for a mixture of cultivars that are rated by the NTEP (National Turf Grass Evaluation Program).

Pick a mix with grasses that have high scores. You can find these ratings on the Internet by googling "NTEP." Today you can find mixes of tall fescue blended by the big companies or mixes at local nurseries from regional suppliers.

For a healthy chemical-free environment, less water and fossil fuel waste, and a pretty lawn that tolerates drought, follow these simple steps:

- Seed heavily with a tall fescue mix.
- Water deep and less frequently.
- Don't cut your lawn below three inches.
- Use a mulching-bladed mower and "clip it and leave it."
- Don't fertilize, or, if you must fertilize, do it once a season at most with a balanced mix.
- Don't add amendments like lime without doing a soil test.
- Have tolerance for other green plants in your lawn; clover is a great nitrogen producer.

Once leaves start to fall, remember to mow over them.

FARMERS MARKETS

Closter Farmers Market

20 Legion Place

Through November; Sundays, 9 am-2 pm

Englewood Farmers Market

Corner of North Van Brunt Street and Demarest Avenue

Through Oct. 28; Fridays, 11 am-6 pm

Fort Lee Farmers Market

Fort Lee Community Center outdoor plaza, 1355 Inwood

Ter. www.fortleenj.org

Through Nov. 20; Sundays, 8 am-2 pm

Hasbrouck Heights Farmers Market

Central Avenue and Boulevard

Through mid-October; Tuesdays, noon-6 pm

Nyack Farmers Market

Main Street parking lot www.nyackchamber.org

Through Nov. 26; Thursdays, 8 am-2 pm; Saturdays, 8 am-1 pm

Paramus Farmers Market

475 Farview Ave. www.paramusborough.org

Through Sept. 30; Wednesdays, 2:30-6:30 pm

Ramsey Farmers Market

NJ Transit Railroad Station, Main Street (outdoors)

www.ramseyfarmersmarket.org

Through Nov. 27; Sundays, 9 am-2 pm

Ridgewood Farmers Market

NJ Transit Railroad Station (Garber Square)

www.ridgewoodchamber.com

Through Nov. 1; Sundays, 9 am-3 pm

River Vale Farmers Market

406 Rivervale Road
Through Oct. 30; Thursdays, noon-6 pm

Rutherford Farmers Market

Park Avenue at the Williams Plaza
www.downtownrutherfordnj.com
Through Oct. 29; Wednesdays, 11 am-6 pm; Saturdays,
8 am-2 pm

Teaneck Farmers Market

Beverly Road and Garrison Avenue; www.cedarlane.net
Through Oct. 27; Thursdays, noon-6 pm

VOLUNTEER SITE NEWS

Garretson Forge & Farm

Herbal soap-making workshops

Interested in learning how to craft your own soap?
Garretson Farm will sponsor two workshops on Sunday,
Sept. 18. Register for one or both.

Session 1: 10 am-noon; melt and pour method

A simplified way of making homemade soap without lye using a pre-made soap base. A perfect introduction to soap making, and suitable for teens and adults. Participants will learn about a variety of natural ingredients, including oils, essential oils, herbs, and minerals and their benefits for various skin types and conditions.

Participants will have an opportunity to make and customize four (3 oz.) bars of soap to take home using a wide array of ingredients, including fresh and dried farm-grown herbs. You will go home with wonderful soap and the knowledge and resources to do it yourself. \$45 includes all materials.

Session 2: 1-3 pm; cold process method

This is the traditional way soap has been made since ancient times, using oils combined with sodium hydroxide (lye). It is a bit more complicated but produces long-lasting bars of soap that can be customized for a variety of skin types and uses. No previous experience is required.

As in the melt-and-pour class, we will discuss various ingredients that can be beneficial for a variety of skin types, and each participant will have an opportunity to make and take home four (3 oz.) bars of soap, that will be ready to use in four weeks. \$45 includes gloves, goggles, and all other materials.

The price to attend both sessions is \$75. You can bring lunch to eat between sessions.

For additional information or to register, contact Liz Scholl at liz@bluelotusbotanicals.com. Seats are limited; prepayment required; you can pay online via invoice.

Liz Scholl is an herbalist, soap maker, and formulator at Blue Lotus Botanicals Herbal Apothecary in Hillsdale.

Save the date – Oct. 16

Garretson Farm's fall festival will be Sunday, Oct. 16. Look for details in the October *Potting Shed*.

New Jersey Botanical Garden/Skylands

Harvest Fest

Saturday, Oct. 1 and Sunday, Oct. 2, 10 am-5 pm

Hayrides and pumpkin painting are just the start of a fun-filled family weekend. The Harvest Fair will include games, face painting, applesauce making, tasty food, music and dancing, great photo ops, free garden tours, booths, and an autumn plant sale. Parking and admission are free. Hosted by NJBG and the Ringwood Chamber of Commerce.



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
Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, the State University of NJ, US Department of Agriculture, and Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Rutgers Cooperative Extension educational programs are offered to all without regard to race, religion, color, age, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. Rutgers Cooperative Extension is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

GARDEN CLUB GRAPEVINE

- Sept. 8** **7:30 pm, Harrington Park Garden Club**, Harrington Park Library, 10 Herring St. Speaker: Mark Zukovich. Topic: Exceptional fall trees and shrubbery.
- Sept. 8** **7 pm, Garden Club of Teaneck**, Room 2B, Rodda Center, 250 Colonial Court (enter from Palisade Avenue). Speaker: Kate Copsey. Topic: A shrub for all seasons - a full year of color from shrubs and small trees through flowers, berries, or leaf color.
- Sept. 13** **7 pm, Ramsey Area Garden Club**, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 55 Wyckoff Ave., corner of Woodland Avenue across from the Ramsey Library. Speaker: Jeannie Epiphan. Topic: Native ferns.
- Sept. 14** **7 pm, Wyckoff Area Garden Club**, Monroe room, Wyckoff Library, 200 Woodland Ave. Social followed by the meeting at 7:30. Program: The good, the bad and the ugly - adventures and misadventures in our gardens. Compare notes on things that worked and things that disappointed. Please bring a sample or a photo. If you have plants to share, please bring them as well.
- Sept. 20** **7 pm, Backyard Garden Club**, 412 Rivervale Road, River Vale. Speakers: Drs. Cathy and Jett Gurman, Westwood Family Chiropractic. Topic: Healthy body, healthy garden.
- Sept. 20** **7:45 pm, Glen Rock Garden Club**, Glen Rock Municipal Annex, 678 Maple Ave. Topic: Members will share their 2016 gardening experiences. Contact via website: <http://glenrockgardenclub.org/>.
- Sept. 21** **7:30 pm, Garden Club of Oakland**, Oakland Senior Center, 20 Lawlor Drive. Speaker: Tom Bender, tree and shrub specialist and plant curator at the Thielke/Glen Rock Arboretum. Topic: Herbs and vegetables.

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

PLANT SOCIETY GRAPEVINE

- Sept. 10** **10 am, Bergen Passaic Chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Jersey**, Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, 443 Van Nostrand Ave., Englewood. Speaker: Ryan Hasko, land manager, Flat Rock Brook Nature Center. Topic: Create a natural landscape with native plants. Contact information: bsuther@gmail.com.

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.