



SAVE THE DATE



Rutgers Master Gardeners Association of New Jersey

Fall conference – Oct. 7
Treasure Our Trees

From the President's Desk

The Rutgers Master Gardeners Association of New Jersey will hold its annual conference Saturday, Oct. 7.



The event usually sells out, so I suggest everyone register as soon as registration is announced. Not only is this a wonderful educational opportunity, but also Master Gardeners from around the state will be recognized with the annual Award for Excellence. The Award for Excellence was established to recognize the contributions and service of our volunteer members who trained and were certified under the Rutgers University Master Gardener Program.

Award for Excellence winners 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 Board has selected Donna Karpel and Monica Buesser for their extraordinary dedication and volunteerism.

Donna Karpel, Class of 2013, exudes the qualities of dedication. Her ability, combined with creativity, has resulted in the ongoing development of a pollinator garden in what once was, and still is, a very challenging site in Van Saun Park. She further applies her labor to the McFaul Environmental Center, which she finds a very welcoming place. Donna also chairs the Volunteer Hours Committee tracking and reporting for us and for Rutgers.

Monica Buesser, also from the Class of 2013, was made for tackling projects. As a site coordinator for the Hermitage, a designated historical landmark, she is in the right place. Monica and her volunteer team have attacked the removal of unsightly construction debris, as

Contents	Page
Save the Date	1
MG of BC News	1-3
MG of BC Trips and Tours	3
Other Trips and Tours	3
Volunteer Site News	4
Farmers Markets	4

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

well as dismantled an old shed to make room for a new one. She also worked with the Boy Scouts to further enhance the property. Last year, the expansion of the kitchen herb garden was another major undertaking. Her dedication to helping others understand the needs of our environment has extended to a special-needs group of young adults (over age 21) with varying abilities, whom she sees 12 months a year for approximately an hour each Tuesday.

Congratulations to Donna Karpel and Monica Buesser on their Award for Excellence!

- Joseph Cooper

MG OF BC NEWS



Meet Monica Buesser, Class of 2013

By Miriam Taub

Monica Buesser has a special connection to trees. She grew up in

New Kent, VA, which she describes as a spot on the long stretch of trees between Richmond and Williamsburg. She has a bachelor's and a master's degree in biology; she planted two Asian pear trees and a Montmorency cherry tree in her Ridgewood back yard. And, she is chair of the Ridgewood Shade Tree Commission.

Monica, 54, is especially proud of her work on the Shade Tree Commission, which was certified by the NJ Shade Tree Federation as a shade tree "commission" in January. The commission was an outgrowth of the Ridgewood Environmental Advisory Committee (REAC), which she has been involved in "forever," she said.

REAC members worked for several years, she explained, to create a certified shade tree commission.

When the Ridgewood Council gave its approval for a local Shade Tree Commission in 2014, the group applied for a grant and, with the help of a forester, created a five-year plan to reforest Ridgewood. Similar to other North Jersey towns, Ridgewood lost thousands of trees as a result of Superstorm Sandy and the “Frankenstorm” in October 2012 not to mention natural causes and what Monica called power line and sidewalk conflicts. (Certification by the NJ Shade Tree Federation provides liability protection to participating entities so they can’t be held responsible for tree damage to life and property.)

Now the Ridgewood Shade Tree Commission has an adopt-a-tree program and the funds for an arborist to plant about 200 trees this year since a homeowner can’t legally plant a tree at the curb, Monica explained.

The seeds of Monica Einarsson’s transplantation to New Jersey were sown as a biology major at the College of William & Mary, where she met her future husband, Gary Buesser, an MBA student from New Jersey. After graduation, she moved to New Jersey and looked for a job in a lab. Employers probably saw “a little too much country in me,” she recalled, so instead she took a job in sales. Prior to her marriage, she sold Scandinavian furniture and later computer-related products.

The Buessers have been married 31 years and have three children: Christopher, 26, who lives in Washington, DC, and is a hopeful for the US Olympic crew team; Kim, 24, who enjoys rock climbing; and Stephanie, 19, a dancer with Ballet West II in Salt Lake City. The girls live together in Salt Lake City.

In 2009, Monica enrolled in a master’s program in biology at Montclair State University. She said the degree added “street cred” to her work with REAC. However, she admitted that even with the degree she “still didn’t have any clue about botany” and enrolled in the MG Class of 2013 after seeing a newspaper article.

Monica earns her volunteer hours at the Hermitage, just minutes from her home, where she is a site coordinator along with Kathleen Sullivan. “Kathleen is the finesse, and I’m the bulldozer,” Monica said, describing recent enhancements to the five-acre site in Ho-Ho-Kus. She ticked off a list: The MG volunteer team removed construction debris; tore down an old shed and cleared the space so a Boy Scout could build a new shed; cleared the children’s herb garden and what has become a patio; ensured historical accuracy of the “dooryard garden” outside the kitchen; improved the kitchen herb garden; and built a rock wall around the patio.

But there’s more. Currently, Monica is working with Eric Rohsler of Rohsler’s Allendale Nursery to create a four-season perennial garden outside the Hermitage office. She is at the Hermitage two days a week and more if she’s working on a special project. “There’s plenty to do there on the five acres,” she said.

Another of Monica’s interests is ballet: She takes adult classes at the Petrov Ballet School in Waldwick.

In memoriam



It is with great sadness that I report the passing of Jane Furman, Class of 1993, on June 7. Jane was instrumental in making the Master Gardeners of Bergen County an exceptional organization. She served on countless projects and ad hoc committees and was site coordinator of the Hackensack River Greenway, a Skylands Holiday Open House volunteer, 4-H/Master Gardener Fair organizer, Garden Club liaison chair, Community Outreach organizer, Sunshine Committee chair, vice president and president of the MGs, and Rutgers Master Gardeners Association of New Jersey delegate. In 2006, she received the Award for Excellence from the Rutgers Master Gardeners Association of New Jersey. She was a wonderful adviser, mentor, and friend.

- Joseph Cooper

Class of 2018 program begins Oct. 6

The next Rutgers-Bergen County Master Gardener training program starts Friday, Oct. 6. Classes are held from 10 am-noon until June 2018 in the Learning Center, 1 Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack. Mandatory volunteering will take place primarily in March through October 2018. Entry interviews for interested applicants will be scheduled in September. For more information, contact Joe Papa at Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Bergen County at 201-336-6788 or papa@aesop.rutgers.edu.

Scarlet MG T-shirts available

Update your wardrobe with a new Master Gardener T-shirt. The 2017 color is Rutgers Red (scarlet). The prices are \$11 for small, medium, or large shirts; \$12 for XL; and \$13 for XXL. For women, it’s advisable to order a size larger as the women’s shirts are more fitted than the men’s.



To order a T-shirt: Mail a check — payable to the Master Gardeners of Bergen County — for the appropriate size and quantity. Be sure to include your name, size, and gender. Mail your check to:

Rose Santos-Martinez
116 N. Maple Ave., Suite 7
Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ 07423

Rose must receive your check by July 30. Shirts will be available in time for the fall festival, which is Sept. 23-24. Shirts can be picked up on Saturday, Sept 23 at the festival, or, if you aren't helping at the festival, you can pick up your shirt at the Sept. 26 MG meeting.

MG OF BC TRIPS AND TOURS

Hollister House Garden Friday, July 14 300 Nettleton Hollow Road Washington, CT 06793

Beautifully situated on a sloping, terraced site in the rolling hills of Litchfield County in northwestern Connecticut, [Hollister House Garden](#) is an American interpretation of such classic English gardens as Sissinghurst, Great Dixter, and Hidcote, formal in its structure but informal and rather wild in its style of planting.

Begun in 1979 by George Schoellkopf and Ron Johnson, the garden since that time has evolved under George's direction into a unique synthesis of the formal and the natural, the right angles of paths, walls, and hedges melting seamlessly into the lush surrounding landscape, which forms a magnificent backdrop to the garden's exuberant plantings. Since 1993, Gerald Incandela has contributed greatly to the garden's development with his artist's eye trained on redefining the surrounding landscape.

The tour is \$10 per person. Mail checks payable to Master Gardeners of Bergen County to:

Attn: Bruce Walencyzk
PO Box 542
Glen Rock, NJ 07452-0542

Click [here](#) to see Joseph Cooper's video of Hollister House Garden.

Save the dates!

Aug. 16, 10:30 am, NYBG with Kim Eierman

Kim Eierman, who speaks, teaches, writes, and consults on EcoBeneficial landscapes and native plants, will lead a tour of the NY Botanical Garden. The tour charge is \$150 limited to the first 20 people who sign up. For 20 participants, the cost will be \$7.50 per person. If fewer people sign up, the \$150 will be divided by the number of participants.

To sign up, send an email to Josie Ko at josie_ko1@hotmail.com. Josie will notify you of the cost when she has the final number of participants. *Deadline to sign up is Aug. 6.*

Kim is a certified horticulturist, an accredited organic land care pro, and a certified naturalist. Kim teaches at the NYBG, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and Go Native U at Westchester Community College.

Note: There is no charge for admission to the NYBG grounds on Wednesdays. Payment is for Kim who is leading the tour. The Chihuly exhibit is *not* included on this tour.

Sept. 14, Mt. Cuba, Hockessin, DE

OTHER TRIPS AND TOURS

Morris County Community Gardens

The Morris County Community Garden Open Gates Weekend will be held from 9 am-1 pm Saturday, July 15 and 1-5 pm Sunday, July 16. The self-guided tour is free and is sponsored by the Morris County Park Commission and the Friends of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum.

The program showcases the beauty and diversity of Morris County's community gardens. Click [here](#) for a map and the addresses of the 10 participating gardens.

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.

VOLUNTEER SITE NEWS

Washington Spring Garden



Employees from NICE Corp. in Hoboken, formerly in Paramus, volunteered during the spring cleanup at Washington Spring Garden in Van Saun Park. This is the fourth year NICE employees helped at the park as part of the company's worldwide community volunteer month (May). In two to three weeks, the volunteers were able to accomplish what would normally take the Master Gardeners almost an entire summer.

In addition, the MG volunteers have been busy maintaining the flower displays. The azaleas put on one of the most spectacular displays this spring, then came the rhodies, then the astilbes, and now the daylilies.

- *Suzanne Danzig*

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.

FARMERS MARKETS

Englewood Farmers Market, corner of N. Van Brunt Street and Demarest Avenue; through Oct. 27; Fridays, 11 am-6 pm

Fort Lee Farmers Market, Fort Lee Community Center outdoor plaza, 1355 Inwood Ter.; through Nov. 19; Sundays, 8 am-2 pm

Hackensack (Bergen County Farmers Market), 1 Bergen County Plaza; through Aug 30; Wednesdays, 11 am-2 pm

Glen Rock Farmers Market, Borough Hall parking lot (1 Harding Plaza); through Oct. 15; Sundays, 10 am-2 pm

Hasbrouck Heights Farmers Market, Central Avenue and the Boulevard; through mid-October; Tuesdays, noon-6 pm

Nyack Farmers Market, Main Street parking lot www.nyackchamber.org; through November; Thursdays, 8 am-2 pm

Paramus Farmers Market, Petruska Park north parking lot, 471 N. Farview Ave.; through Oct. 12; Wednesdays, 2-6:30 pm

Ramsey Farmers Market, Main Street train station www.ramseyfarmersmarket.org; through Nov. 26; Sundays, 9 am-2 pm

Ridgewood Farmers Market, train station parking lot, Godwin and W. Ridgewood avenues; through Oct. 30; Sundays, 9 am-3pm

River Vale Farmers Market, 406 Rivervale Road; through Oct. 26; Thursdays, noon-6 pm