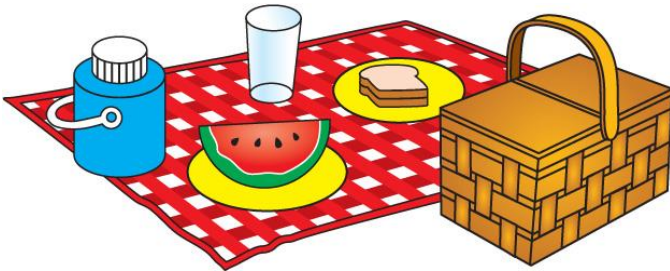




SAVE THE DATE



Annual Master Gardener Picnic

Tuesday, June 13, 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 an appetizer.
- Last names starting with N to Z: Bring a dessert.

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



From the President's Desk

It's been a year since we produced our last Master Gardeners Directory, and the 2017 edition is now available. As you may know, we have a list of MG members and students in the "Members" section of our website, but if you're like me, you may also like a printed copy for quick reference. If so, you can download a PDF file to your computer, or print a copy. If there's anyone who can't print a copy, contact me and I'll print one for you. Special thanks to Terri Pegg for taking over membership and finalizing the directory for us. I would also like to thank John Walters for his years of serving as vice president, membership chair, and state representative to the Rutgers Master Gardeners Association of New Jersey. This is on top of all the volunteering he did at sites and events since graduating in 2012.

Happy gardening!

- Joseph Cooper

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

MG volunteers needed for the 2017 Snyder Farm Open House and Great Tomato Tasting

Volunteers are needed Aug. 28-31 for the set-up, event, and clean-up of the Great Tomato Tasting and Open House at the Snyder Research and Extension Farm, 140 Locust Grove Road, Pittstown (Hunterdon County). The event is sponsored by Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station and Rutgers Cooperative Extension. The event includes the tasting of more than 80 heirloom and hybrid varieties of beefsteak, plum, cherry, and grape tomatoes. Other highlights include tastings of a variety of farm-grown fruits and vegetables and recipes featuring Jersey Fresh produce.

- Click [here](#) to sign up for a date, time, and activity.
- Enter your email address and other required information. (You won't need to create an account on SignUp.com.)
- Choose the date and time you want to volunteer and click "save" before you exit the website. If you don't want to receive email updates from SignUp.com, deselect that option on the final screen. You'll receive an automated email from SignUp.com after completing your sign-up.

Volunteer MGs must check in at the sign-in/sign-out tent near the main farm building and are expected to wear and display their official Rutgers Master Gardener name badges during their volunteer shift.

For more information about volunteering, contact Ashley White at awhite@co.somerset.nj.us or 908-526-6293, ext. 4. For more information about the event itself, click [here](#).

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.

MG OF BC NEWS



Meet Diane Ford, Class of 2003

By Miriam Taub

Ask Diane Ford where she's lived before settling in Leonia. Her reply: Buffalo, Long Island, California, New York City, and Kabul, Afghanistan.

Diane grew up in Buffalo. She and her brother spent their summers on her

grandparents 72-acre "gentleman's farm" in nearby Boston, NY. Among other farm chores, Diane dug potatoes and picked and sold strawberries on the side of the road for the sizable sum of three quarts for a quarter. The time was the 1930s.

"I was always interested in the farming aspect, growing food," she recalled. "The Buffalo area had wonderful farms around it." Fast forward six decades and Diane was one of the founders of the Leonia Community Garden, which was opened on borough-owned land on Pine Hill Road in 1997. On her 10-by-10-foot plot, Diane grows tomatoes, green beans, Swiss chard, and peppers – and has a strawberry patch. Otherwise, the only place for her to grow tomatoes is on her deck as Diane's back yard is mostly shaded and on a slope frequently visited by woodchucks, deer, rabbits, and wild turkey.

Diane, who is 85, went to Buffalo State Teachers College along with Thomas Ford, the man who would become her husband. (They met in high school.) After college graduation and a breakup, Diane was bitten by the exploration bug. She got a job teaching elementary school in Bethpage on Long Island and the following year took a teaching job in Long Beach, CA.

"In those days if you had fairly good academic standing, you could have a job any place you wanted," she explained. Then she and Tom got reacquainted. They married and moved to New York City where both studied for master's degree at Teachers College, Columbia University.

In 1959, Tom took a job in Kabul, Afghanistan, where they lived for two years. He was part of a Teachers College team, contracted by the U.S. government whose mission was to work with university faculty and administration to help set up a guidance program at the University of Kabul. At the same time, representatives from other U.S. universities and other countries were there to help improve specific areas of Afghan infrastructure, such as roads and airports. While they lived in a protected area, Diane says they did have the chance to travel to Russia, Japan, India, and Thailand. In retrospect, she said there was not much mingling with the Afghans. When Tom's Afghan colleagues were invited to their home, only the men would come, never their wives.

Back in the USA, Diane and Tom eventually settled in Leonia where Diane returned to teaching. The Ford family consists of daughters Christine, Caryn, and Kim; five grandchildren; and a great-grandson. Tom Ford, who served as Leonia mayor for one term, died in 2015.

Diane joined the Master Gardeners after seeing an article in the newspaper. She said she has been a volunteer at Garretson Forge and Farm since 2004. Currently, she is corresponding secretary on the Board of Directors ("I write the thank-you notes," she said). She enjoys Garretson because of the variety of things to do, such as planting herbs and vegetables and setting up the spring and fall festivals and the Dutch Christmas.

In addition, Diane is a member of the Leonia Chapter of the PEO (Philanthropic Educational Organization) Sisterhood, an international organization committed to helping women pursue higher education. The organization's motto is "women helping women reach for the stars." She is co-chair of Oelhaf House, a haven for abused women and children, which is affiliated with the Center for Hope and Safety. She is also on the committee of the Leonia Sculpture Garden.

IN MEMORIAM

Walter Traubel
Class of 1991

January 14, 1928-May 17, 2017

VOLUNTEER SITE NEWS

Garretson Farm Needs Volunteers

Please join us at the farm, 4-02 River Road, Fair Lawn, on Thursdays from 10 am to 2 pm and the second and fourth Sundays of the month from 1-4 pm. Bring lunch on Thursdays for a midday break under the spreading chestnut tree. There's still plenty of planting to do and many hands needed to do it.



Taking a break after preparing and planting a bed of potatoes, (l to r) Bob Durham, Melody Corcoran, Arta Pagano, Chris Belli

- Lida Gellman, site coordinator, lb922@aol.com

Hermitage Event Remembers WWI

By Melody Corcoran and Linda Flynn

Master Gardeners volunteered during a World War 1 Centennial Bazaar at the Hermitage May 20. Member museums of the Northwest Bergen History Coalition provided WWI artifacts and demonstrations. Among the

other events were a plant sale and the sale of fragrant soaps made by MGs from the plants grown in the Hermitage gardens.

Trained Master Gardeners offered tours of the Hermitage's Victorian herb garden and described cooking and medicinal uses of its herbs. In the new liberty vegetable garden, MGs related the history of the National War Garden Commission, established during WW1, to encourage American citizens to transform idle land into productive vegetable gardens in support of the war effort.

The liberty garden, planted for the first time this spring, contains produce that would have been planted in similar WW1 gardens, such as tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, peas, beans, radishes, and lettuce. The garden contains chicken-wire cloches and tepee trellises made by the gardeners to support young plants/climbing plants.



(l to r) Arta Pagano, Melody Corcoran, Kathleen Sullivan, Linda Flynn



(l to r) Arta Pagano, Melody Corcoran, Monica Buesser, Linda Flynn



(l to r) Dominick Badolato, Monica Buesser, Kathleen Sullivan, Linda Flynn, Arta Pagano, Melody Corcoran



(l to r) Melody Corcoran, Linda Flynn, Arta Pagano, Monica Buesser

Photos courtesy of Linda Flynn

SHOWS, CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

Thielke Arboretum Sponsors 2 Workshops

Join Carolyn Rubinfeld, the NJ Watershed ambassador for the Lower Passaic and Saddle rivers, at the Thielke Arboretum, 460 Doremus Ave., Glen Rock, on Saturday, June 3 from 1-4 pm for a unique opportunity to become a citizen scientist. Rain date is June 4.

Carolyn will work with participants in small groups to determine what attributes of Diamond Brook are supportive and necessary for the stream bugs (macroinvertebrates). She will discuss the importance these bugs play in stream quality. You can be an observer or a hands-on explorer.

If you'd like to gather samples in the brook, wear sturdy shoes and bring rain boots, sunscreen, and water. This program is free for adults and teens.

Meanwhile, a second workshop will be offered for children entering grades 3-6 who are interested in bugs. On Friday, June 23 from 10 am-noon, Carolyn Rubinfeld will explore the bugs that live in Diamond Brook. Carolyn will guide young participants in collecting, identifying, and comparing/contrasting these finds to other bugs drawn from a pristine stream in Morris County. Primary points will include the impact of fertilizer runoff, sedimentation build-up, and poor quality oxygen supply in Diamond Brook.

This is a hands-on, highly supervised outdoor workshop, rain or shine and limited to 12 children. Children should wear boots and a hat and bring sunscreen and water. Early registration is recommended. Register online at www.glenrockarboretum.org. Cost is \$10 for members, and \$15 for non-members.

- Carolyn Gretchen, publicity chair, 201-991-8140

MG OF BC TRIPS AND TOURS

Bill Kolvek's Plant Sale Wednesday, June 7

5 De Salvo Court, Chestnut Ridge, NY, just over the border from Montvale, telephone: 845-735-2904.

Many of us remember Bill Kolvek's June plant sales prior to 2016. Bill is back in business and will sell plants at his nursery from 10 am-12:30 pm. Bill's selection is smaller than it was in the past, but he still has many plants to choose from, including a good selection of natives.

Please join us, shop, and take a tour with Bill. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call Donna Karpel at 201-248-9189. **Cash or check only.**

Catskill Native Nursery Thursday, June 15

607 Samsonville Road, Kerhonkson, NY 12446, five miles from Route 209.

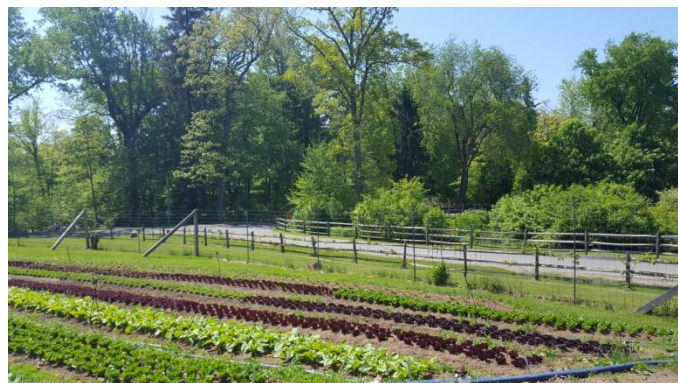
[Catskill Native Nursery](http://www.catskillnativenursery.com) has been inspiring gardeners since 1999 to create biodiverse and remarkably ornamental gardens using plants that are native to eastern North America. Catskill Native nursery specializes in nursery-propagated North American perennials, fruits, shrubs, and trees.

Native plants are a natural choice for woodland, meadow, and aquatic gardens. Most are equally at home in the flower borders around your house. Native plants are ornamental, easy to maintain, and provide food and habitat for birds, butterflies, bees, and other wildlife and for you.

Many natives are becoming scarce in the wild. You can help to restore biodiversity by adding native plants to your landscape. Come and browse the unique beauty and garden-worthiness of our native flora. A 10% discount will be offered. No charge for the tour.

Contact Josie_ko1@hotmail.com to sign up; deadline is June 11.

From the Stone Barns Trip . . .



Photos courtesy of Karen Pennell

OTHER TRIPS AND TOURS

Friday and Saturday, June 2 and 3, 11 am-4 pm; self-guided tour of Montclair area gardens

The Van Vleck House and Gardens presents the self-guided tour "Roses to Rock Gardens 2017," its annual tour of distinctive gardens in Montclair and Glen Ridge. For ticket information, click [here](#).

Sunday June 11, 10 am-4 pm; self-guided tour of northwest Bergen County gardens

The Wyckoff Area Garden Club presents "Step into Our Gardens," a self-guided tour of seven exquisite local gardens in Franklin Lakes, Midland Park, Waldwick, and Wyckoff. Free refreshments will be available at one of the gardens. For ticket information, click [here](#). Rain or shine.

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.; June 25-Nov. 19; Sundays, 8 am-2 pm

Hackensack, 1 Bergen County Plaza; June 21-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

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

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

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

Rutherford Farmers Market, Park Ave at the Williams Plaza; www.rutherford-nj.com; June 21-Oct. 28; Wednesdays, 11 am-6 pm; Saturdays, 8 am-2 pm

Teaneck Farmers Market, Beverly Road and Garrison Avenue; through Oct. 26; Thursdays, noon-6 pm

HORTICULTURE GRAPEVINE

June 20 **7 pm, Backyard Garden Club**, River Vale Library, 412 Rivervale Road. Speaker: Dorothy Smullen. Topic: Blues in the garden; an exploration of the variety of blue flowering plants through the seasons.

Deadline for the Horticulture Grapevine is the 25th of the prior month.

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- To submit information about garden club meetings, contact Lucy Malka at lhalka@optonline.net or 201-791-3562.
 - To submit information about plant society meetings, contact Catie Farahat at cwfarahat@scatteringlight.com.

The Master Gardeners of Bergen County does not share or sell its email/ mailing list to non-members or to other organizations. Our membership information is confidential and for use by members for official MG use only. We ask our members not to share our list with non-members or to use it for any unauthorized purposes. When sending an email to the MG list, 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.