



SAVE THE DATE

MG meeting - Tuesday, May 23

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

Wetlands – Beautiful and Beneficial presented by Dr. Sarahfaye Mahon



Dr. Mahon is a North Jersey native who studied in Australia and Louisiana before returning home in 2008. During that time, she participated in field work along the Great Barrier Reef, in the Gulf of Mexico, and in the marshes of coastal Louisiana. She earned a BS degree in marine biology from James Cook University in Queensland, Australia, in 2001 and a PhD in zoology (minor in oceanography) from Louisiana State University in 2008.

Her dissertation analyzed the uptake of metals from the sediments by the dominant marsh grass and the subsequent distribution through plant tissues. After graduation, she began teaching at Bergen Community College. Currently, Dr. Mahon is employed at Paramus Catholic High School where she teaches AP biology, AP environmental science, and freshman biology.

Dr. Mahon will cover an introduction to the defining characteristics of wetlands and the unique benefits they can bring to your yard and neighborhood. Wetland plants can help to control erosion and flooding while providing a

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beautiful habitat for a wide variety of beneficial insects, amphibians, and birds. Even in the more temperate climate of New Jersey there is a wide range of gorgeous wetland plants that can be cultivated by the home gardener.

From the President's Desk



The 2016 Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Annual Report was released, and the volunteerism numbers are impressive. My applause goes out to RCE and Master Gardeners of Bergen County members for another productive year.

As many of you know, an annual report is produced by the RCE of Bergen County for Rutgers University, the County Freeholders, and for other stakeholders, and I'm happy to share some of our details:

- 1,736 calls to the Garden Helpline;
- 2,112 plant and insect specimens diagnosed;
- 256 soil samples tested;
- 9,200 Extension Service fact sheets distributed;
- 24 new Master Gardeners trained;
- 9,500 hours of service volunteered; and
- 700+ pounds of vegetables, fruit, and dry goods donated.

Check out all the details of the report featured on our [website](#). Thank you to all members who made 2016 another successful year.

- *Joseph Cooper*

MG OF BC NEWS

Meet Robert Schneider, Class of 1993



By Miriam Taub

Robert Schneider admits to becoming a Master Gardener for volunteering — not botanical — reasons. When Robert, 88, retired in 1992, he said he decided “to give back a little bit.” The MG program, he said, “gave me a chance to be with people and help,” though he says “I didn’t care that

much for gardening.”

For 23 years, Robert volunteered exclusively at the McFaul Environmental Center where he said he enjoyed the people and the socialization. Due to health issues, he can no longer volunteer but remains a dues-paying member of the MGs. He fondly recalled the now-deceased Sally Ditton “and her English accent,” an MG whom he met at McFaul.

Robert grew up in Carlstadt, an only child. His mother, a homemaker, told him the way to get ahead was through education. He started elementary school at age 4, he said, because the town wanted to fill the seats of a new school. He graduated from nearby Stevens Institute of Technology with both a mechanical engineering degree and an MS degree. He is a Registered Professional Engineer, though he describes himself as a “bad engineer.”

However, the good news about engineering: It taught him to think and analyze. “I should have been an accountant,” he said. In fact, after years as an engineer and consultant, Robert had a second career as a tax preparer at H&R Block for 23 years.

On the personal side, Robert has been married to wife Joan for 62 years. Joan and Robert were “fixed up,” he admitted. Robert, who describes himself as “not a social butterfly,” had tickets to his first alumni weekend at Stevens but no date. His cousin, a friend of Joan’s at Fairleigh Dickinson University, suggested that Robert and Joan meet over a family dinner and see what happened. Yes, Joan wound up accompanying him to his alumni events. And, after that weekend, Robert recalled, “a lot of speeding went on” between Carlstadt and Irvington, where Joan lived. The Schneiders have three children: Susan is a lawyer in Louisville, KY; Nancy

is a professor of graphics design in Lawrence, KS; and Robert is a dentist in Cleveland, OH; and five grandchildren.

Robert’s gardening years took place at the Schneiders’ first home in Ridgewood. The rear yard backed up to the PSE&G right of way (once a trolley line from Suffern to Paterson), and the Ho-Ho-Kus Brook was nearby.

When the brook flooded, it deposited sand on the property making it hard to grow grass. Robert solved that problem by planting soybeans for a season or two and then was able to plant grass. His pride and joy? His red maple, mimosa, Japanese cherry, burning bush, crenated Chinese holly, and a certified male ginkgo.

In 1971, Robert’s work took the family to Chicago. When the Schneiders returned to New Jersey in 1974, they bought a home in Mahwah where each child had a bedroom. He transplanted some of the Ridgewood plants — such as the ginkgo, the crenated Chinese holly, and rhubarb that had once been grown on an adjacent farm — to the new location.

At the Mahwah home, as in Ridgewood, Robert had to make “amends.” Robert said the developer had stripped off half the topsoil of what had once been a farm and so he planted zoysia because nothing else would grow.

In addition to his volunteering at McFaul, Robert was a volunteer for STEED (Special Therapy and Education through Equestrian Development), an organization that no longer exists. Joan co-founded and volunteered there beginning in 1975 by teaching horseback riding to handicapped children. Robert recalled that he asked how he could help. Since STEED volunteers “would rather shovel manure than keep the books,” he said, “I was assigned the duties of secretary-treasurer.” Robert also served on the troop committee of Troop 34 in Franklin Lakes where his son Robert became an Eagle Scout.

Buy an MG Badge

Order your engraved Master Gardener name badges. The cost is \$11 for a pin-on badge and \$13 for a two-part magnetic badge (no need for a pin). Wear your badge when representing the MGs at fairs, conferences, classes, and other events. Contact Terri Pegg at peggdt@aol.com to order your badge. Badges for the following members are awaiting pickup at the monthly MG meeting: Sheri Abel-Colao, Susan Barbuto, Olga Barnes, Michele Cariddi, Caroline Chervenak, Stephen Drop, Dale Heidelberg, Hiromi Mizuma, Maureen Nolan, Janet Schneider, and Robert Schneider. Come and get them!

PLANT SALES

May 6-14: Garden Club of Teaneck. Greenhouse next to 296 Lindbergh Blvd., Teaneck.
Saturday and Sunday: 9 am-3 pm
Monday and Wednesday: 9 am-noon
Thursday and Friday: 5-8 pm
For more information, click [here](#).

May 13: Garden Club of Glen Rock, 9 am-1 pm. Main Line train station, 2 Main St., Glen Rock. Rain or shine.

May 13: Sundial Garden Club, 8 am-3 pm. Hillsdale train station, Hillsdale Avenue and Broadway. Annuals, perennials, vegetables, hanging baskets, floral arrangements. Information: 201-358-6523.

May 13: Tenafly Garden Club, 10 am-2 pm
Two locations:

- Davis Johnson Park and Gardens, Engle Street and Westervelt Avenue; and
- Tenafly and Riveredge roads, across from the Tenafly Post Office.

May 20: Ho-Ho-Kus Garden Club, 9 am-noon
Ho-Ho-Kus town green, corner of Sycamore and Franklin Turnpike, next to the Ho-Ho-Kus Inn. Street parking.

VOLUNTEER SITE NEWS

Davies Arboretum



The 18-acre Davies Arboretum & Wildlife Preserve, 49 Anderson Ave., Demarest, is the newest approved Master Gardener volunteer site. Currently in bloom are bluebells, May apples, bleeding hearts, and daffodils. A

highlight of the arboretum is a majestic 200-year-old beech tree.

Several projects are in the planning stages including a greenhouse, storage shed, children's garden, and handicapped-accessible garden. However, the arboretum is a work in progress and needs your help. Bring your gardening tools and ideas on Mondays at 9:30 am and/or choose a special project and come whenever it is convenient for you. Contact Jessica Wang at jessica007wang@gmail.com or 201-600-8495 for more information and to confirm workdays.

Information about the Davies Arboretum is available on the Demarest Garden Club's [website](#).

- *Melody Corcoran*



Pictured in the Davies Arboretum are Atsumi Kitagawa (left) and Jessica Wang, site coordinator.

Hackensack River Greenway

Join Friends of the Hackensack River Greenway and the Township of Teaneck for a dedication of the newly planted native garden of the Mary S. Topolsky Garden and Trail.

This section is the newest addition to Teaneck's National Trails Greenway featuring an ADA wheelchair-accessible trail to the Hackensack River.

The event is at 11 am Thursday, May 11 in the North Terhune section of the Greenway, off River Road, across from Kipp Street, Teaneck. Parking is available on side streets.

RSVP required by contacting friendsvp@teaneckgreenway.org. Rain date is May 18.

MG OF BC TRIPS AND TOURS

Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture Blue Hill Farm

Wednesday, May 17, 10:30 am

Blue Hill Farm (for 2017, ranked 11th of the world's 50 best restaurants by S. Pellegrino & Acqua Panna (bottled waters); 630 Bedford Road, Pocantico Hills, NY 10591 (if using GPS, enter Tarrytown, NY 10591)

Blue Hill Farm tour \$25 per person; buffet lunch \$40 per person.

For those who do not want the buffet lunch, an alternative lunch option will be offered within five minutes of the farm

E-mail josie_ko1@hotmail.com to sign up.

Catskill Native Nursery Thursday, June 15

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

[Catskill Native Nursery](#) 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% discounts will be offered

No charge for the tour.

Contact Josie_ko1@hotmail.com to sign up; deadline is June 2.

Save the date for upcoming tours and trips:

- **July 14: Hollister House Garden, Washington, CT.** Visit the [website](#).
- **August 16: New York Botanical Garden Native Plant Garden.** Visit the [website](#).

OTHER TRIPS AND TOURS

Thursday, May 18: New York Botanical Garden, Dale Chihuly exhibit

The Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Bergen County (DAFAS) will sponsor a bus tour leaving from Wyckoff at 9 am returning at approximately 4 pm. The artwork of world-renowned sculptor Dale Chihuly will be featured in a major exhibit at the [New York Botanical Garden](#).

This will be a new experience with monumental installations within the most celebrated sites in the NYBG's landscape. The cost of \$85 includes transportation, entrance to the garden, a guided tour of the Chihuly installation, followed by a box lunch and then time to explore the NYBG on foot or by tram.

For more information, contact Betty McDonnell at 201-934-9065 or Kilykanewf@aol.com.

Sunday June 11: Self-guided tour of northwest Bergen County Gardens 10 am-4 pm

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.

Bergen County Rutgers Cooperative Extension Office

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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.

HORTICULTURE GRAPEVINE

- May 1** **11:30 am, Tenafly Garden Club**, Davis Johnson Park and Gardens, Tenafly. Speaker: Janet Schulz. Topic: Beyond daffodils.
- May 1** **7 pm, Sundial Garden Club**, Meadowbrook Elementary School, 50 Piermont Ave., Hillsdale. Speaker: Elaine Silverstein. Topic: Easy-to-grow native plants.
- May 4** **7:30 pm, Garden Club of Harrington Park**, Harrington Park Library, 10 Herring St. Speaker: Elaine Silverstein. Topic: Easy-to-grow native plants. Members' plant swap.
- May 9** **7:30 pm, Ridgewood Shade Tree Commission**, Ridgewood Public Library, 125 N. Maple Ave. Speaker: Nick Polanin. Topic: Urban forestry and street trees. Contact: bsuther@gmail.com.
- May 10** **7:30 pm, Bergen-Passaic Chapter of the Native Plant Society**, NY-NJ Trail Conference, 600 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah. Speaker: Dr. Randi Eckel, Toadshade Wildflower Farm. Topic: Native plants, shrubs, and trees. Contact: Elaine Silverstein at elasil@optonline.net. Plants available for purchase.
- May 10** **7:30 pm, Wyckoff Area Garden Club and Oakland Garden Club**, Oakland Senior Center, 20 Lawlor Drive, Oakland. Speaker: Paul Cowie. Topic: Planting trees at the 9/11 Memorial in New York City.
- May 13** **10 am, Garden Club of Harrington Park**, barrel planting beautification project in downtown Harrington Park.
- May 16** **7 pm, Backyard Garden Club**, sponsored by the Friends of the River Vale Free Public Library, River Vale Library, 412 River Vale Road. Speaker: Dail Reid. Topic: Garden tasks for May and June. Time permitting, Dail's second topic will be when to hoop plants so they show off well.
- May 16** **7:45 pm, Glen Rock Garden Club**, Municipal Annex, 678 Maple Ave. Speaker: Frank Mortimer, president of the Northeast Beekeepers Association. Topic: Honey bees.
- May 22** **7:30 pm, Ho-Ho-Kus Garden Club**, Ho-Ho-Kus Community Church, 330 Warren Ave., entrance on Sycamore Avenue. Street parking. Speaker: Beverly Kazickas. Topic: The importance of pollinators and attracting them.

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

- 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.