



From the Potting Shed April 2018

Master Gardeners of Bergen County

SAVE THE DATE

MG meeting – April 24 Joint meeting with Passaic County MGs

1 Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack
1st-floor meeting room

Refreshments at 7 pm; announcements
at 7:20 pm; program to follow

Leslie Parness: Medicinal plants of the Civil War

Could plants have played a role in the outcome of the Civil War? Learn how important plants were in every aspect of these battles and on the home fronts of both the North and the South.



In her presentation Leslie will discuss more than 40 plants and their medicinal properties. She includes "receipts," or recipes, for many popular remedies including horehound lozenges and witch hazel tonic. Audiences are often surprised to see how many "Civil War" plants they're already growing.

For the past five decades, travel, academic studies, and work have provided a rewarding context for Leslie's love of plants. In 2017, she retired as superintendent of horticultural education at the Morris County Park Commission. Currently, she's enjoying her garden and

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

spending time with like-minded plant people. She speaks at shows, conferences, and symposia and at small gatherings of plant lovers. To visit Leslie's website, click [here](#).

From the President's Desk



As I write this, spring is technically here. Although it happens every year, we still stand in awe as Mother Earth rejuvenates itself. If you've had the opportunity to visit any of the inspiring flower shows or looked through your gardening books, you probably are visualizing what you want to do this year. Are you talking about new designs, wanting to try new things? I'm ready. Let's do it.

Master Gardener volunteer sites

Last month, Melody Corcoran, our site coordinator, updated our approved sites and beautifully listed them in the March *Potting Shed*. Thank you, Melody! Consider exploring some new sites. Check in with your old ones. Have a reunion with your fellow gardeners whom you may not have seen all winter, and make some new friends, too. Click [here](#) for the March *Potting Shed*.

On the home front

If your borders are established, it's time to clean and mulch them. Watch out for those weeds. They will grow fast and furious. April is the time for gearing up your lawn care. You know what to do. If your perennials are overcrowded, lift and separate them. Share with your friends and neighbors. Continue planting hardy veggies. Put up those supports for peas and beans. And don't forget to smell the flowers.

MG of BC board

As I move into my first year as president, I've become acutely aware of how hard our board members work.

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A huge thank you to Donna Faustini, our program chair. All those interesting and entertaining programs we enjoy take an incredible amount of behind-the-scenes exploration and coordination. Thank you, Donna, from all of us.

Currently, we don't have a trips and tours chair. This is one of our most enjoyable activities. New idea: We can have co-chairs to arrange all the trips and tours or several people may want to arrange one trip each. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact me at dcgretchen76@gmail.com. If you have other ideas about how trips and tours can be managed, please share.

Have a wonderful spring.

- Carolyn Gretchen

MG OF BC NEWS

Meet Roger Yurt, Class of 2017



By Miriam Taub

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, Roger Yurt was en route to give a lecture when he heard The News. He returned home knowing his services as director of the William Randolph Hearst Burn Center and chief of burn, critical care, and trauma surgery at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill

Cornell Medical Center would be indispensable.

A New York police surgeon met him on Route 4 to transport him across the deserted GW Bridge. Thirty-eight of the 40 beds in his unit were already occupied; in the next few hours, 21 severely burned patients from the World Trade Center terror attacks were brought in for treatment. He recalled that he didn't sleep for the next 36 hours.

Prior to retirement in 2015, this was the life of Roger Yurt, 72. His CV includes positions in research and teaching; chairs of commissions; publications too numerous to name; and, in 2014, the recipient of the

highest honor conferred by New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center: The Greenberg Distinguished Service Award, which was accompanied by \$50,000.

After 43 years in the medical profession, Roger pointed to more recent advances that have helped burn victims survive: Treatment to prevent kidney failure; recognizing the importance of nutrition (a burn victim, he explained, needs two or more times his/her normal caloric intake); use of antibiotics to control infection; and better anesthesia and surgical techniques.

He pointed to one of the World Trade Center victims, Lauren Manning, who was brought to his center with burns on 82% of her body and remained there for 3½ months. (Rule of thumb: One day in the hospital for each percentage of burns on the body.) Lauren is now lecturing and writing books. However, he added, burns are a lifelong disease. After the healing, scars remain visible for the rest of the patient's life. "We haven't gotten to the point of miracles," he lamented.

Roger was born in Louisville, KY. His father, an executive for Sears, Roebuck & Co., requested assignments in the south and so Roger was raised in Alabama, Georgia, and Miami. The family's first garden consisted of tomatoes, which, as he recalled, grew fast and big in their Miami garden.

In high school, Roger developed an interest in physics. Since physics didn't put him in touch with people he shifted his focus to medicine. After graduating from Loyola University in New Orleans with a degree in biology, he obtained an MD degree from the University of Miami School of Medicine. He completed his training in surgery in Dallas and New York and did his post-doctoral research at Harvard Medical School.

When it was time to fulfill his military obligation, Roger opted for a three-year stint in the Army so he could select his location (Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston in Texas) rather than serve for two years in rural Louisiana without an operating room. Roger said the Brooke burn center was "the place to be" for any doctor whose interest was burn care. In fact, U.S. military personnel who are severely burned just about anywhere in the world are transported to Brooke for treatment.

When his Army service was completed, Roger followed his former mentor to what was then called New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center where he both practiced in the burn center and taught. He said he knew he was going to be an academic surgeon at a teaching

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institution and practice surgery. At retirement, he retained the title of professor emeritus of surgery at Weill Medical College of Cornell University.

In his personal life, Roger married Joan Terry, whom he'd met on a blind date in Miami. The Yurts have lived in Ramsey for 34 years. They have three children, all of whom are married: Jennifer is a teacher; Daniel works for Colgate-Palmolive; and Gregory is an electrical engineer; and six grandchildren.

Over the years, Roger said that while he never had a lot of spare time, he enjoyed working in the yard. He grew vegetables until the deer arrived. (He's since built a cage to keep the deer out of the vegetables; see photo on page 2.) Once he retired and was able to care for his own lawn, he began to question the fertilizers and treatments that his lawn service had applied. His first contact with the Master Gardener program was calling the MG Helpline for help identifying a bug he found in the bathroom. As he recalled, Joe Papa told him to keep the bathroom dry and not to apply insecticides. The lawn and bug issues got him thinking about getting trained, so he signed up for the Class of 2017. Roger volunteers primarily at McFaul.

Besides working in the yard, Roger said he enjoys working with his hands — one of the reasons he became a surgeon. In his workshop, he's built furniture, like tables and chairs, for their grandchildren. He also admitted to doing most of the day-to-day work around the house, like plumbing and electrical. While a surgeon, Roger said he was careful to avoid certain equipment — like knives and power saws — that could endanger his hands. Ironic though, he added, since he used knives during surgery. The Yurts also own a vacation home in North Carolina.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Bergen County MG program syllabus for spring 2018

All classes are 10:30 am-12:30 pm in the 4th-floor learning center at 1 Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack, unless noted. Any MG may attend. For more information contact:

- Joel Flagler, agricultural agent:
Flagler@aesop.rutgers.edu or
- Karen Riede, horticultural consultant:
karen.riede@rutgers.edu; 201-336-6788.

Dates, topics, and speakers are:

- April 6, Ticks and Lyme Disease; Joel Flagler
- April 13, Nuisance Wildlife IPM; Madeline Flahive-DiNardo, RCE Union County

- April 20, Vegetable IPM and Culture; Pete Nitzsche, RCE Morris County
- April 27, Urban Forestry and Street Trees; Nick Polanin, RCE Somerset County
- May 4, Insects of Ornamentals; Joel Flagler
- May 11, Bergen County Environmental Council spring planting, location TBD
- May 18, Planting at Garretson Forge and Farm, 4-02 River Road, Fair Lawn
- May 25, Water Quality; Amy Rowe, RCE Passaic County
- June 1, Storm Water Management: Rain Gardens; Joel Flagler
- June 9, NJ Botanical Garden/Skylands; meet rain or shine at 10:30 am in parking lot A, 2 Morris Road, Ringwood; light hiking.

Fall graduation

MG graduation will be noon Saturday, Nov. 10 at the McFaul Environmental Center, 150 Crescent Ave., Wyckoff. Guests are welcome and a light lunch buffet will be available.

SHOWS AND CONFERENCES

2018 Rutgers Community Garden training

The Rutgers Master Gardener Community Garden Training Program is coming this month. The program is scheduled from 9 am-3 pm Thursday, April 19 at the Haggarty Education Center, Frelinghuysen Arboretum 353 E. Hanover Ave., Morris Township.

Coordinators have developed a curriculum for volunteer Master Gardeners to use to educate neighborhood groups about starting and maintaining a community vegetable garden. The curriculum consists of scripted PowerPoint presentations, evaluation materials, and related RCE fact sheets on the following topics: Starting a Community Garden; Keys to Successful Composting; Keeping Pests Out of the Garden: Insect and Disease Management; and Harvesting and Food Safety in the Community Garden.

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The \$35 registration fee includes lunch and a flash/jump drive with the curriculum materials. To register, click [here](#). The program counts toward 5.5 continuing education credits of specialized training to achieve the status of Rutgers Master Gardener Community Educator. To become an educator you'll need additional training and must provide 10 hours of training to community groups. Details will be explained at the training program.

For more information, contact Madeline Flahive DiNardo, RCE Union County, 1-908-654-9854, ext. 4 or flahive@njaes.rutgers.edu.

TRIPS AND TOURS

June 12, New York Botanical Garden bus trip

This trip is sponsored by the Tenafly Garden Club. Bus departs from Tenafly at approximately 8:15 am and will leave the NYBG at 4 pm.

The \$50 cost includes admission to the Georgia O'Keefe exhibit and a tip for the driver. *Tickets are non-refundable.* For additional information or to sign up, call Vivian DeMarco at 201-944-3925.

VOLUNTEER SITE NEWS

Garretson Forge and Farm

[Garretson Forge and Farm](#) will host its annual spring festival and plant sale Saturday, May 5 from 10 am-4 pm at the farm, 4-02 River Road, Fair Lawn.

On sale will be a variety of native plants (mostly perennials), as well as herbs, vegetable seedlings, and milkweed plants for your monarchs.

New Jersey Botanical Garden/Skylands

Birding for beginners April 8

Don Torino, president of Bergen County Audubon Society, will introduce attendees to birding at 1 pm Sunday, April 8 in the Carriage House. Don will cover bird ID, field guides, and optics. A walk will follow, weather permitting. Bring binoculars if you have them. The address is 2 Morris Road, Ringwood.

Season kickoff for volunteers April 21

Become an NJBG volunteer. Many different skills are needed and welcome. Join us from 10 am-noon Saturday, April 21 in the Carriage House to learn more,

meet some of our volunteers, and start working. Bring gloves.

Butterfly and pollinator garden planting April 28

Help plant a new butterfly garden from 1-3 pm Saturday, April 28. Sponsored by the Bergen County Audubon Society, this new garden area will be designed to attract many different pollinators. It will be educational, environmentally friendly, and filled with flowers. Bring gloves, wear sturdy shoes, and dress to garden. Meet at the Carriage House; rain cancels.

Garden tour June 1

The [New Jersey Botanical Garden](#) will sponsor a garden tour hosted by Edith Wallace at 2 pm Friday, June 1 as part of New Jersey Public Gardens and Arboretum Day.

A video, "The History of Skylands," will be repeated all afternoon in the Carriage House, which will also house a display of the flowers in bloom. The event is free. Donations are welcome. The address is 2 Morris Road, Ringwood.

Teaneck Creek Conservancy

Come to the [Teaneck Creek Conservancy](#) from 10-11 am Saturday, April 14 for the first of a nature walk series with an emphasis on identifying common trees in the area and in the conservancy. Each session focuses on identifying specific trees throughout the seasons. Enjoy a discussion through the grounds with Ryan Duff, arborist at Almstead Tree and Shrub Care Co. The conservancy is located at 1 Puffin Way, Teaneck.

To register, click [here](#). Other dates in the series are June 16, Aug. 18, and Oct. 13.

Thielke Arboretum of Glen Rock

Grand opening of the new building!

The grand opening of the new Environmental Education Center (EEC) at the [Thielke Arboretum of Glen Rock](#) will take place Friday, April 27 at the arboretum, 460 Doremus Ave., Glen Rock.

Festivities will begin at 10 am with a welcome, ribbon-cutting, and a remembrance of the arboretum's namesake, Carol Thielke. Tours of the arboretum and the EEC will be available.

The two main functions of the EEC are to provide:

1. A focal point for visitors and class trips as well as shelter in inclement weather; and
2. Office and meeting space and restroom facilities for the volunteers who maintain the arboretum.

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Click [here](#) for photos and additional information about the EEC.

Open house April 28-29

Take a tour of the arboretum during the weekend's open house event. On Saturday, April 28, the day begins at noon with the opening of the new StoryWalk® for children, "This is the Nest That Robin Built" by Denise Fleming. This will be followed by an arts and crafts program for children. StoryWalks are free and are an excellent opportunity to explore and build reading confidence in children.

The StoryWalk entrance is indicated by signs at the south end of the Glen Rock pool parking lot next to the arboretum.

On Sunday, April 29, the open house will feature a presentation about "your garden" by Tom Bender, the arboretum's plant curator. This will be the first of a series of gardening lectures that will take place throughout the summer (dates TBD).

Calling all volunteers

The arboretum needs your help with plantings and maintenance of shrubs and flowers prior to the grand opening April 27. To volunteer, go to the arboretum's website by clicking [here](#).

Think 'Potting Shed'

Next time you're at your favorite volunteer site, think "Potting Shed." Take a photo of MGs at work or at a special event and send to janet-schulz@hotmail.com. Be sure to identify everyone in the photo.

THIS AND THAT

Bergen County's 'hanging gardens'

Visit the "hanging gardens of New Jersey" in [Fine Gardening](#) magazine's blog. Surinder Chadha of Old Tappan submitted photos of hanging plants that decorate the high ceilings in his home. See what a few hooks can do.

Who doesn't love a discount?

Many local garden centers give discounts to MGs. See the list on our [website](#). Bring your membership card when shopping.

Bergen County Rutgers Cooperative Extension Office

Joel Flagler Agricultural/Resources Management Agent & County Extension Dept. Head 201-336-6780
Karen Riede 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.

HORTICULTURE GRAPEVINE

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

- April 5** **7:30 pm, Garden Club of Harrington Park**, Harrington Park Library, 10 Herring St., Harrington Park. Speaker: Jeffrey Van Pelt. Topic: Spring or fall - what's the best time to clean and divide?
- April 10** **7 pm, Ramsey Area Garden Club**, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 55 Wyckoff Ave., corner of Woodland Avenue, Ramsey. Speaker: Donna Dorsey. Topic: What's new and exciting and my trade secrets.
- April 11** **7 pm (social), Wyckoff Area Garden Club**, Wyckoff Public Library, Monroe Room, 200 Woodland Ave., Wyckoff. Meeting at 7:30. Speaker: Paul Sisko. Program: Starting landscaping and hardscaping from scratch.

- April 12** **7 pm, Teaneck Garden Club**, Richard Rodda Center, Room 2B, 250 Colonial Court (enter from Palisade Avenue), Teaneck. Speaker: Arnie Friedman. Topic: Lawns - history and eco-replacements.
- April 17** **7 pm, Backyard Garden Club**, River Vale Library, 412 Rivervale Road, River Vale. Speaker: Janet Schulz. Topic: A collector's point of view, PowerPoint presentation featuring how rare and unusual plants, as well as some old favorites, look and perform in local gardens.
- April 18** **7:30 pm, Allendale Garden Club**, Brighton Gardens, 5 Boroline Road, Saddle River. Speaker: Jim Wright. Topic: Celery Farm nature.
- April 30** **7:30 pm, Ho-Ho-Kus Garden Club**, Ho-Ho-Kus Community Church, 400 Warren Ave., Ho-Ho-Kus. Entrance on Sycamore. Speaker: Edith Wallace. Topic: Experiences with lilacs and knowledge gained through trial and error.

The Master Gardeners of Bergen County doesn't share or sell its email/ mailing list/ membership directory to non-members or to other organizations. Our membership information is confidential and for use by members for official MG use only. Please don't share our list with non-members or use it for any unauthorized or commercial 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.

- To submit information about garden club meetings, contact Josie Ko at josie_ko1@hotmail.com.
- To submit information about plant society meetings, contact Catie Farahat at cwfarahat@scatteringlight.com.

**Please share photos of your volunteer work or of your garden. We'd all like to see photos of Master Gardeners at work at volunteer sites or in home gardens.
Please send photos to Janet-Schulz@hotmail.com**