



From the Potting Shed December 2018

Master Gardeners of Bergen County

SAVE THE DATE



MG holiday party

2019 students welcome

Tuesday, Dec. 4
noon - 2 pm

Van Saun Park Zoo, Education Building,
Paramus

Sandwiches and beverages will be provided.

Please bring one of the following based on the first letter of your last name:

A to P Appetizers or salads

Q to Z Desserts

From the President's Desk

By Carolyn Gretchen

November was such a month of celebrations for us. Congratulations to the members of the Class of 2018 on their graduation Nov. 10. You are a warm, cohesive, enthusiastic, and very kind group of individuals. We are so happy to welcome you into our "family." Special thanks to the Class of 2017 for the delicious food and service. A very, very special thank you to Albina Daukantas and her dedicated workers for the gorgeous decorations and their very hard work. Everything looked warm and welcoming!



Starting anew is our Class of 2019 — 25 members strong. We welcomed them with our traditional board breakfast at their Nov. 30 class.

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Links are clickable and are noted in blue.

Board members, I can't thank you enough for your hard work and support this year. I look forward to working with you again in the new year. Smadar, I am sorry you are leaving us as corresponding secretary, but we wish you well in your new endeavors. We will miss your professionalism and your graciousness.

December is a time to celebrate with family and friends. Come celebrate with us at our annual holiday party in the Education Building at the Van Saun Park Zoo, Paramus, Tuesday, Dec. 4 from noon-2 pm. We look forward to partying with you there. MGs are hard workers, but we love to have fun together, too.

If it hasn't happened yet, it will. Our gardens and sites will take on the stark look of winter. Remember to protect your property against fierce winds. If it snows (did I say if?), brush snow accumulations off bushes and trees so delicate branches don't break. If the deer are your close neighbors, cover your precious greenery with netting and tree guards.

Despite shortened days and cold temperatures, there is still soul-touching beauty in the winter months. We have the beautiful architecture of dried grasses and bared limbs, the contrast of rich evergreen foliage, and the sparkling sun reflecting off the snow-covered landscape. It can be a magical scene and a time of renewal for those who garden. We have the gift of four seasons in New Jersey. Enjoy the uniqueness of them all.

Wishing you all a very happy holiday season. A new year is the perfect time to generate new ideas. Looking forward to moving forward with all of you!

MG OF BC NEWS

Master Gardeners of Bergen County elect officers for 2019

President	Carolyn Gretchen
Vice President	Melody Corcoran
Treasurer	Bruce Walenczyk
Recording Secretary	Suzanne Danzig
Corresponding Secretary	Miriam Taub

All officers will take office after installation at the regularly scheduled January meeting.

Meet Susan 'Sue' Sheridan, Class of 2013

By Miriam Taub

Sue Sheridan, an enthusiastic volunteer for the Skylands Manor Holiday Open House, starts thinking about Christmas in June. At a spring garage sale, for example, she might come face to face with a must-have wreath, garland, or replica of a fox that could be positioned in the Skylands Manor Great Hall for an upcoming holiday season. "That's me, I'm crazy," she said about herself.



Sue Wise grew up in Huntington Bay, Long Island, one of six children. Her first gardening experience was growing vegetables in the family's backyard. After high school, she went to SUNY Oneonta and majored in dietetics. She said she loved the science of it, that is, the processes by which food is broken down and used by the body and the importance of nutrition in fighting illness, particularly diabetes.

Meanwhile, another Long Islander, Gerard "Jerry" Sheridan, who would become her husband, also attended SUNY Oneonta. "We walked from our graduation to his swearing-in ceremony as a first lieutenant in the Marines," Sue said. The couple initially lived in Quantico, VA, where Jerry continued his training, and later at Camp Lejeune, NC. After 3½ years of military service and with one child in tow, the Sheridans were ready for the next phase of their lives. Sue said

Jerry got three job offers — thanks to the on-base job fairs arranged by the Marines — and he accepted a position at Irving Trust (now Bank of New York Mellon) on Wall Street.

When Sue and Jerry moved back to New York, they lived with her parents, then in Washington Heights where their two daughters were born exactly two years apart. By now, it was time to buy a house. They chose Westwood, Sue said, because they wanted to be close to both sets of parents and the commute to Wall Street, via NJ Transit train, was relatively easy.

Six years later, in 1991, the Sheridans moved to a larger home nearby that was originally owned by Westwood's first mayor, Isaac Bogert. This house, whose backyard abuts the Musquapsink Brook, required major renovation for a family of five. Among other things, Sue said, they enclosed a back porch, built a kitchen/family room in the new indoor space at the rear, and added a deck. Sue said the yard was basically a "blank slate" with its trees and pachysandra. Over the years, she's planted shrubs and, more recently, is replanting with native species to discourage the deer. She finds landscaping almost more interesting than gardening, she added.

While her kids were growing up, Sue was a stay-at-home mom and the children's main caregiver. She volunteered as the cheerleading coach, or "moderator," for several years at St. John's Academy in Hillsdale where the girls attended elementary school. As soon as her youngest entered school, she went to work part-time at Midland Bank (now Valley National Bank) as a "mother-teller."

As Sue explained, "It was a very enlightened program allowing mothers to work only the hours their children were in school and to be off whenever they had vacation or were sick at home." She left that job when she and Jerry moved to Hong Kong for Jerry's job with Bank of New York Mellon.

Two years later, when they returned to New Jersey, Sue was rehired by Valley National Bank but this time as a full-timer in customer service and mortgage closings. She retired from the bank in 2012. After a friend went through the MG program, Sue decided, "I'm going to do that," then enrolled in the Class of 2013. One of the best things about the MG program, Sue said, was meeting new people. Initially she volunteered at McFaul and the Hermitage. Two years ago, De Trezza invited her to help with the Holiday Open House and her interest in decorating took off.

In her spare time, Sue, who is 62, knits; she started with clothes for her Barbie doll while in third grade. She

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belongs to a gym, runs, and plays golf. "I'm not good but I enjoy golf," she said. "It's a way to be outside and not be digging." In her basement, she's building a lighthouse from a kit for her grandson, Cole. She also builds glitter or putz houses to incorporate in holiday decorations.

Ten years ago the Sheridans bought a lakeside home in Schroon Lake, NY, where they've vacationed since 1984. The family enjoys their pontoon boat and other lake activities all summer and skiing nearby in the winter. The Sheridan children are Brian, 39, and his wife, Angele, and their two children, Cole and Isabelle; and daughters Bridgid, 35, and Mollie, 33.

Sue has also built decorative, retaining walls in the yards of both her Westwood and Schroon Lake homes. "If a mason can do it, so can I," she asserted, adding that the walls "serve a dual purpose of holding back earth while providing rugged beauty to the gardens/landscaping I continue to develop."

One thing Sue doesn't like to do is cook. "I'm not a good cook," she said, "but everybody managed to grow up healthy and well fed."

Here's how to report your volunteer hours for 2018; no password needed to access the forms

By Donna Karpel

If you've completed your volunteer hours for 2018, you can send in your forms (V&EAR) this month. If you have volunteer commitments for December, be sure to complete your report and send it in January. Do not send partial reports; wait until you have completed your volunteering before sending in a report.

You can report your hours via Excel form or paper, as explained below. The information from the V&EAR is used for our Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) and Rutgers University reports as well as the annual recertification of Master Gardeners. *RCE receives additional funding based on total number of reported volunteer hours.*

Here are the two ways to report your hours:

- 1. Excel form:** You can use the form on any PC and e-mail it to me. This is the easiest and most accurate way to track hours. (Do not create your own spreadsheet.)
- 2. Paper form:** Paper forms must be mailed, and you need to keep a copy for your records. The mailing address is on the form.

Both the Excel and paper forms can be found on the home page of our [website](#) under "Volunteer & Education Reporting Forms." *No password is needed.* If you haven't downloaded the forms recently, be sure to download the current versions. The November 2018 Excel form has the most accurate list of approved sites, which are the only entries that should go under the location column.

Do not use the online volunteer reporting system as it's not ready for 2018 data entry!

When using the Excel form, remember to change the file name from "V&EAR Email Form" and save with your name and year of reporting. Example, Mary Smith 2018. If you need help renaming your form, please ask. Send the entire report as one spreadsheet. Do *not* separate your education and volunteer hours into two or more reports, and do *not* send two or more spreadsheets. Enter only one date per line, especially if you're submitting a paper report. (If I can't read it, I can't enter it.)

Under education hours you can include the following:

- Any MG workshops and lectures at the meetings;
- Lectures, educational courses, conferences, and docent-led tours at almost any venue including, but not limited to, garden clubs, Rutgers, NYBG, NJBG, association meetings, guided tours, seminars, workshops, etc.

Do not include any of the following:

- Travel time, lunch, socializing;
- Tours of other MG gardens, Garden Conservancy open garden tours;
- Online research and reading (online or magazines, books, etc.).

If you have questions or need help, don't hesitate to contact me at 201-327-8835 or donna9189@gmail.com.



Sunshine News

The Master Gardeners of Bergen County extends our sincere condolences to Barbara Johansson, a lifetime MG, on the loss of her husband, Dick, Nov. 9.

Useful links

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

OUT AND ABOUT

Frelinghuysen Arboretum

More than 100 orchids will be auctioned to benefit the non-profit Northeast Judging Center of the American Orchid Society Saturday, Dec. 15. A preview begins at 9:30 am with bidding starting at 10:30 am. The event will be held in the arboretum's Haggarty Center, 353 E. Hanover Ave., Morris Township. Visit the [website](#) for more information about the arboretum.

Many of the orchids are donations from the judges' personal collections. Click [here](#) to see a list of available plants, some with photos, on Facebook.

A complimentary light buffet lunch will be provided to all attendees. Following the auction and lunch, you can observe the regular Northeast Center orchid judging for an educational and entertaining afternoon.

Garden Club of Bergenfield

Holiday wreath sale

The club has scheduled two days for its holiday wreath sale: Saturdays, Dec. 1 and 8 from 9 am-3 pm at Cooper's Pond Park, Bergenfield. The price is \$20 decorated and \$12 undecorated. To order or for more information, call Cassie Salmon at 201-384-6801. Ordering will guarantee the color of the ribbon.

Holiday brunch

The club's brunch will be held from 11 am-2 pm Sunday, Dec 2 at the Cornerstone, 84 Broadway, Hillsdale. The price is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. For more information, call Pat Faley at 201-387-7801.

NJ Botanical Garden/Skylands

NJBG is located at 2 Morris Road, Ringwood. Events take place in the Carriage House and are free unless noted. Parking is free at this time of year. To volunteer, call the NJBG office at 973-962-9534. Visit the [website](#).

Holiday Open House at Skylands Manor

Skylands Manor has been decorated floor to ceiling for "A Country Manor Holiday," a tribute to the many festive celebrations held there when Skylands was a private estate.

Hours for the self-guided tour are 10 am-4 pm through Dec. 2. (The event began Nov. 29.) Tickets are \$10 for adults; \$8 for seniors; \$5 for children 6-12; and free for children under 6. Tickets are available at the door, and the last ticket will be sold at 4 pm. *Strollers aren't permitted in the manor house.*

Family winter hike

Take an easy hike in the garden's woodlands at 1 pm Sunday, Dec. 16. You'll learn a bit about the plants and animals around you in a hike designed to fit the group. Smaller children may need to be carried. Wear sturdy shoes, and meet at the Carriage House. Rain cancels.

Note: *To become a hike guide, come on the hike and speak to the guide about joining the hike guide team.*

First-day hike

Start 2019 with a self-guided family friendly hike in the State Park woodlands at the NJBG from 1-3:30 pm Tuesday, Jan. 1. Weather permitting you can climb to the Mt. Defiance overlook on the Halifax trail and return, or hike without a climb. This annual event is a joint project of State Park staff and volunteers from the NJBG/Skylands Association and the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

Wear sturdy shoes and weather-appropriate clothes. Small children may need to be carried. Meet at the Carriage House from 1-2 pm where a map and hike directions will be provided. Allow 90 minutes for the hike. Staff will be on the trail for assistance, if required. Snow cancels. Call 973-962-7031 for more information.

Trail volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed to stand along the trail and provided assistance. State staff will provide you with information to share with the hikers. Meet at the Carriage House at 12:30 pm.

Teaneck Creek Conservancy

Learn how to assess stream habitat at this citizen science event from noon-3 pm Sunday, Dec 16 led by Christine Favorito, watershed ambassador, and the Teaneck Creek Conservancy staff. Wear warm clothes and sturdy boots for the walk to the stream. All are welcome, but this program is recommended for ages 10 and up.

Register by contacting Cristine Favorito at ambassador@hackensackriverkeeper.org or 201-968-0808, ext. 108. The Teaneck Creek Conservancy is located at 20 Puffin Way, Teaneck. Visit the [website](#).

HORTICULTURE



Photo courtesy Rutgers, NJ Agricultural Experiment Station, Water Resources Program.

Do you recognize me?

By Edith Wallace

Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*) has a long history of medicinal use in this country. Victoria Jackson's "American Eden: David Hosack, botany and medicine in the garden" tells that Hosack (1756-1836), the physician present at the Hamilton-Burr duel, used boneset as one of his prime medicines. It was also used during the Civil War (recall the presentation by Lesley Parness at the April MG meeting), and it is used today by herbalists to treat a variety of ailments.

No specific chemical component has been identified as reducing fever and pain. There are similar plants called boneset, but apparently only *E. perfoliatum* has medicinal properties. Hosack built the first botanical garden in New York City, currently the site of Rockefeller Center. Hosack could not find the philanthropists that a century later made the current New York Botanical Garden a success.

THIS AND THAT

Videos for armchair garden enthusiasts

Take your next garden tour in your flannel pajamas without leaving the comfort of your home. Two tours of the New Jersey Botanical Garden — in winter and in summer — are available on YouTube.

1. Follow along on an end-of-winter tree identification walk with Rich Flynn, head landscape designer at the NJBG. Click [here](#) for the 78-minute tour. The tour was filmed in April 2018.

2. If only it were summer. Take a 29-minute walk through the NJBG garden led by MG Edith Wallace. Click [here](#) to walk with Edith. The tour was filmed in June 2018.

SHOWS, CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

Turf, tree, and landscape days Jan. 7-9

County College of Morris is the location of the 2019 North Jersey Ornamental Horticulture Symposium sponsored by Rutgers NJ Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension county agricultural agents. Hours/days are 8:30 am-5 pm Jan. 7 (turf day); Jan. 8 (tree day); and Jan. 9 (landscape day). Joel Flagler is chair of the landscape day. You can earn five CEUs for each full day of attendance.

MGs can attend for \$45 per day (including lunch). See the brochure, sent as a separate file with *The Potting Shed*, for the schedule, speakers, driving directions, and how to register. **Note: The \$45/day rate is not shown in the brochure. To pay that rate, simply indicate your MG status when you mail your check. Mailing instructions are in the brochure. Online registration information will be distributed in early December.**

2019 will be the 58th year in which Rutgers is sponsoring this horticulture symposium.

VOLUNTEER SITE EVENTS



Wreathmakers at Garretson Forge and Farm

MGs at Garretson Forge and Farm made wreaths to be sold at the Dutch Christmas event that will be held from 10 am-4 pm Dec. 1. From left: Christine Belli, Diane Van Kempen, Melody Corcoran, Caroline Newman, Anne Carmen, and Donna Dorgan. Diane and Caroline are Class of 2019 students. Garretson's address is 4-02 River Road, Fair Lawn. Visit the [website](#).

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Renew your MG of BC membership now

Don't let your MG of BC membership lapse. Click [here](#) to download the membership renewal form for 2019. Mail the completed form with your check for \$20, made payable to the MG of BC, to Terri Pegg, 54 W. Magnolia Ave., Maywood, NJ 07607. You can include an additional amount as a donation to the MG of BC. Donations are welcome!

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. Submit information about garden club meetings that are open to the public to [Miriam Taub](#).

- Dec. 6** **7:30 pm, Garden Club of Harrington Park**, upstairs in the Harrington Park Library, 10 Herring St., Harrington Park. Speaker: Gerri Gibney, club president. Topic: Make it and take it — marvelous greens, a hands-on wreath and holiday arrangement workshop.
- Dec. 12** **7:30 pm, Bergen-Passaic chapter, Native Plant Society of NJ**, 600 Ramapo Valley Road (Route 202), Mahwah. Park in the lot or the Ramapo County Reservation, a short walk through the woods. Parking and trail are not lighted, so bring a flashlight. Holiday party and seed swap (native plants only; please do not collect from the wild without permission). Information: bergenpassaic@npsnj.org.
- Jan. 3** **7:30 pm, Garden Club of Harrington Park**, upstairs in the Harrington Park Library, 10 Herring St., Harrington Park. Speaker: Esther Ross, club member. Topic: Members night, a fun evening of slide show-and-tell of members' gardens, gardens they have visited, or anything garden-related.

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.

Please share photos of your volunteer work or of your garden. When submitting photos, please identify everyone in the photo by first and last name.
Submit photos to janet-schulz@hotmail.com.