



From the Potting Shed February 2018

Master Gardeners of Bergen County

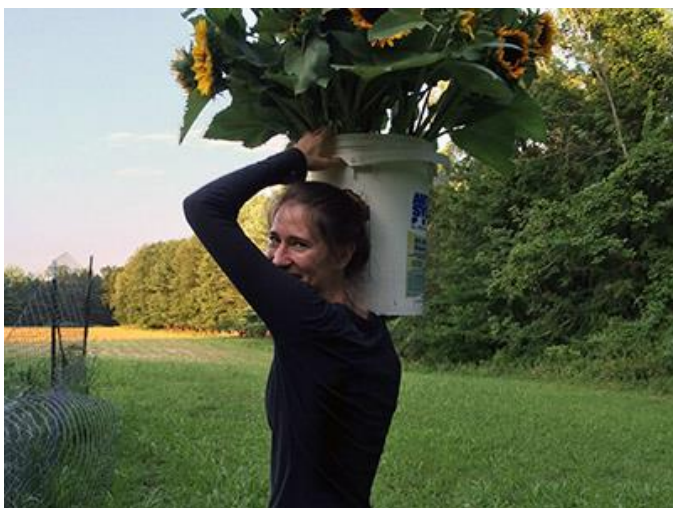
SAVE THE DATE

MG meeting – Feb. 27

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

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

A year in the vegetable garden presented by Arianna Lindberg



Arianna Lindberg is an instructor in the Department of Landscape Architecture in the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences at Rutgers University. She is also the [Student Farm](#) manager at Rutgers Gardens.

Arianna received undergraduate degrees in ceramics and art history from Hope College in Michigan and completed a master's degree in landscape architecture at Rutgers. She then nurtured her passion for small-scale agriculture while managing a two-acre organic farm in central New Jersey. This proclivity for growing food has directly influenced both her research and her work.

Her talk will include seasonally organized information on garden planning and preparation; planting; pest and disease management; pollinators and beneficials; seed saving; and season extension — all specific to organic gardening/farming.

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

From the President's Desk



Are you eager to get out in your garden? This is the time of year when impatience sets in. But, if you're wise, it's best to wait just a little longer. However, there are still many things you can do:

- Clean and oil those tools you didn't have time for in the fall.
- Check the [Rutgers Cooperative Extension](#) (RCE) site for charts on the best times to trim those trees and shrubs. Remember to keep removing snow so that it doesn't disfigure or break branches.
- Hate the cold? Stay inside and shop. No, not Amazon (well, maybe if you must). How about your favorite seed and bulb companies? They'd love to hear from you. Now is the time to dream and design or redesign areas of your landscape. There are lots of great ideas online.
- If you still need to smell the soil — and if it's not too soggy — lift and divide your snowdrops after they finish flowering.

You want more? Now is the perfect time to plan to visit the flower and garden shows. You can see real flowers, trees, and shrubs up front and personal. Visit these for your spring fix:

- [NJ Flower & Garden Show](#), NJ Convention and Expo Center, Edison, Feb. 22-25;
- [Connecticut Flower & Garden Show](#), Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford, Feb. 22-25; and
- [PHS Philadelphia Flower Show](#), Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, March 3-11.

Don't forget to check out the gardening shows on PBS. They're perfect for an inside day, too. Make February your introduction-to-spring month. Enjoy!

-- **Carolyn Gretchen**

Meet Patricia Knight, Class of 2009



By Miriam Taub

Patricia (Pat) Knight remembers how she got her assignment as the site coordinator for the butterfly and native garden at Overpeck Park in Leonia.

She was at a meeting in 2013, she recalled, when fellow MG Joseph Cooper said “Pat, you like native plants. Do you want to be in

charge of this?” At the time, Joseph was seeking a coordinator to manage a new volunteer site for the MG of BC. The job entailed removing invasives from a small plot for the Bergen County Audubon Society and transforming it into a place of native bird- and butterfly-friendly plants. Pat agreed to take the job.

Bergen Audubon had started reclaiming the area several years before, but the site still teemed with phragmites, mugwort, and garlic mustard. Now, Pat described this one-third of an acre behind the paddocks of the Bergen Equestrian Center as “an oasis in the middle of invasives.” Students from the MG Class of 2013 and later the Class of 2015 helped remove invasives, which provided a huge “leap forward,” Pat said.

Once an area was cleared, Pat said that she was pretty much free to plant whatever she wanted after consultation with Don Torino, president of Bergen Audubon, which pays for the plants. Now there’s swamp milkweed, New York ironweed, prairie coneflower, button bush, monarda, spice bush, and native mint, among others. She chooses plants that are hardy and tough because deer abound, the soil is “dry and terrible,” and the site lacks a water source. Initially, volunteers had to carry water from the equestrian center. Now there’s 900 feet of hose from the equestrian center that yields a limited water supply to the garden.

Volunteers meet on Tuesday mornings to maintain the plot, though Pat’s plan is to reclaim more of the area from invasives over time.

Pat, who is 62 and lives in Wyckoff, grew up in Rutherford. She graduated from the University of Vermont with a degree in biochemistry. After college, she worked at Rutgers Medical School and then the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in

Newark where she set up a microbiology lab for second-year medical students.

After marrying in the early 1980s, Pat and her then-husband lived in England for about a year, a move that had a strong influence on her interest in gardening. “I was enthralled with the English countryside as well as the gorgeous gardens both large and small,” Pat said.

Back in New Jersey, they moved to a small two-bedroom home in Hackensack that she describes as having been “lovingly restored” indoors by the previous owner and with outdoor plantings that inspired her to learn about gardening. When her sons were born, the family needed more space so they moved to a one-acre property in Wyckoff.

Both of the Knight sons had learning disabilities. Pat recalled that she got “hands on” learning while she advocated for her sons. In particular, she said, she fought for the proper diagnosis and education program for her younger son. She credits the Stanley Turecki book “The Difficult Child,” with helping her manage. Both sons are now on their own: Garrett, 29, is married and lives in Colorado, and Conner, 26, lives in Virginia.

After a divorce and with her sons getting older, Pat looked for something new to do. For a while, she was involved with CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), a national organization that advocates for abused and neglected children. And, she found the MG program and enrolled in the Class of 2009.

After her MG training, Pat developed an interest in native plants and joined the local Native Plant Society. Pat admitted that her property is home to some non-native plants, but said “It’s my responsibility to make sure they don’t spread.” Over time, she has converted her lawn into areas for native plants that deer won’t like. She makes jam from the gooseberries that grow on her property. And, she collects “tacky” lawn ornaments and is searching for a pink flamingo.

Among her other interests, Pat has two rescue dogs: Lola, an American Staffordshire terrier mix, and Dexter, an American Staffordshire terrier and recent arrival that she described as “a work in progress.”

Pat and her parents own a vacation home on Lake Champlain in Vermont. She said proudly that they are the “only people with a native landscape” in their yard.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Bergen County MG program syllabus for winter 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
- Karen Riede, horticultural consultant:
karen.riede@rutgers.edu; 201-336-6788

Dates, topics, and speakers are:

- Feb. 2, Plant Physiology: Patterns and Processes; Joel Flagler
- Feb. 9, Plant Propagation; Joel Flagler
- Feb. 16, Native Plants/Invasive Plants; Linda Rohleder. Meet at the NY/NJ Trail Conference HQ, Ramapo Valley Road (Route 202) at Darlington Avenue. Park in the Ramapo Reservation parking lot a quarter-mile west on Route 202.
- Feb. 23, Woody Plants I: Best Small Ornamental Trees; Joel Flagler
- March 2, Woody Plants II: Pruning Basics; Joel Flagler
- March 9, Landscape Design: The Basics; Arnie Friedman
- March 16, IPM for Nuisance Wildlife; Madeline Flahive-DiNardo
- March 23, Hotline training; Karen Riede
- March 30, Good Friday; no class

Spring class dates/subjects will be announced later this year

Volunteers needed for Earth Day events

By Mark Penchinar **Community Outreach**

Volunteers are needed to participate in three Earth Day events. *This is your opportunity to promote our organization and earn volunteer hours.* Both certified MGs and Class of 2018 students are invited.

Among the tasks are to create displays, set up for the event, attend the event, and have fun sharing your knowledge with the public. You may volunteer for a shift of any length at one or more of the following events:

- **Sunday, April 15:** Party for the Planet Earth Day at the Bergen County Zoo at Van Saun Park, Paramus, 10 am - 4 pm (set-up time TBD);
- **Saturday, April 21:** Northern Valley Earth Fair, Northern Valley Regional High School-Demarest, 150 Knickerbocker Road, Demarest, 11 am - 4 pm; and

- **Saturday, May 5:** Ridgefield Park Environmental Commission Earth Day/Green Fair, Riverside Park, behind the DPW, 24 Industrial Ave., Ridgefield Park, 10 am - 3 pm.

If you're interested in volunteering, contact Mark Penchinar at 551-486-2037 or penchymd@gmail.com.

\$1,000 Riverkeeper scholarship for teens

Do you know a high school student who's interested in the environment and lives in a Hackensack River Watershed town, for example, Oradell, River Edge, New Milford, Teaneck, Hackensack, Ridgefield Park, Bogota or Little Ferry?

The Hackensack Riverkeeper is accepting applications for its 18th annual Ron Vellekamp Environmental Scholarship, which provides an unrestricted \$1,000 award to a qualified student who lives in Bergen, Hudson, or Rockland County.

Qualified students must be nominated by a teacher or guidance counselor. The winner will be judged on his or her academic achievements, environmental extracurricular activities, and future plans. The scholarship is named for the late Ridgefield science teacher who was a founding trustee of the Hackensack Riverkeeper.

For complete application criteria, contact Hugh Carola at hugh@hackensackriverkeeper.org. Applications must be postmarked no later than April 23, and the winner will be announced by June 1.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Volunteer hours are (over)due; please remit now!

By Donna Karpel

Your 2017 volunteer hours were due in January. The process to report is simple, and you don't need a password to download the reporting forms from the home page of our [website](#).

Again, we use the information from the V&EAR 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.

(Continued on page 4)



Sunshine News

Two members, Patrick Lull and Albina Daukantas, recently experienced some serious medical issues. The good news is they are recovering at home. You can show your support and wish them a speedy recovery by contacting them at their email addresses:

Albina Daukantas: adaukantas@aol.com

Patrick Lull: patricklull@verizon.net

SHOWS, CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

Feb. 17, 9 am - 3 pm: Beekeeping review course in Bordentown

Learn how to start and maintain your own honey bee colony during a “Review of Basic Beekeeping” course at the Rutgers Eco-Complex in Bordentown. The training is intended for first-year beekeepers and people who have previously taken a beginning beekeeping course but don’t have bees yet and would like a review. This training will build confidence and help you prepare before the start of the spring beekeeping season. This course is *not* for anyone who has never taken a beginning course.

Cost: \$195, if you register by Feb. 2; includes continental breakfast and lunch; after that time, the fee is \$210. For more information, directions, and to register online, click [here](#).

A beginner’s beekeeping course will be offered April 19-21 and May 17-19. Click [here](#) for information on the beginner’s course.

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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.

There are two ways to report hours:

1. Excel form: You can use the form on any PC and email it to me. This is the easiest and most accurate way to track hours. Do not create your own spreadsheet as I can’t use it. And no shared drives as I can’t use those either.

2. Paper form: Keep a copy for your records and mail to me at the mailing address on the form.

Both the Excel and paper forms can be found on the right side of the home page of our [website](#) under “Volunteer Reporting Forms.” You can access the forms without a password. If you haven’t downloaded the new forms recently, be sure to download the current versions. The November 2017 Excel form has the most accurate list of approved volunteer sites, which are the only entries that should go under the location column.

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 2017. 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 trips and tours, workshops, and lectures at the MG 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 (even for the MG trips and tours), socializing, tours of other MG gardens, Garden Conservancy open garden tours, online research, and reading (online or magazines, books, etc.).

If you have any questions or need more help, don’t hesitate to contact Donna Karpel at 201-327-8835 or donna9189@gmail.com.

March 3, 9 am - 4:30 pm: Community garden conference at Frelinghuysen

The [Friends of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum](#) and Rutgers Cooperative Extension are sponsoring their 8th annual Community Garden Conference at the arboretum's Haggarty Center, 353 E. Hanover Ave., Morris Township. Keynote speaker is Charlie Monroe, president of the [American Community Gardening Association](#). Topics include weedless gardening; growing strawberries; and pests and diseases of vegetable crops. Attendees are eligible for 5.0 Rutgers Master Gardener CEUs.

Cost: \$60; click [here](#) to register. Snow date is March 4.

March 17, 9 am- 4 pm: Rutgers Home Gardeners School

Be sure to register for the Rutgers Home Gardeners School on Saturday, March 17 in New Brunswick. This day-long event provides expert instruction in the most innovative gardening and landscaping subjects available.

This year the school will offer 38 workshops covering an array of horticulture topics so you can select the two morning and two afternoon workshops that are most relevant to your gardening interests.

Sample workshop topics are: Designing intimate gardens; monarch butterfly update; drip irrigation for your garden; garden equipment 101; beds and borders; all about roses; basic pruning techniques; and composting and good soils. During the one-hour lunch break, two presentations will be given: "Keeping Your Pets Safe and Happy Outdoors" and "The Rutgers MG Program – 34 Years and Growing Strong."

Speakers from Rutgers' commercial horticulture and landscape design programs will participate along with [Rutgers Cooperative Extension](#) (RCE) and [School of Environmental and Biological Sciences](#) (SEBS) faculty and staff, providing the opportunity to learn from the best in the business.

For more information, a description of each workshop, and to register, click [here](#). A book and plant sale are also scheduled.

Cost: \$60 for MGs with copy of your certificate if you register on or before Feb. 28; \$85 after Feb. 28. Additional fees charged for some classes.

Useful links

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

VOLUNTEER SITE NEWS

Hackensack River Greenway

Feb. 1 - 28: Photography exhibit in Teaneck

Photos of the Hackensack River Greenway are on display at the Teaneck Public Library, 840 Teaneck Road, Teaneck. The exhibit consists of Greenway photo panoramas by Peter Goldman; construction of the Topolsky Gardens by Richard Karp; and "Hackensack River Stories" narrative signs by Rick Mills. A reception is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 11 from 1:30 - 3:30 pm in the library atrium.

- **Pat Libutti**

New Jersey Botanical Garden/Skylands

Sunday, Feb. 4, 11 am - 3 pm: Skylands Manor

tours: NJBG volunteer docents lead visitors on a tour of the architecture and history of Skylands Manor.

Cost: \$7 adults; \$5 seniors and students ages 13-18; \$3 ages 6-12; free under 6.

Sunday, Feb. 18, 1 pm: Family winter woodland

hike. Join NJBG hike leaders on an easy, child-friendly hike in the garden's woodlands. Learn a bit about the plants, animals, and geology around you in a hike designed to fit the group. Smaller children may need to be carried. Wear sturdy shoes. Meet at the Carriage House. Rain or snow cancels. Free.

Sunday, Feb. 25, 1 pm: Bergen Audubon presentation

Don Torino, president of the Bergen County Audubon Society, will discuss the many species of birds that were exploited and became endangered. This indoor program will also cover the conservation efforts involved to protect endangered birds helping many make a remarkable comeback. In the Carriage House. Snow cancels. Free.

- **Dania Cheddie**

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.

FARMERS MARKETS

Ramsey Farmers Market, Eric Smith Middle School, 2 Monroe St. www.ramseyfarmersmarket.org
Through March; Sundays 10 am - 2 pm; closed Feb. 18

HORTICULTURE GRAPEVINE

- Feb. 1** **7:30 pm, Garden Club of Harrington Park**, Harrington Park Library, upstairs, 10 Herring St., Harrington Park. Speaker: Dr. Herbert Ling. Topic: Shade gardens.
- Feb. 2** **2 pm, Demarest Garden Club**, Demarest United Methodist Church social hall, 109 Hardenburgh Ave., Demarest. Speaker: Donna Dorsey. Topic: What's new in the garden for 2018.
- Feb. 8** **7 pm, Teaneck Garden Club**, Richard Rodda Center, Room 2B, 250 Colonial Court (enter from Palisade Avenue). Speaker: Paul Sadowski. Topic: Mushrooms - pharma and pariah.
- Feb. 12** **7 pm, Garden Club of Bergenfield**, Coopers Pond Field House, West Church Street, Bergenfield. Topic: Earthworm demonstration by two elementary school students.
- Feb. 13** **7 pm, Ramsey Area Garden Club**, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 55 Wyckoff Ave., corner of Woodland Avenue, Ramsey. Speaker: Janet Schulz. Topic: Down and dirty: How to do it in the shade.
- Feb. 14** **7:30 pm, Garden Club of Oakland**, Oakland Senior Center, 20 Lawlor Drive. Speaker: Mary Jo Sichak, club member. Topic: Garden safari photo presentation of wildlife living or passing through her garden.
- Feb. 20** **7:45 pm, Glen Rock Garden Club**, Glen Rock Municipal Annex, 678 Maple Ave., Glen Rock. Speaker: Paul Kubarych, landscape architect. Topic: Invasive plants.
- Feb. 21** **7 pm, Hasbrouck Heights Garden Club**, Hasbrouck Heights Library meeting room, 320 Boulevard. Speaker: Kathleen Sullivan. Topic: Plants from the 18th Century to World War 1.
- Feb. 21** **7:30 pm, Allendale Garden Club**, Brighton Gardens, 5 Boroline Road, Saddle River. Speaker: Sonja Clark, Suez Water Co. Topic: Xeriscaping and water conservation.

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

- 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.

The Master Gardeners of Bergen County doesn't share or sell its email/mailling 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.

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