



From the Potting Shed June 2018

Master Gardeners of Bergen County

SAVE THE DATE

**Annual Master Gardener picnic
Tuesday, June 12
noon-2 pm**

**Van Saun Park, 216 Forest Ave., Paramus
Pavilion 1**
(next to Walden Pond and before the Howland
Avenue exit)



Time for fun and food with friends at our annual MG picnic. And you can bring your spouse. The MG of BC will provide entrees and beverages. Members should bring appetizers and desserts.

- Last names starting with A to M: Bring a dessert.
- Last names starting with N to Z: Bring an appetizer.

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

Contents	Page
MG of BC News	2-3
Agriculture News	4
Shows, Conferences & Workshops	4-5
Volunteer Site News	5-6
Farmers Markets	6
Horticulture Grapevine	7

Links are clickable and are noted in **blue**.

From the President's Desk

By Carolyn Gretchen

How nice to jointly share our April meeting with the MGs of Passaic County. We received such lovely compliments about the warm welcome they received. This is becoming a much-anticipated annual event. Thank you MGs of BC for being so gracious.



The Class of 2018 is off to a great start with its projects. Special thanks to Karen Riede for giving her time and energy on Fridays to get this going. We have nine groups of two to three students each creatively working together to display their projects at the Bergen County Fall Festival Sept. 29-30 at Van Saun Park. I'd like to also thank an MG who generously gives of his talents at so many events and has provided professional signs and literature for this event. Thank you Jeff Chan for your loyal support of this festival.

I think we can agree that our spring has been less than a sunny gardener's delight. But here comes June. You can still plant your container gardens, fill in your borders with annuals, and delight in your favorite perennials. BTW, have you thought about your garden or container pot color schemes this year? Do you use the color wheel? Part of the fun is trying new things. One of the latest is monochromatic displays.

I'm delighted to report that our latest special project, the NJ Veterans Home in Paramus, has begun. [See story on page 3.] We spent a day shopping for plants with Susan and Anthony, staff supervisors at the home. As a result, we planted approximately a dozen pots in the TV garden. We also cleaned the area and put in a small butterfly garden. This was all done in time for the families to spend some outdoor time with their vets during warmer weather and especially for Memorial Day.

There's much more to do, and we'll be asking you to help. You'll be so inspired to see the dedication and joy the staff exhibits to these special men and women who served our country through several wars.

Nick Polanin, the chair of the Rutgers Department of Agriculture and coordinator for the state's ag agents, reported that the videos from Jazzing Up Your Garden Knowledge are available on YouTube.

(Continued on page 2)

To view them, click [here](#); then click on “Diagnostics - Advanced Training for Rutgers Master Gardeners” to select your video. (There are six titles listed on the right side of the screen.) Master Gardeners can get up to three CEU credits by watching these videos.

But we can't be all work and no play. Be sure to join us at noon Tuesday, June 12 for our annual picnic at Van Saun Park, Pavilion 1, near Walden Pond. All are welcome. Don't forget to visit the Presby Memorial Iris Gardens, 474 Upper Mountain Ave., Upper Montclair. They should be at their peak around Memorial Day and early June. Enjoy this beautiful month of June!

MG OF BC NEWS



A first for New Jersey and for the MG of BC
Carolyn Gretchen, left MG of BC president, presented a flower arrangement to Janet Schulz, Class of 1988, at the May meeting to honor Janet's 30 years of membership in our organization. Bergen County was the first MG organization in the state so this is the first time any MG has attained the 30-year mark.

Award for Excellence winners: Dania and Janet



Dania Cheddie, Class of 2013, and Janet Schulz, Class of 1988, were selected as the 2018 MG of BC Award for Excellence winners. They, along with winners from the other counties, will receive certificates at the annual Rutgers MG conference Oct. 6 in New Brunswick.

Janet Schulz, left, and Dania Cheddie

The following information will help you get to know Bergen's Award for Excellence winners.

Dania Cheddie

Dania, who lives in Teaneck, is the site coordinator for the NJ Botanical Garden/Skylands. In the past, she has volunteered at Garretson Forge and Farm. “For me, fragrance is a must for both indoor and outdoor plants,” she said. Her indoor plants, she said, are primarily tropical, such as gardenias, jasmines, violets, and camellias.

She described her outdoor gardening style as a combination of cottage style and formal. “I love the casualness of the cottage garden, while at the same time I do like the formality of roses edged by dwarf boxwoods.

“My outdoor garden is filled with lilacs, roses, daphnes, oriental lilies, peonies, camellias, and other fragrant plants,” she continued. “When I had a pond, I enjoyed water lilies and other plants. Over the years, my garden has changed and now includes a variety of hydrangeas, which allows me to have plants from early spring with lilacs and lenten roses, to late fall with beautiful PeeGee hydrangeas.”

Of the MG of BC Dania said, “I have met many wonderful people during the MG class and after. Many of these gardeners generously share their tips and plants with others.” Dania is also involved with the New York Botanical Garden and Wave Hill, and she is a member of the Teaneck Shade Tree Advisory Board.

Dania belongs to the Autism Special Interests Forum, a member group of the Association for Childhood Education International, an organization of professionals that focuses on ways to continue to grow opportunities for individuals with autism and other special needs. As a retired New York City Department of Education principal this area is of great interest to her.

In addition to gardening, Dania loves to travel, and she and her husband now travel overseas at least twice a year. Of course, she tries to visit gardens whenever possible. She also enjoys reading books about gardening, DIY projects, and biographies.

Janet Schulz

Janet, a resident of Wyckoff, said she loves “anything garden related” and calls herself a shade gardener because that's what her property dictates. Her current favorite plants are Hellebores. She's also a collector of hostas, Arisaema, and “any woodland plant I can find.”

(Continued on page 3)

She has been editing the *Potting Shed* for almost three years. "Being a Master Gardener gives me an opportunity to first give back to the community but also mingle and learn from my peers," she said. "Year ago I co-chaired one of the fairs held at McFaul as well as worked on the de-registered [MG volunteer site] Russell Gardens in Wyckoff."

A former teacher at the Ridgewood Community School, Janet worked for 40 years in the garden center industry and retired as the wholesale manager of D'Angelo Farms.

Janet tells a story about her favorite plant. About 15 years ago she visited a specialty nursery and saw a plant in a gallon pot she had to have. "I knew nothing about it but it was different than anything I had ever seen so — being a plant collector — I picked it up and went to check out. The cashier said \$100, so I turned around to return it to where I found it. This earned me a reputation in the Hosta Society for being frugal. A few years later I was given one as a gift from a young nurseryman who appreciated all the back issues [10 years] of the Hosta Journal I had saved. Today Arelia elegantissima is a show stopper of an understory tree in the center of my garden."

Janet is a member of the Hosta Society, Wyckoff Area Garden Club (and has served as club president), and was director of District 1 of the New Jersey Garden Club from 2009-2011. She is a member of Advent Lutheran Church, Wyckoff. Janet also enjoys knitting. She and her husband Ted have four children, four grandchildren, and are expecting their fourth great-grandchild.

Good day sunshine at Overpeck Park



After many days of rain the sun came out along with area residents for the May 20 Earthfest at Overpeck Park. During this well-attended event sponsored by the Bergen County Parks Department and Hackensack Riverkeeper, MGs answered questions and distributed materials on good gardening practices. From left: Jeffrey Chan, Edith Terzano, Donna Dorgan, Peter Bernich, and Smadar Shemmesh.

Special project: NJ VA Home in Paramus



From left: Anthony Elia and Susan Moran, both on staff at the NJ Veterans Home, and MGs Dennis Gretchen and Carolyn Gretchen at Rohsler's Allendale Nursery.

Carolyn and Dennis Gretchen have begun a special project at the NJ Veterans Home in Paramus, the first step in what they visualize as a five-year plan to enhance the landscaping to benefit its men and women residents.

Carolyn, MG of BC president, reported that the first phase of the project involved planting butterfly-friendly shrubs/flowers in what she called the TV garden, which is outside the building's dayroom. The dayroom, with its floor-to-ceiling windows, provides a great view of the garden for those residents who can't go outdoors.

Planning started a few months ago when Carolyn cold-called Susan Moran, supervisor of volunteers at the VA Home, to introduce herself and discuss the possibility of having MGs landscape the site as well as offer horticultural therapy to the residents. There are more than 300 residents at the facility. The offer, Carolyn said, was well-received. She created a budget, Dennis created a site plan and, with the help of Susan Moran; Anthony Elia, supervisor of recreation; and the approval of the VA Home's Board of Trustees, the plan blossomed, so to speak.

Their first purchases were made at Rohsler's Allendale Nursery, a vendor approved by the facility. Then Carolyn and Dennis installed the plants in the TV garden along with wind chimes and flags so residents can enjoy sight, smell, sound, and touch.

Among the tasks for the future are working in groups and/or with veterans who may be willing and able to work in the four wheelchair-height raised beds built by Jersey Cares. The VA Home is located off East Ridgewood Avenue across from New Bridge Medical Center.

AGRICULTURE NEWS



From top, deer tick; middle row, poppy seeds for size comparison; bottom row, adult male and female longhorned ticks.

Longhorned ticks found in 3 NJ counties

The longhorned tick, which was identified in Hunterdon County late last year, was recently found in Union and Middlesex counties by animal health experts. It's also been found in Virginia and West Virginia.

The longhorned tick is not native to the United States. However, it's a serious threat to livestock in Australia, New Zealand, and countries of eastern Asia and it could pose a risk to livestock in the Garden State. It's the most widespread tick species on wild and domestic animals in Japan. Animal health authorities are still investigating exactly how the longhorned tick entered the United States. Some possible methods of entry include entering on domestic pets, such as dogs; horses; livestock; or humans.

The tick is a serious pest that can attach itself to various warm-blooded animals to feed. If too many ticks attach themselves to one animal, the loss of blood can kill the animal. Ticks can also spread a variety of diseases. The properties where the tick was found and animals living there were treated to eliminate the tick. The US and NJ Departments of Agriculture "will continue to monitor wildlife, livestock, and horses in the local area for these ticks. Our primary goal is to prevent the spread of the

tick, stop it from becoming established in NJ, and keep it out of the rest of the country," according to the USDA.

The adult longhorned tick is dark brown in color and grows to the size of a pea when it's full of blood.

If you find a suspected longhorn tick on you, your pets, horses, livestock, or hunter-harvested deer, animal health officials ask that you collect the tick for animal health officials to identify.

- Place the tick in a snack or sandwich-size Ziploc bag along with a small stamp size piece of moistened tissue paper and seal it. *Do not use tape to secure the tick.*
- Call the New Jersey Tick Line at 1-833-NEW-TICK (833-639-8425).

For additional information about the longhorned tick in New Jersey, click [here](#).

- Information provided by the USDA.

SHOWS, CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

**Save the date: Saturday, Oct. 6
for Rutgers MG conference**

The early bird snags the conference registration. "Plants: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow" is the theme of the Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey's 2018 Annual State Conference scheduled from 8 am-3:30 pm Oct. 6 at the Cook Student Center, 59 Biel Road, New Brunswick.

The cost is \$40 per person with an optional \$12 box lunch. To register, click [here](#) beginning July 1. The web page currently shows 2017 conference information. It will be updated with 2018 information by July 1.

Featured speakers and their topics:

- **Kirk Brown**, noted garden speaker of Orefield, PA. "Frederick Law Olmsted, American designer of public spaces in the 18th Century: Historical horticulture and plantings linked to modern living." Visit Kirk's [website](#).
- **Leda Meredith**, an authority on foraging and ethnobotany and an instructor at the New York Botanical Garden. "Edible and medicinal plants in the 21st Century." Visit her [website](#).

(Continued on page 5)

- **Captain Bill Sheehan**, Hackensack Riverkeeper, the citizen steward of the Hackensack Watershed. "How it can all go wrong and what to do about it." Visit the Hackensack Riverkeeper [website](#).

And there's more...

- > See a video of the winners of the Annual State Awards given to individuals and teams as nominated by the leadership of each county's Master Gardener program.
- > Earn five CEUs (up from 4.5 last year) toward your Master Gardener education hours.
- > Earn additional CEUs for attending an optional tour of either [Rutgers Gardens](#) or the Living Wall. Make your choice during registration.

VOLUNTEER SITE NEWS

Hackensack River Greenway Through Teaneck

Walk with Claire

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the National Trails Act by walking. Meet in the lobby of the Five Star Residence, 655 Pomander Walk, Teaneck, at 10 am Saturday, June 2 for a walk to the Greenway. Claire Karlick, MG Class of 1998, will lead the walk that will last until noon. Rain cancels.

Medicinal herbs walk and talk

Pat Libutti, MG Class of 2012, will point out native herbs in the Mary Topolsky Garden and discuss their uses from 10 am-noon Saturday, June 9. Some may be called weeds but have been used medicinally. Pat will explain. Meet at the sitting circle of the Mary Topolsky Garden, 640 River Road, Teaneck. Rain cancels.

Volunteers needed for Greenway cleanup

Join like-minded volunteers for a cleanup of the Riverside Drive trail along the Hackensack River. This cleanup — one of several cleanups scheduled during the summer — is from 10 am-noon Saturday, June 16. Meet at the Teaneck Department of Public Works leaf transfer station on Pomander Walk. Click [here](#) for a map of the Greenway, and scroll down for the site map. The leaf transfer station is marked on the lower left of the site map. Bring gloves and loppers or clippers if you have them. Visit the Greenway's [list of events](#) for the dates/places of other cleanups.

New Jersey Botanical Garden/Skylands

Note about parking at NJBG: On Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day, a State Park parking fee of \$5 for New Jersey-registered vehicles and \$7 for non-New Jersey-registered vehicles is charged.

Public Garden Day celebration tour with Edith

MG Dr. Edith Wallace will lead a garden tour at noon Friday, June 1 to celebrate New Jersey Public Garden and Arboretum Day designated by the state Senate and Assembly. Meet at the Carriage House for a short video and see the current blooms. Wear sturdy shoes. The event is free, but donations are welcomed. For more information about the NJBG, click [here](#).

Enjoy a walk with flowers and ferns

Join Darlene Nowak and Sandy Zenkel, wildflower garden volunteers, at 10 am Saturday, June 2 to check out the many delightful flowers and ferns in the shady, wooded wildflower garden. Wear sturdy shoes, and meet at the Carriage House. Rain cancels. Cost: \$5.

Tour Skylands Manor

NJBG volunteer docents will lead visitors on a tour of the architecture and history of Skylands Manor from 11 am-3 pm Sunday, June 3. Cost: \$7 adults; \$5 seniors and students ages 13-18; \$3 ages 6-12; free under 6.

BrassWorks quintet in concert

Enjoy everything from classical to ragtime during a concert by BrassWorks at 6:30 pm Friday, June 8. The concert will be held outdoors, so bring a lawn chair. In bad weather, the concert will be in the Carriage House. Click [here](#) to visit BrassWorks on Facebook. Cost: \$5.

Audubon sponsors bluebird walk

Members of the Bergen County Audubon Society will lead a walk through the gardens and fields to visit the volunteer-installed/monitored/maintained nest boxes and learn why they're important to the Eastern bluebird. The event is at 10 am Sunday, June 10. A plus: Participants will identify the many birds and butterflies found along the way. Meet at the Carriage House. Rain cancels.

The many faces of hostas: From dwarfs to giants

Join Suzy Ludwig of the Tri-State Hosta Society at 1 pm Sunday, June 10 to explore the wonderful world of hostas. Her presentation will take place in the Carriage House. Weather permitting, it will be followed by a tour of the Skylands hosta display garden led by David Chopko, who has managed and developed the garden for NJBG in recent years. Wear sturdy shoes for the tour; rain cancels the outdoor portion of the event. Cost: \$5.

(Continued on page 6)

Father's Day family woodland hike

Come to an easy, child-friendly hike in the garden's woodlands at 1 pm Sunday, June 17. Here you'll learn 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.

Teaneck Creek Conservancy

Learn to identify trees with an arborist

Arborist Ryan Duff of Almstead Tree and Shrub Care Co. will lead a discussion during a nature walk with an emphasis on identifying common trees in our area and in the conservancy, 1 Puffin Way, Teaneck. Time is 10-11 am Saturday, June 16. This is the second of four sessions. Each session focuses on identifying specific trees throughout the seasons. Additional dates are Aug. 18 and Oct. 13. Click [here](#) to visit the Teaneck Creek website.

Enjoy the great outdoors on Habitat Day

Come to Habitat Day from 11 am-3 pm Sunday, June 24 at the conservancy, 1 Puffin Way, Teaneck. Events will include walks and talks in the butterfly garden; walks and talks in the bird garden; information from local nature organizations; kids activities; and volunteer opportunities. A program timeline will be available soon on the Teaneck Creek [website](#).

Thielke Arboretum of Glen Rock

Nosh with nature: Why you should have native edible plants in your garden

Amy Gage, an ecologist and PhD candidate at Rutgers University, will discuss her favorite native edible plants and recipes and will serve prepared samples from 1:30-3:30 pm Saturday, June 16 in the arboretum's new Environmental Education Center, 460 Doremus Ave., Glen Rock. Amy will make recommendations for starting your own native edible landscape while creating wildlife habitat in your backyard.

Amy has worked in both ecological restoration and agriculture, managing Central Park's woodlands and maintaining a hydroponic farm that was a prototype for bringing rooftop agriculture to urban areas. Cost: \$5 for arboretum members; \$8 for non-members. To register, click [here](#).

A native edible plant sale follows the lecture. Consider supporting the local wildlife with these delicious choices: Highbush blueberry, chokeberry, beach plum, ostrich fern, and wild bergamot.

Van Saun Park



How could you not want to welcome Tacoma and Chinook, two mountain lion cubs to their new home at the Bergen County Zoo in Van Saun Park? Admission to the zoo will be free from 10 am-noon Saturday, June 3. And the cubs will be displayed from noon to 2 pm. The park is at 216 Forest Ave., Paramus.

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

Nyack Farmers Market, Main Street parking lot; through Nov. 29; Thursdays, 8 am-2 pm. Information, click [here](#).

Ramsey Farmers Market, Main Street train station; through Nov. 25; Sundays, 9 am-2 pm. Information, click [here](#).

River Vale Farmers Market, 406 Rivervale Road; through Nov. 1; Thursdays, noon-6 pm. Information on Facebook, click [here](#).

Rutherford Farmers Market, Park Avenue at the Williams Plaza; June 29-Oct. 27; Wednesdays, 11 am-6 pm; Saturdays, 8 am-2 pm. Information, click [here](#).

Teaneck Farmers Market, Beverly Road and Garrison Avenue; through Oct. 27; Thursdays, noon-6 pm. Information, click [here](#).

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

No meetings were reported for June. The deadline for the Horticulture Grapevine is the 25th of the prior month.

- Submit information about garden club meetings to Miriam Taub at Miriam.taub@verizon.net.
- Submit information about plant society meetings to Catie Farahat at cwfarahat@scatteringlight.com.

Useful links

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

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.