



From the Potting Shed March 2018

Master Gardeners of Bergen County

SAVE THE DATE

MG meeting – March 27

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

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



Dr. Edith Wallace presents: Everything you wanted to know about lilacs

Dr. Edith Wallace, MG Class of 1998, will present an in-depth study of lilacs. Through her volunteering efforts and time spent with professional gardeners,

Edith discovered her passion for lilacs — so much so that in time she was known to everyone as the “lilac lady.”

Edith has aided in the identification, labeling, mapping, surveying, photographing, and maintenance of the lilac garden at the New Jersey Botanical Garden/Skylands.

Edith will share her knowledge of lilacs, acquired primarily at the NJBG, and will describe some of her mishaps with these fragrant plants. Lilac selection, identification, types of lilacs, care, pruning, propagation, and visiting lilacs in other gardens will be included.

Edith received her Ph.D. in zoology from Rutgers University. She has received numerous awards, such as the 2011 Bergen County Audubon Society Harold Feinberg Conservation Award; 2012 Rutgers Volunteer of the Year; 2013 Women & Wildlife Service Award of the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ; and the 2013 NJBG/Skylands Volunteer of the Year.

For more information about Edith, visit her [website](#).

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

From the President's Desk



After a long wait, it's coming! Can you feel it? Can you smell it? Yes, our earth is warming; spring is on its way. You already may see some signs. Are your crocuses up and blooming? Are your hostas beginning to poke through?

There's plenty to be done, but don't rush. Let your soil dry out a bit because working on soggy ground causes it to compact, which will not allow for water and air to penetrate. Meanwhile, it's a great time to clean out your beds and borders, lay down organic materials, add new mulch, and generally tidy up. If you're maintaining a traditional lawn, it's time to thatch, feed, and resow or reurf worn patches. You can also separate your perennials that have wintered over.

Don't forget to feed your senses as well. The garden shows are in full swing. If you missed the NJ Flower and Garden Show, you still have several other opportunities:

- [PHS Philadelphia Flower Show](#), Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia; March 3 - 11;
- [Rutgers Home Gardeners School](#), New Brunswick; Saturday, March 17; and
- [Monmouth County Master Gardeners' School Garden Conference](#), Freehold; Friday, March 23.

You can also gain some volunteer hours by participating in our outreach opportunities, especially for Earth Day. (See article on page 3.) Then, contact Mark Penchinar, community outreach chair, at penchymd@gmail.com if you're interested in volunteering.

Happy gardening!

- Carolyn Gretchen



Meet Jean Friedman, Class of 2004

By *Miriam Taub*

Jean Friedman, an accountant turned landscape designer, grew up in a concrete jungle: Brooklyn Prospect Park, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and the

Brooklyn Museum were practically in her back yard. She was six subway stops from Manhattan and three miles from the beach. As a teen, she said, she could “get on a bus and go” wherever she wanted.

Fast forward to the 1980s. Jean, now a widow living in New Jersey, worked as an accountant for British Airways. One of the perks was the inexpensive airfare. As a result, she flew all over the world, acquiring an education in art by frequenting museums and observing architecture. By visiting these places, as well as gardens and zoos, she developed an awareness of color and design.

Jean’s life took a turn the night she and a friend went to a French restaurant in Teaneck. There, at the bar, they met two men. One of them, Arnie Friedman, would become her husband (and they would later be the first couple to go through the Master Gardener program together). Jean and Arnie discovered they both had a passion for travel. The first year they met, Jean recalled, they flew to Europe five times. They’ve been married 32 years.

Jean joined Arnie at the home he owned in Englewood. They had plenty of outdoor space but while Arnie liked woody plants, Jean’s opinion was they offered “no color.” It was there they started their first garden on a 10-by-10-foot plot with a little wall. It was also where they had their two daughters: Sara, 31, teaches special-needs adults, and Morgan, 28, manages a Residence Inn by Marriott in Saddle River. It was also where Jean decided to complete the formal education she started years before at Brooklyn College. She enrolled in St. Peter’s College in Englewood Cliffs where she got a degree in accounting.

Meanwhile, Jean was getting more involved in gardening. She’d visit a nursery, pick out what she liked, read labels, and plant accordingly. After 15 years in Englewood, the Friedmans moved to Upper Saddle River for the schools. They had an offer on their Englewood home in two days; Jean was convinced the landscaping sealed the deal.

However, the property they found in USR looked like “Tobacco Road,” her recalled. Much of the yard was paved over and plants grew through the roof. Yet, she and Arnie saw the property’s potential. Over the years, they’ve had to adjust the landscaping to accommodate the deer (sometimes six to eight at a time), groundhogs, and rabbits.

Once, she said, she bought a particular variety of sunflower, installed it on the deck, and in the time it took her to change out of her gardening clothes, the sunflower had been eaten. While a deer-resistant garden is less colorful, she said, the newer plantings have staying power. Jean recommended osmanthus, hydrangea, lilacs, and peonies. For containers she recommended petunias, tuberous begonias, and vincas.

Jean’s life took another turn when, in 2003 or 2003, during a visit to the New York Botanical Garden, a friend suggested she become a landscape designer. As a result, Jean decided to take her passion for garden design to the next level. She (and Arnie) enrolled in the landscape design program at the NYBG. She hadn’t yet received her certificate when she and Arnie answered a bulletin board ad in 2003: A couple in Alpine was seeking landscaping help with their large property. Through that first client, Jean acquired others. She explained that she creates garden designs, stages houses, fashions holiday lighting, and does “lots and lots” of containers including those up to 8 by 10 feet in size. “If I need the hardscape,” she added, “I hire my husband.” (By this time, Arnie had his own landscape business, Landscapes by Design.)

Jean enrolled in the MG Class of 2004 at the suggestion of Risa Marlen, her friend and former MG of BC member, now in Florida. Jean volunteers at the Thielke Arboretum where she loves working with children. She described her work at Thielke as “an education for the kids and an education for me.” She spent four years as treasurer of the MG of BC and one year as chair of the Skylands Holiday Open House.

Besides gardening and travel, Jean’s other interests include cooking, mah jongg, and flower arranging (she’s taken classes). Her tip: You need the right container. The Friedmans spacious home accommodates their daughters; Morgan’s husband Shannon; a poodle; and a cockatiel.

To read an interview with Arnie, see the November 2014 issue of the Potting Shed on our [website](#).

Useful links

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

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Membership dues are due

Don't let your MG of BC membership lapse. Click [here](#) to download the membership renewal form for 2018. Mail the completed form with your check for \$20, made payable to 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 as donations are welcome.

Volunteers: Earth Day events are calling

By Mark Penchinar

MGs: We need your help at the following three Earth Day events. Remember you get volunteer hours for your participation. To volunteer, contact me at 551-486-2037 or email penchymd@gmail.com.

- **Sunday, April 15:** Party for the Planet Earth Day at the Bergen County Zoo at Van Saun Park, Paramus; 10 am - 4 pm as well as set-up before 10 am;
- **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.

VOLUNTEER SITE NEWS

MG volunteer sites: The latest list!

*Put down those seed catalogs and get out your shovels, trowels, and rakes. You probably have a favorite volunteer site or two but, apropos of a new season, how about exploring at least one new site this year. Contacts with an * before their name are not MGs.*

Butterfly and Native Garden, Overpeck Park

40 Fort Lee Road, Leonia
Tuesday 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

Contacts: Pat Knight, 201-848-0069
gspmk@hotmail.com

*Don Torino, president of Bergen County Audubon
greatauk4@gmail.com

Davies Arboretum & Wildlife Preserve

49 Anderson Road, Demarest
Monday 9:30 am

Contacts: Jessica Wang, 201-600-8495
jessica007wang@gmail.com

Joanne Holmberg
joalholmberg@hotmail.com

Flat Rock Brook Nature Center

443 Van Nostrand Ave., Englewood
Tuesday 9 - 11 am

Contacts: *Kathy Silberstein, 201-894-8221
kathy644@aol.com

*Cynthia Sumner
tiarella2@yahoo.com

Garretson Forge & Farm

4-02 River Road, Fair Lawn
Thursday 10 am - 2 pm

2nd and 4th Sunday 1 - 4 pm

Contact: Lida Gellman, 201-461-4204
lb922@aol.com

Hackensack River Greenway

1404 (approximately) River Road, Teaneck
Various days and times

Contact: Richard Karp, 201-357-4048
richk1201@mac.com and/or
meadowlark@optonline.net

The Hermitage

335 N. Franklin Turnpike, Ho-Ho-Kus
Tuesday and Wednesday 9:30 am - noon

Contact: Kathleen Sullivan, 201-934-7595
kmsrhc@verizon.net

Master Gardener Helpline, RCE Office

1 Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack
Monday - Thursday (April - October) 10 am - noon

Contact: Karen A. Riede, 201-336-6788
karen.riede@rutgers.edu

McFaul Environmental Center

150 Crescent Ave., Wyckoff
Wednesday 8:30 am - noon

Contact: Joseph Cooper, 201-666-5111
joseph@MGofBC.org

Email to confirm seasonal start and stop dates.

New Bridge Medical Center

230 E. Ridgewood Ave., Paramus
Various days and times

Contact: *Ilona Toth Robinson, 732-307-4091
irobinson@newbridgehealth.org and/or
heddyharvests@gmail.com

New Jersey Botanical Garden

(GPS information) 2 Morris Road, Ringwood
Wednesday 9 am - noon

Contact: Dania Cheddie, 201-803-4029
compnet299@optonline.net

(List continued on page 4)

Teaneck Creek Conservancy

20 Puffin Way, Teaneck
Wednesday 9 - 11 am
Contact: Denise Slusarev, 917-975-1400
fionaalex@optonline.net

Thielke Arboretum at Glen Rock

460 Doremus Ave., Glen Rock
Tuesday and Saturday 9 am - noon, March - October
Contacts: Bill Gilligan, 201-444-0235
gilliqbg@yahoo.com
*Naomi Gamorra, 201-670-3847, 201-321-5096
greendog03@optonline.net
*Jean Epiphan
jnepiphan@glenrockarboretum.org

Van Saun County Park

216 Forest Ave., Paramus
Monday 9 am - noon
Contact: Cliff Gerenz, 201-791-0293
cgerenz@msn.com

Washington Spring Garden at Van Saun Park

216 Forest Ave., Paramus
Thursday 9 am - noon
Contact: Suzanne Danzig, 201-218-5093
suzannedanzig@gmail.com

Garretson Farm

Volunteers needed for pea planting and other things

[Garretson Forge and Farm](#), 4-02 River Road, Fair Lawn, will kick off the season with its annual Pea Day planting from 1 - 4 pm Sunday, March 18.

After that, regular MG volunteer hours will begin Thursday, March 22 from 10 am - 2 pm and every Thursday thereafter. We also meet from 1 - 4 pm on the second and fourth Sundays. The group meets rain or shine since Garretson has a small greenhouse and plenty to do even in inclement weather. Bring gloves and small hand tools (pruners and trowels); we have the rest.

This is a great opportunity for Class of 2018 members to begin your required hours. Contact Lida Gellman at LB922@aol.com if you have any questions. Hope to see you soon!

- Lida Gellman

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A chip off the old block

Arianna Lindberg, Student Farm manager of Rutgers Gardens, demonstrates making soil blocks in which to start seeds. She spoke at our February meeting on the topic of a year in the life of a vegetable garden. Click [here](#) to visit the Student Farm at Rutgers Gardens.

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Garretson seed library opens March 10

The Garretson Community Seed Library will open for the season Saturday, March 10 with a workshop and lecture. Master Gardeners Liz Scholl and Heidi Vandiver (a Rockland County MG) will lead a hands-on, seed-starting workshop at 10 am. They will demonstrate the use of repurposed materials for planting; participants will leave with some started seeds as well as the knowledge to start a variety of easy-to-propagate vegetables, herbs, and flowers from seed. The workshop is free for members; a \$5 donation is requested from non-members. Register for the workshop by sending an email to Liz Scholl at lizscholl21@gmail.com.

At 11 am, Jeff Quattrone, founder of [Library Seed Bank](#) in South Jersey, seed-saving activist, and artist will speak about the importance of preserving heirloom seed varieties and seed saving. Jeff will also have some of his food sovereignty artwork and products for sale. Visit his Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/libraryseedbank/>.

Seeds will be available starting at noon.

The event is free to the public. Garretson members have access to a huge selection of free heirloom and organic seeds donated by [Seed Savers Exchange](#), [High Mowing Organic Seeds](#), and others. A limited number of seeds will be available for non-members. You can become a member at the event (\$15 annually).

Once gardening season begins (late March - early April), Garretson's Community Seed Library will be open from 10 am - 2 pm Thursdays; 1 - 4 pm on the second and fourth Sundays when Garretson is open for tours; and on festival/event days.

For more information, contact Liz Scholl at lizscholl21@gmail.com

- **Liz Scholl**

Pop-up seed library at the Ramsey Farmers Market March 4

Garretson will sponsor a pop-up seed library at the Ramsey Farmers Market from 10 am - 2 pm Sunday, March 4. The market is held at the Eric Smith School, 2 Monroe St. (off N. Central Avenue). Free seeds and information about Garretson, as well as advice on seed starting from Master Gardeners, will be available.

Thielke Arboretum

April 27: Save the date

Come to the grand opening of the new Environmental Education Center at 1 pm, Friday, April 27 at the Thielke Arboretum, 460 Doremus Ave., Glen Rock. Open houses will be held April 28 and 29. Details will follow in the April *Potting Shed*.

OUT AND ABOUT

Free movies at FLOW Green Film Festival

The Environmental Commissions of Franklin Lakes, Oakland, and Wyckoff (FLOW) in partnership with the Wyckoff Public Library and the Ramapo High School Green Team will sponsor a series of free movies at 7 pm on four consecutive Thursdays. A discussion will follow each film. Refreshments will be available. All films are rated PG-13. The films and their locations are below.

March 1: "Happening: A Clean Energy Revolution":

A scientific adventure about the remarkable monarch butterfly migration and the determined scientist who spent 40 years trying to discover where the butterflies disappeared when they flew south for winter. To visit the film's website, click [here](#). **Discussion:** Sharon Wander, NJ chapter president of the North American Butterfly Association, will present information on nectar plants. **Location:** Wyckoff Public Library, 200 Woodland Ave., Wyckoff.

March 8: "Flight of the Butterflies": This film reveals pioneering renewable-energy solutions, while underscoring notions of human resilience and social justice and shows how politicians, business executives, and activists can work together to make lasting, positive change. To visit the film's website, click [here](#).

Discussion: Meet local vendors and listen to NJ Clean Energy expert Scott Hunter discuss how to reduce energy costs in your home. **Location:** Wyckoff Public Library, 200 Woodland Ave., Wyckoff.

March 15: "Just Eat It: A Food Waste Story": An entertaining look at the culture of excess and our obsession with expiration dates and perfect produce. In a nation where one in 10 people is food insecure, the images of squandered groceries are both shocking and strangely compelling. To watch the trailer, click [here](#).

Discussion: What will the consequences be? Join in the solution as we discuss composting and alternative buying sources. **Location:** Ramapo High School, 331 George St., Franklin Lakes.

March 22: "Biophilic Design: The Architecture of Life": AIA-Architects League of Northern New Jersey will sponsor this film about a design revolution that connects buildings to the natural world, buildings where people feel and perform better — an innovative way of designing the places where we live, work, and learn to include nature. To watch the trailer, click [here](#).

Discussion: Join a conversation with local architects to see how ideas from the film can be used in your home and workplace. **Location:** Wyckoff Public Library, 200 Woodland Ave., Wyckoff.

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

- March 1** **7:30 pm, Garden Club of Harrington Park**, Harrington Park Library, 10 Herring St., Harrington Park. Speaker: Bruce Crawford. Topic: Design principles for down-to-earth gardening.
- March 2** **2 pm, Demarest Garden Club**, United Methodist Church social hall, 109 Hardenburgh Ave., Demarest. Speaker: Ned Devine, [Rosetta's Farm Spices](#). Topic: Misunderstood chili peppers.
- March 8** **7 pm, Teaneck Garden Club**, Richard Rodda Center, multipurpose room 2B, 250 Colonial Court, Teaneck. Speaker: Tony Bracco, [Bracco Farms](#). Topic: Small-farm growing methods in home gardens using organic non-GMO farming discipline.
- March 12** **7:30 pm, Garden Club of Bergenfield**, Cooper's Pond, W. Church Street, Bergenfield. Speaker: Edith Wallace. Topic: The poisoner's garden (with a nod to Agatha Christie).
- March 13** **7 pm, Ramsey Area Garden Club**, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 55 Wyckoff Ave., corner of Woodland Avenue, Ramsey. Speaker: Linda Rohleder, NY-NJ Trail Conference. Topic: Invasive plants.
- March 14** **9:30 am, Garden Club of Oakland, Wyckoff Area Garden Club, and Allendale Garden Club joint meeting**, Wyckoff Public Library, 200 Woodland Ave., Wyckoff. Speaker: Jasmine Moreno, City Green. Topic: Combining edibles and vegetables in our perennial beds.
- March 14** **7:30 pm, Bergen-Passaic Chapter, Native Plant Society of New Jersey**, NY-NJ Trail Conference headquarters, 600 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah. Speaker: Linda Rohleder, NY-NJ Trail Conference. Topic: The steps Linda took to create a native plant garden.
- March 20** **7 pm, Backyard Garden Club**, River Vale Public Library, 412 Rivervale Road, River Vale. Speaker: Lisa Johnson. Topic: A day in the life of a honeybee.
- March 20** **7:45 pm, Glen Rock Garden Club**, Glen Rock Municipal Annex, 678 Maple Ave., Glen Rock. Speaker: Walter Perry, Perry's Florist & Gardens. Topic: Getting seeds started.
- March 21** **7 pm, Hasbrouck Heights Garden Club**, Hasbrouck Heights Library meeting room, 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights. Speaker: Julienne Watson, R&S Landscaping. Topic: Wake up your garden.
- March 21** **7:30 pm, Allendale Garden Club**, Brighton Gardens, 5 Boroline Road, Saddle River. Speaker: Rachel DeFlumeri. Topic: Controlling garden pests and diseases with minimal environmental impact.

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.