



# From the Potting Shed June 2019

Master Gardeners of Bergen County

## SAVE THE DATES

Several conferences of interest to Master Gardeners have been scheduled in the next few months. Here's a preview so you can mark your calendar.

### Tick training at Rutgers

Start your summer with a one-day training program titled "Ticks and insects of interest" sponsored by Rutgers Cooperative Extension and the Rutgers Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The training will be from 9 am-3 pm Wednesday, June 19 at the Rutgers University Busch Campus Student Center, 604 Bartholomew Road, Piscataway.

Training is free, but you must register online in advance as well as register your vehicle so



Rutgers, NJ AES photo  
From left deer tick, lone star tick, American deer tick.

you can park on campus. Enrollment is limited to 112 participants. Earn 4 Rutgers MG CEUs for attending.

Topics to be discussed are East Asian longhorn tick discovery; disease vectors in NJ: ID and biology; tick-borne disease prevention for humans; and ticks and animals. The training is intended for MGs, MG coordinators, and RCE staff and faculty. Among the speakers are Dina Fonseca, PhD, director, Rutgers Center for Vector Biology.

Click [here](#) to register. Again, the training is free. You must bring your own lunch; coffee will be provided. Register your vehicle with Rutgers Parking prior to the event by clicking [here](#). No walk-in registrations will be permitted. Contact [Madeline Flahive DiNardo](#), RCE Union County, for more information.

### Rutgers MG Association of NJ annual conference

**Date:** Saturday, Oct. 5

**Theme:** How did climate change my garden. Earn 5 Rutgers MG CEUs for attending.

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### Jersey-Friendly Yards conference

**Date and time:** Saturday, October 19, 8:30 am-3:30 pm

**Theme:** Putting your Jersey-friendly yard into practice

**Location:** Gateway Building, Ocean County College, Lot 1, College Drive, Toms River.

This year's conference will feature two speakers plus a session of workshops about how to make your yard more Jersey-friendly. NJ growers will bring a selection of native plants in time for fall planting. Click [here](#) to visit the conference website. **Note:** There's limited information on the website at this time.

### From the President's Desk

**By Carolyn Gretchen**

June is officially "Get Outdoors" month. For Master Gardeners, that can mean exploring far and wide.



Love those butterflies? Then you won't want to miss opening day, June 15, at the [Kate Gorrie Butterfly House](#) in Pennington (Mercer County). Both public and private naturalist-led tours are available. Or, perhaps, you'd prefer a leisurely stroll through one of the beautiful gardens scattered throughout our state. [Deep Cut Gardens](#), a 54-acre garden, is part of the Monmouth County Park System and is free to the public. You can visit the gardens at 152 Red Hill Road, Middletown.

Speaking of getting outdoors, we're going to do that at our June change-of-venue MG BBQ at Rohsler's Allendale Nursery. We hope to see you there June 4, rain or shine. Special thanks to our own Hank Annunziata, Suzanne Danzig, Donna Karpel, and Dennis Gretchen for putting this event together for us. Thanks also to Miriam Taub, for her clever "eat, shop, learn" write-up highlighting the day's events. Check the May *Potting Shed* for details.

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We owe a debt of gratitude to the Bylaws Revision Committee — Edith Wallace/chairperson, Arnie Friedman, Carolyn Gretchen, Barbara Johansson, Karen Pennell, and Janet Schulz — for their dedicated work on the draft revisions, and to our board for its efforts at our May meeting. This is not an easy task.

We are now officially experiencing “good growing” weather. June is one of the best months in our own gardens. The summer borders are filling in with brilliant colors and beautiful foliage. It’s also a time to go around your garden to see what improvements you’d like to make for the future. It is much easier to visualize that now, when things look fresh and bright. Let your imaginations run free. It doesn’t cost anything to dream. Enjoy gardening!

## MG OF BC NEWS

### A word or two about our Award for Excellence winners



Donna Faustini (right), Class of 2012, and Miriam Taub, Class of 2011, are the MG of BC winners of the 2019 Award for Excellence. They, along with winners from the other counties, will be

recognized at the annual Rutgers Master Gardener Association of NJ Annual State Conference Oct. 5. The MG of BC board chooses the winners by vote. Award winners must be members in good standing who have made significant contributions to the MG of BC.

#### **Donna Faustini**

Following a long career in nursing, working in hospitals, clinics, post op, intensive care, and finally school nursing, Donna retired and decided to pursue an all-time passion for gardening. She recalled that both sets of grandparents were gardeners; her maternal grandparents had a farm in Carrollton, PA, where she spent summer vacations. She recalled her time there as “especially vivid... full of petunias, meadows,

vegetables, and the cows, sheep, chickens, cats, and dogs.”

Donna has volunteered in the state greenhouse at Skylands. “It was quite an experience watching everything grow from tiny seeds to flourishing plants and readying them for their outside adventure,” she said. She also volunteers at Bergen New Bridge Medical Center where she helps coordinate the center’s plant sales and makes floral arrangements and baskets, the proceeds of which go toward programs for the residents.

She also assists at the VA Home in Paramus, the special project started last year by Carolyn and Dennis Gretchen. “We do some horticultural therapy and hands-on projects. We had the residents do some winter container gardening and what a yield we had,” she reported.

Currently, Donna arranges the programs for our monthly MG meetings, and she’s always looking for new speakers, new ideas, and current trends. And, she said, though it’s a fun job it’s sometimes challenging, too. Donna helps with the garden club tea held at 1 Bergen County Plaza every other year for local garden clubs to share information about speakers.

Donna and her husband, Richard, who owns Faustini’s Institute of Martial Arts and Fitness in Emerson, have four grown daughters. “We’re all black belts,” she reported. Donna has lived in Montvale for 34 years, which was “full of farms back then,” she noted. “Things have changed. All the farms are just about gone. Deer and coyotes have moved in, so gardening has changed, too. I am up for that challenge with deer spray in hand,” she said.

#### **Miriam Taub**

Miriam is the organization’s corresponding secretary, garden club liaison, and co-editor of the *Potting Shed*, and, over the past three years, she has interviewed several dozen MGs for what she calls the “MG of the month” column.

Miriam was inspired to enroll in the Class of 2011 when volunteering at the Teaneck Creek Conservancy where several MGs were earning their volunteer hours and they spoke to her about the program. She admitted to some hereditary influence, too. Her late father, Irving Taub, spent many years as a florist starting as a teen, and was a wizard with houseplants. Once, she said, he found a sad-looking spilt leaf philodendron on a sidewalk in New York awaiting a sanitation pickup. “He brought it home on the bus, nursed it back to health, and it spent many happy years in our living room,” she recalled.

However, “I did not get the houseplant gene, and many an indoor plant has died on my watch,” she added.

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Instead, Miriam prefers outdoor gardening. Over the years — with occasional help from landscaper Arnie Friedman — they have changed the front and back yards of her Teaneck home. As with many gardens, she referred to her yard as a work in progress. Last year's project was the installation of a "meadow" in her side yard.

Miriam, who's retired, had volunteered exclusively at the Teaneck Creek Conservancy. In the fall of 2015, Miriam found her way to Janet Schulz to complain that a change she wasn't happy with was made to an article she'd written for the *Potting Shed*. Janet's solution was for Miriam to volunteer to edit the newsletter. It was a good fit since Miriam spent the first part of her career in the daily newspaper business followed by managing the writing and distribution of human resources-related communications for Citigroup.

### Honoring 30 years of service



Janet Schulz (left) received a certificate honoring her 30 years of service to the MG of BC from Carolyn Gretchen, MG of BC president. Janet, a member of the Class of 1988 and co-editor of the *Potting Shed*, was recognized last year. The 30-year pin and certificate were distributed at the May meeting.

### Figs figs figs figs figs figs figs!

Fig fanatic Jim Cooper, our May speaker, poses with one of the many fig trees he propagates, grows, and sells. Under questioning, he admitted to having more than 75 fig trees on his Old Tappan property. In the winter, he said, he moves those in pots and barrels into his garage. Jim discussed online fig forums; where to buy cuttings and rooted plants; which varieties of figs are suited to our climate;



soil and fertilization; propagation; over-wintering; and the misrepresentation of fig varieties. Want to buy a fig tree? Jim will have a booth near the Nyack Post Office at the Nyack Street Fair July 14.

## HORTICULTURE

### Rutgers NJAES adds videos to its YouTube channel

The Rutgers NJ Agricultural Extension Service has added a playlist for MGs to its YouTube channel containing videos of six speakers recorded during the "jazzing up your garden knowledge" advanced training session held last July. The videos total about 4½ hours of screen time on the following topics:

- Identifying common insects in New Jersey;
- Diagnostic skills for NJ landscape plants;
- Diagnostic skills in vegetable gardens in New Jersey;
- Commonly found pests in NJ vegetable gardens;
- New emerging invasive insect pests in New Jersey; and
- Understanding turfgrass management.

Click [here](#) to visit the Rutgers NJAES playlists page. Then scroll down to the playlist titled "Diagnostics - Advanced Training for Rutgers Master Gardeners." Then click on "View full playlists." On the right side of your screen, you'll see the titles of the six videos and the name of each presenter.

Rutgers NJAES has 24 other playlists on the playlists page. Within each, you'll see a list of videos. For example, the "Master Gardeners" playlist includes information about tools for weed identification and the Rutgers IPM program, among other topics.

## OUT AND ABOUT

### Frelinghuysen Arboretum

*Frelinghuysen Arboretum is located at 353 E. Hanover Ave., Morris Township. All events are held in the Haggarty Center. Visit the [website](#).*

### Four seasons perennial gardening

Morris County Parks Commission specialist Catherine Allison will share her tips on planning a four-season perennial garden, deer resistant plants, *(Continued on page 4)*

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fertilizing, pruning, and more. Her lecture will be from 1-2 pm Sunday, June 9.

**Cost:** \$12 members/\$15 non-members. For more information or to register, call the arboretum at 973-326-7601. There's no online registration for this event.

### **The art of topiary design**

Marge Hulstrunk, a professional floral designer will demonstrate several different topiary designs that you can re-create for your home or special event using a variety of materials. She'll share tips and show how to make styles suitable for many occasions from casual to formal. You'll make your own topiary at the end of this demonstration from 7-8:30 pm Tuesday, June 18.

A raffle will follow, and the winners will each take home one of Marge's creations.

**Cost:** \$20 members/\$25 non-members. *Register by June 10.* To register, click [here](#). Then scroll down to June 18 in the left column.

### **Creating a succession of bloom in the native garden**

To attract and support pollinators, a succession of bloom is a must in any landscape. From early spring through late fall, different species of pollinators look for different types of plants at different times. And, some plants are much more useful to pollinators than others.

Kim Eierman, environmental horticulturist, will explain what you need to know to make your garden beautiful and ecologically supportive throughout the growing season with great choices of native plants. Kim specializes in ecological landscapes and native plants and teaches at the New York Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and other locations around the metropolitan area.

**Cost:** \$20 for members/\$25 for non-members. To register, click [here](#). Then scroll down to June 22 in the left column. Earn 1.5 Rutgers MG CEUs for attending.

### **Hackensack River Greenway through Teaneck**

Come help remove trash and invasives in Andreas Park, Teaneck, from 10 am-noon Sunday, June 2. Park across River Road on West Englewood Avenue, and meet at the Carriage House. Bring gloves, rakes, and/or loppers if you have them. Check the [website](#) for any changes or cancellations due to weather conditions.

### **The Hermitage**

Are motor cars your thing? The NJ Triumph Association will sponsor a show of classic British motor cars and cycles from 9 am-3 pm Saturday, June 8 at the Hermitage, 335 N. Franklin Turnpike, Ho-Ho-Kus.

Admission is \$6 for adults; \$4 for children 6-12; and free for children under 6. Rain date is Sunday, June 9.

### **Laurelwood Arboretum**

Enjoy a free public tour of the arboretum — either by foot or in a motorized cart — at 12:30 pm Sunday, June 16. Walk along the gravel paths of this 30-acre botanically diverse property containing woodland trails and gardens, wildlife, two ponds, a stream, and hundreds of varieties of azaleas, rhododendrons, and other plants and trees. The arboretum is located at 725 Pines Lake Drive West, Wayne. Visit the [website](#).

### **NJ Botanical Garden/Skylands**

*The NJBG is located at 2 Morris Road, Ringwood. On Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day, a State Park parking fee of \$5 for NJ-registered vehicles and \$7 for non-NJ-registered vehicles is charged. Visit the [website](#).*

MG Dr. Edith Wallace will lead a garden tour to celebrate New Jersey Public Garden and Arboretum Day, designated as June 7 by the NJ State Senate and Assembly. View a short video and a display of current blooms in the gardens. Meet at the Carriage House at 1 pm and wear sturdy shoes. The event is free, but donations are welcome.

### **Teaneck Public Library**

The Friends of the Teaneck Public Library will sponsor a screening of "Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret," a feature-length documentary that uncovers the most destructive industry facing the planet today and investigates why the world's leading environmental organizations are too afraid to talk about it.

The film will begin at 2 pm Sunday, June 9 in the library auditorium, 840 Teaneck Road, Teaneck, followed by a talk-back with a dietician who will provide information about a plant-based diet.

The event is a fund-raiser for the library. The suggested donation for guests is \$5. Friends members are asked to "bring a buck for the bucket." You can join the Friends of the Teaneck Library for \$15 on June 9 and receive a free tote bag. All proceeds support Teaneck Library programs.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### See you June 4 at the BBQ!

We look forward to seeing those MGs who RSVP'd at the MG barbecue/lecture Tuesday, June 4 at Rohsler's Allendale Nursery, 100 Franklin Turnpike, Allendale. Rohsler's has ordered food based on the number of respondents as of May 29, the deadline to RSVP. The BBQ will begin at noon and end at 2 pm, but you're welcome to shop as long as you want. *Please consider carpooling to Allendale.*

Attendees are asked to bring appetizers/salads or desserts based on the first letter of your last name.

**A to K: Bring desserts**

**L to Z: Bring appetizers or salads**

In the event of rain, both the BBQ and the lecture will be held in a covered area.

**Lecture:** Eric Rohsler's topic will be unusual native plants. You can receive education hours for attending by listing the lecture on your 2019 volunteer hours spreadsheet.

**Shopping:** You'll get a discount on your purchases above and beyond the usual 10% discount given to MGs.

## FARMERS MARKETS

**Englewood Farmers Market**, Depot Square Park, North Van Brunt Street and Demarest Avenue; through October; Fridays, 11 am-6 pm. Information, click [here](#).

**Fort Lee Farmers Market**, Plaza at the Fort Lee Community Center, 1355 Inwood Ter.; June 30 through Oct. 24; Sundays, 8 am-2 pm.

**Hasbrouck Heights Farmers Market**, Central Avenue and Boulevard; June 18 through October; Tuesdays, noon-6 pm.

**Paramus Farmers Market**, Petruska Park north parking lot, 475 Farview Ave.; through October; Wednesdays, 2-7 pm.

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

**Ridgewood Farmers Market**, train station parking lot, Godwin and West Ridgewood avenues; June 23 through October; Sundays, 9 am-3 pm. Information, click [here](#).

**River Vale Farmers Market**, 406 Rivervale Road; through October; Thursdays, noon-6 pm.

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

### 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 25<sup>th</sup> of the prior month. Submit information about garden club meetings that are open to the public to [Miriam Taub](#).**

**June 10** 7:30 pm, **Garden Club of Bergenfield**, Cooper's Pond, 133-153 W. Church St., Bergenfield. Topic: What's my talent, a presentation by club members.

**June 12** 7:30 pm, **Bergen-Passaic chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Jersey**, NY-NJ Trail Conference headquarters, 600 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah. End-of-year party and plant swap. Bring a snack or drink and some plants to share. Plants must be native to this area and preferably packed bare root rather than in pots. Tour the native plant gardens outside the Trail Conference headquarters. For more information: [bergenpassaic@npsnj.org](mailto:bergenpassaic@npsnj.org).