



WE'RE BAAAACK

Virtual meeting – Tuesday, Sept. 22

Announcements at 7:20 pm; program to follow
See the September mid-month update for instructions to log in

Frank Mortimer presents: Honey — From Flower to Tummy

Honey is one of the world's superfoods. Frank "The Beeman" Mortimer will explore the relationship between bees and flowers and all the steps honeybees take to turn nectar into the only food that will never spoil. In addition to why and how honeybees make honey, Frank will discuss the different forms of honey, its various uses throughout the world, and how honey has been satisfying people's sweet teeth for more than 5,000 years.



Frank Mortimer

Frank is an adjunct instructor in the Cornell University Master Beekeeping Program, has been president of the [Northeast NJ Beekeepers Association](#) since 2011, is vice president of the NJ State Beekeepers Association, and is a certified master beekeeper. He's the author of the upcoming *Bee People and the Bugs They Love* (available in March 2021) and has written articles for *Bee Culture Magazine*.

Frank founded the Honey Cup, an annual honey-tasting competition and has promoted beekeeping throughout the Northeast by speaking to students, garden clubs, and civic organizations. He has led beekeeping seminars across New Jersey and for the NYBG. In addition, he successfully campaigned for his hometown of Ridgewood to become New Jersey's first Bee City USA. Visit his [website](#).

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

From the President's Desk

By Melody Corcoran, Class of 2016

Florida is stealing another Master Gardener from us. Donna Karpel, Class of 2013, is moving south and leaving us behind. She has been our Volunteer Records chair since 2014. Thank you, Donna, for all the hours and years of hard work you have put in to keep our volunteer records in tip-top shape.



Welcome to Autumn O'Shea, our new Volunteer Records chair. Autumn has been a Master Gardener since 2000. She and Karen Riede have been working diligently to get our new volunteer hours recording system, Better Impact, up and running. Thank you, Karen and Autumn, for all your hard work. This new system should be easier for everyone to use.

And thank you to Miriam Taub and Janet Schulz for pulling the rabbit out of the hat and producing information-filled *Potting Sheds* and mid-month updates during the suspension of MG activities. A round of applause for the dynamic duo.

Executive board and general meetings are going virtual. These meetings may be on WebEx or Zoom. The details are still being worked out. Stay tuned for further information.

Event suspensions and site closures for 2020

All in-person events, classes, programs, club meetings, and other group activities organized by or under the auspices of Rutgers Cooperative Extension have been suspended through 2020. This includes all MG meetings and events. MGs are not required to submit volunteer hours for 2020.

FROM THE GREEN SIDE

Vegetable gardens with both substance and style

By Arnie Friedman, Class of 2004

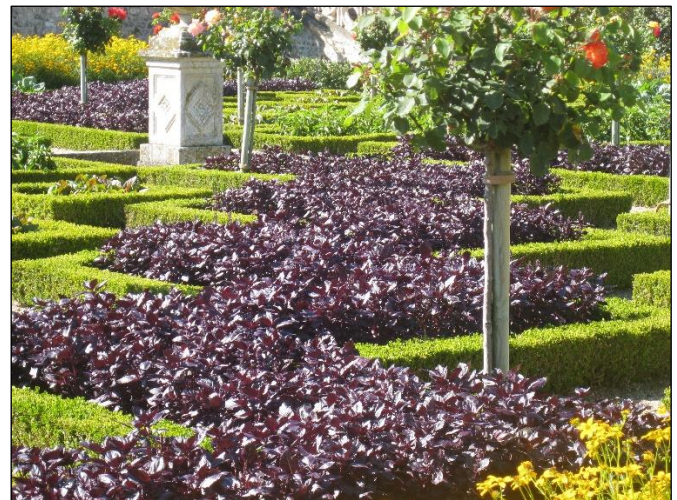
When my wife and I travel we like to tour gardens. Going through my collection of pictures from gardens in Europe I noticed I had some interesting photos of pretty plantings that were very practical using lots of edible plants. Since so many of us have been kept from our yearly vacation travels and instead turned to doing more

edible gardening, I thought I would show how our veggie gardens could take on a more pleasant esthetic. Usually I see people building the typical rectangular garden plot with simple rows of lettuce, cabbage, carrots, and squash growing willy-nilly. So here are some alternatives to inspire you to plan a much prettier edible garden.

Below are two simple garden beds of lettuce and cabbage (left) and kale and kohlrabi and other edibles (right) that I saw at an Austrian garden show a few years ago.



For some real inspiration, below left is a potager [kitchen garden] in the very formal classic style of a French chateau. This garden is at [Chateaux Villandry](#) in France's Loire Valley. Every one of these plants is either edible or has fruit. At right, purple basil adds a great change of color.



Photos by Arnie Friedman

I don't think any of us will venture to build such a grand garden, but seeing these great displays triggers ideas we can use at home — maybe next spring — to add style to our vegetable gardens. Happy gardening!

VOLUNTEER SITE NEWS



Photo by Kathleen Sullivan

Hermitage's oldest tree damaged during Hurricane Isaias

By Kathleen Sullivan, Class of 2010

The 1771 sugar maple at the Hermitage, known to MGs and other volunteers as the George Washington tree, got slammed by Hurricane Isaias and will have to be taken down. The sugar maple was the oldest tree on the grounds of this state park, 335 N. Franklin Turnpike, Ho-Ho-Kus.

The tree got its name because it was a sapling when George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, and the Marquis de Lafayette took four days of rest and relaxation at the Hermitage following the Battle of Monmouth [June 28, 1778] in the Revolutionary War. In modern times, the tree was the centerpiece of the annual maple sugaring event run by MG of BC volunteers in February.

Friends of the Hermitage are hoping to make coasters, trivets, birdhouses, candle holders, and other useful (or beautiful) items to give in return for donations to help reopen the museum.

If you like to work with wood to make useful or decorative objects, please contact [Kathleen Sullivan](#) to learn how you can help. We're also looking for a tree service to donate help and carpenters who can cut the tree into useable sections. All ideas are welcome and all help greatly appreciated.

The grounds of the Hermitage — with its herb and vegetable gardens, black walnut trees, and many native plants — are open to the public from 9:30 am-5:30 pm

WEBINARS

Note: Online/virtual club meetings appear in the *Horticulture Grapevine* on page 6.

Sept. 1, 7-8 pm: Jersey-Friendly Yards sponsors Attracting Birds to Your Jersey-Friendly Yard. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 1, 7-8 pm: Mahwah Public Library sponsors Garden Gems of the Garden State presented by Mary Jo Sichak, Passaic County MG. Free. Click [here](#) to register.

Sept. 2, 5-6 pm (join at 4:45 pm): Rutgers Home Gardeners School @Home sponsors Home Sweet Home Landscaping. Fee \$35. Click [here](#) for more information and to register. Click [here](#) for a list of upcoming online workshops.

Sept. 3, 1 pm: Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation sponsors Beyond Plants: What Else Do Insects Need to Thrive? Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 3, 7 pm: Rutgers Cooperative Extension and the Cohansey Watershed Association sponsor Spotted Lanternfly Invasion in NJ: Why It's Important and How to Fight It. Free. Click [here](#) to register.

Sept. 9, 7-8 pm: Rutgers NJ Agricultural Experiment Station sponsors Get the Dirt on Your Soil. Free. Click [here](#) to register.

Sept. 10, 7-8 pm: Brick Township Municipal Utilities Authority sponsors Putting Your Garden to Sleep. Free. For information and to register, contact [Shari Kondrup](#).

Sept. 10, 7-8:30 pm: Penn State Extension sponsors Turning the Tide: A Practical Guide for Bringing Nature Home. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 15, 7-8 pm: Jersey-Friendly Yards sponsors Wild About Composting. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 17, 1 pm: Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation sponsors Gardening Beyond Your Yard: Bee City USA. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

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Recorded webinars to view at your leisure

A Walk in the Garden: Ecological Landscape Alliance sponsored a series of 13 webinars that were presented April-July. Click [here](#) for a description of each webinar and a link to each recording on YouTube.

Bird Academy: Cornell University's Bird Academy sponsors e-Bird Essentials, a free, online course. Click [here](#) to enroll. Cornell's Bird Academy [course catalog](#) lists 18 other courses that are available for a fee. Peek into Cornell's many live [bird cams](#).

HORTICULTURE

What's growing in your garden?

Fred Levitan, Class of 2012

I planted two fig trees in large plastic barrels filled with garden soil bought at the Home Depot. I put them on dollies purchased at Harbor Freight at minimal cost so that the

containers can be wheeled into my garage during winter. The taller tree, purchased at the American Nursery in Fair Lawn, is the Little Miss Figgy dwarf tree hardy to 0 to 10 degrees. The smaller tree is the Chicago Hardy purchased at Home Depot and good to 0 to 10



Fred Levitan's movable feast.

below zero. I have done this before, and both trees will yield good crops.

Gerry Rotunda, Class of 2019

The pandemic, while requiring us to stay at home, allowed us to plant tomatoes and some herbs this year for the first time in more than 15 years. We planted tomatoes from seeds that I bought from Rutgers in the fall of 2019. We had a square patch of earth in the center of our patio where a sycamore tree was removed about 15 years ago. We dug it up and modified the soil with topsoil, manure, and peat moss.

We planted the seeds outdoors in planters and small pots in late May with much success. When the plants

were large enough, we transplanted most of them into the garden patch we had prepared. We then enclosed the patch with deer netting to keep out the animals. It worked until the chipmunks discovered the maturing tomatoes. They chewed through the deer netting and have been making a mess of things, not only eating the grape tomatoes but also the larger tomatoes. Deer netting does not work with chipmunks.

If you have chipmunks in your yard, you must use something that they cannot chew through. Also do not leave anything adjacent that they can climb as they will enter the garden that way by climbing. Be sure to stake the tomatoes well and do not plant too many too close together. They will grow into one another and make it difficult to get to and harvest the fruit.

The dogwood days of summer are here

Rutgers Agricultural Experiment Station is selling Scarlet Fire® dogwood trees available for pickup starting mid-September and again in the spring. Click [here](#) for photos of the NJAES Scarlet Fire® dogwood. Here are the sizes and prices:

- 2-gallon container for \$50;
- 3-gallon container for \$65; and
- 5-gallon container for \$80.

All proceeds support NJAES plant breeding programs. To order your tree(s), send an email to [Anna Molinski](#) at NJAES with how many trees you want to order and what size(s). She will reserve your trees and notify you when you can pick them up. You must wear a mask when picking up your trees.

THIS AND THAT

Attention fans of indoor plants

No green thumb? Then this information is for you. Author Tovah Martin introduces you to easy-to-care-for indoor plants in an online "how-to" titled "Indestructible Houseplants" created for Greenwood Gardens.

Click [here](#) for Tovah's guide, which was adapted from her book *The Indestructible Houseplant; 200 Beautiful Plants that Everyone Can Grow*. You can also visit Tovah's [website](#).

[Greenwood Gardens](#), 274 Old Short Hills Road, Short Hills, is scheduled to reopen Sept. 13.

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Fern walk and talk with Jean Epiphan

Join Jean Epiphan, Thielke Arboretum's forest ecologist and stewardship director, on a guided fern quest from 10 am-noon Sunday, Sept. 20 at the arboretum, 460 Doremus Ave., Glen Rock.

You'll learn how to identify ferns, how ferns benefit the landscape, and the best planting sites for each fern species.

Fee: \$10 members/\$20 non-members. Space is limited to half the usual capacity so register early. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.



Jean Epiphan

Participants must sign a COVID-19 liability waiver prior to arrival and must wear a face covering on site.



Photo by Joseph Cooper

Visit Janet Schulz's garden on YouTube

Janet Schulz, Class of 1988, has been creating her shade garden for the better part of four decades. Located in Wyckoff, this beautiful property is 100 by 164 feet and is packed with perennials, shrubs, trees, and bulbs. Just about every month, you'll find something new and different to admire.

This [video](#), posted on YouTube by Joseph Cooper, Class of 2008, features an overview of Janet's garden along with an intimate look at some of the plantings from different perspectives.

More about moths

In July's "From the President's Desk" column, Melody Corcoran alerted us to the issues faced by night pollinators, such as moths. Did you know that summer is high moth season? Click [here](#) to read about the pleasures of moth watching from the Aug. 23 *New York Times*.

IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

If you're tired of walking around your neighborhood, here are five North Jersey gardens/arboretums to visit.

Morris County arboretums

The following Morris County arboretums are open to visitors on a limited schedule:

- [Frelinghuysen Arboretum](#), 353 E. Hanover Ave., Morris Township; 101 parking spaces available; weekdays, noon to dusk;
- [Willowood Arboretum](#), 300 Longwood Road, Far Hills; 12 parking spaces available; weekdays, 10 am-3 pm; and
- [Bamboo Brook Outdoor Education Center/Gardens](#), 170 Longview Road, Chester; 38 parking spaces available; weekdays, 10 am-3 pm.

Note: Parking is limited. All buildings remain closed, but a portable toilet is available at each location. Visitors are encouraged to follow social distancing guidelines and wear masks. Click [here](#) for additional regulations about the park's current operations.

Laurelwood Arboretum

[Laurelwood Arboretum](#), 725 Pines Lake Drive West, Wayne, is open daily from 9 am-dusk. The Knippenberg Center for Education is closed. Social distancing is required, and face masks are recommended. Click [here](#) for additional regulations.

NJ Botanical Garden

[NJ Botanical Garden](#), 2 Morris Road, Ringwood, is open daily from 8 am-6 pm. All buildings are closed except the public restrooms in the Carriage House. A state parking fee of \$5 for NJ-registered cars and \$7 for non-NJ-registered cars applies on weekends and holidays through Labor Day weekend.

FARMERS MARKETS

All farmers markets are practicing social distancing, require masks to be worn, and require vendors to serve you (no self-service).

Englewood Farmers Market, Depot Square, North Van Brunt Street and Demarest Avenue; through Oct. 30; Fridays 11 am-6 pm. Rain or shine. Park free in Lot B by the railroad tracks.

Fort Lee Farmers Market, Fort Lee Community Center Plaza, 1355 Inwood Ter.; through November; Sundays, 8 am-2 pm.

Oradell Farmers Market, 618 Veldran Ave. (post office parking lot); through Nov. 22; Sundays, 10 am-3 pm.

Paramus Food Festival, Petruska Park, 475 Farview Ave. (hockey rink); through Oct. 21; Wednesdays, noon-6 pm. Food trucks and vendors under a tent. *No produce.*

Ramsey Farmers Market, Main Street train station; through November; Sundays, 9 am-2 pm. For a complete list of rules and other information, click [here](#).

Ridgewood Farmers Market, train station parking lot, Godwin and West Ridgewood avenues; through Nov. 22; Sundays, 9 am-3 pm weather permitting.

River Vale Farmers Market, town hall parking lot, 406 Rivervale Road; through Oct. 29; Thursdays, 2-6:30 pm. Click [here](#) to preorder from a list of vendors.

Rutherford Farmers Market, Williams Plaza, Park Avenue and Glen Road; through Oct. 31; Wednesdays, 11 am-4 pm and Saturdays, 8 am-2 pm.

Teaneck Farmers Market, municipal parking lot, Beverly Road and Garrison Avenue; through Oct. 22; Thursdays, noon-5 pm.

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](#).

Sept. 9, 7:30 pm online, Bergen-Passaic Chapter of the Native Plant Society of NJ. Speaker: Lourdes Osorio, Passaic County MG. Topic: Going Native Without Feeding Bambi. Click [here](#) to register for the chapter meeting and presentation.



Discounts for members only

Visit our [website](#) and, in the "For Members" section, click on "Shopping Discounts" for the list of area nurseries and garden centers that offer a discount to MGs. Click on each business's website for more information.

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