

### Meeting news

## Kathy Sauerborn Gardening for Hummingbirds

**Tuesday, March 21**  
**Refreshments at 7 pm; announcements**  
**at 7:20, meeting to follow**

**1 Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack**  
**1<sup>st</sup>-floor meeting room**

Kathy Sauerborn, a Passaic County Master Gardener, has more than 20 years of experience in gardening for hummingbirds in her own Certified Wildlife Habitat designated by the National Wildlife Federation. Kathy will review the main nectar plants used to feed the ruby throated hummingbird in our area. Kathy will also discuss types of feeders and optimal placement of them.



**Kathy Sauerborn**

Why hummingbirds? “Because they are magical, fairy-like,” Kathy said. “They are the only bird that is able to hover and fly backwards.”

There are more than 300 species of hummingbirds in the tropics of the Western Hemisphere, but only one — the ruby throated hummingbird — migrates to the eastern part of the United States. Loss of habitat and nectar sources reduce their numbers. We can help, Kathy said, by planting nectar-producing flowers that help to feed this tiny bird, which has to eat half its weight every day just to survive.

Whether you have sun or shade, whether you prefer annuals or perennials, there are certain to be flowers for you to try to lure this beautiful bird to your yard.

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### From the President's Desk

**By Melody Corcoran, Class of 2016**

Since 2015, Donna Faustini, Class of 2012, has been chair of our Program Committee. She has brought in speakers for our general meetings — educational programs on a broad range of topics including figs; fungi; mushrooms; Civil War-era medicinal plants; orchids; the planning and planting of trees at the World Trade Center Memorial; shade gardening; garlic; bonsai; honey; and much more.



She searches out the speakers online, by word of mouth, and talking to them at a farmers market and schedules them for our monthly meetings. Thank you, Donna, for all your years of providing us with a wide range of educational speakers.

Donna is stepping down from the position, and we need a new Program Committee chair. Besides finding and scheduling speakers, the Program Committee chair also schedules our meeting room at One Bergen County Plaza; arranges the annual joint meeting with the Passaic County Master Gardeners; books the date and room for the annual garden club tea; provides information about scheduled speakers for the Potting Shed; and introduces the speakers at our meetings. The Program chair must be a certified Master Gardener and attend MG board meetings; it is a voting position on the board.

Interested? Donna will be training and guiding the new Program chair in all the duties of the position, and she will stay on until the new person is comfortable in the job. Contact [me](#) for more information.

## SPOTLIGHT ON ... MG OF BC SPEAKERS BUREAU

*Five Master Gardeners volunteer their time for the MG of BC Speakers Bureau. This issue features Lynne Proskow. If you're interested in volunteering for the Speakers Bureau or have a topic to suggest, contact [Arnie Friedman](#), Speakers Bureau chair, Class of 2004. Arnie can help you structure a presentation. Check out the [Speakers Bureau section](#) of our website.*

### Lynne Proskow, MG Class of 2022

**Lynne's topics:** Container Gardening in Small Places and Introduction to Self-Watering Containers; A Natural Journey, Enjoying Herbs, Bee-ing Curious; Crazy Composting Year-Round: Ins and Outs; and Regenerative Gardening: How You Can Help Create Biodiverse Ecosystems.

**Lynne's back story:** My grandparents owned a dairy farm in upstate New York, and my parents owned forested land that we used as a wilderness vacation spot. I spent a lot of time outdoors and have always felt most comfortable in nature. My parents had an organic garden, and I grew up composting, respecting and working with nature's cycles, and above all to be observant. I have deep organic roots.

I was exposed to herbs and their usefulness because my mom worked for S.B. Penick & Co., which was a botanicals purveyor. Food was always a central part of family life for me, and I love growing and cooking it and have had organic gardens in many states. I participated in the first Earth Day celebrations in 1970 and have been an avid environmentalist ever since.

I gained understanding that food plays a central part in our health and our environment after reading "Diet for a Small Planet" by Francis Moore Lappé, and "Silent Spring" by Rachel Carson in high school. I read everything I could get my hands on over the years about organic gardening. I eventually obtained my degree in Sustainable Food Systems from UMASS and certificate in Sustainable Food and Farming from Stockbridge School of Agriculture. I have been a member of NOFA NJ (Northeast Organic Farmers Association) since 2015, even though I am not a farmer.

I worked for FedEx for nearly 33 years before retiring and traveled all over the Garden State, Philadelphia, and parts of Pennsylvania with FedEx. It had been a lifelong dream of mine to become a Master Gardener and be able to devote more time to this passion. Now with that dream fulfilled, I still take classes online or in person



**Lynne Proskow in Ridgefield Park's community garden adjoining McGowan Park on Bergen Turnpike.**

because I love to learn. We are fortunate to live in an age of easy access to information.

There is so much to learn about gardening. Things I used to do — like roto-tilling, or double digging to open up a new garden — I wouldn't even dream about doing now. My thinking has changed because of what I have read, learned, and now somewhat understand about the soil. The soil microbiome is an integrated ecosystem, and it's all about the soil. My dream is to someday have a bigger piece of land that I can restore using permaculture principles and regenerative gardening practices. I make mistakes all the time, but things still grow!

I have enjoyed working with Girl Scout troops to create an accessible raised bed for seniors and a perennial pollinator garden. My hope is to expose more people to regenerative gardening as a sustainable option they can incorporate into their gardens. I look forward to meeting and learning from all of you and am grateful for the connection Master Gardeners have as plant people volunteers who care about community education.

**Lynne in a nutshell:** I do what I can with my little piece of earth and tread lightly upon it. I like to share what I have gleaned over the years with others who are also searching for answers on what they can do for their gardens, the health of their families, and the earth. I have learned that small changes and your choices matter, not just to you and yours but to our planet and future generations. We can all make a positive difference every day if it is our intention to do so.

## MG OF BC NEWS

### Welcome, MG of BC Class of 2023

Our newest class of 40 interns (yes, 40) began their Rutgers MG volunteer training program Jan. 17 online. The group is among a total of 105 students from Bergen, Burlington, Essex/Passaic, and Union counties who are participating in the 24-week-long course.

The online training program consists of both core curriculum and selected horticultural and environmental electives, which is a new addition this training session. Among the core curriculum courses are Basic Entomology; Integrated Pest Management; Soils and Fertilizers; Botany and Plant Pathology; Vegetable Gardening; Lawn Care; Tree Fruit; Pruning; Tick Safety and Invasive Insects; and Flower Gardening.

Elective (optional) classes are Houseplants; Landscape Design; Native Plants and Invasive Species; and IPM Strategies for Wildlife Management. Weekly attendance is required. Instructors are faculty and staff from Rutgers NJ Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) and Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE). Joel Flagler, Bergen County ag agent, teaches Basic Botany and Plant Physiology; Houseplants; and Horticultural Therapy.

Interns are required to complete 60 volunteer hours at approved MG of BC volunteer sites and special class projects within 12-18 months to become certified MGs.

Joel noted: "After a couple of years with only limited volunteer opportunities, we're ready to jump into action in all our favorite MG volunteering sites. Earth Day events and environmental fairs are coming up, too. We look forward to seeing everyone this spring."

Joel added that both he and Karen Riede, horticultural assistant, Class of 2017, are excited to welcome the new interns and look forward to working with them on volunteer projects.

Karen said that as a result of the many calls and inquiries about the MG program throughout the year, especially after a press release was published in 2022 about the online program, she has a waiting list for the 2024 class.

**Editor's note:** If your town or organization will have an Earth Day event or spring fair, please send the details to [Miriam Taub](#), Class of 2011, so we can include in the Potting Shed.

### MG of BC social media mavens



The MG of BC now has accounts on Facebook and Instagram. Sisters Lisa Yoler (left), and Maria Bushman, both Class of 2019, have volunteered to handle MG of BC publicity and set up social media accounts for our organization. The accounts are:

- Facebook: MGBC2
- Instagram: Master\_gardeners\_of\_bc.

To view the information on either site, you must log in to your Facebook/Instagram account or create an account.

Maria and Lisa will post reminders about upcoming meetings and events as well as pictures of MGs volunteering at sites and events. Be sure to forward to [Maria](#) or [Lisa](#) any pictures or information that members might want to see posted.

### Thought you'd want to know

Joel Flagler, Bergen County ag agent, has shared the following statewide data from Better Impact:

**10,000:** The number of Rutgers Master Gardeners trained since inception (the MG program started in Bergen County in 1984).

**16:** The number of New Jersey counties with active MG programs.

**1,517:** The number of active volunteers in 2022 who:

- Provided consultation and diagnostic assistance via garden helplines (in county offices and via email).

*(Better Impact data, continued on page 4)*

***(Better Impact data, continued from page 3)***

- Provided educational outreach at county fairs, farmers markets, and various public events.
- Provided speakers to service groups, senior centers, and community garden clubs on a variety of gardening topics.
- Taught incoming Master Gardener classes.
- Co-authored RCE factsheets.

**82,393:** The number of volunteer hours reported by Rutgers Master Gardeners for 2022.

**\$2,668,709.27:** The value of volunteer hours contributed in 2022, based on an hourly wage of \$32.39 for volunteers in New Jersey. That figure comes from [Independent Sector](#), a non-profit organization.

“Rutgers Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who, in seeking to expand their gardening knowledge and expertise, become local community ambassadors expanding our mission of science-based outreach and engagement in consumer and public horticulture,” said Nick Polanin, department chair, Agriculture and Natural Resources at Rutgers.

**MG of BC’s contribution**

Suzanne Danzig, Volunteer Records chair, Class of 2008, reported the following: In 2022, MG of BC volunteers recorded 4,749 outreach hours; 738 administrative hours; 70 teaching hours; and 217 special projects hours for a total of 5,774 hours. Based on a value of \$32.39 an hour, our Bergen MGs contributed \$187,019.86 to Bergen County in 2022.

**MEETINGS/LECTURES**

**March 2, 7:30 pm, Garden Club of Harrington Park,** Harrington Park Library, second floor, 10 Herring St., Harrington Park. Speaker: Christopher Raimondi. Topic: New Trending Seasonal Annuals for 2023. Click [here](#) for more information.

**March 3, 1:30 pm, Demarest Garden Club,** United Methodist Church, 109 Hardenburgh Ave., Demarest. Speaker: Jared Krawitz. Topic: Closter Farm & Livestock Past, Present, and Future. Refreshments.

**March 4, 8:30 am-4 pm, Native Plant Society of NJ** annual meeting (hybrid this year). Theme: Earth. Wind. Fire. Water. At Ocean County College and online. Click [here](#) for schedule, ticket information, and to register.

**March 6, 4 pm, Sundial Garden Club,** Hillsdale Public Library, 509 Hillsdale Ave., Hillsdale. Speaker: Bob

Crane, author and photographer. Topic: A Peek Inside the Artist’s Garden.

**March 9, 7 pm, Garden Club of Teaneck,** Rodda Center, Room MP2, 250 Colonial Court, Teaneck. Speaker Frank “the Beeman” Mortimer: Topic: Beekeeping. Click [here](#) for more information.



Feb. 28 in Teaneck. Snow. Finally.

**March 14, 7 pm, Ramsey Area Garden Club,** Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 55 Wyckoff Ave. (corner of Woodland Avenue), Ramsey. Speaker: Jean Marie Herron, certified professional organizer. Topic: Spring Ahead: Helping Your Garden Grow by Getting Organized.

**March 16, 11 am-noon: Livingston Public Library,** 10 Robert H. Harp Drive, Livingston. Speaker: MG Arnie Friedman, Class of 2004. Topic: Bonsai for Beginners. Visit the library’s [website](#) for more information.

**See more meetings in the March Mid-Month Potting Shed.**

**WEBINARS**

*For your convenience, all times are Eastern.*

**March 1, 1-2 pm:** Kansas State Research and Extension sponsors Houseplants: Basics and Beyond. Free. Click [here](#), then scroll down to March 1 for more information and to register.

**March 1, 7 pm:** Iowa State University Extension and Outreach sponsors Cassian Schmidt-Style Gravel Gardens: A New Effort in Sustainable Gardening. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

**March 6 and 13, noon-1 pm:** Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Warren County sponsors Invasive Plants in New Jersey (two-part presentation). Free. Click [here](#) to register for the March 6 session. Click [here](#) to register for the March 13 session. For more information, call 908-475-6507.

**March 7, 1 pm:** National Garden Bureau sponsors Ask the Experts About Cool Season Annuals. Free. Click [here](#) to register.

*(Webinars, continued on page 5)*

## HORTICULTURE

### **How a gardener keeps busy indoors in winter**

**By Arnie Friedman,  
Class of 2004**

Kordes roses (near right) are a large group of roses from Kordes & Sons, a big supplier of roses from Germany, particularly noted for rose cultivars that are disease resistant. They're a bit hard to find here in the United States.

A number of years ago Jean [Friedman, also Class of 2004] and I bought several from

Chamblee's rose nursery in Texas. We had them in our garden, but they did not do very well. They may not have been getting enough sun. Last year I potted them up and they have been doing better in pots. This is because I have been able to keep the pots in full sun in summer. This fall I brought them into my greenhouse where this one kept its leaves and is blooming.



*Photos by Arnie Friedman*

The Meyer lemon (above, far right) is a young plant I bought in a nursery last spring. Meyer lemons are a cultivar that are sweeter and more flavorful than other lemons. I keep my citrus plants in pots and bring them into the greenhouse for the winter. Citrus cannot handle freezing temps. I have been keeping this Meyer lemon in a small pot restricting its root growth. I intend eventually to make it into a bonsai. I'll prune the roots back so it will fit in a very small pot.

*(Horticulture, continued on page 6)*

### **(Webinars, continued from page 4)**

**March 7, 2:30 pm:** University of Illinois Extension sponsors Basics of Home Composting. Free. Click [here](#) to register.

**March 8, 7 pm:** Iowa State University Extension and Outreach sponsors Rain Gardens and Rain Barrels. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

**March 8, 7:30-9 pm:** Native Plant Society of New Jersey sponsors Growing Native Plants for Restoration Projects. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

**March 9, 1 pm:** National Garden Bureau sponsors Ask the Experts About New Plants for 2023. Free. Click [here](#) to register.

**March 10, 1 pm:** National Garden Bureau sponsors Ask the Experts About Seed Starting. Free. Click [here](#) to register.

**March 14, noon:** AARP Virtual Community Center sponsors Climate Change: How it Affects You. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register. AARP membership not required.

**March 15, 5 pm:** AARP Virtual Community Center sponsors a Virtual Tour of Longwood Gardens. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register. AARP membership not required.

**March 15, 7-8:30 pm:** Native Plant Society of New Jersey sponsors Native Plants for Your Garden: Creating a Wildlife Habitat in Your Own Backyard. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

**March 16, 7-9 pm:** Sussex County Chapter of the Native Plant Society of NJ sponsors Spring Ephemerals. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

**See more webinars in the March Mid-Month Potting Shed.**

*(Horticulture, continued from page 5)*

## Greens Do Good: Vertical farming in a Hackensack warehouse

**By Dylan Grana, Class of 2022**

Growing vegetables with no soil or sun? No problem. But how? Welcome to the wonderful world of hydroponics at Greens Do Good, an indoor vertical farm in Hackensack that grows produce for the greater good.

The farm has been operating since 2017 in a warehouse that had previously been a batting cage. According to the Greens Do Good [website](#), its mission is “to transform the way our local community sources healthy produce by providing the freshest ingredients in a sustainable and socially responsible way.”

Greens Do Good is the brainchild of Jill Nadison, a board member of the REED (Resources for Effective Educational Development) Foundation, an organization based in Oakland and geared toward providing the best learning environment for individuals on the autism spectrum.

Jessalin Jaume is Greens Do Good’s workforce development director. Jill and the REED Foundation team designated Jessalin to lead the development of the vertical farm and create a full curriculum for its job training program. Jessalin has worn many hats at REED starting as a lead instructor at the REED Academy, a non-profit school for individuals with autism. She joined Greens Do Good as farm manager in 2017.

To date, more than 100 participants, ranging from high school students to young adults, have gone through the 800-hour job training program. Jessalin explained that the training fills a growing demand in the sector of hydroponic farming for workers who understand the process of vertical farming from top to bottom. Training involves seed starting,



A trainee starts seeds at Greens Do Good.



Jessalin Jaume displaying microgreens.

harvesting, packaging of produce, data collection, and maintenance of the facility. Several of the adults who went through the program are now working full time at Greens Do Good, she said.

Working with the state Department of Labor and the New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Greens Do Good has become a state-certified working facility for teenagers and adults on the autism spectrum to receive job training in vertical farming.

**[Editor’s note:** Click [here](#) for the Greens Do Good website to see how the hydroponic vertical farming system works.]

The indoor farm itself offers a range of produce and herbs including butterhead lettuce, basil, arugula, spring mix, and microgreens that are sold to local restaurants and groceries. Among their Bergen County clients are the Market Basket in Franklin Lakes; Alt Eats Café in Ho-Ho-Kus; and MacMurphy’s Irish Pub and From Scratch restaurant, both in Ridgewood.

Jessalin explained that with the vertical farming model, her team of 10 can grow smaller items, like microgreens, in as little as a week and larger items, like butterhead lettuce, in as few as five weeks — much faster than what is required outdoors.



Lettuce growing under the lights.



Basil is among the herbs grown by Greens Do Good.

*All photos courtesy of Greens Do Good*

***(Greens Do Good, continued on page 7)***

***(Greens Do Good, continued from page 6)***

While being indoors means that Greens Do Good's offerings are not season-dependent, often the tastes of clients are seasonal. That means specialty items, for example, microgreens with hints of cucumber, can be grown for restaurants that may request them, Jessalin said.

Meanwhile, the farm also sells produce for home consumption. Individuals can sign up for the Greens Do Good Farm Club, which offers home delivery of a weekly farm box. A surplus of produce is set aside to be donated to the Center for Food Action, Jessalin said.



**Bagged and ready for sale.**

*Photo courtesy of Greens Do Good*

In the short-term, Greens Do Good has plans to increase outreach to local restaurants and markets to build a strong network of clients in the area. In the long-term, its aim is to open additional facilities to increase job training capacity.

Jessalin explained the purpose of creating a job training program like this one: "The main point of the farm was to offer opportunities for employment for a group of individuals that really — for the most part — have a difficult time getting employed in New Jersey and that is members of the autism community."

If you're ever curious what Greens Do Good is up to, you can sign up for a tour to see the innovative work being done. Click [here](#) for tour information.

**VOLUNTEER SITE NEWS**

*Two volunteer sites have events scheduled in March: Mary S. Topolsky Garden in Teaneck and Garretson Forge and Farm in Fair Lawn. Volunteer sites whose opening events are scheduled in April and May will be listed in future Potting Sheds.*

**Mary S. Topolsky Garden**

Come to the spring cleanup March 11 from 10 am-2 pm at the garden, 640 River Road, Teaneck. RSVP by March 9 to [Karen Riede](#), horticultural assistant, Class of 2017. Rain date is March 12. Keep in mind that March 12 is the first day of Daylight Savings Time.

Volunteers will prepare the garden for a spring planting at a later date. Debris and invasives will be removed to make way for native plants in hopes of creating a thriving pollinator garden. In addition to native flowers and grasses, shrubs and trees will be included in the plan. The Township of Teaneck has a budget to pay for several years of planting and maintenance for this restoration project.

**What to bring and wear:** Bottled water, gloves, pruners, shovel. Identify your tools with your initials using duct tape or a ribbon. Proper clothing is advised: Long sleeves, long pants, socks tucked into pants, and proper footwear.

**Parking and restrooms:** Park on Kipp Avenue across the street from the park or on any other side street. There's a portable toilet on site but no potable water.

**For more information:** Contact [Harriet Steiner](#), site coordinator, 201-741-6756 (cell).

**Garretson Forge and Farm**

**By Lida Gellman, Class of 1999**

Garretson will kick off the season with its annual Pea Day planting March 19 from 1-4 pm at the homestead, 4-02 River Road, Fair Lawn. In addition to planting peas, there is much spring cleaning to do in the other planting beds.



**Linda Flynn, Class of 2016, at the 2022 pea planting.**

After that, regular Thursday hours will begin March 23 from 10 am-2 pm and every Thursday thereafter. We also meet on the second and fourth Sunday from 1-4 pm. This is a great opportunity for Class of 2023 interns to begin your required hours and, of course, we look forward to seeing old friends as well.

**What to bring:** Gloves and small hand tools like pruners and trowels; we have the rest.

**Parking and restrooms:** On site.

**For more information:** Contact [Lida Gellman](#), site coordinator.

***(Volunteer site news, continued on page 8)***

(Volunteer site news, continued from page 7)

## Volunteer sites open year-round

The Bergen New Bridge Medical Center hort therapy program in Paramus, Teaneck Creek Conservancy in Teaneck, and Thielke Arboretum in Glen Rock are open year-round and welcome new volunteers. Below are descriptions of each site.

### Bergen New Bridge Medical Center

MG volunteers work in the Horticultural Department and maintain the greenhouse located in the medical center at 230 E. Ridgewood Ave., Paramus. Chores include seeding, propagating, watering, pruning, repotting, cleaning up, and conducting pest patrol/control. Volunteers also design floral baskets, flower arrangements, and plants for several plant sales and maintain three indoor porches from spring through fall as well as the outdoor planting beds.

After several months, volunteers occasionally help the horticultural therapist and assist the long-term residents with their garden and planting activities in individual or group settings.

Volunteers work Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in the greenhouse in two shifts, 10:30 am-12:30 pm and 1:30-3:30 pm.

**For all volunteers (new and current):** You must be completely vaccinated for Covid 19 and present your original Covid vaccine card as well as documentation of a current flu shot. If you have not had a current flu shot, Bergen New Bridge will provide one at no cost to you.

**New volunteers:** Visit the [Volunteer](#) section of the Bergen New Bridge Medical Center website. Scroll down to "Volunteer assignments" to download the following forms:

- Volunteer application;
- Written reference form (you'll need two references); and
- Background check form.

Complete and scan the forms; then email them to [Joshua Remland](#), Volunteer Services manager.

Once your application is approved, Joshua will schedule the required medical tests, which will be done at Bergen New Bridge at no cost to you:

- Blood test for TB, MMR, and hepatitis B; and
- Nasal swab for Covid 19.

**For current volunteers:** You must complete the same medical tests listed above. Contact Joshua at 201-967-4095, to schedule your tests and if you have any questions.

**Parking and restrooms:** On site.

**For more information:** Contact [Lynette Stewart](#), site coordinator, 201-310-2498.



Mosaic egret, created by artist Zachary Green, decorates a bench located near the outdoor classroom at Teaneck Creek Conservancy. The bench faces the creek. Sit a spell!

### Teaneck Creek Conservancy

Volunteers, known as "weed warriors," meet on Wednesdays from 9-11 am to work in the unfenced areas of the 46-acre park. The park is still undergoing a habitat restoration. The Puffin Foundation area off Teaneck Road is basically a wetland meadow, while the Fycke Lane area is a woodland. It's skunk cabbage season!

**What to bring and wear:** Work gloves, insecticide, sunscreen, and water. Tools are supplied. Boots are advisable. *Masks are mandatory in the Puffin Foundation building.*

**Parking and bathrooms:** Depending on the work, park either in the lot of the Puffin Foundation building, 20 Puffin Way, Teaneck, or on the street near the park entrance on Fycke Lane. A bathroom is located in the Puffin Foundation building.

**For more information:** Contact [Paula Leibowitz](#), site coordinator, 201-568-5034. Visit the [website](#).

- Paula Leibowitz, Class of 2013

(Volunteer site news, continued on page 9)



(Volunteer site news, continued from page 8)

## Thielke Arboretum

MG volunteers, known as “stewards,” meet Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9 am-noon, weather permitting, at the arboretum, 460 Doremus Ave., Glen Rock.



Monarch caterpillar at Thielke

Jean Epiphan, Thielke’s land manager, said work cannot be scheduled in advance since everything depends on the weather. “We always have different types of work to do — light duty and heavy duty,” she added.

The arboretum comprises 16 acres containing a tree and woody plant collection (200 species and counting) while

supporting habitat for native wildlife. It features nature paths through several different forest types; foot bridges over swales and waterways; a spring-fed pond; and a gazebo. Volunteers perform outdoor caretaking tasks including proper planting and pruning; protecting plants from deer; sustainable gardening and forest restoration; and trail maintenance.

You must register before volunteering. Click [here](#) for the volunteer page on the Thielke website and scroll down to the “Steward” section for information and for the button to sign up.

**What to bring and wear:** Work gloves and water. Tools or specific types of bug repellent are at your discretion. Wear long pants that cover your ankles, preferably canvas or denim. Clothes should be those that can get dirty and protect from thorns and poison ivy. Waterproof, sturdy boots are recommended. Boot type (insulated muck boots vs. hiking boots) depends on the season and weather.

**Parking and restrooms:** Park in the adjacent lots between the arboretum, municipal pool, and Faber Field. Restrooms are available.

**For more information:** Contact [Herb Arbeiter](#), site coordinator, 646-373-7328.

## EVENTS

The Garretson Community Seed Library is hosting its opening day celebration March 5 from 1-3 pm at the homestead, 4-02 River Road, Fair Lawn. Garretson has heirloom and organic vegetable, herb, and flower seeds available at no cost. 2023 is the seed library’s eighth year as a resource for free heirloom and open-pollinated seeds and a source of information about the importance of maintaining local seed varieties and preventing the loss of genetic diversity among seeds and plants.

The Community Seed Library at Garretson stocks open-pollinated seeds, which are seeds that produce plants true to the seed they are grown from. Heirloom seeds fall into this category. Open-pollinated seeds are not hybrid seeds or genetically



Photo by Liz Scholl

modified seeds. The seed library receives generous donations of unique and interesting seed varieties from companies such as [Seed Savers Exchange](#) and [High Mowing Organic Seeds](#).

### Free seed-starting workshop March 5

In addition, visitors of all ages can attend a free seed-starting workshop at 1:30 pm. Registration for the workshop is required, and space is limited. To register for the workshop, contact [Liz Scholl](#), Class of 2011.

## ENVIRONMENT WATCH

### Water, water, but not everywhere

Will Utah’s Great Salt Lake disappear? Click [here](#) to watch a segment from the Feb. 26 CBS Sunday Morning program.

California’s Salton Sea faces a new water crisis. Click [here](#) to read the story from The New York Times of Feb. 25. If you’re not a Times subscriber, you’re limited to the number of articles you can read.