

Virtual meeting – May 24

Announcements at 7:20 pm; program to follow.

Click [here](#) to join the meeting at 7:15 pm.

Meeting ID: 926 9258 8641; password: 692429

David Robinson: New Jersey's Changing Climate

Within the past decade, New Jersey has experienced its wettest and warmest years in more than a century of observations. Extreme events — including Ida, Sandy, and Irene plus hot summers — suggest that something is happening to NJ's climate patterns. Natural variations alone cannot account for these New Jersey (and global) anomalies.



David Robinson

Dr. David Robinson is a distinguished professor of geography at Rutgers University and has been New Jersey's state climatologist for the past 30 years. Dave will explore the physical dimensions of the issue, both short and long term.

In his presentation, he will emphasize weather and climate impacts on agriculture and gardening and will provide information on how interested individuals can contribute to the monitoring of weather/climate conditions in the local region by participating in the Community Collaborative Rain Hail and Snow Network and how they may follow current weather conditions via the [Rutgers New Jersey Weather Network](#).

On his Rutgers' webpage he notes: "My research interests run the spatial gamut from global to local, with an underlying theme being the development of a better understanding of the climate system."

As the New Jersey state climatologist, he states: "I conduct research of an applied nature that focuses on the diverse weather and climate of the Garden State. This includes topics such as climate change, drought, flooding, and issues involving agriculture, transportation, public safety, and commerce."

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

From the President's Desk

By Melody Corcoran, Class of 2016

Have you heard of No Mow May? In 2019, [Plantlife](#), a national and international conservation charity in the United Kingdom, launched a campaign called No Mow May to help combat a serious decline in wildflowers due to drought and climate change.



The title of the campaign tells it all. They urged everyone to not mow their grass for the entire month of May. By not mowing, early pollinators and other wildlife would have more sources of nectar, food, and habitat. And it worked. Plantlife's Every Flower Counts citizen science survey taken a year later showed an increase in the number and kinds of wildflowers and pollinators in the unmown lawns.

The campaign was taken up here in the United States by [Bee City USA](#) and is gaining traction. No Mow May is being encouraged in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, and other states. If you can't bear not to mow your entire lawn for a month, consider leaving a small, less visible, untreated area unmown. Remove the hairy bittercress, garlic mustard, and other undesirables, but leave the clover, violets, and dandelions to feed early pollinators.

Not mowing has been shown to significantly increase the number and diversity of bees and other insects found in a lawn. Visit Bee City USA's [No Mow May](#) for more information. If your town has strict weed ordinances or your neighbors are sticklers about yard tidiness, there are many suggestions about how to handle any problems you may encounter.

Give your lawn mower a rest for the month of May and don't mow your lawn. The pollinators will thank you.

Editor's note: See related information on page 4.

HORTICULTURE



Image of the NJ Department of Agriculture scraper card being distributed through some Cooperative Extension offices.

They're back ... SLF eggs will hatch in May; get out your scrapers!

You can help stop the spread of the spotted lanternfly (SLF). Look for patches of SLF eggs and squash them before they hatch using an old credit card or similar small, firm object to press and scrape over the egg mass.

Here are two articles of interest:

- See photos of egg masses at NJ.com, which mentions that eggs (deposited on trees, outdoor furniture, pallets, and anywhere else) should be squashed immediately.
- [The Daily Record](#) article notes that each SLF egg mass contains about 50 eggs, so scraping the eggs can slow the spread of this invasive pest.

Eatontown requires native plants in new developments

Eatontown has adopted an ordinance requiring the use of native plants and trees in development applications. Click [here](#) to read the story on Centraljersey.com.

The ordinance notes that "Native plants are localized, hardy, and well-adapted to the local soils and climate; have lower maintenance and replacement costs; are more insect and disease resistant; and require less watering and fertilizing than non-native plants..."

- Information from Gina Wetstein, Class of 2005

A bonsai in training



Photos by Arnie Friedman, Class of 2004

I bought this *Ilex crenata* "brass buckle" in 2020. It hadn't grown in almost two years in my backyard, but I paid attention to its tree-like structure. After hearing Arnie Friedman's bonsai presentation at our March meeting, I offered it to him for his growing bonsai collection. Arnie said he gave it a little tug to release it from the ground, took it home, cleaned off all the soil, and planted it in a bonsai training pot, above. "You're going to be shocked at how it looks right now," he said. "I've chosen the branches I want to encourage and wired the branches to look like a bent old tree," below. "In time it should bud out and look better," Arnie said. The tree and pot below together are 8 inches high.

- Miriam Taub, Class of 2011



(Horticulture, continued on page 3)

Why do I garden – advice for the gardener

By Janet Schulz, Class of 1988

If you are reading this, it is because you are interested in gardening. There are no disadvantages to gardening other than the fact it becomes addictive, something I *must* do.

Why do I garden? Oh, let me count the ways. It brings me joy even though I realize it is such an addictive hobby. Gardening has introduced me to so many new friends. We all share the same passion; we learn from one another, and we grow as people and gardeners because of our friendships.



Many people who visit my garden only see the work, but I do not consider it work; I think of it as therapy. I awaken each morning and look out the window to see what has come up or is blossoming today. Each day in the garden brings new discoveries. Oh look, the Adonis is blooming, and the snow has not yet melted

completely. The Hellebores start to bloom and then a few weeks later, oh dear, the rabbit has eaten the top of my tulip.

Yes, there are critters that drive us crazy, and weeds keep coming up, but the rewards of the garden make up for them.

Where do I begin?

So many choices. What to plant? Natives only or a mix? Perennial or annual? Woodland or border? It seems overwhelming to the new gardener, so take it a step at a time and start small.

First, determine the kind of light you have — sunny or shady. Dry or constantly wet? Then choose plants appropriate to the conditions.

Your garden should reflect what *you* like. When going to the garden center, choose the plant you like. But, if it is a perennial, you must love the leaves first and consider the flowers a bonus. The flowers on most perennials last

maybe a month, so what does the plant look like when it is not blooming?

When you bring a plant home if you haven't already determined where you want to place it, choose a spot next to a plant with an opposing leaf shape or texture.

Remember, large leaves next to small leaves, small leaves next to large leaves. These opposing sizes enhance each other.

As you are about to dig that hole for the new plant, consider the soil. Is it well-drained or is it compacted? If it is in need of enhancing, place the amendment (usually compost or other organic matter) on top of the area where you are going to dig. This allows the amendment to mix with the soil from the hole, so you are not just filling the hole with your amendment.



Photos by Janet Schulz

Color, texture form: Primrose above, and hellebores at left.

I usually use compost or a product called Bumper Crop, a mixture of composted materials plus other nutrients for the soil. You will be rewarded with a well-grown plant. Remember to water well.

If choosing annuals and you want them to be all they can be, make sure they receive the light required for that particular plant and then fertilize weekly following the manufacturer's recommendations.

Repeat, repeat, repeat! Color, texture, and form. This makes a cohesive design and brings the garden together.

Visit Janet's garden from 10 am-4 pm, May 18 at 16 Colonial Drive, Wyckoff. You can park on the street.

(Horticulture, continued on page 4)

(Horticulture, continued from page 3)

If you missed our April meeting . . .

Are you looking for plants for dry shade, wet areas, or slopes? What about those dreaded hellstrips between the sidewalk and curb? Kerry Ann Mendez, who spoke at our April meeting, has a plant for that. For a list of her heavenly plants for tough spots and hellstrips, send an email to info@mgofbc.org. Click [here](#) to visit her website.

Say 'no' to the mow – more resources

Editor's note: Melody Corcoran writes about 'No Mow May' in her President's Desk column on page 1.

A writer shares her thoughts and photographs after driving through Appleton, WI, observing lawns filled with dandelions and bees during last year's No Mow May. Click [here](#) to read the article in the New York Times.

Note: If you're not a subscriber, you're limited to the number of Times stories you can view.

- Information from Arnie Friedman, Class of 2004

Dogwood Alliance, a non-profit organization based in Asheville, NC, advocates for No Mow May. Click [here](#) for facts and figures.

PLANT SALES

Through May 1, 9:30 am-4 pm: New Jersey Botanical Garden/Skylands, outside the Carriage House, 2 Morris Road, Ringwood. Perennials, annuals, vegetables, herbs, shrubs, vines, ground covers, hanging baskets, some grown in the NJBG greenhouse.

Through May 1, 10 am-4 pm: Van Vleck House and Gardens, 21 Van Vleck St., Montclair. Annuals, perennials, vegetables, berries, herbs, hanging baskets, and more. Credit cards accepted. Visit the [website](#).

Through May 1, noon-4 pm: Friends of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 353 E. Hanover Ave., Morris Township. Click [here](#) for more information and a list of plants.

Through May 15: Garden Club of Teaneck at the club's greenhouse at the east end of Lindbergh Boulevard, Teaneck. Weekdays, 11 am-6 pm; weekends, 9 am-5 pm. Click [here](#) for a list of plants.

May 6-7, 10 am-4 pm: Tenafly Garden Club, Davis Johnson Park and Gardens greenhouse, Engle Street and Westervelt Avenue, Tenafly. Hanging baskets, annuals, herbs, flats, patio planters. For more information, call 201-568-8254.

May 6-7, 10 am-4 pm; May 8, 10 am-2 pm: Rutgers Gardens Spring Flower Fair, 125 Log Cabin Road, New Brunswick. Click [here](#) for more information and to reserve a free ticket required for entry. Tickets must be reserved by May 4.

May 7, 8 am-3 pm: Sundial Garden Club, Hillsdale train station, Broadway, Hillsdale. Members' plants, flats, pots, hanging baskets, Mother's Day plants, some perennials (\$12 each). Come early for the best selection!

May 7, 8:30 am: Garden Club of Bergenfield, Cooper's Pond Park, West Church Street, Bergenfield. Half flat \$7.50; full flat \$14; 10-inch hanging baskets, \$15.

May 7, 9 am-noon; rain date May 14: Ho-Ho-Kus Garden Club, outdoors at the corner of Sycamore Avenue and Franklin Turnpike next to the Ho-Ho-Kus Inn. Annuals from a local grower; perennials from members' gardens; mixed container gardens; usually some herbs and vegetables.



May 7, 10 am-4 pm: Garretson Forge & Farm, 4-02 River Road, Fair Lawn. Heirloom perennials, pollinators, ferns, herbs; small selection of heirloom tomato plants; free seeds from the Garretson Community seed library.

May 14, 10 am-3 pm: Women's Club of Ramsey, 19th annual heirloom tomato transplant sale. Masonic Lodge parking lot, 24 N. Franklin Turnpike at Lake Street, Ramsey. Heirloom tomatoes, herbs, eggplant, squash, cucumbers, artichokes, pepper plants. Click [here](#) for more information.

May 21, 8 am-noon, rain or shine: Allendale Garden Club, Lee Memorial Library grounds, 500 W. Crescent Ave., Allendale. A variety of plants from members' gardens and local nurseries.

May 21, approximately 12:30 pm: Tri-State Hosta Society, 93 Intervale Road, Boonton (home of Roberta and Dave Chopko). Carpool when possible; park on the house side of the street; no parking permitted across the street. Non-members can buy a \$10 one-year membership on site to attend. Click [here](#) for the society's 2022 newsletter, which lists the hostas for sale.

WEBINARS

For your convenience, all times listed are Eastern.

May 3, 4-5 pm: AARP Virtual Community Center sponsors Vegetable Gardening Basics. Free. AARP membership not required. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

May 3, 7-8 pm: AARP Virtual Community Center sponsors Flower Arrangement Class - Floral Design for Spring. Free. AARP membership not required. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

May 4, 1-2 pm: Kansas State Research and Extension sponsors New and Improved Annual Flower Varieties. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

May 4, 12:30-1:30 pm: University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension sponsors How to Water Your Garden Using Rain Barrels. Free. Click [here](#) for a list of webinars and to register.

Urban Gardening webinar series in Spanish

Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) created an urban gardening webinar series in Spanish titled “El Huerto Urbano.” This series consists of live webinars and is intended for beginner gardeners interested in learning how to grow a vegetable garden in urban spaces.

These free, one-hour sessions will be taught in Spanish by instructors from RCE and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station via Zoom at 6 pm on the following dates. Click [here](#) to register.

- May 18: Integrated pest management in the urban garden;
- June 22: Making compost in the urban garden;
- July 27: Season extension in the urban garden; and
- Aug. 24: Preserving the garden harvest.

For more information, contact [Cecilia Diaz](#), Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Passaic County, or [Claudia Urdanivia](#), Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Hudson County.

(Webinars, continued on page 6)

Beyond the plastic bag . . .



Reusable bags courtesy of Mindy Sears, Teaneck

May 4 is the day that single-use plastic bags and polystyrene foam food-service products will no longer be provided or sold in New Jersey. Click [here](#) for details on the state Dept. of Environmental Protection website. Three MGs share their thoughts on the plastic bag.

“I have been trying to reduce my ‘baggage’ — plastic, that is — for years. I keep a collection of cloth bags in my car, and some fold-up ones in my purse. If I only have one or two small items, I just carry them as is.”

- Cynthia Drennan, Class of 2019

“It’s time to collect my reusable bags and maybe hardest of all — at least at first — remember to bring them into the store.”

- Mary Bergonzi, Class of 1991

“I never met a plastic bag that had a single use. I reuse the plastic carryout bags to line the kitchen/ bathroom garbage pails. I pack them in my suitcase to bring home dirty laundry from a trip. You can always take your bags back to the store to reuse, or even drop in the recycle bins located outside most supermarkets. And what about the plastic produce bags at the supermarket? Can one person argue the fact that they make the best free poop bags for your dog? There are dozens of ways to repurpose a plastic bag. So, the phrase ‘single use’ is false in my opinion.

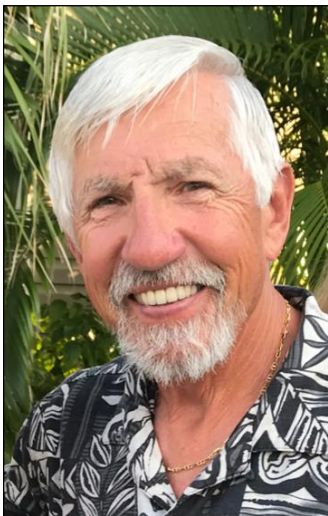
- Marie Alfano, Class of 2019

FIVE QUESTIONS FOR...

Paul Sisko, Class of 2021, answers five questions for the Potting Shed. Paul volunteers at the McFaul Environmental Center.

1. What prompted you to become a Master Gardener?

About 10 years ago when I joined a local garden club, I noticed certain members were Master Gardeners. I was interested and inquired about the program only to find out the course was given during the late fall, winter, and early spring. No good for me as I'm in Florida a good portion of the winter. As luck would have it, Rutgers Cooperative Extension developed their first online course during Covid, which allowed me to take the course regardless of where I was.



Paul Sisko

2. What's the most important thing you've learned or been exposed to as a Master Gardener?

The most important point of being an MG is about sharing of information to others. I feel gardeners in general are some of the most knowledge-sharing people, but MGs seem dedicated to continued learning and sharing with other MGs as well as to anyone who needs help in a gardening problem. Volunteering at our designated sites is a tribute to our dedication.

3. Have your interests in gardening changed over time? If so, how? I've always taken an interest in gardening since my parents loved to make their home gardens a wonderful place to view, and I enjoyed helping them. I never had the time to study the horticultural and scientific part of gardening as my world was designing and building furniture and sculpture as my profession. Gardening was a hobby. Now that I have more time to spend in the garden spaces I've created on my Mahwah acreage, I try to be more knowledgeable and experimental in what I plant and where. My gardens are Certified Wildlife Habitats, which means I look to plant more native species of plants that welcome our pollinators and birds.

4. Briefly describe your own garden. My garden is a series of planted areas, which I try to make visually stimulating by using many textures and colors of the plants. The over-300-tons of stone that were left from old

farm walls on the property allowed me to create numerous terraces of natural material. The addition of my sculptures at various locations can either be a surprise as you turn a corner or a destination to go to.

5. Do you have a home garden project planned this season? Nothing new outside of preparing for two public open garden exhibits in June: Wyckoff Area Garden Club's scholarship program and the Garden Conservancy's Open Days Program. In August, there will be several other tours by local garden clubs. Preparing for these openings is a bit pressure-filled not only for the gardens to look in tip-top shape but to have all the sculptures refreshed and looking good. Ugh. Welcome volunteers.

(Webinars, continued from page 5)

May 5, 7-8:30 pm: Penn State Extension sponsors Identification and Management of Extensive Knotweed. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

May 6, noon-1 pm: Penn State Extension sponsors Home Food Preservation - Introduction to Preserving. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

May 10, 7-8 pm: Jersey-Friendly Yards sponsors Fertilize Less - Rely More on Nature. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

May 11, noon: National Garden Bureau sponsors Ask the Experts About Lilacs. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

May 12, 7-8 pm: AARP Virtual Community Center sponsors Downsizing and Decluttering. Free. AARP membership not required. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

May 18, 12:30-1:30 pm: University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension sponsors How to Grow Luffa Gourds. Free. Click [here](#) for list of Season Three Horticulture Webinar Wednesdays (HWW) and to register.

May 19, 1 pm: National Garden Bureau sponsors Ask the Experts About New Vegetable Varieties. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

May 21, 10:30-11:30 am: Penn State Extension sponsors Importance of Native Plants in Residential Gardens. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

See more webinars in the May Mid-Month Potting Shed.

SPOTLIGHT ON ... VOLUNTEER SITES



Photo courtesy of Florence Jenness, Garretson trustee

The Garretson homestead in the spring.

Garretson Forge & Farm: Gardening, festivals, butterflies, and more

Volunteer days and hours: Volunteers meet every Thursday from 10 am-2 pm and the second and fourth Sunday of each month from 1-4 pm. Garretson is located at 4-02 River Road, Fair Lawn. Visit the [website](#).

What's unique about your volunteer site? This is an historic site, on both the National and New Jersey Register of Historic Places. It was settled in 1719 and provides an example of simple farming life in the 1700s and 1800s. In keeping with that, the gardens are all open pollinated and grown using organic and sustainable practices. The majority of all plantings are heirloom varieties.

What do you do during a typical volunteer shift?
How many MGs show up? On a typical volunteer day, you may be working in the vegetable garden, herb garden, native plant garden, or any other area that needs attention. Produce from the various vegetable beds is donated each week to a local food pantry, which is a great source of satisfaction to everyone participating. The extensive herb garden, which houses over 85 medicinal and culinary herbs, is another area where many hands are needed. Volunteers will harvest many of these herbs for drying and seed saving.

Do volunteers work as a group? Individually? Please describe. We work in groups of two to six on average, with a seasoned Master Gardener working alongside students. There may be several groups working in various areas depending on the day's attendance — usually eight to 10 volunteers on average. Work can be tailored to individual capabilities so there is something for everyone who wants to join us.

What, if anything, should volunteers bring with them? Volunteers should bring gloves and small hand tools, such as a pruner and trowel; Garretson provides the larger tools. On Thursdays, we take a mid-day break, so bring lunch or a snack, relax, and enjoy the opportunity to chat and get to know each other.

Where do you park? There is plenty of on-site parking and bathrooms are available for our use.

Are there any volunteer opportunities at your site that are not strictly "gardening"? Yes. Garretson's annual Spring Festival and plant sale will take place from 10 am-4 pm, May 7. To get ready for this event, volunteers will weed and clean up the herb beds and dig up and pot native plants and herbs and lots of milkweed. We will also assist at the plant sale, give garden tours, and help visitors with their plant needs. The other festivals are the Sept. 11 Butterfly Festival and release; Oct. 9 Fall Festival; and the wreath-making/Dutch Christmas open house Nov. 27 and Dec. 3.

Anything else you want to mention? Garretson Forge & Farm has been a member of [Monarch Watch](#) since 2005 and is a certified Monarch Waystation. At the Butterfly Festival, monarchs are tagged and released, assisted by volunteers who encourage everyone to plant milkweed.

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

- Information from Lida Gellman, Class of 1999

(Volunteer sites, continued on page 8)

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Bergen County

Joel Flagler Agricultural/Resources Management Agent/County Extension Dept. Head
201-336-6780

Karen Riede Horticultural Assistant 201-336-6788

Cooperating agencies: Rutgers, the State University of NJ, US Department of Agriculture, and Bergen County Board of Commissioners. 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.

(Volunteer sites, continued from page 7)



Photo courtesy of John Thielke (son of the late Carol Thielke)

MGs demonstrate forest bathing. From left, Herb Arbeiter, Class of 2019, “tests” the waters; Barbara Pisacane (2009) hugs a tree; and Caroline Newman (2019) prepares to make a snow angel.

Thielke Arboretum: A sense of humor is required here

Volunteer days and hours: Tuesday and Saturday, 9 am-noon. We work year-round, weather permitting. Thielke is located at 460 Doremus Ave., Glen Rock. Visit the [website](#).

What’s unique about your volunteer site? Us! Come to our arboretum and forest bathe. Learn about corduroying. It ain’t just pants.

What do you do during a typical volunteer shift?

How many MGs show up? We clear the weir, mulch, weed, and clown around; plant trees, shrubs, and perennials; install deer protection and spray deer repellent; corduroy; forest bathe. Typically, four to six volunteers show up on Tuesday and eight to 12 on Saturday.

Do volunteers work as a group? Individually? Please describe. Usually, we work as a group but it’s the individual’s choice. “Corduroying” usually requires three to four people. Come find out for yourself what it is!

Are any special skills needed at your site? Affability.

What, if anything, should volunteers bring with them? Bring more volunteers. Tools are provided. There is water at the Education Center.

Where do you park? There is ample space at the adjacent municipal pool parking lot.

Are there any volunteer opportunities at your site that are not strictly “gardening”? Yes. Volunteer as a docent to give tours for children and adults or become an ambassador for the Education Center.

What projects are planned at your site in 2022, if any? New tree and perennial plantings. Trail improvements to help prevent flood damage.

Describe what historical significance your site has.

Thielke Arboretum is a 16-acre public park owned by the borough of Glen Rock. In the early 1900s it was the estate of Dr. Fred W. Morris, a lover of trees, who preserved them throughout the property. In 1954, the property was saved from development; it was officially named an arboretum in 1963. Since then, volunteers have tended to the majestic trees and planted many more. In 2009, the arboretum was named after an exceptionally devoted MG, Carol Thielke, whose tireless efforts established a rich foundation for stewardship and educational programs. Our tree collection now contains 125 species with more planted every year.

Site coordinator: Herb Arbeiter, 646-373-7328 arbeiter@optonline.net; Jean Epiphan, stewardship director, jnepiphan@thielkearboretum.org

- Information from Herb Arbeiter, Class of 2019



Photo by Herb Arbeiter

Keith Mazanec and Caroline Newman, both Class of 2019, engage in more traditional tasks like tree transplanting.

THINGS TO DO

A day away at Willowwood Arboretum



Photos by Janet Schulz

Above, a gate leading from the house to the garden. Below, a swath of tulips along a path.

Willowwood Arboretum in Far Hills is “a plant collector’s paradise,” reported Janet Schulz, Class of 1988, who visited recently with Karen Pennell, Class of 2009. “I never saw so many plants I did not recognize or know,” Janet said. Willowwood comprises 130 acres of rolling farmland with 2,100 kinds of native and exotic plants, many of them rare. Take a tour via cellphone. Willowwood is open daily, 8 am to dusk. GPS address is 14 Longview Road, Far Hills. Visit the [website](#).



Garretson Spring Festival May 7

Garretson Forge & Farm’s annual Spring Festival will include tours of the homestead and garden; spinning demonstration; open-pit cooking demonstration; maypole dance; re-enactors; a plant sale; and a variety of children’s activities. It’s scheduled from 10 am-4 pm, May 7. Admission is free; donations are welcome. Garretson is located at 4-02 River Road, Fair Lawn.

Overpeck Park EarthFest May 15

Overpeck Park’s EarthFest, sponsored by the Bergen County Department of Parks and the Hackensack Riverkeeper, offers an afternoon of outdoor activities including free kayaking and canoeing; free fishing derby; live music; children’s activities; presentations of wildlife and birds of prey; and an array of food trucks. The MG of BC will be among the non-profit and “green” vendors with display tables. Stop by to say hello.

Hours are from noon-5 pm, May 15. Enter the park from 199 Challenger Road, Ridgefield Park, or 50 Fort Lee Road, Leonia.

Native Plant Day at DeKorte Park May 15

Bergen County Audubon Society and the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority will sponsor Native Plant Day from 10 am-2 pm, May 15. The family friendly event will feature walks through DeKorte Park spotlighting native plants and explaining why they’re critical to the environment. Other attractions include talks, activities for kids, and information booths. The park is located at 1 DeKorte Park Plaza, Lyndhurst. Contact [Don Torino](#), Bergen Audubon, for more information.

Tour Glen Rock ‘pollinator corridor’ May 18

Tom Bender, a co-leader of the Bergen-Passaic Chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Jersey, will lead a tour of a pollinator corridor (pollinator garden plants in neighboring yards) in Glen Rock beginning at 5 pm, May 18. Send an email to [Vicky Katzman](#) to register and receive the meeting address.

Ridgefield Park ‘green fair’ May 21

The Ridgefield Park Environmental Commission hosts its Earth Day/Green Fair 2022 from 10 am-5 pm, May 21 at Riverside Park, 24 Industrial Ave., behind the Department of Public Works. MG of BC volunteers will have an information table. Other activities are music, shows, face painting, canoe and boat rides, and refreshments.

(Things to do, continued on page 10)

(Things to do, continued from page 9)

Hackensack River greenway cleanups

The Friends of the Hackensack River Greenway Through Teaneck has scheduled two cleanups in May. The Greenway is one of our MG of BC volunteer sites.

- May 1, 10 am-noon at the Indian Pond Trail, Teaneck. Park at the tennis courts near River Road and Ogden Avenue.
- May 21, 10 am-noon at the Camperdown Trail at River Road and Camperdown Avenue, Teaneck. Park on the side streets along River Road.

Volunteers pick up trash, free trees from invasives, and plant natives where possible. Bring gloves and, if you have them, loppers and clippers. Check the Greenway [website](#) for any schedule changes before coming to the event.

HORTICULTURE GRAPEVINE

May 3, 6-7 pm: Franklin Lakes Public Library, 470 DeKorte Drive, Franklin Lakes. Speaker: Alexa Fantacone, director of the [Lorrimer Sanctuary](#). Topic: Getting to Know Native Plants (and Alexa). Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

May 10, 7 pm, Bogota Public Library, 375 Larch Ave, Bogota. In-person and virtual event. Speaker: Robyn Lowenthal, Class of 2011. Topic: Vegetable Gardening. Click [here](#) for more information and to register for either in-person or virtual attendance.

May 12, 7-8 pm, Upper Saddle River Library via Zoom. Speaker: Linda Flynn, Class of 2016. Topic: Gardening for Birds and Butterflies. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

May 18, 6 pm: Hasbrouck Heights Garden Club, Municipal Building, 320 Boulevard, 2nd floor, Hasbrouck Heights. Speaker: Lourdes Osorio, Passaic County MG. Topic: From Buzz to Chirps and Flashes - Creating an Eco-Friendly Garden. Meet and greet at 5:30 pm.

Whatcha doing besides gardening?

Do you draw, make origami, or sculpt? How about run half-marathons, bake bread, or collect model trains or thimbles? We'd like to see you in an environment other than a garden. Send a photo of yourself enjoying your hobby and a description to [Miriam Taub](#), Class of 2011. Or, write to Miriam if you have any questions. Photos will appear in a future issue of the *Potting Shed*.

Party for the Planet volunteers



Photo by Karen Riede, Class of 2017

More than 4,1000 people attended the Party for the Planet at the Bergen County Zoo in Van Saun Park April 24. From left: Maria Lobo (Class of 2022), Karen Pennell (2009), Pat Pacheco (2022), and Lucy Malka (2005). Other volunteers at the MG table were Sharon LaMonica, Scott Japko, and Ryan Knight, all from the Class of 2022.