

# Master Gardeners of Bergen County February 2019 – mid-month reminders and updates

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## MG meeting Tuesday, Feb. 26

1 Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack, 1<sup>st</sup>-floor meeting room. Refreshments at 7 pm; announcements at 7:20 pm; program to follow.



Jean Epiphan

Our speaker this month is Jean Epiphan, a trustee and land and stewardship manager at Thielke Arboretum of Glen Rock. Her topic is local native fern species, all of which are ecologically significant plants in our natural forests as well as enchanting additions to our home gardens.

Jean will review why we should plant native plants to support our local ecosystems and how we can add many of these native ferns to our own gardens. She will review planting requirements, such as soil type, light requirements, and moisture needs for each species. She also will describe how to identify and differentiate each fern by its subtle, yet unique, characteristics.

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## Last call! Volunteer hours are overdue; please remit now

**By Donna Karpel**

No password is needed to download the forms from the home page of our website under "Volunteer & Education Reporting Forms." **Once again, do not use the online system as it's not ready for data entry.**

To maintain your certified Master Gardener status, each year you must send in your 25 volunteer hours and 10 hours of education as well as pay your dues. *Without completing and reporting both the full volunteer and education hours, plus dues, you aren't considered certified.* If there are extenuating circumstances why you were unable to fulfill the requirements, please contact me. My contact information is below.

Here are the two ways to report your hours:

1. **Excel form:** The form be used on any PC and emailed. *This is the easiest and most accurate way to track hours.* Do not create your own spreadsheet.
2. **Paper form:** Paper has to be mailed and you need to make a copy for your records. The mailing address is on the form. Please write neatly. If I can't read it, I can't enter it.

Again, both forms can be found on the left side of the home page of our [website](#) under "Volunteer & Education Reporting Forms." The forms will download directly to your computer from the link.

When using the Excel form, remember to change the file name from "V&EAR Email Form" and save with your name and year of reporting. Example, Merry Gardener 2018. Send the entire spreadsheet as an attachment to your email. **Do not** separate your education and volunteer hours into two or more reports; do not save your file as a pdf and send; and *do not send as a shared (Google) drive*. Enter only one date per line, especially if you're submitting a paper report.

If you have any questions or need help, don't hesitate to contact me: Donna Karpel, 201-327-8835 or [donna9189@gmail.com](mailto:donna9189@gmail.com).

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## 'Top 10 trees' lecture at Thielke March 24

Space is limited for a three-hour workshop titled the "Top 10 trees of northeastern NJ – the hardiest native trees for local suburban habitats" to be held from 1-4 pm Sunday, March 24 in the Environmental Education Center at the Thielke Arboretum of Glen Rock, 460 Doremus Ave., Glen Rock.

Jean Epiphan, our February speaker who is a trustee and land and stewardship manager at Thielke, will speak. Her presentation will consist of a lecture and slide show from 1-3 pm and a walking tour of the trees of Thielke from 3-4 pm.

The cost is \$20 for arboretum members; \$25 for non-members; and 50% off for 2019 Thielke volunteers. Earn two Master Gardener CEUs. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

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## Horticulture grapevine

### *Upcoming area garden club meetings that are open to the public.*

- Feb. 25**            **7:30 pm, Ho-Ho-Kus Garden Club**, Ho-Ho-Kus Community Church, 400 Warren Ave., Ho-Ho-Kus, entrance on Sycamore Avenue. Speaker: Bill Sheehan, Hackensack Riverkeeper. Topic: A virtual tour of the Hackensack River Watershed.
- March 1**            **2 pm, Demarest Garden Club**, United Methodist Church, 109 Hardenburgh Ave., Demarest. Speaker: Jim Wright, naturalist and author. Topic: Birds in your backyard.