

# Master Gardeners of Bergen County November 2019 – mid-month update

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## MG meeting Tuesday, Nov. 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.

Marc Gussen, director of the Closter Nature Center, will lecture, accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation, on hydroponics - the art of soilless gardening. Marc will walk us through the history of botany and agriculture and discuss plant nutrition and the future of food production.

Marc has been presenting environmental education programs to children and adults for more than 20 years. He holds a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University, where he conducted research for NASA's Mars Space project. He received NJ Audubon's Informal Educator Award. Marc loves to share his knowledge on topics ranging from wildlife and mycology to Native American primitive skills and hydroponics. The [Closter Nature Center](#) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of 136 acres of woods, streams, wetlands, and trails in Closter.



Marc Gussen

- **Holiday party Dec. 3, see immediately below**
  - **Next meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020**
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## Save the date: Holiday party at the zoo in Van Saun Park Dec. 3

The MG of BC's annual holiday party will be noon-2 pm Tuesday, Dec. 3 in the education building of the Bergen County Zoo in Van Saun Park, 216 Forest Ave., Paramus. Attire is casual. Sandwiches and beverages will be provided. But please bring one of the following based on the first letter of your last name:

**A to P: Appetizers or salads**  
**Q to Z: Desserts**

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## Did we mention 2020 dues are due?

Don't let your MG of BC membership lapse. See the 2020 membership renewal form sent with this mid-month update. Mail the completed form with your check for \$20, made payable to the MG of BC to: Terri Pegg, 54 W. Magnolia Ave., Maywood, NJ 07607. If you'd like, you can include an additional amount as a donation to the MG of BC. Donations are always welcome.

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## Coming up

*A selection of meetings, events, and volunteer activities.*

**Nov. 19**      **7 pm, Backyard Garden Club**, sponsored by the Friends of the River Vale Free Public Library, River Vale Library, 412 Rivervale Road, River Vale. Program: Recap of the gardening season; attendees will discuss recent gardening successes and challenges in an informal roundtable discussion.

- Nov. 20**      **7 pm, Hasbrouck Heights Garden Club**, upstairs library meeting room, 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights. Speaker: Mary Jo Sichak, Passaic County MG and teacher/naturalist at Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood. Topic: Indoor gardening. Refreshments and short meeting precede speaker.
- Nov. 24**      **2 pm, Garden Club of Harrington Park**, upstairs in the Harrington Park Library, 10 Herring St., Harrington Park. Program: Gerri Gibney, club president, will conduct a Thanksgiving workshop to create a centerpiece. Cost: \$18 members/\$23 non-members. Register by emailing [Gerri Gibney](mailto:Gerri.Gibney@harringtonparkgardenclub.org) or calling her at 201-768-2615. Space is limited.
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### ***Planting natives at Overpeck County Park, Teaneck***



*Photos by Lorelei Koran, Class of 2020*

Class of 2020 students Patricia Brady, left, and Joanna Lin were among the 19 current students aided by members of the Bergen County Environmental Council (BCEC) who planted 400 native plants at Overpeck County Park, Teaneck, during the BCEC fall planting Oct. 25. It was reported that 50 of each of the following woody and herbaceous plants or plugs were planted by volunteers: *Cornus racemosa* (grey dogwood); *Vaccinium angustifolium* (lowbush blueberry); *Viburnum trilobum* (cranberry viburnum); *Echinacea purpurea* (purple coneflower); *Heliopsis helianthoides* (false sunflower); *Monarda fistulosa* (wild bergamot); *Panicum virgatum* (switchgrass); and *Schizachyrium scoparium* (little bluestem). According to the BCEC, a total of 10,792 native plants were planted throughout the Bergen County parks system from 2000-2018 thanks to MG students, the BCEC, and other organizations.

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### ***Beyond the garden gate: Lynn Curtin to entertain at the Hermitage***

Lynn Curtin, Class of 2013 and a site coordinator at the Hermitage, will play her flute for guests Saturday, Nov. 30 during a candlelight tour of the historic mansion decorated for a Victorian Christmas. Lynn and fellow flautists will entertain with period music while docents tell stories about how many of our holiday traditions started during the late 1880s. The evening will conclude with cider and light Victorian fare.

Click [here](#) to purchase tickets (\$25 each) for the guided tour at 6 pm or at 8 pm. Limit 20 people per tour. Click [here](#) for more holiday events at the Hermitage, 335 N. Franklin Turnpike, Ho-Ho-Kus.



**Lynn Curtin**