

Master Gardeners of Bergen County December 2019 – mid-month update

From the President's Desk

By Carolyn Gretchen

Happy holidays to you and yours! Thank you to all who orchestrated and participated in our annual holiday party at the Van Saun Park Zoo education building Dec. 3. As is our tradition, our very own gifted Albina Daukantas and her talented team graced us with gorgeous centerpieces for our holiday celebrations. The result was that we made \$485 on the sales.



As per Albina's request, the money will be split between the MG of BC and a shelter: \$250 will be given to the Center for Hope and Safety (formerly Shelter Our Sisters), 12 Overlook Ave., Rochelle Park. The Center for Hope and Safety is a private, non-profit organization that assists women and children who are victims of domestic violence, including emotional, economic, sexual, and physical assault. The remaining \$235 is for the MG of BC. (See photos on page 2.) We can all feel proud to be participants in this season of giving to those less fortunate. Thank you, everyone, for your generosity!

Accolades to the Holiday Open House decorating team. The dining room and breakfast room were magnificent — so imaginative and creative. When people walked in, they were in awe. Guests had so much fun as they dressed in the queen's robe, crown, and scepter to have their pictures taken. They were the most popular rooms in the manor. Thank you to all for your hard work and ingenuity.

2020 dues are due

Don't let your MG of BC membership lapse. See the 2020 MG Renewal Form available from the home page of our [website](#). 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. **Note:** Beginning March 1, the *Potting Shed* will be sent only to those who've paid their 2020 dues.

Outgoing and incoming

Carolyn Gretchen, left, received flowers, cards, and a gift card to Rohsler's Allendale Nursey as a thank you for fulfilling two years as MG of BC president. Incoming president, Melody Corcoran, right, will take office during our Jan. 21 meeting.



Upcoming conferences in brief

North Jersey Ornamental Horticulture Symposium, Jan. 6-8, Dragonetti Auditorium, County College of Morris, 214 Center Grove Road, Randolph. **Cost for certified MGs:** \$40 each day, lunch included. Turf Day is Jan 6; Tree Day is Jan. 7; Landscape Day, chaired by Joel Flagler, is Jan. 8. Preregistration deadline Dec. 23. Register by clicking [here](#). Fees are higher if you register after Dec. 23.

Rutgers Home Gardeners School, March 21, Hickman Hall, 89 George St., New Brunswick. **Cost for certified MGs:** \$80 before Feb. 29; proof of certification required. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

Sale of holiday centerpieces yields \$485



Photos by Miriam Taub

Albina Daukantas, Class of 2011, right, created holiday centerpieces, which were displayed and sold at the annual MG holiday party Dec. 3. Albina donated most of the supplies, which she collected during the year at garage and yard sales. Additional supplies were donated by MGs Joseph Cooper, Barbara Pisacane, Noreen Postman, and Karen Pennell, who volunteered "many hours," Albina said, to create a total of 27 centerpieces. Herb Arbeiter transported the centerpieces to the holiday party. *Thank you to all volunteers who displayed your creativity.*

Volunteer hours are due now

By Donna Karpel

No password is needed to download the reporting forms from the home page of our [website](#).

We use the information from the V&EAR for our Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) and Rutgers University reports as well as for the annual recertification of Master Gardeners. (To be considered a certified Master Gardener we must receive your volunteer report and dues.) And, RCE receives additional funding based on total number of reported volunteer hours.

There are two ways to report your volunteer hours:

1. **Excel form:** Can be used on any PC and emailed. This is the easiest and most accurate way to track hours. Do not create your own spreadsheet or use a shared drive!
2. **Paper form:** Paper must be mailed, and you need to make a copy for records. The mailing address is on the form.

Both forms can be found under "[Volunteer Reporting](#)" on the lower right of the home page. Click on either form and you can save directly to your computer. *Do not use the online volunteer reporting system as it's not ready for 2019 data entry.*

When using the Excel form, please remember to save the file with your name and year of reporting. If you need help renaming your file, please ask. Send the entire report as one spreadsheet. Do *not* separate your education and volunteer hours into two or more reports or include another year on it. Enter only one date per line, especially if you're submitting a paper report. (If I can't read it, I can't enter it.) If you have any questions or need help, don't hesitate to contact me at 201-327-8835 or donna9189@gmail.com.

2019 Holiday Open House at Skylands



For the 2019 Holiday Open House, the MG of BC's HOH Committee decorated the Manor House dining and breakfast rooms. Volunteers pose in the dining room where the theme was "Winter is Coming ... the Snow Queen's Banquet." Front row left to right: Cynthia Drennan, De Trezza, Fran Langendoen, Kathy Smith, Sue Sheridan. Back row: Sandy Pancrazi, Laura DeFLora, Lisa Yoler. Below, the theme of the breakfast room was "And Spring Will Follow." The lavabo was filled with plants, flowers, and even a trickling fountain.



Photos by Joseph Cooper

Visit YouTube to see Joseph Cooper's videos of the 2019 Holiday Open House [decorations](#) and [volunteers](#).



Photo by Joseph Cooper

In the dining room, the Snow Queen (mannequin) welcomed guests and invited them to relax by her icy blue fire. Among the volunteers who created special sections of the display were:

- Sue Sheridan: Snow Queen and fireplace;
- Lisa Yoler: Dining room table tree and snow chandeliers;
- Josie Ko: White starry arbor and twiggy arbor in the breakfast room;
- Cynthia Drennan: Winter mountain scene, fireplace, breakfast room chandelier, fairy children, and mushrooms;
- Fran Langendoen: Ice thrones;

- Sandy Pancrazi and Kathy Smith: Apothecary snow village and silver/crystal serve ware display;
- Diane Van Kempen: Sconces;
- Laura DeFLora: Silver crystal serve ware display, lavabo, and spring trees and branches; and
- De Trezza: Apothecary village; De was the master organizer.

Sunshine

Agnes Adler, Class of 1990, is recovering at Valley Hospital, 223 N. Van Dien Ave., Ridgewood, and would like to see a few friendly faces. You can call Valley Hospital for patient information and hours at 201-447-8000.

Coming up

A selection of meetings, events, and volunteer activities.

- Jan. 1** **1-3:30 pm, NJ Botanical Garden**, 2 Morris Road, Ringwood. First day 90-minute hike; a self-guided family friendly hike in the state park woodlands. Weather permitting, climb to the Mt. Defiance overlook on the Halifax trail and return, or choose the hike without a climb. Wear sturdy shoes and weather-appropriate clothes; small children may need to be carried. Meet at the Carriage House from 1-2 pm for map and directions. Staff will be on the trail for assistance if required. Snow cancels; call 973-962-7031 for information.
- Jan. 2** **7:30 pm, Garden Club of Harrington Park**, upstairs in the Harrington Park Library, 10 Herring St., Harrington Park. Program: Members' night - winners and losers in the garden; members will "show and tell" of their own gardens, gardens visited, or anything garden-related. Hosted by Esther Ross, club member.