

Master Gardeners of Bergen County April 2021 – Mid-Month Update

MG virtual meeting – Tuesday, April 27 via Zoom

Announcements at 7:20 pm; program to follow

Tovah Martin: Houseplants by Design - Adding Plants to Your Décor

To attend the meeting, click [here](#) before 7:15 pm to allow the meeting organizer enough time to let attendees into the meeting.

You want houseplants, you need houseplants, but do you really use houseplants to their fullest potential? Tovah Martin, an avid (verging on obsessed) indoor and outdoor gardener, is the author of many gardening books, the most recent *The Garden in Every Sense and Season*. Her presentation, filled with photos and inspiration from her massive collection of houseplants, will explore some of the easiest, most rewarding houseplants appropriate for all types of home situations and varying window exposures.

Tovah will talk about what to grow and where and how to host houseplants. Beyond your usual practical presentation, she'll share ideas for displaying your plants beautifully and artistically. To make your houseplants much more than just a green blob in the corner, she'll discuss design principles; how they relate to houseplants; and how to pair houseplants and display them to work with your décor. She'll display containers that make houseplants shine with personality and advise how to host and care for houseplants so they work for you.



Photo by Kindra Clineff

Tovah Martin

Tovah's books include *The Indestructible Houseplant*, *The Unexpected Houseplant*, *The New Terrarium*, and *Tasha Tudor's Garden*. Visit her [website](#).

Have you visited the new MG of BC website yet?

The MG of BC has a new [website](#) with public and member sections. In the public section, you'll find descriptions of the MG volunteer sites with photo of each, a summary of activities, and the name(s) and contact information for each site's coordinator(s). Though there's no volunteering yet, we're hopeful!

In the member section, you'll find the member directory; the list of nurseries that provide discounts to MG of BC members; past issues of the *Potting Shed*; and meeting minutes of the MG of BC board and the Rutgers MG Association of NJ (RMGANJ).

To enter the member section: Send an email to info@mgofbc.org designating the username and password you want to use for this site. Passwords are case-sensitive and limited to 10 letters/numbers (no special characters). *Usernames and passwords did not carry over from the old website.* You must be a 2021 dues-paying member to enter the Members section of the website. Life members and members of the Classes of 2020 and 2021 don't owe dues. For Class of 2020 members who paid 2021 dues, your dues will be credited toward 2022.

Chionanthus - a tree of eloquence and grace

Bruce Crawford, program leader in home and public horticulture at Rutgers, has chosen the fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*) as his April plant of the month.

By Bruce Crawford

When discussing plants, I am often accused of using adjectives more typically reserved for describing people. Terms like handsome, attractive, and elegant frequently roll off my tongue, along with far less complimentary terms on occasion. On the other hand, terms like eloquent, ethereal, and graceful are words I typically do not use to describe a plant. However, I do believe they are the perfect adjectives to describe the fringe tree, botanically named *Chionanthus virginicus*, especially in the spring when it is covered with its fleecy white flowers. . . Click [here](#) to read more.



Rutgers University photo

Chionanthus retusus flowers

Webinars

April 19, 6:30 pm: Rutgers Earth Day Every Day sponsors Food Systems and Climate Change. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

April 19, 6:30-7:30 pm: Penn State Extension sponsors Creating a Backyard Habitat. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

April 20, 6:30-7:30 pm: Penn State Extension sponsors Organic Gardening - Soils and Bed Preparation. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

April 21, 1-2:30 pm: Duke Farms and the New Jersey Conservation Foundation sponsor Managing Deer to Restore Forests and Sequester Carbon. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

April 21, 3-4 pm: Duke Farms sponsors NJ Home Sustainability and Efficiency. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

April 22, 6:30-7:30 pm: Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Middlesex County sponsors Growing Exotic Leafy Greens. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

April 26, 6:30 pm: Rutgers Earth Day Every Day sponsors Trees, Wonderful Trees. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

April 29, 6:30-7:30 pm: Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Middlesex County sponsors Growing Delicious Fruits in Containers. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Get your gardening answers here

Do you have a burning question about gardening or horticulture? Would you like a local opinion on how to care for your indoor or outdoor plants? Send your question to [Arnie Friedman](#). If your question is chosen it will appear in the next *Potting Shed* with the answer.

Event suspensions and site closures

All in-person events, classes, programs, MG meetings and events, and other group activities organized by or under the auspices of Rutgers Cooperative Extension have been suspended through April 30, 2021.