

# Master Gardeners of Bergen County June 2021 – Potting Shed Mid-Month Update

## Reminder: Volunteering resumes at 6 MG of BC sites

Volunteering has resumed at Garretson Forge and Farm, Hackensack River Greenway through Teaneck, the Hermitage, McFaul Environmental Center, New Jersey Botanical Garden/Skylands, and Washington Spring Garden in Van Saun Park.

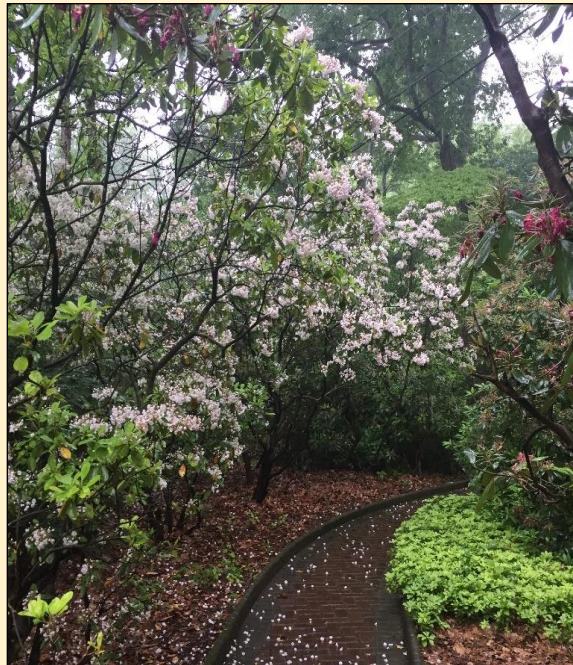
Earlier this month, Rutgers Cooperative Extension eliminated Covid protocols for outdoor programs that included limiting group size and requiring masks and social distancing. In addition, the Health Assessment Form and the RCE Attendance Form are no longer needed.

However, as announced several months ago, the Master Gardener volunteer requirement is suspended for 2021, and you aren't required to participate in any volunteering this year. Any volunteer hours performed in 2021 will count toward your lifetime hours.

Keep a paper record of your hours (the name of the site and date and number of hours volunteered). You'll need to enter them into the Better Impact system. Information about the use of Better Impact will follow in upcoming newsletters.

Site coordinators have contacted their volunteers with reopening information. If you're interested in volunteering at a new site, visit the Volunteer Sites [page](#) of our website and then click on the "Volunteer Sites PDF List" for the names, description, and contact information for each site.

## *She couldn't stay away*



*Photo by Suzanne Danzig*

"The first day back at Washington Spring Garden in Van Saun Park [June 3] was a washout for most of the volunteers, but I could not stay away. I raked leaves that were suffocating our astilbe before the skies opened up. Then I toured the garden to view the tail end of the mature mountain laurels in bloom. Boy, do I love this garden! I have missed working in it." Volunteers meet Thursdays from 8:30 am-12:30 pm.

*- Suzanne Danzig, Class of 2008  
and site coordinator*

## THINGS TO DO

### Clean-up at the Hackensack River Greenway through Teaneck

The Friends of the Hackensack River Greenway through Teaneck will sponsor a clean-up from 10 am-noon June

19 at Upper Brett Park, Teaneck. The goal is to pick up trash, free trees from invasives, and plant natives where possible. Bring gloves, loppers, and clippers. Park on Riverview Avenue, Teaneck. Meet at the bottom of the hill near the Mausner Meadow sign.

You can register for the clean-up by sending an email to [teaneckgreenway@gmail.com](mailto:teaneckgreenway@gmail.com). Before attending, check the [website](#) for cancellations or schedule changes.

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

## Native and Butterfly Garden tour at Overpeck Park

Tour the garden, at 40 Fort Lee Road, Leonia (behind the equestrian center), to learn about the plants and the butterflies and wildlife that visit from 10 am-2 pm June 26. For more information, contact [Don Torino](#), president, Bergen County Audubon Society.

## Forest 'bathing' at Duke Farms

If you attended our May meeting, you may recall speaker Bruce Crawford mentioning "forest bathing" in his presentation about trees. And now you can "bathe" in the forest at Duke Farms, which will sponsor a forest bathing event from 9:30 am-noon June 26 beginning at the farm

barn. Forest bathing involves a slow walk in a natural area with a clearly defined sequence of guided events. Tickets are \$20. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

## Garden Conservancy Open Day June 27

Tour two private gardens in Pottersville, Hunterdon County, through the Garden Conservancy Open Day program. Click on the links for a description of the [Jardin de Buis](#) and the [Bird Haven Farm](#) and to register. Both gardens will be open from 10 am-4 pm.

Capacity is limited, no walk-ins allowed, and no paper tickets or cash payments will be accepted on-site. Masks and social distancing are required.

---

## Mountain mint – truly, a gardeners' mint

*Bruce Crawford, program leader in home and public horticulture at Rutgers, has chosen the mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum muticum*) as his June plant of the month.*

### By Bruce Crawford

Mint is a plant that conjures up a multitude of thoughts and emotions among gardeners. Typically, our first thought is of a plant with wonderfully fragrant foliage that happens to combine well with ice tea and mint juleps! Unfortunately, this is matched with an equally unsettling vision of a plant that knows no boundaries and will rapidly spread throughout your garden. True mints are found within the genus *Mentha*, and their aggressively spreading nature makes them problematic in an ornamental garden.

However, there are other plants in the mint family or Lamiaceae that display a far greater degree of garden refinement and manners. Mountain mint, botanically known as *Pycnanthemum muticum*, is one such member of the Lamiaceae and it defies my imagination as to why this plant is not more popular among gardeners. . . Click [here](#) to read more.



Rutgers University photo

The vertical nature of mountain mint.

---

## WEBINARS

**June 16, noon-1 pm:** Ecological Landscape Alliance sponsors Fundamentals of Garden Layers. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

**June 16, 7 pm:** Native Plant Society of New Jersey sponsors Native Plants for Moths. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

**June 17, 1-3 pm:** Penn State Extension sponsors The Secret Lives of Caterpillars. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

**June 22, 7-8:30 pm:** Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Ocean County sponsors Vegetable Gardening Q&A. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

**June 23, 6:30-8 pm:** Mt. Cuba Center sponsors Making Meadows - From Start to Finish. Fee: \$24. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

**June 26, 10-11 am:** North Carolina State Extension, Buncombe County Center, sponsors Container Gardening with Vegetables and Herbs. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

**June 29, 5-6:30 pm:** Philadelphia Horticultural Society sponsors Growing Organics - Trellising and Vertical Growing. Fee: \$13.50 PHS members/\$15 non-members. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

**June 30, 6-7 pm:** Penn State Extension sponsors Cooking at Home - Charcuterie Boards. Fee: \$5. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

## THIS AND THAT

### An interview with Bruce Crawford

Garden writer Margaret Roach interviewed Bruce Crawford, program leader in home and public horticulture at Rutgers. Click [here](#) to visit her website, A Way to Garden, where you can listen to the interview or read it. Bruce discusses choosing and using garden-size trees. He spoke about trees at our May meeting.

*- Submitted by Karen Pennell, Class of 2009*

### And speaking of Bruce . . .

Bruce Crawford provides a June “to-do” list on the Garden Club of New Jersey website. Click [here](#) to view his gardening notes to learn what you should be doing this month in your garden. Hope you enjoy fertilizing, weeding, deadheading, and planting!

## Would you like to manage the NJBG’s annual plant sale?

The New Jersey Botanical Garden seeks a Master Gardener to chair its annual plant sale, which is one of its largest fund-raisers. As a volunteer you’ll receive both MG volunteer hours and Skylands volunteer hours. The NJBG supplies the funds to run the sale.

The volunteer should have good organization, communications, delegation, and multitasking skills since the job requires lots of coordination. A plant sale operations manual outlines the work required, and the current chair, Ceazonia Dyer, is available to assist.



*NJBG photo*

Plants on display at an NJBG sale.

Planning for the sale usually begins in early January or as soon as the nurseries have their lists of plants that will be available for the season. The next sale is scheduled for a weekend in May 2022.

Currently, three Master Gardeners are on the plant sale committee and will assist the new chairperson in selecting and nurturing plants from the volunteer greenhouse as well as setting up, pricing, selling, and breaking down the fixtures needed for the sale. The NJBG’s state staff members also assist.

Ceazonia, who’s retiring as chair of the plant sale, suggested that if you’re interested, you may want to get acquainted with the NJBG by volunteering. “Hopefully, somebody will come forward like I did some 13 years ago,” she said. Click [here](#) to visit the NJBG website.

If interested in the volunteer position, contact Sandy Zenkel, president of the Skylands Association at NJBG, at 973-949-3218 or by [email](#).