

Master Gardeners of Bergen County

September 2021 – Potting Shed Mid-Month Update

Destination: Mexico



Photo by Linda Flynn

Monarch butterflies were tagged and released at Garretson Forge & Farm's 22nd annual Butterfly Festival in preparation for their trip to Mexico. See story on page 2.

THINGS TO DO

Bergen County Fall Harvest Festival Sept. 17-19 at Van Saun Park

Bergen County's Fall Harvest Festival is set for Sept. 17-19 at Van Saun Park, 216 Forest Ave., Paramus. The MG of BC will participate with educational displays organized by the students in the Classes of 2020 and 2021. Come out to support them Sept. 18-19!

In addition to the Master Gardener tent, activities will include the 4-H tent, animals, a craft fair, carnival rides, pumpkin picking, food trucks, and entertainment. Parking and admission are free.

Hours are:

- Sept. 17, 6-9 pm for the midway, rides, and food;
- Sept. 18, 10 am-5 pm for the exhibits, craft fair, and entertainment; noon-10 pm for the midway, rides, and food; and
- Sept. 19, 10 am-5 pm for the exhibits, craft fair, and entertainment; noon-8 pm for the midway, rides, and food.

(Things to do continued on page 2)

Contents	Page
Things to Do	2-3
Horticulture	3
Webinars	3
This and That	4
Horticulture Grapevine	4

Links are clickable and are noted in [blue](#).

Meeting reminder -Tuesday, Sept. 28

Announcements at 7:20 pm; program to follow
Click [here](#) to join the meeting before 7:20 pm

Join our first meeting of the fall 2021 season when horticulturist Elaine Silverstein will talk about native plants. Her topic is Designing and Planting with Native Plants: Creating a Native Habitat.



Elaine Silverstein

Elaine will provide a definition of a habitat and a basic model of a native habitat garden. She'll describe, step by step, how to create a garden that's both beautiful and welcoming to insects, birds, and other wildlife. Her focus is on the practical: What's a native plant? Which native plants are best adapted to my site? How can I find native plants? How do I lay out the garden? How do I care for it after it's installed?

Elaine has a small horticulture practice in Bergen County where she advises clients on sustainability techniques and designs gardens based on native plants. She also speaks to local gardening and community groups and volunteers in the community.

Separately, you can attend an upcoming tour of Elaine's garden. The tour is sponsored by the Bergen-Passaic Chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Jersey where Elaine is founder and co-leader. The tour is 1-3 pm, Sept. 19 in Glen Rock. Send an email to bergenpassaic@npsnj.org for the address and directions.



Photo by Miriam Taub

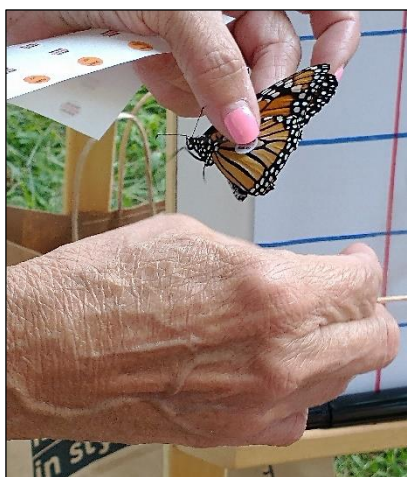
Jane Nicholson, Class of 2017, displays monarchs prior to release during Garretson's 22nd annual Butterfly Festival.

Monarch butterflies tagged, enjoyed, and released at Garretson festival

By April Barth, Class of 2017

Sunday, Sept. 12 was a beautiful day for the 22nd annual Butterfly Festival at Garretson Forge & Farm in Fair Lawn.

Garretson Farm was certified as a [Monarch Waystation](#) in 2005 and, for the past few years, has participated in a scientific monarch butterfly tagging program. Several MG volunteers and children, who raised monarch butterflies during the summer, brought their butterflies to the festival for tagging. Visitors observed monarch and



Linda Flynn, Class of 2016, used a toothpick (between her right forefinger and middle finger) to lift a tag (sheet of tags in her left hand) and then gently applied the tag to the monarch's wing. Here she presses the tag to hold it in place.

swallowtail butterflies, caterpillars, and chrysalises up close.

Children, as young citizen naturalists, learned how to hold a monarch for tagging. They also recorded the tag number and gender of their butterfly specimen on a poster board. The data collected during this tagging process, including the release site location, will be sent to [Monarch Watch](#), which keeps

records of any tagged monarchs collected during the butterflies' spectacular fall migration to their wintering colonies in the mountains of Mexico.

Monarch overwintering populations have greatly decreased over the past years, and tagging events inform the public that monarchs face extinction and allow the public an opportunity to help the species make a comeback.

Display boards with butterfly information, as well as guidelines for starting a butterfly garden, were set up around Garretson's "butterfly central." MGs also assisted with arts and crafts activities and a scavenger hunt for children in and around the extensive herb and pollinator gardens.

THINGS TO DO

(Continued from page 1)

Tour and tea at the Hermitage

Let the Hermitage's heirloom gardens help you put 2021 behind you. Seasoned gardeners will explain the



Photo by Kathleen Sullivan

A view of the herb garden from the second-floor hallway in the Hermitage Museum.

significance of the herbs in the Victorian kitchen garden and the vegetables in Mary Elizabeth's garden, named for the last owner of the Hermitage, Mary Elizabeth Rosencrantz. Mary Elizabeth's green thumb sustained her family through hard times. The event is noon-2 pm, Sept. 19.

Pick a bunch of herbs to take home. A cup of the Hermitage's mint or chamomile tea and

small bites follow. Your ticket includes a tour of the Hermitage Museum. Click [here](#) to purchase tickets (\$25 each). Space is limited. The Hermitage is located at 335 N. Franklin Turnpike, Ho-Ho-Kus.

(Things to do, continued on page 3)

(Things to Do, continued from page 2)

Laurelwood Arboretum's sculpture trail official opening is Sept. 18-19

Laurelwood Arboretum will mark the official opening of its sculpture trail this weekend with two days of events for children and adults. Laurelwood is a 30-acre botanically diverse property at 725 Pines Lake Drive West, Wayne. Click [here](#) to learn more about the sculpture trail. Click [here](#) for a list of the weekend's activities and ticket information.

NJ Botanical Garden Harvest Fest Oct. 2

Lots of festivals this fall. The NJBG's Harvest Fest will include food, crafters, a plant sale, exhibits and walks, pumpkin painting, and music and dance. It runs from 10 am-5 pm, Oct. 2 at Ringwood State Park, 1304 Sloatsburg Road, Ringwood. Rain date is Oct. 3. Admission is free. Parking is \$5.

HORTICULTURE

Nasturtiums – great for the garden and table

By Bruce Crawford, manager of horticulture, Morris County Park Commission

Why do some plants have flowers that simply beg for further investigation, while others we can grow for years, perhaps even eat, and never really stop to appreciate the plant for its beauty? I have grown nasturtiums, botanically known as *Tropaeolum majus*, since youth and have even enjoyed snacking on the orange, red, and occasionally yellow flowers. However, I never took the time to understand the complexity of the flower, nor appreciated the culinary and associated health benefits provided. . . Click [here](#) to read more.



Photo courtesy Bruce Crawford

The five petals of the nasturtium flower.

WEBINARS

Sept. 16, noon-1 pm: Smithsonian Gardens sponsors Seeds and How to Find Them. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 18, 10-11 am: Penn State Extension sponsors Bugs and Beyond. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 20, 6:30 pm: Rutgers Cooperative Extension's Earth Day Every Day series sponsors How Does a Rain Garden Grow. Free. Click [here](#) for more information, the fall schedule, and to register.

Sept. 21, 7-8 pm: Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Ocean County sponsors Caring for Houseplants in Fall and Winter. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 22, 7 pm: Native Plant Society of New Jersey sponsors Bring on the Bugs - The Importance of Native Plants and How to Get Your Neighbors Onboard. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register. Note: Attendees will be admitted at approximately 6:50 pm.

Sept. 23, noon-1 pm: Smithsonian Gardens sponsors Getting the Most Out of Small Space/Urban Gardens. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 23, 7 pm: Friends of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum sponsors Glorious Ground Covers - Gardener's Best Friends. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 23, 7-8:30 pm: Penn State Extension sponsors Cover Crops for Home Gardeners. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 24, noon: National Garden Bureau sponsors Ask the Experts: Monarda and Fall Planting of Perennials. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 25, 10-11 am: North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Buncombe County Center, sponsors Growing and Preserving Culinary Herbs. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 26, 2 pm: Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Ocean County and Garden State Daylily Growers sponsor Daylily Hybridizing with Nan Ripley. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 30, noon-1 pm: Smithsonian Gardens sponsors Washington National Cathedral Gardens - Divine Inspiration and Earthly Challenges. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

McFaul: Before and after



Photos by Joseph Cooper

Look closely at the photo above. You'll find Gimai Ma, Class of 2021, engulfed in the tall-grass garden at McFaul Environmental Center, 160 Crescent Ave., Wyckoff. With the help of Paul Sisko, Melody Corcoran, Terri Pegg, and myself, we removed and cut back the grasses to expose winding gravel paths that lead to four benches along the way. [The "after" photo is below.] We meet 8:30 am-noon Wednesdays with a bagel break at 10 am. If you'd like to join us, or for more information, send an email to [me](#).

- Joseph Cooper, Class of 2008, site coordinator



THIS AND THAT

Choosing native, regional milkweed

The choices we make in the garden matter to more than just our own aesthetic. Click [here](#) for an article on choosing native, regional milkweed for butterflies. The article, titled "From Backyard Monarch Enthusiast to Citizen/Community Scientist" is from the National Wildlife Federation blog.

- Submitted by Liz Gil, Class of 2019

Something to 'bee' thinking about

This course doesn't begin until Nov. 1, but you might want to start thinking about whether this course is for you. Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education sponsors Bee-ginner's Beekeeping: The Basics of Apiculture, from Nov. 1-14.

Learn how to be a beekeeper through this self-paced, online course that teaches students how to start, maintain, and care for a honeybee colony. The course content will take approximately 14-15 hours to complete, and participants will have two weeks to complete the coursework at their own pace. The cost for MGs is \$275. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

HORTICULTURE GRAPEVINE

Sept. 23, 5 pm: Garden Club of Hackensack, outdoor meeting at the Hackensack Community Garden, Johnson Park, 444 River St., Hackensack. Speaker: Elizabeth Scholl, Class of 2011. Topic: What to Do with All the Herbs in My Garden. Attendees will make an herbal salt. Bring a small jar, a pair of scissors, and, if you have them, herbs from your garden. Sea salt will be provided. In case of inclement weather, meet at the Hackensack Recreation Center, 116 Holt St. Masks required to enter. Presentation from 5:30-6:30 pm follows the business meeting.

Oct. 5, 7-8 pm, Bogota Public Library via Zoom: Speaker: Janet Schulz, Class of 1988. Topic: Preparing Your Garden for Winter. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Thank you to the contributors to this issue of the *Potting Shed*: April Barth, Joseph Cooper, Donna Faustini, Linda Flynn, Liz Gil, Karen Riede, Janet Schulz, Kathleen Sullivan, and Edith Terzano.