

Master Gardeners of Bergen County

November 2022 – Potting Shed Mid-Month Update

Getting to know you again: In-person meetings return in 2023!

Jan. 17 is our first meeting of 2023, and it's scheduled to be in person in our old meeting room at 1 Bergen County Plaza in Hackensack. Looking forward to seeing you all again!

Other 2023 meeting dates: Feb. 21, March 21, April 18, and May 16.

Virtual meeting – Nov. 22

Announcements at 7:20 pm; program to follow.

Click [here](#) to join the meeting at 7:15 pm.

Meeting ID: 926 9258 8641; password: 692429

Anne Meore: Therapeutic Gardens - The Natural Restorative Environment

Anne Meore has been the garden projects coordinator for Bon Secours Charity Health System, Suffern, NY, since 2011. It's there she's responsible for designing and managing therapeutic garden spaces and conducting horticultural therapy programming in the accessible and therapeutic Garden of Hope at Good Samaritan Hospital. Anne designed the Garden of Hope. She last spoke to the MG of BC in October 2019 about horticultural therapy.



Anne Meore

Anne's presentation will delve into a variety of gardens and the design features that promote the atmosphere of the "therapeutic" setting. She'll also explore populations and benefits to those populations.

Through her business, [Planthropy LLC](#). She provides therapeutic garden consultation, horticultural therapy programming, and lectures on the importance of the "people-plant" relationship.

Desperately seeking docents

HOH Committee needs docents for Dec. 1-4 fund-raising event at Skylands

By Sue Sheridan, Class of 2013

The 2022 Skylands Manor Holiday Open House is around the corner. Docents are still needed to manage the rooms of the manor house during the event.

Docents help by ensuring the safety and security of both attendees and the decorative items. Docents answer questions, provide guidance, and, frequently, directions as attendees move through the rooms.

Event dates/times are Dec. 1-4 from 10 am-4 pm. Two-hour shifts are available, but you can volunteer more than two hours if you'd like. All travel time to and from Skylands may be added to shift hours. If you're interested in volunteering as a docent, please contact [Sue Sheridan](#) via email or by phone: 201-664-2120 or 201-281-0639.



Lisa Yoler, Class of 2019, and MG of BC Holiday Open House Committee member, displays her arrangement for the main hall of Skylands Manor.

If you can't volunteer, consider attending the event. The HOH is the main fund-raising event for the NJ Botanical Garden. Funds raised allow the NJBG to maintain the beautiful gardens and continue its educational programs. Click [here](#) for ticket information.

Contents	Page
MG of BC News	2-3
Webinars	3
This and That	3
Meetings and Workshops	4

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

MG OF BC NEWS

Applications for Class of 2023 are available

Do you have friends and family who are interested in becoming Master Gardeners? Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) of Bergen County is now accepting applications for the 2023 Master Gardener online class, which begins Jan. 17, 2023. If your friends and family enjoy gardening and helping others they're encouraged to apply to the program.

Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who assist RCE and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) in its mission to deliver horticulture programs and information to the public. Students who enroll in the program will receive in-depth training in gardening and horticulture from Rutgers University faculty and professional staff.

Anyone with an interest in gardening and a commitment to volunteer service can become a Master Gardener. No previous education or training in horticulture is required. Students must complete an online training program that runs weekly on Tuesdays from Jan. 17-June 13 from 10 am-12:30 pm via Zoom on the Rutgers course management system called Canvas. The cost of the program is \$200. A computer or tablet with a microphone and speaker is needed to participate. A desktop or laptop is preferred.

After the initial training, 60 volunteer hours must be completed at approved MG volunteer sites in Bergen County within the expected two-year time frame to attain the title of Rutgers Certified Master Gardener.

For the application, send an email to [Karen Riede](#), horticultural assistant, or call her at 201-336-6788.

How to remain a certified MG: There's hours to record and dues to pay

Use Better Impact to record your volunteer and education hours

By Suzanne Danzig, Class of 2008, and Volunteer Records chair

To retain your certified MG status, you must complete a minimum of 25 hours of annual volunteer service and 10 hours of annual continuing education.

You're required to record all volunteer activities and continuing education hours in the Better Impact system. Click [here](#) for the Better Impact home page. *Don't wait until the end of the year to record your hours. Please record hours as you volunteer them.*

Montauk daisies donated to NJBG



Photo by Paul Sisko

Paul Sisko, Class of 2021, took these Montauk daisies to the New Jersey Botanical Garden, courtesy of Secor Farms in Mahwah. The plants were destined to become compost when Secor contacted Paul instead. Paul reported that some of the 40 or so plants will be put in deer-secured areas while others will be used to make cuttings for the NJBG's plant sale in the spring.

Certification as an MG is valid for one year only; *certified MGs* must be recertified every year by completing the required hours of volunteer service and continuing education and being up to date with annual dues.

Should you find that it's no longer possible to put in volunteer hours, you can remain a member of the MG of BC and continue to receive the Potting Shed by paying your annual dues. However, you will not have the designation of certified MG.

For help with logging into or recording hours in Better Impact, please contact [Karen Riede](#) or [Suzanne Danzig](#).

Download and mail the membership renewal form

Before another day goes by, please visit the home page of our [website](#), scroll down to the bottom right, and download/print the membership renewal form.

Mail the completed form with your check for \$20 to MG of BC, PO Box 71, New Milford, NJ 07646. Instructions are on the form. Thank you in advance for renewing your membership!

(Continued on page 3)

(MG of BC news, continued from page 2)

Noreen M. Postman, 1952-2022

Noreen Postman of Hasbrouck Heights, Class of 2016, died Oct. 31. She was 70. Noreen had volunteered at Washington Spring Garden, Van Saun Park zoo, and Thielke Arboretum. Click [here](#) to read Noreen's obituary on the Costa Memorial Home website.

Rakers and pruners needed: Come to the cleanup of the Mary S. Topolsky Garden



We need volunteers at the Mary S. Topolsky Garden, part of the Hackensack River Greenway Through Teaneck, for a one-day cleanup of the garden, Nov. 19 from 10 am-2 pm. The garden is located at 640 River Road, Teaneck. You can park on Kipp Avenue, which intersects River Road across the street from the garden.

Come prepared with your rakes, pruners, loppers, shovels, and gloves to clear out invasives, assess what's there, and suggest what plants should be installed in the spring. The garden is wheelchair accessible, though the path needs to be repaired. Harriet Steiner, Class of 2019, has volunteered to be site coordinator.

There are no restrooms or potable water on site so plan accordingly. Spend as much time as you can. Contact [Harriet](#) if you have any questions.

WEBINARS

Nov. 15, 6-7 pm: Holy Name Medical Center sponsors How to Keep Happy and Healthy in the Holiday Season. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Nov. 15, 6:30-7:45 pm: Penn State Extension sponsors Gardening for All Seasons - Adding Winter Interest to Your Landscape. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Nov. 16, noon-1 pm: Ecological Landscape Alliance (ELA) sponsors 100 Plants to Feed the Monarch Butterflies. Members free; non-members \$10. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Nov. 23, 6:30 pm: AARP Virtual Community Center sponsors Welcoming the Wildlife. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register. AARP membership not required.

Nov. 29, noon-1:15 pm: Penn State Extension sponsors Is a Tiny Forest Right for Your Community? Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Nov. 29, 7-8:15 pm: Penn State Extension sponsors Birds in My Garden. \$6. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Dec. 1, noon: Smithsonian Gardens sponsors A Natural History Approach to Protecting Pollinators. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

THIS AND THAT

Why do leaves change color? Rutgers professor has the answer

It's a chemical thing. Jason Grabosky, professor and program director of urban forestry in the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, explains the process that makes leaves change color, the factors that influence the shades that we see, and the importance of simply taking the time to stop and enjoy the colors. Visit the Rutgers University [website](#) to read more.



Ash baseball bats are becoming extinct

Ash baseball bats are disappearing thanks to the emerald ash borer. Click [here](#) to visit The New York Times website to read more. **Note:** If you're not a Times subscriber, you're limited to the number of stories you can read online.

(Continued on page 4)

(This and that, continued from page 3)

PSE&G increases rebate amounts for appliance recycling

Recycle your old, working refrigerator, room air conditioners, or humidifiers and earn money at the same time.

PSE&G has increased the rebates it will pay for these appliances during its Fall Haul Away event. If you schedule a pickup by Nov. 30, here are the rebates you can earn:

- A \$100 rebate for each refrigerator or freezer you recycle (limit of two); the previous rebate was \$50 each; and
- A \$35 rebate for each room air conditioner or dehumidifier you recycle at the same time (limit of two each); the previous rebate was \$25 each.

The pickup must be made by Dec. 30, 2022. Click [here](#) to visit the “appliance recycling” page of the PSE&G website for details and exclusions. You must be a PSE&G electric customer to participate.

MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

Nov. 15, 6-7:45 pm: Hasbrouck Heights Garden Club, second floor, Municipal Building, 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights. Speaker: Ray Vorisek, proprietor of Heights Flower Shop. Topic: Decorating for the Holidays. Refreshments at 5:30 pm.

Nov. 17, 7 pm: Garden Club of Hackensack, Hackensack Recreation Center (M&M Building), 116 Holt St., Hackensack. Speaker: Sherif Tosuni, local beekeeper. Topic: Beekeeping.

Nov. 20, 2 pm: The Hermitage, 335 N. Franklin Turnpike, Ho-Ho-Kus. Workshop: Making Holiday Centerpieces with floral designer and author Cathy Miller. Tickets: \$15 Hermitage members; \$20 non-members. Click [here](#) for more information and to buy tickets.

Join Garretson's Dutch Christmas events



Photo by Lida Gellman

A cozy fireplace scene at the Garretson Forge & Farm homestead, 4-02 River Road, Fair Lawn.

Deck the halls: Join Garretson volunteers on Dec. 1 from 10 am-2 pm as they decorate the homestead for the holidays. Many hands are needed, so spend some time on this fun task. Contact [Lida Gellman](#), site coordinator, for more information.

Annual Dutch Christmas: Visit Garretson in its Christmas splendor on Dec. 3 from 10 am-4 pm. Fun activities include a holiday sale with craft vendors, Garretson goods, gift shop treasures, and hand-crafted, one-of-a-kind natural wreaths. There will be plenty of photo ops as Sinter Klass will be waiting for you.

- Lida Gellman, Class of 1999

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