

The plant sales are coming!



Area garden clubs and arboretums are preparing for their annual plant sales. The first one of the season is at the Leonard J. Buck Garden April 22-23. See the list on page 2.

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Signed RCE volunteer agreements are needed from active MGs

Effective immediately, Rutgers Cooperative Extension requires that all MGs volunteering in the Master Gardener Program of Bergen County sign the RCE Master Gardener Volunteer Agreement, a one-page form that defines the Rutgers-Master Gardener relationship. This applies to MGs prior to the Class of 2016.

The form includes an optional Media Release that allows Rutgers NJAES to distribute each individual's quotes, photos, and videotape clips for educational and promotional programming efforts.

At the top of the form (enclosed with the Potting Shed), print your name and check the position "Certified." Sign in the two places for RCE Master Gardener: (1) for the Volunteer Agreement and (2) for the Media Release. Signing the Media Release is optional, but it is required to have the Volunteer Agreement signed and on file in the RCE office.

Note: Forms for Classes 2016-2023 are on file already. Only MGs from classes prior to 2016 need to take action and sign and submit a Volunteer Agreement. Thank you for your cooperation.

Enclosed with the Potting Shed are:

- The Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension MG Program Policies & Procedures June 2010 for your reference.

Meeting reminder

Mary Jasch: Private Gardens of NY, NJ, CT, and Eastern PA

Tuesday, April 18
Refreshments at 7 pm; announcements at 7:20; meeting to follow

1 Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack
1st-floor meeting room

Mary Jasch is the publisher of [DIG IT! Magazine](#), the art and science of East Coast gardening. She also produces two to three guided "garden party" bus trips to private and public gardens a year, both day and overnight. "Many of the outstanding gardens in my presentation were visited on the bus trips," she said. "Others resulted from profiles for DIG IT! Magazine and also my freelance articles. Gardens large and small, city and country, were chosen for their unique qualities, personalities, and plantings."



Mary Jasch

This is our annual joint meeting with the Master Gardeners of Passaic County.

(Continued on page 2)

(RCE agreement, continued from page 1)

- The RCE MG Volunteer Agreement that you can print, sign, and date, and then deliver to the Bergen RCE office by either of the following methods:
 - ✓ **By mail:** Rutgers Cooperative Extension, 1 Bergen County Plaza, 4th floor, Hackensack, NJ 07601.
 - ✓ **Email:** Scan the completed form and email to [Karen Riede](#), horticultural assistant.

If you don't have a printer, click [here](#) to send an email to Karen to request that a form be mailed to you. You also can call her at 201-336-6788 to request that a form be mailed to you. Be sure to leave your home/ mailing address.

Again, MGs from the Classes of 2015 and prior must complete and return the form. Forms are on file for MGs from the Classes of 2016-2023.

EARTH DAY EVENTS

April 22, 10 am-4 pm, Bergen County Zoo, Van Saun Park, 216 Forest Ave., Paramus. 15th Annual Party for the Planet Earth Day celebration. Conservation information tables. Lynne Proskow, Class of 2022, will speak in the zoo's amphitheater at 11:30 am. Her topic: Yes, You Can Compost and Help the Environment. Zoo admission required. Click [here](#) for more information.

April 22, noon-4 pm, Laurelwood Arboretum, 725 Pines Lake Drive West, Wayne: Free fun for the whole family. Tree sapling giveaway, educational displays, children's activities, and more. Click [here](#) for the website and scroll down for the Earth Day information.

April 23, 11 am-2 pm, Ridgewood Daffodil Festival and Earth Day Fair, Memorial Park at Van Neste Square, along East Ridgewood Avenue. Free family event. Click [here](#) for more information.

PLANT SALES

April 22-23, Leonard J. Buck Garden, 11 Layton Road, Far Hills. April 22, 10 am-5 pm; April 23, noon-5 pm. Perennials, ferns, woody plants, hypertufa planting troughs. Cosponsored by the Watnong Chapter North American Rock Garden Society. Call 908-722-1200, ext. 5621 for more information.

May 5-14, Teaneck Garden Club, in the greenhouse at the foot of Lindbergh Boulevard off Glenwood Road, Teaneck. Saturdays and Sundays, 10 am-6 pm;

weekdays, noon-7 pm. Vegetables, herbs, annuals, perennials, houseplants. Click [here](#) for the flyer.

May 5-7, Rutgers Gardens Spring Flower Fair, GPS address 130 Log Cabin Road, New Brunswick. May 5-6, 10 am-4 pm; May 7, 10 am-2 pm. Free timed tickets (one per vehicle) required for entrance though you may bring any number of people in your vehicle. Click [here](#) for more information and to reserve a ticket.

May 5-7, Van Vleck House and Gardens, 21 Van Vleck St., Montclair. May 5-6, 9 am-4 pm; May 7, 10 am-4 pm. Flowers, baskets, fruits, vegetables, herbs. Plant advisers can help you find what will work in your garden or on your patio.



May 7, 9 am-2 pm, Ramsey Area Garden Club, Ramsey Farmers Market, Main Street train station, Ramsey. Hanging baskets, perennials from members' gardens, special plant creations in beautiful pots. Garden club members will lend their horticultural expertise and advice. Rain date May 21.

May 5-7, New Jersey Botanical Garden, GPS address Morris Road, Ringwood. May 5, 4:30-7 pm for members' preview and reception. Non-members can join at the door to attend. May 6-7, 9:30 am-4 pm. Perennials, annuals, shrubs, vegetables, herbs, trees, vines, ground covers, hanging baskets, potted plants. Click [here](#) for membership information.

May 12-13, 10 am-3 pm: Tenafly Garden Club, Davis Johnson Park and Gardens, Engle Street and Westervelt Avenue, Tenafly. Annuals, hanging baskets.

May 13, 9 am-noon, Ho-Ho-Kus Garden Club, Sycamore Avenue and Franklin Turnpike on the green next to the Ho-Ho-Kus Inn, Ho-Ho-Kus. Perennials from members' gardens.

May 13, 9 am-3 pm, Sundial Garden Club, Hillsdale train station. Annuals and perennials in pots and flats, deer-resistant plants, hanging baskets, Mother's Day plants, plants from members' gardens.

May 13-14, 9:30 am-2 pm, Laurelwood Arboretum, 725 Pines Lake Drive West, Wayne. You can order flats of annuals by April 21 and pick them up during the sale. Click [here](#) for more information.

IN THE GARDEN



Photos by Janet Schulz

Lasagna (planting) anyone?

Janet Schulz, Class of 1988, provided an example of “lasagna” planting (planting in layers to have blooming bulbs throughout the spring). Above left, the scillas bloom among the tulip leaves. At right, while the scillas depart, daffodils bloom, and tulips are about to open.

Janet’s instructions

- Fall is the best time to plant your bulbs.
- Drainage is the most important thing for your lasagna pot. Use regular garden soil mixed with sand and/or perlite for good drainage. Don’t use a peat-based soil mix, because it stays wet too long and your bulbs will rot.
- Place the soil mixture in the bottom of your pot, then add a layer of tulip bulbs. Tulip bulbs don’t have to be planted “point up.” Those planted on their sides will bloom two days after the ones planted point up. Add another layer of soil; then plant the daffodil bulbs. Add a third layer of soil. Finally plant your minor bulbs (chionodoxa, scilla, crocus). Cover with soil, and water well.
- You also can arrange your bulbs directly in the ground, at right. Dig a hole the depth of a full-size shovel and fill with layers of soil between the tulips, daffodils, and minor bulbs.



Lasagna planting in the ground.

Winter storage: You can sink the pot into your compost heap. Janet keeps her pot in the garage. If in the garage, you probably won’t have to water it, she advised. Once the bulbs start to grow in the spring, bring the pot outside and water well.

Caring for your lasagna planting: As the bulbs bloom in succession, remove the flower stems, but leave the leaves as the plant needs to photosynthesize.

If you plan to leave the bulbs in the pot for the following year, fertilize with bulb food in the fall. The plants will go dormant and should begin to grow the following spring. You can expect at least two years of growth from the bulbs in the pot.

Mining bee emerges



Photo by Melody Corcoran, Class of 2016

A mining bee emerges after spending 11 months underground: First as an egg; then as a larva feeding on a pollen ball supplied by its mother; then as an adult hibernating since last fall. Want to know more about mining bees? Click on these links:

- University of Georgia Extension: [YouTube video](#).
- Rutgers Cooperative Extension: [Supporting Bees in Your Garden and on Your Farm](#).
- Ohio State University Extension: [Soil Mining Bees: All Buzz, No Sting](#).
- Utah State University Extension: [Beginner’s Guide to Common Native Bees | USU](#)
- US Department of Agriculture: [Miner Bee](#).

VOLUNTEER SITE NEWS

Clean-up at Washington Spring Garden



Photo by Suzanne Danzig



Photos by Miriam Taub, Class of 2011

Spring cleaning: Volunteers at Washington Spring Garden in Van Saun Park, Paramus, spent the morning of April 13 removing leaves from under, around, and in the azaleas and rhododendrons that will put on their beautiful display in a few weeks. Pictured above from left: Janet Stofkoper and Wendy Bucceri, both Class of 2023; Suzanne Danzig, Class of 2008 and site coordinator; Chris Kozar, Class of 2020, who has joined the Speakers Bureau. (Yay, Chris!) Suzanne reported that once the cleanup is done, volunteers will fill the eight containers in the paved area with seasonal plants. Volunteers are welcome Thursdays from 9 am-noon. For more information, contact [Suzanne](#).

MEETINGS

April 19, 6 pm, Hasbrouck Heights Garden Club, Hasbrouck Heights Library, second floor, 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights. Speaker: Marc Gussen, director of the Closter Nature Center. Topic: Amazing Wildlife in Our Backyards. Refreshments at 5:30 pm.

April 20, 7 pm, Allendale Garden Club, Trinity Episcopal Church, 55 George St., Allendale. Speaker: Janet Schulz, Class of 1988. Topic: Spring Ephemerals and Seed Dispersement.

April 27, 7 pm, Garden Club of Hackensack, Hackensack Community Garden inside Johnson Park, 440 River St., Hackensack (weather permitting). Activity: Milk jug greenhouses. Bring your own jug. \$5 donation for additional supplies. In case of bad weather, the activity will be held at the Hackensack Recreation Center (M&M Building), 116 Holt St., Hackensack.

WEBINARS

For your convenience, all times are Eastern.

April 19, 7-8:30 pm: Native Plant Society of New Jersey sponsors Who's in Your Garden? The Life and Times of Insects and Others All Around Us. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

April 25, 7 pm: Friends of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum sponsors Paradise Gardens for Pollinators and Wildlife. Free. Click [here](#), then scroll down to April 25 for more information and to register.

April 26, 7-8 pm: Penn State Extension sponsors Countdown to Plant Sale: Dividing Perennials and Healthy Garden Soils. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.