

From the Potting Shed

Mid-October 2023

www.mgofbc.org



At Garretson Forge & Farm



Photos by Melody Corcoran, Class of 2016

Above, Garretson volunteers Christine Belli (left), Class of 2015, and Gimai Ma (2021) sold goodies grown on the farm. Beverly Malabrigo (2023) donned period costume with quill and bell in hand as a schoolmistress outside the shed-turned-classroom. The event was Garretson's annual Fall Festival. See page 2 for photo of Washington Spring Garden, another MG of BC volunteer site.



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Meeting news: Tuesday, Oct. 17

Kathy Schwarz Our Food System in Crisis: The 2023 Farm Bill

Katherine (Kathy) Schwarz is a public health nutritionist who has worked on food and food security issues in New York and in Malawi in sub-Saharan Africa. Kathy advocates for big changes in how and where we grow our food.

Kathy will discuss the [Farm Bill](#), which is up for renewal this year. (Every five years the federal government reviews the food and farm landscape and renews the Farm Bill.)

She teaches nutrition education in the Health Sciences Department at Lehman College and has taught about food security and food policy at Lehman and at New York Medical College. She is an advocate for more community gardens to allow more people to grow some of their own food and tries to do so herself in the Nyack (NY) Community Garden.



Kathy Schwarz

MG of BC meetings are free and open to the public in the first-floor meeting room, 1 Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack. Refreshments at 7 pm; announcements at 7:20 pm followed by the meeting. The MG of BC board meets the same day from 5:30-7 pm. You're welcome to sit in on the board's discussion.

GARDEN CLUB MEETINGS

Oct. 18, 6 pm: Hasbrouck Heights Garden Club, Hasbrouck Heights Library, second-floor library meeting room (there is an elevator), 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights. Speaker: Janet Schulz, MG Class of 1988. Topic: Preparing for Winter. Refreshments at 5:30 pm.

Oct. 19, 7 pm: Garden Club of Teaneck, Rodda Center, 250 Colonial Court, Teaneck. Drive up the hill to the rear parking lot. Speaker: Arnie Friedman, MG Class of 2004. Topic: Making the Blues Go Away.

Oct. 19, 7:30 pm: Glen Rock Garden Club, Glen Rock Municipal Annex, 678 S. Maple Ave., Glen Rock. Speaker: Frank Mortimer, certified master beekeeper. Topic: The ABCs of Honeybees.

Oct. 28, 2 pm: Garden Club of Hackensack, Hackensack Community Garden in Johnson Park, 444 River St., Hackensack. Topic: Monthly meeting and fall harvest celebration. Bring produce or non-perishable donations for the Center for Food Action.

Oct. 30, 7:30 pm: Ho-Ho-Kus Garden Club, Community Church, 400 Warren Ave., Ho-Ho-Kus. Speaker: Sergio Cuan, bonsai artist. Topic: The Art of Bonsai.



Fall at Washington Spring Garden



Photo by Suzanne Danzig

We love transforming our planters with our autumn bounty. Janet Stofkoper, Class of 2023, concluded the planting by giving the planters a generous drink. On another note, we are saddened that our beloved Pat Vellas, Class of 2014, lost her battle with cancer Sept 21. Washington Spring Garden and our crew will miss her guidance, dedication, and hours of hard work maintaining the spring and the beautiful azaleas and rhodies. Our hope is to create a native garden in her memory.

- Suzanne Danzig, Class of 2008 and site coordinator

Wanted: Full-time farmer in Mahwah

[Pony Power Therapies](#), a non-profit organization in Mahwah, seeks a full-time farmer for its farming team (a manager and 15 community volunteers). You'll work in a fully accessible food production garden (outdoor raised beds and heated greenhouse). Both serve as an educational center and a sharing garden for local food pantries and communities that lack access to healthy, locally grown food.

Beginning farmers with some experience are welcome to apply. The candidate is expected to learn the necessary skills during the slower late fall and winter months and then train users with intellectual or developmental disabilities on the ins and outs of farming and to create an on-site farm stand. Position comes with health, dental, vision, 401(k) plan, paid time off, and access to continuing education. If interested, contact [Dana Spett, DSW](#).

IN THE GARDEN

Rutgers 'plants of the month'



Photo courtesy
of Bruce Crawford

The blackberry lily flowers in
late July.

Bruce Crawford, manager of horticulture for the Morris County Park Commission, has chosen the blackberry lily as the Rutgers NJ Agricultural Experiment Station October plant of the month. Click [here](#) to read more. Meanwhile, the Rutgers Environmental Stewards program has named linden viburnum as its September invasive species of the month. Click [here](#) to read more.

Cornell's advice on lawn replacement

Read Margaret Roach's [column](#) about the Cornell University Botanic Garden's sustainable option for lawn replacement. It appeared in the Sept. 24 New York Times real estate section. If you're not a Times subscriber, you have limited access to online articles.



Advice from Janet: Inspect those pots!

When moving your plants indoors for the winter, be sure to inspect under the rim of each pot. You don't want to transport insects into the house.

- Janet Schulz,
Class of 1988

Check out the rain barrels in Hackensack

Barrels O' Art is a free display of rain barrels painted by New Jersey artists to raise awareness about ways to prevent future flooding; issues around environmental justice; and green infrastructure solutions, like rain barrels. The barrels are on display in Carver Park, 302 Second St., Hackensack, through Nov. 7.

What's on his mind?



What kind of help do you think this dude needs from a Master Gardener? Send your (funny) photo captions to [Miriam Taub](#), Class of 2011 and Potting Shed editor. The winners get ... well, nothing except your names and the funny captions printed in the November Potting Shed. Deadline to submit your captions is Oct. 26. Thank you in advance for playing along.

WEBINARS

All times are Eastern.

Oct. 18, 12:30-1 pm: University of Kentucky sponsors Horticulture Webinar Wednesdays: Winter Tree Identification. Click [here](#) to register.

Oct. 19, 10-11 am: North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Buncombe County Center, sponsors Outstanding Orchids at Home. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Oct. 19, 2-3 pm: The Garden Conservancy sponsors Exploring the Horticultural World. Fee: \$5 Garden Conservancy members; \$10 non-members. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Oct. 25, 6:30-7:30 pm: AARP Virtual Community Center sponsors Enjoy Autumn at Longwood Gardens. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register. AARP membership not required.

Nov. 2, 7 pm: Laurelwood Arboretum sponsors Native Plants for Beautiful Moths. Fee: \$10 members; \$20 non-members. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.