

From the Potting Shed

Sept. 15, 2024

www.mgofbc.org



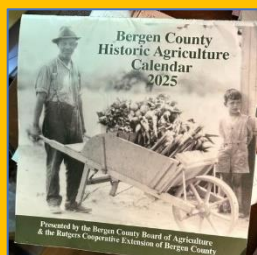
More than mums



Photographed at Rohsler's Allendale Nursery

A Halloween inflatable, tropical plants, and pumpkins. The mums are in the right rear. Fall doesn't get any better than this unless you add apple cider donuts. For information about mum care, see page 3.

Fall Harvest Festival Sept. 21-22



Visit the MG tent at the Fall Harvest Festival in Overpeck Park and support the Class of 2024. Click [here](#) for the flyer. Joel Flagler will be selling the Bergen County Historic Agriculture Calendar for 2025. It's \$20; cash only. See you there!

What's inside

Page

Webinars	2
Volunteer Site News	2
MG of BC News	3
In the Garden	3
Q&A (continued from page 1)	4

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

Q&A with David Hlubik

*David Hlubik, hazelnut grower, will speak at our Sept. 17 meeting at 1 Bergen County Plaza, **fourth-floor learning center**, Hackensack. Refreshments at 7 pm; announcements at 7:20 pm; speaker to follow. David will provide a comprehensive background on hazelnuts and their cultivation as well as specific tips and advice for backyard growers. He replied via email to questions from The Potting Shed.*

Of all the nuts in the world, what drew you to hazelnuts? Hazelnuts caught my attention for graduate study as they have the potential to be a new low-input crop for the mid-Atlantic region. I wanted to work on a project that would be directly and immediately beneficial to growers in our region, and I feel that the results of my various studies as a graduate student will contribute to the newly emerging industry.

Tell us about the hazelnut trees planted on your family farm. We planted approximately 100 seedling pollinizer hazelnuts in the fall of 2019 on my family's farm, then planted an additional 200 'Raritan' clonal trees and 50 'Somerset' clonal trees in the fall of 2021.

Most recently, we planted around 60 experimental clonal trees in the fall of 2023 bringing our total number of hazelnut trees to just over 400. I undertook most of the work myself but also had help from family with planting and maintenance of trees.

(Continued on page 4)

WEBINARS

All times are Eastern.

Sept. 18, 7-8:30 pm: Native Plant Society of New Jersey sponsors Building Resilient Landscapes. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 19, 10-11 am: North Carolina State Cooperative Extension, Buncombe County, sponsors Gardening in the Mountains: What About Conifers? Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 19, 11 am-noon: AARP Virtual Community Center sponsors Fall Gardening Tips and Tricks. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 19, 7 pm: Wild Ones sponsors The Beauty and Benefits of Hedgerows. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 19, 7:30-8:30 pm: Minnesota State Horticultural Society sponsors No Dig + Hugelkultur. Fee: \$5 members; \$10 non-members. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 24, 5-6 pm: AARP Virtual Community Center sponsors Longwood Gardens Globetrotting Plant Explorers. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 24, 7-8 pm: Penn State Extension sponsors Get Ready for Fall Fest: Prepping Your Garden for Winter. Fee: \$10. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 25, 6 pm: The Nature Conservancy and Ohio State University sponsor Everyone Loves Free (Plant) Food. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 26, 1 pm: University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension sponsors Fall into Spring Success: Planning Ahead for Weed Prevention. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 30, 7-8 pm: Penn State Extension sponsors Know Your Natives: All About Asters. Fee: \$10. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

A room with quite a view



Janet Schulz, Class of 1988, snapped this photo of one of the two green roofs at the new Valley Hospital in Paramus while visiting a friend. The roofs were located to be visible from many patient rooms. Click [here](#) to read about Valley's sustainability efforts beyond the roofs.

VOLUNTEER SITE NEWS

Teaneck Creek Conservancy

Where do we go from here?

Teaneck Creek is seeking input for the next phase of the park's development. In the fall of 2022, the first phase of the restoration of the park's wetlands was completed. It's time for the next phase, and community input is encouraged. Teaneck Creek is one of our MG of BC volunteer sites.

Click [here](#) to learn more about and register for the community input meeting Sept. 23 at 6 pm at the Teaneck Creek Conservancy office, 20 Puffin Way, Teaneck. Space is limited.

MG OF BC NEWS

Don't miss out on our exciting group tours!

By Suzy Basu, Trips and Tours chair and Class of 2024

Get outside, meet new people, and explore amazing gardens. A group lunch will follow. Guests are welcome. Contact [me](#) for details on the tours and to register.

2024 tours

- **Sept. 25:** Rutgers Gardens fall exploration;
- **Oct. 8:** Hackensack River eco-cruise;
- **December:** Longwood Gardens, holiday show.

2025 tours

- **January:** Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Plant-O-Rama and lectures;
- **March:** Philadelphia Flower Show, Tomorrow's Garden;
- **April:** Brooklyn Botanic Garden, cherry blossoms;
- **May:** Wave Hill, bulbs and blooms; New Jersey Botanical Garden, flowering evergreens;
- **June:** Frelinghuysen Arboretum, blooms; Chanticleer, blooms;
- **July:** Greenwood Gardens, blooms and jazz; Brooklyn Grange, veggies and lunch;
- **August:** New York Botanical Garden, lilies and lotus;
- **October:** Longwood Gardens, mums and foliage.

Better Impact: Enter hours now

By Suzanne Danzig, Volunteer Records chair and Class of 2008

Hope your summers were filled with fun-filled family time along with some time spent volunteering at our sites. Perhaps you were lucky enough to visit some glorious gardens during the past few months.

Consider this a reminder to enter your hours in [Better Impact](#) so that you're not scrambling at the end of the year to try to remember the number of hours, dates, or topics of lectures. I find it's always best to enter your volunteer and continuing education hours as you go.



Remember you only need 25 volunteer hours and 10 continuing education hours to maintain your certification each year. I am available to answer any questions whenever they arise, so contact [me](#). Keep up the great work!

IN THE GARDEN

Ticked off? Rutgers offers free tick testing

The Rutgers Center for Vector Biology offers free tick testing for pathogens as part of its tick mapping program for New Jersey.



Jim Occi, Ph.D., Rutgers

If you find a tick and want to participate in the testing program, click [here](#) for information and instructions to mail your

Female blacklegged tick, sometimes called a deer tick.

tick to Rutgers. You can learn what kind of tick you found as well as what diseases it may carry.

The care and feeding of mums

[Gardening Know How](#) offers video instructions on how to grow and care for your fall mums so they last for more than one season. Other mum resources: [House Beautiful's](#) beginner's guide to mums; [NC State Cooperative Extension](#) guide to caring for mums through the fall.

Q&A with David Hlubik

(Continued from page 1)

What cultivars did you plant and why?

I chose 'Raritan' as our main production cultivar since it has been one of Rutgers top performers in trials to date. However, since hazelnuts need genetically diverse sources of pollen (they are not self-compatible), we also planted a significant number of 'Somerset' (another top performer) and seedling pollinizers. Last year, we decided to add in the experimental trees as many had performed well in Rutgers trials and the planting at our farm could add additional data on tree performance before trees are named and released.



David Hlubik

How are the young trees faring?

Our trees have generally been faring well. I will be showing numerous photos during my presentation showcasing various growth stages. One issue that we have seen is winter damage on young tissue culture trees during their first growing season, but the trees have seemed to grow out of it.



Rutgers University photo

The Raritan cultivar.

Besides yielding nuts, what are you looking for during a tree's growth and development?

We look for trees to put on rapid growth during their establishment years as this makes management easier. Once trees reach [under] 4 years of age, they tend to shade out most weeds in the immediate vicinity, reducing the need for laborious weed control. In a commercial setting, trees are typically pruned to a single stem to facilitate harvest, so we look for trees that will naturally grow with an upright, attractive form without the need for too much pruning (besides sucker removal).

What advice do you have for anyone who might want to plant a hazelnut tree in the backyard?

Hazelnut trees would be a great addition to a home garden, as they are a relatively small tree compared to other nut trees, reaching a mature height of 15 to 20 feet tall. I would advise planting in a sunny location with access to water, as trees will need to be watered during dry periods, particularly during establishment years. Cross-pollination is necessary for nut production, so planting two cultivars, such as 'Raritan' and "The Beast," approximately 10 to 20 feet apart will ensure adequate pollination of both trees.



Rutgers University photo

The Beast cultivar.

Editor's notes: Click [here](#) for the Rutgers Hazelnut Breeding Program website. Click [here](#) for photos and information about each cultivar. Separately, David is also involved in [Project Pawpaw](#), where he's a farmer collaborator in southern New Jersey who recently helped Project Pawpaw break ground on its first large-scale research orchard.