



From the Potting Shed

January 2014

Master Gardeners of Bergen County

Ring in the New Year With...

New Plant Offerings in 2014!

Presented by Chris Rubino

Sales Manager, Monrovia Growers

Tues., Jan. 28 • 7:30 PM

County Administration Building

One Bergen Plaza, Hackensack
1st Floor Multi-Purpose Meeting
Room (Home of the County
Extension Office)

Refreshments at 7:00 PM
Announcements at 7:20 PM



Is your mailbox full of the all-new 2014 catalogs featuring the best seeds, plants and supplies to make your garden grow? Are you thinking about the warmth of spring? A new garden? Or designing or renovating a space? If so, join your fellow Master Gardeners as we welcome a long-time friend, Chris Rubino from Monrovia Growers, to our January meeting. Chris' slide program will focus on Monrovia's extensive new plant offerings for 2014, will review exciting new cultivars, plus re-introductions of some old time favorites -- as well as the best new products throughout the industry. Learn what's trendy in flowering shrubs, ornamental grasses, edibles, annuals and perennials from a leading grower.

Chris travels extensively to domestic and international gardens for Monrovia, the largest nursery grower in the US, looking for new and improved plants for the American garden. He has a broad knowledge of plants and gardening having worked in retail nursery sales, landscape design, installation and maintenance, and horticultural laboratory research, for the American Rose Society Test Garden, the Cornell Plantations and Arboretum, the Walt Disney Epcot Center & Animal Kingdom, Universal Studios Islands of Adventure, and Monrovia Nursery Sales in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, New Jersey and New York. Chris is a native of Buffalo, New York, and a graduate of Cornell University.

Come to this informative, inspiring presentation and meet some dazzling new plants!

Cans for Community ~

**Master Gardeners Helping our
Neighbors in Need!**

Community Support: Makes the Center for Food Action's Work Possible

Every act of generosity and kindness matters to local families or individuals who are faced with the daily struggle of putting food on their tables and a roof over their heads.

Can you bring a non-perishable food item to our monthly meeting to help our Neighbors in Need? If you prefer to donate a gift card to a pantry or make a financial contribution (checks payable to the Center for Food Action), please leave such items with Tracey Fraser.

Volunteer Hours are Due

It's That Time!

We need your **Volunteer and Education Activity Report (VEAR)** forms. We use this information for our Rutgers Cooperative Extension and Rutgers University reports, as well as recertification of Master Gardeners.

There are two ways to report.

1. Excel Form: Can be used on any PC and emailed. This is the easiest and best way to track hours.
2. Paper Form: Paper has to be mailed and you need to make a copy for records.

Both types can be found at MGofBC.org. If you have any questions don't hesitate to call or email: Joseph Cooper, 201.666.5111, Joseph@MGofBC.org

Executive Committee

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Karen Pennell
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Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, the State University of
NJ, US Department of Agriculture, and Bergen County
Board of Chosen Freeholders. Rutgers Cooperative
Extension educational programs are offered to all
without regard to race, religion, color, age, national
origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability. Rutgers
Cooperative Extension is an Equal Opportunity
Employer.

Link to [NYBG](#)'s calendar of events
Link to [Wave Hill](#)'s calendar of events
Link to [Frelinghuysen Arboretum](#) events

NJBG – Storytelling in Skylands Manor on Jan.5

Children are invited on a magical visit to storyland in the perfect fairytale setting at the NJ State Botanical Garden on **Sunday, January 5**, at 11:30am and 1:30pm.

Storyteller Anne Kahwaty will lead youngsters ages 3-8 on a fun-filled storytime adventure in historic Skylands Manor. Sponsored by the NJBG/Skylands Association, this charming program is a great way to start off the new year for the little ones. Adults will also enjoy the opportunity to explore this beautiful historic building.

There will be 2 sessions, at 11:30am and 1:30pm, each limited to 20 children. Admission is \$5 per child. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult, but one adult admission is free. Additional adults are \$5. Registration is requested at 973-962-9534, but walk-ins are welcome, space permitting.

NJBG/Skylands is located off Morris Road in Ringwood, NJ. For an event schedule, membership, directions and more, call 973-962-9534 or visit www.njbg.org.

Ramsey Area GC **Philadelphia Flower Show Bus Trip**

Theme: "Art Culture" a celebration of horticulture as an extraordinary, astonishing art form.

Cost: \$60 per person (all inclusive)

When: March 3rd, Monday

Where: Leave Finch Park @ 9am sharp, return at approximately 8pm

Contact: Barbara Doxey, 201-529-1541
(barbaradoxey@msn.com)

SAVE THE DATE!
2nd Annual Invasive Species Conference,
Mar. 19 9:30am to 2:30pm
Duke Farms, 1112 Duke's Parkway West,
Hillsborough
Info: <http://www.njisst.org/2014Conference.htm>

The January Garden Club Grapevine

- Jan. 2** **7:30pm Harrington Park GC**, the Harrington Park Library, 10 Herring St.
Topic: Members' Night Show & Tell; speakers: Maria D'Amico, Barbara Goldberg, Horticulturist Tom Bender, and GCHP President Gerri Gibney. Refreshments will be served. Non-members are cordially invited to attend the GCHP meetings and activities. Info: Gerri Gibney at 201-768-2615
- Jan. 3** **2pm Demarest Garden Club**, United Methodist Church, 109 Hardenburgh Ave.
Topic: "Herbs in the Garden" How to grow and care for herbs in the home garden.
Speaker: Ron Binaghi, owner of Stokes Farm of Old Tappan. Refreshments Served.
- Jan. 8** **9:30am Wyckoff Area Garden Club**, McFaul Center, Wyckoff
Topic: "Branch Out!"; speaker: Ken E Norman, designer and owner of Colony Florist
Learn how to fend off winter doldrums by bringing spring-flowering branches indoors for early bloom. Ken will demonstrate using branches for interest and structure in floral arrangement and other decorations.
- Jan. 9** **7pm Native Plant Society Bergen/Passaic Chapter**, Ender Hall, Bergen Community College, Paramus
Speaker: Melissa Almendinger, the Education Director for the NJ Invasive Species Strike Team (NJISST), a group responsible for protecting local natural areas by monitoring them for invasive plants and selectively removing invasives.
- Jan. 16** **7pm Hasbrouck Heights Garden Club**, 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights
Topic: Sustainable landscape management: Native Plants; speaker: Elaine Silverstein, horticulturist in the Bergen County area. She holds a certificate in Sustainable Landscape Management from the New York Botanical Garden. She designs gardens focusing on native plants and sustainability; she also does environmental surveys and coaches inexperienced gardeners. She writes the Backyard Environmentalist column in the North Jersey newspapers and maintains a blog about gardening and the environment at naturesurrounds.wordpress.com
- Jan. 21** **6:45pm Ramsey Area Garden Club**, at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 55 Wyckoff Ave, Ramsey
Speaker: Tama Matsuko, "How I did less and ate better thanks to Weeds" Tamara has co-authored a popular cookbook called Foraged Flavors in of weeds and teamed up with Eddy Leroux of the restaurant Daniel to develop recipes for the restaurant. Today, Tama provides foraged edibles to more than 100 restaurants and schools. For more information, contact Barbara Doxey, 201-529-1541

If you have information to add to Garden Clubs Grapevine: Please contact our liaison, Lucy Malka, at lhalka@optonline.net or 201-791-3562, with your monthly speaker details. If your club is planning a special event or a plant sale, please send the following information or announcement flyer including the date, time, location, times to be sold, rain date or rain or shine, and the contact person with phone number. If your club is sponsoring a trip, please send the information to Lucy Malka ASAP. Publications deadlines are usually the 25th of the prior month



SUNSHINE NEWS

Best Wishes to all our members and their families for a Happy and Healthy New Year!

2014 Community Garden Conference

Saturday, March 1

Frelinghuysen Arboretum

REGISTRATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

9:00am-9:30am Registration and coffee

9:30am- 9:45am Welcome Address

9:45am-10:45am Keynote Address

11:00am-Noon Breakout Session A (Choose 1)

1. Managing Important Diseases

2. Growing Herbs

3. Successful Seed Starting Techniques

Noon-12:45 Lunch

12:45am-1:45pm Breakout Session B (Choose 1)

7. Managing Important Diseases

8. Growing Herbs

9. Successful Seed Starting Techniques

2:00pm-3:00pm Breakout Session C

(Choose 1)

10. Using Row Covers

11. Coordinators Round Table

12. Vertical Veggies and Trellis Making

3:00pm-3:30pm Coffee Break

3:30pm-4:30pm Breakout Session D

(Choose 1)

13. Using Row Covers

14. Coordinators Round Table

15. Vertical Veggies and Trellis Making

Please choose your Breakout Sessions and Lunch.

\$50 before Feb 1, \$60 on or after Feb 1 and mail to:

The Friends of The Frelinghuysen Arboretum, PO Box 1295, Morristown, NJ 07962-1295

Make check payable to **FRIENDS**

Register online at: www.arboretumfriends.org or call 973-326-7603

MG of BC Elected Officers 2014

President:

Joseph Cooper

Vice President:

John Walters

Treasurer:

Fran Langendoen

Recording Secretary

Suzanne Danzig

Corresponding Secretary

Serpil Leveen

All officers will take office after installation at the regularly scheduled January meeting.

COME SEE
SPRINGTIME
IN FEBRUARY

NEW JERSEY
Flower &
GARDEN SHOW
FEB 13-16, 2014 • Edison, NJ
NJ CONVENTION CENTER

For More Info: 1.732.449.4004
www.NJFlowerShow.com

\$4.00 OFF GOOD FOR ONE ADULT ADMISSION
NO COPIES

2014 NJ Flower and Garden Show

Rutgers NJ Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension

Request for Volunteers - Master Gardener Volunteer Shifts

We are looking for four (4) volunteers for each time slot to engage the public. Volunteers will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. Please understand that some time slots may fill quicker than others, so consider several timeslots for volunteering.

Please contact Barbara Dugan at **908-526-6293, Ext. 2512** to schedule your volunteer time for the RCE exhibit. We will need each volunteer's address, phone number and e-mail address in order to send them additional information as it becomes available. Volunteering RCE Master Gardeners will not receive admission tickets prior to the show, but rather must check in at the "Exhibitor" window for free admission as a pre-registered volunteer. Spouses, friends and companions will have to pay regular price for admission to the show. All Master Gardener volunteers are expected to wear and display their official Rutgers Master Gardener name badges during their volunteer shift.

This year's event will once again highlight all of RCE in a centralized location on the show floor. Typical questions usually involve plant selection and diagnostics, soil fertility and testing - just like another Garden Helpline at the county office! Reference material, some fact sheets, and other information will also be on hand to assist you - **you are also invited to bring your own promotional material for your county program.**

We look forward to your assistance for a very successful show! Thank you and your volunteers for your participation! **Remember - you must RSVP by phone to reserve your time slot.**

<u>Thurs. Feb. 13</u>	1-3pm	3-5pm	5-7pm		
<u>Fri. Feb. 14</u>	10am-12pm	12pm-2pm	2-4pm	4-6pm	6-8pm
<u>Sat. Feb. 15</u>	10am-12pm	12pm-2pm	2-4pm	4-6pm	6-8pm
<u>Sun. Feb. 16</u>	10am-12pm	12pm-2pm	2-4pm	4-6pm	

REMEMBER TO GIVE YOUR COMPLETE CONTACT INFORMATION AND COUNTY WHEN YOU CALL!

908-526-6293 ext. 2512



Longwood Gardens at the holidays

NEW JERSEY 4-H TO HOST SCIENCE OF SOIL YOUTH SUMMIT

The NJ 4-H Program of Rutgers University will be hosting the Science of Soil 4-H Youth Summit on Jan. 15, 2014 at Rutgers University in New Brunswick. Young people in grades 6-8 from public, private or parochial schools, as well as youth involved in student clubs, after-school programs or home-school groups are invited to participate.

New Jersey is known as the Garden State with over 730,000 acres of land farmed. However, NJ is also known as the most densely populated state in the nation, which creates challenges to our balance between people, nature and land use. Soil is the foundation for life. It acts as a filter to protect the quality of water, air, and supports growth of plants and animals.

Teams comprised of 6-8 youth and at least one adult advisor will join together with faculty, staff, and educators from the Soil Conservation District on the Rutgers Cook Campus to discuss soil science research and gain exposure to career and research opportunities in soil science related sciences. Teams will participate in a series of hands-on activities to enrich their knowledge and understanding of soil science and learn about the characteristics of healthy soil. After the summit, the teams will work on a soil science related service projects in their local communities.

This program is funded through a generous grant from the State Farm Youth Advisory Board. For more information and registration materials visit the website at: <http://4hset.rutgers.edu/soilsummit/>. Registrations are being accepted on a first come, first served basis.

The 4-H Youth Development Program is part of Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. 4-H educational programs are offered to all youth, grades K-13(one year out of high school), on an age-appropriate basis, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, atypical hereditary cellular or blood trait, marital status, domestic partnership status, military service, veteran status and any other category protected by law. For more information about the New Jersey 4-H Program, administered by Rutgers Cooperative Extension visit the website at <http://nj4h.rutgers.edu>

Walter Traubel Retires From Board

Walter Traubel (Class of 1991) has decided to step down from his positions on the executive board of the Master Gardeners of Bergen County. He has been on the board in some capacity for the last 20 years. A truly dedicated Master Gardener, Walter has devoted countless hours to our board, at volunteer sites and with outreach events.

He was the Bergen County representative to the NJ State Master Gardener board since that organization was founded. He made the trip to Rutgers every month, year round to attend meetings. He often made the trip alone and handled all of the Bergen responsibilities himself.

For several years Walter was also the Sunshine Chair. He went out of his way to show his concern and compassion for fellow Master Gardeners who were ill or having trouble. He was always the first to send a card or make a call or to offer his help.

Walter has been the Extension Office Liaison since 1992. He fostered a close relationship between the RCE office and staff and the MG organization. In the days before Email became common, Walter would visit the class often to keep the students updated on coming events, meetings and volunteer opportunities.

Although he is leaving the board, Walter will still be an active member and we look forward to seeing him at our meetings and events. We thank Walter for his years of service on the board, for sharing his vast experience and for being an inspiration to a generation of Master Gardeners.

Want a New Year's Resolution You're Sure to Stick With?

Sign up for Rutgers Environmental Steward training

Are you looking for a New Year's resolution that you're likely to stick with, once you embark on the journey? How about a way to give something back to your community in a way that's meaningful and guaranteed to get you out and about?

Consider joining the 2014 class of the [Rutgers Environmental Stewards program](#), which helps non-scientists to become citizen-scientists. Classes begin the first week in January in Passaic, Warren, Atlantic, Middlesex, and Somerset counties, and run through May.

The Rutgers Environmental Stewards program [teaches participants about land and water stewardship, best management practices, environmental public advocacy, and leadership](#). This program began as an innovative partnership between Rutgers Cooperative Extension and the Duke Farms Foundation, but now has expanded to locations throughout the state.

The curriculum is designed to introduce non-scientists to the science underlying key environmental issues in the New Jersey. Academics are joined by colleagues from government and the non-profit sector to share understanding and insights with the students.

"Students will learn about current environmental issues, as well as how to communicate about those issues effectively in the local community," said Amy Rowe, environmental and resource management agent with Rutgers Cooperative Extension, the Passaic County program's coordinator.

"The program is similar in format to the Rutgers Master Gardener program in that a different subject matter expert lectures the class each week," adds Rowe, who is leading the inaugural Passaic County program.

In order to serve the entire state, training is offered in regional locations and recruitment has begun in earnest for the Class of 2014. Information for the Passaic County class is below:

Passaic Training Location: Preakness Healthcare Center, 305 Oldham Rd., Wayne, NJ 07470
Normal Class Time: Tuesday nights, 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM. Cost: \$250
Contact: Jo-Ann Pituch, pituch@njaes.rutgers.edu, Cooperative Extension of Passaic County, 1310 Route 23 North, Wayne, NJ 07470. (973)-305-5740

[Downloadable Passaic Application Form](#)
[Online Passaic Application Form](#)

RUTGERS Senior Citizen Course Audit Program

The Senior Citizen Audit Program was created by the Rutgers University Board of Governors to permit retired NJ residents, age 62 or older, to attend courses on a space-available, noncredit basis. There are no tuition costs for auditing courses. Information and forms may be downloaded at <http://ucm.rutgers.edu/about/senior-citizen-audit-program>. The Spring 2014 semester begins on 1/21/2014.

Meet Leslie Maltz, Class of 2009

Leslie's name on the graduation list was hardly dry when she became the editor of "From the Potting Shed", taking the place of Andrea Kanac who had been its editor for so many years and deserved a much needed break from the job. Within six months Leslie's computer skills transformed our newsletter from a "snail mail" document to one emailed to every member with computer access, saving both the cost of printing and mailing charges. For this endeavor she received our MG award for Excellence.

Leslie grew up in Bayonne, NJ as an only child; her mother was a teacher and her father a lawyer. After high school she went on to Boston University majoring in math and psychology, then on to Rutgers graduate school for computer science. She began her career working at Stevens Institute, and eventually became Chief Information Technology Officer. She worked there for over thirty years, until 2001 when Columbia University made her an offer she couldn't refuse. She took the job, became a VP and stayed for five years before retiring in 2006.

Traveling a great deal for business, she spent 18 summers in Aspen, Colorado, where she fell in love with not only the wildflowers and natural beauty, but the namesake trees. She lived in Secaucus for over 30 years where her gardening hobby was limited to her condo and terrace. None the less she installed a watering system on the terrace and before long was dividing and sharing plants. She married Bert Taylor seventeen years ago. They had talked of their interest in the MG program when they retired, and both were accepted by Joel for the 2009 class. They moved to their current house in Woodcliff Lake in 2009. Over the last four plus years they have transformed a blank landscape into a Colorado inspired garden, complete with as many Aspen trees as the property will accommodate.

Fortunate to have taken lessons in her youth, Leslie often paints pictures using oil or watercolors. Multi skilled, she enjoys working at a potter's wheel as well as making jewelry and doing stained glass work. Often crocheting while sitting at meetings, she has turned this activity into "give back" work for Project Linus making at least fifty baby blankets a year that are donated to children in hospitals. They've now added an adorable labradoodle puppy to the household and he greets all who come to visit with great enthusiasm. Leslie calls him her "first born". Maybe by Christmas he'll have a purple dog sweater, Leslie's favorite color!

When asked for changes she would recommend for the MG program she cited a desire for more advanced course work, more flexible rules, finding more of a role for older members as well as solving the annual problem of losing members who don't renew.

THANK YOU

to all outgoing officers for their service to our organization!

and to all the volunteers who made the holiday decorations at Skylands so beautiful!

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL MASTER GARDENERS
AND THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS**

