

From the Potting Shed

June 15, 2024

www.mgofbc.org



Among the herbs at Garretson

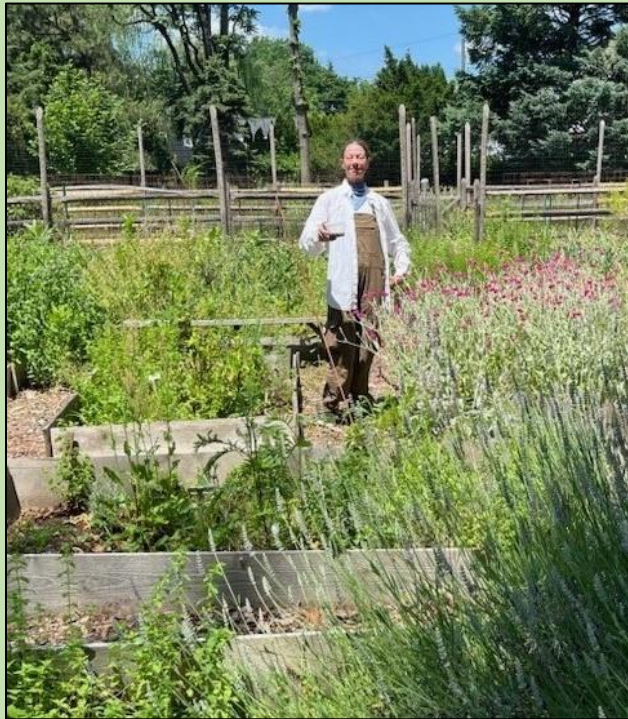


Photo by April Barth, Class of 2017

That's Beverly Malabrigo, Class of 2023, among the 85-plus varieties of medicinal and culinary herbs — including the more unusual horehound, elecampane, soapwort, woad, and tansy — at Garretson Forge & Farm. Behind her is the fenced pantry garden where she planted green beans (an open-pollinated long-bean variety from Garretson's saved organic seed collection). These seeds are available for free from the Garretson Farm Community Seed Bank. The seed bank's next opening is June 23 from 1-4 pm.

Join the Garretson volunteers on Thursday from 10 am-2 pm and the second and fourth Sunday from 1-4 pm. For more information about volunteering, contact [Lida Gellman](#), Class of 1999 and site coordinator. Garretson is located at 4-02 River Road, Fair Lawn.

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Are you coming to the MG picnic?

Are you coming to the MG of BC picnic Wednesday, June 26 from noon-2 pm in Van Saun Park? We're waiting for enough "yesses" to proceed.

Click [here](#) to RSVP by June 20, subject line "picnic." The MG of BC will provide sandwiches and beverages. *We must have your response so we can order/buy the food.*

In your email, please:

- Reply whether you'll attend and
- Confirm whether you'll bring a dessert or salad/appetizer based on the first letter of your last name:
 - ✓ A to K: Bring desserts;
 - ✓ L to Z: Bring salads/appetizers.

Your dish should feed about six people.

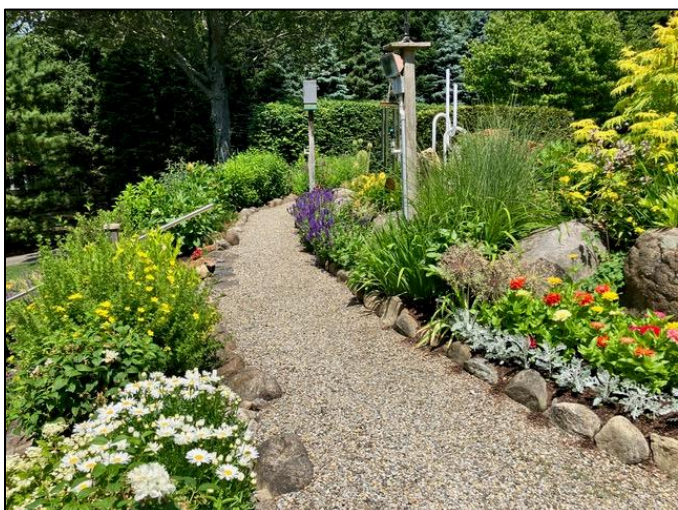
This event is for MGs, MG alums, Class of 2024 interns, and interns from previous classes still working on their certification.

The location is Pavilion I (eye), north of Walden Pond on the park road heading south to the Howland Avenue exit. There's a parking lot next to the pavilion and restrooms are nearby. Van Saun is located at 216 Forest Ave., Paramus.

We hope you'll join us before we break for the summer!

GARDEN JOURNAL

How my property became a show garden for the Garden Conservancy



Photos by Paul Sisko

One of several paths throughout Paul Sisko's property.

Editor's note: Paul Sisko, Class of 2021, recalls below how he came to show his garden through the Garden Conservancy Open Days program. Paul is a sculptor and furniture maker, and many of his sculptures embellish his 3½-acre property in Mahwah.

As he told the Potting Shed in 2021, when he bought the property 35 years before, it was a totally wooded sloped area except for a moderately sized contemporary home refurbished from a then 125-year-old farmhouse.

Paul built his new sculpture and woodworking studio on the lower level of the property and then transformed the rest into a beautifully terraced landscape, moving more than 300 tons of stone to make it what it is today. Paul said he did most of the work on the studio, property, and home with occasional helpers. Visit his [website](#).

By Paul Sisko, Class of 2021

How did I begin showing my garden for the Garden Conservancy? It was a step-by-step happening.

About 10 years ago I went to a plant-watering seminar at Stone House Nursery in Wyckoff. I met a member of the Wyckoff Area Garden Club and we started to talk about property and gardens. Although I was

working on my gardens and still doing some sculpture, I thought my gardens were just OK and I didn't think they were that special.

She was interested enough to come and look after the talk, and I guess was impressed enough to call Janet Schulz [MG Class of 1988] and tell her to see my property and gardens along with the intermingled artwork. Janet wound up calling me and came and was impressed enough to say that I should not keep this garden to myself. She said there was an organization called the [Garden Conservancy](#) and they had an [Open Days](#) program whereby you pick a Saturday to open your gardens to the public.

It seemed a bit scary, but I thought I'd give it a try. Janet mentored me as to how to plan on showing and getting docents so I would have time to speak to the visitors. Those were the days when you collected money from the visitors and then sent it in to the conservancy after the show. Now everything is done with credit cards and registration through the conservancy office. This summer will be my fifth time showing with a two-year break during the Covid years.

(Continued on page 3)



Paul's koi pond with a waterfall built about 18 years ago using stones from his property. A walkway and sitting area surround part of the pond.

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2024

Finally! The garlic scapes appeared

By Edith Terzano, Class of 2018

Last November, my sister Elizabeth Andrew, planted hard-neck garlic cloves in her plot in the Hackensack Community

Garden. We waited patiently for spring when the first tender green garlic shoots would appear. Day by day we watched for the telltale signs that the garlic would be ready to harvest so room could be made for the summer crop of seedlings.



Photos by Edith Terzano

Finally, what joy when in May the first garlic scapes appeared! Time now to harvest the edible scapes before they bloom and sap energy from the developing bulb below ground. Soon as the bottom leaves of the garlic plant dry up and turn brown the garlic bulbs will be harvested, dried, and then enjoyed as a spicy herb in so many different and delicious recipes.

(Garden journal, continued from page 2)

I used that time to build a hillside raised bed vegetable garden, which turned out to be a very integral part of the overall garden now. It brings a lot of questions from visitors as to how I developed it and put in the 10-zone, low-pressure irrigation system.

Janet Schulz and I are the Bergen County ambassadors for the Garden Conservancy. We keep our eyes out for other gardens to add to our own showings. This summer, seven gardeners in Bergen County (that includes Janet and me) will show their gardens through the Garden Conservancy.



Paul Sisko with his vegetable bounty from 2023.



Photos by Paul Sisko, Class of 2021

Paul built these cages during the Covid pandemic when he couldn't show his garden. This large cage can be opened from the front to reach taller vegetables, such as the black krim tomatoes, seen above in their infancy.

So, there you have it. This year — besides opening my garden to area garden clubs — my Garden Conservancy show dates are July 13 and Sept. 14. MGs are invited! The address is 113 Fardale Ave., Mahwah. Park on the street. [Note: There's no admission charge for MGs.]

VOLUNTEER SITE NEWS



Photos by Bernadette White

From left, Marylou Moravec, Class of 2024, and Marie Scotti-Bosworth (2023) hold two of the many plant varieties that were available at the Hermitage plant sale.

We needed more bloomers!

By Bernadette White, Class of 2021
and site coordinator

Plant lovers came in force to the two-day plant sale May 31 and June 1 at the Hermitage. Seasoned MGs, along with 2024 interns, were on hand to answer customers' queries: Will the deer eat this? Will this flower in shade? Will this plant spread? Do you have anything that will block the view of my neighbor's yard? We did!

Some of the many perennials for sale were Japanese iris, tall bearded iris, spring snowdrop, cut-leaf coneflower, evening primrose, prickly pear cactus, lily of the valley, and salvia. Our best sellers — due in part, it seemed, to being in bloom — were rose campion and Virginia spiderwort. If only we could have had everything blooming at the same time, we would have sold out!

A big shoutout to the MGs that donated plants from their own gardens and to all who volunteered: Patricia Crossley, Class of 2022, Scott Japko (2022), Chris Kozar (2020), Marylou Moravec (2024), Susan Petrillo (2024), Donna Picheria (2023), Maggie Raywood (2021), Penny Readie (2024), Marie Scotti-Bosworth (2023), Wendy Sowa-Maldarelli (2024), Darcy Valenti (2024), and Patti Weiss (2024).



Donna Picheria (2023) with the pretty garden decorations she made and donated to be sold.

A busy day at the Garretson festival



Photo by Lida Gellman

From left: Noel Schulz, Class of 2016; Gary Puzio (2021), Nora Hamawi (2009), Barbara Patete (2009), Melody Corcoran (2016), and Janet Stofkoper (2023).

MG volunteers helped visitors choose the right plant for the right place and answered questions at the Garretson Forge & Farm spring festival in May. Volunteers are now busy planting and weeding. There's lots of work and never enough hands! Join us Thursday from 10 am-2 pm and the second and fourth Sunday from 1-4 pm. Garretson is located at 4-02 River Road, Fair Lawn.

- Lida Gellman, Class of 1999 and site coordinator

EVENTS

Guided nature walk in Ridgefield Park

June 29, 9-11

am: If you enjoy an early morning walk, come to the Ridgefield Park Nature Preserve. MG Tammy Laverty, Class of 2015, and Steve Quinn of the Ridgefield Park Environmental Commission will lead the walk.



Dress comfortably in layers and wear suitable footwear for the terrain. No dogs permitted! Meet at the nature preserve parking lot located off East Grand Avenue, just before the Ridgefield Park Junior-Senior High School.

The walk is free; click [here](#) to register in advance so the leaders are prepared for the group size. Click [here](#) to visit the nature preserve's Facebook page.

Tour the Butterfly Garden

June 30, 10 am-1 pm: Tour the Butterfly and Native Garden in Overpeck Park, 40 Fort Lee Road, Leonia. Park in the lot adjacent to the Bergen Equestrian Center. Walk to the dirt road and follow the signs to the Butterfly Garden. MGs volunteer on Tuesday from 10 am-1 pm. Contact site coordinators [Pat Knight](#), Class of 2009, or [Tammy Laverty](#) (2015) for more information.

What are YOU doing in your garden this year?

Earlier this month, we asked readers what's new and different in their garden this year. It's garlic scapes for Edith Terzano, Class of 2018, and her sister Elizabeth Andrew. (See page 3.) Send a photo of your 2024 project and a brief description to [Miriam Taub](#), Class of 2011 and Potting Shed editor, and we'll share stories and photos in future Potting Sheds.

WEBINARS

All times are Eastern.

June 18, 7-8 pm: Penn State Extension sponsors Soil Health for Every Garden. Fee: \$10. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

June 25, 5-6 pm: AARP Virtual Community Center sponsors Floral Design with Longwood Gardens. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register. AARP membership not required.

Few live webinars are available during the summer so here are links to some recorded webinars on the NJ Agricultural Experiment Station's YouTube channel. You can view these webinars to earn your 10 education hours for 2024. All webinars are free.

- [Edible Landscaping](#)
- [Pests in the Vegetable Garden](#)
- [Light Up Your Shade Garden with Colorful Plants](#)
- [Native Plants for Every Garden](#)
- [Tried and True Easy-Care Native Plants](#)
- [Vermicomposting: The Wonderful World of Worms](#)

Visit us on social media

- **Facebook:** Visit Master Gardeners of Bergen County | Hackensack NJ | Facebook. A pop-up box will appear requesting that you log in or create an account. If you don't have a Facebook account, click on the "x" in the upper right corner of the pop-up box to close it, and you'll have access to the MG of BC Facebook page.
- **Instagram**

