

**Master Gardeners of Bergen County
Board of Directors Minutes for
March 26, 2019**

Meeting was called to order by President Gretchen at 5:35 pm.

Present at the meeting: Carolyn Gretchen, Dennis Gretchen, Melody Corcoran, Hank Annunziata, Miriam Taub, Karen Riede, Janet Schulz, Marie Alfano, Herb Arbeiter, Joseph Cooper, Terri Pegg, Arnie Friedman, Suzanne Danzig, Donna Faustini, Bruce Walenczyk

Presidents Report:

Welcome Spring to all the Master Gardeners! Do you have spring fever? I visited a nursery today, saw some beautiful pansies and primroses, but still don't trust the weather yet.

Last month, we outlined several goals. We placed an emphasis on expanding our Speakers Bureau, we will review that tonight again. And, we talked about our end of the year celebration. We will get updated on that also. I had sent out guidelines to determine a new site for your review. That will require a vote tonight. Now is also your chance to honor two of our own with suggestions for recipients for the Awards for Excellence. Your suggestions will be taken tonight.

If you missed the Philadelphia Flower and Garden Show, there is one more show to go to – our very own NJ Show- April 25-29th at the Convention Center in Edison. Don't miss the last chance to experience some beauty!

As I look back on this year to date, we are bringing a number of items up to speed:

- delisting procedures
- new site guidelines
- social media do's and don'ts
- our organizational history preservation
- and the biggie, our bylaws are among them.

Thank you to those who have offer help. A special thank you to the past presidents who are sharing their wisdom regarding bylaws revisions. The first meeting went well.

Dorothy will be stepping down as archivist. Noreen Postman offered to scan the archived material and submit it to the board.

Vice President:

No report.

Recording Secretary:

Suzanne Danzig requested approval of the February minutes

***Motion:** Joseph Cooper motioned to approve the February 26 minutes, Terri Pegg seconded, and all were in favor.

Corresponding Secretary:

Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report:

Opening balance as of January 31, 2018.....	\$12,035.76
Income.....	\$690.00
Expenses.....	\$510.24
Closing balance as of January 31, 2019.....	\$12,215.52
Total outstanding checks as of 1/31/19.....	\$262.24

***Motion:** Suzanne Danzig motioned to approve treasurers' report, Dennis Gretchen seconded and all approved.

Community Outreach Events and Volunteers:

Karen has a sign-up sheet for all 6 upcoming events. MG have to provide crafts for the 'Family Fun Day' on April 6. Karen asked if there were funds for the materials and confirmed that there are funds for Outreach, Karen must submit a voucher to Bruce for the supplies.

Garden Club Liaison:**Class Liaison:**

The class is very busy, most went to the 'boil down' at the Hermitage and continue to go to Thielke. Four students have broken 100 hours already.

Speakers Bureau:

Arnie suggested there be a budget for the Speakers Bureau and any speaker can submit a voucher for \$25 if they are supplying materials for their presentation.

Publicity:**Hospitality:**

Next month will be a joint meeting with the Master Gardeners of Passaic. Four of our members have signed up to bring food and Passaic will bring food as well.

Membership:

We have 150 members who paid their membership dues for 2019. This is up from 147 last year. A few members have moved out of state and have indicated they have no further interest in our organization.

Newsletter:

- Date and program for April, Charlie Nardoizzi presents: Container Garden Revolution.
- Carolyn's President Report
- MGofBC News, Miriam has written an interview on Sandi Ross
- Horticulture; Edith Wallace wrote an article about jade plants. Information about the wild flowers planted along NJ highways and where you can purchase the seeds is included
- Arnie Friedman reminds us of his program about environmentally friendly lawns.
- An article explains the work that the Rutgers Exotic Pepper Project is doing with habanero peppers and an order form for seeds.
- Shows and conferences informs us of the NJ Flower show and the International MG Conference.

- List of plant sales.
- Out and about lists various events at Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Garden Conservancy, Hackensack River Greenway through Teaneck, The Hermitage, NJBG/Skylands, Thielke Arboretum of Glen Rock, Women Gardeners of Ridgewood.
- The Hort Grapevine lists upcoming garden club and society meetings.

Website:

The following webpages of www.MGofBC.org have been updated: The Homepage, Potting Shed, Meetings, Board & Committees, and Events.

On the Speakers Bureau webpage, we added Janet Schulz as a new speaker and seven new topics.

On the Membership Directory webpage, we added the 2019 Membership Directory in PDF format, this can be viewed on a computer or printed.

Membership Portal Progress: Additional Email sorting options have been requested and passed on to Matt for coding, along with additional options of the Reports functionality.

Committee chairs have been involved with changes and copied on emails.

Joseph Cooper will supervise the website and Matt has access for now but Joseph thinks it should be on another platform with he an done other person who will ultimately take over the website. Joseph cannot train someone it has to be someone who has this type of background. Joseph is not savvy with Matt's platform, it should be someone who has experience and interest in coding. Make an announcement in the Potting Shed for someone with web design experience.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension:

From Joel Flagler/Karen Riede

- The 2018 RCE Annual Report has been completed and will be distributed to officials, stakeholders, clients and other appropriate entities.
- Hotline will start on Monday, 4/1 and runs through Monday, 9/30. The hours are 10am to noon, Monday through Thursday at the RCE office, 3rd floor. MG alum are invited to staff the hotline and to be a resource for the MG students. Please contact Karen at 201-336-6788 for scheduling.
- MG alum are also invited to participate in the following:
 - Friday, May 17th Spring Planting with the Bergen County Environmental Council. Location TBD. Time 10:30-12:30. A head count is needed for lunch. Please let Karen know if you are attending.
 - Upcoming MG classes: Friday, 4/26 Urban Forestry and Street Trees by Nick Polanin. Friday, 5/3 Vegetable Culture and IPM by Pete Nitzche. For more info on the MG Class Syllabus for Winter-Spring 2019, go to mgofbc.org.
 - The dates for Horticultural Therapy Sessions for post-stroke programs has been established for Ridgewood Town Hall, 131 N. Maple Ave., 4th floor, 6 sessions on Tuesdays: 5/7, 5/28, 6/11, 6/25, 7/9, 7/30. For Englewood Senior Center, 228 Grand Ave., 2 sessions on Fridays: 8/9, 8/23. Garfield Middle School (5 sessions in July) have not been confirmed yet.
- Karen Riede and Dominick Badolato will receive mandatory training on the Volunteer Management Software "Better Impact" on Monday, 4/8 and Tuesday, 4/9 at Rutgers University. This software is mandatory for all 16 counties that have MG programs. This statewide subscription will be used for volunteer hours/opportunities, events/administration.

Joel asked about name tags for the graduating class, who pays for that? Now that Rutgers will be providing pins and nametags someone has to get the names of the students to the state, one of the current

students will do that. Who will collect and provide current members names to the state for their name tags?

RMGANJ:

The RMGANJ State Fall Conference, entitled "How Did Climate Change My Garden" will take place on Saturday, October 5, 2019. 5 CEU credits are expected.

Jan Zientek, Statewide Coordinator, Rutgers Master Gardener Program, reported the Volunteer/Non-profit Management software will be rolled out in 2019 to all the counties and fully implemented by 2020.

Rutgers is paying for the license and the cost will not be passed onto the counties.

The Master Gardener logo is being redesigned to be more consistent with Rutgers material. Going forward the redesign fees, pins and badges will be paid for by Rutgers in appreciation of our service. An inventory of pins is being taken. New badges will have black lettering and a white background with a magnetic closure. Existing pins and badges are still valid.

Old Business

Pat Schanzlin reported on the 2019 International Master Gardener Conference. The registration is over \$300. Pat investigated and found that it is too complicated to split tickets into day passes at the State level and suggested it may work better at the county level.

Sunshine:

Nothing to report.

Site Coordinator Liaison:

Melody discussed the "New Volunteer Site" application guidelines which were handed out at the meeting and must be voted upon. Melody questioned changing the 3-year trial period to 2 years, Joseph Cooper thinks by setting it to a 2-year trial period it puts the push on the volunteers to make it work. It was also recommended that Criteria #7 be reworded. Carolyn will work on the revisions and the board will vote on the guidelines at our next meeting.

Trips and Tours:

Programs:

Tonight's speaker is Virginia Lamb presenting on Composting. Next month is Charlie Nardoizzi who will present on Container Gardening. Our May speaker is Jim Cooper to speak on 'Figs'.

Volunteer Records:

Donna Karpel not in attendance

Archivist:

Dorothy is stepping down, but Noreen Postman has offered to scan all documents that Dorothy has so we have digital documentation.

-Suzanne reported on recommendations for promotional giveaways. It was suggested we look into either an ecofriendly pen or lip balm which seemed to be the most affordable. Suzanne provided pictures and descriptions of both and it all agreed that we go ahead with ecofriendly pens with 'Master Gardeners of Bergen County' and the web address on the pen. The cost would be in the \$250-265 range for 500 pens. ***Motion:** Joseph Cooper motioned we allocate \$500 for promotional items, Terri Pegg seconded, and all were in favor.

-Suzanne reported on the end of season celebration. Bruce Rohsler has agreed to allow us to hold our end of season picnic at Rohsler's Allendale Nursery on Tuesday, June 4th. Should we have a rain date or just provide tents, etc in the event of rain and all agreed there would be no rain date. Bruce will offer a 15% discount that day to all MG but Suzanne is still working on getting a 20% discount. They have offered to BBQ on the 'Big Green Egg' which they are selling and promoting, if we provide the food. MG will do all the salads and drinks. Eric Rohsler will speak to our group whereby we can offer one hour of education at the event as well.

New Business:

Carolyn requested that we all submit our choice for a candidate or a site to receive the 'Awards for Excellence' at this coming MG Conference.

Carolyn read a letter from the mayor of Tenafly, Peter Rustin, requesting that the MGofBC reactivate the Rose Garden at Johnson Davis Park as a volunteer site. It was determined that the site was difficult to maintain, and that the MG would be blamed for failing roses. Since roses require specific care and often times require spraying, which Rutgers does not condone, this becomes a challenge. It was agreed upon unanimously that we not take on the site. Carolyn will respond and recommend a rosarian, one recommended by Janet Schulz.

Meeting adjourned at 7:07pm.