

**Master Gardeners of Bergen County  
Board of Directors Minutes for  
April 23, 2019**

Meeting was called to order by President Gretchen at 5:40 pm.

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

**Presidents Report:**

As a result of last month's vote, I am happy to announce our new *Awards for Excellence* winners; Donna Faustini, Programs Chair and Miriam Taub, Corresponding Secretary and Potting Shed Co-editor. Although neither of these two individuals does what they do for recognition, this honor is well deserved for their tireless efforts on MGofBC's behalf. In addition, we are happy to report a new *Lifetime Achievement Member*, Lida Gellman, who serves as a site coordinator for Garretson Forge and Farm. Lida has fulfilled over 20 years of service as a dues paying member and has accrued over 1000 volunteer hours. We will honor her achievement tonight.

As an update on the Veterans Memorial Home in Paramus, thank you to new class member, Lisa Yoler. We were put in contact with the community outreach person, Jesse Salem of Home Depot to enable us to apply for and receive a grant from Home Depot for the garden renewal at the Home. Our next step is an on-site visit bringing all parties together.

We are looking forward to our June updated event and will hear more about that tonight. Special thanks to Suzanne Danzig and Donna Karpel for their work on this project.

**Vice President:**

No report.

**Recording Secretary:**

Suzanne Danzig requested approval of the March minutes.

**\*Motion:** Joseph Cooper motioned to approve the March 26 minutes, Dennis Gretchen seconded, and all were in favor.

**Corresponding Secretary:**

Miriam sent out 3 distributions last month.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Opening balance as of February 28, 2019.....	\$12,215.52
Income.....	\$815.00
Expenses.....	\$618.48
Closing balance as of March 31, 2019.....	\$12,412.04
Total outstanding checks as of 3/31/19.....	\$611.00

**\*Motion:** Suzanne Danzig motioned to approve Treasurer's report, Joseph Cooper seconded and all were in favor.

**Community Outreach Events and Volunteers:**

Events that have occurred so far:

Sat., 4/6 Bergen County Multicultural Family Fun, Van Saun Park, Paramus

Sun., 4/14 Ridgewood Daffodil & Earth Day Festival

Mon., 4/22 Earth Day event for Employee Wellness, 1 Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack

Upcoming events:

Sun., 4/28 Party for the Planet, BC Zoo in Van Saun Park, Paramus

Sat., 5/11 Ridgefield Park Earth Day, Ridgefield Park

Sun., 5/19 Earthfest Overpeck, Ridgefield Park

Thank you to Jeffrey Chan for coordinating these outreach events and to all those who volunteered.

**Garden Club Liaison:**

Miriam sent out monthly reminder.

**Class Liaison:**

Many class members have volunteered at Thielke and some started at the Hermitage as well as additional sites, Marie and Herb suggest they spread out their volunteer hours to new sites.

**Speakers Bureau:**

Arnie spoke at Upper Saddle River Library on 'No Mow Lawns'. Arnie appreciates Joseph Cooper's website updates.

**Publicity:**

Patrick will post the luncheon on Facebook and will work on developing a presence on Pinterist.

**Hospitality:**

Hank reported that picnic is scheduled at Rohsler's Allendale Nursery for June 4, 2019 at 12 noon. Donna Karpel spoke to Brian regarding the menu and believe it can be done with a \$200-\$240 budget. Brian will prepare all the food on the 'Big Green Egg'. Karen Riede offered to bring veggie burgers because the menu was heavy on the meat.

A notice will go out requesting RSVP. As in the past members will bring salads and desserts based on their last name. A-M will bring desserts and N-Z will bring salads and apps.

**Membership:**

Terri has no report this month

**Newsletter:**

Janet was not present. Miriam reported that Peter Bernich will be featured as MG of the month.

**Website:**

\***Motion:** Joseph requested an additional \$500 be budgeted for the website, if needed; Patrick Lull seconded and all were in favor.

**Rutgers Cooperative Extension:**

Report from Joel Flagler:

Saturday, April 27 is Rutgers Day on all New Brunswick campuses. Since all MGs' are connected to the Cook Campus, that is where everyone should be. It's free and family and dog friendly. So many displays and exhibits and the opportunity to buy Rutgers hazelnut trees and the new hybrid dogwood "Scarlet Fire". There are two huge plant sales with hard-to-find tropicals, succulents and ferns, as well as common and unusual herbs and annuals and vegetables of all kinds. Also, the Rutgers improved newer varieties and revived old varieties of tomatoes will be available.

There are tours and food and music and more. Joel will be there to lead a tour of the greenhouses and botanical collections at 12:00 noon. Joel has been doing this every year since Rutgers Day was started 20 years ago.

This event grew out of the old traditional Ag Field Day, and now attracts many thousands of people on all the 5 campuses.

Cook Campus is beautiful with a pretty pond in the middle of the grassy meadow. There is so much to see, Come and participate and pick up some plants. And join me at the Floriculture Greenhouse at high noon (12:00)

Happy Holidays and Happy Spring,  
Joel

#### **RMGANJ:**

Jan Zientek reported that Better Impact software training was held for the Master Gardener coordinators. All counties participated.

The phased Better Impact rollout will start in May and a smartphone app will be available in the future to make it easy to report hours.

Names tags will be paid for by the counties but the recognition pins will be covered by Rutgers. The new pin template is being developed and expected to be ready for the October Conference.

Suzanne Keane asked each county to please get their write-ups to her as soon as they are available.

Continue to look for a delegate On Thursdays. Carolyn has the job description, 2 people vote for each county. Joseph has been our delegate for 11 years and will continue for one more year. Karen Pennell can no longer be a delegate due to conflict in schedule. The meetings are Thursday mornings and the delegate gets 5 hours of volunteer credit.

#### **Sunshine:**

Janet Schulz lost her son to cancer and donations can be made to Sloan Kettering in his name.

#### **Site Coordinator Liaison:**

Melody had nothing to report.

#### **Trips and Tours:**

Marie Alfano would like to take this on after she graduates. One of her suggestions is a trip to Woodlawn Cemetery.

#### **Programs:**

The 2020 MG meeting dates have been approved and they are the following:

January 21, February 25, March 24, April 28, May 19, September 22, October 20, November 17.

We are in the room from 5-9:30pm.

Note!!! May, October and November meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month not the 4<sup>th</sup>.

May and November meetings were moved due to holidays near those dates and the October 27 date was unavailable.

#### **Volunteer Records:**

Donna will submit an article regarding 25 & 30 year pins recipients as well as the distribution of the 5, 10, 15 and 20 year pins before the May meeting, members of those classes would need to let me know if you are attending the meeting. Rutgers will pay for pins and for our inventory.

**New Business:**

- “Give-aways” are in, pens look good. Karen and Jeffery Chan will oversee them for our outreach programs.
- Carolyn will present ‘Awards for Excellence’ to Lida Gellman at tonight’s meeting.
- NJBG is having their plant sale on 5/2. Joseph Cooper is putting together a basket to be raffled off at NJBG plant sale. Joseph was looking for someone to volunteer to put the basket together of gardening tools with a budget of \$100.00. Karen Riede suggested she speak to Joel about getting a plant from Rutgers Day

**\*Motion:** Joseph Cooper made a motion to approve a budget of \$100 for the basket, Terri Pegg seconded and all were in favor.

- 2020 meeting dates are set
- Put in your request for purchasing iris at the Presby Iris Gardens sale.

**Old Business:**

Board reviewed the revised “New Volunteer Site Application Guidelines”. Joel strongly recommended that a new site not be a municipal site. Joseph Cooper suggested that if it is a municipal site that it be open to the public ie, Thielke Arboretum and/or one that offers educational opportunities.

These new guidelines will be placed in the by-laws.

**\*Motion:** Joseph Cooper motioned to accept the guidelines as corrected, Donna Karpel seconded and all approved.

**Future Business:**

Reinvigorating the organization-board members

Mentoring program... interest?

Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.