

**Master Gardeners of Bergen County  
Board of Directors Minutes for  
May 28, 2019**

Meeting was called to order by President Gretchen at 5:32 pm.

**Present at the meeting:** Carolyn Gretchen, Dennis Gretchen, Melody Corcoran, Hank Annunziata, Miriam Taub, Karen Riede, Janet Schulz, Marie Alfano, Herb Arbeiter, Terri Pegg, Arnie Friedman, Donna Faustini, Bruce Walenczyk, Donna Karpel, Patrick Lull

**Presidents Report:**

The big news this month is our June celebration-for the first time, it's a BBQ at Rohsler's in Allendale on June 4th, from 12:00 - 2:00. Carolyn is happy to report that to date there are 61 members who have RSVP'd for the BBQ. According to Rohsler's, there is no need for a rain date- they are able to accommodate the weather. As we arrive, they will direct us to a specific Parking area. The food will be set up as a buffet and tables will be called by number. We will need servers for the salads and desserts, as per their request. Please help us out that day. In addition to a great meal, we will be treated to a workshop by Eric Rohsler where you can earn CEU's, and then you can treat yourself to discount shopping at their beautiful nursery. Special thanks to Hank Annunziata, Suzanne Danzig, Dennis Gretchen, and Donna Karpel for arranging such a lovely celebration for us!

The bulk of this meeting is dedicated to our bylaws and appendix discussion and revisions. This was/is a huge task. It's an ongoing process. After tonight's meeting, we will send out any corrected copies to the Board. Notice of the proposed changes must be submitted in writing to all certified Master Gardeners by email at least 20 days prior to the meeting for a vote. The changes are then approved by a 2/3 vote of the certified MG's present and voting. Special thank you's go out to the committee who willingly took on this task: Chairperson and recorder: Edith Wallace; Committee members: Arnie Friedman, Carolyn Gretchen, Barbara Johansson, Karen Pennell, and Janet Schulz.

As they say, "Better late, than never". Although this should have been done in the fall, we are here this evening to honor our very own Janet Schulz, for 30 years of dedicated service as a Master Gardener. In addition, Janet is being honored as the recipient in 2018 of the Award for Excellence. Congratulations on your duo awards from all of us!

Carolyn reported that the Veteran's Home discount from Home Depot has a snafu because the Veteran's Home did not OK the Home Depot workers using their liability insurance so we cannot get the grant. Jesse is responsible for the grant writing and would help us out if we want to pursue the grant

**Vice President:**

Melody reported that Donna Cheddit from NJBG would like to give the 2019 graduating class a free membership for 1 year to the NJBG. This membership should start in June 2019 when they have completed their studies.

**Recording Secretary:**

**\*Motion:** Janet Schulz made a motion to approve April minutes as presented, Patrick Lull seconded, and all were in favor. Motion carried.

**Corresponding Secretary:**

**Treasurer's Report:**

Opening balance as of March 31, 2018.....	\$12,412.04
Income.....	\$50.00
Expenses.....	\$726.67
Closing balance as of April 30, 2019.....	\$11,735.37
Total outstanding checks as of April 30, 2019.....	\$52.45

\***Motion:** Arnie Friedman motioned to approve treasurers' report, Donna Karpel seconded and all approved.

Janet Schultz asked about the 501C3 status. Bruce reported that we lost the 501C3 status, we have to provide 5 years financial statements in order to refile for that status. After discussion we need to Change the website and the by-laws to indicate this change.

**Community Outreach Events and Volunteers:**

We had 6 Outreach events last month and well were well received. There was a total of 28-30 volunteers for all the events.

**Garden Club Liaison:**

Most of the clubs to not meet in the summer months except Bergenfield.

**Class Liaison:**

Marie and Herb reported that the class is busy doing hot-line, Hort therapy, plant sales, and they are branching out to go to different places. The entire class is attending a pruning lesson on Friday at Thielke. Everyone is moving forward and working on their projects.

**Speakers Bureau:**

Arnie spoke to Sundial Garden Club in Hillsdale, Bogota Library, HoHoKus, Wayne and speaking events are now dwindling down. One person approached him regarding her speaking at a site and was it applied to her volunteer hours? Arnie advised her if she can be listed on the website as a speaker, he would recommend her hours be reported. Donna Karpel also emailed this person and neither has heard back from her.

**Publicity:**

**Hospitality:**

Donna Karpel discussed the upcoming BBQ at Rohsler's Allendale Nursery on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Rohsler's is offering a 20% discount for the MG's that attend on trees, shrubs, perennials and Rohsler Grown plants. The menu is pulled pork, hamburgers, mac and cheese, veggie burgers, lemonade. The weather forecast looks favorable, but it is rain or shine. Master Gardeners who are attending are asked to bring the following by last name: a-k bring dessert, l-z bring salads/apps.

Donna also reported that Miriam made up something to hand out the MG's at the picnic to distinguish them from other patrons for the 20% discount.

All agreed the change of venue is good for the picnic as 61 people are signed up already.

**Membership:**

Nothing to report.

**Newsletter:**

Miriam and Janet reported this will be a short month for the Potting Shed. They also asked for people to send pictures to them. Please RSVP for the BBQ as the deadline to sign up is this Wednesday.

**Website:**

Carolyn reported that Joseph has asked the board to approve an additional \$500.00 to EGGS,LLC for work on the website. Bruce reported that in 2017 we paid them \$1,250, in 2018 we paid them \$1250 and in 2019 we paid him \$450.00 for a total to date of \$2,950.00. After discussion as to when will the website be up and running, many want to know why it is taking so long. Donna Karpel and Terri Pegg tried to explain that as reports are requested, we have discovered that the reports are not working correctly.

**\*Motion:** Arnie Friedman motioned that we approve an additional \$500.00 to EGGS, LLC at the discretion of the president to see when the work will be completed. Patrick Lull seconded, 9 yay, 0 no's and 3 abstained. Motion was approved.

**Rutgers Cooperative Extension:**

From Joel Flagler:

- 1) A heartfelt thanks to all MG's who participated in the many Earth Day events and environmental fairs around the county. You are wonderful ambassadors for Rutgers.
- 2) Would the MG association consider supplying name tags for the new graduates? This could be used to get discounts at garden centers, as well as identify them at events and outings.
- 3) Graduation for the class of 2019 will be in mid-November. This class has been very productive, and many are accumulating significant volunteer hours.
- 4) The Class of 2020 will likely be the last that I teach. I have been teaching the MG program since 1987. It is still a joy for me, and I enjoy it greatly. Thanks go out to Karen Riede for bringing considerable organization and coordination to the management of our volunteers. It has become more complicated every year; I am grateful for Karen's help and her compassion for the MG Program.

**RMGANJ:**

Jan Zientek reported that there is a search for new agents in Cape May, Monmouth, and Salem counties. Separately, the new service pins are being designed by Mike Green's office and expected to be ready in 2-3 months.

Nick Polanin joined the meeting and assured that Brian Schilling's office will cover the OCPE expenses. Hunterdon and Mercer counties will have their International Master Gardener award winners speak during the county segment at the State Conference.

Lunch will be included in the conference fee this year.

A 'Save the Date' poster is available.

Please send the award write-ups for the booklet as soon as they are ready to Suzanne Keane. 150 words per person.

**Sunshine:**

Nothing to report.

**Site Coordinator Liaison:**

Melody requested that all coordinators please send in pictures of work going on at their sites.

**Trips and Tours:**

**Programs:**

Donna Faustini said Jim Cooper is going to discuss figs. Hopefully everyone will grow one this year. Donna would like everyone's opinion on Dr. Lyons lecture from last year for the November. Everyone thought he was very good so she will try to get him to commit to this November.

**Volunteer Records:**

Donna will be handing out pins to a few people who have reached 5 years.

**Archivist:****Old Business:****New Business:**

By-laws Committee: One was a consolidation of the standing committees so there will not be as many people on the board. Barbara Johannson, Edith Wallace, Karen Riede, Carolyn Gretchen, Arnie Friedam, Janet Schulz.

First section: no changes to the Mission Statement.

Article 1- *MGofBC* is the only change so we are interchangeable with Master Gardeners of Bergen County.

Gave the recording secretary and additional job of Archivist.

First committee to change - A- Community Outreach.

**\*Motion:** Arnie Friedman motioned that due to time constraints at the evenings meeting we table this discussion regarding the bylaws to September meeting, Donna Karpel seconded and all were in favor.

**\*Motion:** Arnie Friedman motioned to adjourn the meeting, Donna Karpel seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 6:58pm.