

Treasurer’s Report cont.....

Total Outstanding checks:

Gayle Clayton	\$	1,475.00
Bill Kolvek – speaker fee	\$	200.00

Bank Statement Balance: as of March 31, 2021	\$	13,124.38
--	----	-----------

Following the Treasurer’s report, Pat stated that we have received IRS approval on our application for a federal income tax exemption under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501 (c)(3). (Copy attached)

***Motion:** Melody asked if there is a motion to approve the March, 2021 Treasurer’s Report. Arnie motioned to approve and Suzanne seconded the motion – APPROVED.

Recording Secretary – Keith Mazanec:

I stated that the final copy of the March 23, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes had been sent out to all Board Members for review, and that if there were no changes or questions, propose that a motion be made to approve them.

***Motion:** Suzanne motioned to approve the March, 2021 Meeting Minutes; Arnie seconded the motion – APPROVED.

Corresponding Secretary – Miriam Taub:

Distributed the April Potting Shed and April mid-month update to the membership list.

Responded to two inquiries from the public sent to the info@mgofbc.org email address: One asking whether we sold Rutgers strawberries and how to treat for woolly adelgid; the second inquiry was how to deal with a dying Japanese maple

Gave 18 members access to the website.

Sent 58 reminder emails to members who had not paid their dues for 2021 explaining that they need to be current on dues to have access to the “members” section of the new website. Sent follow-up emails to 26 members who still had not paid 2021 dues asking whether they were interested in maintaining membership. About 10 people responded that they would mail their checks.

De Trezza moved to Florida and will not be renewing her membership.

Old Business

Website – pros, cons, feed-back

Melody asked if anyone had any comments about the new website.

Suzanne stated that it was very professionally done. There was a discussion regarding the Hotline information posted on the MG website. Karen Riede stated there are three numbers for the public to contact the Hotline. The Helpline is currently not functioning as the office has been closed

State Fall Meeting

Melody initiated the discussion regarding the State Fall Meeting. Each county will be expected to have a display. The meeting is being planned for late September / early October, possibly on a Friday. The Fair would be open to master gardeners only and not the general public.

The following ideas /suggestions were presented and discussed:

- Herb asked if there were any community gardens that we could highlight.
- Karen Pennell mentioned possibly doing a presentation on horticultural therapy, and added that the location for the fair had not yet been decided upon.
- Sandi suggested doing a photo display.
- Suzanne suggested the Holiday Open House at the NJBG. She said that Joseph has photos of the event.
- Karen Riede mentioned that the fair may have to be off-campus, as Rutgers has a mandatory vaccine policy for all students.
- Arnie proposed setting up a continuous “loop” video, highlighting the Holiday Open House and various site activities.
- Sandi offered to take photos of the Butterfly and Native Garden at Overpeck Park in Leonia.
- Herb also mentioned that the Hermitage has an annual tree tapping event where they demonstrate how maple syrup is made.
- Miriam proposed a seasonal theme
- Suzanne said that we participate in year round activities, and can build a presentation around them.
- Herb mentioned that the Thielke Arboretum has many planting activities throughout the year, and is a big native plant site.
- Theresa said that Garretson Farm has different fall activities. Melody mentioned that when they have vegetables to donate, they go to CDC at St. Paul’s emergency food pantry. Perhaps we can incorporate both into a presentation.

Committee Reports:

Community Outreach Liaison – Arnie Friedman

Arnie reported that the Speakers Bureau is very active and is busy doing talks.

Hospitality – Sandi Liberti

No report.

Membership – Theresa Schneider

As of now, we have 131 members who have paid their 2021 membership dues. Currently in the process of trying to upload CSV file. Miriam reminded members to send in dues for 2021, and dues payments have been trickling in.

MG Class Liaison – N/A

Newsletter – Miriam Taub

Miriam submitted the following written report:

The May Potting Shed will contain stories about 2 members' gardens. Janet Schulz submitted a list of garden club plant sales in May. We got no response to an item in the April mid-month update encouraging readers to send in their pressing horticulture questions to Arnie.

Programs – Donna Faustini:

Donna reported that tonight's speaker is Tovah Martin, who will be discussing houseplants.

Our May speaker is Bruce Crawford. This will be a joint meeting with the Passaic County master gardeners.

We are currently looking to book speakers for the months of September, October and November. Karen Riede was asked if she knew anything about the status of One Bergen County Plaza. Karen responded that the building not open yet to the public, and 2022 is TBD.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension Liaison – Karen Riede

Karen Riede submitted the following written report:

RCE Report to MG Association Board 4.27.21

Joel Flagler

Rutgers is talking about slowly granting exemptions for small groups to meet for outdoor training; egg farmer and grower mtg. with a limit of around 20-25 it seems like there will be policing required to keep the group in check. Also, participants must be pre-registered. While this does not have immediate application for larger groups (e.g. 4-H/MG Fair, Environmental Fairs, and beautification efforts) it does indicate a loosening up of the restrictions. At this time there has been no official word about MG activities being allowed. This seems to be for farmers/growers who need Rutgers updates and training. We will keep you posted as things are announced.

RCE Report 4/27/21 cont...

The Bergen County Admin bldg. is still closed to the public. There has been no word of it re-opening. Some offices may have accommodations and services, but the Extension office is closed. In fact it is no longer where it was. We have been moved to the 4th floor to the same row of windowless offices we occupied many years ago. We will reside there; closer to the Parks Dept.—our host agency. Phone numbers should remain the same.

The online MG pilot program has been going well and kudos go to Madeline Flahive DiNardo, Karen Riede, the others on the planning team. The intent is to assess how the pilot program has worked, address any kinks in the line, and then market it to a wider audience in the state. It could be that the online training is much preferred and maybe it will stay in place as an option for future classes. The real need is to get volunteer activities up and running and let our interns put in their hours in approved sites. Hopefully that day is coming soon.

Best wishes to all for a Joyous Beltane and very happy spring!
(FYI- Beltane is a Celtic festival celebrating the start of Spring)

RMGANJ Report – Herb Arbeiter

As of now, there are no, in-person activities scheduled until the end of June. Approximately 200 master gardeners volunteered for the Rutgers tomato project. The focus of the recent meeting was on the State Fair event. As stated earlier, they are looking to hold it on a Friday, in either late September or early October.

Site Coordinator Liaison – Melody Corcoran:

No report.

Volunteer Records - Autumn O'Shea

**MG of BC committee notes from Volunteer Records Chair for April 27, 2021:
submitted by Autumn J O'Shea**

Recognition pin inventory:

President gavels: 14,

25 yr: 14 and Large 25 yr: 1

20 yr: 21

15 yr: 36

10 yr: 48

5 yr: 124

Volunteer Records Report cont...

Graduate pin: 0 (Zero)

MG hours for 2020- Administrative hours: 235 (9 volunteers submitting hours), Outreach: 193 (Up covid cut-off) (3 sites and total 15 different volunteers) - **Total hours for 2020: 428 hours**

MG hours so far for 2021- Administrative hours: 168.71 hours (So far this year), because covid, there are only Administrative hours or teaching hours open.

List of recognition pins for years 2020 & 2021 have been put together. (Because of covid, handing out pins has not taken place.

Thanks to Karen Riede for ordering graduate pins. Pins are to be ordered through Karen or Joel only.

Website – Joseph Cooper

N/A

New Business:

Recognition Pin Distribution

Autumn stated that we have no records of volunteer hours prior to 2010, which is how grandfathering years of service came about. Karen Pennell gave a history how the hour's requirement was added in order for a member to be eligible to receive a service pin. (25 years / 10 hours)

Autumn proposed there be two criteria in order to be pin eligible: 1) annual dues are paid up and 2) the 25/10 requirement.

Melody reviewed the bylaws for the lifetime membership requirement; 20 years a member plus 1,000 volunteer hours.

Melody suggested that we table this discussion for now, and continue reviewing the criteria at a later date.

Better Impact Tutorial

Karen Riede began a basic tutorial of Better Impact, which included a review of the website's main menu.

*Note - As the Board meeting was running late, the tutorial was postponed and will be rescheduled for a later date.

Adjournment

Melody asked if someone would make a motion to adjourn the meeting.

***Motion:** Motion made by Arnie to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Herb.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:05 PM.