

**Master Gardener Association of Bergen County
Board Meeting Minutes – April 18, 2023**

Present: Hosting – Melody Corcoran, Karen Riede, Pat Vellas, Suzanne Danzig, Janet Schulz, Theresa Schneider, Miriam Taub, Herb Arbeiter, Elizabeth Gil, Joseph Cooper, Donna Faustini, Keith Mazanec

Absent: Arnie Friedman, Martha Carlucci

The meeting was called to order by President Corcoran at 5:35 PM

Officer Reports:

President – Melody Corcoran

Martha Carlucci is stepping down as Hospitality Chair because of work and personal responsibilities. She has agreed to still take care of the hospitality needs for the June 13 picnic. Both Bernadette White and Gimai Ma have volunteered to assist Martha with the picnic. I contacted Sue Sheridan and Maria Bushman inquiring about the plans for this year's Holiday Open House, reminding them that the board requested information from them in April and May and a final budget to be presented in September. So far, I have not had any response. I will contact them again and stress the need for this information.

Vice President – Elizabeth Gil

One of our goals for 2023 is to increase the public awareness of the Master Gardener program throughout the county. Liz shared several handouts she developed which promote the program and can be posted on social media, our website and at local nurseries. These are intended to be conversation starters and can be used to promote us and our programs.

Treasurer – Pat Vellas

For month ending March 31, 2023:

Opening Balance as of: Feb. 28, 2023		\$ 16,161.19
Income:	Membership fees	\$ 240.00
	Member donation	\$ 50.00
	Speaker donation	\$ 150.00

Total Income:	\$ 440.00
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Treasurer’s Report cont...

Expenses:	Herb Arbeiter–Hospitality Supplies	\$	(60.16)
	Kathy Sauerborn-Speaker Fee	\$	(150.00)
	Center for Food Action-donation	\$	(250.00)

Total Expenses:	\$	(460.16)
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Closing Balance as of March 31, 2023 \$ 16,141.03

Total Outstanding Checks:	John Beirne-Speaker Fee	\$	(250.00)
	Kathy Sauerborn-Speaker Fee	\$	(150.00)

Bank Statement Balance as of March 31, 2023	\$	16,541.03
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***Motion:** Joseph motioned to approve the Treasurer’s Report and Donna seconded the motion. All in attendance voted “Yes.” - APPROVED.

Recording Secretary – Keith Mazanec

Keith stated that the final copy of the March 21, 2023 Board Meeting minutes had been sent out to all Board Members for review, and that if there were no changes or questions, proposed that a motion be made to approve them.

***Motion:** Suzanne motioned to approve the March 2023 meeting minutes; Miriam seconded the motion. All in attendance voted “Yes.” APPROVED.

Corresponding Secretary – Miriam Taub

Miriam reported two editions of the Potting Shed were sent out in April. Also, a new distribution list was created for Master Gardener alumni.

Old Business:

4-H and MG of BC collaboration - update

Karen stated that Abbie Kesely, Sr. Program Coordinator 4H Youth Development will be leaving the Hackensack office as she is taking a State position. Abbie has agreed to stay on in the Hackensack office one day a week during the transition period.

Summer Picnic – Van Saun Park

Martha Carlucci will stay on through the picnic event. Miriam to announce the event in the Potting Shed.

Outreach Volunteer hours

As Arnie was not present at tonight's meeting, there was no update report provided.

Computer, equipment manager

There was a discussion on the merits of purchasing a new computer and software. The Board felt that it was best to first recruit an individual who will be responsible for managing the equipment. Theresa agreed to work as part of a sub-committee to research our computer needs and requirements

Breakfast for 2023 Class

The date for the breakfast is Tuesday, May 16. Set-up time is 9:30AM, with the students arriving at 10AM. There was a discussion of the food items the Board would provide to include; bagels, crumb cake, coffee cake, butter, cream cheese, yogurt, coffee and juices.

***Motion:** Miriam motioned that we set aside \$200.00 to reimburse members who purchase food and beverage items for the 2023 class breakfast. Suzanne seconded the motion. All in attendance voted "Yes" – APPROVED.

T-shirts logo (see below)

Committee Reports

Community outreach liaison – Arnie Friedman (absent)

No report.

Hospitality – Martha Carlucci (absent)

No report

Membership – Theresa Schneider

To date we have 123 dues-paying members for calendar year 2023, which is the same number at this time in 2022. Theresa will be working on cleaning up our on-line directory.

Newsletter – Miriam Taub

Miriam reported that effective immediately, there will be one issue of the Potting Shed published monthly.

Janet Schulz – There is not much going on currently with the garden clubs. A "tea" is planned for Tuesday, June 13. Trips and Tours: nine people have signed up for our upcoming trip.

Programs – Donna Faustini

Our speaker tonight is Mary Jasch whose presentation will be on gardens in the tri-state area. Michael Hagen will speak at our May 16 meeting and will be discussing native plants in small spaces. For the Nov. 14 meeting, Steve Adams will discuss mushrooms and edible gardens

Rutgers Cooperation Extension liaison – Karen Riede

Karen presented Joel's report:

RCE Report to the MG Association Board Mtg. 4/18/23

Joel Flagler

1. Two new farms have contacted my office and will add acreage to Bergen's farmland totals. One is in New Milford and is the old Perrone farm on River Road, now owned by Joe Dillon and will be mostly grape production. I guess we know where to go to find spotted lantern-fly. I helped the Perrone family for decades and miss them; glad the land is still being farmed. It was preserved on combo of Green Acres and town dollars; forever green. Second new farm is 6.5 acres in Montvale. I have not visited the site yet; will be nursery plants.
2. RCE Bergen is saying goodbye to our wonderful 4-H Program Associate Abbie Kesely. She accepted a job in the state 4-H office in Martin Hall on Cook campus. Now we have an open F/T position. If you know of someone who is interested and has background in youth development, please ask them to contact me. Abbie will stay on one day/week during the transition process; that is great news.
3. I had a 90 minute meeting with RCE Director Brian Schilling and Associate Director Kathleen Howell to discuss many issues including relationships with the county and key stakeholders. We in Bergen are light years ahead of the rest of the state because we forged excellent partnerships with many communities and agencies over the decades. These gave us opps for new funding streams and new impacts in sorely underserved factions of the county; including: Housing Authorities, Schools, Veterans Home and Hospitals, Prisons, Rehabilitation centers, facilities serving disabled individuals, food pantries, senior centers, and much more. We also have a solid partnership with Bergen County since we make ourselves useful in so many traditional and non-traditional venues. Master Gardeners are recognized by Director Schilling as a keystone and flagship program of all RCE/NJAES. They make all of our partnerships work. Period. And I am the Cheerleader- General for the RMG of BC. It all started here in Bergen County with my predecessor Dr. Ralph Pearson. Thanks Ralph!

4. Thank you in advance to all the MGs (both “Interns” and “Certified”) for making certain we have a signed **Volunteer Agreement** on file for you. This is required by Rutgers University and also Bergen County. No way around it; please comply. Without this you cannot work as a Rutgers volunteer and the County is quite firm about this. Thank you again; I really appreciate it!

All best wishes to you and yours. Stay healthy and stay safe and stay happy.

Joel

RMGANJ report – Herb Arbeiter

Herb reported the following from the April 13, RMGANJ meeting:

Master Gardener Coordinator, Nick Polanin addressed the following:

The Fall Conference

The conference is set for Oct. 21 at the Douglass Student Center. Traves Hall is reserved. The Zoom option is open. There is a seating capacity of 180 – 300 depending on chair arrangement. Nick will try to get access to the Rutgers Greenhouse for a tour on that day, The conference coincides with the Home Gardeners School at Cook campus. They will look into coordinating the conferences and perhaps have split speakers.

Better Impact

Nick Polanin is to set up a coordinator meeting to address data gaps in reporting activities or events.

There is a Citizen Science Category (example: Japanese Stilt Grass Project).

Help-line has two categories: in-house and in-field.

1,500 Master Gardeners logged into Better Impact in 2022 in the state. There may be more volunteers that never logged on.

Nick Polanin again emphasized the importance of logging in hours. The data is used to generate reports for Brian Schilling to present to the University president to show the importance of the MG program.

Nick Hendershot discussed ordering pins.

Use Consolidus to order pins and Rutgers University Swag.

NJAES

Contact Talia Zirin: Zirin@NJAES.rutgers.edu

The topic for the fall conference is “Transforming Your Home, Inside and Out.” The committee is looking for speakers.

Site coordinator liaison – Liz Gil

No report.

Volunteer Records – Suzanne Danzig

Year to date a total of 62 MGs recorded hours, up from 48 last month. Several of these new entries are for CE hours, not Outreach hours.

Year to date we have recorded a total of 754 Outreach hours, up by 295 hours from last month as more sites have opened up and more members are getting out as weather gets nicer.

Administrative hours are at 295 for the year, up 47 from last month. There are a total of 18 teaching hours so far this year, up 11 from last month.

Continuing Ed hours, including our MG of BC monthly meetings, are at 335 hours, up 110 hours from last month. I am repeating myself, but we do have several MGs recording just CE hours and very few Outreach hours. That will be my next mission: To remind them that volunteer hours are required.

YTD top sites recording hours are Garretson with 200, Thielke with 187 and NJBG with 115.

YTD it appears all of our approved sites have had at least one MG record hours, some literally just one entry but activity none-the-less.

Karen and I continue to revise our active list. Currently there are 89 active members, 65 interns and 297 archived members. Many of these archived members are still paying dues but are either unable to volunteer any longer or have moved.

Website – Joseph Cooper

Joseph mentioned that approximately two weeks ago the website was down for about 12 hours. The site is back up and all is OK.

T shirts, logo, and vendors: Karen introduced Seana Kirk, who is researching a new vendor for our T-shirts and logo design. Seana reported that a company, Custom Inc., can design logos and printing for T-shirts and sweat shirts. They require a high resolution of the logo for the screen printing, plus a two-week lead time. The price is compatible with that of the previous vendor we used. There was a discussion about screen printing vs. embroidery. Several of the board members felt that embroidered shirts look better and were more durable. Seana will research other options.

New Business

Goals for 2023: Discussed earlier (see under VP Liz Gil's report)

Adjournment

***Motion:** A motion was made by Joseph to adjourn the meeting. Liz seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.