

New Jersey State Association of Master Gardeners  
April 5, 2011

President Caryl Hannemann called the meeting to order at 10:06 am.

Caryl welcomed new members and guests.

Pat Corcoran - Bergen County

Mary Stecher - Atlantic County

Gail Cappella - Gloucester

Heather Wise Emelander - Morris County

The minutes were accepted as read.

**President's Report:** Caryl exhibited the brochures of the Gloucester Spring Conference which is scheduled for May 17, 2011 from 9:30-4pm. All county Master Gardeners are invited. Please contact Mary Cummings, RCE of Gloucester County if interested in attending.

Caryl and the group thanked Gloucester for their hospitality.  
Cumberland is next month.

**Treasurer's Report:** Toni Rinehart announced \$357.71 in change account and \$8,631.70 in Rutgers Account. For internal vendors within Rutgers, sundry accounts will be line item reports.

**Attendance:**

Atlantic: Ann Cinquina, Mary Stecher

Bergen: Jane Furman

Burlington: Lisa Marie Morris

Camden: Nancy Sullivan, Bernadette Eichinger

Cumberland: Carol Henry

Cape May: Absent

Essex: Pat Radey, Pat Hewitt

Gloucester: Maureen Fitzgerald, Gail Cappella

Mercer: Betty Scarlata, Bob Robinson

Middlesex: Nancy Bruneau, Kathy Dopart

Monmouth: Ellen Simonetti

Morris: Pat Hudson, Ingrid Witty, Sally Hensen, Heather Wise Emelander

Ocean: Mary Townsend, Kerren Vallone

Passaic: Absent

Somerset/Hunterdon: Mary Patten, Tricia Deering

Sussex: Absent

Union: Toni Rinehart, Caryl Hannemann

RCE: Nick Polanin

## **Conference Planning:**

Somerset/Hunterdon County spoke of the conference speakers to be decided. They mentioned that the feedback forms from the evaluation committee were invaluable to those who were looking for speakers.

Three keynote front runners voted on:

Neil Hendrikson

Laura Lawson

Pat Sutton

Keynote Speaker:

Neil Hendrickson

Afternoon Speakers:

Pat Sutton

Ruth Claus

Lloyd Traven

Laura Lawson

It was noted and voted on that Doug Tallamay will be the 2012 speaker for the Fall Conference. Doug needed a one year commitment.

## **RCE Report:**

Nick Polanin reminded all MG's that the "And Justice for All" (anti discrimination) posters should be displayed and used at all talks and group attended events. Nick suggested that the poster could be scanned into the computers to be shown at all talks. These posters should also be displayed in county offices. County websites also have announcements for public funded groups. MG's need to document and prove that we are open to all. Future appearances of posters will be documented and numbers needed to be documented (of ethnic groups for federal government.) This can be done quietly. No need to ask. Forms are on line and can be printed out. Ag agents should provide them.

Nick mentioned that any official MG event (meetings, tours, trips, etc.) off Rutgers or county property must be done with a certificate of insurance because liability is always an issue. MG's can contact Rutgers Office of Risk Management (Jim Breeding) to get a copy of certificates of insurance for events. He recommended a PDF, doc. By e-mail is easiest. Also, certificates are for each event. Riskmanagement.Rutgers.edu. Website has all the information.

The budget is still not settled. Rutgers funds are proposed to be cut in half. This means no cuts but a 1994 funding level is in effect. Each county has its own issues. Cumberland has had its funding rescinded and no new MG classes are in the works. Somerset/Hunterdon had 5-6% of its bottom line cut and has a hiring freeze.

May 13, not 20 is the date of MG Advance Training Class at Morris County College. The time is 10-3pm and the topic is "Community and School Gardens." No Ocean County date has been announced yet. The original date was unavailable.

### **County Reports:**

Atlantic: Starting a rain garden at Galloway Library. Plant sale is in progress. Will be held May 21 at Galloway Library from 10-3pm. Will have 4 speakers from MG gardeners on 4 different topics. Also will have propagated plants from some of our MG's. MG class of 2011 has 25 students. Atlantic City Aquarium is in the process of cleaning and prepping gardens. On May 14<sup>th</sup> Atlantic City will recognize the MG's by have an MG Volunteer Day. WE set up a table and pass out fact sheets. This year will have some speakers on certain topics. Collecting clothing for Atlantic City Rescue Mission for Friday from MG. Participating in Earth Day on May 1 at ACUA in Egg Harbor Township. We have a tent and again pass out fact sheets relating to tomatoes and grasses, etc. We also start tomatoes, and pass our free seedlings. Our local papers had some nice articles and pictures at Atlantic City Aquarium and Galloway Library and our butterfly garden.

Bergen: A committee is working on a major revision of by-laws. Our students are forming teams and choosing topics for their presentation at the 4H/MG Fair in August. The fair is a two day event in August. We are in the planning stage for a plant sale of member's plants later in the year. The helpline is starting to get busy. We have formed a community gardens committee to respond to the many requests for assistance we have received. Staffing for outreach events for spring, Earth Day, town fairs and farmers' markets is in the planning stages.

Burlington: Garden Tour starts April 7-October 31. MG's will participate in a community event in Lumberton for Arbor Day on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Earth Day at Fort Dix on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Donation Garden is up and growing despite the weather. The new 2011 class will be completed at the middle of this month. Helpline is still quiet with a few calls coming in at 20 minutes before it closes for the day.

Camden: Scheduled talk on conifers by Rick Ray. Summer field trips scheduled: Winterthur Gardens, Fern brook Farms, walking tour of street trees in Haddon Heights.

Cumberland: Preparing for Eco Fair at Wheaton Arts. All seeds planted Ramapo and Morton tomatoes and organic herbs. Hort. Therapy doing very well. Landscaping plans for A Homes completed in the next few months. April speaker Sal Manifico will speak about turf management and few fertilizer laws. MG project Spring Grants approved.

Essex: County paid for over \$5000. Electrical upgrade to our green house. Invasive species program at Presby Iris Garden s. PowerPoint and walking tour scheduled.

Gloucester: 4/16 Pitman Earth Day in park. 4/16 Washington township. Earth Day outreach with 4H. 5/6 Woodbury on Main Street selling heirloom tomatoes, plants and herbs. 5/7 Woodbury Neighborhood preservation plant sale. 5/14 Swedesboro House

and Garden show selling plants. 5/14 Harrison Township Day. Out reach and plant sales. 5/17 State MGs Spring Tour Hosting. Jr. MG's started classes 3/31 helping outside gardens. Helpline opened 3/14. Greenhouse all green and blooming waiting for sales to begin.

Mercer: The spring symposium was a great success. We had just over 200 attendees, and as a result, made a small profit. (Not our aim, we try to break even.) Next year we'll put a bit more money into coffee. Our plant sale is May 7. We are trying to develop ways to meet the non-discriminatory requirements and making estimates of the racial/ethnic /sex makeup of those attending our functions. We are participating in the Sunflower Project, also known as Hunt for Bees. We have periodic food drives for Trenton area and soup kitchen.

Middlesex: Butterfly house expansion is in progress. Evergreen Memory garden with meditation area and children's area in progress also. Ray Rodgers spoke at last meeting. Cacti and Succulents. 50+ MG's attended. April 26 Barbara Mellera will speak on wildflowers. May 21-Barry Weissman will lead a tour of his hosta gardens. Rutgers Day flower sales are underway. Green house workers are busy. MG's will be selling bulbs, green bags and kneelers. We have a new forum: a website for MG's. March 29 Grape Escape event where MG's learned about wine making.

Monmouth: New class of 29. Very enthusiastic. Starting in PAR gardens. Jr. MGs. Garden prepped. Classes start April 14. 16 children enrolled. New committee: School Program Committee gives talks and discusses garden designs. Volunteers at Deep Cut Gardens April 15. Drop in hours Wed. and Sat.

Morris: Helpline is up and running. Refresher course offered by experienced MG's to get others involved. Hort. Ther. Going well.

Ocean: Growing plants for plant sale. Bird houses will be sold this year. Display gardens trying to incorporate native plants. Speakers' Bureau is busy. Community information table at many events. Horticultural calendar is ready to go to press for 2012. Interns are finished with training.

Somerset/Hunterdon: New class graduated. Rocker awards started. Continuing Ed team plan for encouraging people to utilize grant program and take course. Survey on membership is out. Two bus trips planned. Plant sale is May 7.

Sussex: absent

Union: New herb beds added. Arbor Day with Berkeley Heights Library planned. Hort. Therapy busy at 1<sup>st</sup> Children's School. May 15 is plant sale.

### **Conference Updates:**

Atlantic: working on evaluation forms

Bergen: Facilities are covered and confirmed. Bookstore will participate and see if speakers' books can be sold separately. May move garden market and see if different room can be used, Table/ chair issue formerly voted on and passed may be rescinded by RU facilities director.

Camden: still working on registration form now that speakers are confirmed. Ocean County said they revised form already. It was decided that Camden may use their suggestions. Camden has the final decision.

Cumberland: Program flyer job assigned. It's the schedule for the conference folders.

Essex: signs can't be done yet.

Mercer: Speakers and escorts too early to deal with.

Middlesex: will purchase folders in August.

Morris: Catering not ready yet.

Ocean: no registration numbers yet.

Passaic: state table-not needed yet.

Somerset/Hunterdon: Speakers decided-program development started.

Union: Awards Booklet set deadlines for copy. Need info on nominees. Candidates and copy by June 1. Ask for pictures associated with activities for Awards. 2 photos.

Possibility of 2 vendors at conference tabled until May meeting.

Sharing topics tabled until May.

### **New Business:**

Toni Rinehart brought up topic of counties participating in European Garden Touts. She suggested members ask within their counties and be ready for next meeting.

Mercer County asked who counties use to supply their plants for sales. Suggested nurseries were mentioned.

Meeting ended at 12:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Dopart, secretary