

New Jersey State Master Gardeners Association
September 6, 2011

President Caryl Hannemann opened the meeting at 10:05 am.
Jerri Barclay was introduced as a new delegate from Middlesex County.

Caryl announced that Dean Goodman will be at the Conference on Oct. 1.
The date for the Pot Luck Luncheon was announced for November 1, 2011. There will be an auction of "gently used" and new items.

The minutes were accepted as read.
Treasurer's Report:

\$8,631.70 is current balance. Balance is the same as last month. \$3,010 deposit not credited. Pins are ordered and \$1700 set aside. Change box fund has \$740.46.
Conference money to be deposited.

Attendance:

Atlantic: Ann Cinquina, Barb Kennedy
Bergen: Karen Pennell
Burlington: Judy Shaw
Camden: Nancy Sullivan
Cape May: absent
Cumberland: Carol Henry
Essex: Joan Gorman, Pat Hewitt, Pat Radey
Gloucester: absent
Mercer: Betty Scarlata, Bob Robinson
Middlesex: Kathy Dopart, Nancy Bruneau, Jerri Barclay
Monmouth: Ellen Simonetti, Karin Poorvin
Morris: Sally Hensen, Ingrid Witty, Pat Hudson
Ocean: Mary Townsend, Kerren Vallone
Passaic: Barbara Cook
Somerset/Hunterdon: Mary Patten, Tricia Deering
Sussex: absent
Union: Toni Rinehart, Caryl Hannemann

No RCE Report

County Reports:

Atlantic: Ladew Garden was visited on June 23. Topiary and Theme garden developed through the eyes of a man. Demo garden looks great. We planted our fall lettuce a week ago. On July 20 the Little Garden Club had their garden tours of 8 local home gardens. The Linwood Arboretum was a main stop with the Master Gardeners having volunteers with a table containing fact sheets and providing answers.

Forsythe is closed July and August due to greenheads and mosquitoes but did start up early September. **Hope garden in Atlantic City is up and running. Approximately 28 raised and most are being rented. Two of our MG's gave presentations on difficult gardening problems every couple of weeks. The people are enjoying themselves and want more gardening places.** Butterfly garden outside Galloway Library is flourishing. We met at MG's gardens in the summer. One in Galloway and the other in Egg Harbor Township.

Bergen: The 4-H/Master Gardener Fair took place August 6 and was well attended. Dr. Larry Katz of Rutgers and County executive Kathleen Donovan both spoke. Several displays put on by the Class of 2011 included Bats, Attracting Beneficial Insects, Vertical Gardening, and Living Walls, to mention just a few. The exhibits generated a lot of interest for the MG Program.

The Class of 2011 will be graduating 29 new MG's on September 17th. New Class starts in October. MG's are preparing for 10th anniversary of 9/11 ceremony at Overpeck Park. Revision of By-laws almost complete.

Camden: Had an excellent workshop on turf. This week we are moving to our new facility. Helpline is closed until we set up again.

Cumberland: Continuing sprucing up Extension Center. Pepper harvesting at Experimental Station. Butterfly tent will be set up at the Millville Craft Fair on September 11. No meeting in August. Will resume meeting this month.

Essex: No meeting in August.

Mercer: We are having a bus trip to Ladew Gardens on Sept. 13. Our annual Insect Festival will be this Saturday, Sept. 10. We normally get between 600-1000 people attending. It is not a fund raiser-we do get some donations, but it is mainly an educational outreach to children and adults. Our Mercer Educational Gardens (also "compost site") is a hub on the new Lawrence-Hopewell trail. We received a trails grant to provide support. There is lots of construction on parking lots and putting stone dust on the trails. Eventually, there will be permanent rest rooms at the site.

The count paid for drilling a well at the gardens. We now have a functioning well and a reliable source of water. We had to provide a well house and heater to shelter the pump. The well, by the way, is 500' deep.

Middlesex: An Evening in the Garden was held August 9th. 45 people enjoyed a wine and cheese sampling and a tour of the various gardens. August 20th an Open House was held with entertainment, food, and children's activities. The Butterfly House was open and tours of the herb and vegetable gardens was held. The new Children's Roof Garden House was a big hit. 200 people attended. New Class starts Sept. 30 people have signed up.

Monmouth: August 18 a retirement dinner for Rich Obal was held. A tree was planted in his honor. A trip to Grounds for Sculpture is scheduled for 9/8. BBB Sept. 10 Children's program. Regular committees will begin again. New email: mgveggie.com.

Morris: New class beginning Sept. 12. 25 students and a waiting list. On Sept. 0 the MG's will have a table at Olde Succasunna Day, with information on vegetable gardening and composting.

Our agent, Pete Nitzsche, gave a series of "pest walks" at three community gardens over the summer.

We are continuing to plant a Healing Garden at Hope House in Dover.

Many Morris MG's participated in Tomato Tasting at Snyder Farms last week.

Ocean: 80 people for training session. Newsletter is now on website. Sept. 23 is Fall Garden Day.

Passaic: New class starts Sept. 8. Work continues on landscaping at Bloomingdale Senior Center. First meeting will be end of September at local garden center with discount to attendees.

Union: Awards Party will be Sept. 22. New Providence Senior Center will have landscaping done. Programs continued through summer-sharing garden, helpline, hort therapy, etc. Harvest Festival coming up. Music Fest-MG's participated judging vegetables. Cooking from the Garden Lecture. By-laws to be revised.

Conference Update:

Awards booklets done.

Program flyer committee will have flyers for Sept. 27 meeting.

Registration: 257 registered with Sept. 9 deadline.

Evaluation Committee: Middlesex will make copies.

Facilities are okay. Committee visiting at end of meeting.

Program Committee: written introductions will be done.

Mercer will see that speaker escorts have information.

There was no old business or new business to discuss.

Betty Scarlata made a motion to adjourn the meeting

Joan Gorman seconded it.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:52 am.

NEXT MEETING IS SEPTEMBER 27 AT USUAL PLACE.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Dopart

