

Master Gardener Association of New Jersey  
Minutes of December 6, 2011

President Caryl Hannemann opened the meeting at 10:08 am. Caryl announced that Mary Patten (Somerset County) would be retiring as county delegate. Sandy Wolfe (Monmouth County) will be an alternate for her county.

As outgoing President, Caryl thanked the group for their support. Caryl spent 11 years as Treasurer to the State Master Gardeners, 2 years as Vice President, and 4 years as President. In total Caryl has spent 17 years on the Executive Board. She noted how the organization has grown from a few delegates to many. Caryl has seen the good organizational skills of the board unite the Master Gardener groups from the counties and the beginning of the State Master Gardener Conference held each fall. The Master Gardener Advisory Board grew to the Master Gardener Association. Caryl Hannemann received the first Award for Excellence. Her leadership will be missed as she steps down as President.

Caryl also remembered Sheila Eppinger a former Board President. Originally from Middlesex County, Sheila became an alternative and was elected President of the State Board.

The minutes were accepted as read.

Pat Hewitt made a motion to accept the minutes and Betty Scarlata seconded them.

The Treasurer's report was given. \$776.42 is in the kitty and \$11,000 is in the Rutgers Account. Final totals will be announced in February.

Attendance:

Atlantic: absent

Bergen: didn't sign in

Burlington: Terry Zane, Lisa Marie Morris

Camden: Nancy Sullivan

Cumberland: Carol Henry

Essex: Pat Hewitt

Gloucester: Maureen Fitzgerald

Mercer: Bob Robinson, Betty Scarlata

Middlesex: Kathy Dopart

Monmouth: Sandy Wolfe, Joan Cox, Ellen Simonetti

Morris: Pat Hudson

Ocean: Mary Townsend, Kerren Vallone

Passaic: Barbara Cook

Somerset/Hunterdon: Mary Patten, Linda Madretzke

Union: Toni Rinehart, Caryl Hannemann

Ellen Simonetti reported that Arnold, our auctioneer wrote a thank you to the group for a book we sent him as a thank you for running our auction this year.

Toni Rinehart will send out an email on the date of a meeting to discuss Rutgers Account issues and create a list of financial questions for Nick in February.

The New Slate of Board Officers for 2012 was presented by Caryl Hannemann.

President: Ellen Simonetti

Vice President: Lisa Marie Morris

Treasurer: Joan Cox

Recording Secretary/Corresponding Secretary: Pat Hudson

Historian: Nancy Sullivan

Secretary Kathy Dopart approved the slate as voted on.

Lisa Marie Morris listed the new Conference Tasks for 2012 and 2013

Atlantic: Evaluations

Bergen: Speaker gifts with payment

Burlington: Facilities

Camden: Door Prize Monitor and Facilitator

Cumberland: Program Flyer

Essex: Registration and Form

Gloucester: Catering

Mercer: Registration Folders and Registration Desk Assistant

Middlesex: Signs

Monmouth: Program Development

Morris: Registration Desk

Ocean: Awards Booklet'

Passaic: Clean up

Somerset/Hunterdon: Speaker Escort and Room Monitors

Union: State Table

County Reports:

Bergen: Preparing for annual Holiday Party on Dec. 13. Recently adopted revised By-Laws. The Board hosted a breakfast for the new students. Elections were held. Karen Pennell was elected President. Decorated a large room at Skylands Manor for the NJBG Holiday Open House.

Burlington: Most of our projects have wrapped up for the season with one exception. We are planning our contributions to the Victorian Christmas decorations at Smithville Mansion. The theme this year will be Nutcrackers, so we'll be incorporating gardening into that theme in various ways and using it to display MG program information for the public touring the mansion over the holidays. For example, we'll construct and paint

nutcrackers from flower pots, have a series nutcrackers hold garden tools, etc. Over 20 volunteers participated in Smithville.

Planning for 2012 classes is almost complete. Classes begin Jan. 17-through mid April.

Camden: October we celebrate the opening of our new facility with ribbon cutting, speakers from our freeholders, refreshments, workshop on propagation of perennials.

Our events will now be posted on our website: [Camden.NJaes.rutgers.edu](http://Camden.NJaes.rutgers.edu)

Enjoyed our Volunteer Recognition Lunch. This Thursday evening, Dec.8, we have a general meeting with a speaker on Community Supported Agriculture.

Cumberland: Having a wreath making workshop 12/7. Preparing for Christmas Party next week. Afterwards will be having a floral design workshop. We are also having gourd workshops to sell at the Eco Fair in the spring. Next week we will be working with the children from Ranch Hope making Christmas centerpieces for their holiday party.

Essex: Jen Zientek, Essex Cty Ag Agent is one of a three person team getting an Honorable Mention from the Governor's Program for Environmental Excellence for the VA Community Garden and training program in East Orange.

Our Butterfly garden at Turtleback Zoo was taken over by the Zoo to expand a program but they haven't told where the new garden space will be.

Beginning our Spring Event planning for our Rose Garden at Brookdale Park. New Master Gardener, Veronica Moses (class of 2010) won 4 First class prizes from the Newark Conservancy: Best Combination Garden, Best of West Award, Best New Garden, and Best Organized Garden.

We continue our on-going involvement with projects at the Newark Museum along with volunteers from Prudential. Our annual cookies exchange is December 14.

Gloucester: Cleaned out Greenhouse. All ready for the 2012 start in Jan.-Feb.

Our Xmas Party is next week. New class to start Jan. 2012. Several MG's decorated Anne Whithall House in National Park. Tour is Dec. 9-10.

Mercer: Holiday party was Dec. 5. This included our annual election of officers. The president and vice president are the same as last year. We normally have officers hold office for two years. A very excellent slide show highlighting our activities over the past year (including music) was prepared by Betty and Joe Scarlata, and Nora Subaugh did the musical portion. Our annual gardening symposium will take place on March 17. This year we have five speakers: Ken Druse, Tovah Marein, Barbara Bromley, Bill Cullina and Barry Glick. Full details and registration forms can be found on our website. Our new class breakfast, which includes short presentations by selected committees, will be held on Jan. 12. We had a graduation dinner for our class of 2011 in November.

Middlesex: Our Class Reunion will be held on January 24/snow date Jan. 31. We will have a Gardener Gift Swap and Auction for the first time this year. We also have a pot luck dinner. There will be no speaker at this meeting as the point is to reconnect with old classmates. New Projects are in the planning stages for spring.

Monmouth: Gardens are resting. Hort enrichment project on going. (If someone wrote more for their report I either lost it or didn't get it. Sorry, folks.)

Morris: Nothing to report. Closed for winter.

Ocean: Open House in November a great turnout and lots of enthusiasm. Holiday Party 72 people. Theme: "Holiday at the Jersey Shore" collected canned food and other non perishables as well as gloves, scarves, hats and socks. Also, personal hygiene products like shampoo, razors, etc.

Nominating Committee is active. Now recruiting mentors for our new intern class which will begin in February. Trip to Fairmont Park in Philadelphia. New raised beds in the Community Garden up and running. In Jan. greenhouse leaders will deliver a series of 4 lectures on greenhouse growing techniques followed by an orientation in the greenhouse.

Passaic: Elected new officers for coming year. Holiday Party set for 12/8 with raffle gift swap with garden theme.

Approving funds for projects in 2012.

Assisted in decorating and volunteering at NJ Botanical Garden Holiday House at Skylands Manor Dec. 1-4. Collected tea and coffee for local food pantry at last month's meeting.

Somerset/Hunterdon: Writers Bureau has gotten comments from Rutgers on a new fact sheet on "Canada Thistle". Volunteer Recognition luncheon is planned for January.

Planted landscape for Habitat for Humanity House in Oct.

Our Hort Support teams work in 6 sites. At "The Meadow", a residence for the disabled, there was a talk on Beneficial Insects followed by an activity of making lady bugs, caterpillars and other insects out of rocks. These will be used in terrarium that will be a project later in 2012.

Union: The Herb Garden grew 56 lbs. of herbs and the Sharing Garden grew a ton of vegetables.

New Business:

Lisa Marie Morris suggested that Task People from last year should make a report on their tasks to help next year's newly assigned groups. Jane Furman said the discs needed to be updated each year and reminded members not to lose their discs for their counties.

Nancy Sullivan brought up the issue of a drop in Helpline hours calls. Could Helpline hours as volunteer hours could be transferred? Issue was clarified that Rutgers calls for 25 volunteer hours a year and anything else is up to county requirements.

Refreshments:

Passaic County is the host for the February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Operational Training Center (across from the Extension Conference Center).

Outgoing delegate Mary Patten made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:52, and Pat Hewitt seconded it.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Dopart  
Secretary