

Master Gardener Association of New Jersey
Minutes of February 7, 2012

President Ellen Simonetti opened the meeting at 10:05 am. Joseph Cooper was introduced as the new delegate from Bergen County. Lynne Orlofsky, Margaret Beach, Carol Waleznick and Medeline DiNardo were visitors from Union County. Tina Leone, Marie Rickman and Louise Senior were visitors from Mercer County. Carol Quinn from Rutgers was also a guest.

Attendance:

Atlantic:	absent
Bergen:	Karen Pennell, Walter Traubel, Joseph Cooper
Burlington:	Terry Zane, Judy Shaw
Camden:	Nancy Sullivan
Cumberland:	Carol Henry
Essex:	Pat Hewitt, Pat Radey
Gloucester:	Maureen Fitzgerald
Mercer:	Bob Robinson, Betty Scarlata
Middlesex:	Kathy Dopart, Jerri Barclay
Monmouth:	Sandy Wolfe, Joan Cox, Ellen Simonetti
Morris:	Pat Hudson, Ingrid Witty
Ocean:	Kerren Vallone
Passaic:	Barbara Cook
Somerset/Hunterdon:	Tricia Deering
Union:	Toni Rinehart, Caryl Hannemann

A motion was made by Joan Cox and seconded by Betty Scarlotta to accept the minutes of December 2011.

The treasurer's report – following – was submitted.

January 2012

<u>SUNDRY ACCOUNT</u>		<u>January</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
7/1/2011	Balance Forward	\$ 8,631.70	
7/1 – 12/31/11	Income	\$ 6,989.00	
	To be credited for unused	\$ 587.25	\$ 16,207.95
7/1 – 12/31/11	Expenses	\$ (4,764.85)	<u>\$ (4,76.85)</u>
			\$ 11,443.10

CHANGE FUND

1/1/2012	Balance Forward	\$ 760.54	
	Cash Received	\$ 25.95	
	Balance in Fund		\$ 786.49
1/31/2012	Total Funds Available		\$12,229.59

Ellen Simonetti thanked the previous officers for their two years of service.

RCE REPORT

MG Volunteer positions for the NJ Flower Show – February 16 thru 19 - have all been filled. Volunteers must show their MG name tag badge. Nick has the banners and other promotional pieces for the MG counters and tables. The Flower Show needs cards with county phone and/or helpline numbers.

There is a planning coordinators meeting in March.

Brian Olesak, RCE from Sussex County has resigned to accept a position at the County College of Morris to replace Jan Traynor who has retired.

The State budget position is still being tweaked and its effect on Rutgers is unknown. Rumors are flying, but nothing definite is known. Some counties may face cuts of 10% or more. Dan Kluchinski has taken hits regularly over the past years and won't be able to fund the NJAMG Conference this year. This is more than \$1,000 that must be factored into the Conference budget. We have to get a quotation for the use of Traves Hall for October. It may be as high as \$1,500.

A request from Nick: ***Please send 2011 hours and pictures. This is necessary in view of budget constraints.***

FINANCIAL

A motion was made by Pat Hewitt and seconded by Judy Shaw to issue a purchase order for \$2,300 for a new supply of pins.

The meeting next turned to the Rutgers accounting system as it pertains to Master Gardeners. A lively discussion followed, some of which follows. Carol Quinn of the Accounting Office answered questions raised. For questions not addressed here she can be contacted at 848-932-3590 or by email at cquinn@aesop.rutgers.edu.

Eight counties and the State Board are on the Sundry Account. Three counties are incorporated and eleven counties are on their own. For those 8 counties, are their accounts audited and/or auditable? Whose Social Security is their account under?

Sundry accounts are operating funds. If the State Board wants to pool money from each county to fund scholarships, it would have to be taken from the interest from the account. We would need in excess of \$1 million for \$1,000 scholarships. You can set up a petty cash account and give a scholarship paid with a money order to go under the radar. However, it is preferable to set up a Foundation so there is a paper trail for auditing purposes.

Why are we raising money and what are those funds for? Raising funds should be part of the mission statement.

If there is a cash purchase of less than \$500, a receipt is OK. If it is a credit card purchase a receipt and statement are needed for submission. It is best to go through a purchase order. Carol Quinn said you or a vendor may call her for RU affiliations and verification.

Is there a full list of RU vendors? Is it available? Send Carol an e-mail because the answer is listed by category.

This topic will be discussed further at our next meeting.

We feel that Master Gardeners are volunteers who do a lot for Rutgers in many ways while Rutgers does little for the Master Gardeners.

BREAK – Thank you, Passaic.

CONFERENCE

Responsibilities for the Conference are on the CD that was given to each county representative last year.

An update on the progress of Conference tasks follows:

Atlantic:	Evaluations - absent
Bergen:	Speaker gifts with payment – no action yet
Burlington:	Facilities – The Hall has been reserved
Camden:	Door Prize Monitor and Facilitator – no action yet
Cumberland:	Program Flyer – no action yet
Essex:	Registration and Form – no action yet
Gloucester:	Catering – no action yet
Mercer:	Registration Folders and Registration Desk Assist – no action yet
Middlesex:	Signs – no action yet
Monmouth:	Program Development – in development
Morris:	Registration Desk – no action yet
Ocean:	Awards Booklet – no action yet
Passaic:	Clean up – no action yet
Somerset/Hunterdon:	Speaker Escort and Room Monitors – no action yet
Union:	State Table – no action yet

There is a need to rethink the September pot luck/auction in view of the leftovers being donated to the State Table which will concentrate on things to make or grow, etc for best returns.

The Program Development Committee, after a vote by the Board will look for speakers who will concentrate on Gardening History or Stories. Doug Talmy has been booked as the Keynote Speaker for this year and the Committee will look into next year's Keynote as speakers need to be booked a year in advance.

NEW BUSINESS

A copy of the by-laws will be sent to delegates. Please read and notate any corrections, modifications and/or updates you think should be made. A discussion is scheduled for the next meeting. Also consider topics for sharing.

COUNTY REPORTS

Bergen: Joseph Cooper is the new state delegate. The new County officers are in place. The December holiday party was a success and lots of fun. The MG/4H Fair is August 4. There are new by-laws along with an appendix of job descriptions of standing committees. A number of excellent speakers are planned for the full year. January's topic, Garden Tools, was presented by a panel of speakers.

Burlington: The Smithville Mansion Victorian Christmas display was successful. A display of a rain barrel with construction and installation fact sheets, tips for winter garden preparation, winterizing garden tools, and MG program information were included in a display of garden themed Nutcracker Ballet decorations.

MG training program began January 17 and will run through April 19 with 24 new students and one Certified MG from Idaho. A class in Horticultural Therapy has been added. Plant ID has been divided into two sessions; one classroom session and one hands-on class at Medford Leas Arboretum.

A Fern Propagation Workshop led by MG Educator Joanne Szeliga, Gardening with Chickens led by MG Educator Toni Price and something on fungi and their beneficial relationships to plants led by Amy Karpati, PhD., Director of Conservation Science with the Pinelands Preservation Alliance are planned for the 2012 Advanced MG Training Program.

Also planning has begun on educational tours with Burlington County Ag Agent Ray Samulis to a local blueberry farm in June and to the Rutgers Cranberry Research Station in late September or early October.

Planning has begun on the 2012 Garden Tour as well as the 2012 Agricultural Demonstration Plots at the Burlington County Community Agricultural Center.

Camden: The Horticultural School begins February 7.

Organizing the annual plant sale using perennials from Russell Nurseries.

Camden is running a Homeowners Series of classes beginning March 6 with emphasis on perennials.

The next road trip is to Tylers Arboretum on February 29.

Cumberland: The new class is going well with 15 students.

A trip to Branch Brook Park in the spring to see the Cherry Blossoms is being planned.

The editor for the newsletter begins the position in March.

Volunteers are needed for spring projects, including A-Home Boys and Girls Club, the rain garden and Helpline.

Preparations are being made for the Eco Fair.

Essex: Joan Gorman has stepped down as State Delegate after ten years of service.

A trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show on March 6 is planned.

Announcements for the annual plant sale, May 4 and 5 and May 12, are being sent out.

MG Coordinator, Jan Zientek has been recognized by the VA for his contributions to gardening with veterans.

Gloucester: New MG classes started January 11 with 20 people.

A luncheon was held where old MGs welcomed the MG Class of 2012.

Preparations are under way for the May 12 plant sale held at the Clayton office. MGs are learning to paint tiles the Donna Dewberry way. These tiles will be sold to raise funds at the plant sale and other events. Last year MGs made chimes out of old flattened silverware and sold them.

Several MGs who are retired teachers teach at the Shady Lane State Nursing home year round. They teach flower arranging, painting pots, planting seeds, etc. They do a wonderful job there.

The greenhouse is set to start up the end of February.

Mercer: Received over 120 registrations for the Symposium. Reduced prices are only available until February 29. There is a limited number for registrations determined by the size of the dining facilities. If more room cannot be found, registration will be severely limited.

A total of 14 outreach events for 2012 are being planned which will take place in all the communities of Mercer County, including Trenton, which has been difficult to serve because of the limited venues during the past few years.

A set of principles of responsible gardening, developed over several years, and newly updated is available upon request.

Greenie Nueberg, a delegate to NJAMG for many years, has reached 5,000 volunteer hours. She is the first MG from Mercer County to do so.

The new training class ends in March and goes onto helpline training for several weeks before going on duty without mentor help.

Middlesex: The Ranch House is due to be destroyed due to a severe mold problem. No date has been set.

The Bird Count at Davidson Mill Park is set for February 19.

The Evergreen Garden of Memories is looking for donations.

The Class Reunion meeting had good attendance.

The Holiday Party was fun.

Monmouth: A brunch to welcome the new 2012 MG class of interns is scheduled for February 21. Classes begin the following Friday.

A Landscaping Course, beginning February 23, is being offered to Monmouth County MGs. Sixty have signed up for it. The course consists of two lectures and one additional class where each attendee's design will be critiqued. Steven Kristoph of Steven Kristoph Nursery, Millstone, NJ, is the instructor.

The Horticulture Enrichment Committee begins its next cycle of six classes the afternoon of February 7 at Bayshore Hospital Care Center. The first class is on plant propagation.

Preparations are in progress for the Annual Spring Garden Days Festival that involves lectures, demonstrations and the plant sale May 18 and 19.

Recruitment is underway for the 2012 JMG class. Fourteen of the 16 slots have been filled. Classes begin the end of April.

A trip to the Philadelphia Flower show is planned for March 7.

Morris: Nothing to report. Closed for winter.

Ocean: A graduation/10 Year Awards/100 hours acknowledgement Hawaiian themed Party was held with 21 graduating Master Gardeners.

New interns started February 7. Tuesday/Thursday classes have begun with 23 students.

The nominating Committee presented a new slate at the February meeting.

A brochure on native plants has been developed for the Demonstration Garden.

The Plant Sale Committee has begun creating unique gifts, planting and planning for the sale.

Requests for community information tables have been coming in. This month Ocean County MGs will have a table at the Community Connection at the Ocean County Mall.

Passaic: The Awards Ceremony recognizing members and volunteer hours will be held in March.

The Holiday Party had a gift swap. Next year there WILL BE fewer amaryllis.

The budget has been approved and the new officers have begun.

Work is going on for new projects for the year. A fund raiser at the local Burger Place is this week.

The plant sale will be Saturday, May 19.

Somerset/Hunterdon: The recognition luncheon was held in January.

Plans are made to attend the Philadelphia Flower Show.

Longwood Gardens will be visited May 23.

Maple Sugaring workshops will be held.

Preparations for the plant sale are being made.

Union: The helpline and Horticulture Therapy work continue through the winter, although the helpline is very slow.

Preparations are being made for the plant sale which is the Sunday after Mother's Day.

There are at least five counties with at least one Master Gardener with over 5,000 volunteer hours.

The next meeting is March 6 with refreshments courtesy of Union County.

Respectively submitted,

Pat Hudson