

Master Gardener Association of New Jersey
Minutes of April 3, 2012 - corrected

President Ellen Simonetti called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

Attendance:

Atlantic:	Absent
Bergen:	Jane Forman Karen Pennell
Camden:	Nancy Sullivan
Burlington:	Terry Zane, Judy Shaw
Cumberland:	Carol Henry
Essex;	Pat Hewitt, Pat Radey
Gloucester:	Absent
Mercer:	Bob Robinson, Betty Scarlata
Middlesex:	Kathy Dopart, Jerri Barclay
Monmouth:	Ellen Simonetti, Joan Cox, Sheila Eppinger
Morris:	Pat Hudson
Ocean:	Absent
Passaic:	Absent
Somerset/Hunterdon:	Tricia Deering, Linda Madretzke
Union:	Caryl Hannemann, Toni Rinehart

The March 2012 minutes were read and accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Attached as a separate pdf file.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Two meeting dates have been changed, The July meeting has been changed from July 3 to July 10. The second meeting in September, the final Conference meeting, October 6, will be October 2. Please make a note of these changes.

RCE REPORT

The MG Coordinator's meeting was held March 25 for a full day. Nick noted a lack of reports from Somerset, Mercer, and Sussex Counties for the annual MG report. Barbara Bromley and Steve Kolmar are aware of their non-reporting status and will get their reports to Nick. Rebecca Magron is back from maternity leave.

Sussex County MGs have sent Helpline users regarding their implementation of recommendations, etc., hoping the track behavior change after the fact.

The coordinators asked about MG classes on pesticide care credits. The course and credits vary around the state.

Advanced MG Training opportunities as a full series of Webinars including Southern Pine Beetles, Boxwood, Ladybugs, etc. are possible topics. Work is being done on making the series available.

The New Jersey Fertilizer Law is available on the Rutgers' web site. It is also available on Pofact.rutgers.edu. This law is enforceable local town EPA, environmental departments, etc. This law is for all fertilizers. The only exemption is for salt surface fertilizer. Any surface fertilizer for any surface is forbidden. Fertilizers cannot be applied before March 1 and a soil test to prove the need for fertilization application is necessary.

There is no news on the State budget. The Federal Farm Bill is being debated. The Counties are introducing budgets this week or next.

OLD BUSINESS – The Table of Contents page for the by-laws has been reformatted.

Nancy Sullivan of Camden County, the MGANJ Historian, needs up-to-date information for 2011 to be incorporated into the historical records and sent to the committee.

The Representative Responsibilities page of the by-laws was discussed. Karen Pennell made a motion to accept the previously made changes. Joan Cox seconded the motion which was passed unanimously. This page should be inserted into each county's State Master Gardener Handbook.

Sheila Eppinger will go to the Log Cabin to find out the cost of using it for our first September meeting.

A second request for a list of local Rutgers vendors was made by the Secretary so a master list can be assembled.

BREAK – Thank you Somerset/Hunterdon

Upcoming Hosting:

May – Atlantic, June – Bergen, July – Burlington, August – Camden, September (1) Potluck, Auction – Cumberland, September (2) – Essex, November – Gloucester, December – Mercer.

OLD BUSINESS CONTINUED - RE: By-laws. Articles 1, 2 and, 3 to be sent with these minutes are to be read and proposed changes sent to Ellen before the May meeting.

The sharing question of how MG newsletters are distributed was answered by a majority of counties who use e-mail.

CONFERENCE - October 6, 2012 Theme = *History* Title = *Garden Stories*

Program Development: Invitations to speak will be sent to:

Virginia Lamb - *Compost, It's Been Around Since History Began.* \$200
Gary Pavles – *Blueberries Began Here or Grapes in NJ Agricultural History.*
~\$300

Building and Facilities: Need an answer from each county whether they need a table for the Garden Market and how many do they need.

NEW BUSINESS

Ellen has suggested a MGANJ Yahoo account. Pat Hudson said she would look into using a Rutgers sponsored Sakai account. The discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Ellen distributed proposed changes to the first page of the MGANJ by-laws to be read and discussed at the April meeting. She will try to get her other proposed changes out before the next meeting. Everyone is invited to propose changes to the existing by-laws (sent out last month) and present his/her ideas at the April meeting.

COUNTY REPORTS

Bergen: All State MGs are invited to our newly updated website at www.MGofBC.org which Joseph Cooper has redesigned for public and member use.

We began our first School Garden Project at an Elementary school. The kids and teachers are very excited to have this outdoor classroom and seeing science in action.

Helpline began this week and is in full swing.

Students are working on their projects for the MG tent at the 4-H/Master Gardener Fair August 4.

Burlington: Nothing to report as their Coordinator who was due to return from maternity leave but had appendicitis.

Camden: A plant clinic is to be held on the grounds of our Environmental Center.

In response to increasing e-mail questions, we are setting up Windows-based laptops in the Helpline office.

We are building raised beds at Campbells Field, Camden.

We will have tables at Collingswood Green Day, Hampton Twp Green Festival, State Arbor Day Celebration, and Cherry Hill Earth Festival.

Cumberland: We are getting ready for our Plant Sale and Eco Fair on May 5 at Wheaton Arts.

All the seeds we planted are up.

Children's activities theme is *Eating Healthy*.

A planting will be done April 21 at the Boys and Girls Club.

We will be landscaping A-Homes and are just waiting for dates.

We are planning trips to Bayshore Discovery and Fairweather Nurseries.

Essex: Our greenhouse is doing well. We are planting Veggie seeds now.

Our plant sale will be May 4 and 5 in Montclair and May 12 in Roseland.

We hope to start a design for the Newark Boys Choir Garden.

We have started measuring for an herb garden for the VA.

The County is eliminating our Butterfly Garden at the Turtle Back Zoo while promising another site but we haven't heard anything yet.

We are planning a trip to the NY Botanical Gardens June 7.

MGs have started working with the consulting arborist at Branch Brook Park to preserve the cherry trees. The arborist envisions a program where MGs would be responsible for different zones in the Park, coordinating other volunteers to take care of those zones.

Mercer: Our March 17 Symposium was a huge success with 250 attendees which included our five speakers. For the first time, we had more from outside Mercer County than from our organization. Feedback was uniformly positive. While we try to break even on this event, the high attendance led to a small profit.

Our Mercer Educational Gardens are a hub on the Lawrence-Hopewell Trail and we received a grant to support this. We are providing bike racks, garbage containers, and a kiosk. We also have to provide in-kind efforts, plants, work, and well house.

Our annual Plant Sale is May 5. We normally get more than 1,000 plants donated by MGs (inspected by the State) and will offer heritage tomatoes again this year. Plant labels for over 300 plants can be printed from our website to aid those who donate plants.

We had an excellent talk on using edible plants in containers and gardens by Lloyd Traven of Peace Tree Farms in Pennsylvania.

Middlesex: Our Rookery Garden was established this year.

We are still waiting for FEMA to take action on our Ranch House.

We have established eight community gardens.

All our projects are up and running

We are giving public tours of our Butterfly House.

Rain Barrel Workshops are being held April 18 at 6:30 and May 2 at 6:30 for a \$45 fee.

We are conducting Horticultural Therapy session at the Veteran's Home.

The Rutgers Plant Sale is April 28.

Our Plant Sale is May 5 from 10 to 5 at Davidson Mill Park.

We had a speaker on *Wildlife NJ*.

Monmouth: Speakers Bureau has a new dynamic chair. We have over 42 educational talks booked.

New class is moving along nicely. The PAR 'competition' helps them develop into a cohesive and more knowledgeable unit.

Working hard for Spring Garden Days, a plant sale and educational outreach (info cards available)

Junior Master Gardeners will begin 8 classes for 16 children on Saturday, April 28. Program continues throughout the summer.

Morris: We have begun a new project, a Demonstration Vegetable Plot at the Morristown Community Garden. We will use the plot to test different varieties of vegetable for home garden use, starting with tomatoes. The garden will include educational signage developed by us.

MGs will serve as Plant Advisors at the two day Frelinghuysen Plant Sale in May, helping buyers select the right plant for their garden site.

As part of our advanced training program, in April MGs will learn about running a greenhouse as we tour a local nursery operation.

Our helpline opened April 2. We were so busy in March we had to call in MGs early.

Somerset/Hunterdon: We have upcoming trips to Longwood Gardens and Swarthmore.

Two new projects have been approved: redesigning the composting facilities at the community garden where our demonstration garden is located, and the site characterization and public interpretative trail development at a county park.

We are updating team project proposals for all teams and mission statements are being developed.

Habitat for Humanity is being planted April 14.

The helpline is up and running.

The new class is graduating today.

Preparations for our plant sale are in full swing.

Horticultural support and children's programs are underway.

Speaker's Bureau and Community Service are receiving lots of bookings.

Susan Wainright-Evans is speaking on Ornamental Entomology in April.

Tovah Martin will speak on horticultural preservation.

Union: We have a new organizer for our helpline.

We have developed a new Children's Horticultural Therapy program.

Our Demonstration and Herb Gardens are ready for Spring.

Meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

Next meeting May 1, 2012