

Master Gardener Association of New Jersey
Minutes of June 5, 2012

President Ellen Simonetti called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Attendance:

Atlantic:	Absent
Bergen:	Jane Forman, Karen Pennell, Joseph Cooper
Burlington:	Terry Zane, Judy Shaw
Camden:	Nancy Sullivan
Cumberland:	Carol Henry
Essex;	Pat Hewitt, Pat Radey
Gloucester:	Maureen Fitzgerald
Mercer:	Betty Scarlata
Middlesex:	Jerri Barclay, Kathy Dopart
Monmouth:	Ellen Simonetti, Joan Cox
Morris	Pat Hudson
Ocean:	Kerren Vallone, Suzanne Keane
Passaic:	Barbara Cook
Somerset/Hunterdon:	Tricia Deering, Linda Madretzke
Union:	Toni Rinehart

The May 2012 minutes were accepted.

The Treasurer's Report was read and accepted. (Attached as separate page.)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ellen asked about last month's suggestions of MGANJ meetings occasionally be held in various counties venues which will give us an appreciation of the time and travel conditions encountered by far-flung counties. No interest was shown in the idea and it was shelved.

Ellen would like the Historian to add the Treasurer's report to her archives and the name of the submitter of any documents as well as the date of submission.

The rental for using the Cabin for a weekday is \$275 for the day, with a \$25 refundable deposit to cover any incurred infractions by the renter. We turned down using the cabin when the rent to \$150 and we will not rent it for \$275.

Ellen contacted Andrea Wulf about Ms Wulf's availability for our 2013 Conference. She is available. A motion was made, seconded and carried to have Andrea Wulf as our keynote speaker for our Conference for a total fee of approximately \$1,400. 2013's theme will be International Gardens.

The next Rutgers MGANJ meeting will be July 10.

RCE REPORT

Nick was absent on personal medical business.

OLD BUSINESS

A combined list from Mercer and Monmouth counties has been begun and sent to all delegates, alternates and Coordinators. Please send your list to the Secretary so a more complete list can be assembled.

CONFERENCE

(A quote for printing a book with a glossy color cover is \$527 for 350 copies and \$608 for 400 copies. Nick will contact the Rutgers Office of Communications and will check prices from their supplier.) From May minutes.

Kerren Vallone has had no reply from Rutgers vendors with estimates for printing our program book. A discussion on the number of book to be ordered followed. Kerren will request bids from outside vendors for 375 books. Toni, whose career was in all phases of advertising, suggested we order a few more books than attendees since print runs can be as much as 10% over or under the ordered amount.

Awardees write-ups should be no longer than 150 words each.

A discussion followed as to a suitable nominal gift for the speakers. Hummingbird feeders was suggested. Costs will be research and reported on at the next meeting.

Door prizes – Each county is requested to supply a door prize valued at about \$50. It need not be horticulturally related. It was suggest that donations from local garden shops might be viable.

We still need catering costs so we can set registration fee so we can get the Registration Form out. Suggested registration is \$25 and \$10 for lunch. These prices will be confirmed at the June meeting.

The Registration form was discussed and a new iteration will be sent out.

BREAK – Bergen

Upcoming Hosting:

July 10 – Burlington, August 7 – Camden, September 4 Potluck Lunch/
Auction, Cumberland, October 2 – Essex, November 6 – Gloucester,
December 4 – Mercer.

SHARING – How do counties pay for their MGANJ hosting expenses?

Monmouth, Ocean, and Somerset/Hunterdon - monies are included in and taken from the county budget.

Bergen, Mercer, Middlesex, and Morris - delegates pay for it themselves.

Gloucester - ½ by the county, ½ by the delegate.

Passaic – baskets, food and mileage paid by the county.

Cumberland (200 miles for round trip to meeting) – mileage and hours are covered by the county. Baskets are donated.

Essex, Union – reimbursed for food and gifts by county.

Involvement with children

Some counties require that those who work with children must be fingerprinted and receive special training.

Some counties say the institution served sets the requirements and it is the County MG organization's decision to obey the laws or not serve that organization.

Rule # 1: Never be alone with children without an adult from the served organization in attendance.

How are requests for beautification projects handled?

Assist in the project. Do not do the project. We are an educational organization.

Design the project, not do the work.

Community services budget may have funds.

COUNTY REPORTS

Atlantic: Absent

Bergen: MGs are hosting a party for County Agent Joe Flagler to honor his 25 years if leading and teaching Master Gardeners.

Students are in the last weeks of class. Graduation is in September.

Helpline is very busy.

4-H/MG Fair – students are preparing their display projects for the fair.

Community partners are being secured.

We have had several successful one-day outreach events including supplying training and oversight for school garden programs.

Judy Glattstein spoke on *Foliage in Garden Design* at the May meeting.

All MG sites are in full swing.

Burlington: Gardening projects at Rancocas Nature Center and Pinelands Preservation continue.

County Farmer's Market is up and running with *As the Master Gardener* table on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays along with demonstration plots and raised beds.

MG Marilyn Fishman is working on a monthly newsletter.

Advanced education classes will be schedule at the Phillip E Marruci Center for Blueberry and Cranberry Research to learn about the breeding program for both fruits

Amy Karpati from the Pinelands Preservation Alliance will present a class on the benefits of fungi to plants.

MG Joanne Szeliga will conduct a workshop on fern propagation.

Many helpline calls have centered on fungal disease, anthracnose on woody ornamentals, trees (especially red maples), late blight spotted on some tomatoes and potatoes, several cases of rose rosette disease (virus), and water damage from 2011.

Garden tours continue in June with MG Kathy Simon – Riverton and Pinelands Preservation Alliance – Southampton kitchen garden and our new blended garden.

We are implementing quarterly general meeting beginning July 2012.

Camden: The May Plant Clinic was useful not only in answering garden questions, but also in introducing the public to our new location.

A lawn care workshop for the community will be held June 19.

A lecture on Wildflowers was presented at our May general meeting.

We are visiting a Bog Garden on June 12, just in time for bloom season.

Cumberland: The plant sale and Eco-Fair went well. The children's program at the fair was a huge success. The children planted salad bowl veggies and were given information on healthy eating. The butterfly tent was well attended by over 500 children.

Sal Manifico gave a Rain Garden workshop on May 15.

The Boys and Girls Club community garden was planted on Earth Day.

A new Butterfly and Kitchen Garden was started on High Street in Millville.

15 MG interns graduated on May 24.

At our last meeting, a speaker from Espoma spoke and distributed samples to all attendees.

Essex: Our plant sale held over 3 days in May was well attended. We are waiting for the final tally.

On June 7, we are going to the NY Botanical Gardens to see the Monet Garden Exhibit.

Helpline activity is picking up.

Gloucester:

Mercer: At our Volunteer Recognition Dinner June 4, Bruce Crawford spoke on *Heavenly Hydrangeas*. Greenie Newberg was recognized for over 5,000 MG volunteer hours. Our 2012 Fall Conference awardees selection were announced.

The plant sale was very successful. The weather was cool and rainy beforehand but was fine on the day of the sale.

The July meeting will be tours of three MG gardens.

Planning for our September Insect Festival is our next project.

A bus trip to Wyn Eden in Chads Ford is on for tomorrow.

Middlesex: MG graduation is June 21.

Our Pink Garden promoting Breast Cancer Awareness is getting started.

On its first weekend open, our butterfly house attracted 47 visitors, 2 from Australia. It will be open June, July and August.

Rain barrels for our August Fair will be completed June 8.

On our movie night we will present *First Flower* which traces the origin of flowers will be presented as a fund raiser.

Our plant sale sold out. No total yet on funds raised.

Our veggie garden and demo garden are growing nicely.

Our speakers bureau has been reorganized.
We started a wild flower garden the end of May.
The fungi in our fungi garden are doing well in the rain and humidity.
Our helpline is busy again.

Monmouth: 24 interns completed their training in May and have begun their 'hours' on helpline with the assistance of veteran MGs for each shift.

The PAR and JMG gardens have received two inoculations of nematodes. One specific hope is that they control flea beetle larvae.

Mary Townsend gave an excellent presentation on greenhouse hygiene at the May general meeting.

Spring Garden Days were a social and financial success. We need to address attracting more visitors to the seminars held during the event.

Morris: Interns from the 2012 MG class began volunteering on the helpline. They are being trained and mentored by experienced MGs.

MGs have added deer resistant annuals to the shrubs and perennials already in the deer resistant plants garden at the front of the extension office.

Two MGs opened their gardens for our MG annual home garden tour day.

MGs staffed a helpline table at the Bloomin' Book sale at the Pequannock Public Library where they answered gardening questions and distributed Rutgers fact sheets.

Ocean: We had information tables at the Barnegat Bay Festival, Bugfest at Insectropolis and the Community Program at Judiciary.

Our community garden and speakers bureau are very busy.

We have developed a new brochure for our native demo garden.

We held our first diagnostic session.

Passaic: 18 Interns graduated and are on the helpline.

Our May plant sale was very successful raising over \$1,300.

Three scholarships will be presented to three graduating Passaic County seniors at our June meeting.

Our annual picnic is July 12.

Somerset/Hunterdon: We are waiting the accounting of our very successful May 9 plant sale.

A bus trip is planned to Swarthmore Scott Arboretum June 6.

A lavender workshop is coming up.

Two of our MGs have their gardens open on Garden Conservancy Open Days.

Other MGs will be opening their gardens for visitors.

A tissue culture workshop was held.

Bruce Crawford will speak on *Water in the Garden* at our next meeting.

A nominating committee has been formed and is gearing up for elections.

Our school programs, horticulture support programs, demonstration gardens, etc are all very busy.

Our speakers bureau gave 12 talks.

Union: Our plant sale on May 20 was successful.

One of the office support staff has been retained, but is very busy doing all the tasks of the eliminated positions.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Next meeting: July 10, 2012.