

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

Attendance:

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| Atlantic: | Absent |
| Bergen: | Joseph Cooper, Karen Pennell, Jane Furman |
| Burlington: | Marilyn Bidrawn |
| Camden: | Nancy Sullivan |
| Cumberland: | Carol Henry |
| Essex; | Suzie Yamarone |
| Gloucester: | Absent |
| Mercer: | Bob Robinson, Betty Scarlata |
| Middlesex: | Kathy Dopart, Dale Duchai, Jerri Barclay |
| Monmouth: | Ellen Simonetti, Joan Cox |
| Morris | Pat Hudson, Carla Schan, Sandi Gonski |
| Ocean: | Jim Digney, Suzanne Keane |
| Passaic: | Absent |
| Somerset/Hunterdon: | Linda Madretzke, Tricia Deering |
| Sussex | Absent |
| Union: | Toni Rinehart, Caryl Hanneman |

The March 2013 minutes were corrected and accepted.

The Treasury has \$12,940.28. The Treasurer's report was read and accepted.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ellen contacted Rutgers facilities and the Air Pollution Training Class last month was assigned the smaller room we used last meeting. They commandeered our room. If this happens again, we will evict them and let Rutgers facilities sort it out.

RMGANJ 10 year old service pins were available for the taking. An order form for 5 year, 10 year, pins and rockers was distributed for Coordinators to order their three year supply. Pins should cost approximately \$3.25 each, depending on the total quantity ordered. Toni will also research the cost of silver colored pins for \$25 years of service.

The date for RMGANJ visit to the EARTH Center butterfly house is after the July 2 meeting. The rain date is after the August 6 meeting.

RCE REPORT – Nick is still waiting for County reports for his Annual Report. They were due the end of February, extended to the end of March. Essex, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Morris, and one half of Mercer (projects, presentations, attendees) counties are yet to be turned in. No one wants to read a 2012 report in August when funding decisions are made in April and May.

The March 13 coordinators' meeting was held. They are updating the MG policy and procedures which was last done fully in '05.

There is still room at the Gloucester County Regional Meeting.

This is the first time a state-wide strategic plan is being formulated. It will begin with five year forecast and begins with department review.

A discussion of what happens to ceu's over 10 a year. In Mercer County, the get credited to lifetime hours.

Also discussed at the meeting was promotional materials, how counties handle finances, in-service programs for coordinators and do we discriminate against employed people. Middlesex is only county with weekend and evening training.

BREAK – Thank you, Monmouth

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|-----------|--------------------|---------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|
| Upcoming: | <u>May 7</u> | Morris | ECC | Extension Conference Center |
| | <u>June 4</u> | Ocean | ECC | |
| | <u>July 2</u> | Passaic | ECC | |
| | <u>August 6</u> | Somerset/Hunterdon | ECC | |
| | <u>September 3</u> | Atlantic (Pot Luck and Auction) | ECC | |
| | <u>October 1</u> | Union | ECC | |
| | <u>October 5</u> | STATE CONFERENCE | | |
| | <u>November 5</u> | Bergen | ECC | |
| | <u>December 3</u> | Burlington | ECC | |

2014 - CONFERENCE

Speaker's Gifts – A motion was made, seconded and carried that their budget be raised to \$25 per speaker.

Book Sale – An e-mail was sent asking for contact information. We are waiting for a reply.

COUNTY REPORTS

Atlantic: Absent

Bergen: Report not received

Burlington: We received good feedback from those who attended the new presentation on Climate Friendly Gardening (based on the literature Nick Polanin gave the coordinators last fall from the Union of Concerned Scientists).

We also had a presentation by Jenny Carleo (Cape May County) on Organic Farming. This will be offered to the general public at the 2013 Garden Expo May 11.

Classes are going well and will wrap up April 18.

Our Annual Volunteer Recognition is the evening of April 26.

MG interest in IPM advanced training continues to grow and will kick off for the season with a classroom session April 22 and field session April 25.

Camden: Horticulture School ends this month.

Our Spring Plant Sale is May 10.

Our next two speakers will lecture on *Sustainable Gardens* and *Our Watershed*.

Cumberland: We took a bus trip to the Philly Flower Show.

Two of MGs were on the local radio talk show.

Our helpline began March 15.

Horticulture Therapy is continuing at the VA home.

We are getting a lot of press for beautification projects due to a lot of press coverage.

We are gearing up for our plant sale May 4. This year we are focusing on native plants and herbs.

Our children's activities includes making bird houses, sponsored by Lowe's. They are also making birdfeeders from recycled materials. We will again have our butterfly tent.

We are hoping to have a large turnout at helpline training in Gloucester County.

Essex: We have secured Presby Memorial Gardens in Montclair as our new location for our 2013 plant sale. At the greenhouse last week we continued potting the coleus and made hanging baskets with fuchsia. We started 17 varieties of tomatoes. We also did kale and swiss chard seeds which is a new veggie for us to sell.

Our Horticulture for Seniors program was a continuation of seed propagation using tomato seeds. We had 52 participants. They planted tomato seeds in peat pots and in May each senior will be able to bring home a patio size plant for the summer. We also did a tomato tasting with both common and unique tomatoes. The seniors were given forsythia branches to bring home to force budding. This month we are doing a flower arranging program.

A crew of five of us returned to Branchbrook Park in Newark to continue pruning the 4300 cherry trees. Since beginning the project in March 2012 we have pruned over 470 trees. 38 trees were pruned March 27. The Cherry Blossom Festival is April 6 – 20.

Dorothy Smullen spoke at our March meeting on *Wildflowers and Weeds*. She did an excellent lecture on plant ID of both with great photographs and valuable information. She inspired us to want to go for a walk in the woods.

Gloucester: Absent

Mercer: Our annual plant sale is coming up the first Saturday in May. This year, we are having about 8 vendors sell plants rather than purchasing them ourselves. They pay for a space, and we get 10% of their sales. We expect their prices to be below retail. We will donate plants (1,000 to 1,500 normally) and 'garage sale' garden items as well. Hours are 9 – 2.

The 2013-2014 year represents our 20th anniversary. We are planning a series of events to celebrate.

We are now planning a major outreach event that will take place at the historic Trent House in Trenton. We will be working with a group of inner-city kids and discussing colonial gardens.

Middlesex: We increased our helpline hours to Monday through Friday 9 to 12 with resulting increase in business.

Upcoming workshops in April are: *Backyard Composting*, April 6, 10 – 12, *Organic Gardening*, April 6, 1 – 3, *Build a Rain Barrel Workshop*, April 10, and *Organic Foods – Are They Really Better For You?*, April 13.

We are participating at Rutgers Day, April 27, with a plant sale and our MG plant sale is May 4 at the 4-H Center.

Monmouth: Member Service Committee has provided pansies for the members.

Our new class of 35 has excellent attendance. They are off this week and are working on their midterms.

Bruce Crawford spoke on *Prune It Now!* at our last general meeting.

Our Herb Garden signage is under discussion.

Morris: Our helpline opened April 1. All MGs volunteering for helpline this year will take a helpline refresher class to get them up to speed after the long winter break.

We are designing a display garden in a traffic island in the middle of Morristown for the Adopt-A-Spot Program. The design will feature a high color, high visual impact selection of perennials and annuals.

In March we staffed a MG tree information table at two events sponsored by the Chatham Environmental Commission for residents who want to replace trees destroyed by Hurricane Sandy.

Our HEP program continues servicing ten venues every month.

A pruning workshop was conducted at historic Acorn Hall for our MGs and members of the Morristown Home Gardener Club.

Ocean: We have many requests for speakers this month, mostly for Salt Water Flooding.

We have also filled eight requests to man tables at various Earth Day and other events in Ocean County.

Our Community Garden Committee has planted spring crops.

The greenhouses are doing well.

Helpline has started.

Thursday we will have Pt Hastings speak on Pesticide Safety before our meeting. After the meeting, there will be an orchid talk by a member of our Speaker's Bureau.

We are preparing for our Plant Sale, May 4.

Passaic: Absent

Somerset/Hunterdon: Our new MG class graduates today.

MGOSH has new certification guidelines for interns.

Sabrina Tirpol is speaking on *Organic Control of Garden Pests* at our April 10 meeting.

Ben Flanner is speaking on *Rooftop Farming* in May.

We have a May 28 trip to Greenwood Gardens and two private gardens. We also have a self drive trip planned.

Carl Lewis received his Master Gardener Education Certificate.

One of our members has developed a partnership between Snyder Farms and Woodlands Wildlife Refuge whereby blemished produce from the farm will go to the Refuge to feed the animals.

A pest identification field workshop will be offered by our horticulturist in May.

Our outreach teams are all gearing up for spring and summer activity: speaker's bureau, school programs, horticulture support,

Sussex: Absent

Union: Our greenhouse is coming along beautifully.

We are getting ready for our plant sale.

SHARING Five counties have greenhouses.

The meeting ended at 12:05.

Next meeting is May 7 at the Extension Conference Center, our usual location. See you all then