

New Jersey State Master Gardener Association

August 6, 2013

President Ellen Simonetti called the meeting to order at 10:03 am. Kathy Dopart, Vice President welcomed the new delegate, Tom Potterfield from Camden, New Jersey.

The minutes were amended to delete the result of Judy Shaw's accident.

Treasurer's Report: Joan Cox, treasurer, reported a balance of \$10,788.59 as of July first.

President's Report: September is auction/pot luck luncheon. Members are asked to bring a dish to share and an item or items for the auction.

In December, the election of a new vice president and secretary will be held.

Ellen asked that the county reps notify their members who are planning to attend the conference that Marta Mc Dowell will speak in place of Judy Shaw who is ill. Marta has a great reputation as a speaker and it will be a pleasure to add her to the event.

A motion was passed to waive the fees for a sales table couple who are attending just to man their county's sales table.

25 year pins: A motion was made and passed that a fee will be waived for a Bergen County honoree that for personal reasons cannot attend the conference but will be present to receive her 25 year pin.

RCE Report: Nick Polanin reported the birth of his first grandchild: Naomi Grace Polanin on August 2, 2013 by email.

Unfinished business: Conference tasks:

As of today, 175 people plan to attend the conference.

Registration asked that MG Coordinators and Agents need to verify their presence in order to register.

All other tasks are running as expected.

Ellen mentioned a plan for next year where counties can put in for a task again if they feel comfortable with the task or can change to a harder task if they want to expand their knowledge base of the conference.

It was noted that purchase orders for the conference should go to Joan Cox .

325 Awards booklets will be printed.

Tables for the Market were affirmed

County Reports:

Atlantic: absent

Bergen: We are preparing for September, one of our busiest months. It begins with the Annual Picnic which will take place at the home of one of our Master Gardeners, Virginia Cortège. We look forward to spending the evening together in her garden conservancy garden.

Our Trips and Tours committee has scheduled another wonderful excursion to The Untermeyer Gardens Conservancy, a non-profit organization. This facilitates the restoration of Samuel Untermeyer's gardens in Yonkers, NY.

The current class of 30 students will be graduation on the 21st.

Our first meeting of the fall takes place on the fourth Tuesday and will begin with a board meeting, a volunteer meeting for the county fair, and finishes with the general meeting.

We will be participating in the Bergen County Fair, our biggest outreach event this year. This two day event takes place the final weekend in September.

All MG sites are in full swing and the helpline continues to be busy.

Burlington: Burlington County Farm Fair was hot, hot, hot but dedicated volunteers toughed it out and even had some fun.

"Learn to Teach" was well attended plus we had the pleasure to host 8 MG's from Cumberland County.

Rancocas Nature Center: Open House was Sunday August 4th. Many of our MG's served as docents and/or presenters for the Child's Garden, Butterfly Garden, Pond Garden and Rain Garden. The event was covered by the Philly station, Channel6 and an article appeared in the Burlington County Times.

All other projects are doing well, just battling weeds and fungi issues, which have made great study materials for our IPM team.

Our coordinator will be sending an email to other coordinators . We are opening up registration for our fern propagation workshop, scheduled for Wednesday August 28th from 10-12. Space is available for 10 MG's . Preregistration is \$5.00 and earns 2 CEU's. Extension is located at 2 Academy Drive, Westhampton 08060, 609-265-5050.

Wednesday, August 28th we are taking a group to tour the Rutgers University Soil Testing Laboratory with Stephanie Murphy.

Our new website will be launching the end of Aug

Camden: General meeting and pot luck supper on July 31. Judith McKeon spoke on roses.

Our "home grown" plant sale will be held on September 11th.

On August 22, our Homeowner's Series will have " Extending the Growing Season".

Other subjects we have had were "Lawns, Bulbs, Vegetable Gardening, and Backyard Chickens". August 14 and 15 we have 25 seniors coming to Camden County to make succulent gardens.

Cumberland: Doug Fisher installed our new slate of officers at the June meeting at one of our MG's houses. It was also a going away party for our Coordinator. Interviews are going on for a new person. Hopefully, someone will arrive soon.

Revising the By-Laws. Helpline has been busy.

Horticulture Therapy will be continuing at the Veteran's Home every other week. 8 MG's attended a training workshop in Burlington County.

Essex: A new project "zone gardening" has been started in Branch Brook Park. For now, Master Gardeners will assume responsibility of maintaining and enhancing some of the more prominent areas of the park. The project will entail removal of over grown weeds and brush, pruning of existing ornamental planting and eventually replanting with historically accurate planting according to the Olmsted plans.

The cherry tree pruning group in Branch Brook Park has grown to 20 people. We have pruned over 1700 trees to date. We recently moved into the north end of the park where there are approximately 2400 cherry trees.

Our graduation is set for Sept. 21, 2013. We will be hosting a BBQ for the 23 graduates. Our 2013 -2014 class begins Sept. 18th in Roseland. We currently have 12 enrolled.

The Teaching Garden at Presby Memorial Gardens is looking forward to a new 10 foot deer fence being installed this week. It has been a struggle to keep the critters out all summer. We hope to hold a class on planting vegetables for the fall at the end of August for the general public. Next year we plan on holding 10 classes on all aspects of vegetable gardening.

We have been busy manning tables at local farmers' markets. Our community gardens are brimming with veggies and making donations to local food pantries and soup kitchens. We look forward to getting back to the greenhouse, senior horticulture and school programs.

Gloucester: First, let me say I apologize for our county's "missing in action".

When here last, we were prepping for our annual Master Gardener Plant Sale and what a plant sale it was! Our free lectures were even more popular this year than last. We invited 3 outside vendors and all were very well received and equally impressed with our plant material. It was truly a great day!

We've had meetings and plant swaps. We took a trip to Rutgers Gardens and Rare Find Nursery, where one and all enjoyed the day. Bruce Crawford is always worth spending the day with.

Our yearly graduation luncheon was held on June 5th and there was a record number in attendance .Mary Cummings, the director of our program, was gifted a membership to Longwood Gardens from the group.

Our Junior Master Gardeners wrapped up in June and enjoyed their own treats. The class consisted of 18 children.

Master Gardeners also took a tour of a lavender farm.

July was our big 4H Fair month-with plenty of entries for photos, birdhouse, decorated pots clay and nursery. We had our hands full! There were free craft table activities for all and a well-received insect table with live and expired insects.

We offered a class on proper freezing and canning techniques and canned peaches and made spaghetti sauce. Everyone enjoyed.

We are engaged in a few volunteer projects as well as our own "Clayton Gardens".

Mercer: Our final summer trip in August will be a tour of the bog garden at Rarefied Nursery. After all of our trips, a collection of photos is posted on a secure, password protected website (Smugmug) so that it is available to all MG's.

The next event will be our annual Insect Festival which takes place on Saturday, Sept. 7, at Mercer Educational Gardens. This is always popular, especially with the children. There are games, a puppet show, plenty of microscopes to examine insect specimens, and other organizations such as Rutgers, Mercer County Mosquito Control and a beekeeper. We try to have monarch butterfly hatchings occurring during the festival.

Morris: Master Gardeners served as judges for the horticultural entries at the 4H Fair in Chester in July. Local school children and adults submitted their best harvest from the garden as well as floral arrangements and potted plants.

We also had a MG table at the three day fair. The educational topic this year was "Growing Tomatoes."

As part of our advanced MG training program, we had a refresher class on Soil Testing and interpretation which many MG's attended.

Middlesex: Middlesex County Fair is happening right now: Aug. 5-11. M-F 5-10 pm Sat. and Sun. 1:30-9.

August 17th EARTH Center Garden Field Day Open House runs from 11-3pm. There will be garden tours, Butterfly House, Demonstrations, Live music and taste testing. There will be a garden competition with categories like biggest tomato, cucumber, pumpkin, squash, watermelon and gourds(longest).

Eco-Ventures is a summer day program for 5-8th graders. August 26-30, M-F 9-2.

Volunteer painting session being held Aug. 13 for MG fund raiser.

Monmouth: The scheduled summer 8-session Horticultural Enrichment cycle has been completed with the residents of Care One in Holmdel, a rehab facility.

Entrance plantings were completed at the Schroth School in Wanamassa with Cerebral Palsy students who attend school there.

The students are caring for the plants over the summer.

The Lake Como town council invited one of our MG's to provide replanting advice, based upon his research on salt tolerant plants after Superstorm Sandy. We took this research, approved by Diane Larson, and built our Helpline Booth at the recent Monmouth County Fair in the Home and Garden tent around this information. Appropriate plantings adorned our entry way of the booth's man-made dunes. Pamphlets listing various levels of salt tolerant plants were handed out to those who requested then in addition to other Rutgers Fact Sheets.

Also, post Sandy, at the request of Monmouth Beach's Council we submitted plans to recreate planting spaces.

Somerset/Hunterdon: 4H Fair is coming up. Somerset Fair 8/7-9 Hunterdon Fair 8/21-24,
Tomato Tasting 8/28

Trips: Ninety Acres at Natiran 8/14, Home Garden Tour 9/3, Brooklyn Botanic Garden 9/11

Our next speaker is Ken Druse speaking on "Natural Companions" 9/18

Creating an emergency contact list as a result of an MG having an accident at our plant sale and not knowing who to contact.

Providing team leader/member lists to RCE as requested.

Horticulture Support: Our program at Camp Jotari for Developmentally Challenged children and adults is in full swing. As is the garden at Anderson House for Women . First Workshop at our new Dana Gardens.