

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Minutes of May 3, 2016 RMGANJ Meeting

Terry Zane welcomed the group, then led the meeting, following the Agenda.

Minutes from April 5, 2016 Meeting: Minutes from the last meeting are accepted as presented.

Attendance:

Atlantic:	Marylou Monihan
Bergen:	Karen Pennell
Burlington:	Terry Zane, Marilyn Bidrawn, Lee Parry, Merry Bogert
Camden:	Nancy Sullivan
Cumberland:	
Essex:	Gail Chmura, Suzie Yamarone
Hunterdon:	Tricia Deering
Mercer:	Bob Robinson, Theodora Wang, Betty Scarlata
Middlesex:	Jerri Barclay
Monmouth:	Karin Poorvin, Ellen Simonetti, Gayle Williams
Morris:	Pat Hudson, Sandi Gonski, Stan Nathanson, Carla Schan
Ocean:	Suzanne Keane
Passaic:	Darlene Nowak
Somerset:	Linda Madretzke
Sussex:	
Union:	
Rutgers University:	Nick Polanin

TREASURER'S REPORT: No report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Terry suggested that when delegates submit county reports to the recording secretary, Jane, to please send as a Word document not a PDF. Typing the report directly into an email is also acceptable. This will allow Jane to cut and paste into the meeting minutes.

MG Coordinator's Report: Nick Polanin reported he is two-thirds finished with the annual report and will bring copies to next month's meeting. He is considering if there is a better way to get the information out and will bring it up at the next coordinator's meeting on May 20, 2016.

Nick suggested that we check with our county agents for banners to promote the RU 250 tomatoes at our plant sales and county fairs. Additionally, pins, magnets, etc. may be available.

The Great Tomato Tasting will be held at Snyder Farm on August 31st. New this year is how interested master gardeners across the state may sign up to volunteer. They will be using the site Volunteer Spot and Nick will send out the link to it.

Nick announced that a new coordinator, Rachael has been hired for Passaic County.

Trish Deering asked if there was any news on the training for master gardeners working with children. Nick replied there was no update. It has been 1 ½ years in the works and is now in the hands of Rutgers lawyers.

Old Business:

Procedure for Ordering Pins: Marilyn Bidrawn reported that the request form will be changed omitting the pictures of the pins. The new pins will all be the same, with the exception of the use of different colors to indicate years of service. She will be placing an order for new pins in May.

New Business:

None

BREAK – Thank you to Morris County for this month's refreshments. The June's refreshments will be hosted by Ocean County.

Conference:

Awards Booklet – Suzanne Keane reported that the Award of Excellence write-ups are due by June 30, 2016. Remember each county is a limited to 150 words.

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Barnes and Noble – Bob Robinson reported that none of the speakers have written books. It has been suggested that Bob ask the speakers for a list of their favorites to sell at the Conference through B&N.

Catering – Marilyn Bidrawn presented prices for catering the conference. Motion was made to accept the AM refreshment package as presented. It was seconded and approved by vote. Price for lunch will increase to \$11.00. The three choices for sandwiches will be roast beef, turkey and mozzarella with roasted red peppers. Motion was made and seconded to accept the lunch proposal. A unanimous vote followed. Each lunch will contain a bottle of water. Merry Bogert volunteered to pick-up 300 small bottles of water using the allotted \$50.00 in our budget. These will be made available to all conference attendees.

Registration – Marilyn Bidrawn will provide Nick Polanin with the lunch choices. The registration fee is \$35.00 and \$11.00 additional for lunch.

Door Prizes – The six counties volunteering to provide door prizes are Burlington, Camden, Essex, Hunterdon, Mercer, and Middlesex. Martha Cleaves reminded everyone of the \$50.00 limit for each basket, to pay for items by cash when possible, to make purchase close to the date of the conference, and to keep all receipts for reimbursement.

Program – Ellen Simonetti sent requests to the 3 speakers for details and odds and ends they may need. There will be 2 optional tours after the conference. There is no limit for those participating in the Rutgers Gardens tour, but the limit is 60 for the IFNH Eco Wall tour. The registration form will reflect the tour options and will be included in the packet. There will be a signup sheet for the IFNH Eco Wall tour and Essex oversee the sign ups.

Facilities – Terry reminded the facilities committee that the parking request form needs to be filled out and submitted to get a parking lot assigned for the conference.

Speaker Escorts – Tricia Deering reported she has one escort lined up and is working on the other two.

County Report Highlights:

Atlantic – All projects are busy with typical spring clean up and plantings; there is a renewed focus on education. In particular, Sue Scarlett has developed a relationship with Atlantic County's ACUA Community Garden in Egg Harbor Twp and will be giving a series of garden talks on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6pm until October. Our county participated in the ACUA Earth Day celebration last weekend but I have not received feedback as of now. The Estelle Manor project with special needs teenagers worked on a project that used suet holders to incorporate nest building materials for the birds and began planting annual seeds in April.

On April 8th. Arnold and Chris Clemenson spoke to our group regarding their wholesale native plant nursery in Atlantic County. On May 14th they will have their first retail day for 2016 season from 10am-2pm complete with live steam train display.

We are not pursuing our own plant sale in May, 2016.

This past Sunday, May 1st, Adam Levine from the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society spoke to a jointly sponsored lecture with the Atlantic County Master Gardeners and the Linwood Arboretum which was opened to the public. His topic was 30 years of horticulture writing. Adam is the, relatively, new editor of the Pa. Horticulture Magazine with was known previously as "Green Scene." It now has a totally new look and name, "GROW." His talk was well received.

Bergen – Paul Kubarych presented Broad leaf evergreens, ground covers, and deer-resistant plants at our April meeting. Paul holds a degree in landscape architecture from Rutgers and works for Design by Lee, a landscape firm in Stamford, CT. His lecture included information about little known native trees, shrubs, and ground covers plus some foreign natives available for planting in our zone, most which are deer resistant and ecologically sound.

Garretson Farm Annual Spring Festival and Plant Sale is on May 7th and includes a large variety of native perennials and herbs as well as milkweed seeds and plants. Garden produce, as available, will also be readied for sale. In addition to the plant sale, there will be open hearth colonial cooking demos, Revolutionary War re-enactors, May Pole dancing, colonial crafts demos, children's hands-on crafts, and tours of the homestead and gardens. Stop by and say hello to all the Master Gardeners helping out. Some may even be in period costumes. The Community Seed Bank at Garretson is open for the season with many new varieties of heirloom, organic seeds for your garden.

Flying Trillium Gardens and Preserve includes more than 300 trees and shrubs native to the Northeast, including unusual cultivated varieties, hybrids, and more than 75 dwarf conifers. Flying Trillium Gardens and Preserve is located

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at 106 Bradley Road, Liberty, NY, in Sullivan County. The gardens are an ongoing work by author, teacher, and landscape designer Carolyn Summers. Large areas of the property are preserved to protect native flora in their natural habitats, along with the wildlife that depend on it.

Since becoming a Master Gardener in 1998, Dail has worked as the Horticultural Consultant of Rutgers Cooperative Extension. She will be retiring in June. Joel will have a field trip to Rohsler's Nursery with the MG students where we will have a little "thank you" gathering in June. Best wishes to Dail in her retirement!

New Jersey Botanical Garden – Skylands Annual Plant Sale April 30-May 1 & 8th

Burlington - Projects: Butterfly Garden at Smith Woods

All ten plots have been weeded and perennials that have started to come up have been identified. The 125-gallon water container was delivered so water is now available. The shed to store tools was finished and placed in the work area location near the composter. Host and nectar plants needed for the butterflies and pollinators have been planted. Plants that were hardy enough to take a dip in temperature were planted: zinnias, Shasta daisies, salvia, marigolds and herbs: fennel, parsley, basil, and chives. Butterflies have been spotted around the plots already; a Fritillary and an Eastern Tailed Blue have been through the garden.

Demonstration plots at BCCAC

Lentil seeds were planted and seedlings are growing. Strawberry plugs were planted and are doing well. A kitchen garden was added to the project by the county and the team will take care about one half of it; the other half will be seeded with grass. Plants from the entire area were selected and replanted in the garden space.

Donation Garden at Medford Leas

Gardens were prepared for planting of cold weather crops. The keyhole garden is about a 2-1/2 foot high raised bed with a "keyhole" section in it, thus the name. It is easy to reach all growing areas from a standing position or a wheel chair. The center has a screened in section for a compost bin. The garden is watered into the compost bin and the water and nutrients go into the growing beds (see photo below).

Rancocas Nature Center

An Arbor Day event was held April 24 with the help of the Master Gardeners.

Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Spring cleaning of gardens is took place and herbs were planted. An Ask a Master Gardener table was staffed at the Alliance's plant sale on April 23. Several Master Gardeners also helped at the member sale on April 22.

Articles published in the *Burlington County Times* Master Gardeners Journal:

- April 7, 2016, "Some insects are a garden's best friend" by Meredith Bogert
- April 18, 2016, "Here are some rose-growing basics" by Susie Jacobsen

Presentations given:

- Historical Informed Gardens by Marilyn Fishman April 13

Other:

- A rain garden was organized at the Millbridge Elementary school in Delran on April 11 and 12.
- A quarterly meeting was held April 12; Ellen Simonetti gave an informative presentation on the History of Rutgers Gardens.
- An Ask a Master Gardener table was staffed at the Lumberton Arbor Day Festival on April 23.
- Master Gardeners participated in the annual Garden Expo held at BCCAC on April 30. They held a plant sale, lead a make-and-take craft workshop for children, gave presentations and demonstrations on composting, gardening for small spaces as well as square foot gardening and hosted an Ask a Master Gardener table. Tours of the demonstration gardens were also provided.

Upcoming events:

- May 11 – Tree identification walk at the Rancocas Nature Center
- May 18 – Annual recognition dinner

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Camden –

Cumberland – The propagation team has been very busy getting ready for the plant sale. Went to the County Library on Arbor Day & did a presentation to youngsters about trees & had plant vegetable container gardens. Continuing to clean up our Butterfly and Rain gardens. The Butterfly tent is getting ready for a busy season. A lot of press coverage went out about our native plant sale & Doug Tallamy's talk. We also will be having experts at the children's table that will be talking about all things Bats, and others from the American Littorial Society, Cumberland Co. Mosquito Control & the South Jersey Quail Project. We are also planning a trip to Morning Star Daylilies in Woodstown in June. Our Master Gardeners will be getting involved with Indian Ave. School helping them get a vegetable garden ready, also a pollinator garden & teaching the 1st graders about bees. The interns will be graduating soon with a luncheon planned.

Essex –

Hunterdon – The Master Gardeners of Hunterdon County graduated it's new class on April 26. Hunterdon also started a new team called the Friendship garden. The goal of the Friendship Garden is to maintain the gardens around the Hunterdon RCE building and to foster plant sharing and camaraderie. Hunterdon's School programs, Community Service activities, Horticultural Support programs and Helpline are all well underway. There is an upcoming self-drive trip to the Leonard J, Buck Gardens. Rich Buckley is scheduled to speak at the upcoming May meeting on Emerging Pests. Finally, Hunterdon Master Gardener Ruth Claushas achieved the designation of Master Gardener Educator. Her specialty is Historical Gardens.

Mercer - Our annual plant sale is coming up on May 14, a week later than usual, but with fewer conflicts. We have had six "big digs" of homegrown plants at the Master Gardeners' gardens for our plant sale. At the sale, we will be selling (for \$1) swamp milkweed seedlings, with planting instructions and a list of butterfly friendly plants, to the public and Rutgers Master Gardeners. We hope to encourage more use of this plant so beneficial to Monarchs.

We have nine members who have just reached the 1000 hour mark, and one who has just reached the 2500 hour level. We have 21 others who have 2500 hours or more, and one RMG has over 6000 hours. We have been active for a while!

A Community Education program entitled "All About Bees" will be presented on June 18. Also, a State program on rain garden design and construction, which is being presented in Hamilton for residents, has been opened to Mercer RMG's.

In conjunction with the Pennington School, we sponsored a community service project with 18 of their students. They worked at MEG on various tasks preparing the gardens and the MEG area for summer.

On Thursday, we are having a butterfly trip to the Pine Barrens, and on May 19, a tour to Philadelphia to visit the PECO green roof and Bartram's Gardens.

Middlesex – The culmination of months of work in the greenhouse was realized at our plant sales at Rutgers Day on April 30 and this Saturday's sale out of the floriculture greenhouse.

There is a new native plant garden being added to the EARTH center under the direction of Master Gardener Janice Ralph. The cherry trees at the EARTH center should be in full bloom this weekend. If you get a chance, stop by as they will be in full bloom this weekend. We are at Davidson's Mill Pond Park, 42 Riva Avenue, North Brunswick, NJ 08902.

Netting is being put up on the butterfly house today, May 3rd. There will be an orientation for new and returning tour guides on May 26th. And the butterfly release date is set for Thursday, June 2 at 6pm. The butterfly house will be open Saturdays and Sundays in June, July and August from 10-12.

Helpline totals for 2014 were 676 contacts. We saw a decrease in 2015 to 638. To combat this and to make our helpline more accessible we are "Going on the Road". We will be at Old Bridge Public Library tonight at 7 PM and

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the South Brunswick Library on Saturday, May 14th at 11AM.

Our speakers bureau has been very busy filling requests for Spring gardeners. Anne Ryder and Jerri Barclay are presenting an interactive workshop on the basics of gardening and how to adapt common garden practices to different needs for the Alliance Center for independence in Edison on May 26th.

We are proud to share the news that Pat Scarano, and their gardens were featured in the May issue of New Jersey Monthly in an article on Master Gardeners.

Monmouth –

Morris – At Acorn Hall, a historic house museum we held a lecture and hands-on demonstration. We completed an *Attracting Pollinators* storyboard for our outreach programs and it may be used at the 4-H fair.

Our first month of our new 'core' Helpline is in operation and we are still working to make it more professional. Our outreach programs manned Earth Day celebrations at both the Madison and Kinnelon libraries.

Our HEP program resumed at Morris View's Cornerstone, a continuing care facility. At a presentation of *Planning Your Vegetable Garden* at the Jefferson Twp library was well received with two commercial farmers requesting information on becoming a MG.

Our Coordinator moved to northern California and the search process has begun for her replacement.

Ocean – Ocean will be having our monthly Diagnostics Roundtables starting May 18th.

With many MGs and Interns helping, the Display Garden in front of the Ag. Center had a sprucing up this past Thursday with some shrub pruning led by Susan Emhardt-Servidio, our Coordinator, weeding, planting of spring annuals, and lots of mulching.

The Garden Design Committee has become quite active this year with three more requests coming in last week. Volunteers for two have already come forward. In place of a General Meeting this month, the Veteran MGs will be hosting the Interns and our Ag. secretaries at a potluck luncheon on May 12th. The Speakers will be giving eight talks in May.

Sunshine sent a "Thinking of You" card to Freeholder Director Bartlett who has cancer. On May 24th we will hear Nick (Polanin) speak on "Volunteerism" and the following day, May 25th, Dr. Steve Yergeau will present a lecture on Soil Compaction.

Passaic –

Somerset – Master Gardeners of Somerset are presently looking for a place to locate our "holding bed" garden, presently located in Hillsborough. The land was originally donated for our use by a private owner. The owner was since passed away and relocation of our prized plant holdings must be made. A few sites are being researched by Joe Guyrian and Nick Polanin. They will report back to the membership this month.

Somerset Master Gardeners have begun pulling together the team to run the county 4-H fair in August. Committees have been formed and work has begun.

Sussex - Absent

Union – Absent

Caring and Sharing

Conference committee job descriptions will be provided at the June meeting.

With input from other Board members, Terry will start the process to update the list of current Board members with their contact information.

Next meeting:

June 7, 2016

AMC

Ocean County will Host

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AMC = Agriculture Museum Classroom
ECC = Extension Conference Center

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

Respectfully Submitted
Jane Gardner, Recording Secretary