

# Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Minutes of May 2, 2017 RMGANJ Meeting

Jane Gardner welcomed the group. Terry Zane called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. The following new State Representatives and guests were introduced: Dewey Goodwin from Hunterdon County a new delegate, Bill Martin from Cumberland, a new alternate delegate; Sandy Wolfe from Monmouth, a new alternate delegate, and Nancy Mullin from Hunterdon County, a guest.

**Minutes from April 4, 2017 Meeting:** A motion was tendered and members unanimously voted to accept the minutes as submitted.

## **Attendance:**

Atlantic:	
Bergen:	Joseph Cooper, Carolyn Gretchen, Karen Pennell
Burlington:	Terry Zane, Marilyn Bidrawn
Camden:	Diane Shonyo
Cumberland:	Carol Henry, Bill Martin
Essex:	Jane Kinkle, David Haimes
Hunterdon:	Tricia Deering, Dewey Goodwin, Nancy Mullin,
Mercer:	Betty Scarlata, Bob Robinson, Theodora Wang
Middlesex:	Jerri Barclay, Kathy Dopart
Monmouth:	Karen Poorwin, Gayle Williams, Sandy Wolfe
Morris:	Carla Schan
Ocean:	Roberta Quinn
Passaic:	Barbara Cook
Somerset:	Linda Madretzke
Sussex:	Jane Gardner, Pat Schanzlin
Union:	Dolores Batz-Culp, Carol Hannemann, Dennis Lenahan
Rutgers University:	Nick Polanin

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Pat Schanzlin reported a balance of \$10,762.58. This amount is still unconfirmed with the new Rutgers financial system. It increased from last month due to pin revenues. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report and was seconded. The motion carried.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Terry Zane asked for a moment of silence in memory of Pat Hudson, the RMGANJ representative from Morris County.

Terry discussed a suggestion for a giveaway for the upcoming conference – tube trees. One issue is that they are not in the budget. The approximate cost is \$35 for 98 trees – we would to spend \$140 to cover the maximum registration number. The Arbor Day Foundation resource that Terry had for ordering the trees was not functional so she may need to find a different source. RMGANJ Members suggested local shade tree commissions and/or electric companies may be able to help. Terry asked that members with ideas email her information on possible contacts to acquire trees. A question was asked about the impact of purchasing the trees on the budget. Pat Schanzlin explained that the organization needs to have enough money on hand to pay for the advance fees and that 300 registrants are needed to cover the conference costs. Discussion followed. A decision was made to table this item until more is known about where to get the trees.

Terry raised the question of whether we should have a table with various information on trees. The choices are to have a separate table or to include the material in the registration packet. It was decided to wait to see how much information there is.

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**MASTER GARDENERS COORDINATORS REPORT:** Nick Polanin reported that he has all the county reports for the annual report. A department meeting is coming up 5/11. Dan Kluchinski will not be there. The State Survey is complete and was sent out to the coordinators. Two coordinators have already called with thank yous because all they needed to do was forward it – no work required!

Nick reported that they are trying to schedule a helpline training event focusing on diagnostics on June 21-23, the summer solstice. The event would be on campus and precede Rutgers Gardens Summer Solstice Jazz Festival. They would plan to digitally record the presentations for on-demand viewing afterwards. It would be held at the Cook Campus Center and there would most likely be a registration fee to cover costs.

Nick reported that they will be using Signup.com (formerly Volunteer Spot) for Great Tomato Tasting volunteer sign-up. There are volunteer opportunities on 8/30, the date of the event but also, 8/ 28,29 and 31 for harvesting and cleanup. Harvesting volunteers must go thru the pesticide training which will be coordinated by Ed Dager. The question of whether pesticide training was required for the produce gleaning after the event was asked. The gleaning is held as a thank you for those who volunteered. Nick said that he would check but felt it should not be an issue as pesticides would not be used in those fields since it would be the end of the growing season.

Nick mentioned that several people have asked him questions on the Rutgers Master Gardener Social Media policy. He reported that Master Gardeners need to check with their county first on their policy which comes into play before any Rutgers policy.

### **Old Business:**

Jane Gardner reported that everyone will receive an email with a hard copy of the State Conference Evaluation Survey for those who do not have computer access. They can fill it out and mail it to Nick Polanin. If you do not get notification about the survey in your county let Jane and/or Nick know. A question was raised whether there is a way to go back into the survey to add an additional comment if one has already completed it. Jane replied that one can submit another response to the survey, only filling in the comments section.

### **New Business:**

*Refreshments:* Thank you to Cumberland County for the refreshments. Essex will host in June.

### **Conference 2017:**

*Conference Theme* – Monmouth County submitted the following suggestions for the Conference theme: "I Think That I Shall Never See ...", "If a Tree Falls ...", "You Can't See the Forest for the Trees ..." and "Treasure Our Trees". It was decided to write them on the board and ask the members to vote on the one they preferred by making a tick mark next to it at break.

*Awards booklet* – Terry Zane reported that more information is needed on time frame. Ocean County reported that an email will be sent out to the coordinators at the end of May requesting the award winner names and writeups. Terry asked that she be cc'd on the email to the coordinators.

*Barnes and Noble.* Mercer County reported that all is set with Barnes and Noble. None of the speakers have books this year. Terry Zane reported that she would like them to have extra items for purchase in addition to books. Small trinket items sell well and are profitable. Several members suggested tree-related children's books (good as gifts for grandchildren) such as Lorax by Dr. Seuss and the Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein. Nick Polanin recommended against anything too expensive. He said that members rarely purchase books over \$30.

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*Catering:* Burlington County reported that everything changed from last year. Breakfast will be “The NY Minute”: coffee, tea, quartered full size bagels, yogurt, apple cranberry tart and a fresh fruit platter. Sandwiches will include chips, pasta salad, cookies and water. Sandwich choices are: roasted peppers/mozzarella, turkey, ham/cheese and eggplant wrap. There will also be a garden salad box with chicken. The cost is \$9.95 per lunch. Last year we charged \$11. After discussion, it was voted to raise the price to \$12.

There was a discussion about bringing water and handing it out which was an issue with Rutgers last year. After discussion, including ideas like handing out the water at the registration desk or having it in the garden market, the conclusion was that there will be no water unless one buys a lunch. A question was asked whether we should put a note to bring your own water on the registration form. It was decided that our members should already know this. Water for speakers will be provided.

*Door prizes:* There was discussion about out-of-pocket door prize purchases as was done in the past vs ordering thru a vendor in the Rutgers system. The change in the financial system and the lack of ability to submit TABERs without being registered in the system and submitting a W-9 makes out-of-pocket purchases difficult. The budget is \$50 a basket. Somerset County will get with Nick Polanin and come up with a proposal for the next meeting. Several suggestions were made for door prizes– small trees, Barnes and Noble gift certificates, etc.

*Garden market* – Bergen County asked which counties want tables at the Garden Market: Six said yes. Ten tables fit in the room. Bergen also reported that Rutgers Gardens has a program where they are training students and interns from the student organic farm on growing, marketing and selling produce – and they would like to sell produce at the conference. The group liked the idea. The question was asked whether we need to look into the Rutgers rules for selling items for profit at the event.

*Program Flyer:* Cumberland County reported they have the speaker info and schedule, but need the theme to complete the flyer.

*Registration folders* – Camden reported that they got the folders from Nick Polanin last year. Nick needs to check if there are any left. If not, it is in the budget to purchase from Staples (for example). They need to be ordered through a PORF.

*Speakers gifts:* Since there is no delegate from Morris; discussion on this item was put on hold.

Mercer County reported that they had lanyards for sale.

*Caring and Sharing:* Mercer asked what other counties do with Helpline data collection and analysis and how they use the information. Several counties responded with the following: they use it to create frequently asked questions, identify hot topics, and gather and organize material by FAQs. They also use the data to report out to freeholders. One county uses the email addresses to communicate Master Gardener events in their county.

Nick Polanin asked about sources for pollinator plants. Suggestions were the Pinelands Preservation Alliance and the Great Sunflower project, etc.

**BREAK:** Thanks to Cumberland County for the refreshment set-up for this meeting. Essex County is next.

“Treasure Our Trees” will be the conference theme.

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It was reported that Bruce Crawford suggested that he sell his trees either at the conference or at the tour. It was decided that it would be better if he sold them at the tour. It was suggested that we should ask him if he would donate trees for the door prizes.

Terry Zane reported that the Eco Wall tour is lined up but the guide is TBD.

*Video:* Joe Cooper reported that he will coordinate to get the awardees photos.

Terry Zane reported that Ellen Simonetti received an award for her project in Marlboro.

### **COUNTY REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:**

***Atlantic*** –No report

***Bergen*** – Our March guest speaker, Chris Rubino from Monrovia introduced new plants for 2017 and review highlights of 2016. Chris also detailed the best places to research — both online and in the field — the plants that are being introduced. He is a graduate of Cornell University and has vast experience in landscape design, installation, maintenance and research. Chris currently travels extensively to domestic and international gardens looking for new and improved plants to introduce to American gardens.

New projects are blooming at the Hermitage this spring. A Girl Scout working on her Gold Award will create a Victorian rose garden and a children's vegetable garden. The scout hopes to get a dumpster to get rid of any debris from the shed demolition. The old shed was taken down, and most of the wood is being recycled and reused. A landscape plan is being created by Eric Rohsler of Rohsler's Nursery with hardy, deer-resistant plants. The plan will be implemented in sections as funding allows. Donations will be accepted for each plant in this landscape plan and the donor's name will be put on a temporary marker. Master Gardeners will install the plants probably in late May to early June.

Garretson Farm kicked off the spring season with its annual Pea Day planting in March. Regular volunteering also began on Mar 23<sup>rd</sup>. Bergen County beekeepers and the founders of We Believe spoke on the importance of beekeeping in NJ and how to begin in your own backyard.

Thielke Arboretum had their Spring Bird Walk. Spring is an ideal time to observe a wide variety of birds in our community, as we are in the middle of the Atlantic Flyway migratory path. Thielke Arboretum offered a guided 90-minute bird walk on April 30<sup>th</sup>. The walk was led by Len Greer, a local resident and wildlife photography enthusiast.

Washington Spring Gardens has been busy taking care of pruning of our mature shrubs. They have a vast collection of azalea's and rhododendron

Our upcoming May trip brings us to Stone Barn Center for Food and Agriculture in Pocantico Hills, NY. The farm uses resilient farming practices to grow seasonal, regionally appropriate food. Their integrated methods of composting along with crop and animal rotations enrich soils and their ability to produce nutritious food without the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides or other artificial inputs.

### ***Burlington*** –

Projects:

Butterfly Garden at Smith Woods

The team is continuing to weed and get the beds ready for the plants. The plots have had additional compost added to help the soil. The perennials that are beginning to return are being divided and added in other plots. The group is still working on the lack of water situation as well as trying to prohibit the deer invading our garden as much as they do. Hopefully, within the next two weeks planting will begin for the nectar and host plants. A few butterflies have been spotted- cabbage, morning cloaks and orange fritillaries. All of them are looking for host and nectar plants.

Donation Garden at Medford Leas

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The team planted cold season crops for several weeks including onions (several types from seed and sets), garlic, various greens including Asian and Italian varieties, red, white and blue potatoes, peas, carrots, cabbage, beets, more perennial edible crops including strawberries, rhubarb, Jerusalem artichokes, horseradish etc. A new area for onions was added, as well as a new area with raspberries and strawberries. Minor repairs on our greenhouse are being made; raised beds, and water barrels; and the main gardens are being prepared for May planting. The most labor intensive weeding involved removing an old peach tree including its trunk and roots! (See attached picture.) Warm season seedlings continue to grow, some in the greenhouse and some at volunteers' homes.

Everything used - seeds, maintenance supplies, fertilizers, soil amendments, seed starting supplies, hoses, sprinklers, etc. are all donated by the volunteers. The garden is organized and managed by the volunteers which now includes both Master Gardeners as well as other volunteers.

### IPM and Demonstration Plots at BCCAC

The group prepared the soil to receive the new plantings. The educational signage was also organized.  
PPA

Workdays at Pinelands Preservation Alliance started Tuesday, April 18. The first thing done was raking and generally clean up one of the shade gardens and the kitchen garden. Next it was planted with herbs that the team has grown from seed. Work also began on the large pollinator garden.

### Rancocas Nature Center

The team has been weeding in between rain storms and is waiting to see what comes back from last year as well as adding more natives to the rain garden area. Some native perennials have been added to the pollinator garden. The team has been putting vegetable seeds, and plants in the Children's Garden with the Lil' Sprouts group. The preschool story time group put in flax and annual flowers to tie into their stories for the week. The RNC native plant group cleaned out the Meadow Enclosure with the native shrubs and small trees which keeps deer out.

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

- April 5, 2017, "Some helpful tips for controlling crabgrass" by Bobbie J. Herbs
- April 20, 2017, "Tips to ensure your pruning job has a rosy outcome" by Helen Turnbull

Presentations given:

- April 5, 2017, Meredith Bogert presented "Beneficial Insects" at the Moorestown Library
- April 13, 2017, Rich Bizub, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, presented "Save the Source – The Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer" to the Master Gardeners
- April 28, 2017, Meredith Bogert presented "Trees and Natives" at the Glen at Mason's Creek 55+ community

### **Camden** – .

#### EDUCATION GARDENS:

The education garden committee has been meeting to finalize the gardens and layout for the 49 x 100 feet space behind our MG center.

This week, May1-5 we are planting the herb beds, perennial beds and building additional raised beds for our vegetable plantings. The shade bed was freshened up and new perennials were added.

Our committee members are also creating the space for our new shed and preparing, with assistance from the County, to dig the trench for our rain/wildflower garden.

We have created a large visual poster depicting the space and giving credit to the America Water company for the grant we received. This poster will be situated at the entrance to the gardens.

#### MAY FAIR Saturday, May 6.

The annual May Fair is being held May 6 at our MG center. The greenhouse committee is selling the large variety of vegetables they have grown and some herbs and perennials along with hanging baskets of fresh flowers.

Our featured speaker will be Mike McGrath, well-known public radio personality, who will take questions from the attendees.

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We are also running our plant diagnostic Plant Clinic and a children's table to help children build take-home planters. Visitors can also visit the education gardens and volunteers will give short talks on the plants and design of the garden.

There will also be other community groups with informational tables about their various organizations.

### HOME OWNERS SERIES

The first of four home owner's series was held last Tuesday with 40 plus attendees. The talk was on growing tomatoes by our greenhouse tomato specialist.

### GENERAL MEETINGS

John Black, President of the NJ Native Plant Society, was our guest lecturer for our April educational meeting. He spoke on native plants. 30 MGs attended his talk.

We also had a session on Yoga for the gardener. A Physical therapist presented a session for us on stretching and poses for gardeners. **Getting your Body Ready for Gardening.**

### GREENHOUSE

The greenhouse committee has been getting ready to sell their vegetables, herbs and perennials they have grown this past three months. They also have been producing salad greens with the new hydro phonics greenhouse. Some of the produce is donated to the Cathedral Kitchen in Camden and some is targeted for a restaurant in the County Park at Cooper river.

**Cumberland** – The Cumberland County annual plant sale at the Wheaton Arts ECO fair is on track for Saturday May 6th. This year, in addition to our Annual, Perennial, Pollinator, Vegetable, Herb and Native offerings we will be featuring:

- o Rutgers 250 Tomato's
- o Rutgers 250 "Schermerhorn" Tomato's
- o Rutgers Pumpkin Habanero Peppers

Our always popular Butterfly Tent will also be featured at this event. The team looks forward to introducing additional Rutgers exclusives as seeds/plants become available.

We are happy to report that this year we have a robust group of interns (15), which have been very engaged in the volunteer opportunities that we offer - we look forward to graduating them all.

Our Steering Committee continues to discuss the issue of background checks as it relates to our people volunteering in events where children are present. Lacking specific direction, we continue to circle around this question.

We will also be viewing the film so our volunteers will be able to continue their work at the RAREC farm. The conference survey has been email to all members.

### **Essex – Programs during the Month of May or before:**

- On Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup>, we had our third session of “Let’s Talk Vegetable Gardening” at The Teaching Garden located behind the Walther House at Presby Memorial Iris Garden 474 Upper Mountain Ave., Upper Montclair, NJ. This session focused on topics such as spring crops, planting tender vegetables and succession planting. We had a full house.
- Our focus for the month of May is our Plant sale.

### **Workshops during May and Beyond:**

HORTICULTURE WORKSHOPS FOR SENIORS:

ALL PROGRAMS TAKE PLACE ON MONDAYS, 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.

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GARIBALDI HALL, 621A EAGLE ROCK AVE., ROSELAND  
PROGRAMS ARE FREE.

- MAY 22 - WHAT GROWS TOGETHER IN YOUR GARDEN (reserve by May 16)
- JUNE 19 - ENJOYING SUMMER IN THE GARDEN (reserve by June 13)

### Trips during May and Beyond:

- New York Botanical Garden, Chihuly Exhibit, September 15, 2017, "Artworks by world-renowned artist Dale Chihuly will be on view at NYBG in his first major garden exhibition in New York in more than ten years." Dot Kamphausen is organizing a docent tour of the exhibit on September 15th. Carpool and pay as you enter with the group.

### Projects during May and Beyond:

- **Branch Brook Park - Cherry Tree Pruning Team.** Meets weekly to prune historical collection of 5000 cherry trees.
- **Branch Brook Park -Prudential Concert Grove** (Southern Section). We weed, prune, transplant and plant perennials and shrubs.
- **Brookdale Park Pruning** —ongoing pruning of Trees.
- **Education Outreach** - Projects in schools.
- **Giving Garden** - an *A Lot to Grow* community garden that grows produce for the food pantries and soup kitchens in the Nutley area.
- **Glenmont Project** - Thos. Edison Nat'l. Historical Park in West Orange.
- **The Greenhouse** - for those that want to transplant and water.
- **Grounds at Roseland** - to help maintain and beautify.
- **GROW Community Out-reach Program** – 3-4 Sessions a year, half-day long, recent Graduates become involved.
- **Helpline** - volunteer
- **Horticulture for Seniors** - meets monthly with seniors.
- **Integrity House (Secaucus)** - guide recovering substance dependent people with growing vegetables that supplement the kitchen.
- **Pollinator Garden** - In Brookdale Park
- **Rose Garden** - in Brookdale Park
- **Speakers Bureau** is part of our community out-reach. Choose a topic of interest and become an active speaker.
- **The Teaching Garden** - At Presby Iris Garden
- **Essex/Hudson Urban Youth Garden Project** – A collaboration among Master Gardeners, 4-H, Schools and Community Organizations
  - The Historic Jersey City & Harsimus Cemetery (& newly added Pershing Field)
  - East Orange Library Garden
  - The Children's garden at Branch Brook Park
  - Straw Bale Garden, Passaic Avenue, Kearny
  - Montclair Community Farms

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- Caldwell Youth Garden Projects

### Events during May and Beyond:

- Our Greenhouse is now open. It's that time of year to begin propagation of mother plants for our Annual Plant Sale on Friday and Saturday May 5 and 6 at Presby Iris Gardens in Montclair. As well as Saturday May 13 at Garibaldi Hall in Roseland.
- April 29 Earth Day at the Essex County Environmental Center
- September 16 Graduation and BBQ for the 2016 – 2017 MGEC Class.

### Speakers at Our Monthly Meeting during May:

No meeting scheduled. We hold our Plant Sale in May instead of holding a meeting.

**Hunterdon** – Hunterdon County's Helpline started for the season on Monday April 3 and had 87 client contacts for the month which made for a busy month. Our April speaker, Dr Sybil Gotsch gave a very interesting talk on her research on Climate Change and its effect on the Cloud Forest Canopy in Costa Rica. Our May speaker is a local landscaper Anthony Berado from Cross River Designs, speaking on Deer Proof Landscaping in Hunterdon County. RMGANJ members are looking forward to our upcoming May 17 bus trip to Longwood Gardens in May. The New Class graduated on April 20 and the new class members are already volunteering in many of our ongoing programs. The State Conference Survey has been distributed to our membership. Programs continue at the Hunterdon Care Center, Whitehouse School, the Presentation Team, Hunterdon Central and pruning at Snyder Farm. Hunterdon Care Center held a thankyou event to recognize the Master Gardener Program. Other teams have gotten up and running for the new season: Community Events, Anderson House, Seed-for Salad Teams and the Sensory Garden.

**Mercer** – Our annual plant sale is this Saturday, May 6. Planning continues for our move, sometime next year, to the new facility. The interior layout has been firmed up. For the grounds, which are extensive, we have broken them up into a series of potential garden areas, and initiated a "design challenge" to get many people's input. It will take years to complete this overall project.

2018 is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year for the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Mercer County, and we are planning events to mark it.

A community education talk on IPM was given by Meredith Melendez, our Ag Agent, at Howell Living History Farm on April 28. On June 3, Bruce Crawford of Rutgers Gardens will present a talk for beginning or rusty gardeners entitled "Hands on in the Garden". He will speak at MEG (Mercer Educational Gardens).

Three one-day children's programs will be given in July at the Trent House again this year. The children are generally 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders, sponsored by several local organizations. A full day of educational and fun activities is planned. This is our 5<sup>th</sup> year of presenting these programs, which are very well received. Tours are planned to the New York Botanical Gardens on May 17, and to Mill Fleurs shade gardens, in Point Pleasant, Bucks County, on June 2.

Our monthly meeting ended with an excellent talk by Mark Mayer, Chief of the Bureau of Biological Pest Control at the Philip Alampi Beneficial Insect Lab in Trenton. He spoke about the use of beneficials to control invasive insects **and** plants, or in general biological control of pests. He stated that the Asian Longhorn Beetle has been eradicated in NJ, and purple loosestrife has been reduced to a manageable (and acceptable) plant to use. They are researching mile-a-minute vine (the north's answer to Kudzu, which is moving north to meet it), and the Emerald Ash Borer, for which there is no biological control yet.



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**Middlesex** – The butterfly house is scheduled to open Saturday June 2nd. It is open Saturdays and Sundays from 10-12 in June, July and August. Appointments to visitation during the week may also be scheduled by calling Dale Duchai or the EARTH Center.

Many flower and vegetable plant raised in the Floriculture greenhouse by the current Master Gardener classes were sold at our first plant sale on Rutgers Day April 29, 2017.

Dr Anne Gould, Rutgers professor in the agriculture department, gave a very informative talk on plant diseases at our April 25th general meeting. She spoke about Boxwood Blight, Downy Mildew and Rose Rosette disease.

The clients at St Peter's Adult Day Care Center decorated containers and potted up pansies for a Springtime horticultural therapy session. This month we will be planting our raised garden with vegetables we plan on using for pesto, bruschetta, and a strawberry sauce using Rutgers scarlet strawberries planted last year. Eating seems to be one of their favorite activities.

On June 20, we are sponsoring a very unique bus trip to Brooklyn to visit the Green-Wood Cemetery and DUMBO. The cost is \$70 for the bus and trolley tour of the cemetery. If interested call Pat Scarano @ 732-257-6246. I have flyers for anyone who is interested.

**Monmouth** – To date, our new interns have been busy planting up the PAR garden and our Helpline has been busy. We are operating on a full schedule of two shifts (9:00 AM-12:30 PM, 12:30 PM-4:00 PM). With exception of a few rainy days, the office has been hopping! Our Speakers Bureau continues to educate our county residents and is gearing up for the presentations offered at our annual Spring Garden Days sale. Our Trips and Tours Committee has kept us on the move with the Philadelphia Flower Show in March and Bowman Hill Wildflower Preserve in New Hope, PA on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Both trips were very worthwhile and enjoyed by all! The next trip planned for June is the NY Botanical Gardens in the Bronx. At our April General Meeting, the speaker was Mike Reed from Synetec speaking on reducing turf pesticide use with Biostimulants.

Keeping us "in the know" is our Member Education Committee with a Mushroom Workshop and trip to the Holmde! Arboretum with a tour lead by Diane Larson and Ron Kudile. On Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> our Junior Master Gardener Children's Program began with an introductory activity, followed by a lesson on seeds, and then out to their own JMG garden plot to apply what they learned. This is the only program of its kind in NJ and all adult participants went through online training and background checks. There are 8 sessions and children are encouraged to return on Saturdays in the summer to continue to work their plots, harvest their vegetables and enter them in the County Fair...which many of them do!

Our Spring Garden Days sale will take place on Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Much time, organization and effort goes into this event, and many thanks go out to the Chair of SGD, Joe Luongo, and the many sub-committee chairs and Master Gardeners who make it a success! So far over 100 MGs have signed up for the event.

### **Morris**

- Two library and two Green Day outreach events executed. Negotiating a potential opportunity for a third library venue.
- Eight Speaker's Bureau lectures given at various venues.
- 8-week STEM Gardening Program began in Chatham for 5-7 year olds.
- Helpline season begun with substantial interest from public.
- Weekly gardening one-on-one sessions with park gardening staff offered at three area arboreta to MGs.
- Spring Edition of Newsletter published and distributed.
- Opportunities for consulting, plant identifying, photographing and researching offered to MGs at Schiff Nature Preserve's Native Demonstration Garden.
- Mgs attended Workers Protection Standard Training in three sessions at Snyder Farm.

**Ocean** – Our Helpline Committee has been actively advertising our services to libraries and garden clubs throughout Ocean County. Master Gardener Educators have been

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involved in some of the RCE talks held in the evenings for the public. The community garden and Cuisine garden teams have planted early vegetables and are looking to more sunny days as are the greenhouse teams nurturing plants for our sale next Saturday. Sean Walsh was well received when he presented his Mushroom workshop in early April. Before the completion of their classes, the Interns visited the Cuisine vegetable garden and toured our garden complex at Ocean County Park. The Display Garden in front of the Ag building was cleared of winter debris and spruced-up for this season. The Tick Lab has identified more than 65 ticks this year.

**Passaic** – At the last MGAPC meeting members joined Bergen County for a presentation on Wildflower Meadows by Larry Weaner. After many years, learned one should not pull weeds but cut them. Members are busy at work getting ready for the plant sale by preparing plants that members brought to the MG site to over winter. Work has begun on cleaning and removing invasive plants from Morris Canal Park in Clifton. Student from Montclair State are joining in as part of a project.

Wildflower Walk at NJBG was held on Earth day April 22 and visitors were able to see spring wildflowers that were in bloom. MGAPC also joining Laurelwood Arboretum on a trip to Chanticleer Gardens in Pennsylvania in July.

Members were encouraged to attend a webinar seminar by Kerry Ann Mendez on “Jaw dropping, flowering shrubs on 4/27.

**Somerset** – The Somerset County Master Gardeners BNug team will now be called Back Yard Friends and Foes. The team is responsible for the identification and dissemination of information on insects. Our schedule currently involves: Whiton School (seeds to salad); Pine Grove School; County 4H Fair; Buck Garden Environmental Education Center and the Somerset COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

The Helpline Team - In April, the team will meet with the new class to review procedures. The team is trying a new project this year: weekly meetings with Joe Guyrian for latest disease and weather problems of plants. They will then hold seminars or send e-mails to our members on these topics to keep everyone in the loop.

**Sussex** – In Sussex County we have big plans for Newton Green renovations by Memorial Day, our only county park. Redesigning and replacing the Civil War Memorial planting, and refurbishing the military beds, especially replacing the overgrown shrubs and refreshing the perennials.

The county will be helping us put in our hardscaping pathways and patio areas in our research and ed garden. And then we will be building concrete raised beds for the enabling garden, as well as a water feature with a below ground reservoir (that way no one falls in!!)

36 of our 44 students expressed an interest in volunteering, so our class continues to be very engaging and enthusiastic. And we have the longest waiting list we have ever had for individuals seeking another nighttime MG training class.

**Union** – No report

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 12:05 PM

Respectfully Submitted  
Tricia Deering, Recording Secretary