

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Minutes of October 3, 2017 RMGANJ Meeting

Jane Gardner, Vice President, welcomed the group and guests as designated in the Attendance list below.

Terry Zane, President, then welcomed the Board Members to the meeting and led the meeting following the Agenda.

Secretary's Minutes from September 2017 Meeting: Minutes from the last meeting were accepted as presented through a motion and second. No corrections, other than those received prior to meeting.

Treasurer's Report: The balance we should end up with \$1116.39, assuming the dining hall invoice is \$5500, which might be less due to the lower number of participants at the Conference. This will probably impact us next year, rather than this year, since this year's revenue is used to fund next year's Conference. Program booklets have been received and are looking very nice. Nick noted that the printer, Trec, was paid on September 18th. Motion to accept Treasurer's report as submitted was made, seconded and approved.

Attendance:

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|---------------------|---|
| Atlantic: | Mary-Lou Monihan |
| Bergen: | Joe Cooper, Carolyn Gretchen, Donna Faustini |
| Burlington: | Terry Zane, Marilyn Bidrawn |
| Camden: | Diane Shonyo, Carol Blauvelt (Guest) |
| Cumberland: | Carol Henry |
| Essex: | David Haimes, Jane Kinkle |
| Hunterdon: | Dewey Goodwin |
| Mercer: | Bob Robinson, Betty Scarlata, Theodora Wang |
| Middlesex: | Kathy Dopart, Dale Duchai |
| Monmouth: | Gayle Williams, Karen Poorwin, Bob Magovern, Sandy Wolfe, Jay Schaeffer (Guest) |
| Morris: | Regina Doherty, Marion Ceruzzi |
| Ocean: | Suzanne Keane, Roberta Quinn |
| Passaic: | Barbara Cook |
| Somerset: | Linda Madretzke |
| Sussex: | Jane Gardner, Pat Schanzlin |
| Union: | Delores Batz-Culp, Dennis Lenahanm, Caryl Hannemann |
| Rutgers University: | Nick Polanin |

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: None to report for this meeting.

MG Coordinator's Report: Nick Polanin reported that the registration number is 244 as of last week. Updated count, including those who registered manually with Caryl Hannemann, is now at 271, plus 2 who registered at this meeting, or 273.

Rutgers has a new Chancellor, Dabasish Dutta, who came recently from Purdue U. He demonstrates a strong background in land grant university structures. Because Rutgers is a Land Grant University, the grant mission needs to be met by the whole structure, not just the ag section. The new Chancellor is expected to be a good resource for the university and will likely drive some positive change. Those who have met him were positive regarding support for the ag mission and the RCEs. Each college now has its own president.

The bags to be used for packaging participant materials were brought for use today by Nick. No meeting is planned for the Coordinators in the near future. The 2016 Annual Report is still pending now that Nick is

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the acting chair for the department, and balancing many responsibilities. There are two retirements coming up, faculty reviews coming up and a lot of different initiatives which are now on his list of responsibilities.

Dan is now in a hospital in Princeton and his condition is guarded. The RCE department has put together a Rutgers jersey for him with all their signatures to note their best wishes and their support for him. Anyone wishing to sign the jersey from RMGANJ should sign the jersey today.

Nick reported that they are looking at the budget for next year; however, there are no active searches for openings within the RCE structure, even though we have anticipated retirements in two counties.

Nomination Committee – Terry asked for 3 people to seek nominations for President and Treasurer for upcoming terms. Kathy Dopart, Karen Pennell, Jerri Barclay and Dale Duchai have volunteered to take over this responsibility. Terry reminded the group that the President's role affords the opportunity to meet everyone from around the state and to make a lot of new friends.

Survey Response Analysis Report – This survey, the results of which we reviewed a couple of months ago, helps us to hone in on what we are doing well and what needs to be enhanced. We have copies of this report available today for anyone wishing to review a hard copy. At the November and December meetings, we will need people to oversee the discussion groups and recommend strategy to respond to the results.

Terry will send an email containing the results and people who would like to lead the response groups should let her know of their interest.

Conference Attendance – As of today, we have 273 people registered, which is slightly less than we need to cover our current expenses, since some of these individuals are gratis attendees. We will need to look at our numbers for next year to ensure we do not overrun Conference expenses next year as we plan and commit resources.

Conference Setup – Terry asked for any updates, or last minute items to be discussed. We have 40 signed up for the Green Wall currently. For Rutgers Gardens, we have 55 as of Tuesday 26th.

Lunch Distribution - Marilyn Bidrawn needs one more person to hand out lunches. Mary Lou Monihan offered to help.

Conference Video - Joe Cooper wants each county to look at the video to make sure everything is correct for your designated county. If you did not look at the video with the link sent to you, please do so today and let Joe know of any corrections needed by end of the day today.

Parking - Parking at the Conference is in Lot 76, which is at the head of Beale and Dudley. Signs will be posted at regular intervals to guide you to event parking. Lot 99 C&D are also available at the end of Beale. Do not park in the Student lots. There are pull-in spots for Handicapped across from the venue, but these fill up quickly. Do not park at the Living Wall lot, but rather stay in Lot 76, Lot 99 C&D. Otherwise, you may get a ticket.

If you have things to unload for the Conference, the Cook Student Center has a drive to go around to the loading door. You can unload there and then move your car to the appropriate parking lot. There are carts at the Student Center to use to unload things.

Garden Market - Garden Market has 10 tables available, of which 8 have been reserved. Four counties are represented. Two tables were allocated for produce sales, and two for the shade tree group to enable participants to sign up for Conference credits as Shade Tree Commission members and to distribute brochures.

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Break - Thanks to Monmouth County for today's break refreshments. Sandy Wolfe made all of the baked goods, which were delicious.

County Report Highlights:

Atlantic – Since most programs reviewed this summer do not have "new" news, I would simply like to mention that Atlantic County shined again this year in the Pa. Horticultural Society's Gardening & Greening Contest:

Blue Ribbon winners are as follows :

Atlantic County Master Gardener Demonstration Garden

Atlantic City Aquarium & Gardiners Basin.

Gardens of Distinction:

John Collette (individual)

Nancy Fiedler (2nd yr individual)

Seashore Gardens Living Center Sensory Trail & Edible Garden

The Courtyard Butterfly Garden at the Mays Landing Library .

Bergen - Site News:

Garretson Forge & Farm will holding there Harvest Festival this month. They will have Civil War reenactments, open hearth cooking featuring 19th century recipes, activities for kids and tours of the homestead and gardens. Admission is free.

NJBG Harvest Fest. Hayrides and pumpkin painting are just the start of a fun-filled family weekend. There'll be games, face painting, applesauce making, tasty food, music and dancing, great photo ops, free Garden tours, booths, exhibits, an autumn Plant Sale and lots more! Free parking & admission. info@njbq.org to register or for additional information.

The Hermitage High Tea, and Ghost Tours will take place this October. While the **38th Annual Holiday Craft Show at the Hermitage will run October 28th through December 3rd.**

Thielke Arboretum The new fall StoryWalk® book, [A Color of His Own](#) by Leo Lionni will be available beginning Saturday September 30, 2017. Leo Lionni wrote and illustrated more than 40 highly acclaimed children's books. This program encourages reading and nature appreciation and will run throughout the fall. The seasonal Weed Warrior Day stewardship project begins next weekend. Knowledgeable volunteers will be on hand to share their wisdom about invasive plants, some of which may be homesteading on your own property.

Trips and tours.

The Mt. Cuba Center in Hockessin, DE is a botanical garden that inspires an appreciation for the beauty and value of native plants and a commitment to protect the habitats that sustain them. Walking through the Mt. Cuba Center is a unique experience that changes with the seasons. You'll see thousands of types of plants native to the eastern United States.

Speakers: Captain Bill Sheehan, the Hackensack River-keeper, is a lifelong resident of the Hackensack River area, having lived most of his life in Union City and Secaucus, New Jersey. He is a dedicated, active conservationist who founded Hackensack River-keeper in 1997 and serves as the organization's Executive Director. Captain Bill, as he is known to most people, holds a Master of Inland Waterways license from the US Coast Guard. This month they are celebrating 20 years of clean water advocacy! He tells his story of how our County River was transformed into a beautiful sanctuary of birds, fish and plants. His perseverance, fortitude and sincere love transformed this river into an oasis for us to enjoy!

Fall Festival Sept. 23-24:

The Bergen County Fall Festival took place in Van Saun Park, Paramus. Working in conjunction with the County of Bergen and the Bergen County 4H. Master Gardeners provided beautiful exhibits including many hands-on crafts for children. The festival featured delicious food, craft vendors, live music, a carnival, 4H exhibits.

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Burlington - Sadly, Master Gardener and Environmental Steward, Jim May, passed away suddenly on Sept. 10.

Projects:

Butterfly Garden at Smith Woods

Everyone is presently enjoying the garden. The butterflies are numerous and the caterpillars are still eating the host plants. Still being observed are monarch caterpillars on milkweed and swallowtail caterpillars on fennel and parsley. The painted ladies, swallow tails and admirals seem to be enjoying the asters, goldenrod and many other blooming perennials. The team is beginning to collect compost and mulch for wintering the garden and starting to collect seeds from the echinacea and other perennials.

Donation Garden at Medford Leas

So far 750 pounds of produce has been donated to the local food banks this year. All of the seeds and supplies for this year's garden were donated by the team of volunteers, as nothing was received from the Master Gardener program and the team is not sponsored by a county park. The team is sincerely hoping that the Master Gardener program will be revived in Burlington County and that some much needed young blood can be recruited.

IPM and Demonstration Plots at BCCAC

Bird Seed Plot – All of the plants in the birdseed plot were removed September 27. The plan is to cover the birdseed plot with cut Sunn Hemp, as opposed to a cover crop the first week in October. This plant will add nitrogen back to the soil over the winter, since it is nitrogen fixing.

Tomato/Tomatillo Plot – Tomatoes are still producing and may be harvested up to the frost date. The tomato objective for this year was to compare the tomato yield and plant disease resistance between 3 hybrid plants (Supersonic) and 3 heirloom plants (Dixie Golden Giant). Currently 231 hybrid tomatoes have been harvested to 142 heirloom tomatoes. The hybrid plants resisted disease somewhat better as well. Both of these occurrences were expected since hybrids are bred for yield and disease resistance. The green tomatillo variety ripened earlier than the purple variety. Both varieties produced a good harvest. By September the green variety had mostly been harvested, but the purple variety was still producing fruit. Jam and syrup was made from the purple tomatillo. The purple variety is slightly sweeter than the green.

Sunn Hemp Plot – The Sunn Hemp is currently about 6 to 8 feet tall. Currently in late September it is in bloom having a yellow and orange flower. As mentioned earlier, it may be cut down to cover both the birdseed plot and Sunn Hemp plot for the winter.

Salvia Plot – The objective of this plot was to compare plant growth, height and width, amount of pollinators, bloom time and disease resistance. For the year both the blue violet salvia farinacea "Rhea" and "Blue Victoria" were very floriferous. The salvia coccinea "Lady in Red" also performed very well. All the plants are still flowering and most could probably withstand a few light frosts.

Herb Plot – The plants in this plot are used as mosquito repellent plants (mixing with water). They are basil, garden sage and lemon grass. All three are still growing nicely. The lemon grass is very tall.

Pollinator Plot – There are just a few plants blooming in late September. They are the New England Aster, the Agastache and Galliarda.

Hops Plot – The hops plants were taken down the last week of September.

Raised Beds – In late September these flowers are blooming well. In 5 raised beds there are zinnias, verbena, cuphea, coleus, marigolds and two growing vines – morning glory and white eyed susan. There is also a butterfly garden as a raised bed. Recently a 6th bed was added containing ornamental cotton plants. Some of the actual cotton fiber can now be seen on the plants.

Herb Garden – Various herbs growing near the farmhouse are used for cooking classes at the weekly farmers' market held each Saturday. For September the many aster plants

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are in bloom. Many plants of *Amsonia hubrichtii* are present and they will turn yellow/golden in October.

Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA)

No report.

Rancocas Nature Center

The team continued to do basic weeding and cutting back spent perennials. More *Asclepius* cultivars had to be planted because the monarch caterpillars ate all of the established plants. The team wants the caterpillars to mature until adulthood for a banding workshop to be held in October.

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

- September 13, 2017, "Gardening doesn't end in the fall" by Helen Turnbull
- September 28, 2017, "Plant perennials now for next year's beauty" by Bobbie Herbs.

Camden –

EDUCATION GARDENS

The signage committee has met and approved the sign designs created for the educational garden. The panels will go to the County liaison for approval on October 3 and then to the artist to create the panels. We have finished installing the rain garden area and have set up the water dispersement with soaker hoses. We have purchased the shrubs and small trees for the on-site installation. Installation is set for October 5.

GREENHOUSE

Some additional plugs of fall vegetable plants have been started for the educational garden. Some of the pansies are ready for sale.

Various perennials have been up-potted for the Spring Plant sale and use in the educational gardens

UP COMING PROJECTS

The bulbs are packaged and ready for sale at various Master Gardener events as well to the Master Gardener membership. This is part of the fall fund drive for our local master gardener organization.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Camden County fair was held at our greenhouse site in Blackwood NJ. Master Gardeners were at tables offering bulbs, mums and pansies for sale. The Plant Clinic was also held. Interested residents received a tour of the greenhouses and the hydroponics site.

In September, our educators visited the Haddon Township library for a talk on bulbs; the Camden Neighborhood Center for a talk on Spring Vegetable planning as well as appearances at local Green Team Fairs and a Street Festival. We also held the Plant Diagnostic Clinic at the MG site.

PUBLICITY

The publicity committee has developed various flyers and informational pieces about events and services at the MG office. They have developed magnets for giveaways at public events with the local MG phone number and email address printed on them. There is also a small tear away pad with information that can be placed at libraries and other outlets for consumers.

WORKSHOPS AND TALKS

On September 19, the MG Nelson Valentine gave a talk on the tomatoes the greenhouse had grown this past year. Various types of tomatoes were available for tasting. Some tomatoes were from the member's' gardens. Various tomato recipes were presented also from the memberships along with a sampling of various dishes.

Our herb garden specialists gave away herbs from the educational gardens and gave instruction on how to harvest the herbs. Recipes were also available.

On Tuesday, September 26 a daytime workshop on " Safe Gathering of Mushrooms" was presented by Dr. Chin S. Yang. There were 15 MG in attendance.

MG Recognition Luncheon

The Master Gardener Recognition Luncheon has been confirmed for November 16 at the Cooper River Boathouse. 22 new graduates will be recognized along with other awards for the MG membership.

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Cumberland - Helpline on the Road was a huge success at the Greenwich Artisans Faire & at The Arts & Craft Fair at Wheaton Arts. At Greenwich Secretary Doug Fisher stopped by our information table. One of our MG's was handing out Paw Paw's & Doug Fisher tried one for the first time & really enjoyed it and was intrigued by its taste. He took down her contact information & will contact her about the possibility of growing them commercially.

The trip to the Auburn Winery was fabulous. It consisted of a 3 hr tour which include a tour of the vineyard, tasting of many varieties of grapes, testing grapes in the lab for its acidity & sugar content. Also they tasted 15 different wines while enjoying a taste pallet tray.

Tomato seeding is continuing with Professor Tom Orton. So far there have been six sessions of tomato squeezing extracting the seeds from the Rutgers 250, Schermerhorn & KC146. These seeds will be for sale next year. The pepper trials are continuing at 2 locations this year a farm in Vineland & at RAREC. The dedicated group have assisted Wes with picking & grading and looking for diseases. The good peppers left over are delivered to local charities.

The Family Fun Day at the Cohanzick Zoo was a huge success with 1350 people in just 4 hrs. Along with the Butterfly tent we had Home Depot building bird houses. Learning tables from Shoprite who taught the children about nutrition, Turkey Talk, Exotic Birds, Mosquito Commission, along with rock & hand painting with a book giveaway station.

There was also 3 press release to promote the Family Fun Day & the Make & Take workshops. Also the recipients of this year Award of Excellent winners.

Essex –

Workshops during October and Beyond:

HORTICULTURE WORKSHOPS FOR SENIORS

SENIOR CITIZENS OF ESSEX COUNTY YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN HORTICULTURE WORKSHOPS PRESENTED BY THE RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION MASTER GARDENERS OF ESSEX COUNTY FALL 2017

- **OCTOBER 16 PUTTING THE GARDEN TO BED**
(Reserve by October 10)
- **NOVEMBER 20 THE SCIENCE OF GROWING**
(Reserve by November 14)

**ALL PROGRAMS TAKE PLACE ON MONDAYS, 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.
GARIBALDI HALL, 621A EAGLE ROCK AVE., ROSELAND
PROGRAMS ARE FREE. RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE EARLY.
SPACE IS LIMITED. WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT RESERVATIONS
ONCE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IS REACHED!**

Projects during October 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.

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- **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 o **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**
- **Caldwell Youth Garden Projects**

Events during October and Beyond:

- December 9th - The MGEC Holiday Party and general meeting are scheduled.

Speaker(s) at Our Monthly Meeting:

- On November 11th MGEC will host Dr. Tom Molnar at their general meeting. His topic is “Hazelnuts.”

Thomas Molnar received his PhD from Rutgers University in 2006. He is currently an Associate Professor in the Plant Biology Department of the Rutgers University School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA). His research program concentrates on the genetic improvement and study of hazelnuts (*Corylus*) and large-bracted dogwoods (*Cornus*). Part of this work includes germplasm exploration, collection, and evaluation. A major aspect of his current research is developing and characterizing genetic resistance to eastern filbert blight, a fungal disease which is the primary limiting factor of hazelnut production in the eastern North America. Breeding objectives in both woody ornamentals and hazelnuts emphasize selection for high levels of disease and pest resistance and cold hardiness.

Title and Address:

Associate Professor
Department of Plant Biology
School of Environmental and Biological Sciences,
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Primary Focus Area: Plant Breeding

Contact Information:

Dr. Thomas J. Molnar
Department of Plant Biology
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
59 Dudley Road, Foran Hall, Room 164
http://plantbiology.rutgers.edu/faculty/molnar/Thomas_Molnar.html

Hunterdon – The new class started on September 19 and has 21 members, the largest number since Hunterdon and Somerset split. A bus trip to NY Botanical Gardens was a big success. Over \$1500 were raised for a memorial for long time Master Gardener Olga Trimmer who passed away suddenly last month. She was our treasurer, helpline scheduler and active in many other efforts. The presentation team gave 3 presentations in September. Outreach activities continued for children’s programs and community events.

Mercer - During September, there were two tours for RMG’s. One was to Mt. Cuba Botanical Gardens, and the second to what seems an unlikely place: The Meadow Lakes retirement community in Hightstown. They actually do have an arboretum, and a staff responsible for it. One notable specimen there was a white

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pine that was grown from a seed that travelled on the space shuttle. On returning to Earth, the seed germinated in half the normal time. The tree appears normal. Another was a gigantic European beech, with an 85' spread and 42' trunk.

A group of our RMG's enjoyed a butterfly field trip to Cape May on Sept. 22.

On Sept. 27, our RMG's participated in an outreach event at the Hopewell Harvest Fair.

We are continuing Helpline summer hours (9 am to 3 pm, Monday-Friday) through October.

Our Annual Awards dinner will take place on Oct. 9.

On October 25, a Community Education event will be held at the Hamilton Public Library. This features Steven Kristoph, a NJ horticulturist, nurseryman, and longtime adjunct professor at Rutgers. The topic of his talk is "Natives Gone Wild".

The Mercer RMG's will tour Waldor Orchids in Linwood on Oct. 26th.

Our new class has started, with 14 interns. Our class of 2017 will graduate in November, but the number who will complete training successfully is not definite yet.

Middlesex - September 24 was our Master Gardener picnic. Its an opportunity to enjoy our gardens at their peak. It is a social event including the current class of interns, recent graduates, RCE staff and veteran master gardeners.

The butterfly house has completed another successful season and the netting has come down. September 24 was this year's tagging event and 78 monarchs were tagged and released that day. Since then, Dale Duchai, the project manager has personally tagged and released 93 more monarchs!

It's time to put our gardens to bed. Our garden cleanup will be October 14 from 10-12.

On the evening of October 24 the Middlesex County Master Gardeners will meet in our gardens at the EARTH center under the full moon for our second annual Howling in the Gardens.

Monmouth - Monmouth County MGs had a fabulous Recognition Picnic on Sunday, September 24th with over 90 in attendance held at Michael Winchell's lovely home and garden. Food was delicious and abundant, the day was warmish but perfect, the auction was fun and all of our events thus far were recognized. Three MGs received the President's Award: Cliff and Barbara Bandstra (Class of 2001) and Jim Seidel (Class of 2015) for continued and outstanding service to the Monmouth County Master Gardener Association. Congratulations and many thanks for all that you do and continue to do for us and the community!

As with everyone else, our gardens are slowing down, being cleaned up and will be put to bed for winter's rest. Helpline is still active but has slowed up a bit. Our PAR's latest total has produced 1,900 lbs. of produce which has been delivered to county food banks. Our School Programs Committee has a few schools interested in garden design and execution on their properties, MGs were on off-site Helplines at Open Space Pace, The Rose Society Show, Thompson Park Day, Tinton Falls Community Day and the Shrewsbury Library. The last is on-going as our liaison, Janet Dill, has set up Helpline on Saturdays and Wednesdays with the library to be on hand for garden questions from our community members. Further, MGs participated in a Fall Plant Swap at Deep Cut Gardens and have been asked for input on the "Secret Garden" project at the Museum/Tower Grounds in Ocean Township projected for the near future. Our plans for next summer are to have a Monmouth County Community Garden Tour which will be held on July 14th and the gears are already turning for this event!

At our General Meeting this past Wednesday night, our speaker was one of our interns, Angela Juffey, who is Secretary for the Central Bee Keepers Association, New Jersey Honey Show 1st place recipient 2017 and quite knowledgeable on the topic of honey bee habits, habitats and the care of honey bees. Her presentation, Honey Bee Basics, was very informative, interesting and well presented. Many thanks to Angela for sharing!

Upcoming are our election of Board Trustees and the graduation/milestone awards in November.

Morris

- We successfully trialed our first electronic outreach table display and collected feedback for minor revisions. Two additional trials will be run during the library outreach events in October using a new topic (Putting Your Garden to Bed).

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- We reinstated two cancelled HEP venues by training a new coordinator and reassembling the HEP team. We hope to reinstate a third venue once another coordinator is trained and its team is formed. A HEP coordinator/team member responsibilities write-up and a project catalogue has been readied for review next month by coordinators.
- We offered the highest number of outreach table events (five) ever this month.
- Speaker Bureau's (SB) members received pointers at their meeting on becoming better speakers using Toastmaster's recommendations. We will now be scheduling lectures for CEUs to our MGs.
- We organized a gathering of MGs at Bamboo Brook Arboretum following an instructor-led meadow tour.
- MGs planted a perennial flower garden, moved established shrubs and mulched at Acorn Hall.

Ocean - Ocean County MGs have been busy with Helpline and Tick identification. Spiders have been a hot topic. Diagnostics and IPM programs have been well-attended. MGs have been involved in gleaning and donating to food banks. A bus trip to the New York Botanical Garden on September 27th was enjoyed by many MGs and the public.

On Friday, September 29th, our Interns organized and presented the annual Fall Garden Day. The theme this year was "From the 'Dirt' Up" and featured fun, easy, and useful gardening tips. Dr. Steve Yergeau spoke about soil health in relation to growing anything, our own board member Suzanne Keane spoke about low maintenance gardening and using native plants, and Horticulturist Charlene Costaris discussed poisonous and edible plants.

Coming up in October is an all-day training event on Tuesday, October 24th from 9:00 to 3:00. This is open to all MGs. Out of Ocean County, the cost is \$10, and registration is required. The program is about Garden Murder Mysteries. Topics are "Serial Killers in the Garden," "Poisoners: Allelopathic Plants" presented by Bruce Crawford, and "Life in the City that Never Sleeps: Creatures of the Compost Bin." There are 4.5

Education Hours available from this all-day training.

Passaic - no report

Somerset - Joe reported that we have 4 new applicants for the New Class. Total IS 18 NEW MEMBERS IN CXLASS.

The land which was recently given to The Master Gardeners of Somerset County is not far down the road from the meeting place. It will be roto-tilled by the county this September. Since it will be a teaching garden, we will ask Nick Polanin to consult RUTGERS FOR SOME FUNDING

A NOMINATING COMMITTEE IS BEING ASSEMBLED to come up with some viable names for the top three positions on the Advisory council.

Sussex – Sussex County is working on focusing our Mission to deliver more education to our constituency. Additionally, various projects are beginning to wind down for the year. Fall cleanups are taking place at all of the garden areas that MGs maintain. We have a large class of new interns getting ready to begin classes shortly.

Union - Demonstration Garden had a busy summer!

1. Over 1330 pounds of herbs, berries and vegetables have been harvested by the Herb, Berry, Annex, and Sharing Gardens for local food banks and community programs.
2. The Sharing Garden and Annex used a grant for the purchase of a Mantis roto-tiller that can be used in their raised beds to mix the soil. They have also requested topsoil for next fall.
3. Theme plot # 4 - Plant Architecture in the Garden - The Executive Board had approved the "Cold Hardy Tropicals" bed conversion to "Plant Architecture in the Garden." Two members of the Class of 2016 are

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heading this project. Plants have been purchased and planted. A large standing plant trellis was also purchased and installed in the plot for the clematis.

4. Berry Patch installed heavy duty bird netting.

5. An additional plastic greenhouse table was purchased and assembled by MG. We now have 14 plastic grow tables in the greenhouse.

6. A new pressure treated wood table was built by our MG to replace wood table that was falling apart. The plant sale committee uses these tables on the patio for all the plant donations. An additional table will be built this fall.

7. Completed Events

June 20 - Cerebral Palsy League of Cranford visit to the Demo Garden.

June 24 - MG Family and Friends Picnic, approximately 40 people attended.

July 27 evening - Children's Specialized Hospital visited.

Trailside Nature and Science Center, and Gardening with Children Master Gardeners partnered again to offer summer programs to children attending their day camps. They were: July 12 - Bugs and Beyond: 3rd and 4th graders and - Branching Out: 1st and 2nd graders; July 26 - Art of Nature: 3rd and 4th graders; August 2 - Branching Out: 1st and 2nd graders; August 9 - Bugs and Beyond: 3rd and 4th graders; August 16 - Art of Nature: 3rd and 4th graders.

Rutgers Vegetable Gardening Series: This summer was our first Vegetable Gardening Series of lectures at our Demonstration Garden featuring the Sharing Garden. The programs started at 6 pm in the Sharing Garden, then into the TMA classroom for the Power Point Lecture and finished by 8:00. The dates were: June 22 – "Starting and Maintaining a Vegetable Garden;" July 25 –"Keeping Pests Out of the Garden;" August 9 "Harvesting and Food Safety;" Sept 7 "Composting".

Outreach and Education

RCE was at Oak Ridge Park in Clark, NJ with the Union County Summer Arts Concert Series on August 2. In addition to listening to Dead Space (a Grateful Dead Experience), questions were answered and information was handed out to the public.

Herb Garden was given a wonderfully informative tour of the Middlesex County Herb, Butterfly and Vegetable Gardens by County Coordinator, Angela Monaghan.

Helpline continues to answer many questions, especially on Mondays.

Our new "Big 3-0" MG class will be starting with 25 members and a waiting list!

Members went to the back of the room to assemble the necessary materials to be placed in the Conference Handout bags.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was posted and seconded, voted to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted
Jane Gardner, Acting Secretary