

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Minutes of June 5, 2018 RMGANJ Meeting

Pat Schanzlin President, welcomed the group. She reported that there is a card going around for Nick Polanin since she believes that this will be his last meeting with us. She and Jane brought a cake for Nick. Terry Zane also welcomed everyone. New delegates and guests were introduced including: new alternate delegate Sudi Soloman from Mercer County, and new alternate delegate Susan Post from Morris County.

Secretary's Minutes from April 2018 Meeting: Tricia Deering, Recording Secretary, reported that she had emailed out the May RMGANJ minutes and received one comment – to fix the spelling of Olmsted, which she resent to the organization. The minutes from the May meeting were accepted as updated through a motion and second.

Attendance:

Atlantic:	Mary Lou Monihan
Bergen:	Karen Pennell, Carolyn Gretchen, Melody Corcoran, Joe Cooper
Burlington:	Terry Zane, Nick Hendershot, Lyn Avale
Camden:	Diane Shonyo
Cumberland:	Carol Henry
Essex:	Jane Kinkle, David Haimes
Hunterdon:	Tricia Deering, Dewey Goodwin
Mercer:	Bob Robinson, Betty Scarlata, Sudi Solomon
Middlesex:	Kathy Dopart, Jerri Barclay
Monmouth:	Gayle Williams, Bob Magovern, Jay Schaeffer
Morris:	Susan Post, Marion Ceruzzi
Ocean:	Suzanne Keane, Roberta Quinn
Passaic:	Barbara Cook, Darlene Nowak
Somerset:	
Sussex:	Jane Gardner, Pat Schanzlin
Union:	Dolores Batz-Culp
Rutgers University:	Nick Polanin

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jane Gardner, Treasurer, reported that the May balance is \$6,487.94. The reduction is the result of holds being put on the account for conference expenses from Rutgers services. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted was made, seconded and approved. Bob Robinson reported that Barnes and Noble said they sent in their payment in March. Jane will see if she can find it in the budget postings.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Pat Schanzlin reported that there was a discussion at the coordinator meetings about the coordinators presentation at the conference. The three involved coordinators are responsible for the session. A concern was raised over edible plants as a topic. Some coordinators may not approve the talk for CE hours.. Pat will tell the speaker in writing that she should focus on the plants, not recipes. Another concern was raised that some counties do not allow medicinal plants as a topic.

MASTER GARDENER'S COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Nick Polanin reported that on July 1 he starts as chair for the Department. He also reported that he has the Rutgers250 books for the speaker gifts. They are in his campus office and he will bring them to the July 10 meeting. Nick summarized key items from the May 30 coordinator meeting, they include: reprints of the meshed outdoor banners were passed out to those Counties who needed them; three counties are still pending their submissions for the 2017 Annual Report; some counties are having good success with an online tool to report volunteer hours – he hopes to set it up for the state. There is no update on protection of minors. In the Strategic Plan for the Department, the State was broken up into regions. Discussion has started on determining the regional needs. There may be a coordinator for each region with liaisons from each county. RCE in Union, Somerset, Burlington and Mercer and mosquito control in other counties are collecting ticks to inventory the different kinds, in an effort to determine the extent of the Asian Longhorn tick presence are in the state. The perceived or implied

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endorsement issue was discussed. We need to develop a disclaimer for perceived/implied endorsement situations.

There was discussion on what kind of evaluation tools the counties use to evaluate their intern training program

The issue of collecting sales tax was discussed. All county offices are to start collecting sales tax on plant sales, pesticide training manuals, soil test kits and any other tangible items that are sold by extension or Master Gardener organizations. If the soil test mailer bag was not required and it was all done online or paper submission with the person mailing the soil in a Ziploc, then there would be no tax required. Discussion followed about whether the mailer could be eliminated. The consensus was that it is not needed.

Passaic and Sussex county coordinator position searches are underway.

The Sign-up link for the Great Tomato Tasting will go out late this week.

Nick reported that he will get registration set up with OPCE.

Old Business

Apparel Sales: Pat Schanzlin reported that the apparel vendor, All Colors, will set up a web page where individuals Rutgers Master Gardeners can order Master Gardener apparel. There is a fee and several counties have agreed to pay it. In addition, a bulk ordering mechanism is being set up.

Conference Duty Assignments:

- **Awards Booklet: Ocean** – The request has been sent out to the coordinators for the awards writeups; the delegate from Cumberland County was confirmed. The due date for the writeups is July 15. Suzanne have a quote from the printer and are working on PO form
- **Bookstore: Mercer.** There are two books from Leda. Pat Schanzlin will get their names to Bob. Mercer will also talk to Bruce Crawford about the Rutgers Gardens tour.
- **Catering: Burlington** – Pat Schanzlin reported for Marilyn Bidrawn, that the PO is in place.
- **Door prizes: Somerset** – the decision has been made to reduce to 5 baskets. It was decided that the raffle number will be picked after lunch and posted on the projection screen after the last speaker. An announcement will be made that the winning numbers will be posted after the last talk.
- **Evaluations: Atlantic;** looking for feedback on whether any changes should be made to the questionnaire. Atlantic will have a team stationed at the doors to collect the evaluations and an announcement will be made.
- **Facilities: Essex** – A preliminary invoice is expected in July. Clarification was needed as to whether the schedule includes Q&A. Pat Schanzlin responded that the 90-minute slots will include Q&A. Another question is whether PC or Mac rental is needed. Both Joe Cooper and Terry Zane will bring PCs, so PC rental is not needed. Both a floor mike and lavalier are needed. The contact is in place; there will probably a price increase.
- **Facility cleanup: Passaic;** this task is under control
- **Financial: Sussex**

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- **Garden Market: Bergen** - Karen Pennell reported that currently only 3 counties are interested. She questioned whether we should hold the market if we only have 3 or 4 counties. We will wait until August to make the decision. We could move Barnes and Noble into the market and ask the River Keeper if they want a table.
- **Master Gardener Merchandise Sales: Sussex**
- **Program Flyer: Cumberland** – they do a draft now and establish a deadline for finalizing the list of coordinators.
- **Program Speakers: Hunterdon**; Communication with the speakers is being handed off to Hunterdon. Pat Schanzlin will send the information to Dewey Goodwin.
- **Registration Desk: Morris** – Currently they have two volunteers lined up but need to get two more.. Terry Zane will do the lunch tickets.
- **Registration Folders: Camden**; the counties who have volunteered to get folders need to let Camden know how many they will be getting.
- **Signs: Middlesex** – Kathy Dopart said she has the signs.
- **Speaker Gifts: Monmouth** - They will be Rutgers250 books. Nick Polanin will bring them to the July 10 meeting.
- **Video: Bergen** – each county will need to get their photos for the video to Joe Cooper.

Break: 11:35 am to 12:00 pm. Thank you to Sussex County for today's break food and beverages. Atlantic County is responsible for refreshments for the July 2018 meeting.

New Business:

Refreshments:

Pat Schanzlin reported that this is the time when the refreshments schedule gets reset. She asked whether we want to continue as we have? There was discussion on options: nothing, food but no beverages, catch as catch can. A decision was made to continue with food but have BYO beverages. Use supplies for pot luck. Terry Zane said she loves to bake and if a county needs help they should contact her.

30 Year Membership:

Three Master Gardeners will have 30-year membership this year. Pat Schanzlin will contact Marilyn Bidrawn to find out what a 30-year pin would cost. There was discussion that perhaps we should do something else, like a plaque or flowers. We also have an issue with the hands logo. This question will be tabled for next month

2019 Conference Theme: Table until next month.

Publicity: We need a volunteer to make a poster. Members need to send the "Save the Dates" out.

COUNTY REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

Atlantic – Atlantic County Master Gardener's had a very successful plant sale during the "torrential rains" of May 19th, 2018.

Our new site, which was very difficult in its location at the David Woods 4-H Center on Route 50, proved to be an excellent site in so many ways. And, despite the nasty weather, we cleared over \$7000 and had,

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what everyone agreed with a wonderful jump start into a new era for our annual plant sale. That was after a few years of trying to reinvent ourselves.

We have a new program this summer which will involve garden tours within our Membership. The first tour is planned for June 27th, more information to come at our meeting on June 10th.

Our Mays Landing Library project is working with our technical school in the county in order to build raised garden beds. Students will be working on it and it is funded by a grant.

Atlantic County special services continues to bring their students who volunteer in our demo garden. They are helping with mulch and cleaning our wooded area which is expanding. We will be developing a bed devoted to bayberry plants that will be available for our plant sale in 2019.

Our Extension Office landscaping committee has planted Rutgers dogwood trees and new shrubs.

Our horticultural therapy program at Seashore Gardens celebrated Nursing Home week with a themed "Holland" program and did window boxes with bulbs and also planted fruit trees in their outside sensory garden.

Our round-table and helpline are up and running. And, our two soil compaction workshops were full. We participated in the Galloway Greenfest, worked at the Pomona School, and is preparing a plan for a Butterfly Garden at the library in Brigantine working with their Green team and library. A \$2000 grant has been awarded for this work.

Our graduation of the first Atlantic County Night Class will take place at the Mays Landing library on the evening of June 14th at 5pm. This class has been particularly successful and enthusiastic. A major change for our program was integrating the class into some activities prior to their completion of their coursework and this has been a very positive change.

There will be a community garden "Train the Trainor" class in Atlantic County on June 20th. Open to all Master Gardeners.

Bergen – During our two-part meeting in May, forager and guest speaker Paul Tappenden lead a walk at Thielke Arboretum while foraging for edibles and later presented: "All about Foraging" at the regular evening meeting. Paul is a forager, folk herbalist, teacher, and author. His studies in these areas emphasize the traditional Native American uses of plants as well as other ethnobotanical traditions.

Volunteer Site News:

Community Outreach Events **Earth Day events continued in May with the Earthfest at Overpeck Park. A well attended event in part due to the beautiful sunny day after weeks of rain.**

Hackensack River Greenway

Walk with Claire through Teaneck. **Celebrates the 50th anniversary of the signing of the National Trails Act on June 2 with a walk to the Greenway lead by Claire Karlick, MG Class of 1998. Medicinal herbs walk and talk, Pat Libutti, MG Class of 2012, will point out native herbs in the Mary Topolsky Garden and discuss their uses on June 9. Some may be called weeds but have been used medicinally. Pat will explain.**

New Jersey Botanical Garden/Skylands

Public Garden Day celebration tour **with Dr. Edith Wallace will lead a garden tour on June 1 to celebrate New Jersey Public Garden and Arboretum Day designated by the state Senate and Assembly. Meet at the Carriage House for a short video and see the current blooms. Wildflower Garden Tour on June 2nd. Enjoy a walk with flowers and ferns, join Darlene Nowak and Sandy Zenkel, wildflower garden volunteers, to check out the many delightful flowers and ferns in the shady, wooded wildflower garden. Brass Works quintet in concert: enjoy everything from classical to ragtime on June 8th outdoor concert.**

Bergen County Audubon sponsors bluebird walk. On June 10th, members will lead a walk through the gardens and fields to visit nest boxes and learn why they're important to the Eastern bluebird. Participants will identify the many birds and butterflies found along the way. The many faces of hostas: From dwarfs to giants. Join Suzy Ludwig of the Tri-State Hosta Society on June 10 to explore the wonderful world of hostas with a tour of the Skylands hosta display garden led by David Chopko, who has managed and developed the garden for NJBG in recent years. Father's Day family woodland hike: an easy, child-friendly hike in the garden's woodlands June 17. Here you'll learn about the plants and animals around you in a hike designed to fit the group.

Teaneck Creek Conservancy

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Learn to identify trees on June 16th with an arborist *Arborist Ryan Duff of Almstead Tree and Shrub Care Co.* will lead a discussion during a nature walk with an emphasis on identifying common trees in our area and in the conservancy. This is the second of four sessions. Each session focuses on identifying specific trees throughout the seasons. Habitat Day June 24 at the conservancy. Events will include walks and talks in the butterfly garden; walks and talks in the bird garden; information from local nature organizations; kids activities; and volunteer opportunities.

Thielke Arboretum of Glen Rock

Nosh with nature: Why you should have native

edible plants in your garden **Amy Gage, an ecologist and PhD candidate at Rutgers University, will discuss her favorite native edible plants and recipes and will serve prepared samples on June 16. i. Amy will make recommendations for starting your own native edible landscape while creating wildlife habitat in your backyard. A native edible plant sale follows the lecture.**

Van Saun Park

Welcomes *Tacoma and Chinook*, two mountain lion cubs to their new home at the Bergen County Zoo in Van Saun Park.

Burlington –

2018 proved another successful year for our Garden Expo at Burlington County Community Agriculture Center (BCCAC). The day provided garden tours, workshops on staying healthy in the garden, growing strawberries, composting, varmints in the garden, herbs, soil testing and fertilization, and rose pruning. There were cooking demonstrations and make and take for the younger participants.

Ag agent, Bill Bamka, has started his IPM talks, each Thursday at BCCAC. On June 7th, he is holding a seminar on tick ID and information. The Burlington Ag office has been designated a collection site for ticks. Katie Wickel, coordinator, presented a continuing education lecture on turf weeds. She is also planning a visit to Belview Winery, Landisville, NJ to learn about viticulture. This will include a tour and tasting.

We will have an Ask the Master Gardener table at the Smithville Earth Fair on Sunday, June 10th. Plus, we will have a table at BCCAC farmers market the fourth Saturday of each month from May through October. If you like us, join us on Facebook.

Project reports:

Butterfly Garden at Smith Woods –

- This month we finished planting all our host and nectar plants besides mulching all of the beds.
- We have spotted black swallow tails ready to lay their eggs in the fennel and dill.
- Also visiting the garden have been fritillaries, white cabbage, painted ladies and skippers. We are beginning our butterfly tallies.
- At each plot, we have provided information about a host or nectar plant and what butterflies it attracts.

Donation Garden at Medford Leas –

- We have been preparing the garden area for planting. This includes building pole bean towers, assembling cucumber trellises, and removing black plastic used for weed suppression.
- Two types of self-watering containers were constructed and raised beds cleaned.
- A truck load of horse manure has been spread.
- Numerous vegetables, started in the greenhouse from seeds, have been planted.
- We harvested and donated some early crops – rhubarb, salad greens, radishes, strawberries, and pac choi. Over wintered onions are drying.

IPM and Demonstration Plots at BCCAC –

- The month of May has been quite challenging. The demonstration plots have been planted but the weeds are gaining with all the rain.
- Buckwheat is coming up, but the hopes are already showing signs of disease and insect damage.
- The blueberries are thriving, the plants look healthy.
- The strawberries are affected by the amount of rain, but the berries are numerous and will soon be ready for eating.
- The cotton and peanuts do not feel at home in this climate, but we are hoping that warmer weather will remedy the slow beginning.
- Salvias have been planted with a few more plants to be added to begin the trial.

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- The mixed grains plot has been seeded and the new plants are starting to emerge.
- The raised beds are all planted using the color wheel as a guide and the kitchen garden has received all the plants for the season.
- The positive aspect with all the rain is that we do not need to water.

Pinelands Preservation Alliance Kitchen Garden –

- We are addressing Rutgers' goal of focusing on education. We have started the process of developing a three to four-year plan to reflect the historical aspects of the site. The house was built in 1752. The kitchen garden will be developed to reflect what would have been grown in that time period. Focus will be on medicinal herbs, flowers of the time and other crops.

Rancocas Nature Center

- No Report

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

- "Butterflies, Beautiful and Beneficial", by Joan Johnson
- "Please Don't Eat the Berries". By Meredith Bogert

Camden – Horticulture School

Horticultural School ended May 1. 20 people completed the class. The interns are actively joining various opportunities.

Greenhouse

The Greenhouse continues to provide plants for the educational garden and other talks including the Mother's Day baskets, herb talk, and county sales. The plants sales have netted \$4,000 dollars.

Educational Gardens

The educational garden project continues to meet for on-site working sessions in the garden. New plants are being added including three varieties of sunflowers, gourds and loofa plants. The early vegetable garden plants are yielding produce and it is being shared at a community site. Our hardscape committee is designing and pricing a fence to protect the herb and six vegetable gardens due to deer and groundhogs. Three to four interns join the core group every week to assist the project.

Programs:

The following were April Actives:

25 people attended the afternoon workshop for Master Gardeners on grape growing

Home Owners School

A "Make and Take Herb" was given April 18th. as part of the Home Owners workshop series. 64 people attended the event held at the MG environmental center. The workshop received high marks by the attendees.

Spring Fair

A large turn out came to the May 5th Spring Fair. Talks by Mike McGrath, vendor sales ,a children's table ,food, garden tours, and a diagnostic clinic were on the agenda. We also sold our vegetables, herbs and flowers

Clothing items

Master gardeners can now order vests, shirts, and other items on our new logoed clothing offer. All orders will be pre-paid and pre-ordered by individual master gardeners.

Community Service

10 talks and booth staffing were held in April. Year to date,40 Master Gardeners have participated in the outreach and community events.

The committee has purchased MG pens and bookmarks as give away at events. We are also buying a prize wheel with various questions on it to be used at events. Correct answers will be rewarded with a pen or a bookmark. The bookmarks are made from seed impregnated note paper

Upcoming Nominations for the Board

A nominating committee has been created to nominate candidates for 2019 board.

Cumberland: We have a few classes left with graduation on June 26. This year we will be having the graduation out at a local restaurant.

There will be a trip to The Morning Star Day Lily Farm in Salem county on June 21. Also planning a bus trip to Snyder Farm for the Great Tomato Tasting.

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The plant sale on May 5th was a huge success we sold out!!!

Work is ongoing getting the Rain, Butterfly & Japanese Gardens cleaned up at the Extension Center. We will be having a workshop painting rocks to make a faux pond for the Japanese Garden.

We will once again be hosting the Monarch Teacher Network on August 20 & 21st from 8:30 to 4:30pm both days. Anyone interested can call Pam Burton the Cumberland County Extension Center 856-451-2800 ext. 4. The cost is \$ 99. pp

The MG's Have also been busy beautifying the Broad Street Historic Cemetery & the Meditation Garden at Buddhist Temple. Helping them get ready for the Obon Festival on July 21st.

Our Horticulture Enrichment team will be ending the season at the Veterans Home helping plant tomatoes & other various herbs. They will be back in September.

The new Helping Hands group have been busy helping a few of our older MG's getting their gardens ready for the season.

Essex –

Master Gardeners of Essex County Meeting Schedule and Speakers:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Subject</u>
6/9/2018	Deb Ellis	Feeding Butterflies, Not Bambi – Deer Resistant Natives
<p>Deb Ellis loves to share the joy of growing native plants because she cares about the environment and loves the butterflies, insects, and birds that native gardens attract! Deb developed her garden in Montclair while raising her kids and commuting to NYC, so she became an ex-pert in “keep it simple” gardening by using native flowers and bushes. Deb has had a Certified Backyard Habitat through the National Wildlife Federation since 2005 and became a Master Gardener in 2014. Deb thanks her dad Homer, who planted wildflowers with her when she was a girl, and her mom Lois Mary, who made beautiful bouquets from the flowers.</p>		
7/14/2018	Jean Epitaph	Native Ferns of Norther New Jersey
10/13/2018	Marc Zukovich	Fall Fertilization of Trees, Shrubs and Lawns
11/10/2018	Ruth Hayden	Private Gardens of China – Principals of Design we still see today

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 Winter 2018

- JUNE 18: JUNE IS BUSTING OUT ALL OVER
(Reserve by June 12)

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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!

Master Gardeners of Essex County Class of 2018 Lesson Schedule

If you are interested in sitting in on a specific class please contact Chrystine Gaffney at cg709@njaes.rutgers.edu to let her know you intend to come. The class is very full (40 students) so space is at a premium.

Date	Subject	Instructor
6/6/2018	Field trip to Greenwood Gardens	Sonia Uyterhoeven
6/13/2018	Broadleaf Evergreens	Steven Kristoph
6/20/2018	Final Exam/Evaluations/Program Wrap Up	Jan Zientek
9/15/2018	Class Graduation and BBQ	

MGEC Volunteer Hub – Weather Permitting

404 Community Garden,

404 14th Avenue, Irvington, contact Keisha Newell at 404communitygar-den@gmail.com.

Branch Brook Park Cherry Tree Pruning Team

Meets weekly to prune historical collection of 5000 cherry trees. To volunteer call Lois Young 973-744-5696 or helle-borus133@vrizon.net.

Branch Brook Park -Prudential Concert Grove - (Southern Section)!

We lead volunteers in weeding, pruning, planting and trans-planting perennials and shrubs.! Come join us any day from October 2nd through November 6th, Monday through Friday from 9:30 through 12:30 (or whatever time to you care to give). We will also be working with volunteers on Saturdays: 10/28 - 9:30 to 12:30; 11/4 - 11:00 to 2:00.

Meet at the “Lions” and bring tools and gloves.!

For more information contact Kasey Goger at kgoger@verizon.net or Mary Jedrezjewski at maryjed@optonline.net

Brookdale Park Pruning —ongoing pruning of Trees, to volunteer contact Pat Hewitt 201-913-8419, or hewitt36@verizon.net.

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Caldwell Pollinator Garden - Creating new gardens. Contact Warren Marchioni. wmarchioni39@gmail.com

Education Outreach

Projects in schools. Contact Fran Kroeckel 973-744-6547, robertkroecel@comcast.net

Giving Garden an *A Lot to Grow* community garden that grows produce for the food pantries and soup kitchens in the Nutley area. Contact Elizabeth (Liz) Li-loia: eliloia@aol.com

Glenmont Project

Thos. Edison Nat'l. Historical Park in West Orange, Amy Trimarco, aatri-marco@comcast.net, 201-600-8656;

The Greenhouse has plenty of room for those that want to transplant and water. Contact Gail Chmura, chmurag@verizon.net or Pat Hewitt, hewitt36@verizon.net

Grounds Around Garibaldi Hall — help maintain and beautify. Meet Tuesday morning-early. Bring your gloves/tools. Contact Tony Oszmianski (973) 226-1351.

Special Garibaldi project workdays scheduled throughout the year. **Contact Suzanne Broullon.**

GROW Community Out-reach Program., 3-4 Sessions a year, half-day long, recent Graduates become involved. Contact Mike Mallette (973)230-4266 mfieldhand@verizon.net

Helpline volunteer-- Con-tact Lynda Meehan at (973) 228-5806 or lyndam1112@gmail.com, or call the Help Line at 973-228-2210; mastergar-denerec@gmail.com

Horticulture for Seniors meets monthly with seniors. Contact Helen Kesner (973) 731-0717, hkesner@comcast.net

MGEC Bee Keepers at Garibaldi Hall. Beginners must observe until the proper course is taken and equipment purchased. Contact David Haimes, dhaimes@comcast.net.

Pollinator Garden In Brookdale Park

For information contact Blanca Gerard at mygerard30@verizon.net

Rose Garden in Brookdale Park NEEDS HELP, lots of get down in the dirt type of work, pick days/time Contact Susan Jankolovits (973) 783-0977 sjankolovits@hotmail.com

South Orange Elks Rent Party Garden Community garden whose produce goes to food banks. Contact Karen Rutberg, at klrutberg@aol.com.

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Speakers Bureau is part of our community outreach. Choose a topic of interest and become an active speaker. Contact *Jan Zientek* at Zientek@NJAES.Rutgers.edu and let him know what topics you can give programs on to other organizations.

The Teaching Garden

At Presby Memorial Iris Garden in Montclair. Contact Fred Solomine at fsolomine@gmail.com. with School Garden programs, Demonstration and Sensory Gardens around the RCE Building, Public presentations, Community Events and much more. MGs enjoyed a bus trip to Mt. Cuba and look forward to having Rich Buckley from the Plant Diagnostic Lab to speak to the group on current pests and diseases and other anomalies in our landscape this season.

Mercer - Our annual plant sale, held on May 5, was very successful. In spite of the poor Spring (?) weather, RMG's provided about 2000 donated plants, the most ever. One of the vendors provided tomatoes and pepper plants, and all the vendors had a wide variety of plants and shrubs. All were very pleased with the event, and all are looking forward to returning in 2019.

The talk by Bruce Crawford, scheduled for June 2 at MEG, was cancelled because of predicted heavy storms. We learned that an 80% chance of storms is not a 100% chance, but decisions have to be made! The talk has been rescheduled for 10:30 am, Saturday, June 16, at MEG.

We now have a weed presentation, "Wonderful World of Weeds", at each meeting. This includes description of the plant, identification markers, uses, and control.

During July and August, we only have one meeting, since so many people travel during these months. Our next meeting is on July 9, at Mercer County Park, in an outdoor pavilion.

A new summer program is planned for an Ewing preschool, our first program for preschoolers. During the regular school year, we work with more than 300 elementary school children each week.

A speaker's bureau presentation on "Successful Gardening" was presented by Nora Sirbaugh at the NJ State Library on May 16.

On June 14, a group of RMG's will travel to Jardin de Buis, a NJ estate devoted to the study and propagation of boxwood varieties. The estate is built in French manor house style.

Our move to the new Extension facilities is still planned for October of this year. Construction is underway, and facilities plans are complete. This will be a considerable improvement over our present overcrowded location.

The program for our June meeting featured Dr. David Markowitz, a professor of entomology at Rutgers U. He is the co-founder of National Moth Week, which is now a very large international affair. Its aim is to promote the value of moths to the environment. He gave a fascinating and extremely beautiful presentation on Moths of New Jersey, including methods to attract moths for identification. National moth week is July 21-29, 2018. Check out the National Moth Week website at <http://nationalmothweek.org/>

Middlesex

- We had a successful plant sale during Rutgers Day. Plants were grown by the current interns and additional volunteers.

-The Children's Garden has hosted two out of three workshops for kids where they explore topics such as seed starting, composting, and insects. The next children's workshop is Saturday, July 21st at 11am, focusing on garden harvesting.

- Due to the rainy weather the grand opening of the Butterfly House was postponed a week to this Saturday, June 9th from 10am-12pm.

- Master Gardeners have been planting a "Rows for the Hungry Garden" and will be donating produce to Elijah's promise and MCFoods.

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-Interns have been participating in the planting of the Vegetable Demonstration Garden. If any MGs would like to tour the gardens at the Earth Center, they can contact Angela at Angela.monaghan@rutgers.edu

-Earth Center Open House is Saturday, August 18th at 10am where we will be giving garden tours, with food vendors and live music taking place. All are welcome!

Monmouth – As like most of you, May was a very busy month! Not only is our Helpline jumping, but we pulled off another fantastic plant sale at our Spring Garden Days, May 18th and 19th despite the rain, mud and muck! Die-hard buyers came, found what they were looking for, purchased and sat and listened to our MG speakers on various topics (we moved inside for this portion as the obnoxious downpours continued outside!) Our MGs are the best! What awful conditions we had for two well planned days! Well, it paid off with happy buyers...new friends made, and all hands were on deck! We were so glad so many of our new interns helped in so many ways!

Our JMG Program is more than halfway through its lessons- inside and out. Their garden has all been planted, and as with all of the gardens on the Ag. Building grounds, is in maintenance mode. Our PAR has begun to produce as crops, such as, sweet potato slips, and tomatillos are still being planted for the future. Our Helpline Roundtable Committee meets once a month to discuss issues that arise on Helpline. Their July meeting will be at Mike Diehl's farm out in Clarksville to learn more about blueberries, blackberries, raspberries and daylilies...then, we rest with a cool drink and lunch! Horticulture Enrichment continues its cycle out at the Pinebrook Care facility in Englishtown with their many interested residents. The Membership Education Committee has its next trip to the Webb's Mill Bog, led by our very own guide, Ellen Terry. During the summer many of us have signed up for the nighttime Garden Writing course which should be very interesting and fun! The School Programs Committee continues to be busy but winding down as the school year comes to a close. However, there are those school projects that will be on-going. In the month of April, 11 Speakers Bureau presentations took place with 13 scheduled and executed in May. Friday, June 8th two new presentations will be vetted: "The 5 Beneficial Insects" and "Butterflies 101- Creating a Backyard Habitat". At our May General Meeting Brian Cairns, class of 2017, spoke on "Bonsai Gardening". Included in his presentation was a demonstration of repotting a tree, an understanding of the Japanese tradition of Bonsai and the general idea of what is expected in this art. You must be very dedicated indeed! To end our May General Meeting, we all gathered out at our Memorial Garden to remember those MGs who have passed and celebrate their time with us.

As we look forward, at our June General Meeting we will be awarding our scholarship to three deserving students to help to further their education in horticulture and related fields. We will be gearing up for the County Fair and our annual Bugs, Birds and Beyond event scheduled for August 18th from noon till 4 PM. This year the raptors will return as well as our 4-Hers and their animals, the Lady Bug Lady and the butterfly experience with live butterflies. New this year will be the addition of live penguins (yes, I said penguins!) and instead of our traditional cockroach race, we might use mice as the cockroaches (Madagascar) are getting old and just don't care to "race" anywhere anymore!

Our next MG trip will take us to the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens on June 21st setup for us by our Trips and Tours Committee. Many thanks to all of our MGs for a fantastic month...you are all stars!

Morris -

Speakers Bureau: The busy season for the Speakers Bureau is well under way. With over fifty presentations scheduled for 2018.

Horticultural Enrichment Program: The summer months are upon us as we take a few months off at some locations in the HEP program.

State Conferences Topics:

Helpline: Has been a little slow so far this year probably because of all the rain.

Community Outreach Event: Our Library Outreach programs are in full swing at the Parsippany and Morris County libraries.

Rutgers Master Gardener classes: We have already received ten applications for the class that begins in September. Graduation for the class of 2016-2017 is set for June 12, 2018 with 15 of the 17 class members finished with their first-year commitment hours.

Snyder Farm: The last WPS (worker protection standard) training class was given on May 23, 2018 which is mandatory training for working in the greenhouses or in the fields at Snyder Farm. We have about 20

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master gardeners with WPS training in 2018. Pete Nitzsche along with a few Rutgers Master Gardeners are currently working on this year's Strawberry crop.

Projects

- The Community Garden Detective program has begun where RMG's search the entire community gardens where our demonstration plots are in order to identify and correct pest and diseases problems as they arise. We share this information with the local community garden managers in neighboring towns.
- Morris County Rutgers Master Gardeners are working on a new plant design for the Pequannock Library.
- The Great Swamp invasive plant removal program begins its second year.

Ocean – In our part of the state, we have been battling lots of rain and cool temperatures, but the gardens are slowly but surely starting to produce vegetables we donate. Work continues in the shrub, perennial, and display gardens. In May we had garden design workshops with Bruce Crawford. On a rare sunny day, we had a bus trip with tours of the Morris Arboretum and Chanticleer. Community Outreach Events is very busy over the next few months with information tables at many venues that reach Ocean County residents and visitors to the Jersey Shore. Helpline is in full swing with Interns having been trained and getting more comfortable sharing their knowledge with the public. The public has been bringing in lots of ticks for identification and plants and insects for diagnosis.

In June, we have two Diagnostics Roundtables scheduled. Due to the efforts and initiative of the Ocean County MGs, June has been proclaimed "Tick Awareness Month" by our Freeholders and in most of the county municipalities. MGs attended meetings at which the proclamations were read.

Of interest to MGs around the state, we have two opportunities for EDUs at all-day trainings. On June 14th, there is Train the Trainer Community Gardening from 9 to 3:30. Cost is \$35, and lunch is included. There are 4.5 EDUs available. MGs must register at mgcommunitygardentrainingprogram.eventbrite.com/. On June 21st, there is all-day training with the theme of "Gardening Makes You Feel Good." This runs from 9 to 3:30 and has 4.5 EDUs.

Passaic – The Master Gardeners of Passaic who were to move out of the Nike building has been put on hold. A propagation class was held at Laurelwood Arboretum and everyone was given a "potting kit" so they could donate plants for the upcoming plant sale. The plant sale held at the Dey Mansion in Wayne on an on again off again rainy Saturday, was a success.

Graduation and the Awards ceremony were held at the last meeting. One of the members catered the affair with some delicious food.

A butterfly garden is being planned for the Goffle Brook Park in Hawthorne. There are plans to have garden tours at the houses of some of the members during the summer. Gardens do not need to be perfect. It is nice to learn about successes and failures.

Volunteers are working at the pollinator gardens at Preakness Health Care and also planted flower boxes and barrels at the facility. Horticulture therapy is also held at the center. At the last visit, 50 residents planted flowers of their choosing in a pot to be taken back to their rooms.

A trip is being planned to White Flower Farms on June 27, 2019.

Somerset– It has been decided that Somerset will use "Boosting" on Facebook in order to attract new members. The outlook is for a low enrollment this time around.

The Recognition Luncheon was very cheery and very enjoyed by all attendees.

The 4 H Fair theme this year will be "Unleash Your Passion".

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The Habitat Committee will be supervising and teaching the landscaping of a Habitat for Humanity Home in Somerset. The Planting date is June 2, 2018.

The May general meeting was very busy: internal plant sale from 8:30- 10:30; meeting and announcements; our speaker at 11:30.

Sussex - In Sussex County, we recently had our rewards dinner at the Fairgrounds Greenhouse dining room. We had a lovely evening, with many outstanding MGs recognized for their contributions to the program. Our fencing and electric services are currently being installed on the RCE Office grounds where the new Demonstration Garden will soon be emerging. We expect a good deal of progress to be made on this program throughout the summer and fall seasons. All of our projects are currently underway, Newton Green (the Sussex County park which is dedicated to veterans in the center of Newton) was being readied for the Memorial Day Celebration.

We are delivering many educational presentations that are available to residents of Sussex County at a variety of venues. Our intern class will be graduating shortly and have enjoyed the evening sessions that were conducted this year. Many of the participants will continue on to receive their MG certification in the future by meeting the volunteer requirement of 60 additional hours.

Union - Madeline will send out a poll to the MG membership to move the PIN Party to a Saturday or Sunday afternoon for those MG's who do not drive in the nighttime.

Horticultural Therapy:

Cerebral Palsy League of Cranford keep asking us to return. A program was done with the Children's Specialized Hospital at the Demo Garden. Union County ARC had twelve participants and 7 MG volunteers for that program. Lantern Hill Assisted Living received a program for 8 dementia/Alzheimer clients. Terrarium projects were delivered to TBENC Temple in Cranford, Garwood Senior Housing, Jewish Family Services in Westfield this spring. Client programs are obtained via letters from Madeline to associations and word of mouth referrals. Mary Krauss, chairperson will write an article for the Newsletter on this committee's activities.

Community Beautification:

Diane Borman compiled a binder in the Helpline Office that contains all of the C/B Projects arranged by city. There are eighteen CB projects. The Liberty Hall garden moved to the Elmora Library with the same MG's working on it. They lost their space at Kean College. A new Hydroponic Farm greenhouse project in Elizabeth will be presented to the Board for approval. The C/B Committee had a recent article in the Newsletter.

Sharing Garden:

Terry Moore advised that they would like to complete the soil amendment program by doing the last 8 beds in the fall to have all twenty-four beds done. Committee looks forward to using the new Mantis but will need training. They would like to visit their clients to ask detailed questions for better communication of their needs to coordinate what is grown. Changes made this year: growing more collards and less kale; new turnips, and romaine; trying IPM plantings; some insect attracting vegetation: planting borage for squash borers; planting radishes for flea beetles. Madeline suggested doing these IPM plantings outside the bed or on the edge of an adjacent bed.

Demonstration Gardens:

Joanne Krueger met with the new class for their help needed at the Spring Fair. A Fair planning meeting was held. The Spring Garden Fair & Plant Sale is on Sunday, May 20, 2018 and fliers have been prepared and circulated. The Spring Fair will focus on Rutgers varieties of tomatoes and will have the pumpkin Habaneros. The Austrian pine fell down during the storm taking the irrigation piping with it. The Herb Garden reports that the plastic wood beds are holding up well and they would like to replace two other beds in the fall and four more in 2019.

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Grant Funding:

Madeline DiNardo reported that TJ Karns sent a grant report that indicated that a gift received from the Westfield Y's Men. TJ is working on getting bags for the Spring Fair.

New Class:

Madeline DiNardo thanked everyone for the participation in the Job Fair with the new class. She received positive feedback on the event.

4H Student Presentations:

Madeline DiNardo was advised by Jim Nichnadowicz that the 4H presentations. He will conduct training for the MG judges.

ADJOURNMENT: At 12:20 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Tricia Deering, Recording Secretary