

# Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

## Minutes of August 7, 2018 RMGANJ Meeting

Pat Schanzlin called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Since attendance was low she asked members to pass the information from this meeting onto the other members in their county and especially let them know about the registration process for the State Conference.

Terry Zane, Vice President greeted the group. She led a Moment of Silence for Caryl Hannemann. She noted that there were no new faces at the meeting this month.

**Secretary's Minutes from July 2018 Meeting:** Tricia Deering, Recording Secretary, reported that she had emailed out the July RMGANJ minutes and received several comments including an update to the attendance list, clarification of the number of words allowed in the award writeups, and the addition of a county report. The minutes from the July meeting were accepted as updated through a motion and second.

### Attendance:

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Atlantic:           |   |
| Bergen:             | Carolyn Gretchen, Melody Corcoran, Joe Cooper |
| Burlington:         | Terry Zane, Nick Hendershot, Marilyn Bidrawn  |
| Camden:             | Diane Shonyo                                  |
| Cumberland:         | Carol Henry                                   |
| Essex:              | Jane Kinkle, David Haines                     |
| Hunterdon:          | Tricia Deering                                |
| Mercer:             |   |
| Middlesex:          | Kathy Dopart                                  |
| Monmouth:           | Gayle Williams, Bob Magovern, Jay Schaeffer   |
| Morris:             | Marion Ceruzzi, Susan Post                    |
| Ocean:              |   |
| Passaic:            | Darlene Nowak                                 |
| Somerset:           | Linda Madretzke, Maura Sache                  |
| Sussex:             | Jane Gardner, Pat Schanzlin                   |
| Union:              | Dolores Batz-Culp, Dennis Lenahan             |
| Rutgers University: |   |

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Jane Gardner, Treasurer, reported that Rutgers is carrying the same balance as last month, but we have received the check from Barnes and Noble and some pin money, The current balance is \$6089.85 including the above additions. Motion to approve was made and carried.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Pat Schanzlin reported that Jan Zientek is attending the National Master Gardeners Coordinators Conference and will not be able to attend today. As of yesterday 52 have signed up on Eventbrite. See registration below for more information on registration.

**MASTER GARDENER'S COORDINATOR'S REPORT:** no report

### Old Business

#### **Conference Duty Assignments:**

- **Awards Booklet: Ocean** – Pat Schanzlin reported that the booklet is at the printers.
- **Bookstore: Mercer.** The 2017 Barnes and Noble check has been received.
- **Catering: Burlington** – Marilyn Bidrawn reported that everything is good. She asked who will be collecting the coordinator lunches. Pat responded that it will be done through the Eventbrite site,

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just like everyone else. Tricia Deering will send speaker lunch choices to Marilyn. Marilyn also showed everyone the 30-year pins.

- **Door prizes: Somerset** – In lieu of purchased raffle gifts, we will use sample apparel as the gifts and allocate the gift budget to that purchase (5 gifts totaling \$250). Sussex will submit a list of items to All Colors to have available for the September 4 meeting or mail them to Somerset to wrap if they are not available in time for the meeting.
- **Evaluations: Atlantic** - Mary Lou Monihan has this under control. Camden will see her and coordinate with her to get the paper copies of the survey.
- **Facilities: Essex** – David Haines reported that they are doing a site walkthrough after the meeting. It was noted that we can make the stage smaller which will be less expensive.
- **Facility cleanup: Passaic** - This task has been assigned and is in good shape.
- **Financial: Sussex**
- **Garden Market: Bergen** – There is no garden market this year due to the sales tax issue.
- **Master Gardener Merchandise Sales: Sussex** - The web site for ordering Master Gardener merchandise is [rutgersmastergardenerallcolorslc.com](http://rutgersmastergardenerallcolorslc.com). Sales are doing pretty well. All Colors says they have been brisk. Over 50 orders have been placed 15 days into the sale period. Golf shirts are the biggest seller. The website closes 8/16 and reopens in the Spring. Pat Schanzlin will send email out again with the merchandise sale information. 6 items are offered for sale through the All Colors Website. These items are available to individuals and include a baseball cap, tee shirt, sweatshirt, apron, golf shirt and a lanyard. These items are generic Rutgers Master Gardener items, with approved logos and titling. Coordinators may purchase the items in bulk using POs and individuals may order as they wish.
- **Program Flyer: Cumberland** – Carol Henry reported that she still needs some of the coordinators and delegates names. Terry Zane provided her with delegate name updates from her master list..
- **Program Speakers: Hunterdon**; Pat Schanzlin reported for Dewey Goodwin that all the speaker paperwork is in except for the Riverkeeper.
- **Registration Desk: Morris** – Everything is good. Jerri Barclay and Terry Zane will support this initiative.
- **Registration Folders: Camden** – Diane Shonyo reported that she has many of the folders already. Everything should be fine.
- **Signs: Middlesex** – Kathy Dopart reported that everything is good.
- **Speaker Gifts: Monmouth** –Gayle Williams reported she has the gifts.
- **OPCE/Registration: Jan Zientek** – Chrystine Gaffney from Jan's office is the Eventbrite administrator who set it up for the conference, Jane Kinkle is managing the follow-on. Eventbrite is \$5pp, OPCE was \$17pp. The setup has been difficult because our registration is complicated and there is a learning curve. To register, one must go to [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) and search for Rutgers Master Gardeners. It comes up with a photo of the Living Wall. Hit "get tickets", pick your lunch. The credit card page allows you to pay by check or at the door!!! Checks will be sent to Essex County and handled by Jane. Essex County will handle the "at the door" payments. Chris will be at the door to take credit cards, cash or checks. There are also paper mail-in registration forms. Lunch selections seem to be working well. Refunds will be honored and will be handled by

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the Essex County administrator. There was discussion about what was sent out to the coordinators. Jan sent something, but Pat was not on the cc, so she does not know exactly what it was. Several members sent the info from Pat on Eventbrite and paper registration to their coordinator who sent it to their membership. Pat will ask Nick Polanin to send the conference information out to the coordinators since Jan is away.

We will not depend on the Eventbrite ticket, we will have a list of registrants at the door.

There was discussion about how we will be reimbursed for the registration from the county award winners. We will make internal entries through Nick Polanin's office if the coordinator chooses not to pay by credit card. That can be done by using the "are you registering for someone else" button on the website..

We need to be sure the coordinators know what the process is.

- **"Educational Opportunities" timeslot speakers: Pat Schanzlin** – this is under control
- **Publicity Poster: Placement in RCE Offices** – Pat Schanzlin reported that she had emailed out the poster and also had copies at the meeting. Each county rep should be sure they have a poster in their home county office.
- **Video: Bergen** Joe Cooper reported that he is missing the photos from 7 counties: Burlington, Camden, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Somerset and Union.

**Break: from 11:20 to 11:40** Thank you to Bergen County for today's break food. Burlington County is responsible for refreshments for the September meeting which is on September 4 at 10am in the RCE Conference Center.

### **New Business:**

Pat Schanzlin reported there are more conference paper registration sheets – please take them

Jane Kinkle had a question about whether the conference was open to other groups such as local environmental commissions and green teams. She had spoken to Pat Schanzlin about it, who thought it was worth talking about. Terry Zane recalled that in the past Nick Polanin had indicated that the conference was intended for Master Gardeners only. The fact is that there is nothing to prevent others from signing up. It would be nice to do something to help increase the attendance. It was decided to table this item for discussion at the September meeting when Jan Zientek is here.

Pat Schanzlin reported that Ellen Simonetti told her that Bruce Crawford has two really good new Rutgers Gardens topics that are not just Rutgers Gardens generic. Pat asked Tricia Deering to ask Bruce to focus his tour on the Conference theme: Past, Present and Future plants.

There was a question about hours for the Great Tomato Tasting. Gayle Williams asked if the counties give hours for attendance (answer: no) and working (answer: yes).

### **COUNTY REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:**

**Atlantic** – We are getting ready for Atlantic County 4-H Fair the 9-11th of August.

Members are busy re-organizing our Master Gardener Helpline files. Volunteers have developed a list of every topic that is in the files and are exploring a better way to organize overlapping topics. If any counties have great ideas that they use in their counties please contact Mary-Lou at [mimlocustlawn@comcast.net](mailto:mimlocustlawn@comcast.net).

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Several of our projects and member's homes were judged during the month of July by the Pa. Horticultural Society; results to follow. We have constructed a new shed at our demo garden; other projects are busy dealing with heat and humidity issues but thriving. At our horticultural therapy program located at Seashore Gardens rehab center in Galloway, July was a "taste of summer," using many items that were grown on site. They now have 57 residents that now participate.

Graduation for our new class, held at the Mays Landing library was successful.

Our plant sale committee is up and running already and suggesting that members take photographs this summer of plants in bloom that they will be contributing in the spring.

Our educational topic for August will be propagating woody plants.

Our trip to the Middlesex County Earth Center was a great success. Our members were so impressed. The hospitality and enthusiasm shared by Dale Duchal and other members of the Middlesex Master Gardeners was over the top. After a brief introduction, tours were given, educational material presented with wonderful question/answer give and take. Definitely worth the two-hour drive for us. Thank you Dale. We are looking forward to our trip to Monmouth County in September; thank you Gayle.

Remember: Save the date of September 19th, Steve Aitken, editor of Fine Gardening Magazine, Mays Landing Library, in the evening and open to the public. Call 609-625-0056 for more details.

We had an educational wine event at the Bellview winery with Small Fruit Ag Agent Gary Pavlis & a Canning How - To 3-hour seminar during the month of July. There was an Atlantic County Utilities Authority Vegetable growing talk by Sue Scarlett.

There are plans in the work for a new team of people for weekends and evening volunteer hours, to refine and document a Mobile Helpline Program.

Better Impact Online Volunteer tracking program trial is over, and everyone is now able to record from July 1st.

Our own members garden tours in July were cancelled due to bad weather & have been rescheduled for August. Topics to be discussed will be drip irrigation and shade gardens.

one of our members received a \$2000 grant for the Brigantine Library garden project. Master Gardeners will help the Brigantine Green Team get the project off the ground & the Green Team will maintain the project.

A new project is pending at the request of our freeholders. More to come.

The Pomona School group has been working hard; more to come on that project in September as well as our other August activities.

### ***Bergen – Volunteer Site News:***

**The NJ Veterans Home in Paramus** is the site of a new horticultural therapy program spearheaded by MGs Carolyn and Dennis Gretchen. They secured support for the idea from Susan Moran, Veterans Home supervisor of volunteers, and Anthony Elia, supervisor of recreation. Additional support came from Elizabeth Schiff-Heedles, CEO of the Veterans Home, and the MG of BC Board, which voted to approve the new project and pledged sustained participation.

### Hackensack River Greenway through Teaneck

***Cleanup at Indian Pond. Friends of the Hackensack River Greenway through Teaneck will remove invasive vines and plants from the trail at Indian Pond within Andreas Park on Aug 18***

### New Jersey Botanical Garden/Skylands

***Rave On (classic rock) in concert.*** Revisit rock and roll's early years played by Rave Aug. 3. ***Skylands Manor tours.*** NJBG volunteer docents will lead visitors on tours of the architecture and history of Skylands Manor, Aug. 5.

***Butterfly walk.*** Join the Bergen County Audubon Society, Aug. 12 for a walk through the gardens and fields looking for the many butterflies that visit the NJBG. The group will identify the butterflies and discuss the host plants and nectar sources crucial for their survival. ***Concert:*** From opera to Broadway Soprano Justyna Giermola and baritone James Michael offer an evening of arias and show tunes from Mozart to Gershwin, Aug. 17. ***Family woodland hike,*** Aug. 19. Learn about the plants and animals around you in a hike designed to fit the group. ***Wildflower walk in the shade.*** Join wildflower garden volunteers Darlene Nowak and Sandy Zenkel, Aug. 25, to check out the delightful flowers and ferns in the shady, wooded wildflower garden.

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### Teaneck Creek Conservancy

**Walk the woods to identify trees with Arborist Ryan Duff of Almstead Tree and Shrub CareCo. will lead a discussion during a nature walk with an emphasis on identifying common trees in our area and in the conservancy Aug. 18. This is the third of four sessions. Each session focuses on identifying specific trees through that season. Bird walk with Audubon Members of the Bergen County Audubon Society will lead a bird walk around the 46-acre conservancy on Aug. 19.**

### Thielke Arboretum of Glen Rock

**Nature Journaling Workshop.** Children will explore the arboretum then learn the basic elements and principles of art. Children take home their very own nature journal. **Trails and Trailblazers.** Volunteers recently cleared the trail at the northern portion of the arboretum by weeding and removing obtrusive objects. A Boy Scout volunteer continued his project to complete the new trail that runs parallel to Diamond Brook and meets the trail that we were clearing.

### **Burlington –**

Coordinator, Katie Wickel, presented the third in a series on “Turf Talk”. This final presentation covered turf diseases and insect damage.

We started our project field days with the demonstration gardens at Burlington County Community Agricultural Center. A tour of each plot along with an overview was given. We returned to the farm house for a tomato tasting of the varieties grown this season. There were six entries for the salsa contest and winners declared.

The donation gardens at Medford Leas field day was Monday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, August 7<sup>th</sup> and the butterfly gardens pollinator plots at Smithville Park August 8<sup>th</sup>.

If you like us, join us on Facebook.

Project reports:

#### **Butterfly Garden at Smith Woods –**

- We have recorded lots of butterflies visiting the gardens – admirals, monarchs, viceroys, skippers, swallowtails, painted ladies, sulphurs and spicebush, plus humming birds.
- The participants in county junior park ranger program have frequently visited to identify the butterflies and insects enjoying the host and nectar plants.
- All plots are labeled with the host and nectar plants as well as a fun fact sheet about the showcased plant in each plot.

#### **Donation Garden at Medford Leas –**

- No report

#### **IPM and Demonstration Plots at BCCAC –**

- The mixed grain plot is looking really good.
- The salvia plot is providing us with good information on growing salvias.
- The tomatoes are producing nicely. It is interesting to taste the difference between the varieties.
- The cotton and peanuts have recovered but we are still dealing with an infestation of aphids on the cotton.
- The pollinator plot is bussing with life.
- The buckwheat is in full bloom and will plowed under at the end of the season.
- Our raised beds are growing nicely, and the kitchen garden is producing plenty of useful herbs in combination with beautiful annuals.

#### **Pinelands Preservation Alliance Kitchen Garden –**

- No report

#### **Rancocas Nature Center**

- The usual constant weeding of stilt grass and ground ivy.
- We continue to have caterpillars and butterflies for the butterfly house.
- The gardens are used by the day campers and visitors for various studies.
- We’re adding new perennials to attract beneficial insects. Such as tansy for lady beetles, parasitic wasps and lace-wings.

#### **Up-coming events –**

- September 11<sup>th</sup> – Quarterly Meeting
- September 25<sup>th</sup> – Recognition Dinner

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### **Camden –**

#### **Horticulture School/Interns:**

The interns continue to earn hours with volunteering on the help-line, outreach programs and the educational gardens. The help line assisted 97 contacts in July.

#### **Greenhouse**

The Greenhouse committee is meeting to plan future seed purchases. They focused on sanitation and clean-up projects in July.

#### **Educational Gardens**

The large fence which encloses the vegetable, herb and perennial garden has been built. Several Master Gardens and interns were involved in the one-week project. The committee will be hosting an October Fest, October 3, to recognize the funding donated by the American Water Company and Camden County.

#### **Community Outreach**

In July the outreach committee participated in 2 local farmers markets and reached out to 100 contacts.

#### **Programs**

The program committee is advertising for the September "Sedum Make and Take" workshop

#### **Upcoming Nominations for the Board**

Nominations for the 2019 have been finalized and candidates will be interviewed.

**Cumberland:** No report

**Essex –** No report

**Hunterdon County** – Hunterdon summer community outreach activities continue in full swing including Helpline (89 customer contacts in July), Hunterdon Care Center and Sensory Garden programs, Hunterdon Central High School Special Needs summer program, clean-up at Whitehouse Elementary School, Community Events and Snyder Farm pruning and picking. We are planning a trip to Kykuit and Union Church in October. We held a self-drive to a Blueberry Farm tour and held a movie matinee/workshop on butterflies. We are planning a terrarium workshop in September. Hunterdon has a new project which is a vegetable garden that will be used to donate produce to food pantries and also to develop expertise to help food pantries that want to have their own vegetable gardens. The first customer is the Flemington food Pantry. Plans are being finalized for the 4-H Fair and Great tomato Tasting, both in August. A team recognition brunch will be held in September.

**Mercer** – No report

### **Middlesex –**

All are welcome to EARTH Center Open House on Saturday, August 18th from 11am-5pm at 42 Riva Ave, N. Brunswick. Garden tours, jersey fresh produce samples, talks and demonstrations, folk fest, food trucks, bounce house and more! Lots of family fun and FREE! Come experience what our MGs have done in the gardens this season.

-2018-2019 MG intern class starts with orientation Thursday, Sept. 6th at 6:30pm or Friday, Sept. 7th at 9:30am. We are offering both evening and morning class times. The program is a yearlong with both classroom lectures and hands on experience in the garden.

**Monmouth** – Our first annual Community Garden Tour Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, was successful and was enjoyed by all who attended. The kick-off was at our PAR garden in Freehold and joining us were two of our Freeholders, Deputy Director Burry and Freeholder Arnone, both of whom were amazed at the garden bursting with great looking produce. As they walked through the garden, they each shared childhood memories of family gardens and picking tomatoes with a grandparent. Good feedback and comments were obtained from our community garden supervisors. In our garden tour travels, Master Gardeners discovered

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that many in the community didn't understand what a "Community Garden" was. MGs found out that residents were coming into the gardens while unattended and helping themselves as they thought that's what a "Community Garden" was there for! We will be making signs that will define what a community garden is and educate the public to avoid public "shopping" in the future. Further, garden supervisors were encouraged to lock the garden when leaving. In the future, we will also do more advertising about the tours.

July's General Meeting speaker was Jenny Rose Carey speaking on shade gardening. Jenny Rose works with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Meadowbrook Farm, is very well versed on the topic, a most interesting speaker and does most of the setting-up for the Philadelphia Flower Show. She is a renowned educator, historian and author. Her latest book is entitled, Glorious Shade. We were very happy to have had her speak to us!

Currently, we are days away from our last and biggest public and free event, Bugs, Birds and Beyond, held on Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup> from 12 PM-4 PM at our Ag. Building. Both inside and outside of the building will be dedicated to teaching children of all ages about gardening, bugs, pollinators and everything beyond through games, presentations and crafts. Our 4-Hers will be on-hand with their animals, the Ladybug Lady will again join us as well as a talk on raptors (with a live owl or hawk present) and, this year, the addition of real penguins! All hands will be on-deck and a good time is always expected! Thank you to Maureen Eng, Cheryl Greenfield and Molly Kocsik, our co-chairs, for heading up this large undertaking.

Our JMG (Junior Master Gardener) Program continues with the children returning each Saturday morning to weed, harvest and weigh their produce. During the Community Gardens Tour, our Freeholders noticed a flurry of activity in the JMG Garden and couldn't resist a visit! Freeholders Burry and Arnone were educated by the children on what they were growing and were very proud to share varieties that were new to them. And, last week at the County Fair, 13 out of 18 children entered their produce items and won many first, second or third place ribbons for their efforts! We're very proud of this program!

Our Helpline is busier than ever, and our interns are doing beautifully working alongside our veterans answering questions from walk-ins, callers and those emailing their garden concerns. There will be a Helpline set up at our Bugs, Birds and Beyond event for those that want first-hand information. The latest trip taken through our Member Education Committee was to Candide's Garden located in Lake Como (Belmar), N.J. This garden created and was built from the ground-up by Jon Gibbons and is also located on his home property. It is a teaching garden complete with successes and failures alike. All plant material is labeled with botanical and common names. Tours are given to passers-by and by appointment. Because of people like Jon, a big interest in gardening has taken place in that area and is spreading. Thank you to Jon!

Throughout our county, Community Projects and School Programs successfully continue thanks to the good word that has been put out there about the assistance that the Master Gardeners can give. Thank you to Evelin Gaffney who keeps the Community Programs on-pointe and Pat Eisemann and her committee who continue to organize our School Programs.

In July we were also pleased to have MGs join us from Mercer County to learn more about our Native, Rain and Monarch Gardens. We were so glad to share and were able to join us! September we will be welcoming MGs from Atlantic County who have an interest in our JMG and School Programs Committees. We are always happy to share and to learn what other counties are doing. We look forward to their visit!

**Morris** – No report

**Ocean** – The Cuisine Garden has harvested 162 lbs., of produce consisting of eggplant, cucumbers, several kinds of peppers, basil, mixed salad greens, Swiss chard, arugula, herbs, green beans, Italian beans, and a few cherry tomatoes.

The hard-neck garlic has been dug and is drying in the shed. The Community Garden has harvested close to 500lbs for our food banks this season so far.

Our Education Outreach has several on-going projects and the Community Outreach Committee has 7 events in August, 5 being at Island Beach State Park for their "Healthy Earth, Healthy Living" events on Thursdays throughout August.

An IPM workshop for the public will be given by our committee this Thursday evening. Our all-day CE event "Edible Landscapes" is on Aug. 23.

A new committee, in collaboration with several area garden clubs, worked on planters containing plants named by Shakespeare in some of his plays for a downtown Toms River display. MGs will take care of

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tending the planters. Black legged (deer) ticks were brought into our Tick Lab as nymphs & larvae this last week.

Booklet report

Great news! We now have awards information from all counties. A big thank you to Pat S. and Jan Z. for sending the reminders. The bios have been set on the pages by Jerry Jellets, Ocean County's own "graphic designer", tech expert, etc. First draft has been approved. So, only the cover decision has to be made. Then, off to the printer.

**Passaic** – No report

**Somerset**– No report

### **Sussex** –

In Sussex, we are continuing to prepare for the NJ State Fair and Sussex Co Farm & Horse Show that will begin this Friday and continue for the next 10 days. We are sponsoring a variety of seminars that will be presented during the time period. Experts on the topics being presented are conducting these. If you attend the fair, please plan to attend. Schedule is as follows:

#### 1:00 Lecture Series Schedule - 2018 Flower and Garden Expo

| Day /Date                         | Speaker   | Topic  |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Friday, August 3 <sup>rd</sup>    | Shawna Bengivenni<br>Certified Naturally Grown Farmer | It's Easy to Grow Naturally                    |
| Saturday, August 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Mary Stone<br>Landscape Designer                      | Garden Dilemmas – Q and A                      |
| Sunday, August 5 <sup>th</sup>    |   |  |
| Monday, August 6 <sup>th</sup>    | Steve Komar<br>Head County Extension                  | Compost Your Way to A Greener Garden           |
| Tuesday, August 7 <sup>th</sup>   | Richard Kawaske<br>Fair Acres                         | Planting the Ultimate Container                |
| Wednesday, August 8 <sup>th</sup> | Maureen Verbeek<br>Greenhouse Manager                 | Dividing, Storing and Growing Bulbs            |
| Thursday, August 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Giselle Chazotte-Smisko<br>Avian Wildlife             | Using Native Plants for Attracting Wildlife    |
| Friday, August 10 <sup>th</sup>   | April Fisher<br>Master Gardener                       | Tips for an Outstanding Floral Design          |
| Saturday, August 11 <sup>th</sup> | Dave Betts<br>Master Gardener                         | Garden Tools; Cleaning, Sharpening and Storing |
| Sunday, August 12 <sup>th</sup>   |   |  |

Various projects are moving forward to conduct a variety of seminars to the public and to groups across the county. Newton Green, the only County owned park in Sussex is maintained by Master Gardeners and has been fully revamped this year to reflect more traditional settings for a variety of military remembrance gardens. These generally do not include flowers but are generally landscaped with plants and shrubs.

The Flower Show at the State Fair will be staffed by a variety of people this year, many of which are MGs from Sussex County. They serve as docents, judges, recorders, visitor assistants, help with set up and tear down and work to ensure that the Flower Show runs smoothly and efficiently.



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At the Homestead, an elder care senior center, MGs are helping residents get to the Fair by serving as escorts for the day. In other activities MGs lead a variety of horticultural therapy sessions at the Homestead.

### **Union –**

We lost our colleague and friend Caryl Hannemann. Caryl was a wealth of knowledge for not only the RMGANJ, serving on many Board and committee positions, but also for Union County MGs. Our formally designed Herb Garden was lead by "Professor Hannemann". Herb Committee members were lectured about herb families, bug repellents, and the many facets of Herbology, then we were TESTED! I will miss my colleague, mentor, and dear friend as I am sure many of you will, too.

Al, Alfred Hannemann our Alternate Representative (and Caryl's husband) will be celebrating his 90th birthday on the 29th of August. If you would like to send a card, please send them to RCE - Master Gardeners of Union County, 300 North Ave. East, Westfield, NJ 07090.

### Demonstration Gardens:

Dr. Mike VanClef was at the Trailside Nature and Science Center on May 16 to speak about "Good Plants and Bad Plants". This presentation discussed invasive plant species and using native plants as replacements (1.5 CEUs). The second part of the series was a "Plant Swap" in our Demonstration Garden on June 7. Participants brought an invasive plant and exchanged it for a native plant. Toadshade Farm sold native plants.

Sharing Garden continues to harvest many vegetables including lettuces, radishes, beets, bok choy, kale, etc. for a total over 500 pounds!

Berry Patch has been donating many berries to the Sharing Garden after getting the birds, who worked their way in, out!

Gardening with Children has been working with Trailside Nature and Science Center to deliver programs on Wednesdays in July and August. Third and fourth graders enjoyed Bugs and Beyond, and Art of Nature. First and second graders had Branching out.

The Herb Garden Committee is looking at ways to memorialize Caryl Hannemann's starting of the garden. Dolores organized an educational tour for the IHerb of the Year: hops. Edible herbs continue to be given to the Sharing Garden for donation to food banks and soup kitchens.

Our Spring Garden Fair had new displays including invasive species and hydroponics, for the 914 visitors. Madeline DiNardo noted that the county provided publicity notices, and had an information table. Madeline handed out surveys to MGs at the Spring Fair to ask if it would be preferable to have the PIN Party during the daytime or continue with evenings.

Madeline DiNardo reported that the Union County tree crew came to the Gardens to do storm damage clean-up. This summer, the County will check the condition of the other trees in the Garden. The 2nd VP had roofing shingles donated for one shed's repair, and a new shed was approved for purchase that will fit on the existing platform. Botanical labeling is an on-going project. The replacement of the Redbud tree was approved.

The 3rd VP ran annual MG picnic on June 24 at the Gardens.

### Education and Awards:

Jim Nichnadowicz thanked the Master Gardeners for their donation to the 4H program will be used for horticultural supplies and materials.

The MG president presented a scholarship to horticultural student awardee at the Union County Vocational Technical School on May 23.

Honorees were selected from Committee Chairs nominations for Awards of Excellence, and the Wes Philo Award given at our Pin Party in September.

Our 30<sup>th</sup> MG Class graduation was held on May 29, followed by a luncheon.

The 1st VP recruited a new class member for website/IT experience. They met to discuss the MG website, and later met with current webmasters to do website training. Priorities for website changes and deadline dates were

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discussed, as well as updates on the website (i.e. the Executive Board Schedule, Committee Chairs, Bylaws). Creation of a committee "support team" to assist with the website was suggested.

Madeline DiNardo and Jim Nichnadowicz conducted a program on Emerald Ash Borer tree damage (May 10, 17, 24, and 31) at the Nature Center. The program was also given on Thursday mornings at Warinanco Park Skating Center. Madeline advised that identifying tree damage will take most of the summer to complete.

Madeline held Train the Trainer - Community Gardening teaching 24 on 6/14 in Ocean County; 13 on 6/20 in Atlantic County. Union County received Pest Management in July, Food Safety for August and, Composting for September.

The Helpline had training on invasive species: Spotted Lanternfly, Emerald Ash Borer, and a new tick, the Asian Longhorn, which was originally found in the Watchung Reservation.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 12:20 PM. The next meeting is 9/4 and the October meeting is 10/2.

Respectfully Submitted  
Tricia Deering, Recording Secretary