

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Minutes of April 11, 2019 RMGANJ Meeting

Pat Schanzlin called the meeting to order at 10:10 am.

Dennis Lenahan, Vice President, greeted the group. He asked if there were any new attendees. Rick Sneyers and Jim McHugh are here from Passaic County. They are not sure if they will be the new delegates or not; Deidre Gallagher is the new delegate from Morris County.

Secretary's Minutes from March 2019 Meeting: Tricia Deering, Recording Secretary, reported that she had emailed out the March RMGANJ minutes and received a few comments and county reports. She sent out several versions of revised minutes with the changes, the last being version 3. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept version 3 of the minutes. Diane Shonyo asked Tricia to add Patrick Goughary from Camden to the attendance. Tricia will update it to be "final" and distribute.

Attendance:

Atlantic:	MaryLou Monihan
Bergen:	Joe Cooper
Burlington:	Terry Zane, Nick Hendershot, Lee Parry, Merry Bogert
Camden:	Diane Shonyo, Patrick Goughary
Cumberland:	Carol Henry,
Essex:	David Haimes, Alice Poueymirou
Hunterdon:	Tricia Deering, Dewey Goodman
Mercer:	Betty Scarlata
Middlesex:	Jerri Barclay, Kathy Dopart
Monmouth:	Gayle Williams, Bob Magovern, Jay Schaeffer, Sandy Wolfe
Morris:	Deidre Gallagher
Ocean:	Suzanne Keane, Roberta Quinn
Passaic:	Rick Sneyers, Jim McHugh
Somerset:	Maura Sache, Linda Madretzke
Sussex:	Jane Gardner, Pat Schanzlin
Union:	Dennis Lenahan, Dolores Batz-Culp
Rutgers University:	Jan Zientek

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jane Gardner, Treasurer, reported that the current balance is \$14,287.20. This amount includes a pin transfer from Middlesex. All bills are paid for the 2018 conference, but the balance does not include the Barnes and Noble check which has not been posted yet. A motion to accept the budget was made, seconded and approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Pat Schanzlin reported on Old Business below.

MASTER GARDENER'S COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Jan Zientek reported that Better Impact software training was held for the Master Gardener coordinators on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. All counties participated. The phased Better Impact rollout will start in May. A Better Impact smartphone app will be available in the future to make it easy to report hours.

Jan's meeting with Nick Polanin to discuss help with subsidizing the State Conference catering and/or room cost was rescheduled. He had hoped to have hard numbers for this meeting. They are also hopeful on getting OPCE fees reduced.

There is an approved template for the new name tags and two vendors. Counties will still have to pay for the names tags but the recognition pins will be covered by Rutgers. The new pin template is still being developed. They hope to have the new pins in time for the October Conference.

Old Business

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Pins: Pat Schanzlin reminded the group that each county needs to submit an inventory of the pins they currently have and what their needs are. This is due by the end of April.

Conference: Pat Schanzlin reported that Hunterdon and Mercer Counties have agreed to have their International Master Gardener Award winners speak during the county segment of the October State Conference. Cumberland most likely will not be speaking. There was discussion of what should be done if Cumberland does not agree. Ideas included asking another award-winning county to speak and having a segment on Better Impact. Another option is to extend the time for the two counties who will be speaking. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to have Jan Zientek send out an email to the coordinators asking for an additional segment (international winner or other project) to be presented at the conference.

Sales Tax Issue and Garden Market: Jan Zientek reported that there is no resolution to the Garden Market sales tax issue with the Rutgers Business Office. Pat Schanzlin suggested that we pursue expanding what Barnes and Noble can provide in addition to books and put them in the George H. Cook room. Dave Haimes will check if the room is available. There was discussion that this is a good idea but there is an issue with B&N responsiveness. Another consideration is that none of our speakers will have books, since they are all Rutgers professors. Perhaps we can ask them to suggest books on their topic for B&N to sell.

New Business:

Budget: Pat Schanzlin discussed the budget. It assumed \$40 head for the conference. It includes \$4,000 for some type of registration service. The registration vendor is a **big open item**. Pat has been pushing hard on Nick with OPCE. There is no answer yet but it is on his radar. The budgeted speaker fees are only \$300 since the speakers are all from Rutgers. Pat kept the facility charge the same. The budget assumes we are spending about the same as last year for most items. A motion was made to approve the budget, seconded, approved unanimously.

Conference Schedule: Pat Schanzlin reviewed the draft conference schedule. The format and break are based on input from the speakers. There was discussion about the optional tours and whether we should include them this year. It was decided that we should not because it is a long day, difficult to get a Living Wall tour lined up, and not many attend the Rutgers Gardens tour.

There was discussion about how to better recognize the award winners. It was decided that all will stand to be recognized. It was suggested that everyone could come to the front for applause. There was discussion about having poster displays on the projects either by the international winners or all the award winners. There was a motion to ask the international award winners/honorable mentions to bring a poster or other display with a person to discuss the winning project. The motion was seconded and passed with one opposed. There was a second motion to ask county award of excellence winners to provide a poster or other display and a person to discuss the winning project. It was not seconded. The plan is to recognize all the international award winners as part of the conference. The international award winner teams will be added to the awards video loop. The names and pictures of the 25 and 30-year award members will also be added to the video.

Registration Options: Jan Zientek reported that the unofficial top down direction is that we must use OCPE for event registration. The only other option is for us to do it manually. He is hopeful that the price from OCPE will be less than in the past. Everything must be in place with OCPE by June for a July rollout!! It was decided to table this until May and hope for an answer before then.

Break: There was a break from 11:05 to 11:20. Pat Schanzlin thanked Monmouth County for the refreshments. Middlesex County is responsible for refreshments for the May meeting which is on Thursday May 9 at 10am in the RCE Conference Center.

New Business Continued:

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2019 Conference Action Items: The list of action items from the 2018 conference was reviewed and actions were discussed. Some items include:

- Asking speakers to recommend books on their topics in addition to their own books
- Can the conference fees for award winners be paid by Rutgers? Jan Zientek will look into this. There was concern that with team awards, the numbers of awardees could be large. Regardless, the method for registering award winners needs to be clarified.
- The possibility of having live parking attendants was discussed. The issue is that no one wants to volunteer to be a parking attendant. In addition, since the parking lots are shared with other Rutgers students, employees and visitors, one can't tell who is coming to attend the conference from others. Finally, there is a safety issue. It was agreed that we will not have parking attendants but should include a link to the parking lot map in the registration.

Save the date: Roberta Quinn agreed to create a "Save the Date" flyer as she did last year and send it to Pat.

Conference tasks: A county volunteer is needed for catering. There was discussion of the catering responsibilities. Morris County agreed to take it over. The conference task responsibilities will be as follows:

- Burlington/Terry Zane will do the registration desk since it includes coordination between registration and the caterer.
- Ocean/Suzanne Keane will do the award booklet
- Joe Cooper/Bergen will do the video
- Mercer will do bookstore
- Morris will do catering
- Union will do door prizes
- Atlantic will do evaluations
- Essex/David Haines will do facilities
- Hunterdon will do speaker escorts
- Monmouth will do facility cleanup
- Cumberland will do program flyer
- Camden will do folders
- Somerset will do the Garden Market, if we have one

There was a discussion on speaker gifts and whether we should have them since all the speakers are from Rutgers. There was a motion to give out speaker gifts. It was seconded and approved with 2 nays. Currently there is no money in the budget for speaker gifts but we should be able to accommodate them.

There are two open items: Garden Market (Somerset) and Speaker gifts.

Suzanne Keane asked that those counties who give their awards out early, get their writeups to her as soon as they are available.

Role of Historian: The group discussed the job of historian. Pat Schanzlin has paper books with years of information. It was suggested that perhaps we could digitize the important material such as award booklet, flyers, speakers, board members, etc. and store it on Sakai. The discussion will be continued in June.

COUNTY REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

Atlantic –

I am trying to help out our coordinator, Belinda, and will be attending today's meeting. I am so happy that I will get to see everyone. That being said, I have been out of the loop and Belinda has prepared notes for me to use for the meeting.

Our team preparing for our Master Gardener plant sale on May 18th is in full swing. We are combining it this year with a community education event, with Master Gardeners speaking on various topics every hour throughout the day. The Master composters will also be doing demos & the Atlantic County Utilities RMGANJ April 11, 2019 Minutes Final

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Authority is attending and will be speaking on new recycling guidelines and composting. Rutgers Environmental Stewards will be in attendance and the 4H will be contributing with STEAM demos. Our Master Gardeners have grown over 2500 plants and will also be selling Rutgers Scarlet Dogwoods as well as pollinator plant plugs.

We will be participating at the ACUA earth Day festival on April 28th and will be giving out Rutgers 250, Ramapo and Rutgers Pumpkin Habanero plants.

We have 15 dates currently scheduled for our mobile helpline/plant diagnostics clinic at local farmers markets and green fests throughout the county. This is in addition to evenings being scheduled at local libraries in an effort to increase our county outreach. Belinda reports that we have seen a dramatic increase this year in calls and walk-ins which is a result from last summer and fall as we increased our events "on the road."

We are holding a soil compaction training on May 1 at the Atlantic County RCE with Steve Yergeau. Cape May, Cumberland and Atlantic County MG's should have received a flyer. All counties are welcome to receive the training. Please call our office for more information.

There was a Spring Solstice /Spring Awards party on March 20th and it was a very big success.

Bergen –

Speakers: In March, Virginia Lamb presented, *Composting A Gardeners best tool*. Backyard composting is a simple, effective, low-cost way to turn organic waste into a valuable soil amendment. We learned what you can and can't compost; tips for creating compost quickly; how to make compost tea; how to compost indoors using red wiggler worms; and uses for finished compost, referred to as "black gold" by seasoned gardeners.

Volunteer Site News:

The **Hackensack River Greenway** through Teaneck is having a native planting and cleanup at the Mary S. Topolsky Garden and Trail. On April 14th, Christine Favorito, a river ambassador from the Hackensack Riverkeeper, will lead a family friendly discussion on water pollution. Another cleanup will take place on April 20th at Riverview Drive where Christine will work with the group.

The Hermitage held a fundraiser to support the Hermitage Museum featuring the Black Lace Blues on April 13th. The Black Lace Blues is a popular five-piece band that performs an original mix of blues, funk, and rock.

NJBG Two events are scheduled for *Earth Day weekend*:

-A *volunteer open house and season kickoff*, on April 20: Learn how you can participate on the volunteer team through gardening and more. Meet some of the volunteers and start working in the garden.

-*Early spring wildflower walk*, April 20. Check out the early bloomers in the woodlands of the wildflower garden with volunteer Darlene Nowak.

Birding for beginners. On April 28th, Don Torino, president of the Bergen County Audubon Society, will present an indoor introduction to birding by covering bird identification, field guides, and optics. Weather permitting, a walk will follow.

Thielke Arboretum is having an open house of the Environmental Education Center, a plant sale, a tree seedling giveaway and family activities scheduled each day for the Arbor Day weekend. A guided tour of giant trees will take place on Sunday

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Burlington –

The 2019 interns will complete their classes and testing mid-April. They are excited and looking forward to participating in the projects and upcoming events.

We are in the process of rolling out “Better Impact” to all current master gardeners and interns.

Project Reports:

Gardens at Burlington County Fair Grounds – We met on site to survey the scope of the project. A clean-up day will be scheduled as well as a planning meeting. The focus is to be visible to the 10,000 plus visitors during the farm fair and other events throughout the year.

Butterfly Garden at Smith Woods – We have been in the garden each week to clean-up debris and check each plot to see what perennials are starting to show. We are mapping out what we discover, so when adding to the plots, we can identify and plant more easily. We are on the constant lookout for the pollinators but have not found any yet. We fenced the dogwood tree since the trunk to avoid further damage. A section of the meadow was cleared to plant wildflower seeds as nectar for the butterflies and other pollinators.

Donation Garden at Medford Leas – We have met three times already. Winter coverings were removed, planting beds laid out and paths have been mulched. The perennial vegetables were weeded and planting of clod hardy vegetables was started. We’re hoping to make this our best year ever as we now have a tall deer fence surrounding all of our garden areas.

IPM and Demonstration Plots at BCCAC – During the month of March, we worked mostly on signage for the plots.

Medicinal/Culinary Colonial-Era Garden at Pineland Preservation Alliance - The Medicinal/Culinary Colonial-Era Garden at the Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) headquarters must wait for the PPA’s new landscaping work to be finished. The new site, which has been hardscaped with brick walkways, will need substantial remedial work before anything can be planted. Early May 2019 is the target date for the actual gardening to start.

Camden –

Horticulture School Classes

30 interns are nearly done with the horticulture school training. Many have shown a keen interest in getting involved with many of the educational and training programs available. In April, they participated in both the greenhouse orientation and educational garden orientation.

Greenhouse

During the months of March and April the greenhouse team began growing the plants for the up-coming April 27th Plant sale and for the County Parks and for the Educational Garden. Several varieties of peppers, tomatoes, herbs, annuals and perennials were grown. They expanded outdoor beds to an additional 5 and added last year’s seed sowed perennials.

Make and Take Workshop

The Make and Take Workshops have all been sold out this year. These workshops are offered to the public and the master gardeners for a small fee for materials.

On April 3, the workshop was on making rain gauges and how to create a butterfly garden. The talk was presented by Linda Huda master gardener and the creator of her local township’s butterfly garden.

Programs

On April 16 the program entitled “Container Gardening” was presented by Joe Keifer of Triple Oaks. The next program will be a trip to Bartram Gardens and a discussion by an arborist on IPM techniques for maintaining tree health.

Outreach Events

Many events were scheduled in April including three Green Garden Fairs, the Rotary Club, local community groups and libraries. We also have a very active speaker’s bureau that present some of the Rutgers’ talks on composting, gardening, etc.

Educational Gardens

The garden committee used the Power Core group of Camden to assist digging out new planting beds and assisting building additional fencing. All committee members are choosing their plants and designs The Educational Garden held a talk on “Foraging for Wild Edibles” on April 7. 25 participants walked Penny RMGANJ April 11, 2019 Minutes Final

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pack Park to identify wildflower food and or herb sources. The leader, a certified herbalist, brought her chef and treated the attendees to food gathered from the walk.

The Camden County Green Fair

The Camden County Green Fair was held on April 27 at the Master Gardener facility in Cherry Hill. The day featured two talks by Doug Tallamy heard by 70 participants. We also held our plant sale. 15 information booths and vendors were also present. There were kid's games, garden walks, a 4-H booth, massages, violin music and other events. Despite the 25 mph wind, it was a great day. We estimated the crowd around 250 people.

Cumberland:

RCE Butterfly Garden, Rain Garden & Meditation Gardens

Now with the weather getting nicer work is in progress getting them cleaned up.

Press-

Pictures were submitted of Members working with residents at the VA Home on the March project – flower coasters.

PR on upcoming CIA and Hyde Park overnight trip was also submitted to our sources
Also, the Eco Fair at Wheaton Arts.

Propagation-

Added to the long list in my last report, all of the peppers and tomatoes have been planted. Fennel, Mexican Sunflower, milk thistle, peanut, eggplant and all of our plugs have been potted up or planted. We did 45 cuttings from a citronella we had. We really only have 2 planting dates left 04/01 and 04/08. Huge thanks to all who have come out to help plant. I'd list all of the names but I'd feel badly if I left anyone out but recognize this doesn't get done without the help of many hands!

Trip Committee – Keiko Warner, Barbara McOscar

Rutgers Master Gardeners of Cumberland County is sponsoring an overnight coach tour on September 11th and 12th to New York's Culinary Institute of America, FDR's Hyde Park Home and Presidential Library, Eleanor Roosevelt's Val-Kill Cottage, and the Walkway Over the Hudson. We will be staying at the newly renovated Best Western in Kingston which has an indoor pool for us to enjoy.

*Master Gardeners – We will be walking through FDR's Rose Garden and Beatrix Farrand's Walled Garden!

The cost of this trip is \$ 280 for double room accommodation, and \$ 350 for single room. This cost includes bus trip, admissions to sites, CIA luncheon, Breakfast at Best Western, tips for driver and guides.

For more information or to register for this trip, call Barbara at 856-455-5632 or Pat at 609-513-3953. Make checks payable to CC Bd. of Ag. Research Account, and mail to Master Gardens of CC, PO Box 22, Greenwich, NJ 08323

Also, we are having a road trip to the NJ Flower Show on Friday, April 26th. The theme this year is Artists of the Past featuring unique garden displays inspired by the works of history's greatest artists.

***Payment due at booking; any cancellation MUST be done by July 8th.**

International Master Gardeners Convention – June 17 - 21

Pat Stella submitted our years of learning experiences working with Wes and Andy on pepper trials to the committee assessing projects. Her report "Pepper Research in Collaboration with Agricultural Agents" took third place in the Research/Applied Scientific Methodology category of the 2019 IMGC Search for Excellence Competition! There were 73 entries in the competition. Great Job! Cumberland County MG will be recognized at the convention in Valley Forge in 2019. Pam will be attending the convention.

Upcoming Classes

The following MG Classes/projects are in the planning stages for 2019:

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- Succulent Plants – Marilyn English will help organize
- Yoga in the Garden – Susan Evans & Team - 5/30/19, 6-7:30PM Cost \$10.00pp
- Sheep – Sarah Tarpine
- Date T/B/D: Each Team will have a “station” with the list of events & sign up sheets; Volunteers will be asked to sign up for commitment to day(s)/event(s) they are interested to serve/work. This gives Doris a working base to remind people & if no one signs up, perhaps we need to consider cancelling the event... we had a very difficult time filling some slots last year, which took an immense amount of time & frustration... we can use our resources more wisely!

SAVE THE DATES: The following classes are “in the works” through Home Horticulture and agents, with some help from MGs... more info to follow... ALL FROM 10 AM – 11:30 AM

Down Jersey vegetables: 4/18

RCE Gardens: 5/16

Essex –



Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Essex County
ESSEX GARDENER
APRIL 2019

Join Us For Our Next Meeting
Saturday, April 13, 2019
9:30 A.M.

At Garibaldi Hall
Meet SHARON CAREY
GARDENS WITH WINGS

Sharon was born in New York City, but mostly grew up in Warren County, NJ. She Moved to the Pocono Mountains in 1989. Sharon holds a B.S. in Accounting from Centenary University in Hackettstown, NJ, and spent ten years as a Corporate Tax Analyst for Mars, Inc. She left Mars, Inc. in 1989 to open a bed and breakfast in Stroudsburg, PA.

Sharon is trained and did public programs as a Penn State Extension Master Gardener from 2001 to 2006. She was co-chair of the first five years of the Brodhead Watershed Association Native Plant Sale.

Sharon holds a Certificate in Horticultural Therapy from the New York Botanical Garden (2011) including an eight month internship at the Glass Garden at Rusk Institute for Rehabilitation, Langone Medical Center, New York City.

Sharon is a fifteen year member of the New York Botanical Garden and a thirteen year attendee at the Woody Plant Conference at Scott Arboretum, Swarthmore, PA.

As a 20-year member of the Pocono Garden Club, she coordinate the Butterfly garden at her local Environmental Education center.

Sharon says, "I garden on 17 1/2 acres in the Pocono's. Our home is a California Arts & Crafts bungalow with Asian Influences, so I incorporate a blend of our native plants with others of Chinese and Japanese origins.

I go through 'serial infatuations' with different genuses of plants; hostas, clematis, ferns, and now peonies. By careful dropping of hints around my birthday, Christmas, and Mother's Day, I have installed 14 Itoh (intersectional) peonies in my yard, along with several Chinese tree peonies, and about a dozen bush and species peonies."



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From the President's Desk

Spring is here. **Yippee!** Lots of activities have started, so you have your pick. Please remember to report your hours on Better Impact. If you are having trouble with Better Impact, come to our April meeting. It will be explained to you both for reporting volunteer hours AND for **signing up to volunteer for our Plant Sale.**

Speaking of the Plant Sale, our volunteers have been working hard all winter planting seeds and taking care of the plants in our greenhouse. A big thanks to all who plant and water. We couldn't do it without you!

Happy Gardening,
Gail



myVolunteerPage.COM



2019 ESSEX COUNTY
Cherry Blossom Festival
 IN BRANCH BROOK PARK
 APRIL 6-14, 2019

Festival Events

Saturday, April 6 ~ 7am-1pm
Cherry Blossom Challenge Bike Race
 Oval, Northern Division



Sunday, April 7 ~ 10am
Cherry Blossom 10k Run
 Cherry Blossom Welcome Center, Extension

Saturday, April 13 ~ 10am
1-Mile Fun Run/Walk
 Concert Grove, Southern Division

Saturday, April 13 ~ 11am-3pm
Essex County Family Day
 Concert Grove, Southern Division

Sunday, April 14 ~ 11am-5pm
Bloomfest!
 Cherry Blossom Welcome Center, Extension

Visit our website for more details and information
 WWW. ESSEXCOUNTYNJ.ORG

BRANCH
 BROOK
 PARK
 ALLIANCE

Horizon

PUTTING ESSEX COUNTY FIRST



You're Invited to...

Essex County Branch Brook Park to enjoy the most diverse collection of Cherry Blossom Trees, even larger than the national display in Washington, DC. The blossoming trees create a picturesque setting that transforms the park into a stunning spring fantasyland. We invite you and your family to come out and experience this natural wonder.

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.
 Essex County Executive
 and the Board of Chosen Freeholders

Guided Historic Park Tours
 Beginning Thursday, April 18
 Have our knowledgeable guides take you on a 45-minute journey under a canopy of cherry blossoms, pointing out the history hidden within Essex County Branch Brook Park's structure and design! The bus tours leave from the Cherry Blossom Welcome Center. Tickets are \$8/person and can be reserved at essexcountyperks.org. Advance reservations are required.

Historic Cell Phone Tours
 Available ALL Season
 This free self-guided historic walking tour can be accessed by cell phone or smart phone. Spend the day exploring all 72 tour stops or pick and choose your favorites. One phone call unlocks a world of park history and horticultural information.
 ¡Ahora ofrecido en español! 973.433.9047

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CLASS SCHEDULE FOR 2019

DATE	PLACE	TOPIC	LECTURER
4/2/2019	Garibaldi	Trees	Nick Polanin
4/9/2019	Garibaldi	Fruit Trees in the Home Garden	Megan Muehlbauer
4/16/2019	Garibaldi	Diseases & Pests of Vegetables	Peter Nitzsche, RCE/Morris
4/23/2019	Garibaldi	Perennials	Sonia Uyterhoeven, Greenwood Gardens
4/30/2019	Garibaldi	Growing Fruit in the Garden	Hemantkumar Gohil, County Agent
5/7/2019	BBP	Wildlife in the garden	Elaine Fogerty
5/14/2019	BBP	Volunteering	Hashaam Jamil, Jersey Cares
5/21/2019	BBP	Broadleaf Evergreens	Steven Kristoph
5/28/2019	BBP	Final Exam/Evaluations/Program Wrap Up	Jan Zientek
BBP Branch Brook Park - Cherry Blossom Center			
TBZ Turtle Back Zoo - 560 Northfield Ave, West Orange, NJ			
Garibaldi Garibaldi Hall, Essex County Environmental Center, 621A Eagle Rock Ave. Roseland			



Rutgers Master Gardeners of Essex County



**LET'S TALK VEGETABLE GARDENING
Spring Edition**

Just in time for the start of spring, the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Essex County will be hosting a "Let's Talk Vegetable Gardening" conversation on **Saturday, April 13, 2019**. We will meet from 10:00 - 11:30am at the South Orange Elks Rent Party Garden. Knowing how unpredictable spring weather can be, the Elks have graciously invited us to meet inside their meeting hall.

The session is open to all vegetable gardeners and will focus on spring gardening challenges. Your questions will guide our conversation. This is a great opportunity for you to get together and share questions, experiences and best practices. This session is **FREE**. Seating is limited, reservation requested. For questions, please call 973-228-2210. MGEC members do not get CEUs for attending these lectures, but bring your friends who are interested in learning to garden.

Event Date: April 13, 2019

Event Time: 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Event Address: South Orange Elks Rent Party Garden, 220 Prospect St. South Orange, NJ 07079

Contact us at 973-228-2210 or mastergardenerec@gmail.com

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Horticulture for Seniors

The Essex County Master Gardeners continue to be at the top of the game when it comes to senior horticulture activities. March's workshop was entitled "Raising Rhizomes, Plant Roots and Shoots that Travel Underground". The workshop was March 18th and since we were still celebrating St. Patrick's Day our 'ice breakers' centered on the St. Patrick's Day theme. We recognized special occasions such as birthdays and anniversaries then went right into our packed program.

Bulbs (Daffodils), corms (Gladiolus), tubers (potatoes), and rhizomes (Cannas) were the focus of our PowerPoint presentation. Examples of each were shown and discussed. Anita, Maya, Helen, Amy, Kathy and Jane all played a part in creating the informative presentation. In celebration of St. Patrick's Day we had a short discussion of oxalis, the shamrock plant. The hands on experience was planting Paper White bulbs in plastic containers that the seniors decorated, and planting oxalis rhizomes in pots.

Refreshments are always served at Horticulture for Seniors. This month, in addition to the usual refreshments, the seniors were treated to a delicious sweet potato bisque prepared by Helen Kesner, one of our master gardeners.
Pat Thomas



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Branch Brook Party Cherry Tree Pruners

Calling all Branch Brook Park cherry tree pruners! We will be pruning Tuesday mornings, weather permitting from 9:30 to noon, beginning in April. Please call Lois Young 973-744-5696 or helleborus133@verizon.net. Beautiful historic setting, great exercise, we always learn something and best of all, we contribute to the appearance and health of the park.

Brookdale Park Pruners

The Brookdale Pruners are planning to start Wednesday April 3rd. We meet from 9-11am every Wednesday, weather permitting. If you are interested in joining us, contact Pat Hewitt hewitt36@verizon.net You do not need any experience. we will teach you!

NEW SEASON IN THE ROSE GARDEN

Our first meeting was a wash-out but we had a strong and friendly showing on the 28th. The crew did a lot of raking out the beds, weeding and pruning. The first attempts at hard spring pruning are difficult because it always feels like you're murdering the bushes. We make tentative and careful cuttings in hopes that hurting the bushes will make them beautiful in June. I have a new favorite tool – Lithium spray lubricant. It helps in sharpening pruners, loppers, shovels and hoes. The spray doesn't "gunk up" like motor oil or WD-40. New volunteers often mean new ideas and suggestions which I look forward to. I look forward to fertilizing, weeding and pruning, and more pruning. I look forward to new volunteers joining us in the garden in 2019. We meet every Thursday morning from now until November. Come meet the crew.

Susan Jankolovits sjankolovits@hotmail.com



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Better Impact Hours:

Special Instructions for the following Volunteer Projects regarding Better Impact Hours:

Continuing Ed - Other: Provide specifics in the response box and ensure it has been approved prior to reporting. Community and School Gardens need to have a specific activity: Email the Name to mgechours@gmail.com and we will submit it to be approved by Jan.

Thanks
Eileen
201-396-4651

The Brookdale Park Monarch Waystation/Pollinator Garden got off to a great start last year and will be expanded this season. New native plants will be added, including 3 more varieties of milkweed, and monitoring this milkweed for the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project will resume in the late spring. We meet weekly on Tuesday mornings, 9-11:30 and will begin some time in April. Help is always welcome! Contact Jean Greeley if interested - jgreeley743@gmail.com.



The Orchid Show: Singapore

Saturday, February 23, 2019 – Sunday, April 28, 2019

The 17th annual *Orchid Show* is a dazzling tribute to Singapore, the vibrant “City in a Garden” where these storied flowers are an integral part of the culture and landscape. Developed in partnership with Gardens by the Bay and Singapore Botanic Gardens, the exhibition pays homage to the sites’ iconic **Supertrees**—dramatic vertical habitats, and famed **Arches**—a highlight of the National Orchid Garden.

This horticultural spectacle, set in the landmark Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, mesmerizes with thousands of orchids in every shape, color, and size. Treasures from NYBG’s exquisite orchid collection as well as varieties showcasing Singapore’s achievements in orchid hybridization, research, and conservation are also on display.

CLIP & KEEP THESE DATES

- February 23-April 28 NYBG The Orchid Show:
- April 13** MGECE General Meeting- Sharon Carey, Gardens with Wings
- April 14** Branch Brook Park, Cherry Blossom Festival, volunteers needed at the Cherry Blossom Welcome Center
- April 25-28** NJ Flower & Garden Show NJ Convention & Expo Center, Edison, njflowershow.com
- MAY 3 & 4** PLANT SALE AT PRESBY MEMORIAL IRIS GARDEN
- May 11** PLANT SALE AT GARIBALDI HALL
- June 8** MGECE General Meeting- CHRYSANTHEMUMS
- July 13** MGECE General Meeting- TREES
- No Meeting in August—No Newsletter
- September 14** MGECE GRADUATION AND PICNIC/BAR-BE-CUE

The Meetings & General Calendar of the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Essex County

Executive Committee Meets on the THURSDAY before the General Meeting on Saturday at the Essex County Environmental Center At 3:30:00 PM

- April 11 Board Meeting
- May 9 Board Meeting
- June 6 Board Meeting
- July 11 Board Meeting
- Sept. 12 Board Meeting

Unless Prior Notice of Change is given

MGECE General Meetings:
9:30 a.m. Saturday at Garibaldi Hall

- April 13** MGECE Meeting
- May 3, 4, 11** PLANT SALE
- June 8** MGECE Meeting
- July 11** MGECE Meeting
- Sept. 14** GRADUATION PICNIC/BBQ
All are invited

Please continue to report your hours on **Better Impact, MyVolunteerPage.com**. If you need help with this website contact Eileen McEnroe at mgecehours@gmail.com.

www.mgessex.org

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

APRIL 2019 PLANAT SALE SCHEDULE						
SUNDAY 14	MONDAY 15	TUESDAY 16	WEDNESDAY 17	THURSDAY 18	FRIDAY 19	SATURDAY 20
				Big-Dig Lois's house 10 A.M.		Rain Date for Big-Dig
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
			Cars to Gasko's Selection/pick-up	Cars to Kristoph Nursery Pick-up 10 A.M.		
28	29	30		If you have an SUV or truck and can help to pick- up large shrubs please let Helen know.	Helen Stack hasveron@ comcast.com	
		Cars to Wildside/Pinelands Pick-up 10 A.M.				

MAY 2019 PLANT SALE SCHEDULE						
SUNDAY 28	MONDAY 29	TUESDAY 30	WEDNESDAY 1	THURSDAY 2	FRIDAY 3	SATURDAY 4
			Sunnyborder truck unloading. * Goffle Brook Farm Truck-loading at Garibaldi Hall; Unloading at Presby—Approx. 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.	Presby—pricing in the A.M.	PLANT SALE PRESBY— Start time 7 A.M.	PLANT SALE PRESBY—Start time 7 A.M.
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
					Set-up at Garibaldi Hall/ Greenhouse 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.	PLANT SALE— GARIBALDI HALL 7 A.M.
12	13	14	15	16	17	18

And if you have volunteered and worked at the Plant Sale you will be invited to the *After the Plant Sale—Plant Sale*, where you can peruse what is left over and buy at discounted prices. Date to be announced.

*On May 1st Dennis Hillerud will be in the yard at Presby in the evening to put the plant signs in the pots. We will ask for a few helpers to work with him. Time to be announced.

**PLANT SALE VOLUNTEERS
PARKING AT PRESBY:**

Please do not park your cars along Upper Mountain Avenue as we need the spaces for our shoppers.

Try to find parking on the side streets. Be cautious of the signs on Friday as many of these streets have a two hour limit. If you park on HIGHLAND AVENUE, you can walk down through the Presby Property to the Sales Area.

Also, if you have a garden cart or wagon, please consider bringing it with you to assist in moving plants from the holding area to customers' cars.

PURCHASING OF PLANTS:

Volunteers will be able to purchase plants at the sale, but only after the registers are open. All plants must be paid for at that time. A holding area will be available for you to store your "paid for" plants till you are ready to go home for the day.

HANGING BASKETS:

The baskets we purchase are very beautiful, and it is our hope that our customers will find them so. They will be prominently displayed to capture their attention. Volunteers may purchase the baskets that remain on Saturday afternoon at the end of the sale.

Thank You

April at Branch Brook Park

The season gets in full swing in April at the park. Here are the volunteer opportunities:

Master Gardener Working Sessions

Every Monday starting April 8th

We work in the southern section (south of Park Ave) called the "Prudential Concert Grove"

Meet at 9:30 am at the Ed Building and work until noon

Bring gloves and water -all tools will be provided

Volunteer days

Saturday, April 13

We will host volunteers from Rutgers

MG needed from 9:00-12:00

Monday April 22

We will host volunteers from Lord Abbott

MG needed from 9:00-12:00

Friday, April 26

We will host a morning and afternoon session with volunteers from PSE&G

MG needed from 9:00-12:30 and/or 12:30-3:30

On all volunteer days Master Gardeners meet at the Ed Building in the Prudential Concert Grove.

Bring gloves and water-tools are provided.

email Mary Jed at maryjed@optonline.net or Kasey

Goger at kgoger@verizon.net for more information

or if you are available for any of the above volunteer days

About 12 MGEC members went to the Mercer County Symposium on March 16th. We had a good time and learned a lot.



www.mgessex.org

Volunteer Day Opens the Season at Branch Brook Park

Hashaam giving a welcome to the group



The weather couldn't have been better! On Saturday March 30th we had 52 volunteers from various fraternities and organizations from NJIT. A terrific group of young adults that helped us pick up twigs and trash, cultivate and weed, cut phragmites and edge beds. Alexis Trujillo and Hashaam Jamil from Jersey Cares along with Master Gardeners Pat Thomas, Alice van Straalen, Mary Jed and soon to be Master Gardener Jen Delorenzi led the groups.

So much was accomplished and a fun time had by all.



Master Gardeners Alice, Jen, Mary and Pat ready to start the day.

www.mgessex.org

Glenmont Project, Year 11

March and the first day of spring 2019 have past. It was a month filled with snow that never seemed to melt and cold rain with everlasting signs of winter. The Glenmont MGs and interns could no longer wait for “ideal” conditions to begin the clean up tasks at the many Project sites and the all important “potting up” of canna rhizomes. On March 20, **Lynn Lopes and Bob Palestine** joined me in trimming and raking in the oval in front of the mansion and the main canna bed in back of the mansion—seven lawn and leaf bags and 3 piles of debris later.



Original Canna Bed

On March 21, **Nancy Elder, Eileen Hyland, and Karen Katrina** met me in the Glenmont potting shed to unwrap and wake up our sleeping cannas, cleaning and saving only the more viable ones—470 of them. We had 200 pots saved from last year, and **Linda**

Davis brought in another 20+ more. **Arnold Griffin**, the TENHP head gardener and groundskeeper cleared the area in the Agave Room of the greenhouse for as many potted cannas that we would be able to fit. (Our usual place in the Rose Room was taken up by plants from the Palm Room because of much delayed work finally being done to replace the shelves in the Palm Room.)



29 pots of Canna rhizomes under the tarp.

On March 27, after a wonderful private tour of the Edison lab/museum given to 16 of us by the Park Service, **Karen Katrina, Kathy Ludwig, Jean Milano, and Catherine Tamasik** met at Glenmont, toured the sites, cleaned the antique containers, and decided what needed to be done re clean up and potting up on

March 28.

June Bennett, Gina Biglin, Bob Donnelly, Nancy Elder, Terry Gatto, Karen Katrina, Jean Milano, Mike Mallette, Bob Palestine, Catherine Tamasik, Suzie Yamarone, and Elizabeth Wall met that Thursday and weeded and pruned back additional perennials in the oval, the main canna bed, the flower bed, and the 6 pots outside the potting shed. The also potted up 29 pots of cannas, with at least another 60 more to go.



Award winning oval?

Much more to do in each of the sites mentioned as well as clearing the milkweed along the side of the kitchen, trimming the spirea, cutting back the climbing rose, weeding by the iris beds outside the greenhouse, and planning the designs and purchases of plants by the Park Service and the MGs.

Glenmont and the grounds will be open to visitors April 14, so there is much to be done in making the garden sites at least look cared for before the major planting in May. We will be working in the morning on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 9-9:30 with other days added if needed. Interested in joining a wonderful crew as we transform the gardens at Glenmont, please contact me. Amy Trimarco aatrimarco@comcast.net, 201-600-8656 (cell)



Flower bed?

www.mgessesex.org

The Grover Cleveland Park Conservancy's work continues on their Woodlands Restoration Project and is looking for Master Gardeners to help direct volunteers.

On Monday, April 22nd a group of employees from Goldman Sachs will volunteer at Grover Cleveland Park in honor of Earth Day. The 40-member group is being brought by Jersey Cares. The Conservancy has a full schedule of activities for various skill levels to fulfill.

The group will concentrate on several areas on the perimeter of the 42-acre park. Invasive bushes will be removed, and new native species will be planted to enhance both areas. New plantings will be added to the entrance at the Buttonwood gate as well as planting of 9 red oaks that have been nurtured over the last year and are ready to plant (about 24 in tall).

With this large group, the Conservancy can use some help to identify the invasive species and the proper method to plant new items. If you could spare some time to help, it would be a wonderful way to spend Earth Day 2019.

Details:

Date: April 22nd
 Location: Grover Cleveland Park, Caldwell & Essex Fells NJ
 Hours: 9am – 2pm
 Meet at: The Pond House
 Park: Along Brookside Ave

Contact: Diane Mensinger, President, Grover Cleveland Park Conservancy
Vze2n499@verizon.net 973 303 6297
 If you have any questions, feel free to contact Claudia Kolster (claudia.wilcke@verizon.net).



The Helpline

The Helpline is currently training the class of 2019 and things are going very well. The new ceiling leak has been repaired. The absolute greatest news is that current MG student Mike Lachina has offered his considerable IT skills to our office and 99.9% of the computer issues have been solved! Both PC's work and the internet actually works every single day!! Both printers now communicate with each PC making our volunteer hours run so much smoother. **THAN YOU MIKE**

Chrystine Gaffney MGEC is the Program Assistant for all things Master Gardener, 4-H Leader and coordinator of RCE (Rutgers Cooperative Extension) activities. Jan directs her to inform us all of the upcoming Events and Programs, therefore, we need to pay attention to her emails and flyers etc. as our Helpline phone # is always on these announcements which go out through her data base. On almost all of these emails there is an ENROLL HERE LINK at the bottom, and the people wishing to attend can register that way.

After our Saturday's MGEC Meeting, April 13, 2019 The Helpline will have a BRIEF MEETING immediately afterwards. Please make EVERY EFFORT to attend. I realize not all of the HL Volunteers attend monthly MG meeting, however, I am encouraging everyone to attend. Thank you in advance for your regard to this matter.

The Helpline Office will be closed Friday May 3, 2019 due to the Annual MGEC Plant Sale.

Happy Spring to All!
 Lynda Meehan MGEC
 Helpline Chair.

HORTICULTURE WORKSHOPS FOR SENIORS



SENIOR CITIZENS OF ESSEX COUNTY

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN HORTICULTURE WORKSHOPS PRESENTED BY THE
RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

RUTGERS MASTER GARDENERS OF ESSEX COUNTY SPRING 2019

- APRIL 15** Arranging Spring Flowers
(reserve by April 8)
- MAY 20** Starting Spring Greens
(reserve by May 13)
- JUNE 17** Raising Succulents
(reserve by June 10)

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 ANY
CHANGES OR CANCELLATIONS PLEASE TELEPHONE OR EMAIL.
SPACE IS LIMITED. WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT RESERVATIONS
ONCE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IS REACHED!

FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION, CONTACT:
MASTER GARDENER HELPLINE, 973-228-2210, email: mastergardenerec@gmail.com
Amy Trimarco aatrimarco@comcast.com or 973-731-2449

**TEE'S, SHIRTS, AND HATS
AVAILABLE
AT THE NEXT MEETING
OR CAN BE MAILED TO YOU FOR A SHIPPING
FEE**

**CONTACT:
DONNA DORSEY
201-755-7959
Email:
Donnadorsey07@gmail.com**

www.mgessex.org

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

MGEC COMMITTEES / CHAIRS		2018 OFFICERS
<p>Advanced Training Branch Brook Park Gardens Branch Brook Park Cherry Trees Brookdale Park Pruning Education-Youth Greenhouse</p> <p>Grounds/Maintenance GROW Helpline Herb Garden Horticultural for Seniors MGEC & 4-H Coordinator Newsletter Plant Sale Publicity/Public Relations Rose Garden Speaker's Bureau Teaching Garden Volunteer Hours Reporting</p>	<p>Debi Graf (201) 919-0749 Mary Jedrzejewski 201 424-3733 Lois Young (973) 744-5696 Pat Hewitt (201) 913-8419 Fran Kroeckel (973) 744-6547 Gail Chmura (973) 632-3174 Pat Hewitt (201) 913-8419 Suzanne Brouillon (973) 239-7125 Mike Mallette (973) 230-4266 Lynda Meehan (973) 228-2210 Fran Kroeckel (973) 744-6547 Helen Kesner (973) 731-0717 Christine Gaffney, cg709@njaes.rutgers.edu Anita Gibaldi (973) 661-0520 Helen Stack (973) 239-8390 Dot Kamphausen (973) 338-4282 Susan Jankolovits (973) 783-0977 Jan Zientek (973) 228-2210 Suzanne Trimel (973) 509-8335 Eileen McEnroe mgcehours@gmail.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: #e67e22;">2018 OFFICERS</p> <p>President: <i>Gail Chmura</i> gailc11@gmail.com</p> <p>1st Vice-Pres: <i>Claudia Kolster</i> claudia.wilcke@verizon.net</p> <p>2nd Vice-Pres: <i>William Ciardiello</i> wpciar3@gmail.com</p> <p>Recording Sec: <i>Anita Gibaldi</i> anitagibaldi@optonline.net</p> <p>Corresponding Sec.: <i>Judy Galese</i> jmmgalese@aol.com</p> <p>Treasurer: <i>Jean Milano</i> miljea156@gmail.com</p> <p>State Representatives : <i>Alice Poueymirou</i> alicepouey@gmail.com <i>David Haimes</i> dhaimes@comcast.net</p>
** VOLUNTEER HUB **		
<p>404 Community Garden, 404 14th Avenue, Irvington, contact Keisha Newell at 404communitygarden@gmail.com.</p> <p>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 helleborus133@verizon.net.</p> <p>Branch Brook Park - Prudential Concert Grove - (Southern Section)! We lead volunteers in weeding, pruning, planting and transplanting perennials and shrubs. ! Come join us! Meet at the "Lions" and bring tools and gloves. ! For more information contact Kasey Goger at kgoger@verizon.net or Mary Jedrzejewski at maryjed@optonline.net</p> <p>Brookdale Park Pollinator Garden Tuesday 9 a.m. contact Jean Greeley jgreeley743@gmail.com</p> <p>Brookdale Park Pruning —ongoing pruning of Trees, to volunteer contact Pat Hewitt 201-913-8419, or hewitt36@verizon.net.</p> <p>Caldwell Pollinator Garden Creating new gardens contact Warren Marchioni wmarchioni39@gmail.com</p>	<p>Education Outreach Projects in schools. Contact Fran Kroeckel 973-744-6547, robertkroeckel@comcast.net</p> <p>Garden of Worker Bees 179 Broadway in Newark, NJ. Volunteer hours are Wednesday's 4pm-6pm and Saturday's 9am-11am. http://gardenofworkerbees.weebly.com/ Amarilys Olivo Mockabee amamockabee@gmail.com</p> <p>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) Liloia : eliloia@aol.com</p> <p>Glenmont Project Thos. Edison Nat'l. Historical Park in West Orange, Amy Trimarco, aatri-marco@comcast.net, 201-600-8656;</p> <p>The Greenhouse has plenty of room for those that want to transplant and water. Contact Gail Chmura, gailc11@gmail.com/Pat Hewitt, hewitt36@verizon.net</p> <p>Grounds Around Garibaldi Hall — help maintain and beautify. Meet Tuesday morning-early. Bring your gloves/tools. Contact Tony Oszmianski (973) 226-1351.</p>	<p>Special Garibaldi project workdays scheduled throughout the year. Contact Suzanne Brouillon sbrouillon@gmail.com.</p> <p>GROW Community Outreach Program., 3-4 Sessions a year, half-day long, recent Graduates become involved. Contact Mike Mallette (973)230-4266 ytmll@aol.com</p> <p>Helpline volunteer-- Contact Lynda Meehan at (609) 313-4249 or lyndam1112@gmail.com, or call the HelpLine at 973-228-2210; mastergardener@comcast.net</p> <p>Horticulture for Seniors meets monthly with seniors. Contact Anita Gibaldi (973) 661-0520 anitagibaldi@optonline.net</p> <p>MGEC Bee Keepers at Garibaldi Hall. Beginners must observe until the proper course is taken and equipment purchased. Contact David Haimes, dhaimes@comcast.net.</p> <p>Montclair Community Farms, volunteer on Friday mornings & on Plant it Forward days. Contact Christine Gaffney : cg709@njaes.rutgers.edu</p>
<p style="color: #e67e22;">www.mgessex.org</p>		<p>Nicholas Vecchio Memorial UNICO Garden. West Orange senior garden. Contact bevreilly@gmail.com</p> <p>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</p> <p>Seth Boyden Demonstration School 274 Boyden Avenue, Maplewood (In the back yard) Weekend and week-day opportunities in the arboretum, habitat garden and vegetable garden. Elizabeth Ebinger elizabeth.ebinger@gmail.com</p> <p>South Orange Elks Rent Party Garden Community garden whose produce goes to food banks. Contact Karen Rutberg, at klrutberg@aol.com.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Teaching Garden At Presby Memorial Iris Garden in Montclair. Contact Suzanne.Trimel@gmail.com</p> <p>Turtle Back Zoo has an ongoing call for volunteers at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080f4eaead28a3f85-zoovolunteer or contact Suzie Yamarone at syamo@verizon.net.</p>

BULLETIN BOARD

SOIL TEST KITS ONLY \$20

Go on line to <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/soiltestinglab>. There you will find specific directions to send your soil sample and check to the Rutgers lab.

E-MAIL UPDATES NEEDED

To provide you with *The Essex Gardener* in full color, and get material that goes out from RCE during the month, E-MAIL any changes of your e-mail address to: anitagibaldi@optonline.net

Editors Note

Deadline for the **MAY 2019** newsletter is **APRIL 24TH**. Please submit your articles before the due date to me directly at anitagibaldi@optonline.net

**VISIT THE
MASTER GARDENERS
OF ESSEX COUNTY
WEBSITE AT**

www.mgessex.org

THE ESSEX GARDENER

Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Essex County

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New Jersey Agriculture Experiment Station
Rutgers-The State University of New Jersey
Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension of Essex County
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Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers-The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Essex County Executive, Board of Freeholders, Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. Educational Program's are offered without regard to race, color, sex, national origin, disability or age. Rutgers Cooperative Extension is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Jan Zientek, Program. Coordinator



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Hunterdon –

The Hunterdon County report:

RMGANJ April 11, 2019 Minutes Final

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Our new class will graduate Tue. April 16.
Our teams are working on programs for the upcoming season.
Our Community Outreach programs are increasing after the winter season.
We continue to have interesting speakers at our general monthly meetings.

Mercer – We are continuing to settle into our new office. Helpline has been up and running with the exception of a few days when the move took place. It's been very busy with many clients coming in for soil test kits.

Our next Community Outreach program is Pollinators and Pollination Strategies, a talk and guided walk in Abbot Marshlands. This will be held Saturday, April 27, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Naturalist Mary Ann Borge will be speaking at Tulpehaking Nature Center.

Our Plant Sale and Garden Market will be Saturday, May 4, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Mercer Educational Gardens.

On June 8, there will be a tour of several RMG's gardens, along with three public gardens.

We have a tour scheduled for April 26 to Morris Arboretum featuring the special event Loop de Loop, New Stickwork Sculpture by Patrick Dougherty.

Our new Speakers Bureau has been off to a slow start with several presentations scheduled in April. Since we have no intern class this year, our County Agent and new Horticulturist have been scheduling advanced training monthly. Graduate MGs have been enthusiastic about the new programs offered.

Middlesex – Our graduation ceremony was held on Thursday Feb 21. Congratulations to the Thursday evening and Friday morning classes - the graduating class of 2018 and all the awardees.

On March 26 our Master Gardener White Elephant sale was held with auctioneer extraordinaire Kathy Doport. The fundraising auction offers the opportunity to purchase gently used garden items.

The following workshops are being offered at the EARTH center during April. Register at 732-398-5262. Text EXTENSION to 56512 for more information.

- Saturday, April 6, 10:00am - 12:00pm – Backyard Composting: Learn how to reduce waste and feed your garden. Register at 732-745-4170.

- Wednesday, April 10, 6:30pm - 8:00pm – Introduction to Vermi-Composting. Learn How to use worms to compost indoors. Register at 732-745-4170.

- Saturday, April 20, 11:00am - 12:30pm – Gardening in Small Spaces Workshop: Featuring Square Foot and Container Gardening.

On April 27 we will participate in the Educational Day and Plant Sale at the Cook Campus Rutgers Day/Ag Day. We will be selling vegetable, herb and flower plants that our interns have nurtured from seed to sale.

On Tuesday evening April 23rd we will have an evening of "speed dating" It will give Master Gardeners, particularly the interns, the opportunity to meet project leaders, find out about MG projects and join in the volunteering fun.

Monmouth –

March has been a very busy month for Monmouth County Master Gardeners! In the past two weeks we have hosted two events. On March 30th we had our 4th Annual Home Garden Symposium featuring our own MG speakers on the following topics: Irene Wanat on *Four Seasons of Colorful Shrubs in Your Landscape*, Debbie LaGattuta on *Thyme to Turnip the Beet: Planning Your Garden and Growing Great Vegetables*, Candy Tice on *Want More Butterflies in Your Back Yard? Tips from the Butterfly Whisper* and Bob Magovern on *Hydrangeas: Tips for Successful Growing*. Two presentations were held in the morning and two in the afternoon. After a half hour lunch we offered a choice of a panel discussion of Helpline topics, a Honeybee demonstration or a spring container demonstration for all interested. Thank you to Diane Larson, our coordinator, Bob Magovern, Angela Juffey and Sandy Wolfe for providing some great information. All presentations were well received and the day was a huge success! Thank you to Debbie LaGattuta for organizing and orchestrating this event. And, thank you to all of our MGs who helped in this endeavor and to MGs from Mercer, Middlesex and Ocean counties who joined us that day!

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

And, on April 5th we had our 5th Annual School Garden Conference for our educators. All presentations were held in the morning and presented by: Mike Miller, a supervisor of science on their new greenhouse project, Chris Aviles, the Director of the Fair Haven Innovates Program, Karen Walzer, the Public Outreach Coordinator for the Barnegat and the owner, Cody Parker, of Drop the Beet Aquaponics Farm. Also speaking to our guests were Monmouth County Freeholder Director, Thomas Arnone and NJ Assemblyman, Eric Houghtaling. After lunch, our guests were invited to explore the many display tables available throughout the building featuring our property gardens, activities that may be used in or out of a classroom or informational tables such as conservation or greenhouses. Thank you to our School Programs Committee: Pat Eisemann, Beth Hutter, Judy Lipman and Heather McGrath for organizing this event. Many thanks also to all of the MGs who helped man the tables, set up/break down and assist in any way to make this a most successful day of learning.

Out in the back 40, the PAR is being well attended by our interns who have dug and raked, defined beds, repaired the fence (hopefully the rabbits will not be able to get in this year!) and started their spring planting! The garden is looking good! All other gardens have had some sprucing up, a little pruning, raking and edging. Plans for additional planting are in progress and spring/summer maintenance schedules are in full force.

Our Junior Master Gardener Program will begin its new class of 9-11-year-old children on Saturday, April 27th. In preparation for opening day, the woodchips have arrived and a "chip" moving party will take place defining the pathways from the 9 beds. The first day is always exciting and activities made for getting to know one another are always fun! The first half of the morning is inside with a classroom setup and after a snack, the children go outside to find their plots in the JMG garden and have some hands-on experience...what fun!

Morris – No report

Ocean –

All our gardens and greenhouses are busy. The display garden in front of our building is visited by the public and has information available on the plants on view. The community vegetable garden and the cuisine garden that is used by county vocational school chefs are being planted.

The intern classes finish in April. This class has been very insightful in its questions and is ready to volunteer. On April 9th, the interns were trained how to work the Helpline with the assistance of mentors. Some MGs are involved with the Community Garden Network of Ocean County. The MGs teach Garden Network members about IPM and are involved in cleaning and preparing the community garden at Riverwood Park in Toms River.

This summer we will return to do outreach at the Ocean County Fair after an absence of some years.

The Helpdesk at one of our southern libraries began its season on April 1st. Volunteers do in-person answering of questions and diagnostics.

Diagnostics training continues for veterans so they can take a more active role in dealing with the public at events or at the Agriculture Center.

The Speakers Bureau has 7 presentations in April and requests are coming in for later talks.

The first Outreach Diagnostics event is later this month at the Cattus island Nature Festival in Toms River. Community Outreach, which is different from Outreach Diagnostics, has 48 events scheduled this year. At some of these, there will be members of the Outreach Diagnostics team.

Passaic – No report

Somerset– No report

Sussex – No report

Union –

DEMONSTRATION GARDEN: Demo Garden Clean Up Day will be April 9 from 10am - 12:30pm. Plant Sale Committee Kick-off Meeting is April 27 at 12:30pm in the Garden with refreshments. Plant Donations, Dividing and Potting Perennials and Prep Days are, April 27 and April 28 9:00am – 12:00pm. A partnership has formed with Reeves-Reed Arboretum, Summit to train docents for both gardens starting on April 10.

SHARING GARDEN: Seeds have been started in the greenhouse for kale, lettuces and cold weather crops

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

PUBLIC EVENTS: Wild Earth Fest on April 28, 11:00am–5:00pm. Invasive Plant Species Swap on Thursday, June 6 from 6 - 8pm.

SPRING GARDEN FAIR: Sunday, May 19, 12-4pm. Committee chairpersons have been listed in the Newsletter. Flyers have been printed by Union County.

HERB GARDEN: Meeting April 11, 9am. A bed is being planned for Caryl Hanneman's favorite plants. If you would like to add to this list, please send an email to Dolores Batz-Culp: dlbccc@yahoo.com.

HELPLINE: Soil Test Kits sales have increased with the warm weather. Questions on pruning, weed identification, moss in the lawn, community gardens, and many visits with all shifts running.

HORTICULTURAL THERAPY: Terrariums will be made with Garwood Senior Housing on April 17, and on May 8 with Jewish Family Services and their Holocaust Survivors Group in Elizabeth.

NEW CLASS: Visiting and Demo Garden Clean Up Day will be April 9 from 10am - 12:30pm. Class Representatives attended the executive Board Meeting.

EXECUTIVE BOARD: Communications Meeting was held March 27. EB Meeting was April 3.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 12:25. The next meeting is 5/9/2019.

Respectfully Submitted
Tricia Deering, Recording Secretary