

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Minutes of June 13, 2019 RMGANJ Meeting

Pat Schanzlin called the meeting to order at 10:10 am. There were no new attendees.

Secretary's Minutes from May 2019 Meeting: Tricia Deering, Recording Secretary, reported that she had emailed out the May 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 version3 of the minutes. Tricia will update it to be "final" and distribute.

Attendance:

Atlantic:	
Bergen:	Joe Cooper
Burlington:	Terry Zane, Nick Hendershot, Merry Bogert
Camden:	
Cumberland:	
Essex:	David Haimes, Alice Poueymirou
Hunterdon:	Tricia Deering, Dewey Goodman
Mercer:	Betty Scarlata, Sudi Solomon
Middlesex:	Jerri Barclay
Monmouth:	Gayle Williams, Bob Magovern, Jay Schaeffer
Morris:	Deidre Gallagher
Ocean:	Suzanne Keane, Roberta Quinn
Passaic:	Rick Sneyers, Jim McHugh
Somerset:	Cindy Hedin, Linda Madretzke
Sussex:	Jane Gardner, Pat Schanzlin
Union:	Deb Murphy, Dolores Batz-Culp
Rutgers University:	Jan Zientek

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jane Gardner, Treasurer, reported that the current balance is \$14,387.65. This amount includes a pin transfer. 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 he has the contract with OCPE for the State Conference registration which Rutgers is paying for this year. Next Wednesday is the tick training which is full. The coordinators are meeting in a few weeks and are making progress with standardization of training.

Old Business

Pins: Pat Schanzlin reported that Dolores Batz-Culp has a large quantity of pins . The current process is to order them through the State Board but they will be free to us. Rutgers is absorbing the cost. Will we not be covering postage anymore so pins must be delivered at the meeting . At the current time , the design is not changing because it has been decided that the use of the hand logo is okay in a pin. Jan Zientek is ordering new ones including 30 and 35 year pins. Dolores will take the pricing off the pin ordering form. Name tag ordering is the responsibility of the county coordinator, the same as in the past.

OCPE Registration: As stated above, registration will be handled through OCPE. The plan is for the registration link to be available by the end of July. Pat Schanzlin is going to talk to OCPE about a way to solve the internal Rutgers payment problem. Her idea is to see if they can add a link to the registration for internal payment to handle the Rutgers payments for award winners and coordinators. Someone in the county must register those guests.

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County Segment: Pat Schanzlin reported that Hunterdon and Mercer have agreed to give presentations as part of the County Segment. There will not be a third county speaking. There was discussion on whether the presenters should have their registration and lunch paid for. There was a motion to treat them as speakers. Speaker escorts will gather the information needed (AV, lunch, ...) No registration fee will be charged to the speaker. Their cost will be covered by the conference. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. There will be 20 minutes for each for the speakers and 35 minutes for the award recognition

County Awards of Excellence. The writeups are due by the 19th of July.

Sales Tax Issue and Garden Market: Pat Schanzlin reported that Dave Haimes has arranged that we will have the Garden Market room. It costs \$650. Barnes and Noble and the posters from the international winners could go in there. There was discussion about what else we can do. Would the counties that are 501c's be interested in selling items? – the counties said no. If we don't want the room we need to cancel by it by 8/5. We cannot invite other vendors because that would appear to be endorsing them, There was discussion on whether we should have Barnes and Noble at all. It was agreed that we should. The idea was suggested to see if Bruce Crawford could come and set up a Garden Market at the conference. He does it at the Rutgers Home Gardener School so he must have an arrangement with Rutgers. Jan Zientek will check with Bruce and report back.

Catering selections: Deidre Gallagher reviewed the catering options which have not changed since last year. She discussed the choices from last year: deli items: mozzarella and roasted peppers, sliced ham, turkey, grilled portobello, and a salad. Deli boxes are \$9.95. The salad is \$1.30 more. \$5 will be covered by the registration price. Based on the numbers from last year it was motioned to drop the portobello mushroom since it was the least popular. There was also discussion of breakfast options: NY Minute is what was chosen last year. 30 bagels and 20 yogurt cups were not consumed. The cost is the same. A motion to go with the same lunch and breakfast options as last year with the exception of the portobella mushroom sandwich. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

New Business:

Budget: Pat Schanzlin discussed the budget. It assumes \$45 per head for the conference. It gives us a net positive of \$2700. A motion was made to approve the budget, seconded and approved unanimously.

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

New Business Continued:

Conference tasks status: The conference task responsibilities and status are as follows:

- Burlington/Terry Zane: registration desk - in good shape
- Ocean/Suzanne Keane: award booklet – two counties sent her their writeups. Invitations have been sent out to the coordinators and she will send out a reminder. There is a 150 word limit for each award and the writeup should be submitted in Word or as part of an email. The due date is 7/19. The cost of the booklet is \$495. Pictures should go directly to Joe Cooper. 25 and/or 30 year award winners and the international award winners should also go to her. This was all in the email she sent to the coordinators.
- Bergen/Joe Cooper: video; pictures should be sent to him
- Mercer/ Betty Scarlata : bookstore – this is being deferred pending Jan Zientek's discussion with Bruce Crawford.
- Morris/Deidre Gallagher: catering – see above for status

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- Union/Dolores Batz-Culp: door prizes. Working on it. Discussion on where the prizes can be purchased. Can Rutgers Gardens donate shrubs? Jan will check with Bruce Crawford.
- Atlantic/Mary Lou Wickham: evaluations. She is away for the summer, but they will be done by her
- Essex/David Haimes: facilities. A tour will be scheduled in August
- Hunterdon/Dewey Goodwin: speaker escorts. Have received questionnaires back from Rutgers speakers and sent them to facilities and catering.
- Monmouth/Gail : facility cleanup
- Cumberland/Carol Henry: program flyer; Pat will get in touch with her for status.
- Camden/Diane Shonyo: folders. Need to check if she had enough left from last year
- Middlesex/Signage: working on getting people
- Passaic/Rick Sneyers: Speaker Gifts: working on it. Cannot use Rutgers 250 books
- Somerset/Garden Market: on hold but we will probably not have one

Role of Historian: Tabled until after the conference

COUNTY REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

Atlantic – No report

Bergen –

Guest Speaker: Fig fanatic Jim Cooper, our May speaker, spoke of the many fig trees he propagates, grows, and sells. Under questioning, he admitted to having more than 75 fig trees on his Old Tappan property. In the winter, he said, he moves those in pots and barrels into his garage. Jim discussed online fig forums; where to buy cuttings and rooted plants; which varieties of figs are suited to our climate, soil and fertilization; propagation; over-wintering; and the misrepresentation of fig varieties. Want to buy a fig tree? Jim will have a booth near the Nyack Post Office at the Nyack Street Fair July 14.

Recognition pins for 5, 10, 15 and 20 years of service were distributed at the May meeting.

Our Annual Summer Picnic became the MG barbecue/ lecture this year with a change of venue as well. We met at Rohsler's Allendale Nursery where the owners provided a lecture on unusual native plants and grilled for us. Master Gardeners provided sides and desserts.

Our Award for Excellence winners for Bergen County were chosen; Donna Faustini and Miriam Taub. Currently, Donna arranges the programs for our monthly MG meetings, and she's always looking for new speakers, new ideas, and current trends. Miriam is the organization's corresponding secretary, garden club liaison, and co-editor of the Potting Shed. More to come in the award booklet.

Volunteer Site News:

Hackensack River Greenway: Removal of trash and invasives in Andreas Park, Teaneck, took place on June 2.

The Hermitage: The NJ Triumph Association sponsored a show of classic British motor cars and cycles June 8

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The New Jersey Botanical Garden: MG Dr. Edith Wallace lead a garden tour to celebrate New Jersey Public Garden and Arboretum Day, designated as June 7 by the NJ State Senate and Assembly. A short video and a display of current blooms in the gardens were presented. The event was free, but donations are always welcome.

Burlington –

Garden Expo – With the parting of the clouds, we kicked off the farmer's market at Burlington County Community Agricultural Center (BCCAC) on Saturday, June 11th. Master Gardeners were available to answer plant and garden related questions, conduct educational sessions, and sell perennials.

IPM – Agriculture Agent, Bill Banka, reintroduced the IPM program at Burlington County Community Agricultural Center. The first session was held on Thursday, June 6th with more dates to follow.

Burlington County Earth Fair at Smithville – On Sunday, June 9th, the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Burlington County manned a table. We had a sample of dill, parsley and fennel plants that had actively feeding black swallowtail caterpillars. This learning tool was of interest to both children and adults. We handed out informational material on tick management, gardening for pollinators, lawn care, soil testing and helpline business cards. Throughout the day, we were able to make personal contact with 210 people.

Presentations from our Speaker's Bureau: May 22, 2019: Ferns in the Garden – Joanne Szeliga, Moorestown Library

Project Reports:

Gardens at Burlington County Fair Grounds – We completed planting of annuals in the two pedestrian entrance gardens. The annuals planted in the flagpole garden are doing well. Work days are scheduled to perform maintenance and do battle with the dreaded nut sedge.

Butterfly Garden at Smith Woods – This month has been filled with planting new host and nectar plants and finally establishing a raised bed for the host plants of violets, fennel, dill and parsley. The Master Gardeners have continued to identify what perennials came up in each plot so our signage is accurate as well as adjusted. Classes in the garden begin this month provided by the County Naturalist. We have added more edging to each plot using cobblestones and continue to battle the deer. Our host plants are filled with swallowtail caterpillars and our milkweed now has monarch caterpillars munching away. We will continue to nurture, plant, and educate the public as we spend our days working in the garden.

Donation Garden at Medford Leas – The donation garden is doing well. Almost all of our main season crops have been planted and we have begun harvesting and donating our produce, about 100 lbs. so far. We have been harvesting salad greens, rhubarb, onions, Chinese cabbage, Pak Choi, peas, radishes, Asian greens, and even gourmet dandelion greens. The Colorado Potato Beetles have just arrived at the garden on our tomatoes and they are usually our most troublesome insect pest.

IPM and Demonstration Plots at BCCAC – May is always a very busy month for the group.

In the kitchen garden we planted herbs, annuals and dahlias.

The raised beds have also received a variety of plants including succulents.

In our demonstration plots, the strawberries are being harvested and counted.

The blueberries have been fertilized and we are trying to protect the crop from the birds with mylar tape and aluminum pie plates.

The pollinator plot is also growing nicely except for the agastache. For the first time we have found cucumber beetles in large quantities on the agastache and we noticed that the leaves are curling. At first glance it looks like downy mildew but we are waiting for confirmation on that one.

We also have dedicated one of the plots to growing the Three Sisters.

Sadly the deer have found us easily this year and we are now working on solutions to this problem.

The bean plot has also been planted and is providing an excellent feast for the deer, there too we are working on solutions.

We have two varieties of barley growing in another plot. The heads on the barley have already formed and it looks beautiful. The goal of that plot is to show the difference between the two varieties.

The salvia plot is being renovated. We have to add new plants because most of the plants that we tried to protect last winter did not come back this year. We wanted to see if by protecting the plants that were zone 8, we could save some of them but very few have survived. We are now being more reasonable and using plants for zone 7. We will find out next spring.

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Our last plot is right now divided in two sections, one section is covered in flax, it is blooming right now and looks great and in the other section, millet was seeded.

The plot with hops is used to demonstrate the problems with growing hops in New-Jersey. We do not use pesticides or fungicides so the problems in that plot are many.

The purpose of that plot is to educate people as to what those plants look like.

Medicinal/Culinary Colonial-Era Garden at Pineland Preservation Alliance – The colonial-era culinary and medicinal gardens at the Pinelands Preservation Alliance are well underway. The team completed a lot of preparation of the beds--the newly installed hardscaping had the unanticipated result of leaving very compacted soil where the plantings were to go. There are two more or less separate sections, with one dedicated to plants brought by the colonists from the "old world," and a second filled with native plants. The former includes the usual suspects like thyme, sage, flax, common rue, winter savory but with less-known cardoon as an added feature (turns out that the deer, rabbits and other sundry Pinelands-dwelling critters apparently and fortunately don't like cardoon). The latter section contains common yarrow, golden alexanders, sneezeweed, wild quinine, various milkweeds, American alum, and others. Temporary signage is in place; the plan is to have signs keyed to handouts explaining what each plant was used for by the colonists and the Native Americans. One takeaway from the research the group has done is that there was a great deal of cross-over from one group to the other; that is, the colonists gained knowledge of the local medicinal plants and adapted those to their own purposes while the Native Americans did the same with the imports. The team hopes to create a third section of the project, which will feature "weeds" that were used for culinary and medicinal purposes (think common plantain, dandelions, burdock, and so forth).

Pinelands Preservation Alliance Kitchen Garden – No Report.

Rancocas Nature Center – The gardens are growing like crazy with all the rain. I put in Cardinal flower, and blue lobelia which love the wet. A local company spent a volunteer day weeding and planting more native plants. The Lil'Sprouts group planted tomatoes, lettuce, carrots, flax and cotton in the Children's garden. The hummingbirds came around the end of April - later than past years. We're using the vinegar solution as an environmentally safe weed killer in between showers.

Upcoming Events:

- Burlington County Farm Fair – July 16 – 20, 2019
- June 26, 2019: Moorestown's Secret Garden – Wolf and Barbara Skacel, Moorestown Library
- July 24, 2019: All About Rutgers Master Gardeners of Burlington County – Sharon Astorino, Moorestown Library
- August 28, 2019: Deer Friendly Yards – Dave Parsons, Moorestown Library
- September 25, 2019: Fall Gardening and Preparing for Winter – Rich Allen, Moorestown Library

Blog Spots:

IPM Blog, All About Mosquitoes, by Rich Allen

<http://bcmgipm.blogspot.com/2019/05/welcome-to-mosquito-season.html>

Invasive Bradford Pear, by Dave Parsons

<https://rutgersmgbc.blogspot.com/2019/06/invasive-species-in-new-jersey-series-6.html>

Camden –

Horticulture School

27 people completed the horticulture school this year. Many are busy attending education events, doing help-line hours and participating community outreach and the educational garden.

Help Line

The master gardener help line continues to be busy. It is fully staffed throughout the shifts of Monday-Friday 9-noon. Lots of question about plant fungus due to excessive rain.

Outreach

The total number of contacts attending or visiting the MG booth display since February is nearly 812. This includes our green fair, many township green fairs and a wide range of activities. Our speaker's bureau has done presentations at organizations, community centers and several libraries in May. Topics include composting, vegetable gardening, butterflies and herb plants.

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Greenhouse

The Greenhouse held three highly successful plant sales in our county in April and May. They sold nearly 275 plants which they had grown from seed or seedlings. The committee is finishing cleaning up the greenhouse and preparing to produce some violas for the fall make and take program. The committee held a meeting to discuss what they learned from this year's work and how to continue to be better. This was the most successful year we have ever had in terms of sales figures.

Hydroponics

Two Master Gardeners have volunteered to oversee the hydroponic station at the Camden County Sustainability Center. They have properly maintained the equipment and assisted in teaching other MG volunteer's hydroponics. They operate three different nutrient film technique systems. They produced over 600 plants on the system. Some were sold and some were donated to the Cathedral Kitchen.

Programs

The programs offered in April and May consisted of two excursions: One to Bartram's Gardens in Philadelphia and another to a local site to visit an arborist. The arborist discussed application of IPM that he is using on the plants and trees at that location. 25 Master Gardeners attended each event.

Educational Gardens

The educational garden committee has successfully built and added raised beds for two different garden installations. One set of raised beds is for the junior gardener program and the other raised beds are for the medicinal colonial garden. We finished planting our expanded rain garden, the cutting garden and added strawberries and asparagus to the vegetable gardens. We have had Power Corp from Camden assist us in digging trenches, garden beds and laying out mulch. They are a group of urban young people who work on a variety of sites to learn job skills. We are adding more deer fencing and creating pine needle pathways. We now have 10 gardens installed on our 2-acre site.

Cumberland: no report

Essex –

Upcoming Master Gardeners of Essex County Meeting Schedule and Speakers:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker (Y or No)</u>	<u>Subject</u>
07/13/2019	Yes	Trees
09/14/2019	No	General Meeting, 2018 Class Graduation, Party and Awards

Horticulture Workshops for Seniors – Fall/Winter 2018

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

06/17/2019 Raising Succulents

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

GARIBALDI HALL, 621A EAGLE ROCK AVE., ROSELAND

PROGRAMS ARE FREE. RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE EARLY.

SPACE IS LIMITED. WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT RESERVATIONS

ONCE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IS REACHED!

MGEC Volunteer Projects – Weather and Season Permitting

404 Community Garden 404 14th Avenue, Irvington

Branch Brook Park Cherry Tree Pruning Team

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

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Brookdale Park Pollinator Garden

Brookdale Park Pruning —ongoing pruning of Trees

Garden of Worker Bees

Caldwell Pollinator Garden

Education Outreach

Giving Garden Nutley area

Glenmont Project Thos. Edison Nat'l. Historical

Hunterdon –

Our Helpline has been very busy

Our outreach programs continue at a fast pace

Our Giving Garden team continues working with local food banks

We have started training on Better Impact

We continue to have excellent speakers at our monthly meetings.

Mercer –

The application to become a Mercer Master Gardener is now live on our website. We have had many callers asking when it would become available. We are looking forward to having a new intern class in the fall.

Saturday June 8 was our first ever garden tour. The weather was perfect and we sold over 125 tickets. The tour included three public gardens and eight private gardens. They heard many wonderful comments from attendees and all were asking for us to do it again next year.

The topic for our May monthly meeting program was Planting and Maintenance of a Rain Garden, Presented by Dr. Christopher Obropta, of Rutgers. Dr. Obropta is an excellent speaker.

In May we toured the Leonard J. Buck Garden in Far Hills, NJ. Coming up next week is a bus trip to the new Rail Park in Philadelphia, and the Barnes Arboretum.

Our May Outreach event was held May 30 in conjunction with Mercer County Community College. Managing the Pests in Your Garden & Landscape by Nature's Signs was presented by Amy Ricco, Professor & Director, MCCC Horticulture & Plant Science Program. It was preceded by a visit to MCCC greenhouse. MCCC has taken awards the past several years at the Philadelphia Flower Show.

June 15th starts our 8 week series through August 24, "Hands On In The Garden" to be held at Mercer Educational Gardens and will be followed by our annual Insect Festival in September.

Middlesex –

On Tuesday May 26 at the EARTH Center, Pat Evans spoke about beekeeping. She is an active volunteer having logged over 2,500 hours of service with the Master Gardener Program since 2005 and is President of the Earth Center Conservancy (ECC). She is also president of the Central Jersey Beekeepers Association (CJBA). Pat conducts annual bee workshops at RCE and lectures throughout Middlesex County to both adults and children.

Saturday August 24 is our EARTH Center Garden and Music Festival. The demonstration gardens will be at their peak and the public is invited to a free day in the park. The herb gardens, rows for the hungry, the alumni garden, the children's garden, the garden of memories and the butterfly house will all be open to visitors.

Helpline is running a full summer schedule now. We are open Monday - Friday 9am-12pm

On the evening of May 14th we planted two Scarlet Fire dogwoods in the Garden of Memories to honor two of our master gardeners who recently passed away - Larry Haas and Marshall Nazin.

MG Bus Trip to Bartram's Gardens

Tuesday, July 9th 9am

Bus will leave from the 4H Building, 645 Cranbury Rd, East Brunswick.

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Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

The oldest surviving botanic garden in North America

GUIDED HOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR

Free Time to Explore, bring your lunch and picnic along the Schuylkill River. The Welcome Center has refreshments only and PLANTS.

Historic Gardens, Medicinal Plant Display, the Ann Bartram Carr Garden, a Coach House, A Barn, The Bartram House and Welcome Center

See their famous Franklinia and Ginkgo Trees

Departing Bartram 3:00 p.m.

Approx. Return to 4-H Center 5 p.m.

\$70.00 per person

Please RSVP by June 25, 2019 and mail checks to

Pat Scarano, 3 Rogers Rd. Old Bridge, NJ 08857 732 257 6246

Monmouth –

Much is going on in Monmouth County as we are sure it is with all others! Our Spring Garden Days plant sale was a success and happily we will be able to share lots of free events with our county residents. As June progresses, we will end our JMG classes on June 22nd with the last class inside the classroom and out in the garden ending with a graduation celebration and an invitation to parents to join us. Also in June we will again be awarding our scholarships to four very well qualified college-bound or students already attending college in the field of horticulture or related fields. Awarding of the scholarships will be made on June 26th at our General Meeting. All students applying must be Monmouth County residents.

The Member Education committee has arranged for a summer pruning class at Deep Cut Gardens and a trip to Wild Ridge Plant Nursery (Alpha, NJ, specializing in native plants) while our Compost committee setup three trips to the Monmouth County Reclamation Center to accommodate all of the MGs interested in attending. Our Speakers Bureau has presentations on Honey Bees, Growing Great Vegetables and Growing Herbs set for the month of June. Our MG Helpline was available at Deep Cut Gardens Celebration, Manalapan Day, the Annual Marlboro Day and the Keyport Garden Walk as well as a request for a composting table.

In the PAR, the Class of 2019 has been harvesting spring crops, squishing potato beetles, planting more summer vegetables and trying to out-wit flea beetles! So far, they have the upper hand! We are so glad to see the great teamwork! In the Helpline room, things are buzzing! With the wet and cool spring, MC residents are experiencing issues in their lawns and gardens.

Coming up are the Monmouth County Community Garden tours scheduled for July 13th and 14th from 9 AM-12 PM each day. Last year was our first year highlighting our community gardens and teaching folks about community gardens and the PAR sections of each garden. Towards the end of July MC MGs will have a section at the County Fair as they always do. This year's theme is "Flower Power" complete with gorgeous blooms and tie-dyed shirts! In the production phase is our Bugs, Birds and Beyond event that we will host on August 17th from 12 PM-4 PM. You are all invited!

Our speaker for May was Matthew Elmore from Rutgers on Turf Weeds whose talk was very informative and interesting.

Morris –

Morris County's Rutgers Master Gardener graduation and recognition luncheon is set for Thursday June 13, 2019 at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. Bruce Crawford will be our guest speaker and we are expecting about eighty Rutgers Master Gardeners and guests.

The Community Garden Detectives program is in full swing with larger teams of volunteers. The certified Rutgers Master Gardeners are showing the interns how to locate and identify the pests and diseases they find in the different Community Garden plots. The reports included all the pests and diseases that were found along with the Rutgers fact sheets and solutions to the problems. The final reports are shared with 35 other community gardens in northern New Jersey.

Helpline has been very busy the last few weeks and volunteers have almost completely filled in all shifts in June. We thank them for their time and effort.

Speakers Bureau: The Speakers Bureau program continues to receive more requests for presentations in 2019. It definitely has become one of our most popular programs, for speakers and the number of residents who view these presentations.

In our Community Garden Demonstration Plots this year we are demonstrating straw bale gardening and ways to successfully grow potatoes. The straw bales have been prepared (fertilized and watered) and we

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are growing ten different kinds of vegetables to see what works best on the straw bales. The information gathered is shared with our network of community gardens in northern New Jersey.

Snyder Farm: The website for volunteering at the Great Tomato Tasting is up and many of the favorite volunteer assignments have been filled already. We will have our final WPS training at Snyder Farm on Tuesday June 18, 2019.

Projects We are currently working on many new projects for this year and we will announce them when they have been finalized.

Ocean –

'Better Impact' training has been conducted with a small group of ~25. That focus group found it to be easy once understood. We have quite a few members who are not computer savvy, so our challenge may be later in the Fall when these MGs help train our full membership.

Our Community Garden is experimenting with "cover crop/green manure" in a few beds and gave a presentation to those interested last Monday. It was very successful, so they may schedule another session. The IPM team scouted our garden at Cuisine on the Green and confirmed the insects we saw and gave us some advice on procedures to follow.

Most Interns are well on their way to completing their hours. They help maintain the Display Garden out front and have organized for their main project – Fall Garden Day in September.

We continue to interact with the public at Community Events and Speaker presentations, both committees very active this year. Of course, we have Helpline, Ticks, and a busy Diagnostics group helping at the front desk now, as well as the Stafford Library (Southern) team with twice a month presence there.

2nd quarter hours are due the first week of July.

Passaic –

On May 28, 18 new Master Gardeners were graduated in a ceremony held at New Jersey Botanical Gardens in Ringwood. The new graduates were also awarded one-year memberships in NJBG and Laurelwood Arboretum. The Volunteer Service Awards ceremony also took place. Notably, three Master Gardeners received twenty year Service Awards. They were Bridget Davis, Deb Manfredonio, and Dr. Edith Wallace.

Horticulture Therapy sessions were held at Preakness Healthcare Center on May 16 and Llanfair House on June 11.

A new project has been approved:

The North Haledon Community Garden Habitat Restoration Pollinator Rain Garden

The Bi-laws Committee completed their work on revising the bi-laws and the changes have been sent out to the general membership for a ratification vote at the June 25 meeting.

The speaker at the June 25 meeting will be Tim Dille from the Garden State Koi Pond & Waterfall Design Center in Warwick, NY (845-595-0244, <https://www.gardenstatekoi.com>)

Somerset–

Somerset county master gardeners were offered 2 workshops on Handling Fresh Produce for picking. In order to participate in the Tomato Tasting in August at Snyder Farm or for that matter., any work done at the research farm , one must attend one of the offered workshops.

Upcoming workshops given by the Speaker's Bureau are: May10 11AM - Container Gardening at Rutgers Co-operative extension building in Bridgewater; May 17 10-11AM Native Plants (same building);May23 10-11AM (same location) Chrysanthemums; June 3 10-11AM Vegetable Gardening.

Master Gardeners are being offered the opportunity to raise Monarch Butterflies for the 4 H Fair in August. A seminar will be conducted after the June meeting in order to understand the requirements required to raise them successfully. All equipment to raise butterflies will be given to the MGs selected to participate.

Sussex –

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In Sussex County, MGs raised seedling crops of Ramapo and Rutgers 259 tomatoes. Many members took them home to Grow A Row for the Rutgers food program. We will report on our tonnage as the plants mature.

Our Demo Garden is underway. We built raised beds in a variety of sizes in which we will plant a variety of plant types. Our soil is coming soon and will be placed in the containers with the help of county staff. We will also add some brick walkways to make the area more accessible.

Union –

EMERALD ASH BORER: County Agent, Madeline Dinardo with the assistance of Michele Bakacs and James Nichnadowicz had a Tree Training on Tuesday, June 4 with 16 MGs attending. The Ash Tree Survey will continue on Tuesday mornings in the Union County Parks.

EXECUTIVE BOARD: Meeting was on June 5, and it was reported Shoprite Radio advertised our Fair. Award for Excellence and Wes Philo Award winners were selected. David Toshan, Academy of Allied Health will be presented our scholarship on June 13 at Union County Vocational Technical School.

HELPLINE: 140 MGs are signed up Madeline Dinardo will be leading a Tick Training Day on Wednesday, June 19 at the Student Center of the Rutgers Busch Campus. Increased inquiries for poison ivy and insects.

NEW CLASS: Completed their final exam, and 19 New Master Gardener Interns graduated on Tuesday, May 28.

DEMONSTRATION GARDEN: MG Family and Friends Picnic is June 22 at 2pm (Rain Date: June 23).

• **CUTTING GARDEN:** All wood borders were replaced with plastic wood construction.

• **HERB GARDEN:** All raised beds have been replaced with plastic wood construction. A garden for Caryl Hanneman's favorite plants is being created. If you know a plant that should be added to the list, please send an email to Dolores Batz-Culp: dlbcc@yahoo.com

• **GARDENING WITH CHILDREN:** • 15 MGs, Madeline DiNardo, Michele Bakacs, and Joe Filo of TN&SC worked with Union's Battle Hill School 3rd grade of 70 students and 11 teacher and chaperones on Monday, June 3.

• Day Camp Visits to Demo Garden scheduled with Trailside Nature and Science Center & Master Gardeners partnership for Wednesdays, from 10 to 11:30.

• **SHARING GARDEN:** Kale, bok choy and onions were grown and donated to 3 agencies totaling over 87 lbs.

• **PUBLIC EVENTS:** • Plant Swap Thursday June 6 at Demo Garden 5:30 - 8:30 pm. The county has a new program, a "Plant Swap" to encourage residents to remove invasive plant species from their property and swap them for a native plant. If you would like to participate in the plant swap, please RSVP by emailing the county at watershed7@ucnj.org. • 14 Master Gardeners helped out with Trailside Nature & Science Center's Wild Earth Fest was Sunday, April 28. Table visits were 62 people under the big tent, and 48 visited the garden, 5 soil test kits were sold. Low attendance was due to the cold, drizzly, dreary weather.

• **30th ANNUAL SPRING GARDEN FAIR:** Freeholder, Bette Jane Kowalski attended the ribbon cutting to open the Fair to 1098 attendees on Sunday, May 19, 12-4pm. 145 MGs were contacted for the Fair, and 7 friends, family and Boy Scouts assisted. The Rutgers 250 tomato (100 sold) is still very popular, along with Ramapo (80 sold) and the old Rutgers variety. New 2018 specialty pepper, Rutgers Pumpkin Habanero was introduced and sold-out! Spacemaster cucumbers, Jersey Boy and Jersey Giant tomatoes were also popular. Approximately 1000 member grown perennials were sold. The Helpline sold 5 soil test kits and answered 15 questions. 56 children participated in activities: making bird feeders, tree leaf rubbings, and planting sunflower seeds. Pre-orders were received from a Community Garden for tomato and pepper plants, and hot pepper varieties for a business, Rosetta's Farm Spices. Approximately 100 left-over tomato

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and pepper plants were given to the Ducret School of Art garden in Plainfield, and Groundworks Elizabeth for community and school gardens in Elizabeth. DISPLAYS & DEMONSTRATIONS: 1. Union County Mosquito Division display and talk. 2. Square Foot gardening display and talks. 3. 4-H Master Tree Stewards made leaf rubbings with Children's Activities. 4. Horticulture Therapy were in Children's Activities planting sunflower seeds. 5. The Helpline had the insect collection on display as well as fact sheets, and soil test kits for sale. 6. Home composting display was next to Square Foot Gardening. 7. The County had an information table. 8. Groundworks Elizabeth had a new display of a hydroponic grow station. 9. Four Pollinator signs were displayed in the plant sale area listing host plants for different species. GIVE-AWAY ITEMS FOR CUSTOMERS: • 320 Free Osmocote Fertilizer Trial packets, plus informational brochure or bumper sticker • 160 Espoma packets of bio-tone starter plus. • 100 copies Free Proven Winners Gardeners Idea book for 2019- retail price \$1.00 each • Donation of 150 reusable bags. SAVE THE DATE: **SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2020 is our 31st Anniversary of the Fair Spring Garden Fair and Plant Sale!**

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 12:05. The next meeting is 7/11/2019.

Respectfully Submitted
Tricia Deering, Recording Secretary