

## Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Minutes of September 12, 2019. Meeting held at Executive Training Center, Cook College Campus.

Pat Schanzlin called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Dennis Lenahan welcomed the group. Pat Schanzlin then lead the meeting, following the Agenda. Since Jan Zientec, Rutgers MG State Coordinator, has another meeting, his report was given first.

RCE Update: Jan has submitted the PO requests for the room space and for the food, as well as for Dr. Buckley's fee for the Conference. The Gift Cards for door prizes and speaker gifts have been ordered and should arrive before the next meeting on October 1.

The Helpline Log used at various counties to track activity are in various formats and types. Jan contacted the Rutgers Research and Analytics Office to see if a web-based application could be devised for this purpose. Brian Schilling expressed interest and has provided the funding to develop a web-based Helpline Log. Other universities such as Penn State University have used a similar program, as has the University of Wisconsin. Other universities could use the Rutgers module. To this end, Jan has assembled a Coordinator team including Cecelia Diaz, Margret Pickhoff, Diane Larson, and Rebecca Szkotak to work on the project. If Master Gardeners are interested to participate in the team, they should contact Jan to express their interest.

In Essex County a few years ago, one of the Helpline Master Gardeners noticed that she was getting a number of calls on pin oak disease. As a result of her review of the paper log, she was able to identify an insect that was accountable. A digital log would enable trending and search processes to be more efficient, perhaps to be able to identify common problems prior to these being identified by researchers.

Since Jan will be away in Hawaii for the Conference date, Nick Polanin will probably be his replacement at the Conference this year. Jan brought a few paw paws to the meeting for people to taste. He has a number of trees at his home that he has been growing for several years.

### **Attendance:**

Atlantic:	Mary Lou Monihan
Bergen:	Joseph Cooper
Burlington:	Terry Zane, Nick Hendershot, Merry Bogert, Sharon Astorino, Dave Parsons
Camden:	Diane Shonyo
Cumberland:	Carol Henry, Betsey Simpson
Essex:	David Haines, Alice Poueymirou
Hunterdon:	Dewey Goodwin
Mercer:	Absent
Middlesex:	Kathy Dopart, Jerri Barclay
Monmouth:	Gayle Williams, Bob Magovern, Sandy Wolfe, Jay Schaeffer
Morris:	Deirdre Gallagher
Ocean:	Suzanne Keane, Roberta Quinn
Passaic:	Rick Sweyers, Jim McHugh
Somerset:	Cindy Hedin
Sussex:	Pat Schanzlin, Jane Gardner
Union:	Dennis Lenahan, Deb Murphy Dolores Batz-Culp
Rutgers University:	Jan Zientec

**Minutes from August 2019 Meeting:** A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made, seconded and passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Jane Gardner reported a balance of \$8627.15. The balance includes All Colors invoice for \$450 to purchase ball caps for door prizes and speakers, a PO for Catering, \$25 gift card purchases for the speakers and for door prizes. We appear to be able to cover our costs for this year with the balance on hand. A motion was made to accept the balance as presented. Motion approved.

### **Conference Update:**

*Registration:* OCPPE has opened the Registration site and so far we have about 154 new registrants, which is approximately where we were at this time last year. Kathy Dopart and a few others reported difficulties with logging into the site, probably due to password difficulties. Pat will call OCPPE to notify them of this concern and see if they

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can fix it. Kathy called OCPE and was able to complete her registration. Pat brought mail-in registration forms with her to the meeting and distributed these to the delegates for use at their own counties.

The group discussed options to get more people to attend. At the present time, since registration needs to be increased, we will allow MGs to bring friends with them to the Conference. Additionally, Roberta Quinn will update the Save the Date poster to Sign Up and Attend and include info on the Garden Market, the link for registering online, plus parking registration info. Once this is complete, she will forward to Pat who will distribute to the group through Google Groups.

At this time, we will leave the cut off for Registration as October 1, due to lunch counts and info required by Registration. At our October 1 meeting, we will decide whether to allow walk-in registrations and/or to continue to leave the web site open until the Conference, with the understanding that after Oct 1, no lunch will be provided, nor will the cost for admission be reduced. Allowing for walk-in registration will also be contingent upon OCPE providing a representative to collect the admission fees. Pat will see if OCPE will provide a person to accept the walk in fees.

*Coordinator Registration:* Coordinators have been provided their **AES2019 Code** in order to register their local people so that they can pay using a PO. A discussion ensued as to whether we should allow Coordinators to attend at no cost and whether the Association pay for their lunches. It was determined that the Association will absorb the cost for the lunches for both Coordinators and any Ag Agents who wish to attend, in addition to the CoCoRaHS representative. Dewey has already collected Mark Gerbush's lunch order. CoCoRaHS Pat asked the delegates to check with their local Coordinators and Ag Agents and should any wish to attend, the delegate must collect lunch orders for these people and email these to Terry Zane ([terryszane@gmail.com](mailto:terryszane@gmail.com)) no later than October 1, 2019. Pat will distribute a reminder to the members to collect this data and email Terry with Coordinator and Agents attending.

*Speakers:* Dewey will send a reminder to the Speakers to attend the conference and remember to register their cars for parking if they do not already have a permit.

*Garden Market:* At the present time, we are planning to place Barnes and Noble in the George S Cook room to serve as a vendor in the Garden Market. Bob Robinson has been in touch with them and asked that they bring additional materials, such as stationary or other garden related items, to sell in addition to the books. The book list is one used at Mercer County for their Symposium and is quite comprehensive. While B&N did not have all the titles, they did have several to use as substitutes. While B&N did not agree that they would pay a Royalty this year, as they have in previous years, they may swap out the payment of the Royalty in exchange for folders to use as handouts to conference participants. Currently, the cost of these folders if provided by B&N appears to be \$1 each, much higher than the \$.15 we are paying through Wal-Mart and other retail outlets. However, in light of the fact that we have such difficulty in collecting the Royalty, this may be a good strategy to follow, should they agree to pay the Royalty or provide the folders in exchange. Based on prior years sales, we should earn about 90 folders that could be put toward the following year's conference. B&N is still checking with corporate to work out the details and Bob will continue to follow up to gain their agreement.

Additionally, Jane Gardner has been in touch with AllColors, Inc., the Rutgers approved vendor for our apparel. Stephen Mittler of ACI, will bring additional items, such as key chains, hats and non-sized goods for members to buy. He will also set up a laptop so that members can purchase sized goods, such as shirts, sweatshirts and other apparel at the Conference, to be sent to purchasers once they are produced.

A third vendor, CoCoRaHS, a group that provides rain gauges and measuring devices, will also be at the Garden Market. Mark Gerbush will be on hand to allow for sign up for this program if MGs wish to participate in measuring rainfall and reporting to the CoCoRaHS group. Purchase of rain gauges at the Conference will eliminate the shipping charges.

*Purchase Orders:* We appear to be in good shape here. The PO for Catering has been processed, we will await an invoice for the Cook Student Center rental (\$2050.50) after the Conference, the Awards Booklet fee has been submitted for payment (\$495), Rich Buckley has submitted his invoice to Jan for processing, we have processed the PO for AllColors (\$495) for the ball caps for use as door prizes, and we have a check request (\$200) in place to pay for the 8 gift cards for door prizes and speaker gifts.

*Catering* –Deirdre Gallagher will submit preliminary count data we receive on Oct 1 to Nielsen Catering to provide an estimate, and a final count will be submitted on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. This count will include any Coordinator and Agent lunches, speaker lunches (approximately 5, to cover for the Award Winners who will also be presenting). Deirdre wanted to know how many volunteers she would require assisting with breakfast and lunch. Based on prior years, she will need to identify 8 people in addition to herself.

*Awards Booklets:* The Awards Booklet is being submitted to the printer this afternoon and will be ready before the Conference.

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*Door Prizes:* Dolores Batz-Culp has prepared the raffle ticket slips for inclusion in the folders. We have accumulated 5 bottles of wine, courtesy of Jan Zientec's brother who is a wine distributor, 2 bottles of honey, from Jan's hives, 5 ball caps we purchased and 5 gift cards. Dolores will determine how to allocate these to 5 or more gift bags to be used for the raffle at her discretion.

*Evaluations:* Mary Lou Monohan has prepared a preliminary evaluation form and distributed this today for review. Members had a few suggestions to include in the survey as well as some minor updates. Due to the difficulty in collecting this data, and the work that has been done on tightening up and improving the survey over the last 8 years, we will not be making major changes to the survey.

*Folders:* Diane Shonyo reported that she already has 140 folders on hand and sufficient money donated to purchase the remaining ones needed. She will do this shortly as soon as she sees the best price. Somerset County asked if they could provide milkweed seed in the folders at no cost. The group agreed that this would be a good idea.

*Registration Desk:* Terry Zane reported this is under control and ready to go. Still need to put the lunch order slips together and ready for distribution. She reminded members to find out if their Agents or Coordinators were planning to attend. If so, she needs their lunch orders no later than October 1.

*Program Flyer:* Carol Henry has the Program Flyer in hand, it is complete and ready to be inserted into the folders for the Conference.

*Signs:* Kathy needs some help in placing the signs if anyone would be interested in helping her. Many of their members are unable to assist with placing these signs, due to age and disability. Please let her know if you would be willing to help on the day of the conference.

*Speaker Gifts:* Jane Gardner reported that we have ball caps to present to the speakers as well as gift cards. (3)

*Video:* Joe Cooper reported that the photos are still coming in for the video and he is currently in the process of assembling them to make up the video for the conference.

**COUNTY REPORTS:** Because of the Facilities walk-through, the county reports will not be shared this month with the meeting. Please send your reports to Tricia Deering as usual to be included in the finalized minutes.

### **Atlantic:**

A few notes from the summer:

1. The weekly article written by Belinda has become quite popular and has driven a significant increase in calls and walk-ins to our office helpline. In addition to that, the article includes a list of coming events where Master Gardeners can be found. That has driven traffic to many of those events as well. It is published in the weekly Currents and Gazettes in Cape May and Atlantic Counties.
2. Proceeds from our plant sale were used to purchase 2-12.9" iPad Pro, accessories and reference books to load on them in addition to a new tent, tables and other needed supplies for the program. Our iPads are now loaded with every Rutgers fact sheet and 8 reference books/textbooks that cover most areas of gardening from Basic Botany to Pruning. Each iPad has its own bag with power pack and needed supplies for small mobile helpline events and plant diagnostic clinics. These are being tested out this fall in a string of library "Ask A Master Gardener" events and some farmer's markets. We had a very successful 1<sup>st</sup> two weeks of the program with 6 libraries visits. Master Gardeners are available at each library from 5:30-8 one night per month. The events are advertised by the library, through articles, our website and social media. This allows us to both offer volunteer opportunities to Master Gardeners that are not available during the day and, most importantly, become accessible in areas of our county that previous were not targeted by the program. This will include a very large expansion in to more diverse communities and urban areas that lacked or had limited access to our program resources. The program includes live training and recorded videos on the use of all pertinent programs on the iPads themselves and through Better Impact so they can be accessed on site if needed. Master Gardeners who have signed up to work the event check out a bag with supplies and set up inside county libraries to answer questions. Fact sheets are emailed to the client on the spot or information is taken down and emailed to the office for follow-up the next day by helpline volunteers.
3. We have community garden plots in 3 areas of the county this year with produce being donated to local food banks. Each plot has a theme and talks are done in the gardens using the plots for demonstration. Example: We have a plot at the Atlantic County Utilities Authority Community Garden. The plot was used as an example of square foot gardening. As part of our monthly garden talks at ACUA, members of the community helped layout and plant the garden. Each talk since has built off of the garden where possible

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like talking about succession gardening from cool to warm and back to cool, the use of companion plants and trap crops, and preserving your harvest. This has allowed us to have more educational programs in areas like Hammonton and Pleasantville where we struggled to reach clients before.

4. Atlantic County Master Gardener Association is transitioning to an Advisory Committee structure rather than electing officers. Our current Association is not a 501c3. This transition will happen over the next 3 months as the current officers end their terms and will go into effect January 1.

### **Bergen:**

**Fall Harvest Festival** will be held September 21st & 22<sup>nd</sup> at Van Saun Park and includes Master Gardener and 4-H exhibits with many hands-on activities. This is our largest MG outreach event of the year. Additionally, there will be crafts, carnival rides, farmers market, animals, music, food trucks and entertainment.

### *Volunteer Site News:*

**Garretson Forge and Farm** has been able to make weekly donations of fresh, organic vegetables and herbs to a local food pantry. This season's harvest includes red onions and heirloom varieties of tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini, and long beans — all organically grown on the farm.

### **Hackensack River Greenway through Teaneck**

The Hackensack River Greenway through Teaneck has scheduled a cleanup to remove trash and invasives from the Greenway on Sept. 8 at Camperdown and River roads, Teaneck. Bring gloves, rakes, and loppers if you have them.

### **The Hermitage**

Events at the Hermitage include: Wine and Spirits, with author Craig McManus on September 13<sup>th</sup> and The Scarecrow, a stage reading by the First Flight Theatre Company on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **New Jersey Botanical Garden/Skylands**

*Saturday, Sept. 21.* To celebrate Spanish Heritage Month, Carlos Pavan, a New York-based composer/guitarist, will present an afternoon of guitar music blending Argentine rhythms with classical and jazz concepts beginning at 2 pm.

*Saturday, Sept. 7. Fall wildflower walk:* check out the magical sights and sounds of fall in the woodlands of the wildflower garden. *Potluck lunch for volunteers:* NJBG volunteers are invited to the annual get-together to celebrate another great season in the garden on Sept. 11th. Bring a bowl of something tasty to share and meet fellow volunteers. *Family woodland hike:* Stretch your legs during an easy hike in the garden's woodlands on Sept. 15. Learn about the plants and animals around you in a hike designed to fit the group. *First day of autumn nature walk:* Bergen County Audubon Society will lead a walk through the gardens and fields on Sept. 22. Participants will look for and identify migrating birds and butterflies that visit the NJBG. The group will discuss the many important trees, shrubs, and plants that provide much-needed food and cover during migration.

### **Teaneck Creek Conservancy**

Dana Goin of the Wolf Conservation Center will discuss the history and ecology of Eastern coyotes, the importance of coyotes in suburban ecosystems, and how we can best coexist with them. Her talk will be from 7-8 pm on Sept. 26 at the conservancy.

Way, Teaneck.

### **Burlington:**

As our growing season comes to a close, Burlington Master Gardeners are looking forward to welcoming a new coordinator. The process of interviewing has started with many well qualified candidates.

### **Project Reports:**

**Gardens at Burlington County Fair Grounds** – No report.

**Butterfly Garden at Smith Woods** – Busy month for caterpillars and butterflies. Our host garden is almost depleted from all the swallow tail caterpillars.

We added lots of butterfly weed for the monarch caterpillars since the milkweed is almost finished.

We will start collecting seeds from all the plots for next year.

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**Donation Garden at Medford Leas** – At the Donation Garden we have donated 922 lbs. to the local food banks so far this year. Our new deer fence stopped the deer but we are still dealing with several rabbits and a local groundhog. It's always something! Most of the summer crops are dying down and we have planted some fall crops - greens, beets, carrots, etc. and plan to plant 8 different kinds of hard-neck garlic shortly. We are expecting a large harvest of a winter squash that we are trialing from Baker Creek seeds. With their harvest we hope to exceed our goal of 1000 lbs. donated.

**IPM and Demonstration Plots at BCCAC** – Our season is coming to an end.

In the kitchen garden, we have seen so many butterflies this year, black swallowtail, eastern tiger swallowtail and many skippers.

The raised beds were also visited by butterflies. We are seeing many caterpillars on the fennel and the parsley. We have seen a lot of aphids on the helianthus.

In the demo plots, we had a good crop of blueberries. Our pollinator plot is always visited by very interesting insects. The three sisters plots had to be taken down because of disease in the squash and an abundance of squash bugs.

We managed to get some corn but the bean plants never had a chance to grow because the squash plants grew too quickly.

Our bean growing methods plot also was affected by disease and we found Mexican bean beetle larvae. This discovery was communicated to the Agricultural agent.

We also had to close this plot because of disease.

To replace the barley plot, we seeded groundhog radish. A few weeks later, Harlequin bugs were discovered in such a large number that we lost all the groundhog radish plants. We replaced the radishes with a cover crop of buckwheat.

The purple millet is growing very nicely and the plant is absolutely beautiful. We will try to harvest the seeds before the birds get to it.

Our salvia plots are a learning experiment and we will be preparing a report on our discoveries.

**Medicinal/Culinary Colonial-Era Garden at Pineland Preservation Alliance and Pinelands Preservation Alliance Kitchen Garden** – The colonial era medicinal/culinary garden at the Pinelands Preservation Alliance headquarters is looking a little ragged these early September days. The Dogbane Saucrobotys butterfly caterpillar consumed all the leaves of the dogbane (Indian hemp), but the plants are tough and will survive. Black swallowtail caterpillars similarly devoured the Golden Alexanders. Finally, the swamp milkweed seemed to attract the entire aphid population of South Jersey but they, too, will likely survive. In the meantime, we will plant seedlings of boneset, American alum root, pearly everlasting and culver's root this week. We shall see how well everything will cope with the winter.

**Rancocas Nature Center** – We continue to battle the stilt grass. I'm putting in some coneflowers and asters for fall color for the butterflies coming through. Dragon flies migrate in the fall also we have plenty of insects for them.

### **Upcoming Events:**

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

<https://rutgersmqbc.blogspot.com/2019/07/ergonomics-for-gardeners-series-7.html>

### **Camden:**

#### **Public Programs:**

**Monarch Talk-** "Monarchs, Milkweed and More", was held September 7 at the Educational Gardens. 30 participants listened to lecture and power point presentation by Naturalist and Rutgers Environmental Steward, Keara Giannotti, and Master Gardener, Danielle Giannotti. A guided tour of the gardens identifying Monarch and Swallowtail caterpillars followed the talk.

**Make and Take--**The Make and Take Committee has finalized the plans for the September 11, 2019 Make & Take event for African Violets. At this point, enrollment is light with only 5 participants, but we believe that, as in the past, there will be last minute sign-ups.

#### **General Meeting:**

September 17- The Master Gardener general meeting presentation will be "The Extraordinary Ecology of Milkweeds" Jack Connor, native Plant Society of New Jersey, will share his knowledge of butterflies and his knowledge of insect life and Milkweeds.

#### **Outreach**

#### **Events:**

**County Fair** –The County Fair will be held Friday evening and all-day Saturday (, September 19 and 20<sup>th</sup>.) MGs will Have a table at the event and hold a diagnostic plant clinic. The fair is being held at the Camden County

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Sustainability site in Blackwood NJ. The Greenhouses (traditional, perennial and hydroponics) that our master gardeners use on the site will be on display and open for tours.

### Greenhouse:

Violets and Asters were up potted to support some of the fall county planting needs. Raised beds were reseeded for a hopeful fall sunflower bloom period. Both the greenhouse and the hoop house have been cleaned out to support 2020 winter planting needs. Support for the County Fair in September is in development.

### Educational Gardens

Ten major projects have been completed including building a potting table, constructing a signage holder for donation acknowledgements, painting and installing 16 mailboxes at each garden site for handout information on the garden, erecting and 60x40 foot fence around the pumpkin patch, putting up a gutter system on our barn and attaching three rain barrels, and installing a washing up sink to our potting table. We are also creating signage for the wildflower garden and a strolling path through the garden.

On October 3 we will hold a Harvest Festival to thank our donors and the garden committee,

Publicity Team – 99% of website has been upgraded. First edition of Camden County Gardener has been mailed.

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>
09/14/2019	No	General Meeting, 2019 Class Graduation, Party and Awards
10/12/2019	Yes	"Blues in the Garden", Dorothy Mullen
11/09/2019	Yes	Subject, Barbara Melera
12/14/2019	No	Holiday Party

#### Upcoming Events in Essex County

09/10/2019 - New Essex County Master Gardener Class begins at Garibaldi Hall in  
05/2020 Roseland

09/28/2019 ECEC Fall Family Festival Day 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

10/02/2019 MGEC Bus Trip to Grounds for Sculpture

#### Horticulture Workshops for Seniors – Fall/Winter 2019

*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*

09/16/2019 Watch for new sessions to begin

#### 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)  
**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

Plus others

### Hunterdon:

September 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes Final

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This month the Hunterdon MG:

Our outreach programs continue to be active.

Our Help Line desk has been very busy

Many of our members participated in the Rutgers Tomato tasting event.

Our Speakers group continues to provide interesting subjects to various clubs within the county

Our Giving garden team continues to provide fresh veggies to the Local Food bank

The Sensory Garden team has been hosting 2-3 groups a week all summer and held an open house in August.

### **Mercer:**

Final preparations are underway for our annual and very popular Insect Festival, to be held on Saturday, September 14, at MEG, from 11 am until 2 pm.

During August, a number of Community Education events were held at MEG. On August 3, a presentation on "Birds in the Garden" took place, followed on August 10 by a program on "Composting". On August 19, Paul Kurtz, an entomologist from the NJ Dept. of Agriculture discussed our newest invasive pest, the Spotted Lanternfly, now found in several NJ counties. On August 24, another Community Education talk on "Drama with Annuals" was presented.

Our annual Trent House summer camps for children were completed in August. This very popular program introduces inner city children to a bit of history, colonial gardens (including tasting some veggies), and fun activities at the historic Trent House.

Outreach activities in August included RMG's participating in the annual 4-H Fair, held this year in the Howell Living History Farm, a unique venue. We also had an outreach booth at the Pennington Farmer's Market, a great spot to publicize our upcoming Insect Festival.

Our quarterly food drive, held at the Sept. meeting, collected over 500 lb. of canned goods and pasta for a local food bank.

We are in the process of reviewing and revising our By-Laws and Policies and Procedures manual. New versions are now being circulated for review and will be discussed at the October meeting. A long range planning group has been formed, with discussions to begin in January.

To improve our sustainability footprint, we have collected reusable stainless flatware to be used during meetings, and for events such as our annual dinner. Members have generously responded, and so far have met almost all of our needs. We are also asking members to bring their own coffee mugs to the meetings, rather than use disposable beverage cups.

A brief but impressive slide show highlighted our children's programs in the local public schools. The program reaches 380 children, in 12 classrooms, from preschool to 5th grade. The "garden" classes are very popular with the kids, and the teachers. Some 21 volunteers were involved. The Schools Program co-chair, Rosanne Innes, has been nominated as one of our Awards for Excellence winners..

Our 25th Anniversary dinner will be held on November 7, at Extension. The normal executive and general meetings will be held separately, on November 4, to discuss nominees for the election of officers, held in December.

Landscaping around the new Extension building will be provided in part by Mercer County. In addition, RMG's are planning a "dig" to rescue plants from the gardens next to the old extension office, which we no longer use.

Our program for the September meeting was presented by Rich Buckley, of Rutgers, on "Managing Your Turf". He covered the advantages of turf (including ecological advantages), preferred grass cultivars (mainly tall fescue and blends), and mowing and fertilizing protocols.

### **Middlesex:**

Rows for the Hungry is proud to announce that so far they have harvested 2,027 lbs. of vegetables for the local food pantry...and they are not done yet!

Angela Monaghan has announced that the second Better Impact Training is scheduled for Saturday Sept 14 @ 10am at the EARTH Center. Two or three more will be held before the year's end.

This fall we're beginning an exciting new project at the Earth Center. We'll be propagating native plants from seeds *outdoors*. The native plants we grow will be used for county and public projects, e.g., restorations, rain gardens and native plantings including demonstration suburban front yard areas here at the Earth Center. Eventually we hope to be able to sell them to the public. The kick-off meeting for this project is Wednesday September 18 at 6 pm in the EARTH Center conference room.

Plainsboro Centennial Farmers Market/ Arts Festival Weekend is on September 21 and 22. We will have an informational table to introduce the Plainsboro community to the Middlesex County Master Gardeners and answer gardening questions that they might have.

Monroe Twp. Green / Health & Wellness Fair is Saturday September 28 at Monroe Township High School from 10-3. This is another outreach opportunity for our Master Gardeners.

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EARTH Center Fall Clean Up and Potluck Brunch On Saturday October 19th from 10-3. We will be putting the EARTH Center gardens to bed for the winter.

Master Gardener Picnic will be held on Sunday September 22 from 12-4. Master Gardeners are encouraged to bring a friend, family and a dish to share.

We have recently lost four additional master gardeners. We will have a Memorial Tree Planting and Dedication on Tuesday September 24th at 6pm. At that time we will plant 4 additional trees in memory of Rich Campbell, Mary Schippman, Jim Yeager and John Jay Scott.

### Monmouth:

One of our biggest events of the year, Bugs, Birds and Beyond, took place on August 17<sup>th</sup>. Featured were the raptors, butterfly tents, bee display with live bees, games, crafts, 4-H bunnies and other small animals AND the sloth from Great Adventure zoo! Our Lady Bug lady was on the scene with huge bags of lady bugs that delighted children of all ages! This free event brought in between 1,500-2,000 guests. All children received a fact key chain, head pieces and a bag they decorated to carry all of their booty! One of our local nurseries donated hundreds of mini sunflowers that they could pot up at the event and take home. Vendors were on hand if you got hungry (the homemade ice cream was delicious!) and a local farmer brought in their fresh produce for sale. The weather was great, lots of younger parents with small children as well as the grands with tots in hand had a wonderful day! Around the building, all of our gardens are winding down, however still in maintenance mode. The PAR has done well and still keeps producing nicely, thanks to our very competent interns! The School Programs Committee hosted the two day Monarch Teacher Network Program in August and got a lot of very good feedback. During the summer this committee has worked with the Montessori School in Shrewsbury on 3 programs: The Curious Gardener, Pollinators and Textiles from Nature. They also are assisting with an Eagle Scout project.

In the past week our MGs took the River keeper Tour and plan a foraging trip to Thompson Park with the Park System Naturalist. Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> we all relaxed at MG Peter James's home for our Recognition Picnic...and what a wonderful day it was! Beautiful gardens, great food and terrific people!

Up next is graduation 2019! Planning has already begun and we are ready to celebrate our interns' completion of the program and our milestone awardees!

### Morris

The new Rutgers Master Gardener classes begin in September with 24 interns, one of our larger classes. Good luck to all the interns.

We will have Rutgers Master Gardener information tables set-up at the Great Swamp Fall Festival on Saturday September 14, 2019 from 10:00 until 3:00, the Denville's Farmer Market on Sunday September 15, 2019 from 8:30 – 1:00, and the Morristown Festival on the Green on Sunday September from 12:00 – 5:00.

There are eight free CEU opportunities during the month of September. Check [myimpactpage.com](http://myimpactpage.com) for details.

Another new opportunity at the Madison Community Garden pollinator meadow. Rutgers Master Gardeners will be picking seeds from some of the plants in the meadow. The object of the project is to teach RMG's about identifying the plants, when to pick the seeds, and how to care for them over the winter so the seeds are ready for planting in the spring.

Snyder Farm: The Great Tomato Tasting happened on Wednesday August 28, 2019 out at the Snyder Farm in Pittstown NJ. Snyder Farm is one of Rutgers research farms. Three counties, Hunterdon, Morris, and Somerset, sent over 200 Master Gardener volunteers to the event. The event showcases many of the varieties of Tomatoes and other produce grown on the farm. Due to the forecast of bad weather, which did not happen, only about 550 people visited the farm for the event.

The Community Garden Detectives program has been recognized as the winner of the Morris County's 2019 Award for Excellence for the outstanding job they do on a weekly basis. The information they collect is e-mailed to over two-thousand community garden plot holders in and around Northern New Jersey.

Helpline was still very busy in August. We thank them for their time and effort.

### Ocean:

Our first Butterfly tent event was a huge success. We anticipated 150 attendees and had 700. There will definitely be another improved version next year. As of Sept 5<sup>th</sup>, our gardens donated over 1000 lbs. of produce to local food banks and charities. The summer season Diagnostic Helpdesk trial at Surf City Library was deemed a success and our Southern Ocean/Stafford Library Helpdesk is continuing through September. There are 12 more Outreach Table events scheduled at various festivals and community affairs during the coming months. Helpline has slowed down, possibly residents are using the internet to research their questions. Tick lab has seen less deer ticks this year.

Fall Garden Day, the Intern event that won an award a few years ago in the Workshop category of the International Conference, is being held September 27<sup>th</sup>. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter hours are due at the end of Sept.



## Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

### **Passaic:**

The Passaic County Fair was held August 15-18 at Garret Mountain and there was a Master Gardener tent which included the following:

- A Master Gardener table promoted the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Master Gardener course as well as information on the MG Helpline.
- A vermicomposting table with a display of red wigglers, a worm farm and worm casings.
- A *tie-dye with plants* table with workshops for children.
- The Monarch Butterfly presentation by Kathy Sauerborn.

Two Horticultural Therapy sessions were scheduled for September:

- September 10 at Llanfair House in Wayne. Air plants with Spanish moss in sea urchin shells were created by the residents.
- September 19 at the Preakness Healthcare Center in Wayne. Fall wreaths was the project,

The High Tunnel at the Preakness Valley Golf Course is fully operational and volunteer sessions are scheduled twice a month.

The next meeting is September 24 and the presenter is Rick Buchtman of Timber Tree & Shrub Spaying. He will speak on Insects and Diseases in Trees.

There was no monthly meeting in August.

### **Somerset:**

Our Class of 2020 has 18 eager, enthusiastic members who will be learning the nitty-gritty of gardening and lawn care. Graduation is set for April 2020.

4H Fair – The annual Somerset County 4H Fair saw very active Master Gardener participation. Following the Fair theme of “The Places You Will Go,” our display included a map of the county and illustrations of our events & activities at various places. In another part of the tent, monarch & black swallowtail butterfly life cycles were illustrated and visitors were treated to live eggs, larvae, chrysalides and adults, live feeding demonstrations at our Butterfly Bistro and butterfly releases. Even with the drenching rain on Wednesday which caused early closing that night and limited parking Thursday, there were more than 2,000 visitors counted at our display.

Our Helpline reopened– After completion of carpet installation, our Helpline resumed operation. We respond to telephone, email and walk-in questions Monday-Friday from 9:00 until noon.

Franklin Food Bank– Tomatoes and peppers are being harvested in large quantities. Our squash has suffered from squash vine borers. Our volunteers remained energized and enthusiastic now that the weather has turned cooler.

Our Speakers Bureau has set up the fall schedule that includes presentations on herbs, lawn care and chrysanthemums. Looking to winter and spring, there will be presentations on winter sowing, seed starting, preparing your garden bed and attracting pollinators to your property.

Teaching Garden – Teams are “adopting” plots in the non-food half of the fenced area. Already planted is a native plant area and a perennial propagation section. The pollinator plot is almost ready for planting. The “Honoring Mary” area has been marked out and the plant list is being developed. The food/edibles side of the garden already has strawberry and other berry plants in place. A Chinese herb section is in the works, to be planted in the spring.

The BFF Team set up its 5<sup>th</sup> annual 3-week monarch butterfly display at the Somerset County Administration Building, 20 Grove St., Somerville. Visitors and employees were able to watch the monarch life cycle, pick up pamphlets on monarchs, and help themselves to packets of milkweed seeds. Volunteers daily tended the livestock & plants and answered visitors’ question. This always popular exhibit was viewed by an estimated 2,000 folks.

**Sussex:** Sussex County Master Gardeners participated actively in the Sussex County Fair & NJ State Fair this last month. We had 1078 public interactions at our booth. We had 151 attendees at various speakers we incorporated and 25 participants in the Veggie of the Day program. Next year, we will need to ensure that the Fair Office is sending people to the right location for our programs, which will improve attendance.

In the Research and Demonstration Garden our program leader will be unable to take the lead for a few months due to some personal issues. We are looking for new volunteers to fill this considerable gap. We are planning on having vegetable trials and home garden trials next year. We will be building compost bins shortly and doing our fall clean up.

## Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Our project groups are working hard around the county doing demonstrations, conducting speeches and keeping up with the various project plots.

We are revising the process used to collect diversity data at our presentations. We will have a self-reporting form available to use by the start of the new year to ensure we are in compliance with current Rutgers guidelines.

Our Helpline is now being manned daily due to the hard work of the Helpline team, their extensive training process through which Helpline participants are guided, and the leadership provided by Mary Robinson. The Helpline team has a good process now in place and is serving the public on a number of important questions and requests that come in through the RCE.

We will be offering some Lunch-N-Learn sessions at the Sussex RCE coming this fall. This will enable MGs to gain continuing education credits in our own county and to expand their learning on a variety of essential topics.

### Union:

**DEMONSTRATION GARDEN:** RCE and the MGs hosted a breakfast visit with tours of the MG Demonstration Gardens for the Union County Freeholders, County Manager, Deputy County Manager and other key County Staff members and guests at 8:30am on Friday, September 6.

**BERRY PATCH:** Donations of blackberries and currants were given to the Sharing Garden for distribution.

**HERB GARDEN:** Dedication of a Memorial Plaque and a new bed of Caryl's Favorites was held on Thursday, August 29. Her husband and fellow MG, Al Hannemann and family members were in attendance for the dedication. The celebration of Caryl Hannemann's work was followed with stories of her, and the enjoyment of herbal refreshments by her family and MG friends.

**SHARING GARDEN:** Over 1383lbs. of vegetables, berries and herbs have been donated to eight agencies in the county. Lettuces have been started from seed in the greenhouse.

**PUBLIC EVENTS:** ·MG presented an information table at the PMUA Environmental Fair on Saturday, September 7 from 10:30am to 3:00pm at Library Park, Plainfield. •Sunday, September 29, 2019 11 am – 5 pm, Rain or Shine is *The fall festival "Rockin the Reservation" with Union County.* ·Sunday, May 17, 2020 Our 31st Spring Garden Fair & Plant Sale.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION:** Wednesday, October 16, 7:30-9pm at the Collen Fraser Building in Westfield, NJ. The topic is **Ticks and Tick-borne Diseases in New Jersey** presented by James Occi a microbiologist with 30 years in research with Merck Research Labs and New Jersey Medical School. He currently works for the Department of Health, where he is involved in various state-wide surveillance programs.

**DOCENT:** New docents will be piloting scheduled tours of the Demonstrations Garden for the public at "Rockin' the Reservation" on Sunday, September 29 from 11am to 5pm.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD:** Returns from the summer recess with a meeting on September 4 at 7 p.m. Communications Meeting with Committee Chairpersons is scheduled for October 23rd at 7 pm.

**HELPLINE:** Received new fact sheets from New Jersey Department of Agriculture on Spotted Lanternfly.

**NEW CLASS:** Information and application is on the Union County website to download.

**VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION:** Norma Cohen will be honored with our Wes Philo Award at the "Pin Party" on September 22 at 3:00pm in the Westfield Presbyterian Church.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Next meeting is October 1, at the Extension Conference Center.

Respectfully Submitted  
Jane Gardner, Recording Secretary Pro Tem