

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Minutes of Oct 1, 2019. Meeting held at the Extension Training Center, Cook College Campus.

Dennis Lenhart welcomed the group. Pat Schanzlin then lead the meeting, following the Agenda.

Minutes from Sept. 2019 Meeting: Minutes from the prior meeting were approved by motion, second and unanimous vote of the Board.

Attendance:

Atlantic:	Mary Lou Monihan
Bergen:	Absent
Burlington:	Terry Zane, Nick Hendershot, Merry Bogard, Dave Parsons, Sharon Astorino
Camden:	Diane Shonyo, Patrick Goughary
Cumberland:	Betsey Simpson, MBeth Osborn
Essex:	Alice Poueymirou
Hunterdon:	Dewey Goodwin
Mercer:	Betty Scarlata, Sudi Solomon
Middlesex:	Kathy Dopart, Jerri Barclay
Monmouth:	Gayle Williams, Bob Magovern, J. Schaeffer (alt)
Morris:	Deirdre Gallagher
Ocean:	Suzanne Keane, Roberta Quinn
Passaic:	Jim McHugh, Rick Sweyers
Somerset:	Linda Madretzke, Cindy Hedin
Sussex:	Pat Schanzlin, Jane Gardner
Union:	Dennis Lenahan
Rutgers University:	Jan Zientec

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jane Gardner reported a balance of \$8400.05. This accounts for a PO for the Catering which has set aside expenses for the food service at the Conference, as well as cost of gift cards for the Conference, deducted on Sept.9.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: As of this morning, there are a total of 258 registrations through OCPE. An additional 10 spaces for Coordinators bring the total to 268. We should reach around 275 for the total by week's end. Less "no shows" we should have adequate lunch count should we have walk-in registrations. The President made an executive decision not to ask OCPE to provide a person to process walk-in registrations, since there will be so few of these expected. Terry Zane will take checks from these individuals, should they show up.

RCE UPDATE: Jan Zientec reported that there is a new Ag Agent in Monmouth – William Erickson. He is a PhD student at Rutgers and has a background in organic farming in Maine.

Coordinators are launching the Youth Training Module for all of the new MG trainees, beginning in January of 2020. This training will be standardized and presented by the 4H Coordinator in each county.

Also, we will have a state-wide standardized exam offered at the conclusion of MG training, hopefully delivered through Better Impact's platform. A pilot program will be initiated through Mercer County in 2020, evaluated, and then rolled out to all of the counties once the bugs have been worked out of the system. The Better Impact platform allows for essay questions to be added, should individual Coordinators wish to include such items in the final. The standardized test will consist of 50 True/False and Multiple Choice options. This test is targeted for a release during the third quarter of 2020.

Also anticipated is the inclusion of Flip Classroom content online so that learners can do some of the training at their own pacing and time schedules. This inclusion seems to be occurring nationally and we need to endeavor to keep up with our neighbors in offering online instruction.

Jan also reported that Rutgers is not currently planning to devise a Rutgers specific manual. We have available to us the Penn State program as well as the Maryland manual, which has been in wide use throughout NJ.

While HelpLine requests by telephone seem to have declined in some Counties, volume has increased through other communication routes, such as email and outreach programs. Jan encouraged those Counties noting declines to institute greater outreach programs to ensure that the public knows that the HelpLine resource is available to local residents.

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Coordinators and staff at Rutgers are discussing what constitutes a continuing education unit for MGs. This discussion will enable MGs to gain more consistency and ensure that MG volunteers keep current on emerging topics, such as pesticides and new insect threats that have recently emerged.

Nick Polanin will be joining us on Saturday for the Annual Conference, since Jan will be vacationing in Hawaii this week. Jan mentioned that we have gained greater support at Rutgers through Brian Shilling's focus on volunteers and the Master Gardener program. There have been several positive changes that have occurred so far in the program including financial support for the Conference, taking over the Awards Pins purchasing process and providing the Better Impact platform for use in tracking metrics and volunteer activities.

Fall Conference

Registration – Terry Zane has created the color-coded lunch tickets, which will be handed out as registrants sign in for the Conference. A color-coded lunch selection list is being provided to streamline this process. OCPPE has done a good job of providing service for the registration process and has been responsive in making corrections and changes quickly as they were needed. Terry has 4 people manning the desk. A computer will be available to register license plates of those participants who did not do so online.

Speakers – Speakers have been reminded by Dewey Goodwin through email of times and protocols. Mercer reports that the presenter for the International Master Gardener Award is Louise Senior.

Catering – Deidre Gallagher requested that she needs 7 people to assist with the passing out of lunches at the Conference. Burlington County will provide 5 people and Atlantic will provide 2 more to meet the request. In addition to the general meeting space, we have the Merle V. Adams room as well as space upstairs and outside in which people may enjoy their lunch.

Garden Market – Vendors include Mercer County (lanyards), All Colors, LLC with apparel for MGs, NJCoCoRaHS with rain gauges and Barnes and Noble with gardening books and other incidentals for sale. We have a total of 10 tables in this space, which will be allocated for the various groups in this area. Most vendors will be present by 7:30, with the exception of Barnes and Noble who plans to arrive at 9:30.

Tech Requirements – were submitted to Cook Center when the Contract was drawn. The only outstanding item is a laptop to use for the presentations. Either Joe or Pat S will provide this for use.

Role of Board Members at the Conference – Each Board member was supplied with a specialized nametag made by Cindy Hedin that is to be worn on the day of the Conference. Participants can ask Board members for any assistance they might need during the Conference.

Awards Booklets – Suzanne Keane has the booklets ready to be included in the folders we are assembling today after the meeting.

Door Prizes and Speaker Gifts– Dennis Lenahan received the Door Prize bags from Dolores Batz-Culp, since she will not be at the meeting on Saturday. He will bring these on Saturday for distribution after the Door Prize drawing, which will occur at noon. Gifts will be distributed at the end of the Conference. The Speaker Gifts were assembled by Jane Gardner, who will pass these to Dewey Goodwin for distribution to the 3 Rutgers speakers and the 2 International Conference Award winners at the conclusion of their presentations.

Signage – Kathy Dopart and her team will be putting the signs out prior to 7:00 on the morning of the Conference.

New Business:

A Nominations Committee is needed for the offices of President and Treasurer. These are positions for 2-year terms. Dennis Lenahan has expressed his willingness to serve as a candidate for the President position. Jerri Barclay and Pat S will identify possible people to fill the positions on the Nominations team. They will have their slate prepared for the December meeting so that the election can occur at that time.

COUNTY REPORTS: These will be submitted to the Recording Secretary via email, since time was needed to assemble the Conference folders needed for Saturday.

Atlantic:

Atlantic County continues to explore possible changes to our structure ; we have never been a 501(c)(3) and, therefore, are planning to do away with our system of electing officers on January 1st and replacing them with an advisory committee either elected by membership or appointed?

We participated in the Hammonton Green Fest and the Linwood Farmers Market. Our normal projects are starting to

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clean up and wind down for the season. We are encouraging members to divide perennials at our projects and at their homes in anticipation of our next year's plant extravaganza on May 16, 2020. The first planning meeting for the plant sale will be on October 21 at 10am.

Our new program of being in libraries throughout the county on a more regular basis is working out very well and we hope to expand this program,

Our Pomona School Garden is being embraced by faculty, children and their parents more than we could have anticipated. It is our group award winner this year.

As Part of our education, we are having meetings to train members unfamiliar with ipads and using Better Impact not only for recording hours but also signing up for events.

In anticipation of our Master Gardener Class for 2020, we are hosting a preview event for the community to come and see what we are all about with a tour of our demo-garden, meet and great Master Gardeners who will speak on some of our projects, and we will have a presentation by one of our Ag Agents , Gary Pavlis on backyard grapes. This event will take place on October 9th at 10am.

A field trip is planned to Swarthmore to the Scott Arboretum with a docent led tour.

Bergen:

Speakers: Bruce Crawford presented: *The Wonder of Plants*. Plants are a fantastic part of our lives, and all too often we take them for granted. Typically, we don't stop to marvel at how plants have adapted to live in seemingly uninhabitable areas or how the structure of a flower is designed to both protect the reproductive organs while attracting pollinators or even how a plant works. Bruce Crawford provided some interesting and fun insights into the world of plants. Bruce, director of Rutgers Gardens, and an adjunct professor in the Landscape Architecture Department at Rutgers University.

Fall Festival Sept. 21 & 22: The *Bergen County Fall Festival* took place in Van Saun Park, Paramus. Working in conjunction with the County of Bergen and the Bergen County 4H. Master Gardeners provided beautiful exhibits including many hands-on crafts for children. The festival featured delicious food, craft vendors, live music, a carnival and 4H exhibits.

Volunteer Site News:

Garretson Forge & Farm, an 1800's Farm, will celebrate a *Harvest Festival* in October with Civil War reenactments, open hearth cooking featuring 19th century recipes, activities for kids and tours of the homestead and gardens. Admission is free. In September, they celebrated the *Butterfly Festival*, their biggest event of the year, with the annual release of the butterflies.

NJBG Harvest Fest is coming up in October. Hayrides and pumpkin painting are part of this fun-filled family weekend. There'll be games, face painting, applesauce making, tasty food, music and dancing, great photo ops, free Garden tours, booths, exhibits, an autumn Plant Sale and lots more! *Free parking & admission.* info@njbg.org to register or for additional information.

The Hermitage Behind the Scenes Tour and Ghost Tours will take place this October. While the 40th Annual *Holiday Craft Show* at the Hermitage will run October 26th through December 1st.

Thielke Arboretum educates students on the first Friday of each month with *Nature Nerd Night*. High school, college students and adults will learn about nature by collecting data and specimens at the Arboretum. Participants will work alongside scientist mentors using professional methodologies to compile and assess data and maintain specimen collections. On October 5th, a timely workshop on *Pruning Basics* will be taught to homeowners and professionals alike.

Burlington: No report

Camden: No report.

Cumberland:

October 8, 2019 - Meeting- 9AM

Speaker – Lisa Calvo, Marine Scientist at 10AM

Welcome Reception for possible new interns following

Upcoming Speakers – Mark your Calendar!

The following are confirmed – mark your calendar!

Thursday, October 10, 2019 – Seed Saving - Carol Henry - 10AM

Thursday, November 14, 2019 – Growing Exotic Mushrooms in CC – Jacob Alvarez 11- AM

Thursday, January 9, 2020 – Food Safety – Wes Kline

Thursday, February 13, 2020 – Roses – Anita Elwell

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Better Impact – Pam Burton

1. 41 Master Gardeners have signed up to BI
2. of the 41, 6 have logged no hours
3. We think there are 9 others that are active that have not registered. We are cutting off registration on 12/1. If you need any help contact Pam, Betsey Simpson or Bill Martin.
4. If you have not turned in your paper copy of your 1st quarter timesheet, you are very overdue. You have until November 1.
5. To all of you who are actively using the system, thank you. Hopefully you are relatively current with your hours.
6. We will pull final numbers for the year for official reporting the first week in January. Please, please have all of your hours logged by 12/31.

Gardens at Wheaton Arts – Mickey Alston

The Discovery Garden at Wheaton Arts is surviving the hot weather thanks in part to Linda Finch who is helping with the watering chore. I am disappointed to find that after the clean-up and weeding that was done earlier in the spring, there is passion vine now coming up in the garden. It is time to replace the original passion vine with something less aggressive, like Wheelers Honey Suckle, perhaps. It might be underground roots that have spread. It will soon be time to rake leaves.

Butterfly Tent – Patti Sheppard

The butterfly team has been busy with tent events this summer.

On August 14, 2019 we set up at the 4-H Summer Enrichment camp-Ag-ventures to instruct campers about Monarch butterflies. We also did arm painting (not face painting) so the children were able to see their artistic choices all day. At the end of the day a butterfly question and answer time was held and the campers released the Monarchs. Such intelligent young lepidopterists!

The team went down to the East Point Lighthouse on September 14 and 15, 2019 to help celebrate at the Butterfly Festival. Many butterflies were flitting about both inside and outside the tent. Little people kept telling us we lost some butterflies but they were the local migrating ones. Various species of butterflies were nectaring on the flowers in the old rowboat at the front of the lighthouse.

On September 21, 2019 our tent visited Hopewell Day at the Amish Market in Hopewell, NJ. What a fantastic event! Our team was busy all day with visitors wanting to know about Monarchs and asking us to identify caterpillars and butterflies from their cell phone pictures.

The mayor even brought us ice cream!!!

This event was great for both adults and kids.

Thanks to all who helped out this year. Anyone who would like to come and enjoy the butterfly fun ...you are always welcome.

Pepper Trials

Pepper trials have been occurring weekly at either Flaim's Farm or RARAC. Special thanks to the following MG's who worked in the extreme heat of this summer: Allen and Marilyn English, Pat Stella, Marie Nicke, Barbara McOscar, Gloria Guidera, Sue Bradbury, Lou Ann Winters, Claudia Rempher, Bill Martin, Carol Henry, Keiko Warner, John McClay, Patrick Conlon, Sara Tarpine, and Betsey Simpson

Tomato Seed Saving

Tom Orton again asked MG to help seed his tomatoes. Special thanks to Allen and Marilyn English, Betsey Simpson, Bill Martin, Doris Morgan, Carol Henry,

Master Gardener 4H Higher Education Award – Bill Martin

Karleen Wilford and Olivia Mayhew each received a \$500 scholarship from us. Our best wishes to both ladies!

Propagation Team – Bill Martin, Beth Osborn, Betsey Simpson

Propagation team is meeting and would like to remind everyone that if they have suggestions, or if they have plants they want us to grow, get your input/ideas to us by 10/20.

Horticulture Enrichment at VA Home – Jan LoBiondo

In September the Veterans watched a DVD of the monarchs' cycle as well as their lengthy migration. Then they created a sort of stained glass butterfly (minus the glass) to hang on the window in their rooms.

Three members worked in our dedicated garden to flag perennials, weed and trim, and gather two bowls of green tomatoes for staff and veterans to enjoy.

October's project will be small wreaths decorated with little cones and pods and leaves for fall. We are asking Master Gardeners to bring any they can contribute to the project.

Trip Committee – Keiko Warner, Barbara McOscar

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We received rave reviews on our Hudson Valley Tour! Many encouraged us to do more educational and historic tours. Safety Bus and driver Scott were wonderful; historic sites and Ranger presentations were brilliant; Best Western in Kingston was comforting after a long day's activities; the Walkway over the Hudson was exhilarating.

Our wreath workshop raffle raised \$175 – enough for 3 food baskets! Linda Finch and Kathy Geiger will present them to three children from a school for Thanksgiving. The two winners of the raffle were Jill Bradway and Kathy Morrioni.

In planning stages:

January 2020 – day coach tour to the Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg, PA

Fall 2020 – Overnight trip still in planning stage to CIA (French Restaurant) and Vanderbilt Estate for day 1: day 2 – to be determined

If you want to serve on the trip committee, please see Pat Stella, Keiko Warner, or Barbara McOscar.

Sunshine – Keiko Warner

Get well cards/wishes were sent to Jan LoBiondo and Sara Tarpine.

A donation of \$50 was sent to the Go Fund Me in memory of Carol Diament's son, Jonathan, for his daughter Jessica's education fund.

Please notify Keiko, Barbara McOscar or Pam Burton with information on anyone who is sick, grieving, or in need of help.

RCE Butterfly Garden – Susan McKenna

The Butterfly and Pollinator Garden was very neglected over the summer, with the exception of a few weeding days, no major projects were accomplished. Many thanks to Gloria Guidera, Kathy King and Doris Morgan and anyone else who pulled weeds for helping out in the heat. However, now that nicer weather has returned, Weeding Wednesdays will be reinstated. On September 18th, Doris Morgan and I met in the garden and embarked on a massive tidy & cleanup. Doris brought wood chips from her house to reline the center path and I weed whacked the grassy areas, so it is now walkable again. The butterflies are there en masse. If you have not been to see them, go visit! Buckeyes by the score, Skippers, the teeny tiny Hair streaks, a few monarchs are still around, swallowtails, red spotted purples, fritillaries and a few more, but I can't remember all their names.

Chores to be done ASAP include: adding more wood chips to the path, weeding, (as always!) repainting the bench, edging, mulching, making a path with stepping stones and pulling all Passion vine except what is on the trellis and discarding the fruits in the trash. The passion vine has been greatly reduced but collecting the fruit and disposing of it will help it not to spread further next year.

Anyone wishing to help out please contact me, Susan McKenna 609-805-3380 or just show up on Wednesdays, weather permitting. 9:30 to noon.

Press- Barbara McOscar

PR on October and November Speakers were submitted to our sources.

PR on Gardening Down Under Classes sent to press sources.

Facebook posts on all of the above classes.

The Marketing Team members are: Marianne Bagliani, Barbara McOscar, Bill Rafferty, Susan Evans, and Susan McKenna. If you want to be part of the team, see any one of us! We would welcome your help!

Speakers Committee – Pat Stella, Barbara McOscar

The first of our scheduled lecturers is Lisa Calvo, Marine Scientist, who will speak after this meeting on Community Based Oyster Restoration.

Thursday, November 14, 2019 – 11AM Jacob Alvarez, Garden State Mushrooms, will talk about growing exotic mushrooms here in Cumberland County.

Thursday, January 9, 2020 – 1PM Wes Kline will talk about Food Safety Standards.

Thursday, February 13, 2020 – Anita Elwell will talk about growing Roses

There is a fee for these talks to help cover a stipend for each presenter. However, the first 10 to register with Marilyn English to bring a light refreshment will not have to pay this fee.

Ag Camp

Eight MG manned the learning stations at Ag Camp. The Butterfly Tent was the main attraction. Other activities included butterfly learning station, hand painting, sand art jewelry, and end of the day butterfly release.

Meditation Garden – Cheryl Loatman

Shrubs and Ornamental Grass were added to the Meditation Garden. The shrubs were planted in a flowing line to

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symbolize a river. The Ornamental Grass was planted near the bench. The ornamental grass should provide a nice sound on breezy days to anyone sitting there. The faux pond with the fish painted stones is in place and is edged with rocks. We recently weeded and pruned the garden. The paths were also weeded. We will be working once a week to keep up with the weeds and get the garden ready for winter.

Rain Garden – Carol Henry

Not much done during the extreme heat of the summer. We could not do much planting due to the lack of rain & the heat. I just pulled weeds whenever I had to be at the extension center. We will be working in the next couple of weeks to pull weeds & maybe plant some perennials & possibly trees and or shrubs. We also want to thin out some of the existing plants.

Upcoming Classes/ CE Credits

October 10th- 10AM – Seed Saving

October 17th – 9:30AM – 12- Putting Your Garden to Bed - \$5.00

November 14th - 11AM -Exotic Mushrooms in Cumberland County - \$5.00

November 21st - 9:30AM – 12 – Composting - \$5.00

December 4th – Wreathmaking – 10AM & 6PM - \$20.00

Essex: No report

Hunterdon:

Our winning Sensory Garden team was presented with a Proclamation from the Hunterdon County Freeholders

Our new class is underway

Our Helpline has been busy

Our Giving garden continues to produce veggies for the local food bank

Our outreach teams continue to be present at local events throughout the county

Better Impact training is ongoing.

Mercer: No report

Middlesex: No report

Monmouth:

Monmouth County MGs have begun fall clean-up in all gardens with the PAR getting ready to plant garlic towards the end of October. So far our interns have harvested and donated about 1,600 lbs. to local food banks. Our Helpline has slowed somewhat, however our School Program committee is in full swing helping schools from the following towns: Belmar, Monmouth Beach, Tinton Falls, Colts Neck, Rumson-Fairhaven and Ocean Township. Also very active is our Community Projects committee, Speakers Bureau and Trips and Tours committee. Our next trip is to Longwood Gardens on December 6th. The Member Education committee has set up two wine classes and, later will go to a winery to make their own wine.

Monmouth would like to welcome, Bill Errickson, our new Ag. Agent. Bill began on October 1st and is also working on his doctorate degree. Bill will be teaching a vegetable class to our new interns, 2020. Welcome, Bill!

Recently installed on our property is a bat box and we're all waiting for the first inhabitants to arrive! Thank you to Tom Lang and all who helped with the installation! Clean-up and garden prep for spring crops also has everyone busy.

This month, Mark Meyer of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture will speak to us on the "Alampi Beneficial Laboratory" where they raise insects to combat those that we consider pests in the garden. Insects fighting insects! The lab does tours and is a very interesting place to visit.

In November we will graduate the Class of 2019 and celebrate those who have earned milestone awards with a graduation dinner at the Church of St. Anselm facility center. Congratulations, graduates and milestone awardees. In addition, that evening we will also honor a non-MG with an Honorary Master Gardener status.

November is also when we will be voting for our Board of Trustee members.

Looking forward, we will be having our annual Holiday Recognition Luncheon. A time to relax, enjoy an auction, and have a great afternoon with good friends and our MG family over good food!

Morris: No report.

Ocean:

Our interns presented a very well attended Fall Garden Day on September 27th. The theme was Sustainability. Talks were given on getting back to nature at local parks, IPM for home gardeners, pollinators, vermicomposting, container

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gardening with vegetables, and making a butterfly puddler. Our display garden featuring native plants was toured by the attendees.

Chores in October include recovering the Hoop House and greenhouse sanitation. The MGs band together and have fun while sprucing up our facilities.

About half of our MGs have had Better Impact training. We hope to have all trained by January.

An Advanced Education All-Day Training is scheduled for October 17th. Topics are bats, likable lichen, and colorful plants for winter interest. Call 732-349-1246 to register.

Our Helpline and Tick Lab will stop at the end of October.

Passaic: No report.

Somerset:

Procedures for reimbursement of personal expenses was discussed at our advisory meeting to be shared with the general membership once again. They call for using a PO for any expenditure. If it is a "team" expenditure, it must be pre-authorized and approved by the team leader. Joe Guyrian recommended contacting our Master Gardener secretary/agriculture assistant, Marilyn Cubano, for the most recent procedures when needed.

Joe reported that we were on track for the attendance at the 4H Fair 1,610 adults and 819 children visited our tent on August 9th, 2019.

Joe e-mailed the sign-up for the October conference so that attendance could be obtained online. The on-line sign up for the Great Tomato Tasting went very smoothly, as well.

A Marketing Communications Director has been hired by RCE. He will support RMGSC as part of his job. It was suggested that a procedure to work with him be established.

Franklin Township Elementary school is interested in starting a Community Garden. Our leadership will contact them to find out what their request entails.

The Backyard Friends and Foes Team will have a display at the Somerset County Court house during the month of SEPTEMBER.

Sussex: We are looking to use Better Impact for applications and registrations for our incoming class, so any other County that has used BI for that purpose should let us know their experiences, particularly volunteers.

We are setting up 3 CE and 1 additional events for 2020 combining the Helpline leader and speaker's bureau. These events can be attended by MGs who may also bring a friend. The topics covered will include issues driven by Helpline requests and associated outreach program data.

Our Demo Garden is still new. We will be setting up a compost area so we can clean up the garden and make plans for next year with a new team to manage the area.

We trained 4 new Helpline Volunteers this year, which enables us to have coverage every day except Friday

Union:

1. MG Pin Party was held on Sunday, September 22nd. MG Norma Cohen was the recipient of the MG's of Union County's highest honor, The Wesley Philo Award.

2. The MG of Union County piloted their new Docent program at the Union County's Fall Festival on Sunday, September 29th, by offering two scheduled tours of the Demonstration gardens, to the public. Several unscheduled tours were also given. Alfred Faella, the previous Union County Manager, and his wife took advantage of the opportunity to visit the Demo gardens and were guided by one of the new Docents.

3. The Demonstration Garden was open to the public on Sunday, September 29th, for "Rockin the Reservation". Tours of the Garden and children's activities such as planting spider plants and making bird feeders were offered.

4. The MG's have a Continuing Education meeting scheduled on Wednesday, October 16th. Guest Speaker will be James Occi, topic: Ticks and Tick Borne Diseases.

5. At the State Conference on Saturday, Oct 5th, Two Union County MG will receive the Award of Excellence, they are Tina Helmstetter and Sue Podolak.

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6. The MG executive Board will host a Communications Meeting with Committee Heads on Wednesday, Oct 23rd at 7 pm.

7. Previously noted, RCE and the MG hosted a Meet + Greet at the Demonstration Gardens on September 6th, Deputy County Manager Amy Warren, several UC Freeholders and Key County Staff were present

ADJOURNMENT: Next meeting is on the 2nd Thursday of November at Extension Training Center, Cook Campus

Respectfully Submitted
Jane Gardner, Recording Secretary Pro Tem