

## Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Rutgers Master Gardeners Monthly Meeting

June 2, 2015

President Ellen Simonetti called the meeting to order at 10:15 am.

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted with a correction. Suzanne Keane will be sending the correction to Jane Gardner for the May minutes.

### **President's Report:**

The Contact List will be updated.

The July 7th meeting will be held in Burlington County

Address: Burlington County AG Center

500 Centerton Road

Moorestown, NJ

### **Pin Inventory:**

There are 669 MG pins in stock and they need to be sold.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

\$12,661.81. The Treasury account is up from last month with profits from pin sales.

### **RCE:**

All county reports are in for the upcoming annual report. Nick will publish the annual report soon.

The Annual Rutgers Turfgrass Field Days will be held July 28 and 29, 2015. The July 28 session will feature fine and golf turf and be held at the Horticulture Research Farm, Ryder's Lane, New Brunswick, NJ. Master Gardeners are invited to register to attend or act as tour guides to those attending.

On July 29<sup>th</sup>, the Field Day will feature landscape turf and ornamentals in Adelphia. Any RMG's interested in volunteering as tour guides should contact Tracey Wadhams at the RCE of Morris County office.

The next International MG conference will be held in Council Bluffs, Iowa September 22-25, 2015.

The topic of Protection of Minors and Background Checks is still being discussed.

The issue of Volunteer Hours will be reviewed at State Coordinators meeting and will be discussed further. Nick will follow up with an email.

Nick also reported on the recent conference in Maine. The report can be viewed on [extension.org](http://extension.org).

Nick can send out a link to the conference on request.

Nick asked if anyone had viewed or used the Native Plants and/or Community Gardens presentations published prepared by the coordinators for state-wide use and published on Sakai. No response.

### **Conference Tasks:**

A new slate of speakers for the 2016 Conference was voted on and accepted. They are:

- Key Speaker: Joseph Simcox

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- Dr. T. Molar and Dr. T. Gianfagna, both Rutgers research faculty.

Ellen will contact them.

Changing the registration and catering methods this year, OCPE will handle the registration for the 2015 Conference. Nick said that OCPE will devise a website and make it accessible for all types of payments. The online registration website should go live on July 1.

OCPE will also be able to cut off registration at 300 people, as this is the legal number of occupants the Douglas Center can hold.

Ellen recounted the schedule for the conference day.

July 15th is the deadline for the 120-word bio of award recipients for the Awards Booklets. This information was forwarded to coordinators. The information goes to Suzanne Keane of Ocean.

Nick said he can obtain 325 folders for the conference.

### **Attendance:**

Atlantic County: Mary Lou Monihan

Bergen County: Karen Pernell, Joseph Cooper

Burlington County: Terry Zane

Camden County: Nancy Sullivan, Diane Shurf

Essex County: Gail Chmura, Suzy Yamarone

Mercer County: Bob Robinson

Middlesex County: Dale Duchai, Jerri Barclay, Kathy Dopart

Monmouth County: Gordon-Boak, Ellen Simonetti

Morris County: Sandi Gonski, Pat Hudson, Stan Nathanson

Passaic County: Barbara Cook

Somerset County: Linda Madretzke

Sussex County: Pat Schanzlin

### **County Reports**

Atlantic County: We had our annual plant sale 2 weeks ago and will be having a meeting in the coming month in order to re-evaluate plans for next spring. Programs are very active with plantings and maintenance. Graduation is coming up in a few weeks and will be held at the Atlantic City Aquarium in Gardener's Basin where one of our largest community garden projects takes place.

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**Bergen County:** The NJ Meadowlands: Joke to Jewel, was presented by Katy Weidel at our May meeting. She discussed the environmental and cultural influences that shaped the Meadowlands region and shared some of the environmental success stories of this urban wilderness parkland. Rich in history, this special place is often referred to by the NJ Meadowlands Commission as the region's ecological Times Square!

As the Senior Landscape Architect and Supervisor of Park Planning for The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC), her work involves transforming derelict sites into compelling destinations for recreation, eco-tourism and environmental education opportunities.

June Trips & Tours: Jardin de Buis in Pottersville, New Jersey, that some say is the second Versaille. Settled among gentle hills and pasture in horse country, this 19th century homestead sits prettily with formal gardens and collections, and adornments of stone, water and architectural sculpture on 10 of its 35 acres. It is the home of Andrea Filippone and William Welch, architects, and headquarters of Tendenze Design, their firm of architecture, interior and landscape design. The site is often used for films, weddings and corporate functions.

The Butterfly and Native Garden at Overpeck was our featured site for June. The following is an excerpt from the article by the site coordinator, Pat Knight.

In June 2014, the garden was approved as a Master Gardener volunteer site. The Butterfly and Native Garden started 5 years ago by the Bergen County Audubon Society. Its concept was to rid the area of invasive plants and restore the balance to the environment using native plants. The focus was two fold; restore the habitat for butterflies and attract other pollinators and birds. The site was picked because of the large stand of common milkweed discovered growing amongst the mugwort and phragmites. The entire field was cut down, allowing the milkweed to grow back while volunteers kept the invasives in check. More nectar plants and shrubs were added for the butterflies, and today the garden is about 5 times its original size. Over 30 species of butterflies have returned since the project started. Plans are evolving to mark the trails and garden beds as more land is reclaimed.

Bill Kolvek Perennials opens his wholesale center to the Master Gardeners for a Perennials Plant Sale. Each year Bill gives a lesson on natives and perennials to the Master Gardener Class and allows the Master Gardeners to attend and purchase from his selection of exquisite plants.

**Burlington County:** Burlington County Master Gardeners continue to work vigorously on our projects. Donation Garden at Medford Leas:

- Planted 30 varies of tomatoes, plus zucchini and melons
- Completed planting for the 4'X4' Square Foot Demonstration Garden
- Harvested rhubarb and asparagus
- IPM project leader installed pheromone trap for corn borers

IPM program at BCCAC

- Monitoring weed and insect damage to field crops of corn, rye, alfalfa, oats and soybeans. More information available on blog site [www.bcmgipm.blogspot.com](http://www.bcmgipm.blogspot.com)
- Tomato plants in demo plots infected with Colorado potato beetles and their eggs
- Pumpkin plot new this year

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- Harvested strawberries

Pinelands Preservation Alliance:

- Autumn ferns added to shade garden
- Various perennial flowers (started from seed by mg Jim Briggs) along with herbs have been planted in the kitchen garden

Ask the Master Gardener table available the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday each month during the farmers market at BCCAC

Annual Recognition Dinner (pot luck) was enjoyed by all. MGs were honored as follows:

- Eleven 2015 interns completed their educational hours
- 2 received their 1,000 volunteer hour certificates and gold name badges
- 4 received 500 volunteer hour certificates
- 6 received their 250 volunteer hour certificates
- 17 received their 100 volunteer hour certificates
- 23 interns from 2014 are now certified master gardeners

Upcoming events:

- Earth Fair at Smithville, June 14
- Burlington County Farm Fair, July 14 – 19

New project:

- Working on starting a team to develop a butterfly garden at historic Smithville Park

**Camden County:** No report

**Cumberland County:** Our June meeting will be all about strawberries with members sharing their strawberry delights. We are getting ready for the fair with butterfly tent and teaching the children about soil. We will be taking a trip to Auburn Winery & Burcham Girls Garden.

**Essex County:** No report

**Hunterdon County:** No report

**Mercer County:** Our butterfly committee sponsors several field trips each year, open to all RMG's. In May, they held their annual trip to the Cape May area, and in June they will have a "learnmore" on butterflies and later lead a field outing to the historic Pole Farm area of Mercer Meadows Park.

Our Rutgers Master Gardeners travelled to the NY Botanical Gardens and Wave Hill in May. Outreach events were held at the local Azalea Festival and Pennington Day.

We are upgrading our website, which was first established over a decade ago. We are converting to a program called Word Press, which will simplify changes and allow the inclusion of more types of multimedia and interactive content.

Mercer County 4-H and RMG's are cooperating with the Mercer Boys and Girls Clubs to present a series of courses at the Club's new Spruce Street facility, very close to Extension. 4-H and RMG's will handle the STEM courses for all ages. Initially, RMG's will staff two courses for preschool children, one on

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plants, and one on bugs. As attendance increases, we will become increasingly involved with other courses and age groups. In return, we will be able to use a gym-size room and kitchen facilities for our general meetings, which have outgrown the meeting room at Extension.

A tour of David Culp's Garden is coming up in June. A program on native bees, including habitat building, is to take place on June 12.

**Middlesex County:** Dr. Lean Struwe of Rutgers University gave an interesting talk titled "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly Medicinal Plants" at our May 19th general meeting.

In preparation for the First Annual Living History Fair on May 31<sup>st</sup>, a group of Master Gardeners planted the entrance beds to East Jersey Olds Town, a historically accurate 1700 and 1800 restored village in Piscataway.

The EARTH Center Conservancy is sponsoring a bus trip to Wintertur museum and country estate in Delaware this Saturday June 6th.

Also this weekend our butterfly house opens for the season. Hours of operation are Saturday and Sunday from 10-12 in June, July and August.

Master Gardeners will be giving tours of the EARTH center gardens on June 9, 11, 14, 17, 29, also on July 11 and 29th.

Free workshops are being offered at the EARTH center. Preregistration is required – Please call 732-398-5272. The EARTH Center is located in Davidson's Mill Pond Park, 42 Riva Ave, South Brunswick, NJ.

- June 6 10am -12: Made in the Shade: Gardening Without full Sun
- June 10 6:30 pm: Raising Chickens on Pasture
- June 27 10am: Growing, Harvesting and Preserving Your Herbs

**Monmouth County:** Our Junior Master Gardeners program began in April with 18 new children in its class. The class begins inside with planned lessons and then is taken outside where each group of children have their own plot to plant and tend. Currently, an assortment of vegetables has been started from seed or transplanted plants, such as tomatoes, peppers and eggplant.

Our Horticultural Enrichment team continues to visit and work with members of the Applewood Assisted Living Facility in Freehold. All find this experience very rewarding.

The biggest event we've had this year was our Spring Garden Days event on May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, chaired by Gordon Boak, where over 100 MGs eagerly assisted many people with garden questions and planning, choice of plants (perennials, annuals, houseplants, small trees and shrubs, herbs and vegetables) and Helpline questions. Hard-working MGs shared their own plants by dividing them, potting them up and donating them for the sale as well. In addition, MGs headed up lectures on topics such as, vegetable and container gardening, general Q&A and composting. On display for tours were our well-tended gardens: PAR, Rain and Native gardens, and Herb and Memorial gardens. All look spectacular!

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On June 2<sup>nd</sup> a workshop on growing mushrooms will be offered. MGs will be given the opportunity to not only learn about growing mushrooms, but will be planting the “seeds” to actually grow them in their own yard!

At our last General Meeting a short memorial gathering was held in honor of those Master Gardeners who have touched our lives and have left this world. The garden is lovingly maintained and lined with engraved bricks (each brick, stating the name of a lost MG) celebrating each Monmouth County MG who has left our lives.

In the near future, Monmouth County Master Gardeners will be hosting a very popular, all-day event, “Bugs, Birds and Beyond”. In August at our Ag. Building, crafts, games and talks about this year’s theme: Pollinators. Everyone, young and old, will be smiling and learning about the pollinators that keep our gardens going and growing! Again, our gardens will be on display and open for tours.

### **Morris County:**

- Held Advanced Rain Garden Training 5/11/15 for MGs
- Library Outreach event held on 5/23 with topic: Growing Tomatoes
- Held 4 HEP sessions within 4 venues
- Offered 6 classes via Speakers Bureau
- Events Committee finalized bus trip issues & drafted committee’s purpose statement
- Held Clean-up Session for front RCE landscaping
- Held Outreach Event for Unity Charter School in Morristown on 5/23
- Scheduled 2013/14 Master Gardeners’ Graduation Luncheon for 6/5/15
- Distributed Spring, 2015 Issue of MG Newsletter
- 11 volunteers will plant a school community rain garden on 5/26 & 5/26, weather permitting.

**Ocean County:** Our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration was a huge success. We heard many tales of the beginning years from past presidents, notes from first Ag. Agent, Debbie Smith-Fiola and Karen Rinderer, first horticulturalist, were read by MGs. Freeholder Vicari presented a Proclamation from the Freeholders of Ocean County to the OCMG. And, the potluck buffet was delicious!

The Toms River Library event was appreciated by all attendees who said they learned much about gardening from our talks and demos. The Library invited us back next year.

We are also involved in doing containers to decorate 6 of the 20 sculptures being exhibited in T.R. from the Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton. This continues through Labor Day.

The Community Garden donated 31 lbs. of asparagus to their food pantries.

Other Outreaches continue serving our residents.

All-day Training on “Soils” is June 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Passaic County:** Passaic County is very pleased to have Claudia Kolster on board. She is busy putting together speakers and content for a MG class to start in September. We will be giving a scholarship to one applicant that will cover the cost of the program. Had a successful Plant Sale. At the last meeting Sandy Zenkel spoke on Water Gardens in Containers. Excellent program. June meeting will be Dr. Lesley Parness who will speak on "50 Black Plants for your Garden". Have had many new projects approved for the coming year, giving members a number of ways to meet their volunteer hour requirements.

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Tomorrow a group is taking a tour of Well-sweep Herb farm. Looking to take more tours and get our members more active.

**Somerset County:** On June 12, we will have Randi Heffner as our advanced training speaker for the June meeting. Topic : " Carnivores in Containers." On May 15 there was an very informative "PEST Walk" at the Ted Blum 4H Center in Bridgewater. It was open to 25 registered guest.

**Sussex County:** No report

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Dopart  
Subbing for Jane Gardner

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