

**Master Gardeners of Bergen County  
Board of Directors Minutes for  
September/October 23, 2018**

Meeting was called to order by President Gretchen at 5:40 pm.

**Present at the meeting:** Carolyn Gretchen, Dennis Gretchen, Melody Corcoran, Hank Annunziata, Karen Pennell, Miriam Taub, Karen Riede, Suzanne Danzig, Donna Karpel, Dorothy Penkalski, Smadar Shemmesh, Donna Dorgan, Bruce Walencyk, Terri Pegg, Marie Alfano, Herb Arbeiter, Joseph Cooper, Arnie Friedman

**Presidents Report:**

Presented with a fantastic weather weekend, numerous vendors, outstanding MG Class of 2018 projects, the Bergen County Fall Harvest Festival was a great success! Due to Joel's efforts, Bergen County farmers were well represented. A personal thank you goes out to Fred Guidotti, Ora Hamawi, Patrick Lull, Charlie Marietta, Barbara Pisacane, Noreen Postman, Robert Durham, Jeff Chan, Karen Riede, and Karen Pennell for all their assistance in making this such a success. The MG's of Bergen County were also well represented at the RMGANJ Fall Conference on Oct. 6th. The innovative work of our very own Joseph Cooper via a video of the Awards for Excellence winners for all counties was a welcome addition. Tonight, we will honor our Awards for Excellence recipients, our 25-year MG's and our 30-year MG! Also, due to Karen Pennell's shopping acumen, we now have pewter tree pins for our lifetime members.

On Sept. 27th, the MG's of BC members Carolyn and Dennis Gretchen were honored with a thank you plaque and a ribbon cutting ceremony for taking a neglected garden space and bringing it back to life. The space now features a butterfly/pollinator garden, annual seasonal plantings in containers, and a rejuvenated 9/11 memorial garden with a birdbath. Future plans will include tall grasses, a fern interest area, a water feature, and additional perennials.

In addition to this garden, Donna Faustini, Carolyn Gretchen, and Karen Pennell started a horticultural therapy group with six veterans last month. With the addition of a new member, Patricia Kilbride of the class of 2018, the hort. therapy group will now be able to include eight veterans in the class.

Our traditions continue! On Sat., Nov. 10th, the graduation ceremony for the class of 2018 will take place at noon at the beautiful McFaul Environmental Center. The class of 2017 will provide the refreshments. We will be on hand to welcome these classmates into the MG of BC fold. The following week, on Friday, Nov. 16th, our Bd. Of Trustees will welcome the new class of 2019 with a breakfast and good wishes. A signup sheet for the goodies will be passed around tonight, so we have a variety for this class of 24 students.

Since we missed a meeting in Sept. due to harsh weather conditions, discussion will take place tonight regarding Bd. Officer nominations and elections.

As a reminder, as per Joel, all County and Parks Dept. waivers, permits, fees, and positions on products must go through Joel.

**Vice President:**

Nothing to report.

**Recording Secretary:**

**Motion:** Arnie Friedman motioned to approve the May 22, 2018 minutes, Hank Annunziata seconded, and all were in favor.

**Corresponding Secretary:**

Smadar reported that all was good.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Opening balance as of April 30, 2018.....	\$12,708.39
Income.....	\$305.00
Expenses.....	\$629.00

Closing balance as of August 30, 2018.....\$12,384.39

Opening balance as of August 31, 2018.....	\$12,384.39
Income.....	\$50.00
Expenses.....	\$150.00

Closing balance as of September 30, 2018.....\$12,284.39

**\*Motion:** Terri Pegg motioned to approve treasurers’ reports, Donna Karpel seconded and all approved.

**Community Outreach Events and Volunteers:**

(from September) 10/11 The Garden Club of Teaneck will have Joseph Lelinho present “Understanding Honeybees/The City of the Bees”. Joseph will have his Observation Hive. Rodda Center, 250 Colonial Ct., Teaneck. Refreshments at 7 and lecture from 7:30-8:30. Nothing to report for October meeting.

**Garden Club Liaison:**

Miriam reported that she has notified all Garden Club contacts an outline of how to send in reports of events and meetings. Miriam also created a spreadsheet with GC contacts.

**Class Liaison:**

Donna Dorgan reported that the fair was great and the class was looking forward to graduation. The new class liaisons are Hank Arbeiter and Marie Alfono.

**Speakers Bureau:**

Arnie will attempt to organize a workshop for potential speakers. Arnie’s contact information should be more prominently posted for members to contact. Arnie has suggested that organizations make donations to MG of BC as compensation for his speaking engagements since he is not compensated.

**Publicity:** Patrick

not present

**Hospitality:**

MG Holiday party is scheduled for December 4 at Van Saun Education Center at 12:00. MG will provide sandwiches and drinks, email will go out assigning apps and desserts.

**Membership:**

Terri indicated that we can begin to pay dues for next year, \$20.

**Newsletter:**

Janet was not present. Miriam reported articles are coming in for November Potting Shed and a request to add "Save the Date".

**Website:**

The following sections of the MGofBC.org website has been updated: The Homepage, Potting Shed, Meetings and Events, Membership Directory, and the Forms section.

Volunteer & Membership Portal Progress:

After a review of the features added by Matt Frawley to the Volunteer Reporting and Administrative sections, an email was sent requesting over thirty changes and additions. Matt is current working through the list and has completed about twenty items. He is currently working on the "Reports" section.

**Rutgers Cooperative Extension:****From Joel Flagler:**

*For September meeting:*

- New Rutgers hire in Passaic County: Celia Diaz will be the Master Gardener coordinator and assist with education and outreach in the areas of ornamental horticulture and some commercial agriculture support. Celia comes to us from Puerto Rico. We look forward to working with her on the North Jersey Ornamental Hort conferences.
- Jan 7, 8, 9 is the Annual North Jersey Ornamental Hort conference held at the County College of Morris. The 5 northeast counties participate, and we will train around 150 individuals each day. It is ideal training for MG's too; this year my class will attend Landscape Day—which I chair. The dates are: Jan 7 is Turf Day; Jan 8 is Tree Day; Jan 9 is Landscape Day. The registration includes a hot lunch—very good deal. Karen will share the info once all programs are finalized.
- The Bergen County Board of Agriculture is planning a celebration of NJ Farm Bureau's anniversary. Farm visits will be set up in Bergen County for people to come and visit--and receive incentives to visit several more host farms and nurseries in the County. More on that in the spring.
- Nick Polanin, the Rutgers Ag Agent from Somerset County, and the State MG Coordinator is now our new Chair of the Dept of Ag and Natural Resources—ANR--(aka the Ag Extension Dept). this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest Dept in the SEBS; with only the Dept of Plant Biology having more faculty and staff. Nick is an excellent Chair and will represent us in the Rutgers administration.
- Taking over the role of MG State Coordinator is Jan Zientek, of RCE Essex County. He is the senior program coordinator involved in MG training and many community outreach efforts. He is also a specialist in community gardening projects in urban settings. Jan has an office in Roseland.
- The Fair is the culmination of our outreach year. Please come and show your support for the MG's and RCE. The weather committee has arranged for excellent conditions. It's free and the Farmer's Market will be better-than-ever. The upper ballfield of Van Saun is a perfect setting with shade and sun. The carnival will be open Friday nite, as well as Sat

and Sunday. There will be free fireworks on Saturday nite. And live music both Sat and Sunday afternoons. Good Stuff!

- In a couple of weeks, I will start the MG program once again. My first class was in 1987—that is hard to believe. Karen and I will welcome the new class and hope you all meet them at some point soon.

Best wishes to all for a Happy Autumn season! Good Health and Joy!

*For October meeting:*

- The new MG class has started its training; 25 enthused individuals. They will be the Class of 2019.
- Class of 2018 graduation is Sat., Nov. 10 at McFaul Environmental Center. County Executives Jim Tedesco has been invited to speak, along with the Freeholder Mary Amoroso, (from one of my earliest MG classes in the late 1980's) Carolyn will also welcome them to the MG of BC association.
- North Jersey Ornamental Hort Conference is January 7,8,9, 2019 at the CCM in Randolph. The 3-day event is Turf Day, Tree Day and Landscape Day, respectively. Great training, great speakers, great hot lunch buffet. MG grads are certainly welcome. The registration fee is modest. Brochures will be available in a month. Joel is the Chair of Landscape Day.
- The Fair was awesome, and the weather was just about perfect for both Saturday and Sunday. That was a miracle in itself. The educational displays were fantastic and CE Tedesco made some very sincere opening remarks about how much he appreciates the MG's and RCE. The Farm Market was just about perfect too. Thanks to the MG Association and the class of 2018 for their dedication. Thanks to all the many MG's who lent support to this yearly festival. Don't forget it was our humble MG AND 4-H FAIR that has grown into the County's Fall Harvest Festival. We have much to be proud of!

Wishing everyone good health and much happiness in this wonderful autumn and end-of-the-year season. Happy Hallowe'en too!

**RMGANJ:**

*(from September meeting that was cancelled)*

Earn 5 CE credits at the State Conference entitled, Plants: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow on October 6th. Please make an announcement at the general meeting. Registration is open at [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com).

*Master Gardener's Coordinator's Report; June-September*

Nick Polanin reported that on July 1 he starts as chair for the Department. Nick summarized key items from the May 30 coordinator meeting, they include: reprints of the meshed outdoor banners were passed out to those Counties who needed them; three counties are still pending their submissions for the 2017 Annual Report; some counties are having good success with an online tool to report volunteer hours – he hopes to set it up for the state. There is no update on protection of minors. In the Strategic Plan for the Department, the State was broken up into regions. Discussion has started on determining the regional needs. There may be a coordinator for each region with liaisons from each county. RCE in Union, Somerset, Burlington and Mercer and mosquito control

in other counties are collecting ticks to inventory the different kinds, in an effort to determine the extent of the Asian Longhorn tick presence are in the state. The perceived or implied endorsement issue was discussed. We need to develop a disclaimer for perceived/implied endorsement situations.

There was discussion on what kind of evaluation tools the counties use to evaluate their intern training program

The issue of collecting sales tax was discussed. All county offices are to start collecting sales tax on plant sales, pesticide training manuals, soil test kits and any other tangible items that are sold by extension or Master Gardener organizations. If the soil test mailer bag was not required and it was all done online or paper submission with the person mailing the soil in a Ziploc, then there would be no tax required. Discussion followed about whether the mailer could be eliminated. The consensus was that it is not needed. Passaic and Sussex county coordinator position searches are underway.

Jan Zientek, Essex County Extension Department Head and Senior Program Coordinator ARMA, has assumed the role of Master Gardener Program Leader.

His vision is to grow the MG program statewide, to standardize training across the counties, while enabling a local focus on how these strategies are applied locally to meet needs. He will push hard to increase participation by regionalizing training, coordinating efforts and sharing resources of instructors to cut costs. He feels that the MG Program Leader should be a full time, paid position to ensure that the program is focused and maximizes the impact of the Rutgers name, fostered by the work of volunteer MGs.

*October meeting*

Pins for "Lifetime" members will be distributed next month. 25yr and 30yr pins will be distributed tonight.

**Sunshine:**

Nothing to report

**Site Coordinator Liaison:**

Karen Riede and Melody scheduled presentations for site leaders.

**Tours and Trips:**

Still no chair.

**Programs:**

Virginia Lamb will make a brief presentation this evening before Bruce Crawford presentation due to September presentation cancellation. Bruce Crawford will speak on Public Gardens. November 27th speaker is Dr Robert Lyons from Rutgers. Dr Lyons is a retired botanist but remains active at Rutgers Gardens. Dr Lyons topic is "Confessions of an Attention-Deficit Gardener".

January 22nd speaker is our very own Arnie Friedman. February 26, no one scheduled yet.

**Volunteer Records:**

Donna has received reports already but had to contact those members to remind them that they are not due until the end of the year as they may have additional volunteer hours to report.

**Archivist:**

Nothing to report.

**Old Business:**

Dennis Gretchen reported that receipts for \$216 for Fall Festival refreshments.

\***Motion:** Joseph Cooper motioned that we approve this onetime cost, Karen Pennell seconded, and all were in favor.

**New Business:**

*Board Officers Nominations:* We should have had these nominations last month but due to weather related cancellation of the meeting the nominating committee, Karen Pennell, Donna Karpel, Lucy Malka, followed these procedures:

2019 MG Slate of Officers

Per Article II, Section 4 of the Master Gardeners of Bergen County By-Laws, the Nominating Committee (Lucy Malka, Donna Karpel and Karen Pennell), presented a slate of officers to serve in 2019 via email to the Executive Board. The slate of officers was confirmed. The slate was announced in the newsletter since there was no meeting in September. Barring any nominations from the floor, the current slate of officers will be presented to the general membership at our November MG meeting by the recording secretary:

President:	Carolyn Gretchen
Vice President:	Melody Corcoran
Treasurer:	Bruce Walencyck
Recording Secretary:	Suzanne Danzig
Corresponding Secretary:	Miriam Taub

Introduction of this year's class liaisons: Herb Arbeiter and Marie Alfono.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.