

**Master Gardeners of Bergen County
Board of Directors Minutes for
January 22, 2019**

Meeting was called to order by President Gretchen at 5:34 pm.

Present at the meeting: Carolyn Gretchen, Dennis Gretchen, Melody Corcoran, Hank Annunziata, Miriam Taub, Karen Riede, Janet Schulz, Donna Karpel, Patrick Lull, Marie Alfano, Herb Arbeiter, Joseph Cooper, Terri Pegg, Donna Faustini, Bruce Walenczyk, Arnie Friedman

Presidents Report:

This time of year is a time to look forward and to look backward. Looking forward, some exciting Flower Shows are coming up in Connecticut in Feb., Philadelphia in Mar., and NJ at the end of April.

Again, looking forward, I had mentioned a mentoring program another county does to bring and keep volunteers onboard. It would take some planning. If we have an interest, we can plan this year for next year. Thoughts???

Looking backward, our holiday party was a big success, but the picnic wasn't. Causes? Solutions?

We need to look at our bylaws. They are more than due for revision. I'd like to have a committee of more than two do that since we've made changes over the years. Joseph Cooper volunteered and Karen Pennell would assist.

Jan Zientek will be asking for our annual report. Donna needs all the volunteer hours for that. Donna Karpel mentioned she always sends Joel volunteer hours by mid-February.

Also, where did we donate produce? I have Garretson's. How about the Hermitage? Anywhere else? Melody said it was just Garretson.

Carolyn complimented Hank on the Christmas party, it was excellent! Thank you to Miriam for extending an invitation to the current class.

Vice President:

No report.

Recording Secretary:

Carolyn reminded everyone that there were two outstanding pieces of business from the September meeting that needed to be inserted into the September/October minutes.

***Motion:** Arnie Friedman motioned to accept September/October minutes as written, Donna Karpel seconded and all were in favor.

***Motion:** Janet Schulz motioned to accept the November minutes as written, Melody Corcoran seconded and all were in favor.

Corresponding Secretary:

Carolyn welcomed Miriam as our new Corresponding Secretary.

Treasurer's Report:

Correction to the November Treasurer's Report: The closing balance for October 31, 2018 should have been \$11,738.65 rather than \$12,384.39.

Bruce reported that we made the final payment to EGGS, but Joseph said "no". There are still revisions that have to be done but we are still under the \$500 set aside for that.

Opening balance as of November 30, 2018.....	\$11,698.65
Income.....	\$535.00
Expenses.....	\$1,452.64
Closing balance as of October 31, 2018.....	\$10,781.01

***Motion:** Melody Corcoran motioned to approve treasurers' reports, Arnie Friedman seconded and all approved.

Community Outreach Events and Volunteers:

We have received 3 invitations so far for Earth Day:

- Ridgefield Park Green Fair 2019, Saturday, May 11, 2019, 10-5pm
- Northern Valley Earth Fair-Tenafly Middle School, 10 Sunset Lane, Tenafly on Saturday, 4/27/10, 11-4pm.
- Bergen County 6th Annual, Overpeck, 45 Fort Lee Rd., Leonia, Sunday, May 19

Miriam mentioned to Karen R. that there was an issue last year with a train blocking the entrance to the Ridgefield Park. People should be made aware and seek alternative route.

The syllabus for the current class has changed. Class swill begin on 3/1/19 and as soon as Karen gets an update from Joel she will get it to us.

Garden Club Liaison:

Miriam is still working on getting the correct information regarding addresses, dates, etc. Not all the clubs have a website and only some have sent in their information.

Class Liaison:

2019 Liaisons Marie and Herb reported that several people (22 out of 26) from the class attended the landscape symposium as well as the Bonsai meeting in Morristown. The Hermitage also had a thank you dinner for their volunteers and they are having the Maple Tree tap in February which several students in the class are planning to attend.

Speakers Bureau:

Arnie has a few speaking engagements set for Bogota and Upper Saddle River. Bert Taylor is speaking at Hillsdale and Arnie is helping. If it goes well, he will add him to the list. We have a few Master Gardeners that speak around the county so they can get paid. Arnie is not sure if they use our name to promote themselves as we are not supposed to get paid. They should be speaking and asking the club to make a donation to MGofBC.

Publicity:

Patrick was asked what the correct verbiage was to find Master Gardeners of Bergen County Facebook page. He said it is "Master Gardeners of Bergen County". Joseph will put a link to it on the websites.

Hospitality:

Hank reported the Christmas party was well attended and everyone had a good time. There was no food left this year to share with the staff so everything must have been delicious!

Carolyn mentioned that the picnic in June was not well attended and asked if there were any suggestions anyone had to promote it better. Arnie suggested we do a movable party and see 3 gardens on the same day, ie, appetizers at the first home, meal at second home and dessert and drinks at the 3rd home or have a workshop on a topic. Janet and Miriam suggested a plant exchange. Dennis said that Skyland's has a presenter at their luncheon and Joseph said they also have a plant exchange and awards.

Membership:

To date, 86 members have paid their 2019 dues.

Some have indicated an interest in committees:

Pat Fromm – Sunshine

Ma Theresa Sabello – Sunshine

Susan Gurak – Sunshine

Jane Nicholson - Trips and Tours

Betty McDonell – Trips and Tours

Atsumi Kitagawa – Hospitality / Fund Raising

Amy Chang – Hospitality

Newsletter:

Mirian and Janet said they have some items for this month and Potting Shed is going out on the 25th so if you have anything, please send it in asap.

Website:

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

Showed Miriam Taub how to use the current email system for MG of BC, we will review the new system as soon as it's ready.

A new section featuring Speakers Bureau is being designed and will feature Guest Speakers, Lectures, and contact information, along with encouraging members to get involved.

Volunteer & Membership Portal Progress:

A list of additional features and changes were sent to Matt Frawley for adding to the website, he has finished most requests, and is currently working on reports and queries. Matt has been nice enough to not bill us, but he will be charging going forward for changes that were not originally talked about. He will also be adding a "lifetime" hours section so you can see how you do from year to year.

Members can start using the system to track 2019 volunteer and education hours when it is up and running. Donna objects to members using the site for ~~this year~~ as glitches still need to be worked out. Members will be notified when it is ready. now

Rutgers Cooperative Extension:

Joel Flagler, Rutgers Agricultural Extension Agent.

* The North Jersey Ornamental Horticulture conference last week (Jan 7,8,9) was a huge success. We trained over 500 professionals arborists, turf managers and landscape contractors. Many municipal parks workers attended too, as well as Master Gardeners. The MG Class of 2019 attended on Landscape Day.

* Rutgers has initiated searches for 3 Ag Extension Agent positions in Cumberland, Monmouth and Salem.

* Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) is bad news in PA and 3 NJ counties are now under quarantine (Warren, Hunterdon, Mercer). The Tree-of-heaven (found in most cities) is a major host for adult SLF, and trees in SE PA are shown with thousands on them. The damage to host plants mostly occurs when the honeydew excreted from the insects covers plant tissue and photosynthesis stops. There are over 45 host plants, including hops and grapes—which worries many growers. NJ still allows cut XMAS trees to be moved, while PA prohibits it. The insect hitchhikes on vehicles, firewood, cut XMAS trees.

* Boxwood blight is huge and widespread around the tri-state. Only a few varieties are resistant and the pathogen persists in the soil for long time. Choose Japanese holly or other leucothoe instead. Do not prune boxwoods unless to remove damaged tissue.

* The Master Gardeners of Bergen County training resumes March 1 and lasts till mid-June. I will have another 25 trained volunteers to do our good work in county parks, Hort Therapy, environmental fairs, earth day events and the fall harvest festival on Sept 21 & 22 at Van Saun Park.

There was a discussion to change name of “MG of BC Fall Festival” site to just “Fall Harvest Festival”.

RMGANJ:

Jan Zientek, Statewide Coordinator, Rutgers Master Gardener Program, reported that Brian Schilling, the new Director of Extension, has started looking into issues regarding how costs are recouped internally at Rutgers such as fees for room use.

New Software: Brian is presenting information about the Master Gardener Program to Rutgers management today. He needed data about hours volunteered in different categories for his report. In order to handle requests such as this and other items, the State will be purchasing the Better Impact software, which is Volunteer/Non-profit Management software for handling time reporting, scheduling, etc. This software will be rolled out in 2019 to all the counties. It will allow easy access to data about Master Gardener activities and impact on the community. Sussex, Essex, Morris, Camden are using it currently. Rutgers is paying for the license and the cost will not be passed onto the counties.

Jersey Cares: Jan also reported that he has been working with Jersey Cares to provide training for Master Gardeners on volunteerism starting with the interns. They will trial the training one more time in Essex and then revise it and roll it out in other counties in 2020 for interns. Jersey Cares is not charging us for the training. He is also working on volunteer management training for the coordinators.

Old Business: Pat Schanzlin reported on the 2019 International Master Gardener Conference. The registration is over \$300. Pat and Jan Zientek are investigating whether we can buy a block of admissions that we would sell as one day passes for about \$100/day. She asked the attendees to find out if their members would be interested in this.

Sunshine:

Nothing to report.

Site Coordinator Liaison:

The International Master Gardener Conference is June 17-21 at Valley Forge Casino Resort. Melody said she is contacting site coordinators to update their information for the sites. Thielke has 2 people who are not Master Gardeners and cannot be listed. Melody will contact Barbara Biscane, and Bruce Walenczyk said we can use his name as a contact.

Trips and Tours:

Carolyn asked Terri P. to contact Jane Nickelson regarding chairing T&T. Terri mentioned that Betty McDonnell also expressed an interest in this committee. Carolyn will contact her.

Programs:

Arnie is speaking tonight on Lawns. We are scheduled February through April.

-Feb: Jean Epiphan on "Ferns".

-March: Virginia Lamb on "Composting".

-April: Joint meeting with Passaic and Charlie Nardozi, a radio host who assisted in many of the "Dummies" books. We do not have a topic for his talk yet.

Volunteer Records:

Donna K asked for last year's Outreach Programs so she can be aware of the dates when she receives hours from people.

Donna is hoping to get more hours in as we have less people sending in their hours this year compared to this time last year. We currently have 7500 volunteer hours in with 97 reports. Normally end up somewhere between 125-130 sending in hours. About where we normally are this time of year.

Donna also complimented the Class of 2019 for the hours they have submitted to date. They have far exceeded any other classes hours.

Patrick said he was approached by Essex County to discuss a butterfly garden he did at his girlfriend's home and wanted to know if that would be considered volunteer hours?

Archivist:

Nothing to report.

Old Business:**New Business:**

Melody will be looking into special projects and will discuss further at the next meeting.

Dennis and Carolyn have 133 hours at the Veteran's Home and were told that the veterans are setting up an account with a local nursery, so we don't have to pay for anything going forward. Carolyn would like to make it a site but it has to be brought up at meeting so people have a month to discuss it and visit it and then it would get voted on at the next meeting. Carolyn is not ready to make it an official site yet.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.

***motion:** Arnie Friedman motioned to adjourn meeting and Dennis G. seconded, all in favor.