

**Master Gardener Association of Bergen County
Board Meeting Minutes – May 24, 2022**

Present: Hosting – Melody Corcoran, Karen Riede, Joseph Cooper, Theresa Schneider, Miriam Taub, Herb Arbeiter, Elizabeth Gil, Pat Vellas, Donna Faustini, Keith Mazanec, Martha Carlucci, Suzanne Danzig

Absent: Arnie Friedman, Janet Schulz

The meeting was called to order by President Corcoran at 5:32 PM.

Officer Reports:

President – Melody Corcoran

President's Report May 24, 2022

Our current event banner was supplied by RMGANJ approx. 8-10 years ago according to Karen Pennell. The banner is vinyl, measures 70" x 30", and has grommets for hanging. Joel Flagler says that this banner is OK to use with the old logo. A new banner needs to contain the following: Master Gardeners of Bergen County; MGofBC.org; Rutgers; Rutgers Cooperative Extension; Rutgers MG logo. Since our current banner is acceptable, it makes sense to put a new display banner on hold until Rutgers has decided on a new logo.

I have reached out to Jeff Chan for specifics on the event canopy tent that he and Arnie Friedman were considering.

From Jeff: We were talking about a standard 10 x 10 pop-up tent. They are available as many models which are made of different metals and weights. I would recommend a commercial model which weighs more and does not collapse to a size which can't fit sideways in the trunk or back seat of a car. You'd need a van, SUV or at least a vehicle with a fold down rear seat. They are more durable and will last longer. The one I have is good for occasional use but is starting to show wear and tear. Available as options or as a package are tent walls for inclement weather and sandbag weights for windy days. Tents and sidewalls can be imprinted with artwork. The price for the package described is approximately \$175; imprinted ones are much more.

Eurmax USA tents found on Amazon are the ones Jeff is referring to. A 10 x 10 commercial-grade canopy tent in white, with an alloy steel frame, waterproof canopy, sand bags, and roller bag is currently \$190. It weighs 61 pounds (without sand). Side walls are available for \$23 each. Take a look at their products and the reviews and the tents available from other manufacturers. We don't need a decision right away because the last two events for this year will supply a tent for us.

Presidents Report cont...

We need someone to store the tent and files used at the outreach events and also to deliver these items to the events and pick them up again. Karen Riede has been picking up and delivering these items, but it is too much to ask her to continue doing this along with all her RCE duties.

Thank you, Karen, for all that you have done making this year’s outreach events successful.

Vice President – Elizabeth Gil

No report. Liz initiated a discussion about how we as an organization connect with the community. What ways do we reach out other than through Rutgers? There was discussion on ways to encourage younger people to participate in the program and connect them with nature. Suzanne mentioned a Jr. Master Gardeners program. One of the challenges, however, are that children of school age have difficulty committing the time to volunteer. Karen suggested a possible partnership with the 4-H program and to develop a committee to set up a youth program. Theresa mentioned that Cornell’s website offers a Jr. Master Gardener program with an established curriculum. In addition, Wisconsin also has an established continuing education curriculum. Theresa offered to work with Liz and 4-H as part of an exploratory committee.

Treasurer – Pat Vellas

Pat summarized the Treasurer’s report for the period ending April 30, 2022.

Opening Balance as of: March 31, 2022		\$	14,679.17
Income:	Membership fees	\$	100.00
	Member donation	\$	30.00
	Speaker donation	\$	100.00
Total Income:		\$	230.00
Expenses:	Kerrie Mendez presentation	\$	350.00
Total Expenses:		\$	(350.00)
Closing Balance as of April 30, 2022		\$	14,559.17
Total Outstanding checks: Don Torino – presentation		\$	(150.00)
	Kerrie Mendez – presentation	\$	(350.00)
Bank Statement Balance as of April 30, 2022		\$	15,059.17

Motion: Joseph motioned to approve the Treasurer’s Report and Suzanne seconded the motion. All in attendance voted “Yes.” - APPROVED.

Recording Secretary – Keith Mazanec

Keith stated that the final copy of the April 26, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes had been sent out to all Board Members for review, and that if there were no changes or questions, proposed that a motion be made to approve them. Suzanne stated that after the minutes were distributed, it was brought to her attention that two members previously reported to have met the eligibility requirements for a 5-year and 10-year service pin had not met the required number of volunteer hours, and therefore did not qualify.

***Motion:** Joseph motioned to approve the April, 2022 meeting minutes as amended reflecting the changes mentioned above. Suzanne seconded the motion. All in attendance voted “Yes.” APPROVED.

Corresponding Secretary – Miriam Taub:

Miriam reported that the May edition of the Potting Shed was prepared and distributed as well as the mid-month update.

Old Business:

Archivist records – Theresa has been making progress in reviewing the records obtained from Dorothy Penkalski. Theresa will email Karen to arrange a mutually convenient date and time to drop off the records at One Bergen County Plaza.

Outreach events – tents, banner, handouts.

Melody will send a link with the information concerning tents (styles, sizes, costs, etc...). There was a discussion regarding promotional items (giveaways, i.e., pens, magnets) which we make available at Master Gardener of Bergen County events. Suzanne will reach out to Jeffrey Chan to see if there are any pens left over from previous events.

Summer picnic

Martha reported that Van Saun Park required a \$500.00 rental fee to reserve a pavilion. The park would return \$300.00 following the event. Suzanne recommended we hold a luncheon. Martha and Herb will work together to see if Thielke Arboretum would be interested in hosting the event.

Group project

Miriam reported that there has been no further work on a group project.

Committee Reports

Community outreach liaison - Arnie Friedman (Melody reporting for Arnie)

The Speakers Bureau has been very active and our newest speaker, Lynne Proskow of the new class, has been very helpful in filling some of the gaps in our offerings. We are working at setting up some programs aimed at youth.

Hospitality – Martha Carlucci

(See Summer Picnic notes above)

Membership – Theresa Schneider

There are currently 122 members who have paid their dues for 2022. There have been no new renewals since April.

Newsletter – Miriam Taub

The May edition of the Potting Shed will feature the New Jersey Botanical Garden. The Hackensack River Greenway at Teaneck may also be featured providing we can obtain a good photo of the site. Mercer County has 200 active Master Gardener members.

Garden Club liaison – Janet Schulz

Miriam reported that the Wycoff Garden Club has a tour coming up.

Programs – Donna Faustini

David Robinson will be our speaker tonight and will be discussing climate change in New Jersey. Donna is working to secure speakers for the fall.

RMGANJ report – Herb Arbeiter

The RMGANJ meeting was held on May 12, 2022. Karen Pennell attended in Herb's absence.

Jan Zientek, the State Coordinator:

End-of-semester activities are taking place and are following Rutgers reopening guidelines.

There is nothing else to report from Rutgers.

Conference

The annual Conference will be held on October 15, 2022. Attendees will be limited to 150.

Parking spaces will be reserved, and attendees will have to provide plate information/make and model to get free parking at online registration. Representatives were asked to volunteer to do a door count. Speakers will be Andy Wyand - plant diagnostics for vegetables; Rebecca Magron - ID plant diseases; Brian Schilling will be the keynote speaker. There will possibly be an additional speaker on turf management. Canvas site will have uploaded conference materials available and recording of speakers.

RMGANJ report cont...

Fee: A vote approved (12Y/6N/1A) that a nominal fee (\$1-\$10) be charged for the conference. CEUs for the conference to be determined.

No ceremony for Awards for Excellence.

Will get Zoom links if unable to attend in-person.

Coordinators have the "Save the Date" information for release by county.

Pins: Newly designed MG milestone and Award for Excellence pins are available. They can be ordered through your Coordinator.

Title: Ideas requested by Nick Hendershot for the Conference title; committee meets 6/9.

Site coordinator liaison – Liz Gil

Nothing to report. Liz inquired if we are getting new students to volunteer at our volunteer sites. With regard to the Hackensack River Greenway Through Teaneck, Melody stated that if Rich Karp is no longer a Master Gardener since he hasn't paid dues recently, then he should not be a site coordinator. Karen suggested that maybe a new graduate would be interested in being the site coordinator at Hackensack River Greenway.

Volunteer Records – Suzanne Danzig

Volunteer Records Chair Report - 5/24/2022

Since our last meeting in April, an additional 300 hours were recorded as follows:

Administrative - 47

Outreach – 188

Special projects and events - 19

Continuing Education – 46

This brings our total Year to Date (YTD) hours to 1,297, with a total of 45 Master Gardeners recording their volunteer hours in Better Impact.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension liaison – Karen Riede

Karen will send a link to Miriam with the new outreach training program. Karen reported that a training session was held today to train on Better Impact.

RCE Report to the MG Association Board Meeting 5.24.22

Joel Flagler

1. Jan Zientek, the MG statewide coordinator and senior program leader for RCE Essex County, is retiring. We appreciate the dedication and service he gave to the MG program statewide. He facilitated the evolution of the statewide program and initiated many purposeful tools, like Better Impact, to better monitor and promote our volunteer efforts.
2. RCE Bergen is pleased to initiate a new partnership between the MG program and the 4-H program. Now, MGs who wish to do volunteer time in school gardens and related activities can get credit toward their MG certification. Anyone interested should contact Abbie Kesely or Monique in the RCE Bergen office so they can initiate the required background check for anyone working with youth.
3. June 7 is the tour of NJ Botanical Garden at Skylands by yours truly beginning at 10:30 am. I will “introduce” you to the family of Clarence McKenzie Lewis who made the place what it is today. We will visit the formal terrace gardens behind the manor house, cross through the largest lilac collection in America, and then spend a good deal of time in the perennial garden, which is maintained by Bergen MGs. The perennial garden should be peaking around June 7. You will enjoy it as you memorize all the required Latin names of the plants (kidding). From there we will enter the collections of ericaceous plants in Heather Glen and down to the moraine gardens. Onward along the riparian gardens heavy with primroses and holly, we will stop at the Charlie Anderson memorial rock before going on to the very secret wildflower and fern gardens (Shhhh--don't tell!). We will end up at the edge of the meadow and meander up through the annual gardens and the Carriage House. The weather committee has put in a request for pristine conditions, and we will proceed even if there is light rain. Please dress accordingly; it is often cooler in the Skylands region you will find.

Outreach Events- Spring 2022

Karen A. Riede

The following 2 outreach events recently took place.

- Sun., 5/15, 12-5 pm EarthFest Overpeck, 75th Anniversary of the BC Parks Dept., 25th Anniversary of Hackensack Riverkeeper. Thanks to the MGs and interns who staffed this event: MG Karen Pennell and Class of 2022 interns Pat Pacheco and Lynne Proskow.
- Sat., 5/31, 10-5 pm Ridgefield Park Earth Day. Thanks to MG Karen Pennell, and Class of 2022 interns Pat Pacheco, Dylan Grana, and Ryan Knight.

These events conclude the spring 2022 outreach events.

Upcoming Fall Events:

- Bergen Fall Harvest Festival Sept. 17 and 18
- ANNUAL EVENT MULTICULTURAL FAMILY FUN FEST

Celebrating National Family Day

Saturday, Sept. 24 from noon to 4 (Rain date, Oct. 1)

VAN SAUN COUNTY PARK, 216 Forest Ave., Paramus (Pavilion C)

Website – Joseph Cooper

There have been no changes over the last month.

New Business

Nominating Committee – Melody stated that we need to form a Nominating Committee for the following positions for next year: Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary. The slate of nominees would need to be ready by September's meeting. Joseph offered to reach out to Karen Pennell to see if she would be interested in heading up the committee.

Melody mentioned that Miriam had received an inquiry from a member asking if the speaker's lectures could be recorded and saved for later viewing in the event a member is unable to attend the initial presentation. Many speaker presentations are proprietary and some sell them on their websites. We would have to obtain their consent in advance if they would be willing to have their presentation recorded.

Karen offered to group together the educational videos that are available.

Melody reiterated that she will send out the link regarding pop-up tents, and Miriam stated that all the banners that were reviewed were under \$50.00. We can order once we are ready.

Adjournment

Motion - A motion was made by Joseph to adjourn the meeting. Miriam seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 6:44 PM.