

New Jersey State Master Gardener Association  
May 3, 2011

President Caryl Hannemann called the meeting to order at 10:09am.  
The minutes were corrected to state that Camden brought deserts for the April meeting and not Gloucester as recorded. (Sorry, Camden). There were no new guests or representatives.

Treasurer's Report: Toni Rinehart reported a total of \$8,631.70 cents in the Rutgers Account and the change account has \$357.71. A projected profit of \$1,875.75 from the Fall Conference was reported.

All speakers for the 2011 Fall Conference are confirmed. Neil Hendrickson of Bartlett Farms will be the keynote speaker. Lloyd Traven, Laura Lawson, Pat Sutton, and Ruth Claus will be the afternoon speakers. Doug Tallamay was confirmed as the 2012 keynote speaker.

Attendance:

Atlantic: Ann Cinquina Barbara Kennedy  
Bergen: Jane Furman Walter Traubel Karen Purnell  
Burlington: Lisa Marie Morris Barbara A. Cotton  
Camden: Nancy Sullivan Bernadette Eichinger  
Cumberland: did not sign in  
Essex: Joan Gorman Pat Hewitt Pat Radey  
Gloucester: Maureen Fitzgerald  
Mercer: Bob Robinson Betty Scarlata  
Middlesex: Nancy Bruneau Kathy Dopart  
Monmouth: Ellen Simonetti Sheila Eppinger  
Morris: Pat Hudson  
Ocean: Kerren Vallone Mary Townsend  
Passaic: Mary Ann Sytsma  
Somerset/Hunterdon: Martha Cleaves Mary Patten  
Sussex: absent  
Union: Toni Rinehart Caryl Hannemann

RCE: Nick Polanin reported that the MG Advanced Training Session will be May 13, 2011 at the County College of Morris in Randolph, NJ. Hardcopies of the session will be available after the session. The topic is School Gardens: A Mini Conference. The session requires advance registration and a fee of \$15.00.

Nick is hoping to hold the same conference in South Jersey later in the year.

Nick noted that it was not the Rutgers budget that was cut in half, but the federal budget. This means state funding at 1994 levels is still in effect. This has been amended in last month's minutes.

No pending retirements expected to affect MG's. County, state funds are tight.  
Nick gave a short preview of the Annual Report. There were 397 NEW MG's in the state for 2010. There are currently 2,352 active MG's in the state. 168,153 hours have been volunteered. The value to the state is \$4,237,456.00 @ hourly rate of \$25.48.

Nick stated that it is important to show county freeholders the value of master gardener hours reported.

Fact sheets: Nick said new version of RU web site in May-July will contain only newer fact sheets-those older than 2000 will not be listed on the public website.

The Department website will still have "older" material available to MG's. Nick will send site for "internal site" but cautioned not to share this link.

Helpline take note: helpline volunteers can still use old fact sheets but they will not be available on the web. Also, MG's should review old fact sheets before send out fact sheets in the mail. MG's can still co-author fact sheets with Rutgers staff to update older fact sheets.

## COUNTY REPORTS:

Atlantic: Healthy Living Coalition in Estelle Manor Park. School garden at So. Main Street School in Pleasantville. Community Garden with Housing Authority in Atlantic City. Plant sale on May 21 at Galloway Library in Jimmie Leeds Road from 10am to 3pm. Volunteer Day at Atlantic City Aquarium. Demo Garden at County building in Mays Landing is cleaned and we planted Swiss chard, broccoli, kale and potatoes.

Bergen: Rich Buckley, Rutgers was speaker in April. Next month talk on green roofs. 4H-Mg fair is first weekend in August. Helpline began in April and is very busy. The MG picnic is in June. Trips and Tours-Cross Estate Gardens in May. Fundraiser at local grower in June. Outreach: Earth Day in 6 towns. Getting ready for Farmers' Markets and looking for table top display material.

Burlington: New Co-coordinator is Brooke McMinn. April 21 Courier Post article on Farmer's Market. Our new class graduated and is now working on the help line. Our donation garden under way at Medford Leas with many vegetable being grown. Garden Tours underway-one book sold.

Camden: Expect to move from Clementon to Cherry Hill in May. In the middle of our annual shrub and perennial sale. Have a number of field trips scheduled now that the weather is nice. Farmer's market has started.

Cumberland: Working on by-laws. Helpline off to a good start. Busy getting ready for plant sale at Eco Fair at Wheaton Village on May 7. Next meeting speaker will all be about mushrooms. Our meetings are open to the public.

Essex: Plant sales in Montclair April 29/30. Will hold second plant sale in Roseland at Essex County Environmental Center May 7.

Gloucester: May 6-Sale Woodbury 10-2 "Lunch-n-Munch". Sale of plants and vegetables and herbs. May 7 Our annual plant expo with talks and demo's. In Clayton, sale of heirloom tomatoes, vegetables, annuals, herbs, garden items. Mat 14 Swedesboro Garden Show. May 17 2<sup>nd</sup> Spring Conference hosting in South Jersey (Clayton-9:30-4pm). Working hard on all gardens getting ready for summer events. Helpline opened in March. Three days a week: M-W-F 9-12. The class 2010 graduation at end of May. Many other projects are in the works: 4-H Fairgrounds, Veterans' Cemetery, St. John of God, Shady Lane Cty. Nursing Home, Jr. MG's, Historical properties: Old Stone House, James and Ann Whithall House, Salem Cty

Society, Rain Garden Maintenance, Glassboro Gardens, Elephant Swamp Trail, GCIA greenhouse, Butterfly garden maintenance, Newsletter.

Mercer: Plant sale early May. We are in the midst of planning for the annual Insect Festival in September. This year we are adding water insects to our menagerie. In June, we have one of our evening meetings, to be held at Lexicon Pharmaceutical Campus. Our speaker will be Steven Scaniello, who will talk on roses. This will also be our volunteer recognition meeting. For our Mercer Educational Gardens. We have located a supplier of UV and waterproof signs. The information is printed on the underside of acrylic sheets which are held in an acrylic frame. All of our current signs are being replaced. We plan a visit to the Highline in NYC during July. Something quite different!

Middlesex: Successful plant sale at Rutgers Day. Thanks to our interns and their greenhouse work. Interns are starting to prep the soil for the veggie garden and children's garden. Groups of interns are bidding on taking part in the "circle of thyme" herb garden. Butterfly House expansion starting. Mulch and new plants put around outside of house. Memory garden has recently planted shrubs and perennials in their phase 1 stage. Shade garden outside ranch house is complete. Recent membership meeting had Barbara Melera, president of C. Landreth Seed Co. to talk on the history of seeds. Our new forum site is up and running.

Monmouth: New class ends in two weeks. Great class already involved. Spring Garden Days-bird houses with accompanying plants and talks May 13-14. Arbor Day at Durand Park planted Acer griseum. Barbara Melera spoke on seed saving at the April General Meeting.

Morris: 23 interns from the class of 2010 have completed their 60 intern hours and are now certified mg's. We will have a graduation luncheon at Frelinghuysen Arboretum in June. The Helpline started on April 1. Most of our MG's have attended a mandatory helpline refresher class to prepare them for getting back on the helpline. 29 interns from the class of 2011, who completed their classes in March and passed their final exam, will train on the help line in May and June with experienced master gardeners. We are working again this year with Interfaith Food Pantry to provide clients with self-watering containers, soil and plants so they can grow their own veggies. We are working with Hope House in Dover, agency of Catholic charities, to design and plant a Memorial Garden dedicated to clients who have died of AIDS. Street Fairs in Chatham and Florham Park and the 4-H Fair in Chester in July. A table in County Library to promote MG's hand outs and fact sheets has been set up.

Ocean: Plant sale first Saturday in May. Pot Luck dinner on May 12 to celebrate the end of the P S season. Interns are guests. "Second Season" beginning in community garden with harvested asparagus already donated to Catholic Charities. Shrub nursery-new committee heads purchased more native and/or unusual plants to grow on. Propagation workshop to be held during summer. Received grant from "Trust for Public Land" to establish a native plant demo garden at the Ag Center. August 18-Ocean hosting all day advanced training 10-3pm May 19 all day advanced training diagnostics of OCMG's will be focus. Outreach program at Stafford Library-speakers, helpline, diagnostics-in article in Asbury Park Press Our 2012 calendar is at the printer's now.

Passaic: At the March meeting Award Ceremony gave out pins for 500 hours of volunteer work. May 14 Plant sale with Ramapo tomatoes. \$500.00 scholarship to high school student interested in horticulture. "Book Worm" plant in library to create interest in gardening.

Somerset/Hunterdon: Will start a demonstration tomato garden which showcases Rutgers best practices at Wagner's Farm Arboretum Community Garden in Warren, NJ. Fact sheets and garden updates will be available in outdoor literature boxes. Children's programs are underway at 4 schools. Six Community service events are scheduled for the spring. Planning underway for plant sale on May 7. Design teams have plans for gardens for Habitat for Humanity houses. 2 will be planted in spring and two in fall. Planning for Somerset/Hunterdon 4-H Fair underway.

Union: Fair on Sunday May 15. New class graduates this week. Herb garden underway. Sharing garden planted. Wheelchair needed for MG to use in the garden.

Conference Planning:

Bergen: Jane Furman said RU Bookstore will bring in books from speakers and that authors can bring their own books to sell. Decision on chair arrangement still undecided.

Camden: Concerns about registration dates and numbers still an issue.

Ocean: The idea that registration committee does the registration form "under consideration" of VP. Form will be re-done next year.

Mugs: Issue with order of mugs: 2 gross is a minimal order. Too many that have to be housed somewhere. Jane Furman suggested a little flower pot and saucer instead of mug. Toni Rinehart will look into this and report next month.

Sharing Topic:

How are scholarships rewarded?

Essex gives a partial scholarship to new MG member.

Union gives 2 vouchers to Vo-Tech High School students. Selection is done by grades, future plans and teacher recommendation. Also give a 4-H Camp scholarship.

Monmouth has scholarship committee. Scholarship given to high school students and for those who want to be MG's. Co-coordinator of program selects winners. Will give information to those interested.

New Business: Visiting garden tours: Somerset/Hunterdon interested. To be considered after conference.

Meeting ended at 12:33.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Dopart