

New Jersey State Master Gardener Association

August 2, 2011

President Caryl Hannemann called the meeting to order at 10:07 am. The minutes were accepted as read. Caryl welcomed Mary Rowson from Cumberland County as a new volunteer. Caryl apologized for the mix up last month and thanked Middlesex for acting as hosts for the meeting.

Attendance:

Atlantic: absent
Bergen: Jane Furman, Karen Pennell
Burlington: absent
Camden: Bernadette Eichinger, Nancy Sullivan
Cumberland: Carol Henry, Mary Rowson
Essex: Pat Hewitt, Joan Gorman
Gloucester: Maureen Fitzgerald
Mercer: absent
Middlesex: Nancy Bruneau, Kathy Doport
Monmouth: Ellen Simonetti
Morris: Pat Hudson
Ocean: Kerren Vallone
Passaic: absent
Somerset/Hunterdon: Tricia Deering
Sussex: absent
Union: Toni Rinehart, Caryl Hannemann
RCE: Nick Polanin

Treasurer's Report:

Balance: \$8631.70

Change Fund: \$650.71

Steven Handel has not yet been paid for last October's Conference. He will be paid after his contract for this year with Rutgers expires.

THE ANNUAL POT LUCK LUNCHEON WAS VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER AFTER THE CONFERENCE.

RCE Report:

Nick Polanin reported School gardens mini conference was a success. Monmouth hosted.

Nick will check for more southern venue for other county MG's to attend.

Department of Agriculture is giving a monetary grant for Citizens' Volunteer Pest Survey. They are interested in Garden Helpline people. This grant is available for the spring and summer of 2012.

Nick is waiting for more information/paperwork from the state. This grant will affect the northern counties and would entail filling out reports on pest questions from helpline on Excel Spread Sheet form.

Ag Agent Rich Obal retires on 8/31.

Rutgers NJAES updated. He reminded those present they should check county websites to check if they work. Send note to faculty in county or Nick to get things fixed if necessary.

No update on current state budget for Extension.

County Report:

Bergen:

4-H/MG Fair on Saturday August 6. Volunteers and students ready with projects. Dr. Larry Katz and County Executive Donovan will speak at Fair on August 7.

Helpline is busy. Bylaws: Finishing by-laws revision for MG Organization and revising job descriptions. MG sites are very busy with volunteering and docent training.

Burlington: BCCAC Agricultural Demonstration Plots: 10'x15' plots demonstrating various agricultural crops and/or practices. The current demonstrations are as follows:
Native Plants for Pollinators

Herbs

NJ High Bush Blueberries

Hops

Sunflowers

Heirloom Tomato Varieties

Tomato Treatments (effects of staking, not staking, container planting and companion planting on Ramapo and cherry tomatoes)

Cowpea Cover Crop

Alternatives to Turf

This project has been popular with our 2011 class and would not have kept going without their hard work and enthusiasm.

Medford Leas Donation Garden:

MG Mike Hogan and his team have already donated over 200 lbs. of fresh, organically grown produce to those in need in Burlington Cty this year!

Pinelands Preservations Alliance Kitchen Garden. MG Judy Janas and her team are working to significantly expand this project, which is comprised of native flower and herb species, to include a new Parlor Garden in addition to the existing Kitchen Garden.

NJAS Rancocas Nature Center Wildlife and Children's Victory Garden: MG Candy Myers and other MG volunteers, in collaboration with the Audubon Society and the Work Group of Pennsauken have recently added compost areas to be used on site.

Camden: County facility called the Boat House has been landscaped by MG's. Grant program from Waldorf Orchids and plant sale. Still waiting to move in fall. Looking forward to a turf program in August.

Cumberland: Rain garden installed at the extension center with the help of Sal Manifico. So far it is doing the job. Save the MG Program was a success. We will be able to have a program in the fall. Butterfly Garden has been cleaned up and ready for demonstrations with local schools and 4-H.

Essex: No August meeting. MG's helping seniors with gardening workshops on garden planning. 43 graduates to be recognized in Sept. Helpline is busy.

Gloucester: 4-H Fair went well. Birdhouses were sold. Projects still on with historical gardens and houses.

Middlesex: Attendance at County Fair is good. Butterfly House is a great success with crowds on weekends. Evening in the Garden with other MG's will be August 17.

Morris: On July 17 MG's volunteered for the three day 4-H Fair in Chester. The educational display this year was "Vegetable Garden Pest" featuring photos of various insect pests and lots of Rutgers Fact Sheets.

August we will be out at the Snyder Farm helping with the preparation for the Great Tomato Tasting taking place on Sept. 1.

MG's will be participating at Lake Musconetcong to hand pull invasive water chestnuts from the lake.

Speakers' Bureau has scheduled 29 talks, with 3 already lined up for 2012. Subjects range from butterflies, birds and blooms to avoiding garden bloopers from Great Estates/Public Gardens to Fight invasive, go Native.

Monmouth: Just completed work at the County Fair. Rain barrel drawing. Preparing for Birds, Bugs and Beyond, children's programs on Sept. 10.

Ocean: Summer training August 18th 10-3. Open to all MG's. Address: Ocean County Extension Center 1623 Whitesville Road Toms River, NJ Phone # 732-349-1246. Display garden incorporated native plants to let homeowners know they can be in landscape. Calvary Lighthouse Project, donated 1 ton of veggies to food bank, classes in plant diagnosis, brunch held for award winners.

Somerset/Hunterdon: Hunterdon helpline volume is up over 2010, less than 2009. Volume is weather related.

Major August activities: 4-H Fairs for Somerset and Hunterdon. Tomato tasting at Snyder Farms

No longer sending newsletter in regular mail to those with email.

Doing final interviewing for 2012 MG class. Classes will be full. Started holding team presentations at our monthly meetings-3 per meetings.

Workshop team made a scouting trip to Carousel Lavender Farm in PA. They are planning a Train the Teacher Workshop in the fall for MG's who give workshops.

Union: Sharing Garden has produced 3,000 lbs of produce. Herb garden is looking for grant for that. Cutting garden is providing donations of flowers to cancer patients. MG's walked for Center for Hope. 6 pt. plan for children visiting gardens with experiences with herbs, dyes, pizza herbs, bugs, making pins. Not busy on helpline.

Conference Update:

All invitations have been sent out. Facilities (Bergen) ok. Special requirements like microphones, tables, sample display materials, etc. are being handled.

Slide show slides showing the winners of the Excellence Awards are still needed. 6 photos of each winner/team are needed. Jpg format, landscape pictures, title of cty, job being done, and sequence of photos (this is important for showing).

Registration committee waiting for registrants.

Jobs still outstanding:

Name Tags, Reward Booklet, Program flyer, evaluation flyer, folders for stuffing.

Procedure disk for conference will be sent to Pat Hudson who will send out a copy to all counties. Recording Secretary and President will each keep a copy.

Treasurer Toni Rinehart suggested a Rutgers Sundry Account Commission. The committee will get together to discuss good and bad parts of dealing with Rutgers Account Process.

Jane Furman offered to be on the commission. Pat Hudson will send out a committee request for those who would like to participate.

Toni Rinehart stated that the Association needs more Excellence Award pins. It was voted to purchase more pins. 500 will be ordered. Pat Hudson made the motion and Jane Furman seconded it. Each county receives two free pins. Others are to be purchased from Toni Rinehart.

As there was no new business, Karen Pennell made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Kerren Vallone seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 12:17.