

Master Gardener Association of New Jersey
Minutes of March 6, 2012

President Ellen Simonetti opened the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

Attendance:

Atlantic:	Barbara Kennedy
Bergen:	Karen Pennell, Joseph Cooper
Camden:	Nancy Sullivan, Lisa Marie Morris
Burlington:	Terry Zane
Cumberland:	Carol Henry, Mary Rowson
Essex:	Absent
Gloucester:	Maureen Fitzgerald
Mercer:	Bob Robinson, Betty Scarlata, Louise Senior
Middlesex:	Kathy Dopart
Monmouth:	Ellen Simonetti, Joan Cox, Sheila Eppinger
Morris:	Ingrid Witty, Pat Hudson
Ocean:	Kerren Vallone
Passaic:	Absent
Somerset/Hunterdon:	Tricia Deering
Union:	Caryl Hannemann, Toni Rinehart, Carol Walczuk, Margaret Beach

Bob Robinson corrected the minutes to read that there are eleven counties that are auditable. Nancy Sullivan made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected and Betty Scarlata seconded it.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Attached as a separate pdf file.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The pot luck lunch/auction meeting will be held the first meeting in September. This will allow the left over merchandise from the auction to be given to the State Table at the Conference.

The July meeting may be moved. Ellen will give firm date next meeting.

A letter from Nick Polanin thanking all Master Gardeners who donated their time at the NJ Flower Show was read.

RCE REPORT

Nick is still working on the 2011 Annual Report and is waiting for information from a few counties.

The Governor presented his proposed 2013 budget and it is flat. The Experimental Station is operating at 2001 levels. All counties are in tough straits. The next coordinator's meeting is March 21 in Freehold.

The Guidelines for the Rutgers Financial System in pdf format has been sent to all delegates, coordinators, and MG county treasurers. A discussion of the system followed. It was suggested that those counties using the system send the MGANJ secretary their list of vendors. She will collate and consolidate them into an XL file and circulate it within the organization.

If the county MG group is unincorporated, each person on its Board is responsible for the group's debt.

BREAK – Thank you Union.

Upcoming Hosting: April – Somerset/Hunterdon,
May – Atlantic, June – Bergen, July – Burlington, August – Camden,
September (1) Potluck, Auction – Cumberland, September (2) – Essex,
November – Gloucester, December - Mercer

CONFERENCE - October 6, 2012

Program Development: Doug Talamy is charging \$1,400 for his keynote talk, Bringing Nature Home.

For the afternoon sessions Bruce Crawford speaking on The History of Rutgers Gardens was suggested for a fee of \$250 per session for a total of \$500. Bob Robinson moved that we hire Bruce and Joan Cox seconded the motion. It was carried unanimously.

Joel Frey of Bartrams Gardens was suggested as another afternoon breakout speaker for \$350. He would speak on The Role of the Bartrams on Early American Horticulture. Kathy Dopart made a motion, seconded by Betty Scarlata to hire him. It passed unanimously.

Some of the possible ancillary speakers under consideration are:

Anthony Silva Basic Orchid Care,

Andrea Wolf Founding Gardeners

Andrea Filippone Outdoor Architecture \$1,000. Possible a 2013 Keynote.

Ellen will get costs and topics from proposed speakers and the final two speakers will be voted on at the April meeting.

The 2011 budget was:

Speakers	\$ 800
Catering	\$ 2,900
Room and Equipment	\$ 1,500
Print costs are still unknown	

Before we set the cost of attending, we need a good estimate of 2012 costs as Rutgers is charging us for the room and equipment this year and we will have to maintain a good cushion for any unforeseen expenses.

Awards Booklet: **Attention Delegates and Coordinators: The closing date for submission for the Awards Book is June 30.** This should not be a problem as it is for work done in 2011.

Door Prizes: Door prizes, valued between \$50 and \$75 and donated by each county MG organization will be given. They need not be of horticultural nature.

NEW BUSINESS

Ellen has suggested a MGANJ Yahoo account. Pat Hudson said she would look into using a Rutgers sponsored Sakai account. The discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Ellen distributed proposed changes to the first page of the MGANJ by-laws to be read and discussed at the April meeting. She will try to get her other proposed changes out before the next meeting. Everyone is invited to propose changes to the existing by-laws (sent out last month) and present his/her ideas at the April meeting.

COUNTY REPORTS

Atlantic: Plant sale is May 19. Are propagating their own plants to avoid increased delivery charges. They are also doing live demonstrations rather than scheduled workshops.

The Hope Community Garden in Atlantic City is looking forward to their second year of food raising and distribution of crops grown in raised beds by residents of a low income apartment complex.

Revisiting and revising their by-laws.

Developing an 18 month calendar highlighting Atlantic County events, history, and native flora. Currently looking for financial support to determine how elaborate the project can be.

Bergen: Starting a group of volunteers to do specific community beautification programs within the county.

Beginning outreach programs relating to Earth Day activities.

Had an excellent speaker, Virginia Lamb, at their February meeting. Spoke on *The Essentials of Composting*.

Continuing to update website and will be finished by the end of March.

Ongoing updating of volunteer reporting forms to streamline them and make them easier to use.

Burlington: Coordinator Brooke McMinn gave birth to Fiona Gail February 21, 2011, and will be on maternity leave until April.

Garden Tour Committee has chosen six gardens for the 2012 event. As soon as the schedule is developed, information will be sent to all counties.

The first day for the Pinelands Preservation Association is scheduled for Tuesday, March 27. In addition to the kitchen and ornamental gardens, a blended garden of natives and ornamentals will be added this year.

Master Gardeners will provide educational information to the Burlington County Parks Program for:

1. Earth Day at Boundry Creek National Resource Center, Saturday, April 22.
2. Burlington County Gardening Expo Burlington County Community Agricultural Center, Saturday, May 12.
3. Earth Fair, Historic Smithville Park, Sunday, June 24.

Camden: Continuing to work on by-laws

Coordinating with 4-H in training them to work with youth.

Beginning an ongoing program with Senior Citizen Center providing them with basic horticultural activities.

Looking into cooperative programs with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

Cumberland: Planning for the EcoFair on May 5.

Rain Garden program to be held at the Extension Center in May.

Looking into starting a Facebook page.

Gloucester: Greenhouse opened February 24. Will meet twice a week from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. until November growing seeds. Have also ordered plugs.

New Master Gardener classes have begun.

Several MGs are helping out at the Philadelphia Flower show this week.

Planning for the 4-H Fair by cleaning out the gardens, etc.

Planning a trip to the Washington D.C. National Arboretum and Herb Garden May 22.

Plant sale is May 12 with lectures on a variety of topics and planting demonstrations.

Fourteen projects from last year are being reviewed.

Middlesex: A class on rain barrels is being prepared.

Ten project compost classes are to start soon.

The butterfly house is to be erected at the end of March.

A new cutting garden is going in.

Six new community gardens are being set up.

Newly designed gardens at the Ronald McDonald house in New Brunswick are being planted.

A recognition luncheon for project leaders is in the planning stage.

A Hort Therapy class to train new MGs for outreach has begun.

Mercer: Our March 17 Symposium is set and as of today, 236 registrations have been received. It looks like it will be a success.

We had an excellent talk on winter blooming plants by Anne Haines of Rarefinds Nursery. The nursery is in the process of being sold after the original owner passed away.

We are going to Colonial Park, Somerset, on March 23, for a demonstration on pruning.

With a laptop donated by a MG, we have computerized our Rolodex and enabled links to fact sheets, etc. This should be a real help to helpline.

Morris: Our Horticultural Enrichment Program (HEP) has added two new venues for 2012, making 9 facilities where MGs have monthly gardening workshops for senior citizens and special needs children. Two of the facilities have outdoor gardens. The rest learn about indoor horticulture..

The MG speakers bureau has 17 presentations booked into June, 2012. In addition, MGs are developing three new talks which will soon be ready for public presentation.

To help improve helpline skills, MGs are being offered two Advanced Helpline Lectures at the Extension Office in February and March. One will cover Soil Health and the other will deal with Common Plant Diseases.

Monmouth: The new MG class graduated February 28.

Spring Garden Days are the Friday and Saturday after Mother's Day.

We have received an extensive number of requests to man tables for Earth Day activities from various community groups.

We went to the Philadelphia Flower Show March 3.

Ocean: New interns have been attending classes for a month.

Planning for plant sale.

Garden design committee received requests for new projects.

Planting community garden March 23.

Two busses going to Philadelphia Flower Show.

The County Ag Secretary of 20 years retires and was feted along with a few of our long term members who have been extraordinary volunteers at an appreciation luncheon.

Somerset/Hunterdon: The new class of MGs will graduate in April.

Trips to the Philadelphia Glower Show is tomorrow and one to Longwood Gardens May 23.

Gearing up for the May 12 plant sale.

New seed-for-salad program at Branchburg Middle School.

New Naturalist Team Project doing a site characterization, species identification and Master Gardener and public education programs at a Hunterdon County park.

March 5 a Rutgers researcher gave a presentation on herb research results to MGoSH MGs who helped with herbs at Snyder Farm.

Will be doing a planting at a Habitat for Humanity house in April.

New demonstration garden project to redo compost system at the community garden where our demonstration is located.

Other teams are scheduling activities: community service, horticultural support, speakers bureau,...

Union: We are preparing for our plant sale.

Meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

Nest meeting April 3, 2012