

Master Gardener Association of New Jersey  
Minutes of July 10, 2012

President Ellen Simonetti called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

**Attendance:**

Atlantic:	Ann Cinquina, Barbara Kennedy
Bergen:	Karen Pennell, Joseph Cooper
Burlington:	Terry Zane, Judy Shaw
Camden:	Nancy Sullivan
Cumberland:	Absent
Essex;	Pat Hewitt, Pat Radey
Gloucester:	Maureen Fitzgerald, Coley Lyons
Mercer:	Betty Scarlata, Bob Robinson
Middlesex:	Jerri Barclay, Kathy Dopart
Monmouth:	Ellen Simonetti, Joan Cox
Morris	Pat Hudson, Carla Schan, Sandi Gonski
Ocean:	Kerren Vallone, Suzanne Keane
Passaic:	Absent
Somerset/Hunterdon:	Linda Madretzke
Union:	Toni Rinehart

The June 2012 minutes were accepted.

The Treasurer's Report was read and accepted. (Attached as separate page.)

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Ellen read a letter of resignation from Lisa Marie Morris. She form a nominating committee of Toni Rinehart, Jerri Barclay and Kerren Vallone to see if they could find a willing volunteer to replace Lisa Marie as Vice President, during break if possible.

## **RCE REPORT**

All counties have sent in their reports for the 2011 State Report which is in preparation.

Nick is going to Charleston SC for a national meeting.

The RCE fact sheet on Deer Resistant plants is the most accessed on the Rutgers web site from the Mid-Atlantic states. The call is out for information on other plants, ground covers, trees, annuals and perennials along with pictures in a raw digital format.

The annual tomato tasting is the last Wednesday in August at Snyder Farms in Pittstown. Besides tomatoes, peaches, apples, melons and basil are expected to be available, weather cooperating.

The University budget is still up in the air.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**A combined list of Rutgers approved from Mercer and Monmouth counties has been begun and sent to all delegates, alternates and Coordinators. Please send your list to the Secretary so a more complete list can be assembled for all Master Gardeners to use.**

## **CONFERENCE**

Bergen – Speakers' Gifts. Hummingbird feeders at approximately \$15 each were proposed. Ann Cinquina made a motion and Betty Scarlata seconded it to purchase one for each speaker. The motion carried.

Burlington – Facilities. Needs a count on tables needed for the Garden Market and speakers' audio-visual needs.

Gloucester – Catering. Catering costs are the same as last year -- \$1,230 for lunch and \$1,305 for continental breakfast. Pat Hewitt made a motion, seconded by Betty Scarlata to approve issuing a purchase order for the above amounts which was carried.

Ocean - Awards Booklet. All counties have sent in bios for their awardees. Some bids have been received for 350 copies for less than \$500. More RFQs will be requested and a decision will be made.

**BREAK** – Thank you Burlington

Upcoming: August 7 – Camden,  
September 4 – Cumberland, Potluck Lunch/ Auction,  
October 2 – Essex,  
November 6 – Gloucester,  
December 4 – Mercer.

Kathy Dopart was nominated and unanimously elected RMGANJ Vice President.

**COUNTY REPORTS**

**Atlantic:** We are presenting *Pests in the Garden* at Galloway Community Gardens on July 21 at 10:00 a.m.

We are presenting *Night Blooming Plants* on July 26, 6:30at the Galloway Library.

Stockton's Campus Kitchen is receiving some of the vegetables from our Demo Garden. A local tree service has provided us with free mulch for ground cover. We will be labeling plants in our garden when it is again open after damage from the recent storm.

We had our Master Gardener Class of 2011 graduation ceremony at the Gardener's Basin at the Atlantic City Aquarium on June 1 with 30 graduates. On June 16 we celebrated Master Gardener Day.

We are in the process of compiling an 18 month calendar for free distribution. We are currently in the layout process.

The RCE building is being newly landscaped after being refurbished. It looks great.

The South Main Street School held a luncheon at the school with vegetables harvested from their garden.

**Bergen:** On June 11 we celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Ag Agent, Joel Flagler. Over 80 people attended including Nick Polanin and Madeline Flahive-DiNardo from RCE and our County Executive, Kathleen A Donovan who presented Joel with a certificate.

On July 22, we will be participating in the third Annual Butterfly Day at the Meadowlands as part of our outreach program.

The 4-H/Master Gardener Fair is August 4. We anticipate over 3,000 attendees for this free one day event which showcases food practices.

Our annual picnic will be August 21 at one of our member's homes. She recently sponsored a fund raiser for MG of Bergen County in June.

**Burlington:** We held our first quarterly meeting.

Our first newsletter has been published and distributed.

We continue work on our Donation Garden at Medford leas, the Burlington County AG Center and Garden Tours.

We went to a class on blueberry pests and diseases with picking afterward at the Ag Extension Marucci Research Center in Chatsworth.

We are working on getting donations for our Conference door prize.

We are preparing for the County Fair in July.

**Camden:** Helpline calls have increased

Our outdoor plant clinic is going well.

We are beginning to do a cooperative venture at the Children's Garden in Camden.

Our next Homeowners Series talk, August 7, is on lawns.

Our Fall Plant Sale, September 6, will feature selling member's grown plants.

**Cumberland:**

**Essex:** We placed a statue at Brookdale Park Rose Garden in memory of Robert Kroeckel, past president of Master Gardeners of Essex County and the late husband of our current r/president, Fran Kroeckel.

We weeded the Perennial Garden at the Newark Museum.

Nine of our MGs went to Pleasant Run Nursery for their sale.

One of our MGs opened their garden to us for a tour.

Dr. Randi Eckel of Toadstool Wildflower Farm will be the featured speaker at our July meeting. The subject will be *Incredible Edibles – Wild Foods for the Taking*.

We are not having an August meeting.

**Gloucester:** We are preparing for the 4-H/Master Gardener Fair by cleaning up and planting. In June we had a flower show at the Anne Whitehall House which went well. We are keeping up weeding and watering projects in this heat.

**Mercer:** On Wednesday we have a *Midsummer Night in the Garden* outing at Mercer Educational Gardens. This includes a community education class and a chance to enjoy the gardens.

We recently gave a community education class at a commercial garden center, the first time we had a class at a commercial venue.

We are preparing for the 4-H/Master Gardener Fair at the end of July. We have a table at this fair and encourage all MGs to participate in the various categories.

Our July meeting includes a tour of three MG gardens, followed by a short meeting at one member's house. This is our time to honor Barbara Bromley on her birthday.

**Middlesex:** We held our graduation for 37 new Master Gardeners was attended by 175 people.

Our trailer is not yet fully set up. There is no electricity.

The Helpline is active.

All our gardens are doing well. The Children's Garden is a real draw. The Butterfly Garden has received many visitors.

We have planted barrels for our 4-H/Master Gardener Fair in August.

We are having a wine and Cheese in the Garden Party this month.

The Community Garden is thriving.

**Monmouth:** Our Junior MG program is complete. Harvest continues Saturdays through September.

Our Herb Garden is planning a formal garden is preparing a request for money to the Finance Committee.

If touring Wave Hill, ask for the Horticulturist.

For the County Fair, we are planning a display of veggies in containers and a sample small herb garden.

**Morris:** On June 26, the Master Gardener Class of 2011 celebrated at their Graduation Luncheon at Ferlinghuysen Arboretum in Morristown. After enjoying a catered lunch and talk on Wildlife Gardening by Gail DiDomenico of our Speakers Bureau the newly certified MGs received their certificates and pins.

We planted a Children's Garden outside the window of the Children's Room at the Morris County Library with annuals and perennials donated by the Frelinghuysen Arboretum

In July we will staff a table for three days at the annual 4H/Master Gardeners Fair in Chester. We will have information on lawns and turf.

**Ocean:** We are not meeting in July but will have a table at the Island Heights Garden. Our Committees continue to work on our Display Garden, the Community Vegetable Garden, Garden Design, etc.

Our June all day event on Community Vegetable Gardening was well attended by our members.

Some of our MGs are judging at the 4-H Fair this week

**Passaic:**

**Somerset/Hunterdon:** The Board of MGs of Somerset/Hunterdon is collecting mission statements from all team leaders.

Our Recording Secretary has volunteered and compiled a report on the precise figures of the plant sale at our Expo. We needed to know exactly what to plant for next season and how much money was gained from member plant donations. We also need to know exactly where our expenses came from.

We are deep into planning for our 4-H fairs.

Our Speakers Bureau has July presentations planned for the Hunterdon Medical Center and Colonial County Park.

Our MGs attended a workshop at the Carousel Lavender Farm.

A hypertufa workshop is planned for July 12.

**Union:** Things are still in flux at the office due to severe budget cuts. Only one office support person remains for 4-H and Master Gardeners and is overwhelmed with work.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Next meeting: August 7, 2012.