

Master Gardener Association of New Jersey
Minutes of August 7, 2012

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

Attendance:

Atlantic:	Absent
Bergen:	Jane Furman, Joseph Cooper
Burlington:	Terry Zane, Judy Shaw
Camden:	Nancy Sullivan
Cumberland:	Carol Henry, Mary Rowson
Essex;	Pat Hewitt, Pat Radey
Gloucester:	Absent
Mercer:	Betty Scarlata
Middlesex:	Kathy Dopart
Monmouth:	Ellen Simonetti, Joan Cox
Morris	Pat Hudson, Carla Schan, Sandi Gonski
Ocean:	Kerren Vallone, Jim Digney
Passaic:	Absent
Somerset/Hunterdon:	Linda Madretzke
Union:	Caryl Hannemann, Toni Rinehart

The July 2012 minutes were accepted.

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Rain gauges are now available.

A discussion on subsidizing delegates from far flung counties for their travel was held. Some of the questions raised was how does one decide at what mileage does the subsidy begin and how much is the subsidy to be? Ellen will bring up the subject with Nick.

Ellen distributed suggested changes for Articles IV through VIII of the by-laws for consideration. Joan Cox brought up the subject of when our Fiscal year begins. It was decided that the RMGANJ fiscal year begin January 1 and end December 31.

The Conference Manual has to be updated, some of the tasks have been split in tow and there are new responsibilities.

Currently the tasks are on a two year cycle, and although some tasks are more onerous and labor intensive than others, Ellen is trying to develop an equitable method of assigning jobs.

RCE REPORT

Nick is vacationing in Williamsburg.

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.

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

The question arose as to whether Conference volunteers attend for free. The answer is a resounding **NO!**

Each task is assigned for a two year cycle.

Bergen – Speakers' Gifts. The hummingbird feeders have been purchased.

Bergen – Awards Slide Show. Joe Cooper is looking for photos for the slide show. He will send out an e-mail blast with details.

Burlington – Facilities. A rental agreement for \$2,450 has been received, up from our original quotation of \$1,100. We will ask Nick to mediate for us. (After the break, it was reported that the rental is \$1,100 and rest is a charge for outside Rutgers labor.)

Camden – Door Prizes. Each county is responsible for delivering their donation to the big room and placing them on the floor under the windows. They do not have to be garden related. One county is doing a food related basket. If any of the baskets contain donated items, please notify Nancy Sullivan, Camden County who the donor is so they may be recognized on a table card.

Cumberland – Program Flyer. Everything is OK.

Essex -- So far 134 registrations have been received, 3 from RCE, and 64 box lunches have been requested.

Mercer – Folders. Betty Scarlata will get them from Staples. The quality of the folders from Office Max, a Rutgers approved vendor, are not what we are looking for. She will give the receipt to Joan for payment from the change account.

Middlesex – Signs. Has received permits for signs for the parking lot have been received. Sandwich board signs are being researched for durability.

Monmouth – Program Development. The keynote speaker for 2013 is signed up and plenary speakers are being investigated.

Ocean -- Awards Booklet. They are at the printers who are working on the format, etc. The cost for 375 copies is less then \$400. Seventeen counties are awarding, one county has no nominees.

BREAK – Thank you, Camden

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

COUNTY REPORTS

Atlantic:

Bergen: Partook in a successful Butterfly Day at DeKorte Park in the Meadowlands.

Planning our annual MG picnic on August 21 in a memmber's Garden Conservancy Garden.

Getting ready for our graduation ceremony and luncheon in September.

Ha a very successful 4H/MG Fair August 4. Our tent housed the MG displays, Bergen agricultural Board, Skylands, a beekeeping display and our students' projects. Student displays were fantastic and most had activities for children.

The fair was well attended despite the blazing heat. The county executive stopped by to address the crowd and visit the tents.

MG volunteer sites are all very busy as is the helpline.

Burlington: We have a new newsletter and the first edition is online.

We are offering advanced training on fungi and bats along with a beekeeping workshop and a cranberry farm tour.

Terry Zane is having the last garden tour of the season September 7 & 8 from 1 to 5. The theme is *Gardening in the Pine Barrens*.

We completed our Farm Fair.

We continue work in the Pinelands Preservation Alliance *The Blended Garden*.

Work continues at the Rancocas Nature Center Garden.

Camden: We have completed and approved the updated by-laws.

The next homeowners series is on lawns.

Our plant sale of member's plants is September 6.

Our next general meeting on September 13 has a speaker and is open to the public.

Cumberland: We had a butterfly tent at a 4H camp.

The helpline has been very busy.

We are not having a meeting in August.

We are working with Wes Kline, our County Ag Agent, harvesting tomatoes at a local farm. We pick, sort, size and check for disease. We are having difficulty getting volunteers for distribution of the crops.

We applied for and received a grant from Lowe's Heroes which included \$1,500 plus 15 Lowe's employees who worked for 8 hours cleaning up and installing a paver patio. This will include a butterfly garden and soup kitchen. We hope it will be a place for outside events.

We are working hard maintaining the existing center.

Essex: There is no MG meeting this month.

Our active projects are pruning Branch Brook Park, tending the Rose Garden at Brookdale Park and the Iris Garden at Presby.

We are still working with the Newark Museum on design and plantings.

We are in discussion to stage a teaching garden at the Presby Iris Gardens.

We worked tables at Framer's Markets in Roseland and Montclair.

Gloucester:

Mercer: Our Insect Festival is September 8.

Our 4H/MG Fair was last weekend.

We have signed our keynote speaker for our Spring Forum and continue work on organizing it.

Middlesex: Our butterfly house is a great success!

Our Garden Day for the Public, July 28, was well attended. We had tours, walks, bands, and Elijah's Promise cooked food from our garden.

There is no movement yet on our MG house. It's almost one year since Hurricane Irene.

We had a wine and cheese party where members brought their own wines for tasting.

The 4-H fair is going on this week.

People are stealing from our vegetable garden!

Our new MG classes, both day and evening begin in September.

We will be selling our own honey this year.

The mushroom farm is doing well.

The children's roof garden is popular.

Monmouth: Our Herb Garden appropriated sufficient funds for Steve Kristoph to install the hardscape.

Children's Festival (4-H) *Birds, Bees and Beyond* will be held Saturday, September 8. Special this year is Snakes.

Morris: Two MGs served as judges for the Horticultural Exhibit at the Morris County 4-H fair.

Speakers Bureau has been very busy. So far this year, 24 talks have been given to libraries, garden clubs, The Morris School District Adult Education Program and an elementary school.

The tomatoes in the MG Demonstration Plot at the Morristown Community Garden are growing rapidly. The plot demonstrates how different pruning methods affect tomato yield. The harvest will be donated to a local food bank.

We are currently interviewing for our next MG class which begins September 24.

We have a monthly MG table at the Morris County Library. Each month we use a different educational display: soils, composting, vegetable pests, lawn care and tomatoes. And the MGs bring helpline questions back to the office for answering.

Ocean: On August 2, the MGs of the year were announced and new officers were installed.

For our members advanced education we will have All day Training on August 16 and a diagnostic session on August 30.

We have an ongoing committed for our Community Garden.

We are working on our fall outreach activities which include Fall Garden Day and information tables at various county events.

Passaic:

Somerset/Hunterdon: Neither county is having an August meeting as there is much to do for each county's 4-H Fair.

August 29 is the Tomato Tasting at Rutgers Experimental Station at the Rutgers Experimental Station at Snyder Farm in Pittstown.

We are having Barbara Bromley to lead a fun filled talk on September 5.

A bus trip is scheduled to Mt Cuba and the Delaware Environmental Education Center September 19. \$30 for Master Gardeners and \$40 for visitors.

On October 10 we have a lecture by Karl Gercens *Change Your Garden With Color*.

On November 14 Mark Meyer will lecture on *beneficial Insects Used for biological Control*.

Our nominating committee is presently working on providing a slate of new leaders for MGoSH

Union: We received a \$3,500 grant from Kings.

We also received a \$25,000 divided among Union, Bergen, and Essex counties' Master Gardeners for educational outreach and demonstration gardens.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Next meeting: September 4 – Pot Luck luncheon and Auction to follow.