

## Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

### Minutes of June 7, 2016 RMGANJ Meeting

Kathy Dopart welcomed the group. Middlesex County is sponsoring a trip to Wade Hill Park Earth Center this month. If you are interested in going, see Jerri Barclay for a flyer with the info to sign up.

Terry Zane, President, then welcomed the group to the Agricultural Museum for our June meeting and proceeded to the Agenda.

**Secretary's Minutes from May, 2016 Meeting:** Minutes from the last meeting are accepted as presented.

#### **Attendance:**

Atlantic:	
Bergen:	Joe, Cooper Karen Pennell
Burlington:	Terry Zane, Lee Parry, Merry Bogert
Camden:	Nancy Sullivan, Diane Shonyo
Cumberland:	Carol Henry
Essex:	Gail Chmura
Hunterdon:	Tricia Deering
Mercer:	Bob Robinson, Betty Scarlata
Middlesex:	Jerri Barclay, Kathy Dopart
Monmouth:	Karin Poorvin, Ellen Simonetti, Gayle Williams
Morris:	Pat Hudson, Sandi Gonski, Carla Schan
Ocean:	Suzanne Keane, Guests – Bernadette Rehberger, Jim Digney, Tom Barnes
Passaic:	Barbara Cook
Somerset:	Linda Madretzke
Sussex:	Jane Gardner, Pat Schanzlin
Union:	Delores Batz-Culp, Dennis Lenahan
Rutgers University:	Nick Polanin

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** \$12,752.32. Outstanding item is the B&N Reimbursement amount. A motion was tendered and was adopted to accept the treasurer's report as presented.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

*Delegate Contact List* – Terry has started the list and has asked for some additional info for the list. Everyone should fill out the info for the list as it is circulated today at the meeting. If you are uncomfortable putting the info in, please indicate so on the list so that we know you will not provide the info. We will distribute the list as amended in the near future to members.

*Responsibilities of the Conference Committees* – Terry received the updated Conference Manual and there are many changes that need to be made, due to updated procedures. Terry will update this manual to reflect all of the recent changes. If you are not comfortable with the job that has been assigned to your County, advise Terry and she will send you a copy of the current manual as reference. During meetings monthly, you should be getting more comfortable with the assignments, as these are more thoroughly discussed. Please let Terry know if you are not comfortable with the job you have been assigned, and she will act to fix the issue.

*Photo Directory of the Delegates* – A request was made to assemble a photo directory to help people to recognize each other at state meetings. This would take a lot of time, but might help improve communications. Rutgers has decided that they will not be posting pictures within their [University](#) directory. There was some discussion on incorporating photos within the Excel contact list, but the utility of such photos might be of small value, due to their size. We will revisit this project at a later date.

**MG Coordinator's Report:** Nick Polanin has copies of the Annual Report to be distributed to the members at today's meeting. This report is online at SAKAI. It is a pdf file that needs to be downloaded to be seen. Nick reported that he and his group would like to see a different type of file that would not have to be downloaded to enable it to be at the top of the search when people are looking for it. He is discussing this with the Office of Communications to find a better online presentation mode.

He had a meeting of the coordinators on My 20<sup>th</sup>. They had a presentation from JerseyFriendlyYards.org. This was jointly [presented](#) with Barnegat Bay organizations and Rutgers. This is a great resource for homeowners on water usage, erosion and low impact landscaping that is very helpful. They had an Ask the Expert Section included as well and are attempting to put a FAQ page together. They have found out that people prefer to ask questions rather than

## Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

look for the answers themselves. This site is more photo friendly and less wordy. There are links to several fertilizing guidelines for NJ, plant resources and other essential info for home owners.

They talked about highlights of the Master Gardener basic training classes. The curriculum includes a core of subject matter generally presented by a single person across the state, such as entomology and pesticide procedures with Pat Hastings. They are thinking of offering these classes regionally, twice in the fall and twice in the spring.. Coordinators agreed that this would be acceptable and are willing to send their people to these classes and help to coordinate the dates.

The SAKAI site is being used more frequently by the coordinators. They are thinking of doing a pre and post questionnaire survey for measuring class effectiveness. No progress has been reported on the on the child safety training program for the MGs. They also discussed signnig up for the Tomato Tasting using an online app, but no feedback was available so far.

Extension Office Help Line was discussed. There are too many volunteers in some locations, not enough volunteers in others, or going out to offer presentations in the field might be solutions to resolve the Help Line issues. Training of volunteers to give more scientific responses rather than home-grown responses is in place. Advanced Help Line Training is now back in usage. Calendar of events was shared to help people know what is going on.

A Policy Manual from the state for Help Line and for Speakers' Bureau operations is under discussion. This would include how to deal with the public and document the questions and responses that are given

Next presentation to be standardized will be on on School Gardening and Weed Identification, as these are frequently in demand. Native Plants and Community Gardens have been devised already and are posted on the Coordinators SAKAI site. These can be used by local groups for their Speakers' Bureau local presentations. Question as to whether this was a required use or simply a resource. Nick felt that if a local group had a presentation that had been vetted for presentation by the Coordinator, then it could continue to be used by that group. These presentations are available for use as a resource.

### **Old Business:**

Terry stated that any emails you received that you believe are from RMGANJ that come to you with a picture to open or instruction to dial a number, not including RMGANJ in the subject line should be avoided.

*Barnes and Noble Receivable for 2015 Conference* – Rob has received an email from a rep from B&N and are working on getting a list of books for this year. Nick was able to discuss the outstanding rebate from last year with a rep who was going to check into the issue. We should be receiving a check for \$125 from them in the next few weeks.

*Pin Order: Pin Text, Supplier, Number of each on Hand and Amount to Order* – Terry conducted a survey to find out which counties orders pins. Morris did not know, Burlington and Passaic do not order pins, All other counties are ordering pins. Going forward the pin will say Rutgers Master Gardeners on the top, New Jersey on the bottom, with a distinct color for each different designation. The Award for Excellence will say Rutgers MGANJ on top with a separate ribbon underneath. The goal is to get consistency. A motion was made and approved to accept these designs and wordings.

There are two (2) suppliers who can be used for pins. These are Crown Trophy and Killborn & Killborn. The cost is better with K&K than with Crown Trophy. With the number of pins to order and keep in stock, the pin cost would be \$1.25. We would get a single die for pin production included in this cost. Crown Trophy cost was \$3.08 each plus the cost of the die. With K&K we can order any combination of pin types with them as well to make up the order. A motion was made and accepted to move to K & K as the provider. Marilyn will order a group of pins in order to bring the inventory up to necessary levels as soon as possible. The number of pins to be ordered are:

Award of Excellence - 250  
Certification - 250  
5 Year Pins - 400  
10 Year Pins - 50  
15 Year Pins are not needed, since we already have 150 on hand.  
20 Year Pins - 50  
25 Year Pins - 10

Motion to approve the pin order as presented was tendered and approved. Marilyn will place the order shortly. She will also revise the order form, which will include all necessary information to process a pin order. Counties who have their own checks can send the check with the order, or process a PO for the pins. Nick will work on getting the

## Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

coordinators up to speed on the process. Members will be able to pick the pins up at state meetings. Terry reminded everyone to plan ahead and give at least **six (6)** weeks of lead time to process orders.

One member asked about the use of a screw back on the 25 year pins to avoid potential loss. Marilyn will check to determine the feasibility on pins.

Ellen Simonetti presented a recipe book that was developed in Monmouth County that was with the cooperation of their county's nutrition services. Ellen will send an electronic copy of this file to Joe Cooper for distribution to the group.

Passaic will not be with us for the next two (2) months, but is responsible for refreshments at the July meeting. Camden will switch with Passaic and provide refreshments next month.

**BREAK** – Thank you to Ocean for this month's refreshments. The July refreshments will be hosted by Camden, who is trading places with Passaic, due to scheduling issues for Passaic.

### **Conference:**

*Awards Booklet* – Ocean Suzanne Keane – Suzanne has not received any of the award winner info as yet.

*Barnes and Noble* – Mercer Rob Robinson - We did get in contact with B&N and are compiling of a book list for books to be offered at the next Conference.

*Catering* – Burlington Marilyn Bidrawn – Contracts have been signed and sent back to Catering for approval. Also have a P&O together for this contract.

*Evaluation* – Whoever takes on the responsibility for the conference Evaluation forms should make sure that the speakers are listed in the order in which they appear on the program.

*Registration* – Nick Polanin has sent everything over to the OCPE to get the process in the works. Pricing has increased to \$1250, plus an additional \$5 fee for registrations beyond the first 175. However, OCPE will not take 10% of the overall intake of the Conference. As such, our expenses should be around \$1850 for 300 people, while we budgeted \$3000 for this service. We are hoping to launch the electronic registration by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Nick will follow up to ensure this is in the process of being devised. Nick will send it to Terry for proofing before it is launched.

There will be links included on the Registration site for visiting the EcoWall (limited to 60 people) and for the Rutgers Gardens to gain estimates of participation as part of the registration. Nick lifted photos for the speakers and included these in the registration site.

Bruce Crawford would like to come over around 3:00 to invite everyone to tour Rutgers Gardens. Nick said he will take care of the poster for the sign up sheet to be used on the day of Registration to enable participants to take the tour of the Ecowall after the conference. .

Ellen Simonetti said that Mr. Simcox, our keynote speaker, has a connection with Baker Rare Seeds and these could be distributed at the conference, providing they are not sold. Seed packets could also be placed in the folders to be distributed, if they can be received prior to the conference.

*Speaker Escorts* – Hunterdon Tricia Deering reported she has all of the escorts lined up.

*Pictures* – We need a volunteer to take pictures of the conference and all the activities. Dale Duchai volunteered to do the pictures.

**County Report Highlights:** (please include contact info for any speakers that you cite in your reports for reference by other delegates)

*Atlantic* – Our graduation program will be held this Friday at the Atlantic City Aquarium in Gardiner's Basin.

Our regular projects and programs are in full swing. A particular event worth mentioning took place in May during one of our two monthly nursing home horticultural therapy programs. It was a successful poetry reading on "gardeners/gardening" given by one of our Master Gardeners. After his reading, the residents wrote their own poetry. The residents loved the program. They also made herbariums using recycled soda bottles.

Our special needs high school program made dish gardens and planted sunflower seeds at the county Nature Center.

## Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Our Face Book page is a work in progress but slowly growing. We have re-started our newsletter with its first edition just published in June. At our May Monthly meeting the speaker was our own Master Gardener, Mary McDermott along with her husband "Dan." They made an excellent presentation/demonstration on how to do your own drip irrigation.

No announcement yet about a coordinator for RCE.

*Bergen* – John Michelotti from Catskill Fungi lead a guided tour at the McFaul Center and later presented “ All About Fungi (Mushrooms) “ at our May meeting. He cultivates mushrooms (both indoors and outdoors) for their healthful components on a farm in the Catskills and then creates health extractions that he sells online, in stores, and at farmers markets. His company's mission is to empower people through fungi via outdoor guided mushroom classes, cultivation courses, educational talks, private consultations, mushroom art, and mushroom health extractions. His website is [www.Catskillfungi.com](http://www.Catskillfungi.com).

Joe Papa became the new Horticultural Consultant of Rutgers Cooperative Extension for the County. We look forward to working with him in the coming years in Bergen County.

Trips & Tours: LongHouse Reserve. June 28<sup>th</sup>. Founded by Jack Lenor Larsen, internationally known textile designer, author, and collector. His home, LongHouse — located on 16 acres in East Hampton, NY — was built as a case study to exemplify a creative approach to contemporary life. He believes that visitors experiencing art in living spaces have a unique learning experience, more meaningful than the best media. Inspired by the famous Japanese shrine at Ise, LongHouse contains 13,000 square feet with 18 spaces on four levels. The gardens present the designed landscape as an art form and offer a diversity of sites for the sculpture installations.

We lost Sally Ditton, MG Class of 2001, last year and she is missed dearly. The Wyckoff Area Garden Club held a ceremony with the dedication of a bench and a Korean mountain ash (*Sorbus Ainifolia*) in memory of Sally on June 4<sup>th</sup> at the McFaul Environmental Center In Wyckoff.

For the fourth year now Washington Spring Garden has benefited from a wonderful company policy at NICE Systems in Paramus. May is community outreach at NICE Systems, when employees go into the local community and offer their assistance in whatever way they can. Once again they contacted me to see if we could use their help in the garden, and who would turn down a few able bodies - 15 to be exact. On May 5, we pulled out every rake, every barrel, every broom, and lots of Dunkin' Donuts coffee and put them to work alongside our dedicated crew.

*Burlington* - Butterfly Garden at Smith Woods - Many annuals and herbs including Echinacea, lantana, petunias, fennel, sage, oregano, mint and parsley were planted in each of the plots to get quick color in the garden to attract butterflies, bees and even some humming birds. Flats of wildflower seeds were also planted in the meadow plot. This plot has a wonderful variety of different flowers growing every day. It is also considered the experimental plot and full of surprises.

The compost is almost ready to be used in the plots. Marigolds were placed in each plot for color as well as an anti-deer food. Deer continue to be a problem and different alternatives of plants are being tried to limit their appetite. Scanners are up and running, so the public has the opportunity to hear information about the painted lady, monarch and black swallowtail.

County programs will begin the first week of June, which involve walks through the garden and identifying different pollinators. The county naturalist will be using the butterfly garden for the junior ranger program. A local garden club will be touring the garden during the second week in June with a presentation by a Master Gardener about starting a butterfly garden.

IPM and Demonstration plots at BCCAC. Sunflowers and cotton were planted in the two remaining demonstration plots. The newly added kitchen garden was completed with additional herb plantings and mulched. The 5 raised beds are planted with saffron, herbs for sun (to show recipes for "Herbes de Provence" and "Bouquet Garni"), herbs for shade, pollinator garden and native plants, and coleus and caladiums. Weekly IPM field scout walks have started for the season with Bill Bamka, County Agricultural Agent.

Donation Garden at Medford Leas

- Planted remainder of cold crops
- Removed black polyethylene cover from main garden for storage
- Made paths in main garden
- Plants from the seedlings have begun to come in (tomatoes, peppers ,eggplant, lettuce) and were placed in the greenhouse(see above picture)

## Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

- Tomatoes ,cucumbers and sweet potatoes (two varieties: beauraguard and Georgia Jet) were planted in the main garden
- Peppers and tomatoes were planted in the Salsa garden
- Sweet alyssum was planted in the keyhole garden
- Asparagus was harvested
- Rabbits are eating the Brussel sprouts
- A praying mantis cocoon was observed

Rancocas Nature Center - No report

Pinelands Preservation Alliance - The kitchen garden is planted with herbs and the pollinator garden is being worked. The previous owners of the property were avid peony collectors and there are quite a few rare and unusual peonies. One currently blooming is a deep shade of red that the group was never seen before and is truly magnificent.

Articles published in the *Burlington County Times* Master Gardeners Journal:

- May 5, 2015, "When a flower is really a weed" by Judy Janas
- May 18, 2016, "Give our garden the berry best" by Robert Mazza
- May 30, 2016, "Trees and the suburbs" by Brian McDonald

Presentations given:

- May 11, - "Using Native Plants to Attract and Support Wildlife" by Meredith Bogert presented at the Moorestown Library

Events held:

- May 11 – Tree identification walk at the Rancocas Nature Center
- May 18 – Annual recognition dinner
- June 2 – Dr. Jason Grabosky, Professor of Urban Forestry with Rutgers University, gave a presentation on Urban Forestry.

Upcoming events:

- John Black, president of the NJ Native Plant Society, will give a presentation on "Natives, not Invasives" on June 13.

*Camden* – Camden had the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Fair, which was successful. Our Demo gardens is up and running. On the 24<sup>th</sup> our Member Carl Gerkens, designer and photographer was our speaker. We had 2 senior meetings of great interest on propagation.

*Cumberland* – Cumberland County has been working to beautify 2 historic Cemeteries in Greenwich, cleaning and planting flowers. Members will be touring a Daylily farm as well as a Hosta farm this month. We will be having a floral workshop at the County Fair in July. We will also be having a the Monarch Teacher Network workshop which is open to the everyone. So, if people are interested, they can call coordinator Pam Burton at 856-451-2800 ext.4 for more details. It is a very informative workshop and not just for teachers.

*Essex* – Our demo vegetable garden, which featured Fred Solomon, was presented on Fios Channel 1. We have a class each month and ask questions about what is growing, insects, diseases and explain how to handle the problems. This is well attended and people like this program. July meeting will be at Cherry Blossom Center with a talk by Kathleen Gallop. Branchburg gardens includes the largest collection of cherry trees designed by Frederick Olmstead. Our class finished with 22 new graduates. Barbecue and graduation will be held in Sept. We will have a tour of 4 gardens in Aug. We will have sale of strawberries in July. We planted herb pots with our senior group this month.

*Hunterdon* – The Master Gardeners of Hunterdon County's School programs, Community Service activities, Horticultural Support programs and Helpline are all going strong. The Great Tomato Tasting sign-up is almost full. There is an upcoming self-drive trip to the Hortulus Farm in Pennsylvania. Marty Kyde is scheduled to speak on mushrooms at the upcoming June meeting which is being held at Merrill Creek Reservoir. The Experience Garden Team has been hard at work designing and planting wheel-chair accessible sensory garden beds and developing programs using those beds. They have about 11 programs reviewed and approved and will be running their first session this week. They have eight upcoming sessions scheduled mostly with nursing homes. Hunterdon Master Gardener Cenny MacGonagle has been awarded the Governor's Jefferson Award for Public Service in the category of Environmental Stewardship.

## Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

*Mercer* – Our May 14 plant sale was a success. We had about 500 cars and 732 people come and buy tomatoes, RMG donated plants, second-hand garden items (very popular), and plants brought by vendors, who love the venue and return every year. Our website has been totally updated and reconfigured and is now on line. Check it out! It is still a work in progress, so more changes will be coming.

On June 18, a Community Education program entitled “All About Bees” will be held at MEG. It features a speaker from Rutgers, and a beekeeper. On June 14, RMG’s will travel to NYC for a tour of the Highline, and on July 12, to the Hereford Lighthouse. We have only one monthly meeting during July and August, and it will be held on July 11, in a picnic pavilion near the lake at Mercer County Park. We held last year’s meeting there, and it was a very pleasant event.

On July 13, a program called “An Evening in the Garden” will be held at MEG. This highlights the MEG gardens, with docents for each garden and a chance to enjoy a pleasant spot on a summer eve. Master Gardeners from Middlesex County will be attending, and our MG’s will be travelling to Middlesex on August 20 for their program. We will also be travelling to Monmouth County on July 8, for a tour of Deep Cut. We visited this spot years ago to get ideas for developing MEG.

The Butterfly Committee is presenting a Learnmore on butterflies at MEG on June 15, to be followed on June 20 by our annual butterfly walk at the Pole Farm, site of the first trans-ocean radio transmitter, and now a part of Mercer County Parks. In July, we will have three children’s programs at the Trent House, as we have in past years. Inner city children from Homefront, 4-H, the Trenton Boys and Girls Club, and the YMCA will be attending. The title of our upcoming Insect Festival will be “Bugs Rule”.

The program at our June meeting was “Exploring NJ Climate Variability and Change”, presented by David A. Robinson, the NJ State climatologist. He is presenting this very informative program at many RMG meetings around the state.

*Middlesex* – The vegetable and herb demonstration gardens have all been planted by this year’s interns. The native plants garden that was destroyed during Hurricane Sandy has been replanted. Volunteers have been working in the Butterfly House, the Evergreen Garden of Memories, and The Children’s Garden. The Butterfly House is now open and will be every Saturday and Sunday from 10-12 through August.

The helpline has received a \$200 grant from the Earth Center Conservancy to purchase reference materials.

On May 24, 2016 in lieu of our general meeting Phyllis Pappas arranged a trip to the Pitspone Farm in Kendall Park, NJ. This is Mike Brown’s small scale farm in a suburban setting focusing on small fruits and berries.  
[www.pitsponefarm.com](http://www.pitsponefarm.com)

*Monmouth* – May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Monmouth County MGs held their annual Spring Garden Days plant sale and seminars. Our Master Gardeners spent the better part of the week leading up to the sale setting up, receiving orders from vendors as well as MG donations in the form of plants (veggies, house plants and those from their own gardens) and items they found in their own homes they have fallen out of love with! In donated plants alone, we made over \$4000.00! Our sale was a huge success.

Our JMG Program is in full swing and the children (18 in all) have structured, but fun, lessons followed by plenty of time in their garden planting, weeding and learning how things grow!

Monmouth County MGs assist with at least 16 Community Gardens, and our Speakers Bureau is busy with talks all over the county plus at our Spring Garden Days several seminars were held both days (a total of 20 talks in May alone!). The Helpline has been on fire!

Our speaker for May was Dr. Bradley Hillman, Rutgers plant pathologist, who spoke on the Science of GMOs. A very interesting and informative lecture! June’s speaker is Tom Fox, a New Hampshire farmer and the developer of the Tom Fox Pumpkin-Johnny’s Selected Seeds-and the Tom Fox Cherry Tomato-Baker Creek Rare Seeds, speaking on “Vertical Gardening-It’s Time to Grow Up!”

*Morris* –

- Helpline manned the whole month with new Interns being mentored
- 6 HEP venue projects run
- Madison & Morristown Community Gardens are operational
- School gardening partnership with a local farm & West Morris Mendham High School project run whereby students learned about the basics of organic vegetable growing, building soil to promote healthy soil &

## Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

increase organic matter, understanding the part beneficial insects play in a complex ecosystem, and the importance of environmental stewardship.

- Offered outreach opportunity at Morris County Library
- Offered 8 Speakers Bureau Lectures
- Graduation Luncheon & Buckley Boot Camp Lecture scheduled for June.
- Mulched, planted and pruned RCE Garden Bed
- Created a pollinator garden plot in Madison at St. Paul's Inside the Walls

*Ocean* – Our Potluck Luncheon with Veteran MGs hosting the Interns was well attended.

The vegetable gardens are harvesting spring crops. Two members of the Cuisine garden team helped the special ed students of Pinelands Regional Middle School improve on their greenhouse growing skills. The students sent notes of appreciation back. In regards to Nick's question on 250 tomatoes, Ocean's group reports that they had only a 1% loss on the first packet and 8% on the second packet.

The IPM Committee has been scouting at the Ag. Center and at the Ocean County Park facility. They had a workshop for Interns in May. After the holiday weekend, clients at the Ag Center brought in 53 ticks to be identified.

We held an election for 2016/17 Board members. They will be installed in August at our Awards luncheon. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter hours are due at the end of June.

*Passaic* – Have a new MG Coordinator – Rachael DiFlumeri. Class Of 2016 with 21 members graduated on Thursday and are already volunteering. Last meeting Gavin Cicci of New Jersey Worms presented an informative and interesting program on worms. Brought samples of worms and materials to produce worms. Gavin is a high school senior and started this business as a freshman.

Trip to 2 Pond Farms is scheduled for this Friday. It is a completely organic farm. July 17<sup>th</sup>, Kerry Ann Mendez is speaking at Laurelwood in Wayne. Being sponsored by MGAPC and Laurelwood. Had a very successful plant sale this year. Profits were 62% higher than last year. Projects are in full swing.

*Sussex* - Due to the discontinuation of the Spring Fest endeavor, Sussex County MG have identified additional opportunities to provide service to the county. Our Help Line has been extended to incorporate staffing each day from 10:00 to 2:00. We are providing at least 20 hours of supervision to those people who are staffing the Help Line to ensure consistency in the service provided to clients before new members can manage the Help Line independently. We are also adding additional children's activities at various sites in the county, working on our Demonstration Garden and continuing with the activities that have been in place in previous years. We are starting to plan for the judging that occurs at the NJ State Fair and have classes coming up for MGs interested in taking on the accountability for judging the entrants.

*Union* – Upcoming Events:

*New Event:* Cerebral Palsy League of Cranford visit to the Demo Garden - Thursday June 9 at 10:30. Madeline will supply the program supplies, they enjoy planting the raised beds on the patio and they'll do a small project to bring home in the greenhouse. They would like to eat their lunch in the kitchen area, when done with the planting. Horticultural Therapy committee volunteers will help with this project.

MG Picnic - Saturday, June 25 - 2pm

Harvest Festival - Sunday, Sept. 25

*Camp Visits to Demo Garden scheduled:* Trailside and Master Gardeners are partnering again in 2016 to offer summer programs to children attending Trailside day camps over the summer. We are also offering a "Friday for Families" program

### SPRING GARDEN FAIR AND PLANT SALE - PRELIMINARY REPORT:

The final public attendance at the Fair was 1,127 people.

Freeholders Angel G. Estrada and Bette Jane Kowalski attended the ribbon cutting to open the Fair.

Staffing: a total of 117 Master Gardeners worked at the Fair. We had additional help from 13 non-Master Gardeners, including friends, family and Boy Scouts.

We experienced challenging conditions this year including rain, hail, a high of only 55 degrees, and wind gusts up to 42 mph that took a canopy right over (and the canopy was staked)

The Rutgers 250 Tomato had received a lot of publicity, and although we had 100 tomato plants for sale and also a limit of 2 plants per customer--we sold out in the first 15 minutes. We also had over 1,400 of our own member grown

## Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

perennials. The Helpline table sold 4 soil test kits and answered 19 questions. We had children activities, including making bird feeders, tree rubbings, and planting seeds. A total of 44 children visited this area.

**Caring and Sharing:** Mercer County wanted to know if there is an approved list for chemicals approved for use in NJ. Nick told us there is such a list, but it is quite old. Nick will find out when this list will be updated by checking with the authors.

“Bugs, Birds and Beyond” – Gayle Williams distributed the flyer for this event and invited everyone to attend.

A Conference Registration Form question arose from the group. Everyone will get a link to register for the event. It will all be online, for which you will receive a link. Should you wish to print it out, you may do so at home or ask your County Extension Service for a copy.

Nick wanted to know how many people host tours on private personal grounds. Morris County is the only one that does this.

*Next meeting:*

July 5, 2016

ECC

Camden County will Host

AMC = Agriculture Museum Classroom

ECC = Extension Conference Center

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion was posted and seconded, voted to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted  
Jane Gardner, Recording Secretary