

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Minutes of June 6, 2017 RMGANJ Meeting

Jane Gardner welcomed the group. Terry Zane called the meeting to order at 10:20 am. There were no new State Representatives or guests to be introduced.

Minutes from May 2, 2017 Meeting: Tricia explained that she received a question about why the minutes reported that Speaker Gifts were not discussed because there is no delegate from Morris but someone from Morris attended the meeting. The reason is that the person attending was not the representative and there are no representatives for Morris named at this point. A motion was tendered and members unanimously voted to accept the minutes as submitted with the addition of locating and adding the Camden County report.

Attendance:

Atlantic:	Mary Lou Monihan
Bergen:	Joseph Cooper, Donna Faustini, Carolyn Gretchen, Karen Pennell
Burlington:	Merry Bogert, Lee Parry, Terry Zane,
Camden:	Diane Shonyo
Cumberland:	
Essex:	Jane Kinkle, David Haimes
Hunterdon:	Tricia Deering, Dewey Goodwin,
Mercer:	Betty Scarlata, Bob Robinson, Theodora Wang
Middlesex:	Jerri Barclay, Dale Duchai
Monmouth:	Karen Poorwin, Gayle Williams, Sandy Wolfe
Morris:	
Ocean:	Jerry Jellets, Suzanne Keane
Passaic:	
Somerset:	Linda Madretzke
Sussex:	Jane Gardner, Pat Schanzlin
Union:	Dolores Batz-Culp, Dennis Lenahan
Rutgers University:	Nick Polanin

TREASURER'S REPORT: Pat Schanzlin reported a balance of \$10,762.58. This amount is still unconfirmed with the new Rutgers financial system. There are serious issues with the Rutgers accounting system including back payment of vendors. The end of the fiscal year is the end of June and these discrepancies need to be fixed. Pat is working with Nick Polanin on the issues. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report and was seconded. The motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Terry Zane reported that she spoke with Brian Mc Donald, – NJ Forestry Service, formerly from Burlington County, regarding tubed trees. He sent her to the NJ Forest Service Nursery in Jackson NJ. She will follow-up to see if/how trees can be ordered. Brian has lots of tree related handouts and brochures. Terry decided it is best to have an information table and to only make copies of the best material for the registration folders. Brian would like a half hour to discuss his program at the conference. Terry will try to fit 15 minutes in for him.

MASTER GARDENERS COORDINATORS REPORT: Nick Polanin reported that they have scheduled a Master Gardener helpline training event, Jazzing Up Your Garden Knowledge, focusing on diagnostics from 9:30 to 4:15, on June 21, the summer solstice. The event will be held at the Cook Campus Center, is free and will precede Rutgers Gardens Summer Solstice Jazz Festival. It will include a plant swap during lunch which is bring-you-own. The notification went to the coordinators, who should be sending it out to their members. Nick will also send it to Terry Zane for distribution to RMGANJ members They plan to digitally record the presentations for on-demand viewing afterwards.

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Nick reported that the Tomato Tasting volunteer slots are 75% filled. There are still many openings for the 4:30 to 7:00 slots on 8/30, the day of the tasting. Great Tomato Tasting volunteer sign-up is through Signup.com (formerly Volunteer Spot). All volunteers are invited to come on a day after the event for vegetable gleaning as a thank you for those who volunteered.

Old Business:

There was a discussion on the RMGANJ Google Group email, Terry Zane reported that if members are not getting communications from Terry and other Board members, it is most likely because they have not accepted their Google Group invite or that Terry had the wrong email address for the person and they did not receive it. She had a list of those who had not accepted their invites.

Jane Gardner reported on the State Conference Evaluation Survey results. The summary is inserted here.



survey summary
6_17.pdf

435 out of 3000 responded, which is considered a good response rate. Some counties had distribution problems and had no responses. 75% of the responders have never been to the conference so we reached people we wanted to reach. Jane went through an extensive summary of the responses and her interpretation of the results. Discussion followed about how to best approach developing an action plan based on the results. After the discussion, a motion was made to break into 7 groups, one for each issue identified by Jane's analysis, to work on responses at the November and December meetings and report out in March. The advertising/communication issue can be addressed immediately for the upcoming conference in each county by their representative.

Terry Zane and the rest of the group thanked Jane and Nick Polanin for all their hard work on the survey.

Since some of the responses indicated confusion between the Conference and the State Board and who could attend what, Terry reminded the group that any Master Gardener can attend a RMGANJ meeting but only delegates can vote. It is the RMGANJ members responsibility to get the message out about the State Conference and other State Master Gardener activities in their counties.

BREAK: 11:25 to 11:45. Thank you to Essex County for the refreshment set-up for this meeting. Hunterdon County will host in July.

New Business:

Conference 2017:

Conference Schedule: Terry Zane will rework the schedule to add Brain McDonald and email out the revised schedule.

Registration Form: Terry Zane reported that she and Nick Polanin are working on it. It will be available after July 1. The registration period will be held open until 4 days before the conference. The fee is \$35 for registration only and \$47 if lunch is included.

Survey: County asked if we want to make any changes to the survey as a result of the State Conference Survey results. Terry Zane and Jane Gardner will look it over.

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Awards booklet – Suzanne Keane from Ocean County reported on the issue with the awards booklet – the printer has not yet been paid for last year and will not work with us this year. So, a new printer is needed and last year's printer needs to get paid. Suzanne is working with Nick Polanin on options for other vendors. Suzanne also reported that she attempted to send an email out to the coordinators regarding Award winner names and writeups. Unfortunately, the email did not get distributed due to technical difficulties. Nick will forward the email to the appropriate people. As a reminder, each writeup is limited to 150 words and is due July 7. Suzanne also reported that the members should provide the name of 25 year members directly to her.

Door prizes: It was decided that due to the difficulty of individual counties making door prize purchases, Somerset County will order all the prizes through Purchase Orders The budget is \$50 a basket. Several suggestions were made for door prizes at the last meeting including small trees or Barnes and Noble gift certificates.

Registration folders: Nick Polanin reported that there are no more red folders that were free last year. However, there are 500 red plastic bags that can be used instead of folders if the group agrees. Nick will bring some to the next meeting so we can make a final decision but most think it's a good idea.

Speakers gifts: Since there is still no delegate from Morris County, Terry Zane is looking for suggestions and a volunteer to fill in for Morris. One suggestion was that the Door Prize Team could include speaker gifts in their purchase.

COUNTY REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

Atlantic – Sunday May 14th Mother's Day was the Atlantic County MG plant sale. After a year's hiatus, we reinvented our sale and tried to simplify the process. Our MG's divided their own plants & started plants from seed. It was a learning process for everyone involved and I am happy to report a nice success. I will speak for myself that when I arrived the day in advance with my own contributions, I was amazed at the variety and quality of the donations. Every plant passed the inspectors survey. Our sale was being held in conjunction with the Galloway Township Green Fair & when heavy rains were forecast for Saturday, everyone punted until Sunday, Mother's Day. We sold 75% of our plants and now have a clear indication of what sold (veggies/perennials) and what didn't sell (houseplants). It was also decided that what did not sell would have been better served with more images and detailed information vs a short sketch of plant material. The overall mission of the plant sale, engagement with the community & MG learning opportunities were well served. Although we will make some minor changes, the committee has decided to ask MG's to propagate/divide next year vs purchasing plant material.

We are very grateful for our new coordinator, Belinda Chester, who has been very busy trying to take care of business as a part time employee in what we know at this time of the year, is a full-time position. Kudos to her. She notes that we will be focusing this summer on "community and green fairs" trying to do as many weekend plant diagnostic clinics and information booths as possible.

As I previously mentioned, we are back at the Pleasantville South Main St School extending our MG contribution into summer and fall, working with the Parent Teacher Organization and trying to get parents involved thru community talks.

Belinda has announced and is organizing some new projects:

St Mary's Pleasantville garden center: planning and building a high tunnel greenhouse with talks.

Pomona School Galloway: planting a vegetable garden and pollinator garden.

Plans for the fall: participating with Atlantic County Special Services and Buena Middle School.

Our monthly round table discussions are changing & now each month we will have a 30-minute discussion inside and then, weather permitting, we will go out to our demo garden for "Lunch and Learn." The community will be invited to join us by bringing their lunch and joining in the conversation at the demo garden.

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We have had presentations in the community with topics such as: Coffee can composting, Vegetable gardening, edible vertical gardening. The summer monthly presentations at Atlantic County Utilities Authority have begun and the next presentation will be "direct seeding and insect control."

Our horticulture therapy programs are busy: Seashore gardens has seniors planting vegetables. Brandall Estates is planning to start a garden this month.

Graduation will be taking place with a luncheon at our MG award winning site, the Atlantic City Aquarium, this coming Friday, June 9, 2017.

Bergen – Natural Landscape Design: Meadows, Woods, and Water was presented by Larry Weaner at the joint meeting with Passaic County in April. An Excellent speaker on converting open space into natural meadows, and the use of Natural gardens to reduce maintenance, improve the environment, and enhance the beauty of any residential property. His projects are presented from inception to maturity. Since 1977, Larry Weaner has been practicing landscape design that combines expertise in horticulture, environmental science, and the traditions of garden design. His design and restoration work spans more than 10 states and has been profiled in national publications, including the New York Times.

We will miss long time MGofBC member, **Walter Traubel**, who passed away on May 17th. He served as State Representative for many years and at the 2016 Fall Conference was celebrated for his 25 years of service.

Davies Arboretum The 18-acre Davies Arboretum & Wildlife Preserve, celebrates its first year as an approved Master Gardener volunteer site. Currently in bloom are bluebells, May apples, bleeding hearts, and daffodils. A highlight of the arboretum is a majestic 200-year-old Beech tree. Several projects are in the planning stages including a greenhouse, storage shed, children's garden, and handicapped-accessible garden.

Hackensack River Greenway. On May 11th, Friends of the Hackensack River Greenway and the Township of Teaneck held a dedication of the newly planted native garden of the Mary S. Topolsky Garden and Trail. This section is the newest addition to Teaneck's National Trails Greenway featuring an ADA wheelchair-accessible trail to the Hackensack River.

Hermitage Event Remembers WWI. Master Gardeners volunteered during a World War 1 Centennial Bazaar at the Hermitage on May 20th. Member museums of the Northwest Bergen History Coalition provided WWI artifacts and demonstrations. Among the other events were a plant sale and the sale of fragrant soaps made by MGs from the plants grown in the **Hermitage gardens**. Trained Master Gardeners offered tours of the Hermitage's Victorian herb garden and described cooking and medicinal uses of its herbs. In the new liberty vegetable garden, MG's related the history of the National War Garden Commission, established during WW1, to encourage American citizens to transform idle land into productive vegetable gardens in support of the war effort. The liberty garden, planted for the first time this spring, contains produce that would have been planted in similar WW1 gardens, such as tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, peas, beans, radishes, and lettuce. The garden contains chicken-wire cloches and tepee trellises made by the gardeners to support young plants/climbing plants.

Thielke Arboretum Carolyn Rubinfeld, the NJ Watershed ambassador for the Lower Passaic and Saddle rivers, is running 2 programs in June. One for teens and adults, the other for children from grades 3 – 6. Carolyn will work with these small groups to determine what attributes of Diamond Brook are supportive and necessary for the stream bugs (macroinvertebrates). She will discuss the importance these bugs play in stream quality and together they will gather samples in the brook. Carolyn will guide young participants in collecting, identifying, and comparing/contrasting these finds to other bugs drawn from a pristine stream in Morris County. Primary points will include the impact of fertilizer runoff, sedimentation build-up, and poor-quality oxygen supply in Diamond Brook.

Burlington –
Projects:

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Butterfly Garden at Smith Woods

May has been filled with many perennials. Planted are coreopsis, asclepias, monarda, turtle head, liatris, echinacea, penstemon, and lobelia as well as some annuals. Mulch was delivered and the team has a partnership with the county to help spray once or twice a week with deer repellent. The team will be co-sponsoring workshops with the county naturalist throughout the summer. A water source has finally been installed.

Donation Garden at Medford Leas

The team has begun to harvest and donate cold weather crops (mostly greens) and has planted most of the warm weather crops. Since the shipment has arrived, sweet potato slips were planted even though temperature highs were only in the 60s. The fluctuating weather patterns are a bit confusing for the plants as well as the gardeners. Watering has not been a concern due to our plentiful rains and good drainage.

IPM and Demonstration Plots at BCCAC

This month, the team been busy planting in three different areas. Sage, basil and lemon grass were planted to demonstrate plants that are believed to repel mosquitoes. Different varieties of salvias were planted in one of the plots. The goal is to keep the plants for at least three years and observe the growth of these plants, their resistance to disease and the duration and appearance of the flowers. The difference between tomatoes and tomatillos is being shown in another plot. The blueberries were fertilized with holly tone for the second year and a real improvement has been noticed in the plot. The raised beds were filled with marigolds, zinnias, coleus and plants to attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Herbs and flowers were planted in the kitchen garden. The blueberries were fertilized with holly tone for the second year and a real improvement has been noticed in the plot.

Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA)

Currently, iris blooms are everywhere in the gardens. The team's next effort will be to finish the Kitchen Garden and continue weeding and mulching the Pollinator Garden. Following that there are two new areas to be worked on -- a small pond and a shade garden that is a bit overgrown. One of the great perks of working at PPA is the bird population. As members were working recently, a pair of Baltimore Orioles were spotted and their nest was right over a part of the garden. The team work day at PPA is on Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11:30; anyone interested in seeing the garden is always welcome whether they are from Burlington County MGs or one of the other counties..

Rancocas Nature Center

The team is continuing to fight the weeds with all this rain. The garden plants are twice as tall as they were this time last year. Some of our fall blooming perennials had to be cut back. The Children's Garden is doing well. There are several caterpillars on the herbs and in the Monarch Way Station. More perennials are being planted to have blooms all season. Summer camp will start at the end of June so more children will be helping in the gardens. Everyone is continuing to watch for tick and mosquito bites.

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

- May 3, 2017, "Choosing the right grass seed for your lawn" by Meredith Bogert

Presentations given:

- May 2017, Meredith Bogert presented "Native Pollinators" at the Moorestown Library

Events held:

- May 21, 2017, An "Ask a Master Gardener" table was present at the Pinelands Preservation Alliance Open House

Camden –

EDUCATIONAL GARDENS

THE EDUCATIONAL HERB, PERENNIAL AND SHADE GARDENS HAVE BEEN PLANTED. THE VEGETABLE GARDEN CONTAINS SUMMER VEGETABLES OF TOMATOES, GREEN AND HOT PEPPERS, SQUASH AND GREEN BEANS ALONG WITH MARIGOLDS. MOST OF THE PLANTS CAME OUT OF OUR GREENHOUSE. THE HERB GARDEN CONTAIN BOTH MEDICINAL AND CULINARY HERBS AND PLANT MATERIAL. ALL ARE MARKED AND HAVE BEEN ENTERED ON A LAYOUT DESIGN.

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THE JUNE WORK WILL BE FOCUSED ON CREATING FENCING FOR THE BEDS, MULCING, BUILDING PATHWAYS AND DIGGING OUT A TRENCH FOR THE BOG BED. OUR NEW SHED HAS ARRIVED AND THE WATER LINES WILL BE PUT IN THE END OF JUNE. WE HAVE BROKEN DOWN INTO COMMITTEES TO MANAGE WATERING, WEEDING AND UPKEEP OF THE BEDS.

GREENHOUSE

THE GREENHOUSE COMMITTEE SOLD A VARIETY OF VEGETABLE HERB AND POLLINATOR PLANTS ON MAY 4 FOR THE COUNTY EMPLOYEES AND MASTER GARDENERS AS WELL AS TO THE PUBLIC ON MAY 6. AND MAY 12. 90% OF THE PLANTS WERE SOLD.

THE GREENHOUSE IS SHUTTING DOWN FOR THE SUMMER SO THEY ARE SCHEDULING CLEAN-UP DAYS.

MAY 6 MAY FAIR AT THE MG SITE

THE MAY 6 FAIR DREW ABOUT A HUNDRED PEOPLE. WE HAVE A SOGGY DAY, BUT MANAGED TO SELL MANY OF THE GREENHOUSE RAISED VEGETABLES, HERBS AND ANNUALS. THE HYDROPHONIC LETTUCE AND ROMAINE WAS ALSO SOLD.

WE ALSO RAN OUR PLANT DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC, CHILDREN'S PLANT TABLE AND GAVE TALKS ON OUR NEW EDUCATIONAL GARDENS. MIKE MCGRATH WAS A BIG DRAW AND GAVE SEVERAL TALKS ON GARDENING. THE FAIR IS A COBINED EFFORT BY CAMDEN COUNTY PARKS AND CAMDEN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS.

HOMEOWNERS'S SERIES

OUR SECOND SPRING HOME OWNERS SERIES WAS HELD ON SITE ON MAY 24. A REPRESENTATIVE FROM CAMDEN COUNTY PARKS SPOKE ABOUT MISQUITO CONTROL. THESE SERIES ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND MASTER GARDENERS.

BASICS OF FLORAL DISPLAYS

ON MAY 16 TWO EXPERTS OF FLORAL DESIGN (BOTH MASTER GARDENERS) PRESENTED A HANDS-ON WORKSHOP ON FLORAL DISPLAY. THE PARTICIPANTS CREATED THEIR OWN DISPLAYS USING THE METHODS OUTLINED BY THE INSTRUCTORS. 12 MASTER GARDENERS ENJOYED THE WORKSHOP AND TOOK HOME THEIR CREATIONS.

MASTER GARDENER FIELD TRIP

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APPROXIMATELY 15 MGS ENJOYED VISITING TRIPLE OAKS NURSERY IN FRANKLINVILLE, NJ ON MAY 18 THE OWNER, LORRAIN KIEFER, AND HER SON, GAVE THE TOUR AND TALK ON "BEST PLANTS FOR NJ GARDENS" LORRAIN IS WELL-KNOWN AS AN HERB EXPERT. HER HERB GARDENS AND THEIR NURSERY IS AN EXCELLENT SOURCE OF PLANT MATERIAL FOR ALL GARDENS. THEY ARE A GOOD FRIEND TO MASTER GARDENERS AND OFFER A SMALL DISCOUNT TO MGS ON PURCHASES.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

MGS HAVE BEEN AT COMMUNITY FARMER'S MARKETS AND FESTIVALS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY THIS MONTH GIVING OUT INFORMATION TO CONSUMERS. WE GAVE TWO INSTRUCTIONAL TALKS TO GROUPS ON "THE BASICS OF GARDENING." THE TALKS ARE BASED ON THE CANNED TALKS PRESENTED LAST YEAR BY RUTGERS COOP EXTENSION SERVICE AS PART OF REGIONAL TRAINING FOR MGS.

Cumberland – We will be doing a Butterfly Day at the CC. A hand painting workshop is scheduled. Since, this is a big hit at our events. We will be hosting an evening event titled NJ 2017 Water Supply Plan with Sal Mangiafico. Also, we will be hosting another Monarch Teacher Network class. Date to be announced. A Helpline forum has been started with weekly meetings. Work at the Civil War Memorial in the Historic Bridgeton Cemetery is continuing with planting of vinca. The Horticulture Enrichment team will be making Red, White & Blue sachets at the Veterans Home in time for Flag Day. We had two speaker engagements for the Christian Women's Association & the other for Community Gardens. We have been showing the Worker Protection Video on a weekly basis to be ready for harvest time.

Essex –

Programs during the Month of June or before:

• Major Refresh at Branch Brook Park

June will be our busiest month this year at Branch Brook Park in the Prudential Concert Grove and the time the help of Master Gardeners is needed most.

The first few weeks will see the planting of perennials and shrubs to refresh several areas. Master Gardeners are needed daily to oversee the planting, layout and upkeep of these plants. Generally, work hours are from 9:30 -12 noon but this month work hours will be extended. If you can help for even an hour please let us know.

In addition, there are two major workdays scheduled this month for Saturday, June 10th and Saturday, June 24th. On these days Master Gardeners are needed to guide volunteers in weeding, pruning and general maintenance of the area.

If you can help either daily or on either of the volunteer workdays, please contact Kasey Goger (kgoger@verizon.net) or Mary Jed (maryjed@optonline.net) your help would be appreciated.

Workshops during June and Beyond:

HORTICULTURE WORKSHOPS FOR SENIORS:

ALL PROGRAMS TAKE PLACE ON MONDAYS, 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.

GARIBALDI HALL, 621A EAGLE ROCK AVE., ROSELAND

PROGRAMS ARE FREE.

- JUNE 19 - ENJOYING SUMMER IN THE GARDEN (reserve by June 13)

Trips during June and Beyond:

- New York Botanical Garden, Chihuly Exhibit, September 15, 2017, "Artworks by world-renowned artist Dale Chihuly will be on view at NYBG in his first major garden exhibition in New York in more than ten years." Dot Kamphausen is organizing a docent tour of the exhibit on September 15th. Carpool and pay as you enter with the group.

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Projects during June and Beyond:

- **Branch Brook Park - Cherry Tree Pruning Team.** Meets weekly to prune historical collection of 5000 cherry trees.
- **Branch Brook Park -Prudential Concert Grove** (Southern Section). We weed, prune, transplant and plant perennials and shrubs.
- **Brookdale Park Pruning** —ongoing pruning of Trees.

Master Gardeners of Essex County Report: (email to rmganjsec@gmail.com or provide hard copy)

Report Date: June 2017

- **Education Outreach** - Projects in schools.
- **Giving Garden** - an *A Lot to Grow* community garden that grows produce for the food pantries and soup kitchens in the Nutley area.
- **Glenmont Project** - Thos. Edison Nat'l. Historical Park in West Orange.
- **The Greenhouse** - for those that want to transplant and water.
- **Grounds at Roseland** - to help maintain and beautify.
- **GROW Community Out-reach Program** – 3-4 Sessions a year, half-day long, recent Graduates become involved.
- **Helpline** - volunteer
- **Horticulture for Seniors** - meets monthly with seniors.
- **Integrity House (Secaucus)** - guide recovering substance dependent people with growing vegetables that supplement the kitchen.
- **Pollinator Garden** - In Brookdale Park
- **Rose Garden** - in Brookdale Park
- **Speakers Bureau** is part of our community out-reach. Choose a topic of interest and become an active speaker.
- **The Teaching Garden** - At Presby Iris Garden
- **Essex/Hudson Urban Youth Garden Project** – A collaboration among Master Gardeners, 4-H, Schools and Community Organizations
 - **The Historic Jersey City & Harsimus Cemetery (& newly added Pershing Field)**
 - **East Orange Library Garden**
 - **The Children's garden at Branch Brook Park**
 - **Straw Bale Garden, Passaic Avenue, Kearny**
 - **Montclair Community Farms**
 - **Caldwell Youth Garden Projects**

Events during June and Beyond:

- September 16, 2017 Graduation and BBQ for the 2016 – 2017 MGEC Class.

Speakers at Our Monthly Meeting during June:

- Our Next Meeting on Saturday, June 10th, starts at 9:30 A.M.

Our Speaker Phil Jaeger will tell us about “*The Passaic River: 81 Miles of History*”

This program follows the Passaic River thru seven counties from its source in Mendham to its end at Newark Bay with an emphasis on historic activities and structures along the river in past centuries.

The focus is on topics such as: early mills, Glacial Lake Passaic, the first successful test of a submarine, extant Native American art and constructions, the country's first industrial city and the heroic exploits of the "great descender" Sam Patch. **Master Gardeners of Essex County Report: (email to rmganjsec@gmail.com or provide hard copy) Report Date: June 2017**

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Phil Jaeger, a resident of Cedar Grove, is a former mathematics and computer science teacher. He is the author of books on Montclair and Cedar Grove, both in Arcadia's Images of America series. Phil is a former board member of the Canal Society of New Jersey and the Passaic County Historical Society. He and his wife Jean are frequent presenters of programs of local historical interest.

Hunterdon – Hunterdon County's Helpline continues with a consistent 80 to 90 contacts per month. Our May speaker was our local Health Agent speaking on Tick Activity in Hunterdon County and Emerald Ash Borer. WE held our first RMGHC bus trip on May 17 to Longwood Gardens in May. We have a self-drive trip to Rodale's in Pennsylvania planned for July and a Cranberry Bog trip planned for October. The New Class members who graduated on April 20 are already volunteering in many of our ongoing programs. Programs continue at the Hunterdon Care Center, Whitehouse School, the Presentation Team, Hunterdon Central and pruning at Snyder Farm. Hunterdon Care Center held a thankyou event to recognize the Master Gardener Program. Other teams are also in full swing: Community Events, Anderson House, Seed-for Salad Teams and the Sensory Garden.

Mercer Our May 6 plant sale was, despite some threatening weather, a real success. One of our RMG's raises a variety of heirloom tomatoes, as well as some peppers, and these sell extremely well. The plants donated by RMG's were quite varied, and essentially all were sold. The vendors were also extremely happy (and ready to come back next year). Among them, they sold about \$10,000 worth of plants in six hours. We held a wrap up meeting and bar-b-que the following week for all who worked at the sale.

At our monthly meeting, we began a discussion of the seldom used Emeritus status. Currently, no comprehensive requirements or criteria for awarding this exist. We are trying to establish policy on the kinds of requirements that are appropriate, and an established a procedure for awarding it. Further discussions are planned.

Our move to a "new" facility will take place in 2018. The interior modifications needed have been decided, and now we are examining the outdoor spaces, which are extensive. We have initiated a "design challenge", where all RMG's are encouraged to study the layout and propose planting plans for the various areas around the building. Also, the members of the committee planning the move visited the Monmouth County facility to see what others have done and generate ideas.

Our Trent House summer program for children will take place on three dates in July, with children from a different group each day. This year, we are hosting two new groups who have not participated before.

We also participate in a summer reading program for children at 9 local libraries. The program has an overall theme (decided by others) and we work to connect gardening-connected readings to the theme.

Bruce Crawford of Rutgers Gardens gave a presentation entitled "Hands on in the Garden" at MEG on June 3. He focused on vegetable gardening (and general garden themes).

Our next Community Education program is our annual "Evening in the Garden", on July 12. All the gardens at MEG will have docents, and the focus of the evening will be on white and silver plants that stand out in low light.

The 2018 Symposium will take place on March 24, which is after the Home Gardening School. Planning for this event is just beginning.

A tour of the NY Botanical Gardens was held on May 17, and a tour of Mille Fleurs shade garden in Point Pleasant, PA, on June 2.

Our next tour will be to Penn's Manor, on June 14. A visit to another historical house will allow a comparison with our experiences at Trent House, and possibly generate new ideas to enhance our program.

Middlesex – The clients in the horticultural therapy program at St Peters Adult Day Care Center have planted their raised bed garden. Our first harvest will be strawberries and we anticipate making strawberry sauce for ice cream sundaes.

Our famous butterfly house is now open and it looks magnificent. Many people braved the rain on our opening day last Saturday to enjoy the butterflies.

On Tuesday June 20, we are sponsoring a bus trip to Greenwood Cemetery and DUMBO. There are a few remaining seats available Contact Pat Scarano at 732-257-6246 if you wish to join us.

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Working with the Alliance Center for Independence in Edison, an evening workshop was presented in April on Adaptable Container Gardening. Participants each potted up a lavender plant to take home. In May, we were invited back for Totally Tomatoes - to help them establish their raised garden bed.

In May, we also did a Lunch and Learn Session with the employees of St Peters Hospital in New Brunswick. Participants created beautiful floral containers of annual plants.

Monmouth – Since our last State meeting, our Junior Master Gardener Program has reached its half-way point in the program. The JMG garden is looking great despite the scorching heat, icy rain, gloomy days and the below 60-degree weather! After their last session at the end of June, all children are encouraged to return on Saturday mornings to continue with the upkeep of their garden plots and harvest their vegetables. Many of them do come out regularly and then enter their produce in the County Fair.

Our May meeting speaker was Jane Guilliard who specializes in day lilies. Her presentation was fabulous, honest and executed with a sense of humor! Since she has a day lily farm, she also brought bagged day lilies with her for sale...at a very good price! Our Speakers Bureau has been very busy and our Helpline has been hopping! Soon our interns will be joining the veterans on Helpline for the summer. We will have 2 shifts daily with four MGs on each shift (2 veterans and 2 interns). Always good having company when you are new to Helpline!

Our interns have been knocking themselves out between the PAR garden and plant sale... their help was overwhelmingly appreciated! The PAR garden is gorgeous and producing nicely. So far, they have been able to bring produce to local food banks several times.

As with other counties, we also had our annual plant sale. Our Spring Garden Days was very successful offering: herbs, annuals, perennials, veggies, hanging baskets, donated MG plants, small trees and shrubs, small fruits, trash to treasure and speaker presentations on both days. The event was well attended and there was very little left over! Yea! Many thanks to all our hard-working Master Gardeners...they always put forth their best efforts!

At our June 21st General meeting we will be awarding 3 scholarships this year to graduating seniors going to state schools in New Jersey. We are glad to see young people interested in the environmental sciences and horticulture.

Morris

- Two library outreach events executed.
- Thirteen Speaker's Bureau lectures given at various venues.
- Scheduled the first of the 2017 season's Tour of MG's Gardens
- Launched project supporting Acorn Hall's new 5-year plan for restoring and improving their grounds.
- MGs supported the Burnham Park's Environmental Project headed by Pat Rector, MC Environmental Agent.
- Set-up watering system, installed deer barrier and planted 200+ plugs, grown at the RCE Office, for the Madison Community Garden's new pollinator garden.
- Set-up new demonstration garden in Roxbury's Community Garden

Ocean – The new Helpline system put into place at the Ag. Center is being well received. The organizers hope to use the information gained to plan future RCE presentations for the public.

Our Stafford Library Helpline will continue twice a month for the summer with one speaker presentation left for June, yet.

The Diagnostic Roundtables continue to be very popular and fill up quickly.

OCRMGs have identified over 900 Ticks this year. That is almost double the number from this time last year. Perhaps it is due to all the recent media publicity making folks more aware of the problems ticks can cause.

As in the past, we will have Information Tables at several festivals being held around the county.

Dr. Gary Pavlis coordinated a tour and tasting at Cream Ridge Winery in May for our members. All present had a wonderful time.

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

O. C. is having an All-day Training on June 13th, next Tues. The theme is “Growing our Communities”. It is open to other MGs at a \$10 fee and the day includes a potluck lunch. (Declare your dish when registering with the office.)

On June 26th, Rich Buckley will present “Tree Killing Insects” at an evening RCE program at the Ag. Center, 6:30.

Passaic – Last meeting the topic was “This Old Yard—From Neglected to Beautiful” by a Morris Co. Master Gardener.

Plant sale last month was a success. Awaiting final totals.

New class of students graduated last month and are very active and volunteering many hours.

Committee formed to review and revise the Bylaws.

Picnic is planned for July

Bloomington Senior Center: The volunteers have been planting in the rain these days. The Meditation Garden is just about complete. They also witnessed a miracle at the gardens. Siberian irises of yellow, purple, lilac, and mixed color of white, yellow and orchid were planted. At the time of planting they had no idea which color was which. When the irises bloomed, each color was in a separate spot.

Members are assisting with the Wildflower garden and Lilac garden at NJBG. The NJBG will be putting on concerts during the summer and would encourage you to go.

Somerset– No report

Sussex – Sussex County has supported the MGs this year by assisting with the materials needed for Newton Green, the only county park in Sussex County. MGs fully reworked the monument beds, took out all the old plantings, put in new plantings, and mulched the area. In the Military Memory Garden, the original plantings plan was taken into account as old, tired materials were taken out and new, more appropriate plantings were added. The park now looks up to standard and can be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

The County also determined that the proposed site of the Demonstration Garden would be better served, were it relocated to the Sussex County Cooperative Extension Office property. This move will ensure that when the garden is open, someone from the Cooperative Extension office would be on site to offer assistance as needed for visitors or workers. This change was well received by everyone, since the proposed property is larger and offers a more diverse site. The original plan will need revision, but everyone is enthusiastic about moving forward.

Planning is underway for the NJ State Fair and Sussex County Fair, which will be held beginning the last Friday in July and continuing through the first week of August. The Extension Office will have a dedicated display which will be manned by MGs throughout the fair, although we are still in discussions as to what the display will be about and what materials will be needed to support the display. A request came from the NJ State Fair committee to have MGs support the annual flower show, working as Docents, Judges and assistance people throughout the days of the fair. Training in flower judging is being offered to interested participants this month. MGs were encouraged to enter their arrangements and planters in the competitions.

All other programs supported by the MGs are moving forward, with several requests for speakers coming in, children’s programs being supported and various gardens being tended throughout the county.

Union – No report

ADJOURNMENT: At 11:55 AM

Respectfully Submitted

Tricia Deering, Recording Secretary

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey