

# Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Minutes of July 11, 2017 RMGANJ Meeting

Terry Zane called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. Three new members from Morris county were introduced: Dierdre Gallagher, Regina Doherty and Marion Ceruzzi. There were no guests.

**Minutes from June 6, 2017 Meeting:** Tricia Deering reported that she received an update from Monmouth for their County report so she sent out an updated copy of the minutes a few days ago. A motion was tendered to accept the minutes as updated. The motion was seconded and the members unanimously voted to accept the motion.

The Vice President and Treasurer are both on vacation in Europe this month.

## **Attendance:**

Atlantic:	Mary Lou Monihan
Bergen:	Joseph Cooper, Carolyn Gretchen
Burlington:	Marilyn Bidrawn, Terry Zane
Camden:	Diane Shonyo
Cumberland:	Carol Henry
Essex:	David Haimes, Jane Kinkle
Hunterdon:	Tricia Deering, Dewey Goodwin
Mercer:	Bob Robinson, Betty Scarlata
Middlesex:	Dale Dachai
Monmouth:	
Morris:	Marion Ceruzzi, Regina Doherty, Deidre Gallagher,
Ocean:	Jerry Jellets, Suzanne Keane
Passaic:	
Somerset:	Linda Madretzky
Sussex:	
Union:	Dolores Batz-Culp, Dennis Lenahan
Rutgers University:	

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Terry Zane reported for Pat Schanzlin a balance of \$10,762.58. The check to Senior Source, the printer from last year, has finally been issued. The W9 has been sent to Matthew Simon. and the agreement sent to Paul Cowie. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded. The motion carried.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Terry Zane reported on the September RMGANJ meeting date. We are unable to meet in our normal location due to a higher priority Rutgers event that needs the space. Alternative location options include Burlington which is available and she is looking at Holly House at Rutgers Gardens. Terry would like to keep Tuesday as the date. She will also see if the sliding doors in the current room can be closed and we can have half of the room. Another option is to consider using a Rutgers classroom.

Terry reported that she has a good contact person to acquire the tubed trees for the State Conference and is pursuing acquiring them.

**MASTER GARDENERS COORDINATORS REPORT:** Nick Polanin provided his report by email. He has yet to complete the 2016 RMG Annual Report, and he apologizes for the delay.

## **Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey**

Searches for faculty positions in Hunterdon (Tree Fruit) and Ocean/Monmouth/Atlantic (Fisheries and Marine) are progressing well and will soon be finalized with official announcements expected soon.

As the new fiscal year begins he will work with Talia to process the PO's for the caterer, facilities, and online registration once he returns from Utah next week. He will also work with Linda from Somerset County in obtaining the door prize baskets (and speaker gifts).

Dan's recovery is progressing as well, but slower than he wishes or expected. He anticipates being back in the office later this month or early next. He did not attend the conference here in Utah, the first one he has missed in 24 years.

On June 21, we ran a very successful continuing / advanced education program at the CCC for 118 RMG volunteers from literally across the state – Sussex to Atlantic and many counties in between were in attendance. We had nearly 135 registered but there were several no-shows. Only a few RMGs participated in the Plant BOGO but maybe more will do so at future event opportunities. He is investing over \$5,000 of Departmental funds in the filming, editing, and ultimate creation of a website that will house all the videos of each presentation from that day. This way individual RMG volunteers can view these for needed CE hours, and county programs can utilize them in place of a live speaker to watch the presentation of their choice and then have a discussion led by their coordinator or other local expert for a portion of their monthly meeting. He received many emails following the program thanking Jan Zientec and him for facilitating and offering the program and also requests to offer more in the future.

Based on Departmental bylaws and following the vote of the Departmental faculty and approval by Dr. Larry Katz, Director of Extension and Executive Dean Bob Goodman, as of July 1, 2017 Nick is now the Assistant Chairperson for the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, to assist Dan in responsibilities and to assist in the transition as Dan ends his serving as Chair on June 30, 2018. Currently this does not change any of Nick's current responsibilities or programs as County Agent in Somerset County or as State Coordinator for the RMG Program, though it may require more of his time on campus once Dan returns to work.

### **Old Business:**

### **New Business:**

A question was raised regarding the by-laws which state that members must be certified master gardeners. The three new members from Morris County are not yet certified. After discussion, and since the Morris County delegates will be certified shortly, it was decided to leave the by-laws as is,

Morris County had a question about speaker's gifts, which is their responsibility. Morris County needs to coordinate with Nick Polanin who will be handling door prizes and speaker's gifts through the Rutgers purchasing system due to the difficulty with individual Master Gardeners making purchases and getting reimbursed by Rutgers.

There was a question on how one signs up for the Great Tomato Tasting from Camden County. The signup email should have come from their coordinator and is through Signup.com.

*Conference Schedule:* Terry Zane reported that she sent out the updated schedule and asked for feedback. She reviewed the schedule and discussed her thinking. She modified it to accommodate short talks by Bruce Crawford and Brian McDonald, NJ Forest Service. Terry reported that if there are openings on the day of the conference, we will take walk-in registrations. In response to parking questions for the tours, participants will walk to the Food Science building for the Living Wall tour – there

## Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

is no need to move a car. A motion was made to approve the schedule – it was seconded and approved unanimously.

*Registration Form:* Terry Zane reported that she is waiting on Nick Polanin for information on the status of the online registration. It may already be alive as reported by Joe Cooper. Registration for RCE people is on track it is not handled through OCPE.

*Survey:* Atlantic County asked if we want to make any changes to the survey. Terry Zane reported that she does not have any changes.

*Awards booklet* – Suzanne Keane from Ocean County reported that twelve counties have sent her the award bios. Several are too long. She will edit them if she can and send them back for approval or editing. Four counties are missing. The printer status is as follows: they have 2 quotes. The first is \$487.50 from Trec in Tom's River. This is more than in the past. \$400 were budgeted but since the speakers are less than what was budgeted it should not be a problem. Trec is applying to be on the Rutgers list. The second is from Central Printing, also in Toms River, for \$565. They are already registered with Rutgers. Ocean County is familiar with Trec and comfortable with them. After discussion, a motion was tendered to move forward with Trec and seconded and approved. Also, Ocean reported that only one county sent a list of 25-year people. They need the name even if they are not going to the conference. They also reminded everyone to send the photos to Joe Cooper, not Ocean.

*Door prizes:* Nick Polanin and Linda Madretzke have met on door prizes and are moving forward – 6 baskets. They will tie door prizes in with speaker gifts. Somerset County will order all the prizes and gifts through Purchase Orders

*Registration folders:* It has been decided that we will use the red plastic bags that Nick mentioned at the last meeting. Nick will also get the handouts/folder inserts printed.

*Speakers gifts:* Morris county will work with Nick Polanin on speaker's gifts.

**BREAK: 10:50 to 11:15.** Thank you to Hunterdon County for the refreshment set-up for this meeting. Mercer County will host in August.

*Caring and Sharing:* Middlesex County reported that Kathy Dopart is doing well. It was also reported that an individual from Burlington County has a pod cast on gardening – and referenced Master Gardeners in a different state. The question is why not reference Rutgers?? Terry will consider it.

The representatives from Morris County asked about an existing RMGANJ.org web site which is empty. Joe Cooper reported that he had reserved the URL several years ago in case we wanted to use it. Discussion on the use of Sakai vs a RMGANJ web site followed and is a subject for a future meeting.

One of the counties asked about publicity for the upcoming conference, wondering if there is a flyer we can post. Now, there is no flyer.

### **COUNTY REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:**

***Atlantic*** – Graduation took place in June at Gardener's Basin which is our Pa. Horticultural award-winning Project of 2017.

Another event took place with Master Gardener support at Gardener's Basin and that was the 48 Block project on June 24th, a free arts festival,,,,,the MG's had an information table and gave tours of our gardens throughout the basin. It was sponsored by Stockton University and the Atlantic City Art Foundation. We began a new initiative with our monthly helpline round-table discussion entitled "Lunch and Learn.". In previous years we would gather as Master Gardeners once a month to discuss any interesting items that arose on the helpline or in our gardens the previous month; or, any topic that was particularly interesting to

## Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

any one in attendance. We are now beginning a process where we will have a short gardening related educational presentation, followed by a 30-minute Q&A session where gardening questions then become the topic. These monthly meetings are now advertised to the public.

We have four gardens that are being judged in the next couple of weeks by the Pa. Horticulture Society: Gardiner's Basin, our Demo Garden, the Mays Landing Library project, and our horticulture therapy garden=Seashore Gardens Living Center Sensory and Edible Gardens.

At our Pomona School project, our volunteers are building a squash arch for the school's pumpkin/gourd patch. Our members are educating the school on basic horticulture skills and maintenance of the patch.

Other projects are busy as well.

**Bergen** – Perpetuating their annual June tradition, over 50 members of Master Gardeners of Bergen County met at Van Saun Park to picnic, share ideas, reconnect with old friends, and welcome new ones on June 13th.

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Jane Furman, class of 1993. Jane was instrumental in making the Master Gardeners of Bergen County an exceptional organization. She served as Vice President and president, 4H County Fair coordinator, and delegate to RMGANJ, in addition to numerous other projects and events. She was a true support to both long standing and new MG's in the organization.

Bergen County MG's offered tours of the new liberty vegetable garden at the historic Hermitage site. The site is related to the history of the National War Garden Commission, established during WWI that encouraged citizens to plant gardens to support the war effort.

In July, MG's of BC will sponsor a trip to the Hollister House Gardens in Litchfield County, Connecticut. This will be followed in August by a trip to NYBG, with a tour conducted by Kim Eiermann, who teaches, speaks, writes, and consults on EcoBeneficial Landscapes, and native plants.

Master Gardener members of the Thielke Arboretum in Glen Rock will again be presenting their week-long workshop on Nature Journaling for elementary school students, featuring hands on exploration, discussion, and recording of findings. Also, the Arboretum is featuring a summer Story Walk for young children and families. StoryWalk® is an innovative approach to encourage people of all ages to get out in nature and read at the same time. The StoryWalk® concept was created by Ann Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and is currently used in 48 states and four countries.

Karen Pennell and Donna Fauschini are busy handcrafting and gathering materials for the Garden Market tables for the October conference. A few tables are still available for any interested party.

### **Burlington** –

Projects:

Butterfly Garden at Smith Woods

This month the team added mulch to each plot, watered and weeded. One plot is host plants for swallow tails and another plot has a concentration of native perennials, and the team will watch to see which plot attracts more butterflies. Second graders from Mount Laurel visited and released painted lady butterflies. Weekly counts of butterflies, pollinators and other beneficial insects are being recorded. A local garden club toured the garden.

Donation Garden at Medford Leas

So far this year 186 pounds have been harvested which includes greens, cabbage, turnips, and beginnings of beans, zucchini, onions, and cucumbers.

IPM and Demonstration Plots at BCCAC

This month has been really busy at the Ag. Center. The work in the new community gardens area is done; the heavy machinery is silent and some brave gardeners are already working their parcel of land. The master gardeners have worked through the noise and fumes of the heavy equipment but the result is really interesting. New kiosks have been installed at the demonstration plots and the team will soon be able to share additional information with the public. All the plots and raised beds are planted and growing nicely. The challenge for the rest of the summer is always the watering. Two thousand strawberries were

## Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

harvested from six short rows; mildew was a problem and the taste is believed to be affected by the amount of rain this month. The new salvia trial is going well and is by far the prettiest of the plots. This study should last at least three years. The team is looking for quality and length of bloom, mildew resistance and overall appearance of the plants. The Sun Hemp is growing nicely but attracting wildlife. There are lots of blueberries that the birds and the master gardeners are enjoying; the plants are beautiful this year.

### Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA)

The project team has been working hard to finish planting the herb garden and it is looking very good. There is a wide variety of herbs including Summer Savory, Tansy, several types of Thyme and Lavender. The Pollinator Garden is a mix of native grasses and other native plants both sun loving and shade. Two new places that we will be working are around a small pond and another shade garden. This year marks the 14th summer that the master gardeners have been working at Pinelands Preservation Alliance. Over the years a partnership has been developed that has brought many people to the property to learn more about the pines and to learn from the master gardener's ways to combine native and non-native plants in ways that are both beautiful to see and healthful for the environment.

### Rancocas Nature Center

The team is just trying to keep ahead of the weeds, watering when needed and putting in donated plants. Summer camp started with 15 children the first week. They are doing activities in the gardens to learn what plants need to thrive.

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

- June 14, 2017, "The importance of native plants", by Bobbie J. Herbs
- June 28, 2017, "The secret life of fireflies", by Meredith Bogert

### **Camden –**

#### Educational Garden Project

All instructional beds of herbs, perennials, vegetables and shade plants have been planted and marked. We are adding a kiosk, signage and one additional garden by October. The water lines will be installed in August. We have weekly work sessions at the gardens and attempt at integrating interns into the rotation.

#### Greenhouse

Greenhouse is down for summer; however, they are gearing up for pansy growing for the county and also as a fundraiser for the Master Gardeners for the fall. This project will begin in August. The hydroponics growing yielded 1500 pounds of lettuce which was donated. The vertical garden is up and running due to a grant from Rutgers.

#### Community Service

We had tables or presented information to 6 different sites in June. We reached out to approximately 150 people and a grand total of 630 people since March. Our tables have been at Farm Markets in the area.

#### General Meeting June 20.

Our speaker for our general meeting was a fellow Master Gardener Chin S. Yang, PHD, on "Mycorrhizae- An Introduction" Dr. Yang outlined the beneficial and critical life-giving function of various fungi(mycorrhizae) in the cycle of plant material. 25 Master Gardeners attended the event.

#### Future Events

We are organizing a bulb and pansy sale for our next fund raiser and Homeowner's presentation. Master Gardeners of the Year Award

## Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Our individual and group has been selected for these awards. They will be recognized at our annual luncheon in November.

**Cumberland** – We manned the Butterfly tent at the County Fair on Children's Day and it was well received once again with many educational opportunities. Also had an informational poster in the Display Building. The last class for the interns was held at the Cumberland Landfill by the County Improvement Authority. I was very educational to see how our trash is handled. There will be a luncheon celebrating the 14 new graduates who are well on their way fulfilling the required hours for certification. A team of MG's were at Wheaton Arts to assist in floral designs of wildflowers & herbs for an event they were having. Our steering committee met in June & discussed Rutgers Protection of Minors with relation to Cumberland County. The Worker Protection training continues so we will be ready for harvest time at RAREC .

The rest of July & August will bring a training session for hand painting of Butterflies for upcoming events. This will be done while awaiting entry to the Butterfly Tent. Our MG"s will be assisting with floral designs for the children at 4-H summer camp. There will also be meeting and working sessions for our upcoming Fall Events, Steering Committee, Propagation Team, Make & Take, Budget and new marketing for our Helpline on the Road.

**Essex** –

Programs happening soon:

THE MASTER GARDENERS OF ESSEX COUNTY ARE COMING TO THE MONTCLAIR ADULT SCHOOL

The new brochure for the Montclair Adult School just came out, and the MG course has been listed. Here is the information:

The Master Gardeners will be teaching a series of gardening lessons this summer for the Montclair Adult School. There will be three classes covering the following topics:

- Thursday, July 13, Fred Solomine will be teaching an *Introduction to Gardening*
- Thursday, July 20, Claudia Kolster will be teaching a session on *Best Practices for Your Organic Vegetable Garden*
- Thursday, July 27, Carol Krieger will be teaching a session on *The Container Vegetable Garden and Drip Irrigation*

The first class at the Montclair Library will begin at 10:30 a.m. and the remaining 2 classes will begin at 9 a.m. at the Teaching Garden. Each class may be taken individually. While they are aimed at the new gardener, the information they provide is valuable to all gardeners. The first session will be held at the Montclair Public Library, and the remaining two sessions will take place in the Teaching Garden at Pres-by Memorial Iris Garden. All those interested can sign up through the adult school.

Workshops during July and Beyond:

*HORTICULTURE WORKSHOPS FOR SENIORS*

*SENIOR CITIZENS OF ESSEX COUNTY YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN  
HORTICULTURE WORKSHOPS PRESENTED BY THE RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION  
MASTER GARDENERS OF ESSEX COUNTY FALL 2017*

## Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

- SEPTEMBER 18 SUMMER HARVESTING HERBS  
(Reserve by September 12)
- OCTOBER 16 PUTTING THE GARDEN TO BED  
(Reserve by October 10)
- NOVEMBER 20 THE SCIENCE OF GROWING  
(Reserve by November 14)

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. RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE EARLY.  
SPACE IS LIMITED. WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT RESERVATIONS  
ONCE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IS REACHED!

### Trips during July 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.

### Events during July and Beyond:

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

### Speaker(s) at Our Monthly Meeting, July 8<sup>th</sup> (Already Occurred):

Starting at about 10:15 am, come and say hello to our dear friend:

Randi Eckel from Toad Shade Wildflower Farm

Dr. Randi V. Wilford Eckel is the owner of Toad-shade Wildflower Farm in Frenchtown, NJ where she has been propagating and promoting native plants since 1996.

She earned a PhD in Entomology and has spent her entire career investigating the interactions of plants and animals. After working in academia and at the USDA, Randi started Toad shade when she became frustrated by her own efforts to find favorite wildflowers that she grew up enjoying in the woods of northern Delaware. Her primary goal at Toad-shade is to make little known plants available and educate the public about the use and importance of native plants.

Randi will also bring along some native plants for sale.

**Hunterdon** – Hunterdon County's Helpline continues with a consistent 70 to 90 contacts per month. An offer has been made to fill our Ag Agent position that opened when Win Cowgill retired last Spring. Our June speaker was Dr. Leslie Parness speaking on Drama Queens: Dark Beauties for your Garden. We have a self-drive trip to Rodale in Pennsylvania planned for July, a visit to NY Botanical Gardens in September and a Cranberry Bog trip planned for October. We are considering transitioning some of our Seed-to-Salad programs to a system where we would set the program up, train the teachers, work with them for a year and then provide on-going consultation support. This will allow us to work with more schools.

## Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Programs continue at the Hunterdon Care Center, the Presentation Team, Hunterdon Central and pruning at Snyder Farm. Other teams are also in full swing: Community Events, Anderson House, Whitehouse and Clinton School Seed-for Salad Teams and the Sensory Garden.

**Mercer** - At our midsummer meeting, held on July 10, the RMG's celebrated Barbara Bromley's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, complete with cake, moderately on-key singing, and a photo montage covering her life as MG coordinator. Here's to many more!

Some 20 plants from Pleasant Run Nursery, all from their "best of" category, were raffled off to members at the conclusion of the meeting. Our thanks to Pleasant Run for making these available.

There were a number of tours in June. On June 10<sup>th</sup>, there was a dragonfly walk at the Plainsboro Preserve, led by John Black, President of the Native Plant Society of NJ. A tour of Pennsbury Manor Gardens, with the head of Horticulture, Mike Johnson, took place on June 14. Finally, the annual Pole Farm butterfly walk was held on June 20 at this historic site, where the first trans-Atlantic radio communication took place. Our June 3 "Hands on in the Garden" outreach event was mentioned last month.

On Wednesday, July 12, we are presenting another annual outreach event, "Evening in the Garden". Held at MEG, and quite well advertised in the local paper, garden docents will focus on plants that have evening appeal. This might be a result of color, or white and silver shades, texture, or fragrance. We're hoping for good weather and a good turnout.

The first of three Trent House day camps for Trenton children, will be held this Friday, July 14, with children sponsored by Home Front. The second day camp on July 18 will host children from the Trenton Housing Authority and Urban Promise. A third day camp will be held on July 25, with children sponsored by the CYO.

On July 20<sup>th</sup>, there will be a boat trip on the Hackensack River, through the Meadowlands, a chance to study a tidal estuary and its plant and animal life.

Many RMG's will be participating in the Mercer County 4-H Fair, to be held the last weekend in July.

Our Fall Conference awardees have been chosen (now to get the write-ups in!) They are Cindy Dixon, and Theodora Wang, an alternate delegate (but constant attendee!) to the State RMG Assn.

In August, the final session of Barbara Bromley's series on lawn restoration, will occur on August 22. A tour of Jenkins Arboretum in PA will take place on August 25.

Planning for next spring's Symposium has begun, and a few potential speakers have been identified. The Symposium will be held on Saturday, March 24, 2018 (hopefully, after the threat of snow abates!)

**Middlesex** – The Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Middlesex County will host its Garden Field Day/Open House from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, July 22 at the EARTH Center located in Davidson's Mill Pond Park at 42 Riva Ave. in South Brunswick. The rain date will be July 23. The day will be filled with activities for the whole family, including garden tours, presentations and showcases on gardening and landscaping, plus live music. Check out this website for details

<http://www.middlesexcountynj.gov/News/Pages/2017-EARTH-Center-Open-House.aspx>

The Garden Gala will be held on July 25 from 6 to 9 pm. This is a social evening in the gardens for all Middlesex County Master Gardeners past and present to enjoy the gardens at their prime. We take time out from all the hard work to appreciate the fruits (and vegetables, herbs and flowers) of our labors with colleagues.

The butterfly House is at the halfway point with a peak of activity. All 4 stages of the butterflies are in the house. Come see monarchs, black swallowtails, painted ladies, common wood nymphs, great spangled fritillaries, spicebush swallowtails, cabbage whites and variegated fritillaries in action.

**Monmouth** – On Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 18 children had their last formal lesson inside and out in the garden. Our Junior Master Gardener Program concluded with a graduation including snacks, sweets, parents and a beautifully assembled individualized keepsake notebook of information they had learned and plenty of photos of their garden experience! Our Freeholder, Lillian Burry also joined us in the festivity. For the summer, every Saturday morning, the children are encouraged to return to tend their plots, harvest and choose vegetables for the County Fair entries. We are sure they will do well!

With our Spring Garden Days plant sale behind us, we are planning for the County Fair (our theme this year is "Tomatoes!") the end of July and our Bugs, Birds and Beyond event in August. BB&B has been drawing more and more attention and is enjoyed by children of all ages with educational activities, live animals, birds, snakes and even cockroach races! The Lady Bug Lady will again join us bringing large



## Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

bags of lady bugs for children to let loose over our gardens! We will have vendors; live bee displays and speakers to peak your interest! BB&B takes place on Saturday August 19<sup>th</sup> from 12-4 PM at our Ag. Building.

Our Speakers Bureau has been busy with talks across the county and has vetted several new presentations to be ready for future bookings. The Helpline continues to hop and our interns have jumped in and are doing a great job! Our PAR garden is in full swing with harvests going to local food pantries several times a week. Recently, 21 lbs. of garlic were harvested! The speaker for our General Meeting in June was Jeff Quattrone on Seed Saving. It was very informational with many questions asked and expertly answered. Jeff started the seed saving library at Mc Cowen Public Library in South Jersey. For July, we are looking forward to Steve Barlow's talk on Annuals and Perennials.

At our June General Meeting we were proud to be able to present three scholarships awarded to two Rutgers bound students from Raritan High School and one Brookedale bound student from Wall High School. We wish them much success in their educational pursuit!

### **Morris**

- A new library outreach topic was vetted on "Growing Herbs".
- We offered a new volunteer training opportunity at Bamboo Brook and Willowood Arboretums for future guided-tour assignments given by MGs.
- We approved a project having MGs identify and remove invasive plants at the Great Swamp Natl. Wildlife Refuge.
- Our HEP Organization received a very positive write up in the Willing Hands (a private, non-profit educational and work-activity center serving the Northern New Jersey developmentally disabled community since 1986) May issue of their newsletter.
- HEP is gearing up to restore a venue discontinued for the lack of a coordinator. In addition, a mission statement was developed and projects are being documented and rewritten electronically to adhere to the mission statement while offering an electronic database of projects.
- RMGs assisted in the planting of Bacon at Snyder Farm
- Dave Los, our MG Coordinator, was interviewed by another radio station, WGHT, about the Morris County Master Gardener Program
- Morris County is now accepting applications for the 2017-2018 RMG Class starting in September.
- Our very enthusiast 2016-2017 Class Interns are well on their way to fulfilling their commitment hours in only a few months.

**Ocean** – As of June 30, our Tick Lab has identified more than 1500 ticks, almost 500 more than last year to date. Advanced Education's Garden Design evening series continued with Bruce Crawford's talk on Putting Native Pollinators in Your Garden. An RCE evening talk for the public, "Garden Railroads", will be presented by Master Gardener Dr. S. Ann Earon on July 26, 2017. Ann and her husband have built several of the garden railroads featured in her power point.

Our IPM workshops continue to be popular and fill up quickly.

The Interns are busy preparing the program by enlisting speakers for their project Fall Garden Day to be held in Sept.

Our new Trips & Tours co-chairs have planned an excursion to the Bronx Botanical Gardens for the Chihuly exhibit for of Sept. 27.

Our new website, created by Jerry Jellets, is up and running with a review of the RMG program in Ocean County on the public page and for MGs, the committee reports, calendar, etc. Soon this will replace our Yahoo group site.

**Passaic** – No report.

**Somerset**– Somerset Master Gardeners had a speaker, Kim Eierman an environmental horticulturist, who specializes in ecological environments and native plants. Her talk was interesting and very informative.

For our members who are celebrating 20 plus years in the organization, there was a luncheon sponsored by Bonnie and Dave Johnson. There were approx.12 attendees.

**Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey**

**Sussex** – No report.

**Union** – No report

**ADJOURNMENT**: At 12:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted  
Tricia Deering, Recording Secretary

**Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey**