

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Minutes of August 1, 2017 RMGANJ Meeting

Pat Schanzlin called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. Terry Zane was unable to attend due to a medical emergency, however she is doing well. Guests in attendance included Jay Schaeffer and Gordon Boak from Monmouth, and Carol Blauvelt from Camden. Marilyn Bidrawn from Burlington announced that Lee Parry is taking a leave of absence.

Minutes from July 11, 2017 Meeting: Tricia Deering reported that she received updates from several counties so she sent out an updated copy of the minutes over a week ago. A motion was tendered to accept the minutes as updated. The motion was seconded and the members unanimously voted to accept the motion.

Attendance:

Atlantic:	
Bergen:	Joseph Cooper, Donna Faustini, Carolyn Gretchen, Karen Pennell
Burlington:	Marilyn Bidrawn, Merry Bogert
Camden:	Diane Shonyo, Carol Blauvelt
Cumberland:	
Essex:	David Haimes, Jane Kinkle
Hunterdon:	Tricia Deering, Dewey Goodwin
Mercer:	Betty Scarlata, Theodora Wang
Middlesex:	Dale Dachai
Monmouth:	Gale Williams, Gordon Boak, Jay Schaeffer
Morris:	Marion Ceruzzi, Regina Doherty
Ocean:	Suzanne Keane, Roberta Quinn
Passaic:	Darlene Nowak
Somerset:	Linda Madretzke
Sussex:	Pat Schanzlin
Union:	Dolores Batz-Culp, Caryl Hannemann
Rutgers University:	Nick Polanin

TREASURER'S REPORT: Pat Schanzlin reported a balance of \$10,762.58. She knows of three pending expenses. After they are processed there will be \$7777.00 in the RMGANJ account. The account has still not been reconciled with the Rutgers system due to difficulties with the system. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded. The motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Pat Schanzlin reported for Terry Zane on the September RMGANJ meeting date and location. The meeting will be at Middlesex County - 42 Riva Avenue, South Brunswick Township. Dale Dachai will send the directions to Tricia Deering who will email them under separate cover.

MASTER GARDENERS COORDINATORS REPORT: Nick Polanin reported that the Master Gardener Conference in Salt Lake City Utah was good. Next year's conference is in Chattanooga Tennessee. Dan Kluchinski is back to work part time. Nick is the assistant chair-person to assist Dan. Dr. Megan Muehlbauer is the new Hunterdon Agriculture agent specializing in Tree Fruit. Bob Mickel from Hunterdon announced his upcoming retirement. He specializes in livestock and pastures. Other openings across the State exist including Ocean/Monmouth/Atlantic (Fisheries and Marine). Wednesday August 30, from 3 to 7, is the Snyder Farm Open House and Great Tomato Tasting. Nick is very happy with the way Master Gardeners have embraced the electronic sign-up process for this event. 185 out of 230 positions are filled. Those who are interested in filling any of the remaining open positions should go to Signup.com

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Nick has yet to complete the 2016 Rutgers Master Gardener Annual Report, and he apologizes for the delay. A suggestion was made to distribute the report at the State Conference since many Master Gardeners are interested in what is going on throughout the State. Nick will look into what could be done.

Nick reported that they are working on the web site for the Jazz It Up videos. It should be available in a month or so.

Nick is working with Talia to process the PO's for the caterer, facilities, and online registration. He is also working with Linda Madretzke from Somerset County in obtaining the door prize baskets and speaker gifts.

It was suggested that we should send out a friendly reminder to the counties to sign up for the conference before the last minute. It is difficult with vacations in July and August. It would be good to avoid last year's situation where we were under enrolled until the last minute

Old Business:

New Business:

Conference Status

Tube Trees: Pat Schanzlin reported for Terry Zane that the Tube Tree price is \$98 for 35 tube trees. Since 300 are needed the cost would be close to \$900. It was agreed that this is too expensive. An alternative suggestion was a pin with a tree on it. Discussion followed. Several members had pin trees they had gotten from other venues which they passed around. Everyone liked the idea if the cost is reasonable. Nick Polanin will find out what is available from vendors in the Rutgers system and communicate by email. It would be a stock pin. Marilyn Bidrawn from Burlington County volunteered to coordinate with Nick. All agreed to go with a limit of up to \$500.

CEUs: Pat reported that Terry had a question on how many CEUs will be granted for the State Conference: Nick reported that it would be **4.5 CEUs** with the addition of the new speakers. This is an hour more CEU than last year which should help address one of the issues that came up on the survey. The registration form will not be updated with the change in hours

Registration Form: The registration is live.

Awards booklet – Suzanne Keane from Ocean County reported that Trec has been approved as the vendor for the printing. The printer deadline is 9/1. All bios except one, are complete/approved. She did not hear back from some of the counties whose reports had to be edited so she is assuming they are approved. Passaic is still missing. She will publish the booklet without Passaic if they do not get it in on time. The cost is \$487.50 from Trec in Tom's River.

Catering – We will save some money on overtime due to the shortened schedule. Some more volunteers are needed to pass out sandwiches. Marion Ceruzzi and Regina Doherty volunteered

Facilities: There is an 8/11 facilities walk-through scheduled. It was confirmed that the speakers are all PC based.

Door prizes – Linda Madretzke reported that the paper work is done and they are working on getting the baskets filled

Garden Market: Karen Pennell showed some examples of things that her county is selling – hats, plant markers, etc. The Rutgers Student Farm will have two tables. The market will not be open during the talks

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so those working the market tables will not miss the conference talks. So far, there are only 7 tables – there is room for 10.

Program Flyer: Cumberland county was not present to report.

Registration – The registration desk will be handled the same as last year. Red bag stuffing will be done at the October 3 meeting. The September meeting is too soon. Nick Polanin is printing the handouts – however he does not have any yet. Nick is supplying the bags.

Signs: All is good. Hoping for no rain.

Speaker Escorts – The speaker escorts are in the processing of contacting the speakers. Catering needs to know the speaker lunch information no later than a week before the conference. Terry Zane should contact Brian McDonald to see if he wants lunch.

Speaker Gifts: The budget is \$50 per person. Morris County needs to get the gifts to the Speaker Escort lead Dewey Goodwin from Hunterdon County either at the 10/3 meeting or the morning of the conference.

Video: Joseph Cooper reported that he has photos from 6 of the 17 counties; He will chase the other counties down.

BREAK: 11:00 to 11:15. Thank you to Mercer County for the refreshment set-up for this meeting. Middlesex County will host in August.

Caring and Sharing:

Kathy Dopart is doing well

Dale Duchai asked if there is interest in a tour of the Middlesex Gardens after the September 12 meeting. Several counties replied that they were interested.

Nick Polanin reminded folks about how EAB helpline calls should be handled. Each county should have a defined process. The first task is to confirm that it is an ash tree.

Nick reported that if a Master Gardener organization gets a Certificate of Insurance request from an organization that hosts Master Gardeners, each county's staff can do it easily. He will send the information to the coordinators.

Nick also reported that food safety is a big effort in Rutgers now, especially with the rise of Food Pantry and Community gardens.

He also reported that he finally got to the Adelpia Farm Turf Field Days and it was a nice event.

The use of Sakai vs. a RMGANJ web site was discussed as follow-up from last month's discussion. Nick Polanin reported that he is not in favor of using a separate RMGNJ web site due to the potential cost and maintenance., Several members reported that they do not use Sakai because it is difficult to use and/or they do not know how to use it. The membership agreed that it would be helpful to have a common area where all RMGANJ documents were stored including the By-laws, meeting schedule, conference tasks, membership list, refreshment schedule, etc. Currently only the minutes are stored there. It was agreed that we should have a Sakai training session. In November or December. Nick will resend the Sakai invite to the membership in advance of the session. Since there is no good wi-fi at our meeting location he may be limited to using screen grabs and handouts. Perhaps he can use his phone as a hotspot.

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COUNTY REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

Atlantic – Gary Pavlis Atlantic County Agent, Small Fruits had MG volunteers in the Rutgers Atlantic County field one day in July picking blueberries for evaluation. Volunteers are permitted to keep what they pick.

State Conference award winners were announced for 2017: Mary McDermott and Len Walk

Round Table Group Chair: At our initial Round Lunch & Discuss meeting many issues that came in on the helpline were viewed such as: weed controls, scale and aphids, moles and voles, fire blight, pine rust, squash vine borer to name a few. Our coordinator presented on Rutgers soil testing interpretation. The new format seemed to go well.

Judges from the Pa. Horticultural Society made their rounds in Atlantic County. We had several categories entered this year in addition to the 2x award winning public space, the Atlantic City Aquarium.....The Mays Landing Library, The demonstration garden and one of our member's home were also evaluated by the committee of judges.

Our demo garden continues to expand and improve within our limited space. Chokecherries were picked for jams: _).

On 10/10/2017 our trip committee has planned a private trolley tour of a community garden in Center City Philadelphia near Drexel University, Aspen Farm (associated with Pa Hort Society) and a docent led, horticulturally oriented tour of the Philadelphia Zoo.

On 9/8/2017 The monthly meeting of our county MG's will be held at the Forsythe Refuge with our own volunteers presenting on native plants.

One of our members reported on the fact that several Master Gardeners tool the course for the Citizen Science Project (DEP) for creating and maintaining sustainable vegetative shorelines for habitat enhancement and stabilization. They will continue to participate and report to the county on this project.

Our social media/facebook person reported that the new format of Round Table Lunch and Discuss met with interest on social media and it is also being used by local garden groups. We would like to expand the networking of our groups on the internet.

Our monthly meeting ended with a brief inspirational talk by one of our members diagnosed with cancer last summer. She described "the psychological positive effect that her garden provided her with during a difficult year of treatment. " She also thanked her fellow Master Gardener's for their support. She reminded us "not to take our love of horticulture for granted and to recognize that we all have a gift that needs to be cherished. " It is worth noting.

Bergen –

Volunteer Site News:

Garretson Forge & Farm has been busy harvesting vegetables and fresh herbs for the St. Paul's Community Development Corporation Food Pantry. This week's basket includes cucumbers, yellow squash, tomatoes, string beans, basil, and mint. Each week, Garretson is able to make a donation due to the dedication of the many Master Gardeners who volunteer their time.

Thielke Arboretum continues with the summer StoryWalk®, a way to combine reading with outdoor activities in nature. This time it is a classic fairy tale, The Three Little Pigs, which is presented with bright cartoon-like illustrations, interactive dialogue and with changes in font and use of boldface to emphasize the action in the story. Just follow the Arboretum trail to discover each next page of the story.

New Jersey Botanical Garden / Skylands is busy in August. The Concert Series continues with 2 more concerts, the Audubon Butterfly Festival takes place on August 14th and Skylands Manor Tours are offered on the first Sunday of each month. A small parking fee is charged on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays through Labor Day. Please visit the NJBG.org website for more details.

Speakers:

Dr. Sarah Faye Mahon, a North Jersey native who studied in Australia and Louisiana presented: Wetlands – Beautiful and Beneficial at our May meeting. She has done field work along the Great Barrier Reef, in the Gulf of Mexico, and in the marshes of coastal Louisiana. Dr. Mahon covered an introduction to the defining characteristics of wetlands and the unique benefits they bring to your yard and neighborhood. Wetland plants help control erosion and flooding while providing a beautiful habitat for a wide variety of beneficial

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insects, amphibians, and birds. Even in the more temperate climate of New Jersey there is a wide range of gorgeous wetland plants that can be cultivated by the home gardener.

Trips and tours.

Bill Kolvek Perennials Plant Sale at 5 De Salvo Court, Chestnut Ridge, NY. Bill is back in business and sells plants at his nursery. Bill has many plants to choose from, including a good selection of natives. So, we shopped, and took a tour with Bill. Light refreshments were served.

Catskill Native Nursery 607 Samsonville Road, Kerhonkson, NY 12446. Catskill Native Nursery has been inspiring gardeners since 1999 to create biodiverse and remarkably ornamental gardens using plants that are native to eastern North America. Catskill Native nursery specializes in nursery-propagated North American perennials, fruits, shrubs and trees.

Hollister House Garden Friday, July 14 300 Nettleton Hollow Road Washington, CT 06793 Beautifully situated on a sloping, terraced site in the rolling hills of Litchfield County in northwestern Connecticut, Hollister House Garden is an American interpretation of such classic English gardens as Sissinghurst, Great Dixter, and Hidcote, formal in its structure but informal and rather wild in its style of planting. Begun in 1979 by George Schoellkopf and Ron Johnson, the garden since that time has evolved under George's direction into a unique synthesis of the formal and the natural, the right angles of paths, walls, and hedges melting seamlessly into the lush surrounding landscape, which forms a magnificent backdrop to the garden's exuberant plantings. Since 1993, Gerald Incandela has contributed greatly to the garden's development with his artist's eye trained on redefining the surrounding landscape.

Burlington –

Projects:

Butterfly Garden at Smith Woods

During the month of July many visitors have come through the gardens to enjoy each of the plots with the plants, pollinators and butterflies that frequently visit.

This month spotted were more monarch eggs and monarchs on the milkweed besides a large amount of black swallow tail caterpillars on our host plants of fennel, dill and parsley. Some of the other butterflies spotted and recorded are painted ladies, admirals, tiger swallows, skippers, spice-bush, and cabbage butterflies just to name a few. The team is keeping a record and tally number of everything seen. The public is continuing to use the scanners created for information about the butterflies using their phones.

The Master Gardeners are continuing to provide information to the groups that come through the garden. The county naturalist is still using the garden as an educational classroom for the Junior Park Ranger Program which meets a few times a month during these summer months.

Donation Garden at Medford Leas

The donation Garden has donated about 300 pounds of food this year. The onion harvest is starting to peak and the tomato and pepper harvests are just seriously starting. The team will be planting some fall crops, mostly greens shortly.

IPM and Demonstration Plots at BCCAC

The following is a summary of the demo plot activity for the month:

Bird Seed Plot – White proso millet is now 2.5 feet tall and seed heads are now appearing. Black oil sunflower is 4 feet tall and just starting to flower.

Tomato/Tomatillo Plot – Tomatoes are about 5 to 6 feet tall using the stake and weave system. Tomatillos are about 4 feet tall. The green variety has begun to ripen earlier than the purple variety. The purple variety is slightly sweeter than the green.

Sunn Hemp Plot – Growing quickly and looking healthy, they are about 5 to 6 feet tall.

Salvia Plot – The salvias are flowering well with various colors of red, white, blue and purple. The objective of this plot is to compare plant growth, height and width, amount of pollinators, bloom time and disease resistance.

Herb Plot – The plants in this plot are used as mosquito repellent plants (mixing with water). They are basil, garden sage and lemon grass. All three are growing nicely.

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Pollinator Plot – With July being the high point of summer, most of these plants are blooming now. They are Mountain Mint, Bee Balm, Agastache, Gaillardia, Sunflower and Coneflower.

Raised Beds – These flowers are blooming well. In 5 raised beds there are zinnias, verbena, cuphea, coleus, marigolds and two growing vines – morning glory and white eyed susan. There is also a butterfly garden as a raised bed. Recently a 6th bed was added containing ornamental cotton plants...no cotton yet.

Herb Garden – Various herbs growing near the farmhouse are used for cooking classes at the weekly farmers market held each Saturday. Tomato plants are also growing well.

The construction phase of relocating the community gardeners closer to the master gardener plots was completed in July. Community gardeners have the option of relocating to this new site and/or keeping their old site for this season. Kiosks were also added during this construction phase. When the master gardeners receive the key to these kiosks they will be posting educational material about their plots, raised beds and herb garden. Most of the information posted will be Rutgers Fact Sheets.

Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA)

No report.

Rancocas Nature Center

The team has done the usual this month with the heat, weeding and watering. Donated plants have been added to the Monarch Way station, the pollinator garden and in the Butterfly house.

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

- July 14, 2017, "Water and the healthy landscape" by Bobbie J. Herbs
- June 26, 2017, "Beware of the spotted lanternfly", by Meredith Bogert

Camden –

Educational Gardens

Work continues at the educational gardens. Our sign committee is beginning to design the signage and the kiosk for the garden. Our vegetable garden is beginning to produce vegetables and we are setting up a program with a local soup kitchen.

The compost area is gathering ingredients and our shed is finished with new shelving and storage area for the herbs.

On August 3, we are having a review session to begin planning year 2 in our five-year plan. We are hoping the water will be installed for the soaker hoses in August. We are hosting an open house in September to show the gardens to the New Jersey American Water Company whose generous grant Helped create the educational. We are also getting help from Camden County parks.

Community Service

We participated in one event in July as part of a local towns farmers market. We contacted 38 consumers. No other events were scheduled.

Community Service is revving up for September with many events scheduled including the local County Fair.

Greenhouse

The greenhouse is in pot washing and preparing for fall mode. The next big propagation event will be to raise pansies and other fall flowers for the county as well as funding raising for our local group.

Other Activities

In the fall, the calendar will be full of a variety of programs and fall bulb/pansy sales. We are planning to take them to various events to sell.

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Interns

The interns are busy accumulating help-line and community service hours. They can graduate as part of our annual recognition luncheon in November.

Cumberland:

No report

Essex –

Programs happening soon:

- On Saturday, August 5th the Master Gardeners of Essex County will be hosting their 3rd annual Buzzfest. The event will be coordinated with the staff of the Essex County Environmental Center and the Rutgers Master Gardener Beekeeping Committee. They will provide information about native pollinators, honey bees and demonstrate honey extraction. Time: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Workshops during August 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

- **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 August 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.

Projects during August and Beyond:

- **Branch Brook Park - Cherry Tree Pruning Team.** Meets weekly to prune historical collection of 5000 cherry trees.

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- **Branch Brook Park -Prudential Concert Grove** (Southern Section). We weed, prune, transplant and plant perennials and shrubs.
- **Brookdale Park Pruning** —ongoing pruning of Trees.
- **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 o **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 August and Beyond:

- August 10: 2017 the North Jersey Orchid Society is holding a summer auction at the Hanover Manor, 16 Eagle Rock Ave. East Hanover. Plant review begins at 6 P.M. there is an optional dinner at 7 P.M. (\$20.00). The auction starts at 7:45 (www.njorchids.org) This is not a MGEC sponsored event.
- On September 16th the 2017 MGEC will have its Graduation and BBQ.
- On September 17th there will be an Open Hours for the Garden Conservancy at the home of Silas Mountsier in Nutley.
- On September 23rd Master Gardeners of Essex County will participate in the annual Essex County Octoberfest at the Essex County Environmental Center in Roseland. Master Gardeners will encourage adult participation and be on hand for judging adult entries.
- The MGEC Holiday Party and general meeting are scheduled for December 9th.

Speaker(s) at Our Monthly Meeting:

- No meeting in August.

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- September meeting will be the Graduation BBQ.
- On November 11th MGEC will host Dr. Tom Molnar at their general meeting. His topic is "Hazelnuts."

Thomas Molnar received his PhD from Rutgers University in 2006. He is currently an Associate Professor in the Plant Biology Department of the Rutgers University School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA). His research program concentrates on the genetic improvement and study of hazelnuts (*Corylus*) and large-bracted dogwoods (*Cornus*). Part of this work includes germplasm exploration, collection, and evaluation. A major aspect of his current research is developing and characterizing genetic resistance to eastern filbert blight, a fungal disease which is the primary limiting factor of hazelnut production in the eastern North America. Breeding objectives in both woody ornamentals and hazelnuts emphasize selection for high levels of disease and pest resistance and cold hardiness.

Title and Address:

Associate Professor
Department of Plant Biology
School of Environmental and Biological Sciences,
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Primary Focus Area: Plant Breeding

Contact Information:

Dr. Thomas J. Molnar
Department of Plant Biology
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
59 Dudley Road, Foran Hall, Room 164
http://plantbiology.rutgers.edu/faculty/molnar/Thomas_Molnar.html

Hunterdon

- we continue our community outreach programs throughout the summer
- we continue to assist at Snyder Farm when requested
- we are preparing our information table for the Hunterdon 4 h fair
- our July speaker was fellow Master Gardener Jean Miller who is a beekeeper and gave an excellent talk on honey bees

Mercer - Our July 20th tour was a pontoon boat trip through the Meadowlands' salt marshes on the Hackensack River. Even though the day was very hot, the boat was pleasantly comfortable. We viewed the marsh planting and wildlife, including birds and turtles and 8 bridges. We had a captain and a narrator to speak on the subject of marsh ecology and plants.

The three Trent House day camps for the Trenton children were held on July 17, 18, and 25th with children sponsored by Home Front, Trenton Housing Authority and Urban Promise and Trenton CYO. Approximately 100 children participated. The Old Barracks Fife and Drum members played at each camp and taught the children the authentic version of Yankee Doodle. A new event this year was the Jeopardy game held at the end of the session with questions on the Trent House garden, house, pollination and the dessert they made in order to determine what the children had learned from these activities. The children really enjoyed it.

The Mercer County 4-H Fair was held July 29th and 30th. In addition to manning a booth, the RMGs presented a puppet show, "Caterpillars Got Talent," on Saturday, 7/29. The RMG August tour will be to the Jenkins Arboretum, Devon, PA, on 8/25. In August, the final session of Barbara Bromley's series on lawn restoration will occur on August 22.

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Middlesex – The RCE of Middlesex County Open House and Garden Field Day on July 22, 2017 went very well again this year. The day featured the beautiful gardens (Children's, Vegetable, Herb, Fruit, Theme gardens, Garden of Memories, Native Plant Garden, Rain Garden, and of course the Butterfly House). There were short lectures on various topics including Container Gardening, Invasive Species, Weeds, and the Recycling Magician. In addition, there was music (classic rock, bluegrass), Jersey Fresh vegetables, games for kids, and switchgrass maze. Vendors from various agencies, departments and organizations were also in attendance.

Despite the weather on July 25th, we had a good turnout for the Garden Gala. This is an evening spent at the EARTH center enjoying the gardens at their peak. It is a social event including the current class of interns, recent graduates, RCE staff and veteran master gardeners.

The Middlesex County fair is August 7-13. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to promote our master gardener program, it's services and activities. RCE staff and Master Gardeners will be available to answer questions from the public.

On Wednesday August 16th from 6-8pm there will be a workshop on Canning your Garden Harvest at the EARTH Center.

Call 732-398-5262 to reserve a spot for this free workshop.

Eco ventures, a camp for grades 4-6 will be held August 21-25 at the EARTH Center. Their main focus is to give children a basic knowledge of horticulture and ecology.

Our next Master Gardener Program begins September 7 (evening) and 8 (daytime) with an orientation. Our program runs three semesters. The first two, September through April, are weekly 3-hour classes. The third semester is in our outdoor classroom working in the demonstration gardens.

Monmouth – The month of July has been busy for us in Monmouth County with preparations for the County Fair (July 26-30th) and our annual Bugs, Birds and Beyond event in August. The theme for our booth at the Fair this year is "Tomatoes!" with a fantastic display done by our MG Andy Valdes and her Honorary MG son, Andrew Valdes. With a little technology and a bit of the "Disney" effect, we have rotating 2 feet in diameter tomatoes beckoning our visitors to our booth! We will also have a tomato tasting, Helpline to answer questions, Compost table and a JMG table for sign-ups for next year's program. This year's JMG class will have their vegetables entered for judging and many well-deserved prizes.

Our Bugs, Birds and Beyond event is held on Saturday, August 19th from 12 PM-4 PM at the Ag. Building in Freehold. All games, crafts, displays and presentations are educationally based. Featured is "Rappin' with Raptors" presented by the Tenafly Nature Center coming in with live raptors. The event is scheduled rain or shine with the "Lady Bug Lady", cockroach races, food vendors, honey, jams and fresh produce available for purchase. Weather permitting, there will be tours of all of our on-site gardens. Working with the Rutgers 4-H group is always fun and a pleasure!

Our Helpline is very busy and is always present at the different events we host at the Ag. Building or attend off-site. The PAR garden flourishes harvesting over 430 lbs. to date! Our MGs continue to meet with the Junior Master Gardeners every Saturday morning to weed and harvest their plots. In addition, our Herb, Native and Rain Gardens are looking mighty fine and the front of our Ag. Building always looks top notch thanks to the many MGs who tend all of these gardens! And, our MGs are ever present at the many community gardens we work and teach in throughout the county. Many thanks to Evelin Gaffney for organizing the many community projects in which we are involved. One such project was headed by MGs Bill Musanti and Roy Helfrick who designed and installed (with other MGs and local residents) a beautiful garden at the Bradley Beach Library.

Ending a very busy summer is our annual Recognition Picnic in September and plans for that afternoon is in progress. This is a well-deserved afternoon of friends, family and food!

Morris

- Our educational committee members began exploring ways of converting the existing outreach displays to a digital format. The objective is to modernize outreach shows, making them even more appealing and effective. So far, they have defined a basic plan of attack, what resources are available or need to be acquired and what information should be included as handouts.

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- Our HEP Committee members wrote a mission statement and currently are creating an electronic database of approved projects for coordinator's usage. In addition, we are negotiating with a former assisted living venue to resume projects there since a new coordinator has been trained.
- MGs supported the Morris County 4-H Fair by staffing an outreach table and judging horticultural entries.
- Our triannual newsletter is in the editing stages for an August publication.
- A restored butterfly garden in Jefferson Township designated a Monarch Butterfly Way Station hosted its first Monarch and it was observed laying eggs in early July!
- Several MGs participated in Rutgers Turfgrass Field Day.

Ocean – In July our Cuisine on the Green garden harvested 135 lbs. of vegetables including Swiss chard, lettuce, cucumbers, eggplant, squash, and various herbs. Chef Ian used these in his demonstration dinner in July.

The Advanced Education Evening Garden Design Series continues on Aug. 3rd with Gardens as a Stage Set by Bruce Crawford & Aug. 16th with Designing on the Verge by Kirk Brown. An all-day training for diagnostics credit will be held Aug. 8th with Hot, Hot Topics of Summer as the theme.

Ticks are still being brought in to the Lab for identification.

The perennial & shrub chairs had a hands-on propagation workshop. Those who attended appreciated learning the various ways to start new plants.

Speakers and Education Committees have a few programs this month and several planned for the Fall. Community Tables are active now.

This Thurs. Aug. 3rd we have our annual Installation of Officers & Awards potluck luncheon.

Passaic – No report.

Somerset– Somerset Master Gardeners were given the opportunity to visit an historic house and Garden built in 1750, There were on the property extremely old trees of all kinds and flower beds recently planted. Most of the interior is original.

Somerset Advisory Council continues to meet monthly with the attendance of all team leaders required.

Sussex – Sussex County MGs are supporting hort and ag in our community for our 10 day long and big fair, the Sussex County Farm and Horse Show/The NJ State Fair. We have a new booth in the county building and are doing a few public presentations there and in the Conservatory for the Flower Show as well. A new intern is recruiting people for our Public Relations and outreach booth this year at the Fair, so we hope to generate more public interest in our programs and gain some additional volunteers and supporters. Our MGs do all sorts of volunteer jobs at the fair, labeling all the plants in Founders Park, caring for the grounds during the fair, supporting the Flower Show, growing displays in the greenhouse, escorting wheelchair bound seniors on Seniors Day and volunteering to do RCE outreach throughout the Fair.

The county broke ground on the newly relocated Demonstration Garden in the front yard of the Sussex County RCE. It was a rather quick and unexpected redirect, of our plan, but has some unexpected benefits. It is a smaller size, but access will be so much easier for volunteers and the public. As such we have changed up our approach and will be creating various demonstrations and examples of what a homeowner might be able to do (if they had a large enough sunny spot) in their own back yard. The garden will be open to the public the same hours as the RCE office, and will also usable for any classes given at the office. The design will consist of all raised beds with gravel in between to guarantee minimal weeding needed. Also, the county is doing work on the existing parking area and driveways, which will make access to both the onsite buildings and the garden much better.

A new intern will be heading up work at the new First Responders Memorial to help create a location for our MGs and interns who work during the day. This site will allow for some volunteer hours in the early evening for those who decide to support the site.

Union – No report

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

ADJOURNMENT: At 12:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted
Tricia Deering, Recording Secretary

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey