

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Minutes of September 12, 2017 RMGANJ Meeting

Terry Zane called the meeting to order at 10:15 am. Guests in attendance included Jay Schaeffer and Ellen Simonetti from Monmouth. Bob Magovern was introduced as the new delegate from Monmouth. Terry passed around a get-well card for Jane Gardner who surprised her by recovering quickly enough to attend the meeting.

Minutes from August 1, 2017 Meeting: Tricia Deering reported that she has not received any updates to the draft minutes which she sent out a week ago. A motion was tendered to accept the minutes as distributed. The motion was seconded and the members unanimously voted to accept the motion.

Attendance:

Atlantic:	Mary Lou Monihan
Bergen:	Joseph Cooper, Donna Faustini, Karen Pennell
Burlington:	Terry Zane
Camden:	Diane Shonyo
Cumberland:	
Essex:	David Haimes, Jane Kinkle
Hunterdon:	Tricia Deering, Dewey Goodwin
Mercer:	Bob Robinson, Theodora Wang
Middlesex:	Dale Dachai, Jerry Barclay, Kathy Dopart
Monmouth:	Gale Williams, Karin Poorvin, Bob Magovern, Jay Schaeffer, Ellen Simonetti
Morris:	Marion Ceruzzi, Regina Doherty
Ocean:	Suzanne Keane, Roberta Quinn
Passaic:	
Somerset:	Linda Madretzke
Sussex:	Jane Gardner, Pat Schanzlin
Union:	Dolores Batz-Culp, Caryl Hannemann, Dennis Lenahan
Rutgers University:	Nick Polanin

TREASURER'S REPORT: Pat Schanzlin reported a balance of \$5961.99. 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 and the members unanimously voted to accept the motion.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Terry Zane reported that there are lots of goodies to put in with the registration bags.

MASTER GARDENERS COORDINATORS REPORT: Nick Polanin reported that he hoped everyone had successful 4-H County fairs. 1152 attended the Great Tomato Tasting. Nick reported that the Tomato Tasting over-extends the Snyder Farm staff. They are planning a meeting to discuss how to mitigate this in the future for this event and other similar events. The use of Sign-up.com went very smoothly. Nick will send out a thank-you to all the volunteers. Nick reported that he has yet to finish the Annual Report. As a follow-up to discussion at last month's meeting Nick expects to have a limited number of the Annual Reports available for the fall conference. He will also have individual pages for each county. Nick reported that his new office assistant started this week. The upcoming coordinators department meeting has been postponed. Dan Kluchinski is back on medical leave for an undetermined amount of time. The department is figuring how to move forward given the situation.

Old Business:

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Terry Zane reported that the price for the tube trees is \$35 for 89 trees, not the reverse as reported last month. Marilyn Bidrawn looked into the tree pin give-away idea, but the lowest price was \$900 so Terry vetoed it. If anyone would like to volunteer to handle the tube trees they should let Terry know. Otherwise there will be no give-away.

New Business:

Conference Status

Evaluations: Mary Lou Monihan reported that they decided to add Brian McDonald and Bruce Crawford to the evaluation since their talks count toward CEUs.

Barnes and Noble: Waiting to hear back, but should be in good shape.

Awards booklet – Suzanne Keane from Ocean County reported that the booklets are done and she has picked them up. She had one to show everyone. Nick Polanin will check if the vendor has submitted the bill to Rutgers and the check has been cut.

Catering – There were no updates: Nick Polanin reported that the process is to put the IPO in now and to provide lunch counts 3 days before the conference. Nick reminded everyone to let Marilyn Bidrawn know the lunch choices for the RCE people.

Facilities: There was an 8/11 facilities walk-through. Everything is on schedule.

Door prizes – Linda Madretzke reported that the door prizes are wrapped and ready to go – used Barnes and Noble. The baskets include a book on trees, laser tree stationary, chocolate cherries, candles. We got a \$70 savings by ordering through a Rutgers vendor.

Garden Market: Ellen Simonetti reported that the NJ Shade Tree Association will have a table top display. Their material will include a shade tree recommendation book – Trees for New Jersey Streets. Counties may want to purchase the book for the helpline libraries. It is \$15 for non-members. Karen Pennell confirmed how many counties want tables; there are 8 tables requested – there is room for 10. It was decided that sign-up sheets for Shade Tree Commission hours will be in the market. 4.5 hours have been approved for Shade Tree Commissions – Ellen will have handouts. Master Gardeners should send this information to their counties.

Program Flyer: The flyer is almost ready to go with two changes only.

Registration – 153 are currently registered; 300 registrants are needed. County representatives should advertise the conference in their counties especially the 4.5 hours of CEUs. Nick Polanin brought the bags for the registration materials. There was discussion about buying folders for next year. Target has some very inexpensive folders but may not be a Rutgers vendor.

RCE Registration: Caryl Hannemann said she has heard from Atlantic, Mercer, Bergen, Monmouth Somerset, Morris and Union. Please remind your county if they have not responded.

Signs: Kathy Dopart reported that they are done. Hoping for no rain.

Speaker Escorts – Two of the three speakers have been contacted and their lunch choices submitted. We are in the process of contacting the third. Terry Zane should contact Brian McDonald to see if he wants lunch.

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Speaker Gifts: The gifts are the Rutgers 250 books. 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 is still missing photos from 6 counties. He will reach out to them.

BREAK: 11:20 to 11:35. Thank you to Middlesex County for the refreshment set-up for this meeting. Monmouth County will host in October.

Caring and Sharing: There was discussion on whether Helpline is required to maintain certification. Most but not all counties require helpline hours to maintain certification. It depends on the individual needs of the counties.

COUNTY REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

Atlantic – Our projects are very busy with Greenmarkets in Brigantine & Galloway & possibly Linwood. School projects at Pomona school garden, South Main in Pleasantville, Pleasantville Middle School are ramping up now that school is back in session. We have a new large project beginning at our county site 1 of 7 gardens, the first being a butterfly garden. This is in conjunction with the Veterans. Atlantic County Special Services are interested in sending their clients along with aides/teachers in order to learn more about gardening skills. This could be a very interesting & challenging undertaking. We are going to be helping with the 4-H Steam Expo on September 16th.



STEAM - RCE_4H WEB.pdf

The election committee is preparing a new slate of officers to be presented in October, 2017.

A heated discussion followed when our coordinator announced changes to our Helpline policy. I would like to have a conversation today at sharing & caring. Project reports were kept to a minimum since we were meeting at the Forsythe National Refuge, one of our sites; there was to be a speaker/panel discussion & tours of the new facilities. Our county is hiring a van in order to take interested individuals to the state conference.

Bergen –

Volunteer Site News:

Garretson Forge & Farm has been a Monarch Way Station, as designated by Monarch Watch, since 2005. And each year we celebrate all things butterfly the second weekend of September. It is at this educational festival, geared to children, that we release the butterflies that have just emerged and are ready to go. The monarchs we release in September are the ones that will join the amazing migration over thousands of miles to Mexico. The monarch is now being considered for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Endangered Species List.

Hackensack River Greenway, an organization that develops and maintains walking trails in Teaneck. The Mary S. Sapolsky Garden and Trail is a new part of the Greenway. Mary was instrumental in Teaneck's purchase of the land and planned the trail with ADA-wheelchair accessibility in mind. The trail is paved with small stones, and winds around the incline, so those using wheelchairs can go to the river. Planting of the garden and trail in 2016-17 included fragrant native flowers and plants, as well as a butterfly garden.

At the **Hermitage** garden tea party this September, herbal teas, finger sandwiches, and sweets will be served on the verandas overlooking our historic herb gardens. You can take a guided tour of our Victorian-era mansion, which opened as a tea room in 1917. Learn about the language of flowers used by elite Victorians to send coded messages to lovers and friends. Cut a few herbs and make your own flower message to take home. You can also learn how to read tea leaves.

Trips and tours:

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Kim Everman, who speaks, teaches, writes, and consults on EcoBeneficial landscapes and native plants, lead a tour of the New York Botanical Garden in August. Kim is a certified horticulturist, an accredited organic land care pro, and a certified naturalist. Kim teaches at the NYBG, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and Go Native U at Westchester Community College.

Speakers:

Carnivores in captivity: Discover the wonders of carnivorous plants. **Eric Kunz** of See More Carnivorous Gardens, Long Island's premier carnivorous plant nursery, will unlock the mysteries of these unique and endangered oddities of the plant kingdom. Learn how these mysterious plants trap and devour their prey and the important role they play in the environment.

In memoriam:

It saddens me to announce the passing of **Joe Papa** in August. Joe was the Horticultural Consultant at RCE and an active Master Gardener, spending time at Garretson Farm, the Teaneck greenhouse, the Teaneck Garden Club.

Our dear friend and fellow Master Gardener **Jane Furman** passed earlier this year. We would like to commemorate her volunteerism with a tree and plaque in Teaneck where she lived and volunteered for decades. Trees of Love (TOL) is a program sponsored by the Teaneck Shade Tree Advisory Board. Donors can select a tree, which will be planted and maintained in a township park along with an engraved granite plaque. To make a donation, please mail your check to Janet Austin at 634 Johnson Court, Teaneck, NJ 07666.

Burlington –

Permission to fill the coordinator vacancy has been received and the process has already started. Since this is a government position, there are many rules and regulations that must be followed so this may take some time.

Projects:

Butterfly Garden at Smith Woods

Butterflies galore this month. Plenty of black swallow tail caterpillars, monarchs, buckeyes, admirals and lots of pollinators. Truly, the garden has been at its best this month -- beautiful colors from the perennials and many visitors too. The team has kept up on the weeding and watering and now starting to think about what to plant next year. In the upcoming weeks, the Master Gardeners will be collecting seeds from the plots, liming the soil and deadheading plants. If you have not gotten a chance to walk through the garden, now is the time to enjoy the butterflies.

Donation Garden at Medford Leas

Every year new issues are encountered. Perhaps this is what makes it so interesting and challenging! This year's challenges basically center around 4 unwelcome visitors: deer, groundhogs, squash bugs, and most surprisingly an older woman (from witness reports) who likes to harvest as much as she can carry just as it starts to ripen. She is particularly frustrating as the team would gladly share a reasonable amount of produce with her, after it is weighed it of course, if she just stopped by when the team was gardening and asked. Our tomato donations are particularly low because of our 4th unwelcome visitor. Happily, even with our unwelcome visitors, the team still managed to donate about 700 pounds of food to the local food banks so far, this year. In the last 2 weeks fall crops have been planted - mostly carrots, beets, and various greens.

IPM and Demonstration Plots at BCCAC

The team is harvesting the many varieties of tomatoes, green and purple tomatillos and basil. The salvia plot is beautiful with the various plant colors (see photo below). All demonstration plots, kitchen garden and raised beds are doing extremely well this year.

Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA)

No report.

Rancocas Nature Center

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The team did basic weeding, and deadheading. Perennials that continue growing and will bloom again in the fall were cut back.

Articles published in the *Burlington County Times* Master Gardeners Journal:
August 23, 2017, "A check list before giving up on a plant" by Judy Janas

Camden –

EDUCATION GARDENS

The committee met to outline the remaining steps to complete the year one phase of the project. The signage is being created and priced; the compost equipment has arrived; the harvesting and evaluating of the herbs and vegetables has begun and we are waiting on the county for the fence and electricity. The water lines will be put in on September 11. There will also be a native plant and shrub planting installed by the end of October.

In August, the rain garden was dug out by the county following a natural rain trench in the education garden area. The team researched plants; put a landscape design together and made a list of appropriate plants.

The plants will be purchased along with the soil and the garden will be planted September 14. The Greenhouse will supply the vegetable garden with fall vegetable plants.

GREENHOUSE

The 9,000 pansies have been purchased and started in the greenhouse. Master Gardeners will have a fall plant sale at various venues and plan to sell 1,500. We will feature them at the county fair. The remaining crop will be used by the county for the park system.

A representative from the Greenhouse is preparing to show case the tomatoes grown with a tomato tasting and cooking demo. at our general meeting September 19. MGs are donating favorite recipes. The herbs harvested from the educational gardens will also be made available.

UP COMING PROJECTS

The bulbs have been selected and ordered for the bulb sale to MG's and again at various community service venue we are staffing. Five varieties of tulips, alliums, and daffodils We will begin that project at the end of September.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Ten different community service dates have been booked for September including farm markets, the county fair and organizations.

MG LUNCHEON

The venue for the annual MG luncheon and recognition day has been chosen. MG's are entering their hours for this year's work. We have two twenty-year participants this year.

Cumberland:

On September 12th, we had a luncheon honoring our Award of Excellence recipients. The propagation team has begun discussing what to do for next year. Two of our MG's Had a hand painting class. Since this is very popular at our children events. The Horticulture Enrichment team will be showing a video on Monarch Butterflies & then craft one out of tissue paper.

The Butterfly team has been very busy this summer. First at the County Fair with 2 tents setup one with the Butterflies & another was a learning tent filled with information,pictures & various stages of butterflies. Outside there were portrait cutouts of a caterpillar and butterfly where many photos were taken. The butterflies also made an appearance at the 4H camp where the children were captivated by the butterflies & hand painting. They friendship stone painting was also a big hit. The Butterfly Tent will be the guest of Honor at the newly renovated East Point Lighthouse for their Monarch Migration Weekend on September 16 & 17. The last event for the Butterflies will be at the Cohanzick Zoo for the Family fun Day on September 30th. We will also be having a Scarecrow contest that involves various local schools who compete for prizes. This year's theme is endangered species to celebrate the tigers First Birthday. We will also be having learning stations for Butterflies, Hand Painting, Children's Learning Table, Fire Company, Mosquito Commission, Shop-rite Nutritionist & Voter Registration Group.

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The Helpline on the Road team will be at the Greenwich Artisans Faire on Sunday September 24th. There were also 5 press releases sent out For the MG class graduation, CCIA tour, VA Enrichment Program, MG of the Year, & The Broad Street Cemetery Project. Pepper Harvesting has started as well as the Tomato squeezing of the Rutgers 250 tomatoes & other research varieties.

Essex –

Workshops during September 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 September 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 September 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.
- **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.

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- **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 Prosy 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 September and Beyond:

- September 13th – New Master Gardener Class begins for 2017 – 2018.
- September 16th – The 2017 MGEC will have its Graduation and BBQ.
- September 17th - There will be an Open Hours for the Garden Conservancy at the home of Silas Mountsier in Nutley.
- 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.
- December 9th - The MGEC Holiday Party and general meeting are scheduled.

Speaker(s) at Our Monthly Meeting:

- 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.

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Title and Address:

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Primary Focus Area: Plant Breeding

Contact Information:

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Hunterdon-

- New horticultural agent, Dr. Megan Muehlbauer started Aug 1
- Speaker MaryAnn Borge spoke at our first ever Aug general meeting
- Outreach teams are in full swing with Sensory garden, Helpline and community events in their peak season
- 4H fair was a success and we were happy with the wonderful weather which resulted in high attendance
- Tomato Tasting event was another success.
- New MG class starts Sept 19

Mercer - Our annual Insect Festival was held on Sept. 8. After the extremely hot weather we endured last year, we moved the Festival time to an earlier hour. Naturally, the weather was absolutely perfect this year! But the crowds came and a good time was had by all. About 550 people attended, with lots of positive feedback (and some kids who didn't want to leave).

Our organization is undertaking a major change in how we address the Rutgers service requirements next year. The primary function of Rutgers Master Gardeners is (and should be) education. This is one of our major goals. How can we best meet it?

Helpline contacts have decreased by some 36% from 2005 to 2016. Helpline is basically a **reactive** educational tool: Someone must request help. We want to promote more **proactive** contacts, via community education events, community outreach events, and other programs. This proactive educational outreach to the community is what distinguishes us from organizations such as garden clubs. To promote this focus, we are replacing our helpline-specific hours requirement (15 hours) with one, also 15 hours, that can be met by helpline and many other educational activities – all of which require direct or, in some cases indirect, interaction with the public, not just “parking at events”. Our 1000-hour badge holders, who are now exempt from helpline, but are among our most knowledgeable members, will now be required to perform some educational activities hours as well. Intern requirements have not changed, and all changes fall within Rutgers requirements.

Our nominating committee has proposed a slate of officers for the December elections. Pat Frawley has been nominated for a second 1-year term as president.

The move to the new facility at the old Juvenile Detention building, now appears to be on track for Sept. 2018.

The last session of Barbara Bromley's Lawn Restoration talk was presented on August 23.

We participated in the Watershed Butterfly Festival on August 12.

A tour of Jenkins Arboretum, in Devon, Pa, took place on August 25.

Tours are planned to Meadow Lakes Arboretum in Heightstown on Sept.13, and to Mt. Cuba on Sept. 14.

We will participate in the Hopewell Harvest Fair on Sept. 27.

Our quarterly food drive, which benefits the Mercer Street Friends Food Bank, collected 492 pounds of food in September.

The speaker for our Sept. 11 meeting was Mike Reed, of Synatek Systems. His talk, entitled “Pick Your Poison”, dealt with toxicology and pesticides. Although it might seem strange to have a speaker from a

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pesticide application company speak, he did a balanced and informative introduction to toxicology, risk classification, and putting the risks of pesticide use (which he did not minimize) in realistic perspective. His talk was informative, even entertaining, and well worth hearing.

Middlesex –

- Starting our new MG class (day and evening) with orientation this week. There are over 30 who have signed up for the program.
- Upcoming workshop on Backyard Beekeeping at the EARTH Center, September 16 at 10 AM
- A few Union County Master Gardeners visited the EARTH Center on Thursday, September 7. Angela provided a tour of our various demonstration gardens and butterfly house.
- Depending on weather, there are about 3-4 weeks left before all the gardens at the EARTH Center are cleaned up for the season. If other groups want to see the gardens before season's end, please contact our office to set up a date and time.
- The EARTH held a morning workshop on August 31 for a few incoming Rutgers students selected by the Department of Leadership and Experiential, Rutgers University. Eric Gehring from Middlesex County Parks and Recreation provided a short presentation on invasive species which was followed by hands-on removal of plants at Davidson's Mill Pond Park. There were about 15 students in attendance.

Monmouth – Monmouth County MGs were all a 'buzz on August 19th with their annual Bugs, Birds and Beyond event which was free to the multitude of people who attended. Highlights of the event were live butterfly observation tents, the Tenafly Nature Center with their live raptors, our very own county 4-H group and all their animals (the baby goats and pony were adorable!), the Lady Bug Lady, and all of the many craft and game tables set up inside and outside of the Ag. Building. It was a beautiful day and we were able to give garden tours of our PAR, Native, Rain, Herb, JMG and Butterfly Waystation gardens. Many thanks go to first time Co-chairs Maureen Eng, Cheryl Greenfield and Molly Kocsik for organizing and supervising this huge event. Because of all the Master Gardeners in attendance, this event went smoothly and was a great success!

Our Helpline has been busy, both on-site and out in the community. Community Gardens, about 17 of them, have been bountiful and community members have learned more about creating and growing successful gardens. Our interns have done themselves proud with the latest total of 1,500 lbs. of produce going to local food banks throughout the county...and the season's not over yet! Our JMG garden is winding down and Junior Master Gardeners came on Saturday mornings to harvest and weed until the last harvest on Sept. 9th. This year's class harvested 1200 lbs. of veggies from lettuce to watermelon! Many thanks to the MGs who taught the lessons inside the classroom and out in the garden and/or were mentors to our students. Thank you also to Tom Lang and Sandy Wolfe, Co-chairs of the JMG Program.

Planning for our annual Recognition Picnic is underway and will be held on Sunday, September 24th. It should be a wonderfully relaxing afternoon and a time to remember all of which we have accomplished so far this year. So many doing such good work is so worth the time to stop and appreciate what has been done!

In the near future, we will be planning the Graduation of our interns and veteran milestone awards held in November.

Morris

- Our Educational Committee members finalized plans for trialing an electronic outreach table display for the Denville Farmer's Market in September; handouts were prepared, laptop instructions written and the event coordinator was trained. They are concurrently creating video slideshows to replace our bulky storyboards.
- We are exploring reinstatement of two HEP venues cancelled due to a shortage of coordinators. One coordinator has been trained for the two facilities and another one is awaiting training for a third venue. A rough draft (30 pages) HEP Training Manual has been written.
- We distributed our triannual newsletter.

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- Several MGs participated in the MC Parks Commission's Open Gates Weekend highlighting its community gardens.
- 36 MGs volunteered for Tomato Tasting Events

Ocean – Our “Big 3” – Tick ID, Helpline, and Diagnostics are all still active. The vegetable gardens are harvesting squash, tomatoes, melons, along with some other veggies still producing. They are planting garlic and some cool season crops. Our former Garden Design Committee has become Education Outreach since most requests this year were coming from schools looking for more than just a garden. The programs have been very successful.

The Community Tables also had a name change to Community Outreach Events. This group organizes volunteers to greet visitors at various events/festivals around the county. The MGs distribute our calendar and info on services RMGs provide, and answer horticultural questions from the public. After our meeting this month, we had a class on “Pruning” given by Marion Goldberg, one of our educators and a member of the Speakers' Bureau.

The next Garden Design Series class, “Designing on the Verge” with Kirk Brown is Sept. 25 at 6:30. All are welcome. We look forward to another great Fall Garden Day prepared for the public by our Intern class. We did meet our new agent for Marine Resources - Doug – at our meeting last Thursday, sooner than I expected as I had mentioned in our State Board report that he would come soon.

Passaic – No report.

Somerset– The internal plant sale, organized by Bonnie and Dave Johnson was a spectacular success raising 1100 dollars. A BUS TRIP TO LONGWOOD GARDENS is planned for D December 6th.

Christmas lights and decorations should be a focus along with winter plants and trees.

The Pine Grove Manor Elementary School ended their season with a fantastic harvest of salad fixings.

Teachers and parents were involved in a very fun and educational program run by the master gardeners and the teachers and third graders.

Sussex – Sussex County will be testing out Volunteer Impact as a new way to organize and communicate our activities online. We are testing it this year to go live in January of 2018. This is the same program Camden and Morris County use and they have been very helpful in letting us take a peek at their systems to prepare for our own test run and rollout. Other projects are moving along, despite the rain and weather.

Union – No report

ADJOURNMENT: At 12:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Tricia Deering, Recording Secretary

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey