

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Minutes of November 7, 2017 RMGANJ Meeting

Jane Gardner, Vice President, welcomed the group. There were no new delegates or guests.

Terry Zane, President, then led the meeting following the Agenda.

Secretary's Minutes from October 2017 Meeting: Tricia Deering, Recording Secretary, reported that she had emailed out the October RMGANJ minutes the night before. The minutes from the October meeting were accepted as presented through a motion and second with no corrections.

Attendance:

Atlantic:	Mary-Lou Monihan
Bergen:	Joe Cooper, Carolyn Gretchen, Donna Faustini, Karen Pennell
Burlington:	Terry Zane, Marilyn Bidrawn
Camden:	Diane Shonyo
Cumberland:	Carol Henry
Essex:	David Haimes, Jane Kinkle
Hunterdon:	Tricia Deering
Mercer:	Betty Scarlata, Theodora Wang
Middlesex:	Jerri Barclay, Kathy Dopart, Dale Duchai
Monmouth:	Gayle Williams, Bob Magovern
Morris:	Regina Doherty, Marion Ceruzzi
Ocean:	Suzanne Keane, Roberta Quinn
Passaic:	Barbara Cook
Somerset:	Linda Madretzke
Sussex:	Jane Gardner
Union:	Delores Batz-Culp, Dennis Lenahan, Caryl Hannemann
Rutgers University:	Nick Polanin

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jane Gardner reported for Pat Schanzlin that the balance from the last meeting was \$1116.39, After the conference the balance was \$641.84. Nick Polanin stated that there is a hold-up in the transfer of funds from registration partially due to the need to track down situations where the attendee had an email confirmation but did not show up as paid in the system. The final attendance number was 282 but there were some discrepancies. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted was made, seconded and approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Terry Zane reported that she was very happy with the October State Conference and felt it went very smoothly. She stated that she had nothing additional to report for this meeting.

MASTER GARDENER'S COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Nick Polanin reported that with Dan Kuchinski's passing, the department is still in shock. There is a Department Meeting on 12/5, and a Coordinators Meeting 11/30. Nick will likely be assuming the chair position after a vote at the December meeting and will need to replace himself as State Coordinator. There will be a Celebration of Life for Dan on 11/18 from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm at Kirkpatrick Chapel. The information is posted on Caring Bridge. Nick also reported that he has not received any feedback from the coordinators on the conference.

Old Business:

Nomination Committee – Karen Pennell asked for nominations for Treasurer and President on behalf of the nominating committee (Kathy Dopart, Karen Pennell, Jerri Barclay and Dale Duchai). As of now they have no definite nominations. Self-nominations are welcome. Terry Zane reported that she would continue as Burlington representative to help with the transition. Karen asked about the responsibilities of the Treasurer's position. Discussion followed that the position is changing from an accounting position to a

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coordinating and organizing position because of the changes to the Rutgers system. Detailed accounting knowledge is not needed. Good organization and communication skills are needed.

New Business:

Conference Survey

Mary Lou Monihan reported on the October State Conference Survey results. She distributed a summary of the survey results. 186 surveys were returned. The overall response was good. There were a lot of first time attendees. Most heard about the conference from email from their coordinators. The consensus is that we need to keep the awards program moving but everyone likes having a recognition component to the conference. They do not like a 1.5 hour long keynote. They like to maximize CEU hours. Some would like to go back to breakout sessions. Some like having a theme, some prefer a mix of topics. Attendees want practical hands-on information and a focus on sustainability. They would like specific practical information on diseases, etc. Attendees would like handouts of the power points or at least online links to the power points ahead of time (if possible).

Survey Response Analysis Report – Karen Pennell has agreed to be chairperson for the Survey Brainstorming Activity. This survey, the results of which we reviewed a couple of months ago, helps us to hone in on what we are doing well and what needs to be enhanced. Karen reported that we have 7 topics to be assigned to 4 groups and therefore 4 group leaders are needed. The following members volunteered to be group leaders: Reggie Doherty, Marilyn Bidrawn, Dennis Lenahan and Mary Lou Monihan. The group will meet and brainstorm after the break and again in December.

December Meeting: Terry Zane reported that the December Meeting is Pot Luck. Beverages will be provided by Ocean County. There will not be an auction this year. Terry asked for ideas about how to have fun and celebrate at the meeting. After discussion of several ideas it was decided to have a garden-related gift exchange. Each item will get a number and the members will pull numbers. There will be no recommended gift value.

Break: Thank you to Morris County for today's break refreshments. Ocean County is responsible for refreshments for the December meeting.

Caring and Sharing: After the break a member asked which County reported last month that they were doing a veteran's project? Carol Henry reported that it was Cumberland. Dolores Bates-Culp suggested that any counties that are selling anything should they bring it to the December meeting. Marilyn Bidrawn reported that she has a new pin form which will be sent to Terry Zane.

Survey Brainstorming (continued). After the break the members broke into groups to brainstorm items to address the Conference Survey items. The groups will meet again at the next meeting for further discussion. The group leaders will email Karen Pennell a summary of what their groups discussed. Each group leader will also send the email to everyone in their group.

Terry Zane reported that she will send the list of conference responsibilities out and ask the counties to rank their top three preferences.

COUNTY REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

Atlantic – No report

Bergen –

Volunteer Site News:

Garretson Forge & Farm has several events coming up:

Wreath workshop: Nov. 26, 1-4 pm. Create wreaths, swags, and other holiday decorations for your home and for Garretson to sell using fresh-cut greens and natural decorations. ***Deck the halls:*** Nov. 30, 10 am-2 pm: This is the day we need many hands as we decorate the house and grounds for Dutch Christmas. ***Dutch Christmas;*** Dec. 2, 10 am-4 pm: Come see the house in all its splendor. The holiday sale will include

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craft vendors along with Garretson goods, gift shop goodies, our wonderful hand-crafted wreaths, a bake sale, and, of course, Sinter Klass holding court by the fireplace.

NJBG November 30 to December 3rd. Get a head start on the holidays by participating in the annual Skylands Manor Holiday Open House. This year Master Gardeners of Bergen County are decorating the Great Hall, which will include a 14-foot Christmas tree. The overall theme of the event is “A Magical Holiday”; the MG of BC exhibit is based on the theme “the Nutcracker Suite.” info@njbq.org to register or for additional information.

The Hermitage While the 38th Annual Holiday Craft Show at the Hermitage will run October 28th through December 3rd.

Thielke Arboretum Sunday, Nov. 5, 2-4 pm: **Fall storytelling and journey-stick hike** Children in grades 2-4 are invited to the Thielke Arboretum for a storytelling session followed by a hike. **Julie Della Torre, professional storyteller**, will share stories with the children. During a hike that follows, each child will collect leaves, twigs, nuts, etc., to attach to a “journey stick.” Finally, the group will gather to retell the stories of the walk while sharing apple cider. Australian Aborigines and Native Americans used journey sticks as oral maps to retell the story of their travels.

Speakers: Dr. Steven Fischer, professor and horticulture program coordinator at Bergen Community College, will discuss the past, present, and future of poinsettias. The poinsettia has attracted a worldwide following as a landscape plant and a blooming plant for the holidays since its introduction in 1825 by Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first U.S. minister to Mexico (1825-29) and an amateur botanist. Fischer has taught horticulture at BCC since 1978. He has a B.S. degree in ornamental horticulture from Delaware Valley College of Science and Agriculture and an M.S. and Ph.D. in horticulture/entomology from the University of Maryland. His doctoral dissertation was on poinsettias. Fischer is a member of the BCC Horticulture Advisory Committee and an adviser to the board of directors of the New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association (NJLCA). Fischer will have poinsettias available for purchase.

The slate of officers to serve in 2018 was presented and confirmed at the October 2017 Executive Board meeting and presented to the general meeting. Election to be held at the November meeting

Burlington –

Projects:

Butterfly Garden at Smith Woods

The team collected seeds, limed some of the plots based on the soil test and winterized the gardens. Team members will be meeting with the county in November to present the desired plant list for 2018. The butterfly totals will also be presented.

Donation Garden at Medford Leas

The team met one last time for the year to cover some of the garden in black plastic to kill the weeds. This year about 800 pounds of vegetables were donated to the local needy.

IPM and Demonstration Plots at BCCAC

Outside work was completed at BCCAC for the season. In the demonstration plots the sunn hemp was cut down and spread over the sunflower and sun hemp plots after winter rye was seeded as a cover crop over these two plots. The tomato and tomatillo plants were taken down. The hops were cut down, the blueberries weeded, and sulfur was added. The pollinator plot and herb plot were cut down.

The annual plants in the raised beds were taken down. A few of the perennial plants in the butterfly garden remain.

In the herb garden near the house, a good deal of the oregano and garden sage was removed. The tomato plants were taken out and the asters were trimmed back.

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Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA)

No report.

Rancocas Nature Center

The team continued weeding and thinning garden plants. Seed heads were left for the animals and any remaining blooms were also left.

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

- October 14, 2017, "It's time to bring houseplants indoors" by Bobbie J. Herbs.

Camden –

EDUCATIONAL GARDEN

The team installed a selection of shrubs and trees planted fall vegetables and trimmed and pruned overhanging trees.

We cleaned up the herb and perennial gardens as well as mulched the shade garden and the rain garden. Our signage committee is awaiting the final bid proposals from the county and hopefully we can get those installed by end of November.

The team will meet in November to begin planning our year 2 installations.

GREENHOUSE

The greenhouse supplied the MG group with pansies as part of our fall fund raising project.

They project installing another hydroponics nursery next year. The workshop team did final clean-up of The Greenhouse.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The community service continued with tables at several local events. Our total outreach program this year numbers 980 contacts with consumers.

We have also been selling our pansies and bulbs at the events since mid-September as part of our fund-raising activities.

WORKSHOPS

"All about Bubs" was a homeowner's workshop held at the MG center on October 27th. One of our Master Gardeners gave a talk on bulb planting, selection and care. 20 people attended this event.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting/potluck supper was held October 24. The new officers were elected for the 2018 board. Four new members will be joining the Board this year.

Past year highlights were given about the Educational Garden, Community Service and the Greenhouse.

Our Master Gardeners of the year were mentioned and recognized.

FUND RAISING

The bulb and pansy sales have been going well. We will know our final total after the Recognition Luncheon.

RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

The annual Recognition Luncheon will be held November 16 at the Boat House, Cooper River Park. 55 guests are expected including some county officials. The Interns will receive their graduation certificates and other MG's will be awarded pins for their years of service.

Cumberland: no report

Essex –

Master Gardeners of Essex County Meeting Schedule and Speakers:

Date	Speaker	Subject
11/11/2017	Thomas Molnar	Hazelnuts: a new industry for New Jersey and beyond.

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The presentation will cover background information on hazelnuts from the botanical and commercial production perspective, some discussion on why we've not grown them in the eastern US in the past, and why we now can. It will also discuss steps to initiate a new industry in New Jersey, our progress to date, and outlook for the future. Expect some show and tell and maybe some nuts for taste testing.

Thomas Molnar is an Associate Professor in the Plant Biology Department at Rutgers University. He is responsible for overseeing the Rutgers' program dedicated to re-search and breeding of hazelnuts and woody ornamental landscape plants. The main focus of the hazelnut pro-gram is finding and utilizing resistance to the fungal dis-ease eastern filbert blight, the primary limiting factor of commercial hazelnut production in the United States. Thomas has been working on this project since 1996, and has traveled extensively throughout eastern and northern Europe, Russia, and Central Asia in search of new germplasm for use in breeding. As a result of these efforts, many new resistant plants have been identified and new cultivars are in the breeding pipe-line nearing release to farmers. The woody ornamental pro-gram is primarily targeted towards dogwoods, as it builds upon decades of ongoing work at Rutgers. A new kousa dog-wood release, Scarlet Fire®, exemplifies the programs' goals to develop and release attractive, high-value plants that incorporate disease resistance, wide-adaptation, and unique colors that are of interest to homeowners and the nursery and landscape industry in New Jersey and beyond.

1/13/2018	Bruce Crawford	Groundcovers for the Garden
2/10/2018	Jeff Van Pelt	Growing Season Rose Care and No Spray Roses
3/10/2018	Clare Minick	Spring Ephemerals
4/14/2018	Kathy Sauerborn	Gardening for Hummingbirds
5/12/2018	No Meeting	MGEC Plant Sale
6/9/2018	Deb Ellis	Feeding Butterflies, Not Bambi – Deer Resistant Natives
7/14/2018	Jean Epitaph	Native Ferns of Norther New Jersey
10/13/2018	Marc Zukovich	Fall Fertilization of Trees, Shrubs and Lawns
11/10/2018	Ruth Hayden	Private Gardens of China – Principals of Design we still see today

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

- NOVEMBER 20 THE SCIENCE OF GROWING
(Reserve by November 14)
- DECEMBER 18 USING LIVE GREENS TO DECORATE FOR THE HOLIDAYS
(Reserve by December 12)
- JANUARY 22 ARMCHAIR GARDENING, THINKING AHEAD TO SPRING
(Reserve by January 16)
- FEBRUARY 26 WHAT ARE THE FIRST BLOOMERS WE SEE?
(Reserve by February 20)

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

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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!

Master Gardeners of Essex County Class of 2018 Lesson Schedule

If you are interested in sitting in on a specific class, please contact Chrystine Gaffney at cg709@njaes.rutgers.edu to let her know you intend to come. The class is very full (40 students) so space is at a premium.

Date	Subject	Instructor
11/1/2017	Intro to Entomology	Joe Gyurian, RCE/Somerset
11/8/2017	Plant Nutrition	Bill Bamka, RCE/Burlington
11/15/2017	Go Native! Gardening for Beauty & Biodiversity	Deb Ellis
11/22/2017	Thanksgiving Week	Thanksgiving Week
11/29/2017	Community Gardening	Jan Zientek
12/6/2017	Plant Identification	Steve Schuckman
12/13/2017	Gardening Safely in Urban Soils: Lead	Michelle Bakacs, RCE/Middlesex
12/20/2017	Intro to Plant Pathology	Rich Buckley, Rutgers Plant Diagnostic Lab
12/27/2017	Christmas	Christmas

MGEC Volunteer Hub

Branch Brook Park Cherry Tree Pruning Team

Meets weekly to prune historical collection of 5000 cherry trees. To volunteer call Lois Young 973-744-5696 or helle-borus133@verizon.net.

Branch Brook Park -Prudential Concert Grove - (Southern Section)!

We lead volunteers in weeding, pruning, planting and trans-planting perennials and shrubs. ! Come join us any day from October 2nd through November 6th, Monday through Friday from 9:30 through 12:30 (or whatever time to you care to give). We will also be working with volunteers on Saturdays: 10/28 - 9:30 to 12:30; 11/4 - 11:00 to 2:00.

Meet at the "Lions" and bring tools and gloves. !

For more information contact Kasey Goger at kgoger@verizon.net or Mary Jedrezjewski at maryjed@optonline.net

Brookdale Park Pruning —ongoing pruning of Trees, to volunteer contact Pat Hewitt 201-913-8419, or hewitt36@verizon.net.

Caldwell Pollinator Garden - Creating new gardens. Contact Warren Marchioni. wmarchioni39@gmail.com

Education Outreach

Projects in schools. Contact Fran Kroeckel 973-744-6547, robertkroecel@comcast.net

Giving Garden an *A Lot to Grow* community garden that grows produce for the food pantries and soup kitchens in the Nutley area. Contact Elizabeth (Liz) Li-loia: eliloia@aol.com

Glenmont Project

Thos. Edison Nat'l. Historical Park in West Orange, Amy Trimarco, aatri-marco@comcast.net, 201-600-8656;

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The Greenhouse has plenty of room for those that want to transplant and water. Contact Gail Chmura, chmurag@verizon.net or Pat Hewitt, hewitt36@verizon.net

Grounds Around Garibaldi Hall — help maintain and beautify. Meet Tuesday morning-early. Bring your gloves/tools. Contact Tony Oszmianski (973) 226-1351.

Special Garibaldi project workdays scheduled throughout the year.

Next one on Nov. 11, after the general meeting. Contact Suzanne Broullon.

GROW Community Out-reach Program., 3-4 Sessions a year, half-day long, recent Graduates become involved. Contact Mike Mallette (973)230-4266 mfieldhand@verizon.net

Helpline volunteer-- Con-tact Lynda Meehan at (973) 228-5806 or lyndam1112@gmail.com, or **call the Help Line at 973-228-2210**; mastergar-denerec@gmail.com

Horticulture for Seniors meets monthly with seniors. Contact Helen Kesner (973) 731-0717, hkesner@comcast.net,

Integrity House (Secaucus) - guide recovering substance dependent people with growing vegetables that supplement the kitchen. No labor required! Contact-Jim Myracle jimyra@gmail.com or 973-761-1064

MGEC Bee Keepers at Garibaldi Hall. Beginners must observe until the proper course is taken and equipment purchased. Contact David Haimés, dhaimés@comcast.net.

Pollinator Garden in Brookdale Park

For information contact Blanca Gerard at mygerard30@verizon.net

Rose Garden in Brookdale Park NEEDS HELP, lots of get down in the dirt type of work, pick days/time Contact Susan Jankolovits (973) 783-0977 sjankolovits@hotmail.com

South Orange Elks Rent Party Garden Community garden whose produce goes to food banks. Contact Karen Rutberg, at klrutberg@aol.com.

Speakers Bureau is part of our community outreach. Choose a topic of interest and become an active speaker. Contact Jan Zientek at Zientek@NJAES.Rutgers.edu and let him know what topics you can give programs on to other organizations.

The Teaching Garden

At Presby Memorial Iris Garden in Montclair. Contact Fred Solomine at fsolomine@gmail.com.

Save the Date

January 12-14 North Jersey Orchid Society Show at Douglas Student Center, Rutgers New Brunswick, NJ

Hunterdon-

- We held a self-drive Cranberry Bog workshop/tour was very successful
- Movie matinee was launched as a fun new way to get CEUs.
- A Conifer Workshop is planned for November.
- Many Outreach teams are winding down or transitioning to their “winter mode”. The Helpline had 576 contacts for 2017.
- The new Master Gardener class which started on September 19 has 22 participants, the largest group since Hunterdon and Somerset split.

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- Our October speaker was Sharon Wander, President of the American Butterfly Association NJ Chapter, speaking on Butterflies.

Mercer - Our annual Awards Dinner was held October 9. We have plaques honoring MGs who have attained 2500 and 5000 hours. One MG was added to each and in addition one MG received the Presidential Volunteer Service Award for 4000 hours.

We had our third annual Seed Exchange on October 24. One participant said it was like Christmas with all the wonderful seeds and plants offered.

Graduation for the Class of 2017 will be held November 8 at Extension.

The last Community Education event of the year to be held November 15 is "Whimsical Containers for Seasonal Greens" presented by our own Master Gardeners.

Our new Class of 2018 began September 28 with 18 students.

Our annual Garden Symposium, "Insights and Inspirations", already has 100 registrants. We recommend signing up soon since we sell out quickly

Move to new Extension building: Bids were opened, and we are waiting for contract award. Move Committee is working with Chad Rip Berger (RMGs have no direct contact with the county people). We hope to occupy the renovated building in late 2018.

The program at our November meeting was "Techniques for Gardening in Dry Conditions" presented by Lisa Roper, head gardener of the Gravel Garden at Chanticleer.

In December we will elect officers for 2018.

Middlesex –

To conclude the 2017 growing season, we recently had our annual garden cleanup. This has become a very social work project and this year we had over 65 master gardeners help put the gardens to bed for the winter

October workshops at the EARTH center included Garlic Planting, Vermicomposting and Backyard Composting. Reminder - this is the time of year to plant garlic if you are hoping to harvest next summer.

The first harvest of heirloom dent corn took place the Edward Antil Heirloom Garden at East Jersey Olde Town with the help of Master Gardeners and RCE staff. This garden is a demonstration project located within the county's living history park to show various heirloom varieties that were grown during colonial times.

A workshop was given on the topic of spring bulbs and perennial transplants to the Judd Elementary School's after school program in North Brunswick. Master Gardeners taught the students about spring bulbs and dormancy and then instructed the children how to plant and maintain a garden.

Despite the rainy weather the second annual Howling was a big success. This year's activities included the addition of a cooking/baking contest...The object was to make the scariest Halloween dish and Pat Scarano was awarded the first prize, a pair of Fiskar's shears.

Monmouth – Monmouth County has been busy buttoning up all of its garden beds for the year. The JMG Garden crew will be having its annual fall manure party and the interns have planted their legacy crop of garlic for next year's class. MGs were out in force at the Long Branch Ronald McDonald House this past Thursday for their fall clean up. Years ago, we were asked to design a Serenity Garden on the RMD

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property. Estelle Lumber, from the original design group, heads up a spring and fall clean up yearly. In appreciation, MGs are treated to lunch at the Ronald McDonald House.

Our Helpline continues to be busy and plans for Graduation on November 16th are in full swing! This year we will graduate 22 interns and honor many veterans who have earned milestone awards. Next, we will plan for our Holiday Recognition Luncheon...always an enjoyable afternoon!

Our October speaker was Kathleen Erwin, a Rutgers graduate and currently helps to manage bat focused research projects involving insect pest surveillance on farms and white-nose syndrome with the Rutgers Wildlife Conservation and Management Program. Her presentation, "Managing Backyard Habitats for Wildlife" was packed with good information as well as enjoyable.

Our Speakers Bureau has 5 engagements this month and vetted one presentation on landscape basic design for the homeowner which will prove to be valuable for those interested in making landscape improvements in their own yards. Several Community Projects are going on in Freehold, Ocean Township and Marlboro which will take place in November as well.

Many thanks to all of our MGs who have donated their time and efforts to any and all of our community projects and the beautification of our own gardens! Another year, many jobs well done!

Morris

- We ran two very successful electronic storyboard trials during library outreach events in October using the topic "Putting Your Garden to Bed". One version was converted to video so as to run it through the library's A/V system.
- We introduced write-ups of projects, a mission statement, and a centralized inventory system to the total HEP Team body and sought their assistance in implementing a bulk purchasing effort.
- The Speakers Bureau vetted an additional lecture on "Ferns"
- MGs assisted instructors at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum in introducing a program called "Botany & Beyond" to children. The program consists of two sessions - one on Plant Stems and another on Flower Parts.
- 23 Interns are participating in our current Master Gardener Class.

Ocean – Our various committees are winding down for the year and assessing how to do even better next year. Plants are being ordered or catalogs consulted for next year's greenhouse and vegetable garden projects. MGs have been gleaning at various farms in conjunction with Farmers Against Hunger. Our speakers gave 7 talks in October, have more talks scheduled in November, and are already booked for talks for 2018.

We are having an open house on Tuesday, November 14th for prospective Master Gardeners.

Passaic – Passaic County was scheduled to move from their current location at the Nike Base in Wayne to a facility on Rifle Camp Road. Passaic County is out of funds so there will be no move.

We are having a difficult time finding members who will assume officer positions for the coming year. 4 members of the Board are leaving the board since their years served are up. Need President, Vice President, and Secretary.

Gardens at Bloomingdale have been readied for the winter. Volunteers are taking plants to over winter in their garages and basements. Projects at the extended care facilities are going well. Speaker for October was Tony Bracco, from Bracco Farms in Pine Island NY who spoke on Small Batch Gardening. Wish we all had Pine Island soil.

Volunteers are being sought for the Holiday House at the NJBG. The theme this year is a Magical Holiday. Plans for our Holiday Party are ongoing.

Somerset – Our speaker for our regular meeting in Nov. will be Elaine Fogerty (executive Director of Lakewood Arboretum) Wayne NJ. Her topic will be a very timely "Putting your garden to Bed".

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During the summer the Camp Jotoni Therapeutic Gardening Team was busy teaching young children how to plant seeds in peat pots, how to make sachets from natural things in the garden, all about Monarch Butterflies. To do the teaching, scavenger hunts and fun activities were used. Something new was added this summer... A Sensational Tower Tour. Turner Construction Co. helped us install the towers along a newly created path. Children enjoyed using all their senses when touching and feeling various flowers and leaves. It taught the campers to notice and enjoy the little things in life.

For the second year in a row, the Community Gardens Team partnered with The Franklin Food Bank to grow food for local families. The clients enjoy fresh produce which they would probably not get without this garden.

Sussex – Pam Sandyck and Lisa Chiariello are diligently working through setting up the new volunteer management website, Volunteer Impact. There is a high level of detail necessary to lay out all the templates for logging hours and scheduling events! Lots of organizing to think through. We are planning for how to better manage and provide an organizational hub for our volunteers by using Volunteer Impact.

Lisa is also tracking down Adobe Dreamweaver software to manage our RCE Sussex public pages, so we can manage the content, adding articles our volunteers have researched or FAQ's for our top helpline questions with links to appropriate Rutgers Fact Sheets.

We have 38 people on a waiting list for MG Education class for next year (available to both the public and those interested in going on to become certified MGs), without having done any PR.

Our Helpline has handled more calls this year in part because we covered for Warren county for the first half of the year, and in part because we have done more programming in our county through our speaker's bureau and other outreach efforts, so we have more visibility in our county. Great job MGs of Sussex!!

Union – No report

ADJOURNMENT: At 12:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted
Tricia Deering, Recording Secretary

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