

# Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

## Minutes of March 6, 2018 RMGANJ Meeting

Terry Zane, Vice President, welcomed the group and wished everyone a belated Happy New Year. New delegates and guests were introduced including: Burlington County new delegate Nick Hendershot; Bergen County guest, Vice President Melody Corcoran; and Somerset County new delegates Cindy Hedin and Maura Sache.

Pat Schanzlin, President, introduced herself as the new president, welcomed everyone and then led the meeting following the agenda. Pat led a memorial to Nancy Sullivan, a long-time RMGANJ member, who recently passed away.

**Secretary's Minutes from December 2017 Meeting:** Tricia Deering, Recording Secretary, reported that she had emailed out the December RMGANJ minutes a while ago. The minutes from the December meeting were accepted as presented through a motion and second.

### **Attendance:**

Atlantic:	Mary-Lou Monihan
Bergen:	Joseph Cooper, Carolyn Gretchen, Karen Pennell and Melody Corcoran
Burlington:	Terry Zane, Marilyn Bidrawn, Nick Hendershot
Camden:	Diane Shonyo
Cumberland:	Carol Henry
Essex:	David Haimes
Hunterdon:	Tricia Deering, Dewey Goodwin
Mercer:	Bob Robinson, Betty Scarlata
Middlesex:	Dale Duchai
Monmouth:	Gayle Williams, Bob Magovern, Jay Schaeffer
Morris:	Marion Ceruzzi
Ocean:	Suzanne Keane, Roberta Quinn
Passaic:	Barb Cook
Somerset:	Linda Madretzke, Cindy Hedin, Maura Sache
Sussex:	Jane Gardner, Pat Schanzlin
Union:	Dolores Batz-Culp, Dennis Lenahan, Caryl Hanneman
Rutgers University:	Nick Polanin

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Jane Gardner, Treasurer, reported that we received two financial reports from Rutgers since the first of the year. The December balance was \$11,179.84. She had expected that the new balance would be \$11,016.24. however, it is \$11,916.29. There are several reasons for the difference, including that Rutgers billed less for the conference room rental than we expected, and pin money came in. In addition, we have not yet seen a Barnes and Nobel deposit. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted was made, seconded and approved.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Pat Schanzlin reported that Nick Polanin may stop by. Pat wants Nick to know where we are going with the conference. She also reported that she had asked him when/if he expects to name a new representative to our organization. He reported that there is quite a bit of interest in our organization.

**MASTER GARDENER'S COORDINATOR'S REPORT:** Nick Polanin did stop into the meeting! He reported that coordinators are sending in annual reports from 2017. He also noted that the Department and Extension budgets are complicated. Larry Katz is stepping down as Director of Extension and Brian Schilling is stepping in. Brian is a process driven Ag Economist and Nick feels his skills will be very valuable to the organization. Burlington is in the midst of hiring new coordinator. There have been several retirements in RCE. One concern is that there are no animal science experts left in RCE, which is a big gap in a state with a lot of animals.

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Nick asked that the counties interact with Talia Zirin, his admin, regarding expenses. Remember that there are no TABERS anymore!!! Counties should get her in the loop early for help with expenses. POs are required. She can be reached at zirin@njaes.rutgers.edu, 848-932-3590.

Nick thanked the NJ flower show volunteers.

### **Old Business:**

***Working Group for Last Year's Conference Survey:*** Pat Schanzlin asked for volunteers for the Conference Survey Working Group. The group would take the work of the conference subgroups from last year as input and make recommendations to move forward, reporting out at the April or May meeting. Karen Pennell and Mary Lou Monihan volunteered.

### **New Business:**

#### ***Budget review:***

Pat Schanzlin reported that the Budget Committee, consisting of herself, Jane Gardner, Terry Zane, Joseph Cooper, Mary Lou Monihan and Dolores Batz-Culp met since the December meeting. Jane reviewed the budget and outlined the fundamental problem which is that the expected conference expenses exceed our current funds on hand (what we have in the pocket – right now). We have ~12K on hand but the conference will cost 13+K. The exact shortfall is \$1,393.71. Since most of the conference expenses must be paid before we receive the money from the registration fees, this is a significant problem.

It was noted that we should expect the Rutgers cost for the conference to increase by about 3%.

Several ideas were discussed to reduce cost, keeping in mind conference feedback.

- Do we need to raise the cost of the conference again? This would help if the timing problem for paying all conference expenses in advance can be solved.
- Reduce the cost of or eliminate breakfast,
- Raise lunch price,
- Put a link to the Recognition Pamphlet on the OCPE registration website instead of printing it (note possible recognition ceremony change below)

#### ***Possible Recognition Ceremony Change:***

Pat Schanzlin discussed an idea for a change to the Recognition portion of the conference. The proposal is to eliminate the Awards Presentation by each County and replace it with presentations that highlight four of the award-winning projects (current or past winners) which would count to CEUs. There would still be a printed pamphlet. While many liked the idea, several concerns were expressed including 1) how to select the projects to be highlighted 2) finding county representatives to give the talks since it can be intimidating to speak in front of such a large group and 3) making sure the other award recipients feel adequately recognized. A motion was made, seconded and approved that the idea should be considered. Pat will flesh it out by the next meeting and it will be reviewed and voted on.

#### ***Master Gardener Apparel:***

Pat Schanzlin and Jane Gardner discussed the work they had done on Master Gardener apparel. They built on what Hunterdon County had done to get county-specific apparel designed, approved and produced to develop non-county-specific Rutgers Master Gardener apparel. Dewey Goodwin modeled a Hunterdon County Master Gardener sweatshirt and Jane Gardner modeled a Rutgers Master Gardener apron. The idea is that a limited number of the un-sized items (aprons and baseball caps) would be ordered for the conference in red and sold at the Garden Market. Suggestions were made to allow pre-ordering and/or to include an item in the registration packet. Nick Polanin reported on some suggested changes to the non-

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county specific design including dropping the bulleted Rutgers Cooperative Extension line and moving Master Gardener to the bib of the apron. The design has essentially been approved by Mike Green at Rutgers. In addition, Counties that do not have apparel could implement apparel for their own counties using the same design.

**Break: 11: 20 to 11:40:** Thank you to Passaic County for today's break food and beverages. Somerset County is responsible for refreshments for the April 2018 meeting. Pat Schanzlin noted that she would like to add refreshments for our meetings to the next meeting agenda since some counties do not reimburse.

**September Meeting:** The date for the September meeting was discussed. The thought had been to move the meeting to 9/11 since the first Tuesday is the day after Labor Day, but both Pat and Jane are away on the 11th, it was decided to leave it on 9/4, the day after Labor Day.

**Conference Speakers and Theme:** The speakers and a possible theme were discussed. Kirk Brown, the keynote speaker does impersonations of historical scientific botanists. Among others, he does Bartram and Olmsted. The second speaker's topic is foraging and the third is river restoration. Terry Zane suggested Past, Present and Future as a theme. Bartram vs Olmsted was discussed with some counties recommending Olmsted because several counties have already had Kirk come speak as Bartram, however others felt that Bartram is a more important figure than Olmsted. If we went with Olmsted we would want the focus to be on plant selection rather than design to go with the theme. Pat is also looking for ideas for other theme names. Pat will talk to Kirk Brown again and next month we will finalize the speakers and theme.

**Conference Jobs:** Pat Schanzlin reported that she accidentally left Union off the Conference Duties list and she needs to add them back in. Anyone with an issue with their county assignment should speak to Pat.

### **COUNTY REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:**

**Atlantic** – New officers have been installed since my last report. Our new class began the first week of January, and it is our first attempt at evening classes. 32 signed up and we have retained 28. It is going very well. We gave out 2 full scholarships and 6 partial scholarships. We have added to our class schedule a composting class to our syllabus and we have scheduled as a part of intern training (for the first time) a soil compaction workshop for May 16th daytime and May 29th evening; it will be open to certified MG's for 2 hours of education credit and 1 hour of diagnostic credit.

One of our two horticultural therapy programs closed in a local nursing home as well as our award-winning Gardener's Basin/Aquarium project. We anticipate expanding our school projects.

In April 2018 we will be rolling out an online volunteer reporting system; in addition, we are changing our helpline hours to one shift 9am-1pm from February 1, until October 31st. We will cover only Wednesdays during November and December and will be closed in January.

### ***Bergen*** –

Janet Schulz, Class of 1988, presented a slide show demonstrating one of the ways to make a hypertufa trough for a natural- looking addition to your garden. Hypertufa is a mixture of peat moss, perlite, and Portland cement. When mixed properly and molded, you can make a container/planter that can be left outside during the winter with no fear of cracking. Hypertufa has great porosity allowing air to the roots.

A huge thank you to Albina Dakotas and her helpers who created and organized the 30 floral arrangements for our holiday party. After the party, the centerpieces were sold, and total proceeds of \$470 were donated to the Center for Food Action.

### **Volunteer Site News:**

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During the Skylands Manor Holiday Open House, it was reported that more than 1,000 visitors showed up on Sunday alone breaking previous attendance records.

Two videos have been uploaded to the web featuring the volunteers and the decorations. Go to [www.MGofBC.org](http://www.MGofBC.org) for a peek. Master Gardeners of Bergen County elect officers for 2018.

Master Gardeners at **the Hermitage**, held a maple sugaring event giving hands-on lessons in how the Lenape and colonists got their sweeteners from tree sap over President's Day weekend. Volunteer MGs were able to tap about 15 trees on the grounds of the National Historic Landmark, then collect the sap over the next two weeks. Guests were sent home with the equipment to tap the trees in their own yards and instructions on boiling the sap into syrup. This year is the 240th anniversary of Gen. George Washington's three-day camp at the Hermitage with his troops and aide Alexander Hamilton during the Revolutionary War.

**Hackensack River Greenway** Feb. 1 - 28: Photography exhibit in Teaneck.

Photos of the Hackensack River Greenway were on display at the Teaneck Public Library. The exhibit consisted of Greenway photo panoramas by Peter Goldman; construction of the Topolsky Gardens by Richard Karp; and "Hackensack River Stories" narrative signs by Rick Mills.

Community Outreach Events

**Earth Day events to promote our organization and earn volunteer hours. Both certified MGs and Class of 2018 students are invited.** Planet Earth Day at **the Bergen County Zoo at Van Saun Park, Paramus**, Northern Valley Earth Fair, **Northern Valley Regional High School-Demarest**, Ridgefield Park Environmental Commission Earth Day/Green Fair, **Ridgefield Park**.

### ***Burlington*** –

After 14 months, Burlington Master Gardeners expect to welcome a new coordinator before the end of March.

Project reports:

Butterfly Garden at Smith Woods –

- All perennials, plant materials, compost and stone have been ordered collaboratively with the county naturalist and master gardeners.
- An inspection tour and clean-up of the plots will begin during the last week of March, weather permitting.

Donation Garden at Medford Leas –

- Planning meeting was conducted to discuss to crops to be planted and who will take the lead for each.
- A new, higher fence will be installed early March.

IPM and Demonstration Plots at BCCAC –

- The first meeting took place February 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss plans for the 2018 season.
- Master Gardeners will care for the kitchen garden, 6 raised beds and 10 demo plots.
- The kitchen garden will need clean-up of the old growth and replacement of many of the herbs.
- The theme for the raised beds is: *Gardening Using the Color Wheel*.
- Plans for the following demo plots are:
  - Buckwheat as a cover crop followed by Groundhog radish
  - Pollinator plot will remain
  - Hops will be used to explain the difficulty of growing hops in our area
  - Blueberries will be fertilized and protected from deer
  - Cotton and peanuts
  - Strawberries
  - Compost

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- Salvia Trial
- Mixed grains such as corn, millet, sorghum, broom corn and Sudan grass
- Cotton, peanut and tomato seeds have been started

### Rancocas Nature Center

- Basic clean-up and weeding will start early March

### Articles published in the *Burlington County Times* Master Gardener Journal:

- *Now is the Time to Start a Garden Journal* – Bobbie J. Herbs
- *Some Tips for Growing Success* – Bobbie J. Herbs
- *Rutgers Master Gardeners Offer Science-based Help* – Bobbie Herbs
- *The Key to Growing Indoors* – Terry S. Zane.

### **Camden –**

#### EDUCATIONAL GARDENS

The water hoses and water lines were shut down for the season. Bulbs were planted throughout the site. The winter kale is still growing and will be harvested in December.

Signs are funded and will be produced soon.

#### GREENHOUSE

Perennial hoop houses had shade cloth removed. Perennials have been up potted and assessed for overwintering.

Hydroponics are at full capacity and have harvested 50 pounds of lettuce varieties as part of the \$5,000 Weed Out Hunger grant from Rutgers.

The traditional greenhouse is storing the pansies, and perennials. Clean up has been completed.

#### COMMUNITY SERVICE

A new community service chairperson and publicity person has been appointed. They will be meeting to outline next year's activities.

#### WORKSHOPS

Holiday Floral Arranging was presented the first week of November by two of our Master gardeners. Ten people attended the workshop. The focus was about center piece arranging.

#### FUND RAISING

The bulb and pansy sales have been going well. We will know our final tally of plants sold in December

#### RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

The annual Recognition Luncheon was held November 16 at the Boat House, Cooper River Park. Awards and pins were handed out. 15 new MGs were certified from this year's class.

**Cumberland:** no report

### **Essex –**

#### **Master Gardeners of Essex County Meeting Schedule and Speakers:**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Subject</u>
3/10/2018	Clare Minick	Spring Ephemerals

**Clare Minick is the owner of Minick's Smart Gardening; a garden design firm. She is a Union County Master Gardener, and a member of Rake and Hoe Garden Club in Westfield.**

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4/14/2018	Kathy Sauerborn	Gardening for Hummingbirds
<b>5/12/2018</b>	<b>No Meeting</b>	<b>MGEC Plant Sale</b>
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 Winter 2018*

- FEBRUARY 26: WHAT ARE THE FIRST BLOOMERS WE SEE?  
(Reserve by February 20)
- MARCH 19: IT MIGHT AS WELL BE SPRING  
(Reserve by March 15)
- APRIL 16: YOUNGER THAN SPRINGTIME  
(Reserve by April 10)
- MAY 21: MERRY MONTH OF MAY  
(Reserve by May 15)
- JUNE 18: JUNE IS BUSTING OUT ALL OVER  
(Reserve by June 12)

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!

### **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](mailto: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.

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Date	Subject	Instructor
3/07/2018	Helpline Introduction	Lynda Meehan
3/14/2018	Household & Structural Pests	Sabrina Tirpak
3/21/2018	Leadership Training	Claudia Kolster
3/28/2018	Integrated Pest Management	Madeline Flahive DiNardo
4/4/2018	Organic Gardening	Jan Zientek
4/11/2018	Water Conservation	Amy Rowe, RCE/Essex
4/18/2018	Pesticide Safety & Use (6 core credits available)	Pat Hastings, RCE/New Brunswick
4/25/2018	Fruit Trees	Megan Muehlbauer

### **Master Gardener classes at the Montclair Adult School**

The Montclair Adult School is offering two new classes given by our own Master Gardeners.

- **Starting Your Plants from Seed** February 21, Wed 7–8:30pm 1 session  
Fran Kroeckel MPL–Main \$25 materials fee of \$5 due upon registration
- **Planning Your Garden** February 27, Tue 7–8:30pm 1 session  
Dennis Hillerud MPL–Main \$25

For more information at [www.adultschool.org](http://www.adultschool.org)

### **MGEC Volunteer Hub – Weather Permitting**

#### **404 Community Garden,**

404 14th Avenue, Irvington, contact Keisha Newell at

[404communitygar-den@gmail.com](mailto:404communitygar-den@gmail.com).

#### **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@vizon.net](mailto:helle-borus133@vizon.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

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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](mailto:kgoger@verizon.net) or Mary Jedrezjewski at [maryjed@optonline.net](mailto:maryjed@optonline.net)

**Brookdale Park Pruning** —ongoing pruning of Trees, to volunteer contact Pat Hewitt 201-913-8419, or [hewitt36@verizon.net](mailto:hewitt36@verizon.net).

**Caldwell Pollinator Garden** - Creating new gardens. Contact Warren Marchioni. [wmarchioni39@gmail.com](mailto:wmarchioni39@gmail.com)

### Education Outreach

Projects in schools. Contact Fran Kroeckel 973-744-6547, [robertkroecel@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:eliloia@aol.com)

### Glenmont Project

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

**The Greenhouse** has plenty of room for those that want to transplant and water. Contact Gail Chmura, [chmurag@verizon.net](mailto:chmurag@verizon.net) or Pat Hewitt, [hewitt36@verizon.net](mailto: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. **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](mailto:mfieldhand@verizon.net)

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

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

**MGEC Bee Keepers** at Garibaldi Hall. Beginners must observe until the proper course is taken and equipment purchased. Contact David Haimes, [dhaimes@comcast.net](mailto:dhaimes@comcast.net).



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### **Pollinator Garden** In Brookdale Park

For information contact Blanca Gerard at [mygerard30@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto:sjankolovits@hotmail.com)

**South Orange Elks Rent Party Garden** Community garden whose produce goes to food banks. Contact Karen Rutberg, at [klrutberg@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:fsolomine@gmail.com).

## **Save the Date**

Now 0 March 25, Longwood Gardens Orchid Show

March 3 – 11, Philadelphia Flower Show

March 3 – April 22, New York Botanical Gardens Orchid Show

March 8, NJOS Orchid Auction, Hanover Manor

March 17, Rutgers Home Gardeners School, Cook College, New Brunswick, [Fee]

March 24 MG Mercer County Symposium, Stewart Country Day School, Princeton, [Fee]

April 6-8, SEPOS Orchid Show-Greater Philadelphia EXPO Center, Oaks, PA, \$10 Admission

April 14, MGEC General Meeting, Kathy Sauerborn—Hummingbirds

April 28, Earth Day at Essex County Environmental Center- Garibaldi Hall

May 4 & 5, MGEC Plant Sale, Presby Iris Gardens

May 12, MGEC Plant Sale, Garibaldi Hall

### ***Hunterdon-***

We are gearing up for our outreach efforts this year, teams are busy scheduling dates and tuning up their programming.

Our presentation team has been active and presenting through the winter months.

Helpline is opening March 12th, and our new class of 20 students will be graduating the end of this month.

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Our county freeholders recognized one of our Master Gardeners with a proclamation honoring her Award of Excellence with RCE.

Our new County Ag Agent and Hort Consultant are hosting a Pruning Workshop for MGs at the Rutgers Snyder Research & Extension Farm.

**Mercer** - After many years leading the Master Gardener program in Mercer County, Barbara Bromley is retiring later this year. We are planning a luncheon to celebrate her long career in July 2018.

2018 is the kickoff for our 25th year as an RMG organization. A series of events to commemorate this silver anniversary are now being planned.

In 2017, RMG volunteers in Mercer County performed a total of 18,770 hours of service, including 4137 hours on Helpline.

The new Garden Core program is now in place. This now requires 1000-hour badge holders to perform 5 hours of service that entails direct information-providing contact with the public. To help "veterans" readapt to Helpline (and update all members in changed Helpline procedures), a series of Helpline retraining sessions were held. These were rapidly filled, with some 60 graduates (not all 1000-hour badge holders) taking advantage of this training in February, and more sessions may be scheduled in March.

On Feb. 22, we sponsored a tour of Russell's Wholesale Gardens, including a tour of their greenhouses and a talk on plant propagation.

A trip to Winterthur is planned for March 27.

There are a number of Community Education events that have taken place or are planned. On Jan. 17, Dr. David Robinson, the NJ State Climatologist, presented a talk on "New Jersey's Changing Climate", at the Princeton Public Library. On Feb. 22, RMG of MC co-sponsored, with the D&R Greenway, a talk on "Water Features in the Garden", presented by John Black, president of the NJ Native Plant Society.

And on March 17, Barbara Bromley will present her Lawn Basics class at Extension. On April 17, Meredith Melendez, Mercer Co. Ag Agent, will give a talk entitled "More Veggies, Less Work".

During Feb. and March, a series of reading programs for children are being held in several area libraries. Planning has begun for the summer Trent House children's programs, which take place in July.

Our annual Symposium, with the theme "Insights and Inspirations", will take place on March 24 at the Stuart Country Day School. We have reached our registration limit of 300.

Our annual Plant Expo is scheduled for Saturday, May 5, at MEG. This features both plants donated by RMG's, and plants from a select group of vendors, including Rare Find Nursery and Wild Ridge Plants.

We are planning to submit several entries in the Search for Excellence at the 2019 Intl. Master Gardener's Conference, to be held in Valley Forge, PA., in summer. 2019

In Feb., Paul Cowrie gave an interesting talk on tree health and disease diagnostics. The speaker at our March meeting was Dr. Lesley Parness, a founding member of the Garden State Gardens, and retired Superintendent of Hort. Education at the NJ Morris County Park Commission, who gave an excellent presentation on medical practice and medicinal plants of the Civil War. Many of these plants are now found in our gardens, but were important in medical practice in the 1860's.

**Middlesex** – February 19: MG Graduation. March 6: bus trip to Pa Flower Show (canceled due to weather). March 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30: Growing Unusual Edibles. March 20 at 6:30 Celebrate National Ag Day – A Lecture on Agriculture and Food Systems. March 24 at 10am: Intro to Backyard Beekeeping. April 4 at 6:30: Organic, Natural and IPM Strategies for Garden and Landscape. For all of these dates, Master Gardeners receive up to two CEs.

**Monmouth** – Monmouth County MGs came back from the holidays ready for the many programs spring has to offer its residents! On February 22<sup>nd</sup> we welcomed 31 new interns for 2018. At our February 28<sup>th</sup> General Meeting, Dr. Bill Sciarappa lead our educational component with the progress Rutgers has made in the field of Aeroponics. March 23<sup>rd</sup> will bring our annual School Program Conference. All presentations were chosen specifically with educators in mind who wish to incorporate some type of garden theme into their curriculum. Speakers will address the following topics: Jersey Friendly Gardens, Growing Tomatoes, Monarch Waystations, Technology in the Garden and Hydroponics and Aeroponics in the classroom. The day is packed to inform and inspire!

On April 14<sup>th</sup> our MGs will again have a day of gardening presentations for our residents. "Celebrate Spring...A Symposium" will offer topics to home gardeners such as: Secrets of a Low Maintenance Landscape, Hummingbirds, Advice from a Green Thumb Gardener and Spring Has Sprung...Get Ready to Garden! All presentations will be given by Master Gardeners.

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In April we are also preparing for our Junior Master Gardener Program to begin with 18 new children from the ages of 9-11. Every child has a mentor who will be there to assist in anyway needed. Each of the 8 Saturdays they meet will consist of well thought out lessons which will be delivered by MGs in our lunchroom/classroom. After a short break, all will go outside to their JMG garden where each child will have hands-on experience putting to work what they've learned in their lessons. This program has really taken off! It is well anticipated by both children and parents alike...especially when they see the fruits of their labors!

And, last but not least for spring, we are preparing for our annual Spring Garden Days Plant Sale which will take place May 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> this year. Planning for this super large event began in January. Offered these two days will be presentations by our Master Gardeners. Available for sale are plants grown and/or donated by MGs, new last year were fruit-bearing shrubs, plants for pollinators, and of course, the standards: vegetables, small trees and shrubs, annuals, perennials, hanging baskets and, the ever popular...Trash to Treasure!

As you can see, we have our work cut out for us!

### **Morris**

Speakers Bureau: The Speakers Bureau as of 2/28/2018 has 46 talks already scheduled for 2018 with more requests still coming in. They are also in the process of developing 3 new talks to add to their topics list. Talks are also open to MG who can earn CEU's.

Horticultural Enrichment Program: We currently have an extra team and are looking at adding a ninth site to add to our venues. Feedback thus far on programming has been positive.

Talks & Conferences: Finalizing the last-minute details for our 8th Annual Community Garden Conference to be held on March 4, 2018. This is a joint venture between the Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Morris County and the Frelinghuysen Arboretum.

Plant Sale: We have 21 of 22 interns signed-up to volunteer at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum's annual plant sale. This is usually the first opportunity for the current interns to volunteer. The Plant sale is from 4-6 May and all are welcome.

Arboretums: MC RMG's are currently completing their training as guides at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Willowood Arboretum, and Bamboo Brook. The MC Park Commission has scheduled over thirty public tours this year at the three locations.

Helpline: Will commence on Tuesday April 1, 2018.

Rutgers Master Gardener classes: We have 22 interns working on the last quarter of their training. Morris County already has 35 applicants for our 25-seat class next year.

Snyder Farm: we have two dates, 2/27 and 3/15/ 2018, scheduled for WPS (worker protection standard) training, which is mandatory training for working in the greenhouses or in the fields at Snyder Farm.

**Ocean** – A new Intern class began in January. There are currently 18 enrolled. Mentors are assigned to each intern. The class is enthusiastic and interested in volunteering. Last year's interns graduated in February with a nice luncheon and entertainment provided by Master Gardeners.

Our members who work in the greenhouses have been educated as to proper procedures. The ornamental annuals greenhouse is already growing plants, and the vegetable greenhouse is starting soon.

The Community Outreach Events committee has 25 events lined up for 2018, most already staffed with volunteers to operate information tables. There are new interactive displays to engage the public and children. The events are all over the county, with some new ones in the southern part.

We also reach out to the southern part of the county through a series of talks at various libraries and an in-person Helpline. Our Speakers Bureau members speak at these locations and have talks scheduled throughout the county at garden clubs and other non-profits.

Veterans have been trained by role-playing and other means by members of the Helpline Services Committee to answer telephone or walk-in questions at the Agriculture Center. Interns will be trained in March with the help of their mentors. Our Helpline started operations on March 1st, as did our Tick Identification Lab.

An IPM Workshop was attended by 50 people. Weeds, insects, and plant diseases were discussed. There is another workshop in March.

Ellen Silverman is spearheading an effort to coordinate the community gardens around the county so their leaders can interact and learn from us and each other. We hope to aid these community gardens in growing successful crops, and to help them identify and deal with insect or disease pests. There is a great need for

## Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

food, especially fresh produce. In fact, our county Master Gardeners donated or grew over 11,200 pounds of food in 2017.

**Passaic** – No report

**Somerset**– No report

**Sussex** – In Sussex County, our biggest news is that that we are training on our new Volunteer Impact website now, which we will be using for all our volunteer organizing from 2018 on. People are being trained on the new site's use and will eventually migrate over to logging all their hours and activities here.

Our new MG Intern class is 33 strong, and a very interactive and enthusiastic bunch. We are delivering content via classroom format and with prerecorded web content to accommodate more working folks to be able to receive the education and participate in MG volunteering.

We have built a new team that works in the evenings, a new MG Intern took on the team leader position to facilitate volunteering for herself and other working folks.

We will also be making the prerecorded web content available for our Certified MGs as CE credited content once it is all organized and loaded on SAKAI (targeted for end of March.)

Our MGs are supporting our sister department, 4H, by judging 4Hr's public speaking presentations in March and setting up an interactive educational display at the 4H Spring Fling event in April.

**Union** – A letter was received from the County of Union, Trailside Nature & Science Center, inviting us to participate in Wild Earth Fest on Sunday, April 29, 2018. The Demo Garden will be open for this event.

The Helpline Office has been doing training with the new class. They met the new Office Manager, Tamisha Hopkins.

A donation of books was received from Reeves-Reed for the Helpline Office.

The Community Beautification Committee reported that the Micro Farm that was at Kean University is now at the Elmora Library. It is being overseen by Adrienne Miller-Kubicz for Groundwork Elizabeth.

The Grants Committee is working on a grant proposal for the metal cabinets at the Demo Garden.

We are scheduling a meeting for our website training. We need to train another MG on updating the website.

The purchase order for the new riding lawn mower at the Demo Garden has been submitted. The new mower will be delivered sometime in March. MG's will be trained on the use of the new mower.

The Children's Programs for the summer will be held on Wednesday mornings at the Demo Gardens. The schedule includes Bugs and Beyond, Art of Nature and Branching Out.

A Communications meeting for all committee heads will be scheduled sometime in March.

We are looking for a computer program to record MG volunteer hours. A few counties are using a purchased/leased computer program to record MG volunteer hours. We will be checking prices. In the interim, Tamisha, our new Office Manager is doing this as we have been in the past.

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

We are hoping to set up a plan in case we have a rain-out for the Spring Fair. If this were to happen, it would hurt our funding.

In the middle of March we will be planting seeds in our greenhouse for plants to sell at our Spring Garden Fair.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 12:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted  
Tricia Deering, Recording Secretary