

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Minutes of July 9, 2018 RMGANJ Meeting

Terry Zane, Vice President greeted the group. She noted lots of new faces here. Included were Atlantic-Janet Osborne, Suzanne Tomasino. Mary Lou Monihan announced that this will be her last meeting until spring, however she will be completing her responsibilities for the Conference Survey and helping with Conference prep at the September meeting.

Terry also noted we have extra red plastic bags, should anyone want them as well as name tags left over as supplies.

Secretary's Minutes from June 2018 Meeting: Jane Gardner (for Tricia Deering, Recording Secretary), reported that she had emailed out the June RMGANJ minutes and received one comment to update the attendance list. The minutes from the June meeting were accepted as updated through a motion and second.

Attendance:

Atlantic:	Mary Lou Monihan, Janet Osborne, Suzanne Tomasino
Bergen:	Karen Pennell, Carolyn Gretchen, Melody Corcoran
Burlington:	Terry Zane, Nick Hendershot, Marilyn Bidrawn, Lyn Avale
Camden:	Diane Shonyo, Patrick Goughary
Cumberland:	Carol Henry
Essex:	Jane Kinkle, David Haines
Hunterdon:	Dewey Goodwin
Mercer:	Betty Scarlata, Sudi Solomon
Middlesex:	Dale Duchai, Jerri Barclay
Monmouth:	Gayle Williams, Bob Magovern, Jay Schaeffer
Morris:	Marion Ceruzzi, Linda Zinhert
Ocean:	Suzanne Keane, Roberta Quinn
Passaic:	
Somerset:	Linda Madretzke, Maura Sache
Sussex:	Jane Gardner, Pat Schanzlin
Union:	Dolores Batz-Culp, Dennis Lenahan
Rutgers University:	Nick Polanin, Jan Zientek

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jane Gardner, Treasurer, reported that we have an uncommitted balance of \$5921.01, which does not include OCPE contract and speaker fees as yet. Motion to approve was made and carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

MASTER GARDENER'S COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Jan Zientek, Essex County Extension Department Head and Senior Program Coordinator ARMA, has assumed the role of Master Gardener Program Leader. He has served as a county program coordinator for over 18 years, has experience with the Peace Corps and urban gardening initiatives in Newark. He earned his PhD from Rutgers University. He has operated the Essex County and Hudson County MG programs and has worked to coordinate 4-H and other public outreach programs with MG programs to enhance the impact of volunteers.

His vision is to grow the MG program statewide, to standardize training across the counties, while enabling a local focus on how these strategies are applied locally to meet needs. He will push hard to increase participation by regionalizing training, coordinating efforts and sharing resources of instructors to cut costs. He feels that the MG Program Leader should be a full time, paid position to ensure that the program is focused and maximizes the impact of the Rutgers name, fostered by the work of volunteer MGs.

Next month, he will be attending the National MG Coordinator's Conference to learn how other states are supporting their MG programs. As such, he will not be at the next meeting. Jan is best reached at his email zientek@njaes.rutgers.edu.

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Atlantic County wanted to know about the success he had achieved by integrating 4-H with the MG program. He has experience in this type of initiative by recruiting MGs to work in programs outside the general scope of the program. He and his volunteers developed several programs to work in an integrated manner, training youth groups and recruiting volunteers to work in a cross-functional manner.

Marilyn Bidrawn wanted to know whether PO requests should come directly to Jan or go to Talia. Jan directed her to send them directly to Talia, with a cc to him.

Old Business

Conference Duty Assignments:

- **Awards Booklet: Ocean** – Suzanne Keane reported that she has only received Awards Winner information from 4 counties: Sussex, Somerset, Hunterdon and Ocean. She asked that everyone contact their coordinators to ensure these reports are submitted by July 15, the due date. 300 words per county and 2 award winners per county are the limits. Send these reports to mgsue06@outlook.com. Paragraphs should focus on the projects and accomplishments and less on personal attributes. Pat will redistribute the request this afternoon to remind coordinators.
- **Bookstore: Mercer**. Betty Scarlata reported that a list of about 15 books has been identified. We still have not tracked down the money override that was due from last year, but Bob Robinson and Jane Gardner are judiciously chasing the check and looking for info.
- **Catering: Burlington** – Marilyn Bidrawn reported that she needs 2 more people to distribute lunches. Mary Lou Monihan and Gayle Williams agreed to help..
- **Door prizes: Somerset** – In lieu of purchased raffle gifts, we will use sample apparel as the gifts and allocate the gift budget to that purchase (\$250).
- **Evaluations: Atlantic** - Mary Lou Monihan has this under control.
- **Facilities: Essex** – Jane Kinkle reported that nothing has changed. A copy of the schedule was submitted. An extra room use charge was added to the bill, but this does not show on the contract. Jan will take a look at this and determine what is going on. The catering contract still needs to be sent. Jan received the estimate from OCPE, which he will need to review further..
- **Facility cleanup: Passaic** - This task has been assigned
- **Financial: Sussex**
- **Garden Market: Bergen** - Because of the change in policy wherein Rutgers will require the payment of sales tax on all purchases, the Garden Market will be closed. Barnes and Noble will move out to the hall. This move will save expense for room rental as well. In addition, Mary Lou Monihan suggested that we add an item on the survey about the impact of closing the Garden Market.
- **Master Gardener Merchandise Sales: Sussex** - - 6 items will be offered for sale through the All Colors Website. These items are available to individuals and include a baseball cap, tee shirt, sweatshirt, apron, golf shirt and a lanyard. These items are generic Rutgers Master Gardener items, with approved logos and titling. Coordinators may purchase the items in bulk using POs and individuals may order as they wish. The site will be open for 30 days within a week or so, then going forward annually for 30 days each January.
- **Program Flyer: Cumberland** - no update.
- **Program Speakers: Hunterdon**; Dewey Goodwin has agreed to get the speakers into the system and ensure they can be paid with the proper paper work and processing.

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- **Registration Desk: Morris** – Registration needs 2 more people to staff the desk. Jerri Barclay and Terry Zane will support this initiative.
- **Registration Folders: Camden** - We still are waiting for who will take care of the folders. Bergen agreed to supply 50, Pat Schanzlin agreed to supply 50. Members were asked to see if additional folders could be found and report next month. Pat will email a request to members to ask for additional folders..
- **Signs: Middlesex** – no update.
- **Speaker Gifts: Monmouth** – Nick Polanin brought the R250 books for the speakers today and gave them to Gayle Williams.
- **OPCE/Registration: Jan Zientek** - There seems to be a large increase in costs for this service, after an initial review of the quote that was submitted today. It could be a cost of as much as \$15 per person, including fees for processing credit cards and an added per head count fee. This would make the cost for the service \$4500, while we have budgeted only \$1800. Jan and Nick Polanin will see what the actual cost will be and review shortly. In the meantime, Jane Gardner will take a look at additional vendors to see if we can get the registration done at a lesser cost.
- **“Educational Opportunities” timeslot speakers: Pat Schanzlin** – Pat explained that the revision of the Conference schedule to include a Train the Trainer on the newly approved Native Plants presentation would be led by Pam Burton. This change affords an additional hour of credit for attendance at the conference. We do, however, have at least 3 MGs who have served for 30 years. We decided to purchase a 30 Year Service pin to recognize these individuals and hand them out at the conference, if the winners attend. We will take up a collection from the Board to cover the cost of the pins
- **Publicity Poster: Placement in RCE Offices** – Gayle Williams was able to get a poster produced to announce the Conference. Another MG in Monmouth County created this. She will or has sent the digital copy to Pat who will distribute to members for posting in the local RCEs. Please make sure you have a poster in your home county office.
- **Video: Bergen** – each county will need to get their photos for the video to Joe Cooper.

Break: Thank you to Atlantic County for today's break food and beverages. Bergen County is responsible for refreshments for the August meeting which is on August 7 at 10am in the RCE Conference Center 2018.

New Business:

2019 Conference Theme: Jan Zientek suggested a theme based on more than just gardening in order to develop the face of Rutgers with the public. Other members suggested service to the community, the environment, climate change and impact of people on the environment. Service to the community would be a good theme. Jan said he would talk with the Coordinators and see what ideas they might have.

COUNTY REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

Atlantic – It was announced that our association is having an event that will be public on September 19th, 2018 at the Mays Landing library and the speaker will be Steve Aiken, editor of Fine Gardening Magazine, details to follow.

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PHS is coming this week and next to judge local MG projects and MG homes. Everyone is busy tidying up their homes and projects.

Final report of plant sale was given: over 2000 plants were sold, over 300 customers, 50 MG worked the event in one capacity or another.

Our new set of MG local garden tours began at the homes of Ann Cinquain and Patricia Doerr-Lewin which include 1/2-hour education credit and lots of sharing and caring.

The Master Gardener graduation class of 2018 was held on Thursday, June 14, 2018 at 5pm.

Planned a tour of the earth Center and MG Demo Gardens in Middlesex County on July 17th.

Farmers Markets are in full swing in Ventnor, Margate, Brigantine and Galloway, as well as Linwood; we are participating as requested.

10 Master Gardeners began testing the new online volunteer hours reporting system in June. We are awaiting the results and should hear this Friday if we can all jump on board.

We are also using their calendar which our board secretary is maintaining.

Wine tour of Belleview Winery is being offered on July 16th for all Master Gardeners.

Canning How to is being offered in the Atlantic County office on the evening of July 18th

July 19th is the ACUA talk on vegetable gardening by Sue Scarlett.

After our August meeting there will be a demonstration of propagation of woody plants in preparation for our next plant sale.

Advanced Master Gardener training session was held in Atlantic County on June 20th

Bergen – A good time was had by all at the Annual Picnic on June 12th. It was a beautiful, sunny day at Van Sauna Park. Sandwiches and drinks were provided while Master Gardeners brought their best homemade appetizers or desserts to share with others.

Volunteer Site News:

McFaul Environmental Center

Volunteers, including Joseph Cooper, dug holes to plant Hinoki cypress. Terri Pegg reported that last year new McFaul management offered MG volunteers the chance to redo an entire section of a garden. MGs made a wish list of plants and almost all requests were fulfilled. The results of the new plantings will be in future issues of the Potting Shed.

New Jersey Botanical Garden/Skylands

Richard Reiter Swing Band concert. One of New Jersey's most popular swing combos kicks off summer Friday, July 6 with standards from the swing era and the best of classic rock.

Tour Skylands Manor. NJBG volunteer docents lead visitors on a tour of the architecture and history of Skylands Manor, July 8.

Audubon butterfly walk. Join the Bergen County Audubon Society, July 8 for a walk through the gardens and fields to identify the many butterflies that visit the NJBG and to discuss the host plants and nectar sources crucial for their survival.

Family woodland hike. Come to an easy, child-friendly hike in the garden's

woodlands at 1 pm Sunday, July 15. You'll learn about the plants and animals around the NJBG in a hike designed to fit the group.

Guthrie Brothers in concert. The Guthrie Brothers pay tribute to the Simon &

Garfunkel and Everly Brothers songbooks with original harmony-driven music July 20. Bring a lawn chair; concert moves to the Carriage House in bad weather.

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Teaneck Creek Conservancy

Bird walk with Audubon. The Bergen County Audubon Society will lead a bird walk July 15 at the Teaneck Creek Conservancy.

Thielke Arboretum of Glen Rock

To weed or not to weed? That is the question Join Jean Epiphany, the arboretum's forest ecologist and land manager July 21 for a lecture/nature walk focusing on common understory plants that may look like "weeds" but are not. Jean will describe how to identify each plant species, explain which are harmful to our local ecosystem, and which plants are native to our forests and support wildlife. Learn how to incorporate these naturally occurring perennials and ground covers in your landscape. You may bring samples of naturally occurring plants from your yard for Jean to identify. The ID session will follow the lecture/walk.

Burlington –

On Saturday, June 10th, Burlington County Master Gardeners participated in the annual Earth Fair at Smithville Park. Thanks to Lyn Avale, we displayed black swallowtail caterpillars munching on dill and parsley. This drew the interest of both children and adults. Over 200 people attended the event giving us the opportunity to expand our community outreach.

Field days to visit our garden projects have been scheduled. As well as our next quarterly meeting and pot luck recognition dinner.

If you like us, join us on Facebook.

Project reports:

Butterfly Garden at Smith Woods –

- All twelve plots are in bloom. The monarda is bursting red, pink and purple; the liatris is a brilliant hot pink with lots of pollinators stopping by.
- The Shasta daisies and mountain mint are growing like shrubs.
- The deer are still eating the cone flowers. We continue to monitor and work with the county park naturalist with spraying.
- The weather is so hot, that we have been watering on a daily basis to keep everything alive, especially the annuals – zinnia and lantana.
- We are still planting purple verbena to attract butterflies but are only seeing cabbage whites, clouded sulphurs and a few tiger and black swallowtails.
- Two monarch caterpillars were found on the butterfly weed and we continue to check the milkweed leaves for monarch eggs.

Donation Garden at Medford Leas –

- The garden is progressing and is almost totally planted.
- The new watering system is helping the plants tolerate the hot weather.
- The 6-foot fence is slowing down the deer, but we now have a groundhog.
- So far we have donated 90 pounds of produce.

IPM and Demonstration Plots at BCCAC –

- The past month has been challenging but some of our trials are doing well.
- We had a good crop of blueberries.
- All the other areas are surviving the rain and heat.

Pinelands Preservation Alliance Kitchen Garden –

- Due to the heat some work days have been canceled, so little progress has been made in our gardens.

Rancocas Nature Center

- Weeds are growing while valued plants are slowing down.
- Tiny grasshoppers are having a feast. Japanese beetles are newly arrived.
- We're waiting for a break in the heat wave – maybe by November.

Camden –

Horticulture School/Interns:

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The interns continue to earn hours with volunteering on the help-line, outreach programs and the educational gardens.

Greenhouse

The greenhouse committee is busy with a cleanup in the various houses. They will schedule a pizza pot washing party in July. The Hydroponic site produced 300 pounds of lettuce which was distributed to the Cathedral Kitchen in Camden

Educational Gardens

Our major project in June was to design and create a fence enclosure for the vegetable, herb and perennial gardens. The hardscape committee completed that project and installation was set for the first week of July. A water garden, bog garden and two large planters of plants for children were placed in the garden. We added a sunflower section which will be registered as part of the citizens science group. The garden has had many new interns involved with planting and maintaining our site.

Programs:

The following were May -June activities:

21 MGs took the Espoma tour in May.

There was an orchid propagation workshop held May 15. It was held in two sessions to accommodate the interest.

35 people attended the general meeting June 19 featuring a display of plant photography by a certified Master Gardener, Michelle Martello

Community Outreach

The community outreach program has contacted 740 people since March. In May there were 10 events, including 4 talks and 6 community activities. 70 people were contacted.

The June calendar will feature more Farmers Markets and two talks.

The new feature of the community events is to give little prizes such as seed bookmarks and pens to people who answer correctly gardening questions found on quiz wheel. It has been a good draw for children.

Upcoming Nominations for the Board

A nominating committee has been created to nominate candidates for 2019 board.

Cumberland: No report

Essex –

Speaker:

This Saturday, July 14th at 9:30 A.M. Jean Epiphany, staff ecologist and research project coordinator for Rutgers University, Center for Urban Restoration Ecology, part of the Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Natural Resources will talk about "Native Ferns of Bergen & Passaic Counties." Jean will review our locally native ferns that are significant to our local forests and ecosystem. (They are also losing ground, many becoming threatened or endangered). These are the fern species we should promote planting to support our local ecosystem over others that are not locally native or completely exotic. Planting locally native species provide specific and direct ecological benefits while other non-local and non-native plants do not.

Jean will touch on 'growing ferns from spores', and talk about specific species attributes, soil, light, micro-climate requirements to ensure success in plantings as well as specific ecological relationships each species or genera provide to the ecosystem. She will also describe how to identify and differentiate each fern to species.

2018 Graduation Ceremony and Annual BBQ:

Saturday, Sept 15th at Garibaldi Hall, ECEC in Roseland from 11-2

Trip:

There will be a MGEC Bus Trip to Storm King on October 23

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Storm Repairs:

The greenhouse roof which was damaged by the last nor'easter was repaired

MGEC Project Tour:

MGEC were invited to tour of Four Gardens they can volunteer in on Saturday, June 23rd The gardens on the tour were Branch brook Park, the Brookdale Park rose garden, the Thomas Edison Estate, Glenmont, and the Personette St. Pollinator Garden in Caldwell

Huge Volunteer Opportunity:

Many MGEC volunteered for workdays in June at Branch Brook Park where they hosted volunteers from Audible, Citibank, Verizon, Prudential, Kean University, North Star Academy and others totaling over 250 volunteers!

New Project:

A Rutgers Environmental Stewards garden project to enhance and restore an already established wild patch of common milkweed has recently begun in partnership with the Brookdale Park Conservancy

Patron Saint of Gardeners: Saint Fiacre

Someone has done some research and discovered a British or French saint – patron of gardeners. There is a lovely alabaster of St. Fiacre at the Met Cloisters museum. Holding a shovel in one hand, he is presented as the patron saint of gardeners. (According to the legend of this seventh-century saint, Fiacre earned the right to establish a hermitage and a hospice for the poor after singlehandedly clearing an entire forest in one day. Famed for growing many different kinds of vegetables and herbs in his garden in Meaux, France, he made and dispensed herbal remedies. Credited with miraculous cures, Saint Fiacre was particularly renowned for curing hemorrhoids. Devotion to the saint and his relics was predictably strong at the monastery he founded near Brie in the diocese of Meaux.

Horticulture for Seniors:

Jane Kinkle led a presentation at the last meeting of the year on Monday, June 18th about the importance of planting milkweed in personal and community gardens to provide food for monarch caterpillars. The seniors had a live butterfly presentation and took home milkweed plants to plant in their gardens.

Plant ID App:

You can take a picture of a plant and it will scan "magically" and identify the plant. So far it seems to be accurate and bug free so can you share this with the other Master Gardeners.

<https://www.picturethisai.com/>

(link for iPhone and Android).

Hunterdon County – Hunterdon summer community outreach activities continue in full swing including Helpline, Hunterdon Care Center and Sensory Garden programs, Hunterdon Central High School Special Needs summer program, Anderson House, grab-and-go salad program at Whitehouse Elementary School,

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Community Events and Snyder Farm pruning and picking. We held a trip to Mt Cuba in May and are planning a trip to Kykuit and Union Church in October. We have held self-drives to Well Sweep Herb Farm and Orchard View Lavender Farm and a movie matinee/workshop on Carnivorous plants. Upcoming plans include a Blueberry Farm self-drive and a butterflies movie matinee. Hunterdon has a new project which is a vegetable garden that will be used to donate produce to food pantries and also to develop expertise to help food pantries that want to have their own vegetable gardens.

Mercer –

June 16 - Bruce Crawford, Rutgers Gardens, Program on Garden Design for Beauty, Sustainability and Pest Resistance.

June 14 Tour - Andrea Filippone's Boxwood Garden. The boxwood nursery contains more than 50 cultivars nourished by an organic closed loop composting system and glass greenhouses that are powered by solar voltaic and thermal panels.

June 18 - Butterfly Committee Field Trip to Pole Farm. The Pole Farm section of Mercer Meadows was originally

the location of the American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T) shortwave international telecommunication station from 1929 – 1975.

To create their facility, AT&T purchased several family farms, relocated the farmhouses, and clear-cut much of the property. Two transmitter buildings were constructed on the southern end of the property, and the remaining fields housed the steel antenna arrays and later, many rhombic antennas. Mercer County purchased the land in 1998. A small portion of the Pole Farm was leased to farmers, but the majority of the fields are currently native grasslands. Today, the park consists of 435 acres of grassland, including wetland meadows, and approximately 380 acres of shrub land and second growth forest.

Over 50 species of butterflies have been found on the site including Pipevine, Black, Eastern Tiger, and Spicebush Swallowtails, Cloudless Sulphur (fall), Coral, Striped, Gray, and Red-banded Hairstreaks, Eastern Comma, American and Painted Ladies, Common Buckeye, Red-spotted Purple, Viceroy, Monarch, and at least a dozen species of Skippers.

June 19 - Tour of Federal Twist, Stockton, NJ. Begun as an experiment to explore garden making in the challenging conditions of unimproved, heavy, wet clay, the garden is ecologically similar to a wet prairie and is maintained by cutting and burning. Flowering begins in mid-June and peaks in mid-July, when the perennials and grasses reach maturity; then a second peak occurs in October, when low sunlight makes the grasses glow in yellows, russets, and golds.

June 20 – ID&D Committee Visit Middlesex County MG Gardens & Earth Center

Upcoming Events– July 11, Evening in the Garden; July 31, first Trent House Summer Camp, 2 more sessions in August. July 19, Butterfly Committee field trip to Monmouth County Monarch Way Station and Garden.

Move Update – still hoping for an October move-in date.

25th Anniversary – R2R Return to Our Roots – committee planning for 25 events for our 25th year

Middlesex

- Earth Center Open House is Saturday, August 18th at 10am where we will be giving garden tours, with food vendors and live music taking place. All are welcome!

-St. Peter's Adult Day Care Center is now Parker Life. The clients there have planted their raised bed vegetable garden and have begun harvesting strawberries to make strawberry sauce. This month we will be making pesto using our homegrown basil and in August our tomatoes will be used to make delicious bruschetta.

The Middlesex County fair will be celebrating its 80th anniversary this year. The fair will be held August 6-12 and will provide our master gardeners an opportunity to meet with the public, answer questions and share some gardening knowledge.

Monmouth – Our Helpline has been very busy the month of June as well as the many Community Projects around the county that continue to keep us involved. All of our gardens on the Ag. Building grounds look
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fabulous despite the outrageous heat! Most are in maintenance mode, but the PAR and JMG gardens have been producing well. Our JMG Program ended with the last meeting on June 23rd where Ellen Simonetti and Bob Mellert gave the lesson on preserving and using the foods the children have grown followed by some needed time in their garden, and a well-deserved graduation program complete with plenty of food made by our MGs! The children are invited to come back to their garden plots every Saturday until September to harvest and weed. Many of them will enter their produce in the County Fair held the last week of July. This year's theme for us at the County Fair will be "Hydroponics".

This year we are featuring our Community Gardens with a Community Garden Tour on Saturday, July 14th from 10 AM-4 PM showcasing 16 of our county gardens. Some gardens are PAR gardens while others are gardens for resident's own growing needs. We are fortunate that we will be a part of the Grown in Monmouth movement (www.growninmonmouth.com). Kick-off for the day will be at our PAR garden and we will be joined by one of our best supporters, Freeholder Lillian Burry. We are hoping these tours will encourage more people to become a part of a community garden.

Lots of preparation is being done for our children's event, Bugs, Birds and Beyond held at the Ag. Building on August 18th from 12 PM-4 PM. This free event will feature live butterflies, the Lady Bug Lady, live raptors, educational games and crafts and lots of good fun for all of our visitors. This event has grown and is always well attended and is a treat for children of all ages. This year, each child will be getting a "fact" card from each craft or game about plants, insects or animals. By the time they leave for the day, they will have collected interesting facts that they can refer to for a long time after BB&B!

Our Speakers Bureau, Horticultural Enrichment and School Programs Committees continue to educate our community residents through presentations or garden-side talks and demonstrations.

Our speaker for June was Rich Buckley on Diseases of Woodies who always passes on great information with a little humor!

Morris –

Another edition of The Morris County Rutgers Master Gardener newsletter, The Garden Journal, will be published in July.

Helpline: Has been very busy after a slow start of the year.

Community Outreach Event: Our Library Outreach programs are in full swing at the Parsippany and Morris County libraries.

Rutgers Master Gardener classes: We have already received thirteen applications for the class that begins in September.

Graduation for the class of 2016-2017 was on June 12, 2018 with 15 of the 17 class members finished with their first year commitment hours. The guest speaker was Rachel Mackow from Wild Ridge Plants LLC, and her subject was Deer Resistant Native Plants. There were 52 people in attendance.

Snyder Farm: A schedule has been made and implemented to do regular maintenance at the deer resistant garden at Snyder Farm. Over 30 Rutgers Master Gardeners have volunteered at the Great Tomato Tasting. The volunteer opportunities run from Monday to Thursday. Let's hope for good weather.

Projects

- The Community Garden Detective program has received many compliments for the great information being passed along to all the gardeners. We also share this information with the local community garden managers in neighboring towns.
- Morris County Rutgers Master Gardeners are working on a new plant design for the Pequannock Library.
- The Great Swamp invasive plant removal program continues into the fall.
- Burnham Park, in Morristown, also had many Morris County RMG's volunteer for an invasive plant removal day program in June.
- The Master Gardeners are also volunteering at a preschool in Denville helping them teach the children about growing vegetables.

Ocean – IPM continues to interest our group. The MGs are going to our Cuisine Demonstration Garden to observe and learn on July 11th. On August 9th, the MGs will work with the public on IPM at the Agriculture Center in an evening class.

Our Speakers have six presentations in July.

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The Community Outreach Events committee has been interacting with the public at many Ocean County venues. We have 36 events scheduled for the year.

The tick lab has been busy, especially with June having been Tick Awareness Month in Ocean County.

We will have installation of officers and awards on August 9th at a potluck luncheon.

An all-day training will be held at the Agriculture Center on August 23rd. The topic is Edible Landscapes. Four and a half EDUs are available.

The interns are busy with preparations for Fall Garden Day on September 28th. The interns are responsible for running this popular event.

Passaic – No report

Somerset– No report

Sussex – No report

Union - No report

ADJOURNMENT: At 12:20 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Jane Gardner and Tricia Deering, Recording Secretary