

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Minutes of November 6, 2018 RMGANJ Meeting

Pat Schanzlin called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. She reported that Jan Zientek was stuck in traffic and would be late.

Terry Zane, Vice President greeted the group. Jane Kinkle introduced her replacement as a delegate for Essex, Alice Poueymirou. Jane will not be able to be the Essex rep going forward because of the meeting day change. Jane brought a cake to thank everyone.

Secretary's Minutes from August 2018 Meeting: Tricia Deering, Recording Secretary, reported that she had emailed out the October RMGANJ minutes and received a few comments and county reports. She sent out several versions of revised minutes with the changes, the last being version 3. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept version3 of the minutes.

Attendance:

Atlantic:	Mary-Lou Monihan
Bergen:	Carolyn Gretchen, Karen Pennell, Joe Cooper
Burlington:	Terry Zane, Nick Hendershot, Lyn Avale
Camden:	Patrick Goughary
Cumberland:	Carol Henry
Essex:	Jane Kinkle, David Haines, Alice Poueymirou
Hunterdon:	Tricia Deering, Dewey Goodman
Mercer:	Betty Scarlata, Bob Robinson
Middlesex:	Kathy Dopart, Jerri Barclay
Monmouth:	Gayle Williams, Bob Magovern, Jay Schaeffer
Morris:	Marion Ceruzzi
Ocean:	Suzanne Keane, Jim Digney
Passaic:	Barbara Cook, Darlene Nowak
Somerset:	Linda Madretzke, Cindy Hedin
Sussex:	Jane Gardner, Pat Schanzlin
Union:	Dennis Lenahan, Dolores Batz-Culp
Rutgers University:	Jan Zientek

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jane Gardner, Treasurer, reported that the current balance is \$4,801.01 but we owe \$1,625 for room rental and the Eventbrite money has not come in yet. Using an estimate for the Eventbrite money, Jane reported that we are at approximately \$12,250. Pin money is also being worked. A motion to approve the report was made and carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: See Old Business below.

MASTER GARDENER'S COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Jan Zientek reported that Eventbrite and the receipts deposits need to be reconciled. His office is still working on that. He said that the money should be in the RMGANJ account by the end of the month. Jan reported that Brian Schilling, the new Director of Extension, has been very dissatisfied with Rutgers Office of Continuing Education. Brian reached out to a different branch of Rutgers that he believes will bring conference management in house and affordable for next year. Jan also reported that the most recent coordinators meeting was held in Mercer. Among other topics, the issue of continuing education was discussed. The coordinators would like it to be more consistently relevant, They discussed both new certification training and ongoing continuing education. They would like to provide more top down training direction. The coordinators also discussed what an annual conference should be and whether it should be in two locations. One idea is that it should be more focused on Master Gardener skills – like diagnostics, safe use of pesticides etc. They will provide firmer direction in February. The conference may be a lot different next year.

Old Business

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Pat Schanzlin requested that we go through the conference items and talk about what worked and what could be improved. She asked Jane Gardner to write down action items on the board

Conference Duty Assignments:

- **Awards Booklet: Ocean** – Suzanne Keane. Feedback was all good.
- **Bookstore: Mercer.** Bob Robinson reported that as usual, Barnes and Noble was difficult to work with. We had given them recommendations, but they did not let us know what books they were actually bringing until the last minute. Tricia Deering reported that it would have been very useful to know which of the speaker's books had been requested in advance, so it could be shared with the speakers.
- **Catering: Burlington** – Terry Zane reported for Marilyn Bidrawn that things went well, We were short on one type of sandwich due to the registration problem. Colored tickets with colored signs work well. 20 bagels and 20 yogurts were left over so there was enough food despite reducing the size of the order. 272 was the final number of attendees.
- **Door prizes: Somerset** – No comments
- **Evaluations: Atlantic** – No comments
- **Facilities: Essex** – David Haimes reported that it went better than last year. There were some issues with the tech support students not understanding how the audio worked and not knowing how to dim the lights. They had to go get a level 2 tech person for the audio. There were other issues with students that were working there not being informed about what the planned setup was.. This resulted in issues with table locations for books, lunch and registration. A solution would be to have a diagram signed off by the facilities.
- **Facility cleanup: Passaic** – no comments.
- **Financial: Sussex**
- **Garden Market: Bergen** – There was no market.
- **Master Gardener Merchandise Sales: Sussex** – no comments
- **Program Flyer: Cumberland** – no comments.
- **Program Speakers: Hunterdon;** Dewey Goodwin reported that everything went well on the day of the conference, but we need to get speaker information earlier so as to avoid a last-minute rush for paperwork. Also, better communication is needed on the books to the speakers.
- **Registration Desk: Morris** – The situation at the registration desk was challenging at times due to the attendees' confusion with the Eventbrite registration process. In an issue unrelated to the registration problems, attendees did not go to the correct line even though the alphabetical breakout signs were posted on the wall. Those at the registration desk therefore accommodated anyone who came to their station. One suggestion is to have greeters in front of the registration desk, informing attendees the correct line to enter.
- **Registration Folders: Camden** – no comments
- **Signs/Parking: Middlesex** – Parking was a problem, people did not know where to park. Parking information was on the registration confirmation, but many did not look at it. Betty Scarlata said that at Mercer they have a parking committee with flags to direct folks. This is an idea that could be used in the future.

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

- **Speaker Gifts: Monmouth** –this went well
- **Registration: Essex** –. The online registration process using Eventbrite did not go well. We will not be using Eventbrite next year. Jane Kinkle reported for herself and Chris Gaffney of Essex that the administration of Eventbrite was confusing given our complex requirements. For example, there were way too many ways for awardees to register and pay. It was also confusing for many attendees. Lots of people did not hit the submit button on Eventbrite, so they were not registered but they thought they were and several of these folks were quite upset. To avoid confusion the following suggestions were mentioned: 1. County agents should register their County awardees 2. Lunch choices should be simplified by reducing the number of choices. Jane brought up the idea of a buffet like the NPSNJ conference, but further investigation is needed as it may be too costly. It was noted that there are a lot of other conferences in the October thru March timeframe, so there will be a lot of competition next year. NJAES is moving everything to Constant Contact.
- **“Educational Opportunities” timeslot speakers: Pat Schanzlin** – there was mixed feedback on this.
- **Publicity Poster: Placement in RCE Offices** – no comments.
- **Video: Bergen** Joe Cooper reported that the support staff did not know how to get the AV audio to work and they had to go get a level 2 person to resolve the issue. Otherwise, everything was good.

Mary-Lou Monihan reported on the attendee feedback from the surveys given out during the conference. Generally, feedback was very positive She went through her summary of the feedback which is attached. It was decided that she will examine and provide a summary of responses from the new attendees separately. Pat Schanzlin asked that we take the feedback to our counties and get more clarification as needed.

Break: from 11:30 to 11:45 Thank you to Cumberland County for the refreshments, Essex is responsible for refreshments for the December meeting which is on December 4 at 10am in the RCE Conference Center.

Pat reported that she had sent out the 2019 meeting and refreshments schedule. The March meeting is 3/18. All others are Thursdays. There was discussion about whether we should continue with the tradition of the December meet being pot luck. The group voted yes for the pot-luck. Essex is responsible for beverages and paper goods. No coordination of food needed.

New Business:

Pat Schanzlin summarized our conference direction for next year. RMGANJ will forward assuming we will have a conference in 2019, same time, same place. Additional direction will be given to us at our March meeting by Jan. The cancelation clause in the facilities contract needs to be double-checked but we believe it is 60 days, so this should not be a problem.

Karen Pennell reported on Board nominations for 2019. Nominees for positions for election are: Corresponding Secretary - Joe Cooper Vice President – Dennis Lenahan and Recording secretary. Tricia Deering agreed she would be the nominee if no else was interested.

Pat reported on the International Master Gardener Conference is in Valley Forge this year, web site is up, but incomplete. She handed out lists of speakers from web site. Most of the speakers are professors. Interested MGs can sign up on the web site for email updates. Pat will send the unedited sheet of speakers to the group.

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Betty Scarlata asked whether RMGANJ still has a historian. The answer is - not really - there is a file of 6 years of documents that is passed from President to President and there are the documents we store on SAKAI. After some discussion, Joe Cooper suggested we should put everything needed on SAKAI. This would include minutes (which are there now), agendas, awards booklets and membership contact lists. There was a motion to revisit the role of historian. It was seconded and unanimously approved.

Conference Feedback Report

Rutgers Master Gardeners Fall Conference; October 2018 Evaluations Summary

There were 171 responses.

The Conference met my overall expectations:

107 answered the question; 52 (48.5%) strongly agreed; 49(45.7%) agreed; 5(4.6%) disagreed; 1(.9%) strongly disagreed.

After doing this for 3 years, I will say that it was the best response that I have seen. The negatives, in general, were the same petty complaints that one receives at most conferences & will be discussed below.

Recognition of Awards for Excellence: (new format)

147 answered the question; 47 (31.9%) excellent; 68 (46.2%) good; 24(16.3%) fair; 8 (5.4%) poor.

According to our responses, as you can see, approximately 78% were grateful for the new awards format. This was obvious in the responses found when questioned about the changed format. 4-5 were answers from this year's recipients and it was obviously that they felt ignored. I will say that even those who liked the new format, many of them felt strongly that, at the least, the award winners should be invited to stand up and receive a brief recognition and applause. Many commented positively about the write ups in our booklet. In addition, several felt that there should be more photos of the winners with their projects. One person suggested that instead of "Train the Trainer" from coordinators, the winners could briefly educate the audience in what "made" their project an award winner and how we can learn from it. If it wasn't a project, an administrator could also share about why they felt that they were successful in what they do. Each year it is obvious to me that many members want us to help integrate ways of sharing throughout the counties. It is obvious that they are not only interested in "learning" though the help of other gleaning from their experience and, perhaps, different ways of doing things. In addition, many feel that we are often "re-inventing the wheel" within the program. For example: If someone has a successful rain garden in Monmouth Co why should Atlantic County not benefit through their experiences. Members would like a way to be able to identify counties. Perhaps colored name tags or state the county in Caps and name smaller under the county.

“Train the Trainer with County Coordinators

158 answered the question; 47(29.7%) excellent; 75 (47.4%) good; 28(17.7%) fair; 8 (5%) poor.

Interesting to note that in the comments many felt that although they thought the concept was a good one, it was too simplistic for the audience & the concept needs to be tweaked. Several were confused and intimidated by the technology; others felt the technology kept them from falling asleep. A few ask for a definition of what “Train the trainer” was trying to say and what were the goals of the exercise?

Mr. Kirk Brown: “Olmsted-American Designer of Public Spaces in the 18th Century.”

171 answered this question: 139 (81.2%) Excellent; 22 (12.8%) good; 8 (4.6%) fair; 2 (1.16%) poor.

Although the majority of our attendees were enamored with Mr. Brown’s presentation, a few people who enjoyed the performance were commenting at the same time that he could have made it more relevant to the audience, bringing in more specific principles of landscape design and plant material information. I would like to mention at this time that many discussed the consideration that 1.5 hour presentations are too long and 45minutes to an hour max for a keynote is more than enough time.

Ms. Leda Meredith, “Foraging Food and Beauty in the 21st Century Garden

166 responded to the question: 139 (74%) excellent; 39 (23.4%) good; 8 (4.6 %) fair;

Even though Ms. Meredith received high marks, there were comments on the fact she was hard to hear and often went too quickly. Several questioned the esoteric nature of her presentation as compared to what we do on a day to day basis. Some were especially concerned that we never recommend foraging to our clients and others wanted recipes, LOL. That her slides should have plant material better identified and labeled.

Capt. Bill Sheehan “From High Tor Mountain to Newark Bay-The Hackensack River and its Water keeper.”

146 responded to this question: 99 (67.8%) excellent; 41 (28%) good; 6 (4.1%) fair.

Despite the very favorable response to the speaker, many felt he was too long and got too political at the end. They felt that the person leading the meeting must be a strong presence in order to keep the speakers within their time limit.

Several attendees felt that the slide projector needs to be set up differently so that speakers do not have to keep turning to the screen with their back to the audience. People found him very interesting, but many felt that we need to stick more pertinent horticulture information versus. Perhaps counties could entertain the idea of hiring speakers such as Leda, Bill and Kirk, charge an admission and permit other counties the opportunity to attend. This brings up a general comment about communication that I will address last.

Help from Volunteers: 158 answered this question.

106 (67%) Excellent; 46 (29.1%) good; 5 (3.1%) fair; 1 (.6%) poor

Several people commented on poor registration both in location (return to front desk) and in service. They questioned about the electronic registration and “if we cannot get it right, why not go back to paper which was easier to begin with.” It brought up the comments on traffic flow and felt that it was much too congested. Many felt the books should go out where they were before in the bathroom hall and registration in the front. They felt that there should be a hall signal such as the Perennial Plant Conferences cow bell or flashing lights. They felt that the door prizes should not be announced /called when people are on bathroom breaks but when most are seated. Also that we should leave the message on the screen longer and more often. Someone suggested we go from 4-9 prizes and more appropriate to gardeners: trowel, bulbs, seeds, book from a speaker etc.

Morning refreshments: 153 responded to the question: 84 (54.9%) excellent; 58 (37.9%) good; 9 (5.8%) fair; 2 (1.3%) poor.

More fruit, water available, coffee lukewarm; bagels stale. Common complaints but less so this year.

Box Lunches: 100 responded to the question: 62 (62%) excellent;

29 (29%) good; 9 (9%) fair. Only a few comments were made: more seats for lunch, organic lunch option, compostable boxes like other colleges such as Swarthmore; mushroom too spicy. Someone other than me did not get what they ordered and was not a happy camper about that fact, questioning “how could we get it wrong”??

Important to Note! Under times attended. There were 102 attendees who have been to the conference from 2 to 9 times; 17 had attended over 10 years. But most importantly, we had 52 first time attendees. I would like to suggest that we

always ask for 1st timers to stand up and let them be known. Perhaps wear special identifying name tags and make an effort to seek them out. We need to keep these members coming.

Under how did you hear about the conference.....

114 heard from an email by a Master Gardener Coordinator.

34 heard from another Master Gardener

23 heard from a variety of sources including only a few indicated from flyers.

3. Awards: What are your thoughts on the streamlined and changed format? Already addressed under "Recognition of Awards for Recipients."

4. Conference: What Improvements would make the conference more useful? Have addressed this under other topics but overall, many would prefer more direct pertinent information to horticulture, design. Insects, diseases, helpline issues. Many want more interaction with other counties and their projects. Breakout sessions. Going back to old format of having courses to choose between several courses.

5 Our speakers: Covered earlier but to reiterate, many felt that although they were entertaining, were they pertinent? A few made suggestions for the future speakers in generalities of more seashore-oriented subjects of plant material, salt marshes; emerging pests and diseases (the Asian invasion); climate change. That all speakers should have pdf formatted reference for each presentation. That we should vet our speakers better.

6. Garden Market: Did not having a garden market impact your enjoyment of this year's conference?

The majority did not miss it or liked it previously but can do without it, especially since we have books for sale (as previously mentioned felt it was too congested). However, those that did miss it felt very strongly about the subject. Several commented on things being sold other than books and I was not aware of that subject and cannot comment.

7. RMG Program Overall: Any other thoughts to add value to the Rutgers Master Gardener program generally.

People did not understand this question and except for a very few, either skipped it altogether or commented on the conference in a repetitious manner.

The very few that responded correctly, emphasized the concept of more sharing between counties. One stated that we should have a single newsletter like Penn State does. Also a new Master Gardener would like to have more training on how to effectively research the best fact sheets for various problems. We should have “more emphasis on training MG to do educational talks or lectures.” Also, that Rutgers should do better than give us “nice” lip service and should host a dinner for all counties.... That perhaps this would be the answer to the awards recognition as well. Could be done in that situation. Also that since we are providing Rutgers Volunteer recognition and advertisement, that we should get price breaks for using their facilities. We bring a lot of attention to them nationally and internationally.

“Creating mixed county discussions on hot topics, with the goal in mind to have an end product and make use of the large group of motivated individuals.”

“Program has great possibilities, but I am amazed how it generates strained interpersonal relationships.”

“a county poster program showing what is “hot” in each county & list what programs are being offered on a regular basis in their areal more conferences/socials/ to facilitate and share programs”

“In the state curriculum add a course on native plants/ also tool maintenance both machine and hand.”

“More diversity needed.”

Conference Format:

17 (15.4%) preferred old format

61 were first year or no comment

93 (84.5%) preferred new format

Last but not least “OTHER”

I have touched on everything except for the old subject of parking. There were many more positive comments on how we “keep trying” to make it better. People want a GPS address to the parking lot and feel the lots are very inconvenient. Also, once you are walking to the correct building they feel there should be signs to the correct entrance. Some walked around the building.

Bathroom lines are a major issue.

This was the first year that there were several “Thank You for all that you do.”

And “Keep up the good work.”

Respectfully submitted, Mary-Lou Monihan, Atlantic County NJ

10/2018

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

COUNTY REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

Atlantic –

Our gardens in Egg Harbor Township, Atlantic County are making plans to expand in scope: I am not aware of details at this time.

Most projects are starting fall cleanup. At the Seashore Living Center, residents participated in our horticultural therapy program making cornucopias and giving input on their own life experiences.

Several people came up to the Conference via van. They would like consideration given for next year's timing and have the program start an hour later. They also felt that the people working the convention this year were not understanding about the lack of seats and were rude when addressed. Our county was very unhappy that although our photos were received, they did not appear in the video. They were unhappy with lack of any recognition, even a stand-up applause in their seats and that the booklet did not "cut the mustard."

Our helpline round table spent time discussing the lantern fly.

Our next year's Plant sale committee is off and running. We will be adding Garden talks to the sale this year. Seed starting projects will include our new 2019 class members.

Several of our projects and members received gardens of distinction awards from the Pa Horticultural Society.

Our new class will begin on February 5th running through June on Tuesdays at 9am. Our coordinator is looking to use the Penn State manual instead of Maryland's.

Our mobile helpline members met to discuss the new initiative, what works and what doesn't. We have seen a big impact in the way of more walk-ins coming to the Ag Center.

The 4H Steam event was successful with our engagement and hopefully, they will be involving themselves with our plant sale. And we have a presence there with our mobile helpline.

Our November meeting has been canceled due to lack of availability of officers and my final report on evaluations will be given to our county when our coordinator works out a date. I do hope that board members will take their reports back to their counties, looking for comments and suggestions that can help make our future conferences more successful, fulfilling the needs of our state's membership.

Since this is my last meeting, I just want to thank everyone for their participation in the Rutgers Master Gardener program and to let you know that it has been a privilege to work with various members throughout the state for what seems like a lifetime. I am sorry that I will not have the opportunity to work with Jan. I am so optimistic about what he is going to bring to our program. It has been a pleasure and I hope to see you in the future.

All projects are in full swing; a group has begun another library project in conjunction with the Brigantine Green team.

Bergen –

Speakers: Bruce Crawford, director of Rutgers Gardens and adjunct professor in the Landscape Architecture department at Rutgers University. His presentation: "**Public Gardens – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**" followed a 20-minute Power Point presentation on composting prepared by Virginia Lamb, our last month's speaker. Her lecture was cancelled last month due to the inclement weather and hazardous driving conditions we were experiencing that evening.

A new and enthusiastic class of 25 students began on October 5th.

Volunteer Site News:

Garretson Forge & Farm, an 1800's Farm, in Fair Lawn will celebrate the holidays with several events including a *Holiday wreath-making workshop*, Nov. 25, and a *Dutch Christmas* with

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Sinterklass on Dec. 1 with a holiday sale of baked goods and hand-made items. Volunteers are needed to get the house and grounds decorated

NJBG Holiday Open House at Skylands Manor tours will take place Nov. 29-Dec. 2. This year's theme is "A Country Manor Holiday." *Annual membership meeting* on Nov. 10 to review last year and a description of 2019 plans. New board members will be elected. *Audubon Nature walk* on Nov 11. *Wreath-making workshop* on Nov 17 info@njbg.org to register or for additional information.

The Hermitage The 39th Annual Holiday Craft Show at the Hermitage continues October 27th through December 2nd.

Tenafly Nature Center A seasoned brewer will introduce you to the world of beer during an outdoor beer-brewing workshop Nov. 4. Learn how beer is made and how different combinations of simple ingredients lead to many different tastes. You'll have a chance to ask questions about beer, brewing, and food pairing.

Thielke Arboretum the new monthly program: *Nature Nerd Night* took place Nov. 4th. High school, college students and adults learn about nature by collecting data and specimens at the Arboretum using scientific methodologies. Fall Story Walk, The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything, began Sept. 21st and will be up throughout the fall.

Veterans Home Project It started as a special project by Dennis and Carolyn Gretchen who had a personal need to honor those who've served our country and to offer gardening services. They developed a site plan and budget, which was approved by the Veterans Home CEO and Board of Trustees and began work in the spring. As a surprise, the Veterans Home staff arranged a ribbon-cutting ceremony and blessing for the garden and presented a beautiful plaque to the Gretchens as a thank you for bringing this touch of nature for the vets to enjoy.

Burlington –

As we bring the 2018 growing season to a close, plans for 2019 are in the works. Both the Friends of Evesham Library and Moorestown Library have submitted requests for speakers. We will welcome the 2019 intern class in mid-January.

The recruitment/retention and events committees will meet to plan our next field trip – date and destination to be determined.

If you like us, join us on Facebook.

Project reports:

Butterfly Garden at Smith Woods –

- Painted Ladies and Monarch butterflies are still visiting the gardens and Swallowtail caterpillars are munching away on the parsley.
- We have been collecting seeds and liming the plots.
- The nectar plants are still vibrant with color and attracting pollinators as well as human visitors.
- The gardeners have made their plant lists for next. Year.

Donation Garden at Medford Leas – No report.

IPM and Demonstration Plots at BCCAC –

- All garden areas and demonstration plots are being prepared for their winter rest.
- The gardeners will take a break in November then come together for the planning meeting in December.

Pinelands Preservation Alliance Kitchen Garden –

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

- Master gardeners were invited to join several PPA staff members and a landscape designer to discuss plans to develop the grounds for future events. The process to label, move and heal in some of the plants has begun. The new hardscaping and garden preparation should be completed by spring of 2019. At that time, the Colonial Medicinal Herb Garden will be planted, and educational signage added.

Rancocas Nature Center –

- Garden clean-up has begun. We are cutting back the perennials and digging up cannas and other tender bulbs/tubers to save for next year.

Up-coming events –

- Quarterly Meeting – Tuesday, December 18, 2018

Job Opportunity, part time – contact:

Jeff Braungart - Interior Plant Creations, 10 Fox Hill Dr., Southampton 08088
609 268-3000; Fax 609 268-3003; ipclandscapement.com

Camden –

Outreach

The Master Gardeners of Camden County have launched their new website. Please visit us at mastergardenerscamdencounty.org to see what we're up to, and to offer your professional comments and critiques.

During 2018, we have made contact with 1,368 individuals at twenty-five outreach events; our seventeen lectures attracted 577 attendees.

Educational Garden

Ten members of our Educational Garden Committee traveled to the Earth Center to visit the Educational Gardens of the master gardeners of Middlesex County on October 25. Thanks to Angela Monaghan for giving us a thorough tour of the gardens, grounds, and butterfly house. We all had a great time and learned a lot!

In-House

A new slate of officers to RMGCC Board of Directors was elected at the General Meeting (and pot-luck dinner) on October 16. Congratulations to our incoming President Kathy Wright, and the rest of the new and returning board members. And thank you to outgoing President Carol Blauvelt for leaving us in fine shape!

Our annual Appreciation Luncheon is on November 8.

Cumberland:

November 13, 2018, 10AM Speaker and Meeting

Speaker:

So you've heard the old "college buddies put their heads together to start something" headlines right? The Hank Sauce story is no different. Hank, Matt, and Josh were college roommates at Flagler College in St. Augustine, FL who shared a passion for the ocean and a DIY attitude. Hank had been making "the sauce" for personal use for quite some time but never really thought it was something to brag about. When Matt asked about creating a logo/label for a graphic design project at Flagler College they quickly got to work and Hank Sauce was born. When bottles started disappearing from the local taco shop they realized they might have something valuable and decided to move home to Sea Isle City, NJ to build the brand. After a summer of farmers markets and guerilla marketing they opened up the first Hank Sauce spot and haven't looked back since. **Trip Committee**

October 18, 2018 – Sixteen Master Gardeners went on the Monroeville winery tour. Owner and wine maker, John Basile gave us an up-close look at his vineyard as he pointed out problems/diseases caused by the rainy, hot weather this summer – lack of photosynthesis causing not enough sugars to get down into the grapes! And we saw a different fermenting process – there is always something new/different on these winery tours!

The fruity wines, dry and sweet, were excellent.

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

December 13, 2018 - Holiday House Tour of Mansions in Fairmont Park – Strawberry Mansion and Laurel Hill Mansion; Cost \$45 with checks payable to CC Board of Ag. This trip will also include stops at the Reading Terminal Market, Christmas Village, and the Comcast Light Show.

Helpline on the Road

Our Helpline on the Road was a great success at the Greenwich Artisan's Faire and at Wheaton Arts Fine Arts Festival! The recipes were a big draw and much interest was expressed in upcoming classes, workshops, and trips.

Tomato Seeding

A dedicated group of MG continued seeding tomatoes in October. We collected seeds from Rutgers 250's, KC 146's, and the new blush grape 25.1C. The propagation team will be planting all three varieties for our sale at the Eco Faire.

Pepper Trials

Members helped Andy pick peppers in his field study for Phytophthora resistant plants. Afterwards, we picked the different varieties of basil that Pam and MG turned into Pesto for taste testing. We also got to take basil home.

Propagation Team

The propagation team met, and it was determined that we still want to participate in the 2019 Plant sale at the Eco Fair, but on a MUCH smaller basis.

This includes the help and assistance from ALL MG's who are dividing their plants. PLEASE use ONNLY the pots provided at the meeting and LABEL

Press

A write up on our upcoming bus trip to Philadelphia's Holiday Tour was sent to all press sources. Also, picture and write up on planting at Old Broad Street Presbyterian Cemetery was submitted for publication.

Hort Enrichment at the VA Home

The MG's helped educate the veterans on all things butterfly; MG's assisted in weeding and removal of rose bushes; Sign will be placed at the November VA Hort Enrichment session

Essex –

Master Gardeners of Essex County 2018 Meeting Schedule and Speakers:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Subject</u>
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11/10/2018	Ruth Hayden	Private Gardens of China – Principals of Design we still see today
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More than 2000 years ago artists designed the gardens of China that we see today. With the use of balance, harmony and patterns they designed magical gardens for China's elite.

Ruth Hayden is a certified Passaic County Master Gardener for over 20 years. She is a founding member of the Master Gardener Association of Passaic County serving in various executive positions including president. She created the MGPCA newsletter, Green Times.

Currently she sits on the executive board of Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum located in Wayne, New Jersey. She has served over 15 years in various position on the Laurelwood Arboretum board.

Ruth is a seasoned traveler and enthusiastic photographer. The Power point presentation was created with photographs taken during a three-week art study in China sponsored by William Paterson University.

12/8/2018	None	General Meeting and Holiday Party
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Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Around the County

Callicarpa in Bloom at Branch Brook Park

The *Callicarpa dichotoma* “Early Ameythyst” (beauty berry) is now in full bloom in the Kiyofumi Sakaguchi Memorial Grove. It seems to love the dappled shade and certainly the rainfall this year. Three-gallon plants were installed last year and have taken over the space

The “Kiyo Grove” has gone thru a major transformation this year and is worth your time to take a stroll along the lake to see how it was rejuvenated with tree rings, shrubs i.e. rhododendrons, azaleas, and perennials i.e. astilbe, rudbeckia, epimedium, anemone x hybrida, diervilla, tiarella cordifolia, etc.

New Essex County Master Gardeners Schedule for 2018 – 2019 Class

11/06/2018	NO CLASS	Election Day	
11/13/2018	Plant Identification	Steve Schuckman	
11/20/2018	Plant Nutrition	Bill Bamka, RCE/Burlington	
11/27/2018	Organic Gardening	Jan Zientek	
12/4/2018	Community Gardening	Jan Zientek	
12/11/2018	Fall Perennial Gardening	BBP RALPH ZIKA	
12/18/2018	Plant Nutrition	Bill Bamka, RCE/Burlington	
12/25/2018	NO CLASS	Christmas	
1/1/2019	NO CLASS	New Year's	
1/8/2019	Intro to Entomology	Joe Gyurian, RCE/Somerset	
1/15/2019	TBA		
1/22/2019	Gardening Safely in Urban Soils: Lead	Michelle Bakacs, RCE/ Middlesex	
1/29/2019	Vegetable Gardening	Fred Solomine & Claudia Kolster	

Horticulture Workshops for Seniors – Fall/Winter 2018

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

NOVEMBER 19 “Autumn Leaves” and pumpkins and mums. (reserve by November 13)

DECEMBER 17 “Warm in December” with holiday arrangements to share with friends. (reserve by December 11)

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

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!

MGEC Volunteer Hub – Weather and Season Permitting

404 Community Garden,

404 14th Avenue, Irvington, contact Keisha Newell at

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.

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;

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

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

(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

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

MGEC Bee Keepers at Garibaldi Hall. Beginners must observe until the proper course is taken and equipment purchased. Contact David Haimes, dhaimes@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.

Hunterdon –

Class of 20 is going along well, most outreach teams are wrapping up successful and busy seasons, and volunteer hours are being calculated in preparation for our Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. Our new "Train the Trainer" School Garden program has finished up with it's first school for the season and is contacting other schools and developing a brochure for their service. Over 16,000 pounds of apples have been harvested at Snyder Farm by Master Gardeners for food banks.

Mercer –

The speaker at our October meeting was Allegro Hicks, a botanist representing the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey. She described their organization, and the research and educational programs they offer.

On October 10, a Continuing Education program on "Trees in the Urban Landscape" was presented at the Hamilton Public Library, by Dr. Jason Grabowsky.

There was a RMG advanced training program given by Meredith Melendez, Rutgers Ag. Agent for Mercer County, on Oct. 23. The topic was "Reducing Food Safety Risks in Your Garden".

A seed exchange for RMG's was held at Extension on Oct. 23.

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

To honor Barbara Bromley as she nears retirement (she has since officially retired), an open house was held at the Extension Office on Oct. 24, from 11 am until 3 pm. Many people attended to show their appreciation for her 25 years of service to the RMG program. It was her initiative that got the program started in Mercer County.

A trip to Ed Shinn's Japanese maple garden in Wall, NJ, took place on October 30.

Another advanced training session on "Weed Ecology: Understanding Weeds to Defeat Them" was presented on Nov. 1, by Thierry Bensacom.

Our annual Awards Dinner was held at Stone Hill Church on the evening of Nov. 5. After a pot luck dinner and a brief General Meeting, a "baccalaureate". celebration was held to honor our 2018 class. Some 12 new graduates were introduced. Combined, they amassed a total of 1119 volunteer hours, and 512.5 Helpline hours. Four of them had over 100 volunteer hours apiece, and one had 62 Helpline hours. They are a dedicated group.

Service pins for 5, 10, 15, and 20-year veterans were distributed, and several people attained Gold Badge status. We had two who were honored for 2500 hours of service. Their names have been engraved on a plaque which hangs in the Extension Office.

Nora Sirbaugh gave an excellent presentation on the spotted lanternfly, the latest nasty Asian pest to threaten our trees, plants and fruits. She emphasized reporting if anyone finds the insect or an infestation. Removing "Tree of Heaven" plants is also crucial, as they are the insect's preferred host.

Our move to the new Extension facility, the old juvenile detention center, has finally begun. Construction is wrapping up in a few days, and some items are being moved now. The situation in the current Extension Office is best described as "chaotic"! But Helpline goes on!

Middlesex –

On a spooky night in October the Middlesex County Master Gardeners gathered for our annual 'Howl in the Garden' to celebrate the harvest season.

The gardens at the EARTH center have been put to bed and our helpline has reverted to winter hours - Monday to Friday 10 AM to noon.

On November 14th at 6:30 a free workshop on caring for houseplants and winter gardens will be presented by master gardeners. Attendees are invited to bring their plants and questions.

Middlesex County Master Gardeners book club started the year with Founding Gardeners by Andrea Wulf, which reviews the gardens of our first four presidents and their relationship with John Bertram, the first commercial seedsman in the US.

November's selection is Lab Girl by Hope Jahren, January's is The Orchid Thief by Susan Orlean, February selection is Of Naked Ladies and Forget-Me-Nots by Allen Armitage and March's is What a Plant Knows by Daniel Chamovitz.

Monmouth –

This fall our Community Service Projects Committee continues to work with the following groups on various projects: Ross Lake Park, Long Branch, Mattison Crossing, Freehold, Brookdale Community College and WEForum in Rumson. Some completed projects are: Township of Ocean Historical Museum and Thompson Park Day in Lincroft. Future plans for us will include projects in Jackson Woods, Long Branch, Kula Urban Farm, Asbury Park, Brielle Public Library and Ocean Township Library.

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Our School Program Committee met to discuss creating more MG information and demonstration tables that would be useful to educators at our School Conference in April and for children when they come to visit our facility. We are looking for more diversity and additions to what we already have available. So far, we have more than 35 lessons/demonstration tables, but would welcome some new ideas.

Helpline Roundtable continues to meet and review topics brought up from the public calling in with questions and concerns they are experiencing in their yards or community. One topic of discussion was pruning of hydrangeas...always good to review! The Horticultural Enrichment Program started a cycle at Reflections Brandywine Living in Colts Neck in September which will continue into November. The Junior Master Gardener Program had their last organizational meeting for the year making plans for 2019's new group of children. All participants are between the ages of 9 and 11 years of age and we are able to take into our program 18 children in the upcoming year. This year's class harvested 1,234 lbs. of produce and many ribbons at the County Fair!

Plans for this year's Graduation are in progress and we will celebrate the graduating Class of 2018 and its 30 graduates and our milestone awardees on November 15th. In the meantime, our gardens are being weeded, pruned and well-tended prior to putting them to bed. The PAR and JMG gardens will end the season with manure parties! In December, we will gather for our annual Holiday Recognition Luncheon.

Morris – No report

Ocean –

Our “Big 3” hours: Helpline, Ticks, & Diagnostics, are finished for this season. The garden clean-ups are just about complete. The replacement of the Hoop House cover was able to take place in between the stormy days, although the greenhouse still needs its cover done. Hopefully next week now. Gleaning opportunities continue.

We completed the final Outreach Tables event and the last Speaker presentation was given. The “Midnight in the Garden” all-day training was a big success. Committees are meeting to evaluate 2018 and plan for 2019. The Interns are looking forward to Graduation in early February. Our informational Open House was well attended by 30 people interested in our Master Gardener program.

After the third quarter hours were tabulated, letters were sent out to those who still need to complete volunteer time as reminders.

Passaic – No report

Somerset– No report

Sussex –

In our new Sussex County Demonstration Garden, which was moved last year from the Sussex County Library grounds to the RCE Office, our fence is finally being built. After all this waiting time, we may finally have a Sussex County Demonstration Garden up and running by the spring. If any other counties can send us the “what not to do trials and tribulations” of their own demonstration garden construction to help us avoid pitfalls they came across, please forward your valuable information to us so that we can gain from your experiences. Thank you!

We have 38 people on a waiting list for our hybrid evening class/webinar content MG Education Series. This list was generated all through word of mouth. We have not advertised the class as yet. We are working on scheduling our class dates for that 2019 class now, and then we will advertise it.

Our MGs have all been trained on our MG Hub website (Volunteer Impact). We are hoping to have less chasing down of volunteers' activities to bring in year-end reporting info. The sign-up capabilities have

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

worked very well, and we are training our team leaders to become more proficient in using the great tools available within this website.

Union –

30th Anniversary PIN Party: U.S. Congressman of N.J., Leonard Lance presented a Flag of the U.S.A., which was flown over the U.S. Capitol in recognition of the Union County's Master Gardener Program's 30th Anniversary to Madeline Di Nardo, County Agent. She also received a Resolution from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and a U.S. Congressional Letter from N.J. Representative, Bonnie Watson Coleman. Our Awardees of Excellence were Ruth Yablonsky and Dave Regal. September 16 recognized the service of many MGs including Barbara Gigon for 25 years, and Ruth Yablonsky and Barbara Fay for 30 years and active!

Union County Master Gardeners opened the Demonstration Garden to 553 visitors for the County's **Rockin' the Reservation** on September 30.

Director of Horticulture, Marc Montefusco of **Reeves Reed Arboretum** was the speaker on October 17. He recounted interesting, relevant history of the property with emphasis on ornamental horticulture, and those who practiced it.

Madeline DiNardo announced that our Office Manager, Tamisha Hopkins had a baby boy on Saturday, October 20.

Twenty-one enthusiastic members of the **New Class** came to the Demonstration Garden on October 23. The new class has adopted the Drought Tolerant Garden.

Ash Tree Survey for Union County Parks is going well. We have surveyed Warinanco Park and Cedar Brook Park and are currently surveying Nomehegan Park. The County Parks Department will be using the information to develop a plan to manage Emerald Ash Borer damage.

The **Nominating Committee** has come up with a full slate of candidates for Executive Board positions. An email to the MGs and an announcement will be in the Newsletter.

Communications Meeting was held 10/23/18:

Sharing Garden: Vegetable crops were negatively affected by the weather and insects. The herb borage was planted as an IPM and was effective at deterring squash borers. Final donations were over 1380 lbs. MG volunteers are dropping off the Sharing Garden Committee. A suggestion was made to include work project for that week the weekly email.

Helpline: Training sessions were held by Madeline Di Nardo on the Spotted Lantern Fly and the Emerald Ash Borer. Reeves Reed Arboretum donated books, and some were added to the Helpline Library. Helpline will look at new ways to connect with homeowners via the RCE public notification office. Office was closed for Columbus Day. There are vacancies for MGs on Fridays.

Community Beautification: Projects have updated their listings and will post on the website.

Herb Garden: Caryl Hannemann's death is a severe loss for the Herb Garden. She was the designer and mentor. A plaque is being ordered for an herb garden bed that will be dedicated for Caryl's Favorites. Five beds were replaced with plastic lumber. Plants are being negatively affected by shade from nearby trees, and new gardens are being suggested.

Children's Programs: A core group of 17 MGs provided garden activities for 6 Nature Center camp sessions this summer relating to 3 themes: Bugs and Beyond, Branching Out, and The Art of Nature. They hosted a total of 74 campers and 19 counselors. Two new activities were introduced: 1. hydroponic

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

gardening, 2. the age of trees. Madeline presented an insect walk and the environmental activity called Messy Town. Winfield Park School visited the Gardens for a 2-hour program with ten MGs.

Memorial Rose Garden: Roses are not doing well due to some diseases and lack of sun - too many trees in the area. Madeline will put in a work order for the County to do the heavy pruning, but she will need a list of what exactly needs to be done in the Herb Garden and Rose Garden.

Cutting Garden: The Garden would like to use plastic wood for new borders around the garden by the fence. They have prepared and delivered numerous bouquets to cancer centers, Sharing Garden recipients, and the PIN Party center pieces.

Berry Patch: It was a good year for blackberries. The birds devastated the blueberries. The apples suffered from a lack of bees and pollination—only had a small crop. The plums suffered from disease despite being sprayed with neem oil. The currents performed well along with kiwi gold raspberries.

The **Newsletter** currently has 4 writers and hopes to have more.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM. The next meeting is 12/4.

Respectfully Submitted
Tricia Deering, Recording Secretary