

## Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Minutes of August 8, 2019 RMGANJ Meeting

Pat Schanzlin called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Dennis Lenahan welcomed the group. Terry Zane introduced the following guests from Burlington: Dave Parspns and Sharon Astorino. Dave will be the delegate next year.

**Secretary's Minutes from June and July 2019 Meetings:** Tricia Deering, Recording Secretary, reported that she had emailed out the June and July RMGANJ minutes and received minor changes and county reports. She sent out revised minutes with the changes. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes. Tricia will update them to be "final" and distribute.

### **Attendance:**

Atlantic:	
Bergen:	Joe Cooper
Burlington:	Terry Zane, Nick Hendershot, Merry Bogert, Dave Parsons, Sharon Astorino
Camden:	Patrick Goughary
Cumberland:	
Essex:	David Haimes, Alice Poueymirou
Hunterdon:	Tricia Deering, Dewey Goodman
Mercer:	Betty Scarlata, Sudi Solomon, Bob Robinson
Middlesex:	Kathy Dopart
Monmouth:	Gayle Williams, Bob Magovern, Jay Schaeffer
Morris:	Deidre Gallagher
Ocean:	Suzanne Keane, Roberta Quinn
Passaic:	Rick Sneyers, Jim McHugh
Somerset:	Linda Madretzke
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 \$13,937.65. This balance will start to go down because there are new POs in the pipeline for the conference.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Pat Schanzlin reported on Old Business below.

**MASTER GARDENER'S COORDINATOR'S REPORT:** Jan Zientek reported that it has been a quiet summer. He also reported that he will miss the annual conference. Pat Schanzlin asked who will take his place. Jan reported that he was not sure but it may be Nick Polanin. He reported that the 4-H agent in Essex County has developed a training module for working with youth which will become a standard part of Master Gardener training; however it does not certify Master Gardeners to work with youth without parents or teachers.

### **Old Business**

***OCPE Registration:*** Pat Schanzlin reported that 40 people have registered for the conference to date. Less than one third are board members. Parking lots have been assigned: 99C and D, and 76. Pat reported that the OCPE automobile registration link part of the registration process is not working properly. The link is supposed to come up automatically but it does not, however you can click on the link and it works fine. Pat has been in contact with OCPE and they are working on fixing it. She will send out an email clarifying how registrants should handle the automobile registration process in the interim. There are a few other issues including an inconsistent closeout date. In one place OCPE says 10/1 and another says 10/3. This will also be fixed.

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Pat discussed the need for advertising for the conference. County reps should be sure it is in County Newsletters, announced at meetings, posted in Helpline, etc. The info on the conference with pictures, etc. is on the OCPE web site and can be printed.

Pat Schanzlin reported that there is a link on the registration web site for internal payment to handle the Rutgers payments for award winners and coordinators. Someone in the county must register those guests. AES2019 is the promo code to use.

**Garden Market:** Pat Schanzlin reported that Barnes & Noble (B&N) and All Colors will participate in the Garden Market. Bruce Crawford was contacted but unfortunately he has nothing to sell in the fall. Mercer County can bring brochures for their spring symposium and sell lanyards. Other counties are welcome to bring other informational material. Terry Zane suggested CocoRaHs as a possible participant. Tricia Deering will contact them. Another suggestion is the NJ Invasive Strike Team. Jan will get someone to contact them.

In addition to books, Barnes & Noble will bring other items for sale but they have not told us what yet. Gayle Williams reported that they have nice note cards. Bob Robinson reported that they are presenting 16 titles to B&N. It was suggested that they come earlier than in the past – before 10 am so they can sell before the conference starts. Bob will speak to them. In addition, Bob will follow-up with B&N about whether they can substitute 300 folders for the 10% of sales that we receive. They should know next week when they get a new boss. Diane Shonyo needs to know ASAP so she knows if she needs to buy folders.

All Colors is bringing clothing and other miscellaneous items for the market.

**Facilities:** David Haimes reported that the visit with facilities went well. We have added a lunch room and the garden market. Total price is \$2050 for all rooms.

**Catering:** Deidre Gallagher reported that catering is under control. The contract calls for 280 lunches. Deidre will get the info on the lunch choices from Terry Zane. 10/1 is the close date.

**Awardee Recognition:** Deidre Gallagher asked for clarification on how the award winners will be recognized. There is a video including all the award winners and an awards booklet. Award winners will stand and be recognized. There was extensive discussion about how to better recognize the award winners without taking up too much time. Jan Zientek reported that there is new committee to decide how Rutgers volunteers should be recognized. The first meeting is scheduled shortly. Discussion continued on other options. One option is to have all the award winners come to the front and have each team/individual step forward and be recognized. Something like this does not fit into the schedule this year. It will be considered for next year pending the outcome of the Rutgers Recognition Committee. Pat Schanzlin reported that she will read more names this year than last year.

**Break:** There was a break from 11:05 to 11:20. Pat Schanzlin thanked Ocean County for the refreshments. Passaic County is responsible for refreshments for the September meeting which is on Thursday September 12 at 10 am in the RCE Conference Center.

### **New Business:**

**Conference tasks status:** The conference task responsibilities and status are as follows:

- Burlington/Terry Zane: registration desk. Terry reported that the desk is in good shape however they need a person at the registration desk who can help with folks who forgot to register their cars. That person will need a laptop.
- Ocean/Suzanne Keane: award booklet. Suzanne reported that she is missing the Middlesex writeups. She reviewed the counties with 30 and 25 year people to be sure no County is missing. Suzanne will send list to Tricia Deering and Jan Zientek who will send to coordinators and members.

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- Bergen/Joe Cooper: video. Joe reported that he has pictures from 8 counties and the international award winners. He needs the other counties soon. He is not taking photos of 25 and 30 year winners.
- Mercer/ Betty Scarlata, Bob Robinson : bookstore. See Old Business above for status.
- Morris/Deidre Gallagher: catering – see Old Business above for status
- Union/Dolores Batz-Culp: door prizes. Master Gardener caps will be used as door prizes..
- Atlantic/Mary Lou Monihan: evaluations. This is under control
- Essex/David Haimes: facilities. Under control
- Hunterdon/Dewey Goodwin: speaker escorts. Dewey has received questionnaires back from Rutgers speakers and sent them to facilities and catering. He needs the same information on the International award winner info to him.
- Monmouth/Gayle : facility cleanup. Under control.
- Cumberland/Carol Henry: program flyer; Carol reported that she has a first draft for review.
- Camden/Diane Shonyo: folders. She needs 200 folders. Still hoping to get them from B&N
- Middlesex/Kathy Dopart: signage: Under control
- Passaic/Rick Sneyers: Speaker Gifts: 10 baseball caps from All Colors were ordered by Jane Gardener and delivered to the Passaic County Ag agent. They will be used for speaker gifts and door prizes.
- Somerset/Linda Madretzke: Garden Market: 10 tables have been allocated. There is nothing for Linda to do

**Role of Historian:** Tabled until after the conference

### Caring and Sharing:

Terry Zane reported that Marion Ceruzzi is in Colorado and misses everyone. She also reported that the Garden Club of NJ is running a Garden School on October 1 and 2, with an optional exam on 10/4. Terry said she will send a link to whomever wants it. Jan Zientek said he would like the link.

### COUNTY REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

**Atlantic** – No report

#### **Bergen** –

##### Hackensack River Greenway through Teaneck

Help remove trash and invasive plants at either of two clean-ups along the Hackensack River Greenway through Teaneck. At the Mary S. Topolsky Garden in Teaneck and Aug. 17 at the south end of Riverside Drive in Teaneck.

##### New Jersey Botanical Garden/Skylands

The NJBG is located at 2 Morris Road, Ringwood. *Audubon butterfly walk.*

Sunday, Aug. 11 to walk the gardens and fields to identify the many butterflies that visit the NJBG. The group will discuss the host plants and nectar sources crucial for their survival. *Concert: From opera to Broadway* Soprano Justyna Giermola and baritone James Michael offer an evening of opera arias and Broadway show tunes — everything from Mozart to Gershwin, Aug. 23.

NY-NJ Trail Conference Become a Habitat Helper by joining members of the Bergen-Passaic Chapter of the Native Plant Society to plant, remove weeds, and learn about the native plants at the NY-NJ Trail Conference headquarters on the following dates: Aug. 4 and Aug.18, Aug. 26.

##### The Hermitage

The original vegetable garden was planted as a demonstration exhibit for the 100th anniversary of World War I (2017). Now it's being planted with vegetables grown by the last owner of the Hermitage, Mary Elizabeth Rosencrantz. The patch will be renamed "Mary Elizabeth's Garden." When she died in 1970 and bequeathed the Hermitage to the State of New Jersey, Mary Elizabeth left behind hundreds of years of lists

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and documents. Among these were lists of her vegetable plants, which sustained her family during years of poverty. There were many berry bushes on the property, so highbush blueberries and wild raspberries are included in this effort. So far, the harvests have been meager and the hope is to produce more every year and donate to the Center for Food Action in Englewood. The Hermitage grounds comprise 4 1/2 acres, much of which had been untended for years. It's a constant battle against the weeds but the battle is being won with MG muscle and woodchips.

### Butterfly and Native Garden at Overpeck

In July, Site Coordinator, Pat Knight, gave a tour of the Butterfly and Native Garden. She shared her knowledge of native plants and a few laughs with members of the Bergen County Audubon Society

### ***Burlington –***

July brought us the usual heat wave as we welcomed visitors to the annual Burlington County Farm Fair. Visitors to our table were provided with a wide variety of gardening information. Questions from the adults and children provide us to opportunity to encourage planting gardens and safe gardening practices.

#### **Project Reports:**

**Gardens at Burlington County Fair Grounds –** Our gardens provided a colorful welcome for the Farm Fair visitors. The central flag pole garden is planted with a native grass and succulents. Without irrigation, this garden was designed to withstand full sun and hot, dry weather. The main entrance gardens enjoy the benefit of irrigation. The area is anchored with Maple trees, a variety of flowering shrubs, a variety of perennials and several annuals for an extended splash of color.

**Butterfly Garden at Smith Woods –** This month we have many visitors to the garden besides the butterflies, hummingbirds, dragonflies, swallowtail and monarch caterpillars as well as county residents. Since the beginning of July, the Junior Park Ranger program has held classes in the garden to learn about the life cycle of the different butterflies that visit the garden.

The children had the opportunity to observe a monarch emerging from it's crystalis.

Plenty of nectar and host plants have been provided for these pollinators and the public finds our ID plant signs extremely helpful for establishing their own pollinator garden.

**Donation Garden at Medford Leas –** On Monday we donated 133 lbs. of food including - onions, tomatoes (many kinds, colors and sizes), cucumbers (several kinds), summer squash (4 kinds), sweet peppers (many kinds), hot peppers (many kinds), beans (several kinds), shallots, and even small eating pumpkins. So far this year we've donated about 650 lbs. This is a great group and we're well on our way to making 2019 our best year ever.

**IPM and Demonstration Plots at BCCAC –** The month of July has been wet, hot and humid.

Our work was mostly weeding and watering when needed. The blueberry crop was very good and we all shared in the joy of picking and eating those delicious fruits.

Some of the flowers in the kitchen garden were passed their prime and we had to pull some of the African daisies.

We have a lot of butterflies and many pollinators both in the pollinator plot, especially in the mountain mint and in the verbena, located in the kitchen garden.

**Medicinal/Culinary Colonial-Era Garden at Pineland Preservation Alliance and Pinelands Preservation Alliance Kitchen Garden –** Even with the challenge of working around the construction of hardscaping and reworking some of the landscaping, the gardens are looking beautiful. The efforts of the master gardeners were recognized Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at the Pinelands Preservation Alliance 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration for members and volunteers.

**Rancocas Nature Center –** No report.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- August 15 and 29, 2019: IPM presentations – Bill Bamka
- August 28, 2019: Deer Friendly Yards – Dave Parsons, Moorestown Library
- September 25, 2019: Fall Gardening and Preparing for Winter – Rich Allen, Moorestown Library
- September 8, 2019: "Common Healing: Europe's and Native America's Early Connection Through Medicinal Plants") - Nick Hendershot, Chesterfield Township Historical Society

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### **Blog Spots:**

IPM Blog, All About Mosquitoes, by Rich Allen

<http://bcmgipm.blogspot.com/2019/05/welcome-to-mosquito-season.html>

Invasive Bradford Pear, by Dave Parsons

<https://rutgersmgbc.blogspot.com/2019/06/invasive-species-in-new-jersey-series-6.html>

<https://rutgersmgbc.blogspot.com/2019/07/ergonomics-for-gardeners-series-7.html>

### **Camden –**

#### **Hydroponics and Greenhouse**

The aeroponic gardens are still being maintained at the Regan building at Lakeland and at the Environmental Center.

The greenhouse planted 1,000 pansies for the Camden County Parks department, 100 milkweeds and fall asters.

#### **Programs**

The program committee will be offering a variety of programs in September. We may be traveling to Middlesex County to see their gardens at the end of August.

#### **Luncheon Committee**

The annual Master Gardener recognition luncheon, held in November, is being organized by the luncheon committee. The menu and program have been finalized.

#### **Outreach and Speakers Bureau**

A new feature has been added to the community outreach tables-a soil test. People can a soil sample to the tables and the soil will be tested for PH values. There is also the spin the wheel feature which asks a horticulture question. If the participant answers correctly, they win a pen or herb bookmark.

The outreach group will be at the Haddon Heights farmers market in August

The Educational bureau has a created a pamphlet to a Master Gardener informational handout as part of their presentations. They have been doing two presentations a month to various community groups.

#### **Educational Gardens**

The team has finished installing the fencing and watering system around the pumpkin patch and 4-H gardens.

The hardscape team has built a "Thank You" display board. Plaques of the names of financial contributors will be hung on this board as a way of acknowledging their support.

We are installing mailboxes, which have been hand painted and decorated with floral designs by a Master Gardener. The mailboxes will be placed at each of the 12 gardens and will contain plant id names and a description of the garden. We will have Power Corp, a young adult federal job training program, there to help with this project.

In September there will an educational talk on Monarch Butterflies. Part of the class will be held in the garden and is open to the community.

#### **Publicity:**

Web page is nearing completion. Flyers are being created for the Monarch talk, September 7

**Cumberland:** No report

### **Essex –**

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker (Y or No)</u>	<u>Subject</u>
09/14/2019	No	General Meeting, 2019 Class Graduation, Party and Awards

#### **Upcoming Events in Essex County**

08/08/2019 North Jersey Orchid Society – The Hanover Manor, 16 Eagle Rock Avenue, East Hanover, NJ. See [www.njorchids.org](http://www.njorchids.org) for more info

08/24/2019 Rutgers Cooperative Extension will host the Essex County Tomato Contest at Garibaldi Hall

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09/10/2019 - New Essex County Master Gardener Class begins at Garibaldi Hall in  
05/2020 Roseland

### **Horticulture Workshops for Seniors – Fall/Winter 2019**

*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*

09/16/2019 Watch for new sessions to begin

### **MGEC Volunteer Projects – Weather and Season Permitting**

**404 Community Garden** 404 14th Avenue, Irvington  
**Branch Brook Park Cherry Tree Pruning Team**  
**Branch Brook Park -Prudential Concert Grove -** (Southern Section)  
**Brookdale Park Pollinator Garden**  
**Brookdale Park Pruning** —ongoing pruning of Trees  
**Garden of Worker Bees**  
**Caldwell Pollinator Garden**  
**Education Outreach**  
**Giving Garden** Nutley area  
**Glenmont Project** Thos. Edison Nat'l. Historical  
Plus others

### ***Hunterdon –***

The Sensory Garden team is preparing for their annual Open House.  
The Giving Garden team is harvesting veggies and herbs for the local food pantry.  
Our Community Outreach team is continuing to provide information at many local events.  
Our Help Line continues to be busy.  
The Hunterdon 4-H Fair will be held this month, and we will be manning an information table for the duration of the fair.  
Preparations are underway for the Rutgers Tomato Tasting event at the end of the month.

### ***Mercer –***

The new hours reporting software, Better Impact, which is to be used statewide, will be implemented in Mercer by January 1, 2020. This standardization will make us more connected to the rest of the state. Training for our RMG's will begin in the fall.  
We now have 20 applicants registered for the new intern class that commences in the fall. We have a limit of 25, and registration is still open.  
Our Helpline hours were changed to 10-12 and 12-2 daily as of July 1. Additionally, in August we will initiate an evening Helpline session once a month, from 5 to 8 pm, on the second Monday. This will allow those who work during the day to participate.  
A nominating committee, composed of RMG's from many classes, was formed to identify candidates for our annual December election of officers.  
To avoid the use and discard of many single-use items such as plastic cutlery, we are investigating purchasing, or soliciting donations of, inexpensive stainless flatware. This could be used during our meetings, at the annual dinner, and by all of the people at Extension.  
During our General meeting, Margaret Pickoff introduced several colleagues, who described the Extension program SNAP-Ed. This program works with schools and community organizations to offer nutrition education programming, and cooking classes for children, adults and seniors, aimed at promoting healthier eating and healthier lives. It is the educational successor to Food Stamps.  
Our Award for Excellence nominees for 2019 have been identified. They are Roseanna Innes (2016), who is Co-chair of the Children's Committee, Schools, and Ann Vaurio (2012), Co-chair of the Community Education Committee.  
One volunteer, Jeanne Mroczko, has reached the 1000 hour Gold Badge level.

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On July 27, the Hands On in the Garden program at MEG focused on "Attracting Butterflies Home", and on August 3, Nancy Putnam led a walk along the butterfly trail at MEG. The next session, on August 10, will deal with composting.

The theme for our annual Symposium, to be held on March 14, 2020, will be "Here We Grow Again". All speakers have been scheduled, including our own Margaret Pickoff.

Our next tour, to be held in October, will be to the Morris Arboretum.

Following our July meeting, a program entitled "Home Landscaping With an Emphasis on Fruit Display and Fall Foliage", was presented by Steven Kristoph of Kristoph Nurseries.

**Middlesex** – No report.

### **Monmouth** –

July has come and gone with the Community Gardens Tours featuring 19 of our beautiful county gardens. All gardens have a PAR section and some only grow to give to our food banks. Our community gardens have much of which to be proud and those who attended were impressed with all the work that goes on in a garden and how much is and can be harvested. Wrapping up July was the County Fair with great weather, fun and flower power! Giving a nod to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Woodstock, the theme for our tent was "Flower Power". We all wore tie-dyed shirts lovingly made by one of our intern's son who also made a large tie-dyed backdrop for a fun and colorful cutout of hippies and wild flowers (the kind you can stick your head through and have your picture taken) also made by our interns...way to go, interns!

In maintenance mode are all of our gardens with the PAR in full swing! The Speakers Bureau has had a few presentations in July and plans to take August off. Starting in September, vettings will begin for new presentations. In the offing, our Member Education Committee is setting up a course or two in wine making with trips to a local vineyard included. The Junior Master Gardener program continues through the summer with weekly visits to the garden so the children can harvest their vegetables and weed. Many of the children entered their produce in the County Fair and did very well! The Helpline continues to be busy with all sorts of inquiries, many of which, are a product of the cold, rainy and dreadful spring we had!

August 17<sup>th</sup> is our Bugs, Birds and Beyond free children's event. From 12 PM to 4 PM, games and crafts, a live raptor show and a butterfly tent and the ever popular Lady Bug Lady will entice and thrill all who attend! We are so glad that the 4-Hers and their animals will be joining us again. Should you get hungry, vendors will be on-hand (the homemade ice cream is dreamy!) from hot dogs to crafts to a produce stand will complete the scene.

Currently, Monmouth MGs are planning their Recognition Picnic which will be held at one of our MG's lovely home. The plan for the afternoon is to spend time with fellow MGs, enjoy good food and terrific conversation! It is time well spent and much deserved!

### **Morris** –

The Morris County 4H Fair at Chubb Park in Chester NJ was held July 18 through the 21. All the Rutgers Master Gardeners that participated successfully made it through the heat wave.

The Community Garden Detectives program has been recognized as the winner of the Morris County's 2019 Award for Excellence for the outstanding job they do on a weekly basis. The information they collect is e-mailed to over two-thousand community garden plot holders in and around Northern New Jersey.

Helpline has been very busy the last few weeks and volunteers have almost completely filled in all shifts in July. We thank them for their time and effort.

Speakers Bureau: The Speakers Bureau program continues to receive more requests for presentations in 2019 and in 2020. It definitely has become one of our most popular programs, for speakers and the amount of residents who view these presentations.

In our Community Garden Demonstration Plots this year we are demonstrating straw bale gardening and ways to successfully grow potatoes. The Rutgers Master Gardeners continue to donate the produce they harvest to local food banks.

Snyder Farm: The Great Tomato Tasting is coming on Wednesday August 28, 2019 out at the Snyder Farm in Pittstown NJ. Three counties, Hunterdon, Morris, and Somerset, send over 250 Master Gardener volunteers to the event. The event showcases many of the varieties of Tomatoes and other produce grown on the farm. Over a thousand people visit the farm for the event.

Five members from the current class, that ending at the end of March 2019, have already completed their initial 60 hour volunteer commitment and are now certified Rutgers Master Gardeners.

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We are still working on some new projects for the fall and we will announce them when they have been finalized.

### **Ocean –**

Charlene Costaris, one of our horticulturists, has retired. Her great knowledge of botany and soils will be missed, as will her dry sense of humor.

On August 1st, we had installation of officers and an awards ceremony with a potluck luncheon.

Our first Butterfly Tent event will be August 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at the Agriculture Center. Butterflies will be released after the event.

On Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, we have all-day training focusing on Youth Outreach. Representatives from state programs will be the presenters. It is from 9:30 to 3:00 at the Agriculture Center. There is no fee and 5.25 EDU hours are available. Register by calling 732-349-1246.

MGs have been interacting with the public at Farmers Markets and now at a library on Long Beach Island where diagnostics clinics are being held during the summer.

Interns are working on their Fall Garden Day project to be presented on September 27<sup>th</sup>. The theme is sustainability.

### **Passaic –**

On July 17, MGAPC held its annual Summer Picnic at the Bloomingdale Senior Citizens Center, the location of one of our projects, Sonny's Garden.

There was a press release by Lourdes Osorio, concerning the Master Gardener Native Plant Project at Garret Mountain. The following link accesses the article on the Passaic County web site: [http://www.passaiccountynj.org/news\\_detail\\_T19\\_R242.php](http://www.passaiccountynj.org/news_detail_T19_R242.php)

The Passaic County Fair is August 15-18 at Garret Mountain and there will be a Master Gardener tent including the following:

- A Master Gardener table promoting the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Master Gardener course as well as information on the MG Helpline
- A vermicomposting table with a display of red wigglers, a worm farm and worm casings.
- A *tie-dye with plants* table with workshops for children
- The Monarch Butterfly display by Kathy Sauerborn

There will be no monthly meeting in August.

### **Somerset–**

Somerset County (Joe Gyurian) sent out a "Save THE Date" reminder to all of our members regarding the October Conference of RMGNJ. (Oct.5). There will be a potluck lunch held for all the team leaders on Nov.13<sup>th</sup> after the general meeting. Team leader issues will be discussed and addressed. Gail Smith, our new "chair", mentioned that there will be 18 applicants for our fall Master Gardener Class. Tomato Tasting Event sign-ups are almost totally full. The sign-ups went well using online technology. It has been determined that the treasury is able to support the purchase of a fence for the "Teaching Garden". Badges were awarded to members who are now certified and Gold Badges to thousand hour members. It has been decided that we would **not** become members of THE GARDEN CONSERVANCY because they will only deal with one member at a time to order tickets. This makes ordering too difficult.

### **Sussex –**

We are at our 10 day NJ State Fair and Sussex County Farm & Horse Show. Daily, we are doing 2 presentations - a lecture and a Veggie of the Day demonstration, plus we have an interactive herb display/game, including EAB & SLF educational materials and samples. MGs are on hand to interact with the public and answer questions.

The RCE garden has begun. We grew 25 sunflower pots and 5 ornamental corn pots to bring to the fair as part of our display (people are trying to buy the sunflowers from us!). And lots of Rutgers tomatoes. We will be building a team to plan for next year's garden activities in the Demo Garden..



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The helpline trained 5 new interns who were interested in working on the Help Line. They are all getting their feet wet working the helpline now - it is wonderful to have increased coverage from volunteers for the helpline. Mary Robinson MG from Sussex facilitated this process and has helped to enhance the Help Line's effectiveness.

### **Union –**

**DEMONSTRATION GARDEN:** open every Tuesday and Thursday starting at 9:00am.

• **BERRY PATCH:** Donations of blackberries and currants were given to the Sharing Garden for distribution.

• **HERB GARDEN:** Donations of chamomile, basil, marjoram, mint, oregano, parsley and thyme were given to the Sharing Garden for distribution.

• **GARDENING WITH CHILDREN:** • Thank you notes were received from July's Branching Out first graders. They enjoyed the plants, flowers and worms! • Day Camp Visits to Demo Garden scheduled with Trailside Nature and Science Center & Master Gardeners partnership for Wednesdays, from 10 to 11:30. Aug. 7 - Branching Out: Planting a seed, Sharing Garden, and Hydroponic Gardening for first graders. Aug. 14 - The Art of Nature: Natures Paints, Pizza Pins and The Scavenger Hunt for third graders.

• **SHARING GARDEN:** Beets, basil, yellow beans, carrots, collard greens, cucumbers, garlic, Portuguese kale, lettuce, yellow and red onions, peppers, snow peas, Swiss chard, tomatoes, and zucchini were grown and donated to several agencies in the county totaling over 660lbs.

• **PUBLIC EVENTS:** An evening of vegetable gardening know-how with each program features a tour of the "Sharing Garden" vegetable garden, where Master Gardeners have grown over 31,000 pounds of produce for local food pantries; and a lecture on vegetable gardening topics. • Monday, July 22, 2019 "Keys to Successful Composting" Speaker: Michele Bakacs, County Environmental Agent focused on \*Selecting materials suitable for composting \*Choosing a good location for a compost pile \*Maintaining a compost pile. • Wednesday, July 31, 2019 "Keeping Pests Out of the Garden" Insect & Disease Management Speaker: Madeline Flahive DiNardo, County Agricultural Agent led a "Pest Walk" then detailed \* Identifying Integrated Pest Management strategies \* Attracting beneficial insects to a vegetable garden \* Identifying common insects and diseases found in vegetable gardens \* Using cultural methods of insect and disease management. • Thursday, August 15, 2019 "Harvesting and Food Safety in the Vegetable Garden" Speaker: Dennis Lenahan, Master Gardener tells \*Choosing the best time of day to harvest vegetables \* Knowing when specific vegetables are ready to be harvested \* Choosing the best storage option for specific vegetables \* Implementing food safety strategies for community gardens \*Practicing personal hygiene that promotes food safety in the garden. • Sunday, September 29, 2019 11 am – 5 pm, Rain or Shine is *The* fall festival "Rockin the Reservation" is happening.

**DOCENT:** Drafting of scripts are commencing. A Powerpoint presentation Meeting will be held on August 14 in the Demonstration Garden with a tour following.

**EMERALD ASH BORER:** Greenbrook, Oak Ridge and Unami Parks were covered for the Ash Tree Survey.

**HELPLINE:** Mondays continue to be busy after weekend gardeners find insect and plant problems.

**NEWSLETTER:** • A series on interesting garden beds focuses on what you are planting in: pallets. • Volunteer opportunity: YMCA in Rahway and Fanwood / Scotch Plains "Square Foot Gardening with Children" Summer 2019 Program. Master Gardeners will need to complete a YMCA volunteer application and basic background check.

• Master Gardener and Master Tree Steward Dean Talcott was showcased not only in our Newsletter, but on the county website. <https://ucnj.org/press-releases/public-info/2019/07/18/in-union-county-parks-the-trees-speak-for-themselves/>

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**VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION:** Our "Pin Party" will be September 22 at 3:00p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 12 noon. The next meeting is 9/12/2019.

Respectfully Submitted  
Tricia Deering, Recording Secretary