

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Minutes of December 12, 2019 RMGANJ Meeting

Pat Schanzlin called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Dennis Lenahan welcomed the group and thanked everyone for a successful conference. The following new members and guests were introduced: Pam Burton, visiting coordinator from Cumberland, Bill Schutte, new alternate from Monmouth and Suzanne Danzig, new alternate from Bergen.

Secretary's Minutes from November 2019 Meetings: Tricia Deering, Recording Secretary, reported that she had emailed out the final October and two versions of draft November RMGANJ minutes. One additional typo needs to be fixed in the November minutes. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes Tricia will update the November minutes, finalize them and distribute.

Attendance:

Atlantic:	
Bergen:	Joe Cooper, Suzanne Danzig, Karen Pennell
Burlington:	Terry Zane, Sharon Astorino, Dave Parsons
Camden:	
Cumberland:	Pamela Burton, Betsey Simpson
Essex:	David Haimes, Alice Poueymirou
Hunterdon:	Tricia Deering, Dewey Goodman
Mercer:	Betty Scarlata, Sudi Solomon
Middlesex:	Kathy Dopart, Jerri Barclay
Monmouth:	Gayle Williams, Bob Magovern, Jay Schaeffer, Bill Schutte, Sandy Wolfe
Morris:	Deidre Gallagher
Ocean:	Suzanne Keane, Roberta Quinn
Passaic:	Joe D'Errico
Somerset:	Linda Madretzke, Cindy Hedin
Sussex:	Jane Gardner, Pat Schanzlin
Union:	Dennis Lenahan
Rutgers University:	Jan Zientek

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jane Gardner, Treasurer, reported that the current balance is \$7962.70. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the treasurers report.

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

MASTER GARDENER'S COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Jan reported that 2020 will be the year to complete Better Impact rollout. Many counties have already implemented it and are using it for their annual reports. The Better Impact administrators believe they have a way to implement a statewide calendar so it will be used statewide for events that overlap counties. Jan reported that he met with Bruce Crawford to discuss a more formal arrangement with Rutgers Gardens. There will be a Master Gardener Day at Rutgers Gardens in the spring. Bruce would like to have Master Gardeners do a project and he will provide CE credits and lunch. They are also considering a fall MG Day. The question of whether we could meet at Holly House was raised. Jan will talk to Bruce about this.

Jan reported that he has asked the coordinators to brainstorm ideas for next year's conference.

One of the counties asked if there was written Better Impact training. Several counties responded that their coordinators have sent out a written tutorial.

Six members indicated that they are interested in the Rutgers poinsettia sale. Jan Zientek called and they replied that they did not have enough for the group so the sale visit was canceled.

Old Business

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Elections: Jerri Barclay reported on the State Board officer election. Dennis Lenahan is the nominee for President and Roberta Quinn for Treasurer. Dave Parson and Deidre Gallagher are on the slate for the VP spot.

Dave and Deidre both introduced themselves and provided brief summaries of their qualifications. The vote was made by paper ballot. The results were announced later in the meeting and were Dennis for President, Deidre for Vice President and Roberta for Treasurer.

2020 Conference Action List

Pat Schanzlin reported on the conference action items and their status are as follows :

- Shorten the evaluation form to one page.
 - All agreed that this should be done next year.
- Parking:
 - Pat reported that she addressed 99C with the facilities people
 - Burlington County reported that they have information about other lots that can be used and Rutgers may even provide signage and shuttle service. Dave Parsons will give her the information about who to talk to.
 - Betty Scarlata reported that she can get the flags that Mercer uses for the State Conference parking attendants.
- Add more sharing between counties.
 - A breakout format for county discussion has been added to the 202 State Conference agenda.
 - Pat reported that the Cook Student Center has space on the 2nd floor with several rooms that can be used for the breakout sessions. We can break into 5 sessions if needed. Additional cost is \$600+ if we drop the small room. This price may not include all AV costs. The rooms upstairs have been reserved but can be dropped.
- End registration a week before the conference to freeze the catering order:
 - All agreed that this should be done next year.
 - Discussion followed about the circumstances under which the freeze date should be extended (e.g. a hurricane).
 - It was agreed that “county” should be added to the registration form to facilitate car-pooling and to allow attendance to be checked (in case there is a problem with hours reporting). Adding “MG year” was also discussed but it was decided that it was not needed. Both county and MG year used to be on the registration form.
- Add a vegan choice for lunch:
 - All agreed that this should be done next year.
- Figure out how to post the power points:
 - We will hold off until we know what the Sakai replacement is and determine if we can use it.
- Add a “Save the Date” to the conference folders for the following year.
 - All agreed that this should be done next year; the “Save the Date” is needed in April

A motion was made to approve the Conference action item list, seconded and approved.

2020 Conference Duties: Pat Schanzlin reviewed the 2020 conference duties. After discussion the duty responsibilities are as indicated below: Yellow highlighting indicates that the position is vacant.

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NO.	CONFERENCE DUTY	DEFINITION	COUNTY '19	2020
1	Awards Booklet	Gathers data from RCE; prepares booklet and arranges printing	<u>Ocean</u> - Suzanne Keane	Ocean
2	Bookstore	Selects book list from B&N; Coordinates sales day of conference and monitors income	<u>Mercer</u> - Bob Robinson	Mercer
3	Catering	Coordinates breakfast and lunch selections; Monitors contract and provides final lunch count from OCPE	<u>Morris</u> - Dierdre Gallagher	
4	Door Prizes	Selects gifts from approved Rutgers vendor; Delivers door prizes to conference and coordinates drawing	<u>Union</u> - Dolores Batz-Culp	Somerset
5	Evaluations	Design evaluation form; Print forms, distribute at Conference and prepare stats post conference	<u>Atlantic</u> - MaryLou Monihan	Atlantic - MaryLou Monihan
6	Facilities	Arrange facilities contract; provide audio-visual monitoring day of conference - Contract in place for 2020; Accommodate break-out sessions	<u>Essex</u> - David Haimes	Essex
7	Facilitate Break-out Sessions	Develop format for multiple county-led simultaneous sessions; Coordinate County MG speakers; Coordinate crowd selection	<u>NEW</u>	Morris - Deirdre Gallagher
8	Financial	Responsible for all PO's and IPO's for payment to vendors, internal services, speakers, etc.; provides payment day of conference to speakers	<u>Sussex</u> - Jane Gardner	Ocean - Roberta Quinn
9	Garden Market	Barnes & Noble + Poster Location? Responsible for table count and set-up; Responsible for room day of Conference	<u>Somerset</u> - Linda Madretzke	Burlington - Dave Parsons
10	Program Flier	Prepares Conference Program; Responsible for printing	<u>Cumberland</u> - Carol Henry	Cumberland
11	Program Speakers	Acts as liaison upon selection of speakers; coordinates with Treasurer to process required document package with Rutgers RCE; Provides speaker escorts day of Conference	<u>Hunterdon</u> - Dewey Goodwin	Hunterdon - Dewey Goodwin
12	Registration Desk	Liaison to OCPE for Registration count, lunch count, cancellations ; Staffs Registration Desk day of conference	<u>Burlington</u> - Terry Zane	Sussex - Pat Schanzlin
13	Registration Folder:	Selects packaging for awards booklet, program, lunch selection etc. Stuffs Folders	<u>Camden</u> - Diane Shonyo	Camden
14	Registration RCE staff:	a. Gathers free lunch data for RCE staff b. Insures RCE staff understands registration process	Change 2020	Sussex - Jane Gardner
15	Design save/date posters	Design Posters: Distribute in Spring; Prepare 2021 Poster for inclusion in Registration Folder - NEW	NEW	Monmouth - Gayle Williams
16	Signage	Places signs day of conference: PROVIDES volunteers to direct guests to Parking Lots (NEW)	<u>Middlesex</u> - Kathy Dopart	Middlesex - Kathy Dopart
17	Speaker Gifts	Selects from Rutgers approved vendor, wraps, and delivers to conference	<u>Passaic</u>	Passaic
18	Video	Creates video of Award winners for use day of conference from data/pictures provided by RCE	<u>Bergen</u> - Joe Cooper	Bergen - Joe Cooper

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2020 Schedule: Pat Schanzlin reviewed the schedule for 2020 that she had emailed out. Note that some of the meetings are at the OTC (March and May). Also, the date is a Friday in December. Pat had checked on parking and determined that we do need to register in advance. Her contact at Rutgers is investigating whether we can register for an event for all the months in one shot.

New Business:

Conference Theme and Speakers: There was a brief discussion on possible speakers that Pat Schanzlin had gathered from the OCPE website and Nick Polanin recommendations and emailed out. Dennis Lenahan will take the lead. Deidre Gallagher suggested considering a panel format with breakout sessions. The theme and speakers are in the hands of Dennis and Deidre.

Break: There was a break from 11:40 to 12:00 with a delicious pot-luck feast. Thank you to Sussex for dry goods and set-up. Refreshments in March will be provided by Atlantic County.

Role of Historian: Tabled until after the conference.

Caring and Sharing: no discussion.

COUNTY REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

Atlantic

Since most projects are closed down for winter, there is nothing to report in that regard. Our plant sale chairperson has noted that with the particular success of our sale in the past two years, and the attempt to form more cooperation with our local 4-H and the community, the members of the committee are developing a new concept where the plant sale might become an “anchor” of a “community environmental education day.” Therefore, in addition to our plant sale, we will have about 3 speakers scheduled at specific times and, in addition, have Master Gardener tables located throughout the sale space with Master Gardeners available to speak to the public all day on special topics which focus on particular areas of expertise.

Our new classes begin on January 8, 2020.

Our holiday get-together will be held at the Tuckahoe Inn on December 13th.

Bergen

Speakers: Marc Gussen, director of the Closter Nature Center, assisted by his daughter Willow, 7, presented a program on hydroponics at our November meeting. Marc demonstrated how this rosemary plant can thrive in nutrient-enriched water. And, no soil, no pests. Marc sees a future for old warehouses that can be converted to grow fruits and vegetables close to the people who will buy and eat them.

Graduation: The class of 2019 graduated on November 16th at the McFaul Environmental Center in Wyckoff. The ceremony included Agricultural Agent, Joel Flagler; President of MG of Bergen County, Carolyn Gretchen; and guest speaker Freeholder Vice Chairwoman, Mary J. Amoroso. Horticultural Consultant, Karen Reide was also in attendance. The ceremony ended with a buffet lunch provided by the class of 2018.

Election of new officers took place at the November meeting. The term for newly elected officers begins in January.

Holiday party was held on December 3rd at Van Saun Park Zoo in the Education Building. MG's bring their best appetizers or desserts to share and celebrate the holidays together. Sandwiches and soft drinks were provided.

Volunteer Site News:

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Garretson Forge & Farm celebrated the holidays with several events including a *Holiday wreath-making workshop* and a *Dutch Christmas* with Sinterklass with a holiday sale of baked goods, wreaths and hand-made items. Volunteers decorated the house for the holidays.

NJBG is located at 2 Morris Road, Ringwood. Events take place in the Carriage House and are free unless noted. Parking is free this time of year. *Holiday Open House* at Skylands Manor "Fantasy" theme that celebrated the sparkle and spirit of the season was a big success this year even with the weather conditions that delayed setup. *Family winter hike*: Take an easy hike in the garden's woodlands. You'll learn a bit about the plants and animals around you in a hike designed to fit the group. *First-day hike*. Start 2020 with a self-guided family friendly hike in the State Park woodlands at NJBG. Weather permitting you can climb to the Mt. Defiance overlook on the Halifax trail and return, or hike without a climb. This annual event is a joint project of State Park staff and volunteers from the NJBG/Skylands Association and the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

The Hermitage had a tree lighting with carolers on December 8th with everyone enjoying hot chocolate afterwards. Santa's Workshop, Santa Claus and his elves return to his workshop at the Hermitage Museum's Visitor Center to greet children and families while preparing for the big night! There will be vintage toys, trains, Christmas trees, holiday decorations, music, and refreshments – and children can spend time at the holiday crafts tables.

Thielke Arboretum is open for volunteers during the winter months. Docents and ambassadors provide knowledge and tours for children's groups, scouts and small groups.

Burlington

Coordinator, Mike Johnson and Ag Agent, Bill Banka are putting together brown bag lunch meetings to be held about once a month at the Extension Office auditorium. The purpose is to combine continuing education, receive updates from the office and the project sites, and share information through conversation. This will also be a good way to meet or reconnect with others in the program.

Project Reports:

Gardens at Burlington County Fair Grounds – In preparation for the 2020 season, a future walk-thru meeting with our new coordinator will be scheduled.

Butterfly Garden at Smith Woods – No report.

Donation Garden at Medford Leas – This was our most productive year ever as we donated over 1300 lbs. of produce this year. Our garden has been put to bed for the season except for some garlic and onions we are overwintering. Yes we have some perennial vegetables too, but they will be left alone as we rest for the season. Planning meetings will begin in January.

IPM and Demonstration Plots at BCCAC – A meeting to discuss plans for the 2020 season is scheduled for later this month.

Medicinal/Culinary Colonial-Era Garden at Pineland Preservation Alliance and Pinelands Preservation Alliance Kitchen Garden – No report.

Rancocas Nature Center – No report.

Upcoming Events:

January 17, 2020 – Brown Bag Lunch Meeting

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

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

Camden

Award Luncheon

The Awards Luncheon featured honoring our newly certified Master Gardener trainees, a 20-year participant in the MG program and our two Master Gardener of the Year awardees. Also, there were five awardees of five-year status. Nick Polanin joined our gathering and thank the group for their service. This

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year the committee gathered donated silver ware and used it as part of our effort to be more environmentally aware.

Programs: "Make and Take" and MG educational programs

The "Make and Take" public Program entitled "Wild Bird Backyard" was attended by parents and children to demonstrate how to create bird feeders and help birds during the winter. The class entitled "Holiday Centerpieces" was attended by 20 Master Gardeners and lead by Longwood trained and Master Gardeners trained floral designers. The class brought in a wide selection of greens and plants from their backyards and used them, along with flowers, etc..., in their holiday centerpieces. Both the "Make and Take" committee and MG educational committee has begun planning for next year's programs.

Community Outreach

The community outreach committee were present at over 30 locations this year and contacted 1,700 people. The help line added another 300 contacts. The outreach program is gearing up for more venues next year aiming at more diverse audiences. Use of laptops, instead of information files will be implemented to make the distribution of Rutgers fact sheets more mobile.

Greenhouse

The committee met to begin seed selection for next year's plantings. The greenhouse was thoroughly cleaned, plastic was placed on the hoop house, the peanuts were dug up and baked and given out, and straw was tucked around the perennials.

Hydroponics

The hydroponics harvested over 600 plants of basil, pole beans, salad greens, and cherry tomatoes which were distributed to the Cathedral Kitchen in Camden and to Philadelphia Zoo.

Educational Garden Committee

The gardens were put to bed, the shed cleaned up and tack straw was placed on the strawberries. The hard scape committee met with the Camden County Parks director to work out future deer fencing strategies. The final summary of the garden's work was sent to the NJ American Water Company as part of the conditions for the grant funding. There will be a meeting December 19 to begin setting goal strategies for 2020 as part of the 5-year plan proposal.

Horticulture School

Our coordinator reports that 23 people have already registered for the upcoming Horticulture school. She is setting the enrollment capacity at 31 in order to make it easier for participants to participate

Cumberland: No report

Essex – no report

Hunterdon

All of our outside gardens have been cleaned and put to bed for the season.

Our Workshop Team has scheduled several programs for making decorations for the holidays

Our Community outreach programs continue.

Better Impact is continuing to be rolled out to our members.

Our new class of MG's continues.

Mercer

We elected officers at our December monthly meeting. They assume office January 1, 2020.

The theme for our annual Symposium, to be held on March 14, 2020, will be "Here We Grow Again." To register go to mgofmc.org and scroll down to Attend Our Events and click March 14 Garden Symposium.

Four times a year we donate non-perishable food items for Mercer Street Food Bank. In 2019, 2,586 pounds were donated.

Three sessions of Better Impact training are being held this week. Implementation is 1/1/2020.

Our first Community Education offering of 2020 will be February 1. Veggie Basics – Planning the Garden and Starting Seeds Indoors is the first of the series. Next will be Veggie Basics – Planting and Maintenance in April.

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Middlesex

Our helpline continues to operate throughout the winter months on a modified schedule. The hours are Monday to Friday 10am to noon.

Better Impact training was held on Dec 11 at 6:30 pm in the conference room at the EARTH center.

On Tuesday December 17th the containers at the EARTH center will be transformed into holiday planters with the addition of evergreens, holly, winterberry and red velvet bows.

On November 20 we hosted a session on the Spotted Lantern Fly from 9-12 at the EARTH center.

December 4 there was a winter wreath making workshop at 6:30 at the EARTH Center

Monmouth

Although the Helpline has quieted down considerably, our School Programs Committee is still very involved at various schools. The Cliffwood Elementary School Garden Club was just given a pollinator presentation. Other schools we are working with are Howell Elementary, Belmar Elementary, Rumson-Fair Haven High School was helped with a potted plant project and Vetter Elementary School in Eatontown was given a composting presentation.

A couple of community projects we continue to work with are in Keansburg and Long Branch. Those that have been completed were at the Eatontown Library, Howell Library, Jackson Woods Park, Long Branch and Lake Topanemus Park, Freehold. Into 2020, we have projects scheduled in Howell Township, Ocean Township Green Fest and at the Neptune City Library. It has been a very active and worthwhile year in our communities!

Our Junior Master Gardener Program has just put to bed their garden with a Manure Party...all were invited! Now the garden will be ready for a productive year in 2020! The PAR garden was "dressed" as well and so will be ready in the spring for the new class interns.

November 21st we celebrated the graduation of thirty-two interns and the milestone awards of our many veterans. It was a lovely evening! And, even though December is a busy month for most, we stop and take the time to enjoy our Holiday Recognition Luncheon/auction with our MG friends and have a great afternoon!

Monmouth County wishes all of you a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!

Morris – no report

Ocean

Our Community Garden at Ocean County Park had some major improvements before it was put to bed. Total produce donated: ~5000 lbs. and from the Cuisine Garden: 600 lbs. The Greenhouse Team had an Introductory session for anyone wishing to participate next year.

Committee Annual Reports are coming due at the end of this month. All Interns have completed their required hours and are looking forward to graduation in February. Our Publicity Chairs are planning some new strategies to increase our program awareness throughout the county. Open House for interested residents was very successful and we now have 22 signed on to be Interns. There was an opportunity to attend a Tree ID workshop/walk at FREC. Those who attended enjoyed their day. Our Trips & Tours committee is planning a bus trip to the Philly Flower Show.

Passaic – no report

Somerset

Our Class of 2020 has been meeting regularly. 20 interns gather Tuesday mornings to learn about all things horticultural.

The Teaching Garden's fence has foiled the deer, but the gophers have found a way in. Plans are in process to install a critter barrier that will foil them too. Several dedicated beds, natives, pollinator-friendly, herb and annuals among others, have been laid out in the ornamental half of the garden. Various teams have

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adopted these spaces, prepared them for planting and, in some cases, already planted. Strawberries have already been harvested from edible half of the Teaching Garden. Additional beds are awaiting planting in 2020. Small fruit trees will also be coming.

Several of our Master Gardeners spearheaded the design and planting of a pollinator garden in Peapack Gladstone.

The Ways & Means team conducted a bird seed wreath making workshop for 13 participants. Various types of seeds were mixed with edible glue and formed in bundt pans. When dry, the seed wreaths were hung outside with festive ribbons for our feathered friends' enjoyment.

The BFF Team again this year decorated a gardening themed tree at the Festival of Trees sponsored by Somerset County Environmental Education Center in Basking Ridge.

The BFF Team held an acrylic casting workshop to create insect cubes from pinned, dried specimens. These cubes will be used for instructional sessions at our school gardening sessions as well as for display at our community gardening appearances. The colorless, transparent resin allows folks to closely observe the insects without damaging the specimens.

Our December meeting included a fabulous bat program presented by Jackie Kashmer (<http://njbats.org/>). Jackie has been a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for the past 29 years. In 2004, she trained in Texas at Bat World Sanctuary to rehab bats. Her presentation was extremely informative and humorous and was enhanced by the presence of 2 of her rescues.

Sussex

The Helpline Team is reviewing calls for the year and putting together a report which we will use to see what topics our clients are calling about most. Then we can design educational programming to answer those concerns for 2020.

We are also updating our Helpline library. We have combed through our references to assess what resources we have and what we lack. Next, we are using reference lists from other counties and researching resources we will put on a wish-list.

Next year's MG class will be given during the day to a smaller group.

We had a lovely Holiday Open House in spite of loss of power and the wallop of a big storm, where April Fisher demonstrated holiday centerpiece decorating and we all shared holiday cheer and fellowship.

Union - no report

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 12:25. The next meeting is 3/12/2020.

Respectfully Submitted
Tricia Deering, Recording Secretary

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