

**Master Gardeners of Bergen County  
Board of Directors Minutes for  
April 25, 2017**

Meeting was called to order by President Cooper at 5:30

**Present at the meeting:** Joseph Cooper, Carolyn Gretchen, Bruce Walenczyk, Serpil Leveen, Donna Faustini, Denise George, Dennis Gretchen, Donna Karpel, Terry Pegg, Melody Corcoran, Hank Annunziata, Janet Schulz, Arnie Friedman, Josie Ko, Lucy Malka, Patrick Lull, Karen Pennell

**Presidents Report:**

Joel released the 2016 Bergen County Rutgers Cooperative Extension Report and the number are impressive for the year. The full report is posted on our website in a PDF format.

The presentation for the online volunteer reporting was postponed until the May meeting. Matt Frawley who works for Princeton University, does computer programming on the side and has developed the system for Master Gardeners of Mercer County. Our hopes would be to have an integrated Volunteer and Membership data base on our website. This would aid in tracking hours, managing membership records and emailing members.

**Vice President:**

Carolyn and Dennis Gretchen met with the MG class of 2017 on 4/21 to present the how to's for their projects for the MG tent at the Bergen County Fall Festival. A Power Point presentation covered the mechanics of the set ups and ideas for projects. The second half of the visit was devoted to work sessions with the class to launch their ideas. The tentative dates, not yet confirmed by the county, are Sept. 23-24, or Oct. 7-8, with the Sept. dates currently being favored. MG volunteers will be needed to help throughout both days. Sign-up sheets will be available once dates are confirmed.

**Recording Secretary:**

**\*Motion:** A motion was made by Donna Karpel to approve the March minutes Joseph Cooper seconded and all were in favor.

**Corresponding Secretary:**

Correspondence with members continues to be cumbersome partly due to need for updated email addresses

**Treasurer's Report:**

There were no expenses this month.

Opening Balance as of February 28, 2017.....	\$11,280.30
Income: .....	\$425.00
Expenses: .....	\$ -----
Balance as of March 31, 2017.....	\$11,705.30

**\*Motion:** A motion was made later in the meeting by Donna Faustini to approve the April treasurer's report, Terri Pegg seconded and all were in favor.

**Community Outreach Events and Volunteers:**

Dail was not in attendance, no report.

**Garden Club Liaison:**

Plant sales from Garden Clubs coming up in May. Please check the newsletter.

**Class Liaison:**

Carolyn and Dennis came to the class for Fair presentation. Outreach events took place in April. At Van Saun went smoothly due to Jeffrey Chan's attendance and display. County Executive Tedesco was present for this event.

Other Earth day events could use the presence of experienced Master Gardener's along with the students to make them more successful.

**Speakers Bureau:**

Joseph took photos of a Beekeepers start up nuke and suggested the beekeeper for speaker's bureau. Arnie has had 2 scheduled talks but one was snowed out and rescheduled for the fall.

**Publicity:**

There have been postings to Facebook with 3 inquiries this past month.

**Hospitality:**

Joint meeting tonight. Passaic is providing the food and Bergen the beverages.

**Membership:**

After reviewing the information given to me by John Walters, there were 4 members who had paid their dues twice. All 4 were contacted and two said to keep it as a donation, the other two said to rip up their checks. There was one student from this year's class who paid dues not realizing she didn't have to. After contacting her she said to use it as a donation so thank you to ALL for your generosity!

During the month of April, eight people sent in their dues totaling \$190 (\$30 of which was a donation).

We currently have a total of 148 Master Gardeners who paid their 2017 dues.

Donna Karpel and I will be reviewing the spreadsheet and directory with a fine toothcomb within the next week or so. Upon completion of any changes, the directory will then be sent to Joseph for the webpage.

**Newsletter:**

Nothing to report.

**Website:**

Monthly updates have been added and membership documents have been archived.

**RMGANJ:**

Rutgers Gardens is being awarded Horticultural Landmark status by the American Society for Horticultural Science.

Nick reported on the March 20 coordinators meeting. He met Belinda Chester, the new Atlantic County coordinator and Angela Monaghan, the coordinator from Middlesex County, at the meeting. Dan Kluchinski was not in attendance as he is undergoing treatment. The

coordinators reviewed the National Standards for Master Gardeners. They are broad in scope and are published in the February 2015 issue of the Journal of Extension: <https://www.joe.org/joe/2015february/iw1.php>. RMGANJ has 2 scripted presentations on Native plants and Community Gardens with PowerPoint on Sakai for MG's use. See Joel Flagler, as Rutgers Agriculture Agent, he can access Sakai to download these presentations. Donna Karpel and Bill Gilligan were chosen for the 2017 Award for Excellence that will be presented at the Fall Conference on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Sunshine:**

A condolence card was sent to Lucy for the loss of her husband and a get well card was sent to Denise George for her daughter's speedy recovery of her broken leg.

**Site Coordinator Liaison:**

Davies Arboretum is a large site with potential, needs a lot of work and clean-up. Jessica Wang has several plans including a greenhouse, storage shed, children's garden and handicapped-accessible garden. I submitted a short item for this month's Potting Shed, hope it will spark interest in the site. Currently only 4 Master Gardeners volunteer there, including Jessica.

Hackensack River Greenway e-mailed Rich Karp to schedule a site visit but haven't heard back from him yet. I did visit the north end of the greenway, Brett and Andreas Parks and Indian Pond – these areas are in a natural state but really need trash clean-up. I will visit the southern portion of the greenway next and report on it next month.

It was mentioned that the Greenway is 3.5 miles and the portion where Master Gardener's work in is in a specific section of Teaneck.

**Tours and Trips:**

19 people are signed up the Stone Barns trip on May 17<sup>th</sup>. A trip to Mount Cuba in Delaware with its' formal and native plant garden is scheduled for September 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Programs:**

The following 2018 meeting dates at One Bergen County Plaza were approved.

January 23

February 27

March 27

April 24

May 22

September 25

October 23

November 27

Larry Weaner is the speaker for the joint meeting tonight. Passaic and Bergen will each pay \$225 of the total \$450 fee for his presentation entitled; 'Natural Landscape Design: Meadows, Woods, and Water.'

**Old Business:**

Terri Pegg has taken over ordering badges and has the 10 old badges that have not been picked up. She has gotten pricing to order new badges. There is a one-time \$50 dollar setup fee that will be paid by MG of BC. The cost of a badge with a magnet back is \$13 and with a pin is \$11.

**New Business:**

Bill Kolvek Perennials (BKP) has reopened in Chestnut Ridge, NY. Please see his website for details. A discussion ensued about having an MG event at BKP that would coincide with the 2017 class trip. Sadly, several local nurseries have closed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:42