

**Master Gardener Association of Bergen County
Board Meeting Minutes – May, 21, 2024**

President Schneider called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM.

Present: Hosting – Theresa Schneider, Lisa Yoler, Jean Friedman, Keith Mazanec, Miriam Taub, Chris Kozar, Janet Stofkoper, Donna Faustini, Donna Dorgan, Suzanne Danzig, Herb Arbeiter, Karen Riede, Cesar Coy

Absent: Arnie Friedman, Joseph Cooper

President Schneider announced the Recording Secretary had distributed the April, 2024 minutes electronically on April 16. She inquired if there was any discussion regarding the minutes. Since there were no corrections, the minutes were approved.

Officer Reports:

President – Theresa Schneider

Theresa stated that she has received three quotes from insurance carriers for insurance and is waiting on one more quote. The average is approximately \$800 annually. This does not include liability insurance, i.e., slips and falls.

Vice President – Lisa Yoler

No report given.

Treasurer – Jean Friedman

The Treasurer's report was presented and filed for April, 2024; 2023 annual report remains pending.

***Motion** – Jean motioned that the board approve a \$35 filing fee so that we can maintain our 501(3) C status.

Recording Secretary – Keith Mazanec

No additional report given.

Corresponding Secretary – Miriam Taub

* Distributed May and May Mid-Month newsletters.

* Distributed meeting reminder (May 19); notices of tick webinars (May 5, May 13).

*Mailings: Copies of Potting Shed and attachments to 2 dues-paying members who don't have electronic access; sent sympathy card to Barbara Pisacane on the loss of her husband.

Committee Reports:

Community outreach liaison – Arnie Friedman (absent)

It was reported in Arnie’s absence that the Speaker’s Bureau is going well.

Hospitality – Chris Kozar

The MG of BC annual picnic is scheduled for Wednesday, June 26 from 12pm until 2pm, at Van Saun County Park, Pavilion I. Martha Carlucci provided Chris with the name of the store who provided sandwiches for last year’s event. We will divide alphabetically by last name who will bring salads and who will bring desserts. We will need a group to help set up and break down tables, chairs, etc...

Membership – Janet Stofkoper

Janet has called 90 members who are behind on their dues. She received good information and was encouraged by their feedback.

Newsletter – Miriam Taub

Produced May and May Mid-Month newsletters.

Contacted site coordinators re: newsletter deadlines and related information.

Garden club liaison - vacant

Miriam has created a garden club liaison distribution list; contacted garden club liaisons with June newsletter deadlines and suggestions for items to contribute.

Programs – Donna Faustini/Donna Dorgan

Tonight’s speaker is Dr. Charles West who will speak on pawpaw trees and persimmons.

The fall in-person meeting dates will be 9/17, 10/15 and 11/19 at One Bergen County Plaza in Hackensack.

***Motion** – Donna Dorgan motioned that the January and February, 2025 meetings be held via Zoom. The motion was approved. The dates are Jan. 21, and Feb. 18.

***Motion** – Donna Dorgan motioned that a \$250 donation be made to NOFA (Northeast Organic Farming Association) for tonight’s speaker. Motion approved.

Site coordinator liaison – vacant

No report given.

Volunteer Records – Suzanne Danzig

Suzanne reported the following hours have been logged: outreach – 1,785; Administrative – 409; Teaching – 25; MG Hotline – 28; Special events – 64; Continuing Education – 460.

Website – Joseph Cooper (absent)

Miriam reported the website has been updated as needed.

RMGANJ report – Herb Arbeiter

May 9, 2024 – RMGANJ Report

RMGANJ monthly meeting was held in person at the Monmouth County Agricultural Center with a Zoom option.

Dave Parsons, NJ MG State Board President:

Dave's focus once again was on the fall conference Oct. 5 at the Douglass Student Center. This year's theme has been reconsidered. The meeting will focus on awards presentation and lunch. NO education speakers.

10 am Welcome speech by Ruth Carll.

10:30 -12pm: Each county coordinator will have 10 minutes to present awards. The county will determine its own criteria for awards.

12- 1pm Lunch break. Catered.

1 – 2pm: speaker, Brian Schilling, director, Rutgers Cooperative Extension.

Display booths/posters from counties are to be exhibited in the hallway. Rutgers has 4 different templates available.

There will be a nominal fee. (TBD).

There will be no remote access.

Ruth Carll, Consumer Horticulturist and MG State Coordinator

Main points:

MG MERCH MADNESS;

hopeful for a June "blast" for MG branded clothing with Rutgers logo, red with white lettering; 3 hat styles; long and short sleeved T-shirts and canvas bags.

Sale is open to the MG pool while merchandise lasts.

June meeting will be back at Rutgers.

Liz Gil and Herb Arbeiter attended the meeting virtually representing Bergen County.

Class Liaison – Cesar Coy

There are two more classes remaining.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension liaison – Karen Riede

RCE Report to the MG Association Board 5/21/24

Joel Flagler

- The North Jersey Ornamental Horticulture Symposium is scheduled to be Jan. 7,8 and 9 and will include Turf Day, Tree Day and Landscape Day, respectively. The location is the County College of Morris in Randolph. This is always a wonderful venue and a day filled with education and interest. This will mark the 64th year this conference is held making it the longest continuing event in all of Rutgers Cooperative Extension. Master Gardeners are always particularly pleased with the Landscape Day program, although you are invited to register for any of the 3 days.
- Joel is working on an historical agriculture photo project using old images he inherited when he started the job in 1987. The photos and memorabilia date back to the late 1800's and focus on Bergen County's varied and extensive array of farms and agricultural operations. There are images of the first Rutgers Agricultural Extension agents teaching farm families about new techniques in vegetable culture and dairy farming and poultry operations, starting in 1914 when Cooperative Extension was created under the Smith-Lever Act. Joel is working with the Bergen County Board of Agriculture on a calendar for 2025 that will (hopefully) be ready in time to sell at the Fall Harvest Festival in late September. He is also working with Colin Knight, historian in the BC Dept. of Parks. They will develop an agricultural display and interpretive links for the Bergen County website. The intent is to celebrate our agricultural legacy and share a new understanding of the role farm life played in the county's prosperity and historic beauty.
- The MG Class of 2024 is finishing up its training on June 4. Last week we took a tour of Skylands, the state botanical garden. They were welcomed by Ken Merz, president of Skylands Association, and Dania Cheddie, RMG alumnus. For many it was their first visit to Skylands and they are now enamored with its beauty. The RMG of Bergen County plays a huge role in the volunteer activities at that site.

Unfinished Business

2024 Budget -Theresa led a discussion concerning the 2024 budget and began developing a worksheet including income and anticipated expenses for the year. Once the worksheet is completed, it will be sent to the board for discussion and approval during a special Zoom meeting.

***Motion** – Miriam motioned that we hold Zoom meetings during June, July and August. A group of members voted yes. Approved.

There was no motion made to adjourn the meeting. Meeting ended at 7:15pm.