Growing Stronger - A National Conference

2014 saw Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension host the National Extension Master Gardener Coordinator Conference, attended by nearly 70 state and county program coordinators from all across the United States. Co-Chaired by State Program Coordinator Nicholas Polanin, along with Daniel Kluchinski and Jan Zientek, the conference was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Brunswick. ‘Using Social Media in a Volunteer Program’ opened this biennial conference, presented by the National Extension Master Gardener committee led by Dr. Pam Bennett of Ohio State. Other presentations included managing volunteers; a national perspective of the EMG program; an update on South Korea Master Gardener program; and improving evaluation and impact reporting skills.

The second day featured presentations on using more than traditional media, First Detector™ and other engaging efforts for EMG volunteers, a coordinators roundtable, reaching underserved audiences, and a capstone presentation from Mr. Gary Oppenheimer, EMG and founder of AmpleHarvest.org. Nineteen posters were presented throughout the 2½ day conference, highlighting the many faces and facets of the Rutgers Master Gardener program all across the state. Field visits to the Rutgers Plant Diagnostic Labs, Center for Turfgrass Science, Rutgers Gardens, and hazelnut research plots completed the conference. The 2016 conference is being planned by colleagues in Wyoming and Montana.
Statewide Rutgers Master Gardener Program Summary

Dr. Robert Goodman
Executive Dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences
Executive Director, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

Dr. Larry Katz
Director, Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension

Mr. Daniel Kluchinski
Chair, Dept. of Agricultural and Resource Management Agents

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The Value of Volunteering
Independent Sector is the leadership network for nonprofits, foundations, and corporations committed to advancing the common good. This estimate helps acknowledge the millions of individuals who dedicate their time, talents, and energy to making a difference.

According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, about 62.6 million Americans, or 25.4 percent of the adult population, gave 7.7 billion hours of volunteer service worth $173 billion in 2013. The Independent Sector has calculated the per-hour value of New Jersey volunteers for 2014 at $25.68 per hour. More information may be found at:
http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time.

Annual Hourly Investment for Rutgers Master Gardeners:
• 54% volunteering
• 40% training
• 6% continuing education

THE RUTGERS NJAES MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM
Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension faculty and staff provide expert and in-depth training in all aspects of gardening and horticulture to prospective Master Gardener volunteers. Topics include plant biology, propagation, soil science, and plant and pest diagnostics, to name a few. Master Gardeners provide volunteer hours to assist NJ residents in answering their home horticulture questions and provide community service through educational projects.

Statewide Summary for 2014
360 Newly Trained Rutgers Master Gardeners
2,796 Active Rutgers Master Gardeners
8,189 New Jersey residents trained since 1984
173,607 Volunteer Hours
$ 4,458,228
2014 Volunteer Value

Statewide Highlights
• 23,423 Garden Helpline clients
• 39,447 pounds of produce grown, harvested and donated
• 830 educational seminars, workshops, and presentations attended by 16,162 adults and 6,684 youth
• 596 media contacts (newspaper and television interviews, feature stories, and press releases).

1984 - 2014
Rutgers Master Gardener Program Summary
2,385,721
Cumulative Volunteer hours
$ 45,294,974
Cumulative Value from 32 Years of Rutgers Master Gardener Volunteer efforts
The National Extension Master Gardener Program

The Extension Master Gardener program, celebrating 41 years in the United States in 2014, is a national volunteer training and outreach effort of the Land Grant University / Cooperative Extension system supported by strong local grassroots linkages and managed by committed faculty and staff. Every year, nationwide, 15-20,000 people are trained as Extension Master Gardeners in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and two provinces in Canada.

A national survey published in 2009 showed that perhaps no other Extension effort provides such quality technical advice to as many US citizens and households as are reached through Extension Master Gardener programs on a regular basis. Please visit their website for more information, [http://www.extension.org/mastergardener](http://www.extension.org/mastergardener).

The Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

This association is a statewide advisory board that assists Rutgers Cooperative Extension in expanding its educational and outreach mission. The RMGANJ is comprised of representatives from current RMG county programs, and assists with existing and emerging programs, solving problems, expanding activities, and pooling resources.

2014 RMGANJ Leadership

President: Ellen Simonetti, Monmouth County
Vice President: Kathy Dopart, Middlesex County
Treasurer: Patricia Schanzlin, Sussex County
Recording Secretary: Suzie Yamarone, Essex County
Corresponding Secretary: Claudia Kolster, Essex County
Historian: Nancy Sullivan, Camden County

2014 Statewide Events

New Jersey Flower and Garden Show
Annual Fall Conference
Snyder Farm Open House and Great Tomato Tasting
Atlantic County

Program founded in 2004
www.rutgers-atlantic.org/garden

Master Gardeners trained in 2014: 18
Master Gardeners currently active: 108
Master Gardeners trained to date: 271
Total Volunteer hours in 2014: 5,628
  Consultation & Diagnostics: 1,216
  Community Outreach: 3,705
  Community Education: 707
2014 Volunteer value: $144,527
Total Volunteer hours to date: 39,845
Total Volunteer value to date: $986,672

Outreach Highlights:
- 5,502 website hits
- 578 Garden Helpline client contacts
- 52 feature articles in The Press of Atlantic City
- 10 newspaper interviews, 5 press releases
- 70 educational programs for 1,678 adults and 440 youth
- 5 PowerPoint Presentations
- 2 issues of ‘Garden Tales’ distributed to 135 RMG’s

Eagle Theatre Project

The Rutgers Master Gardeners of Atlantic County partnered with the Hammonton Green Committee and the Eagle Theater to develop a Native Plant Garden to celebrate the region’s environment and commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Eagle Theater, http://theeagletheatre.com/. The official unveiling included lectures, short films, and interactive question and answer sessions. Future plans include educational sessions and a plant list to help residents transition their landscapes to a more environmentally friendly garden.

Bergen County

Program founded in 1984
http://mgofbc.org

Master Gardeners trained in 2014: 25
Master Gardeners currently active: 248
Master Gardeners trained to date: 866
Total Volunteer hours in 2014: 10,171
  Consultation and Diagnostics: 720
  Community Outreach: 1,511
  Community Education: 38
2014 Volunteer value $261,191
Total Volunteer hours to date: 177,016
Total Volunteer value to date: $2,627,126

Outreach Highlights:
- 21,253 website hits
- 1,310 Garden Helpline client contacts
- 357 news releases
- 24 educational programs for 566 youth
- 12 issues of “From the Potting Shed” distributed to 267 RMG’s

Working, Teaching, Graduating

The Horticultural Therapy and Training programs offered in 2014 included a series post-stroke adults through the East Rutherford and Ridgewood Senior Wellness Centers and the County Division on Disabilities. For the 8th year, a program was delivered in the summer for developmentally disabled middle school students in Garfield. They learned how to grow food and beautify their environment with gardens and landscapes. Garfield is a partner with Rutgers in creating community gardens in five locations. In addition, the 2014 class removed over 3,000 square feet of invasive plants in preparation of expanding the “The Butterfly and Native Plant Garden at Overpeck Park.” Pat Knight, class of ‘09, is spearheading the work as site coordinator, working alongside Don Torino of the Bergen County Audubon Society.
Burlington County

Program founded in 2001
http://www.mgburlington.org

Master Gardeners trained in 2014: 24
Master Gardeners currently active: 138
Master Gardeners trained to date: 319
Total Volunteer hours in 2014: 7,772
  Consultation & Diagnostics: 2,691
  Community Outreach: 3,887
  Community Education: 1,194
2014 Volunteer value: $ 199,585
Total Volunteer hours to date: 69,344
Total Volunteer value to date: $1,673,820

Outreach Highlights:
- 8,246 website hits
- 6,681 lbs. of produce grown and donated
- 620 Garden Helpline client contacts
- 20 educational programs for 322 youth
- 10 PowerPoint Presentations
- 2 newspaper interviews
- 1 feature article for the Burlington County Times

The Donation Garden

In 2014, the Donation Garden at Medford Leas continued expanding their use of a greenhouse that was built in 2013. The group is successfully growing American and Asian salad green, including Bok Choi. They have been successful, despite the cold spells, in an unheated greenhouse using water bottles (dyed black) and heated by the sun to moderate temperatures. Previously, they had only used the greenhouse to start their vegetables, but decided this winter to attempt to grow some hardier plants. They have had wonderful results and plan on continuing in the future with winter projects.

Camden County

Program founded in 1996
http://www.camdencounty.com/parks

Master Gardeners trained in 2014: 20
Master Gardeners currently active: 100
Master Gardeners trained to date: 456
Total Volunteer hours in 2014: 5,460
  Consultation & Diagnostics: 2,488
  Community Outreach: 1,996
  Community Education: 976
2014 Volunteer value: $ 140,213
Total Volunteer hours to date: 72,579
Total Volunteer value to date: $1,569,766

Outreach Highlights:
- 2,950 Garden Helpline client contacts
- 33 educations programs for 500 adults
- 12 feature articles for the Courier Post
- 12 press releases
- 5 PowerPoint Presentations

Community Greenhouse

Camden County Community Greenhouses created a unique learning hands-on learning experience on what it takes to grow live plant material. Growing begins in the early stages with seeds or liners. The amazement of plant development from infancy to a full grown plant with in several months captivates volunteers. Rutgers Master Gardeners learned about greenhouse production with the focus on three main annuals: Petunias, Verbena, and Lantana. They were selected for their drought tolerance, ease of care, and colorful displays. These plants generally grow horizontally and successfully fill large spaces. A hands-on ‘Plant Propagation’ session taught how to propagate plants in a production greenhouse under mist irrigation. This three-part class started with a basic lecture on plant propagation. Rutgers Master Gardeners spent the next two classes propagating perennials and softwood cuttings, monitoring root and callus formation and general vigor.
Cape May County

Program founded in 2003
http://www.capemaycountygov.net/

Master Gardeners trained in 2014: 0
Master Gardeners currently active: 33
Master Gardeners trained to date: 142
Total Volunteer hours in 2014: 2,066
  Consultation & Diagnostics: 340
  Community Outreach: 1,300
  Community Education: 426
2014 Volunteer value: $ 53,055
Total Volunteer hours to date: 16,847
Total Volunteer value to date: $355,078

Outreach Highlights:
- 204 Garden Helpline client contacts
- 34 educational programs for 272 adults, 67 youth
- 3 feature articles and 8 news releases for the Atlantic City Press and Cape May County Herald
- 9 PowerPoint Presentations

Residence at Ocean View:
Horticulture Therapy Program

The residence at Ocean View Assisted Living is a great place for Senior Citizens to live if they like to garden. They have a garden club that is 3 years old and meets once a week. For the past two years, the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Cape May County, with Jerry McManus as the project lead, has taught the residents about growing their own flower and vegetable gardens. They learned to start everything from seed, how to properly plant and maintain, managing pests and diagnosing disease, and harvesting the fruits of their labor. The participants sell their vegetables in the lobby of the nursing home to raise money to support their garden.

Cumberland County

Program founded in 2006
http://www.co.cumberland.nj.us/

Master Gardeners trained in 2014: 18
Master Gardeners currently active: 65
Master Gardeners trained to date: 132
Total Volunteer hours in 2014: 4,712
  Consultation & Diagnostics: 719
  Community Outreach: 2,398
  Community Education: 1,032
2014 Volunteer value: $121,107
Total Volunteer hours to date: 29,259
Total Volunteer value to date: $732,880

Outreach Highlights:
- 3,200 lbs. of produce harvested and donated
- 578 Garden Helpline client contacts
- 75 programs for 1,201 adults and 1,112 youth
- 17 Radio and TV spots totaling 37 minutes, www.snjtoday.com
- 5 PowerPoint presentations

Community Fun Day at the Zoo

Rutgers Master Gardeners designed and planted native gardens to beautify the Cohanzzick Zoo in Bridgeton and then decorated with corn stalks and pumpkins for a festive learning atmosphere. This free event was held in September with a variety of educational stations that reached 412 children and their parents: an inter-active Butterfly Tent with native plants; “Making” animal tracks with hand-thrown molds; How-to Turkey talks; and a game on Animal Habitats. Scarecrow kits were provided with the theme of ‘New Jersey Born Entertainers.’ Rutgers Fact Sheets were available as free educational information at the ‘Helpline on the Road’ table.
Essex County

Program founded in 1986
http://essex.njaes.rutgers.edu/

Master Gardeners trained in 2014: 28
Master Gardeners currently active: 148
Master Gardeners trained to date: 771
Total volunteer hours in 2014: 11,461
  Consultation & Diagnostics: 1,333
  Community Outreach: 8,286
  Community Education: 519
2014 Volunteer value: $ 294,318
Total Volunteer hours to date: 175,304
Total Volunteer value to date: $ 2,838,107

Outreach Highlights:
  • 1,043 Garden Helpline client contacts
  • 39 educational programs, 420 adults and 24 youth
  • 2 PowerPoint presentations

Zone Project for Branch Brook Park

Branch Brook Park is enjoying the second successful collaboration of the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Essex County, the Essex County Park System, and the Branch Brook Park Conservancy. Under the oversight by Paul Cowie, the Rutgers Master Gardeners have implemented the concept of zone management, based on the Central Park Conservancy’s structure, which allows for educated gardeners (MGECs) to work with volunteers on an ongoing basis to ensure the maintenance of a designated area. The initial success in the ‘Boathouse’ zone was the incentive to include other zones within Branch Brook Park and today - less than 2 years later - we are at work on a regular basis in four zones working with volunteers and county personnel by sharing our knowledge and expertise. To date, more than 700 volunteer hours have been attributed to this project.

Gloucester County

Program founded in 2000
and discontinued in 2014

Master Gardeners trained in 2014: 21
Master Gardeners currently active: 166
Master Gardeners trained to date: 374
Total Volunteer hours in 2014: 9,136
  Consultation & Diagnostics: 800
  Community Outreach: 7,830
  Community Education: 506
2014 Volunteer value: $ 234,612
Total Volunteer hours to date: 69,534
Total Volunteer value to date: $ 1,709,690

Outreach Highlights:
  • 3,420 website hits
  • 2,785 Garden Helpline client contacts
  • 1,200 lbs. of produce donated
  • 34 educational programs for 675 adults, 224 youth
  • 3 PowerPoint presentations developed
  • 2 news releases
  • 1 newsletter Clippings distributed to 180

Whitall Kitchen Garden

This 44 plus acre park is the historic site of Fort Mercer, one of the twin military installations that guarded Philadelphia and communities to the north during the American Revolution. The historic gardens on this site were constructed by Rutgers Master Gardeners to replicate what would have been part of a homestead in the 1700’s. The first step researched what gardens were typically part of the homestead during that time, along with the plants typically grown. Signage and information sheets were developed to educate visitors on the plants and their uses. The vegetables grown were used in hearth cooking demonstrations conducted by the Whitall House volunteers. During spring and summer months in 2014, 1,500 school children and 5,000 adult visitors participated in guided tours of the gardens.
Hunterdon County

Program founded in 1992

http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/mg.htm

Master Gardeners trained in 2014: 5
Master Gardeners currently active: 112
Master Gardeners trained to date: 281
Total Volunteer hours in 2014: 11,200
  Consultation & Diagnostics: 7,450
  Community Outreach: 2,250
2014 Volunteer value: $ 287,616
Total Volunteer hours to date: 220,857
Total Volunteer value to date: $ 4,507,886

Outreach Highlights:
- 10,500 lbs. fresh produce harvested and donated
- 650 Garden Helpline client contacts
- 126 website hits
- 15 programs for 1,250 adults and 752 youth
- 8 PowerPoint presentations
- 5 news releases, 1 radio interview

Hunterdon Central Regional High School Gardens

A new outreach effort to bring gardening education to a high school special needs program began during 2014. The task was to educate and assist the students and faculty in designing, planting and maintaining a vegetable garden behind the school. Thirteen raised beds were created in the 60' x 40' space with fifteen student gardeners, their teacher and 4 aides. Garden demonstrations included proper planting techniques of almost 100 donated herbs and vegetables and a “three sisters garden.” Rutgers Master Gardener volunteers later conducted an assembly with 30 students in the program about the three sisters garden. In addition, the science teacher attended so the lessons presented by the Rutgers Master Gardeners could be extended into the science curriculum.
Mercer County

Program founded in 1993
http://www.mgofmc.org

Master Gardeners trained in 2014: 30
Master Gardeners currently active: 245
Master Gardeners trained to date: 679

Total Volunteer hours in 2014: 19,691
- Consultation & Diagnostics: 4,791
- Community Outreach: 776
- Community Education: 834

2014 Volunteer value: $ 505,665
Total Volunteer hours to date: 283,998
Total Volunteer value to date: $ 5,888,473

Outreach Highlights:
- 1.3 million web site hits
- 2,398 Garden Helpline clients
- 1,524 lbs. of produce donated
- 92 programs for 575 adults and 1,554 youth
- 15 news releases
- 4 PowerPoint presentations

Plant Expo and Garden Market

The Plant Expo and Garden Market Committee is a group of Rutgers Master Gardeners of Mercer County who come together annually to plan and carry out the program’s major fundraiser. It is led by Co-Chairs Carol Bencivengo, Ann Calder, Stephanie Foy, and Harri Lynn Nowrey. The Expo includes home grown plants from our own gardens, tomatoes and veggies, purchased perennials, and a second-hand sale of gently used garden items. In 2013 the Committee made a major change to the Expo by adding a Garden Market of select area garden vendors selling herbaceous plants, rare natives, perennials, annuals, and herbs. Over half of the 200+ active volunteers participate in planning and carrying out the Plant Expo and Garden Market. They are all to be commended for their great attention to the details of this event.
**Middlesex County**

Program founded in 1988

[http://www.co.middlesex.nj.us/extensionservices](http://www.co.middlesex.nj.us/extensionservices)

Master Gardeners trained in 2014: 26
Master Gardeners currently active: 201
Master Gardeners trained to date: 439
Total Volunteer hours in 2014: 9,435
  - Consultation & Diagnostics: 1,854
  - Community Outreach: 1,634
  - Community Education: 658
2014 Volunteer value: $242,291
Total Volunteer hours to date: 133,245
Total Volunteer value to date: $2,197,917

**Outreach Highlights:**
- 814 Garden Helpline client contacts
- 513 lbs. produce donated
- 41 educational programs, 945 adults, 218 youth
- 15 PowerPoint presentations
- 3 newspaper interviews

**Milltown School Project**

In 2014, Rutgers Master Gardener Jeanne Login joined a Leadership Team to design two gardens for the Parkview, K–4, and Joyce Kilmer, 5–8 schools. “Green Clubs” were created at each school, with 51 children at Parkview and 30 children at Joyce Kilmer. Fellow Rutgers Master Gardeners along with parents attended weekly club meetings. Periodic educational programs included composting, recycling, the interactive game “Messy Town” which shows how everyday activities affect water quality, and a rain barrel demonstration. Vegetable gardens included a 30’ x 20’ area at Joyce Kilmer with 8 raised beds and a 20’ x 15’ area with 5 raised beds at Parkview. There were 13 Rutgers Master Gardeners involved in the project along with teachers, Bd. of Ed. members, parents, Home Depot employees, and Councilmen.

**Monmouth County**

Program founded in 1999

[http://www.visitmonmouth.com](http://www.visitmonmouth.com)

Master Gardeners trained in 2014: 29
Master Gardeners currently active: 220
Master Gardeners trained to date: 455
Total Volunteer hours in 2014: 23,067
  - Consultation & Diagnostics: 2,717
  - Community Outreach: 9,726
  - Community Education: 3,388
2014 Volunteer value: $592,361
Total Volunteer hours to date: 232,673
Total Volunteer value to date: $5,803,973

**Outreach Highlights:**
- 4,200 lbs. of produce donated
- 1,899 Garden Helpline client contacts
- 144 programs for 1,459 adults and 900 youth
- 46 PowerPoint presentations
- 35 Community Gardens supported
- 6 news releases
- 3,000 sq. ft. garden managed

**Herb Garden Established**

An Herb Garden was created, consisting of a central raised bed and surrounding beds, enclosed by an iron fence. This new garden joins the 5 other educational gardens located at the Agriculture Building that were planned, planted and maintained by Rutgers Master Gardeners of Monmouth County. This garden highlights different types of herbs, acts as a source for educational outreach efforts on growing herbs, and serves as a source of donation for local food pantries.
Morris County

Program founded in 2003
http://morris.njaes.rutgers.edu/garden/

Master Gardeners trained in 2014: 17
Master Gardeners currently active: 116
Master Gardeners trained to date: 277
Total Volunteer hours in 2014: 4,601
  Consultation & Diagnostics: 1,024
  Community Outreach: 2,042
  Community Education: 1,535
2014 Volunteer value: $118,154
Total Volunteer hours to date: 42,573
Total Volunteer value to date: $989,849

Outreach Highlights:
- 992 Garden Helpline client contacts
- 429 lbs. of produce donated
- 132 educational programs for 2,165 clients
- 39 Speakers Bureau presentations

Morris County Park Commission Community Garden

In 2014, the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Morris County planted and maintained demonstration plots at the Morris County Park Commission Community Garden and the Madison Community Garden. These vegetable gardening demonstrations had three objectives - to teach community garden members about succession planting and crop rotation; to demonstrate the growth habits of different varieties of lettuce, beans, kale and garlic; and to provide fresh produce to needy clients of the Interfaith Food Pantry. Educational signage and reference materials were developed and made available at the site. Community gardeners were able to view the plot during the growing season, as well as interact with Master Gardeners while they tended the plot.

Ocean County

Program founded in 1990
http://ocean.njaes.rutgers.edu/garden

Master Gardeners trained in 2014: 35
Master Gardeners currently active: 136
Master Gardeners trained to date: 857
Total Volunteer hours in 2014: 15,112
  Consultation & Diagnostics: 3,114
  Community Outreach: 1,474
  Community Education: 723
2014 Volunteer value: $388,076
Total Volunteer hours to date: 254,532
Total Volunteer value to date: $4,652,046

Outreach Highlights:
- 6,000 Garden Information calendars distributed
- 4,888 lbs. of produce donated
- 4,324 Garden Helpline client contacts
- 2,482 web site hits
- 55 educational programs for 1,443 adults
- 33 PowerPoint presentations
- 3 news releases, 2 interviews

Garden Design Committee

The Garden Design Committee designs gardens for non-profit organizations, schools, etc., that request our help. This year a butterfly garden was requested from an intermediate school’s environmental club. It was followed up with a talk given by a Rutgers Master Gardener, who spoke at the school, about the types of butterflies and the host plants where butterflies lay their eggs. The students and teachers became very enthusiastic, and narrowed their selection to using plants native to the Pine Barrens. The RMG team researched further and, with approval of our coordinator, came up with a list of plants and a design for the 16’ x 20’ area. With the help of parents and teachers, the students planted shrubs, grasses, and perennials under the guidance of the RMG team, which funded the effort for less than $1,000.
**Passaic County**

Program founded in 1996  
[http://www.mgapc.org](http://www.mgapc.org)

Master Gardeners trained in 2014: 16  
Master Gardeners currently active: 207  
Master Gardeners trained to date: 414  
Total Volunteer hours in 2014: 8,922  
  - Consultation & Diagnostics: 1,933  
  - Community Outreach: 5,456  
  - Community Education: 71  

2014 Volunteer value: $229,117  
Total Volunteer hours to date: 141,321  
Total Volunteer value to date: $2,944,226

**Outreach Highlights:**
- 1,129 web site hits
- 272 Garden Helpline client contacts
- 15 educational programs, 280 adults, 128 youth
- 50 pounds of produce donated
- 4 PowerPoint presentations
- 2 interviews, 1 feature article for “Dig It”

**Partnering for the Parks!**

The Rutgers Master Gardeners of Passaic County worked with the County Parks Department to spruce up the landscaping around the entrance signs at each county park. These areas have high deer populations, so the design and plants chosen specifically on their maintenance requirements. This project brought some consistency to the landscaping across the county and was led by a group of dedicated volunteers choosing to spend their efforts at the parks closest to their residences. The new plantings were installed in time to showcase the volunteers’ efforts for the first true County Fair and the plantings were minded, watered, and weeded throughout the growing season. The County Administration was so appreciative of these efforts that we were asked for landscaping design and installation assistance at the County golf course.

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**Somerset County**

Program founded in 1991  
[http://somerset.njaes.rutgers.edu/garden/](http://somerset.njaes.rutgers.edu/garden/)

Master Gardeners trained in 2014: 10  
Master Gardeners currently active: 83  
Master Gardeners trained to date: 268  
Total Volunteer hours in 2014: 8,794  
  - Consultation & Diagnostics: 714  
  - Community Outreach: 3,317  
  - Community Education: 247  

2014 Volunteer value: $222,752  
Total Volunteer hours to date: 155,477  
Total Volunteer value to date: $2,873,528

**Outreach Highlights:**
- 717 Garden Helpline client contacts
- 22 Educational programs for 862 adults

**‘Keep Bugging Me’ Team**

Encouraging Rutgers Master Gardener volunteers to think on a higher level of gardening – beyond the obvious - this team collects, identifies, mounts and preserves insects, arachnids, plant diseases, and weeds. The physical attributes, ecosystems, behaviors and remediation techniques of each are researched and contextual knowledge is communicated thru various avenues such as displays, movies, word puzzles, artistic renditions of specimens, and PowerPoint presentations. These teaching modules and methods are used to reach a diversified group of learning styles and intellectual levels at public outreach events such as 4-H fairs, classrooms, the Garden Helpline, advanced training, and community gardens and events.
Sussex County

Program founded in 1998
http://www.rmgsussex.org

Master Gardeners trained in 2014: 16
Master Gardeners currently active: 156
Master Gardeners trained to date: 353
Total Volunteer hours in 2014: 8,063
  Consultation & Diagnostics: 324
  Community Outreach: 6,815
  Community Education: 923
2014 Volunteer value: $ 207,058
Total Volunteer hours to date: 84,732
Total Volunteer value to date: $ 1,984,535

Outreach Highlights:
  • 3,802 lbs. of food and produce donated
  • 1,384 web site users, www.rmgsussex.org
  • 198 Garden Helpline client contacts
  • 124 educational programs, 1,167 adults, 411 youth
  • 4 PowerPoint presentations
  • 24 feature articles for the NJ Herald
  • 3 press release, 4 interviews

Award Winning Children’s Program

Led by Claudia Kunath and Karen Matthews, the Children’s Focus Group creates and delivers horticultural education for children of all ages in Sussex County. Working together with Project Self-Sufficiency of Sussex County, the team designed and produced an educational program combining preschool state curriculum with horticultural, agricultural, and environmental topics. A story introduces the topic, is acted out, and then followed by hands-on activities and games that correlate to the topic. For their efforts, the team was the recipient of Project Self-Sufficiency’s 2014 “Mosaic Award” which honors those who helped make a difference.

Union County

Program founded in 1987
http://mastergardeners-uc.org

Master Gardeners trained in 2014: 22
Master Gardeners currently active: 314
Master Gardeners trained to date: 835
Total Volunteer hours in 2014: 8,676
  Consultation & Diagnostics: 2,262
  Community Outreach: 4,251
  Community Education: 2,163
2014 Volunteer value: $ 222,800
Total Volunteer hours to date: 178,155
Total Volunteer value to date: $ 3,182,120

Outreach Highlights:
  • 2,460 lbs. of produce grown and donated
  • 1,877 bouquets for local cancer treatment centers
  • 1,091 Garden Helpline client contacts
  • 18 news releases
  • 12 educational programs, 1,270 adults, 146 youth

Demonstration Garden and Greenhouse

Rutgers Master Gardeners (RMG) maintain a 1.5 acre demonstration garden and greenhouse at Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside. The demonstration garden features the large ‘Sharing Garden’ and 15 themed garden beds. RMG volunteers provide horticultural education programs and tours for various community groups. Students from the Cerebral Palsy League used portable raised planters built by an Eagle Scout and took home herbs and flowers they potted up in the new greenhouse facility. Staff and clients of Community Access, an agency providing housing and programs to people with special needs, visited the gardens for an educational program. The gardens are open to the public during county events such as the Annual Spring Garden Fair and the County Harvest Festival, which bring close to 1,500 visitors to the gardens.
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Rutgers Master Gardener County Program Volunteer Leadership

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Treasurer: Doug Groff
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RMGANJ Representative: Tricia Deering

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Secretary: Mike Gliddon
RMGANJ Representatives: Bob Robinson, Betty Scarlata

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RMGANJ Representative: Kathy Dopart

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2nd Vice President: Howard Bodner
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General Secretary: John Connors
Historian: Elaine Alston Whittaker
RMGANJ Representatives: Joan Cox, Ellen Simonetti

Morris County
RMGANJ Representatives:
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Ocean County
President: Suzanne Keane
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2nd Vice President: Jerry Jellets
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Corresponding Secretary: Marilyn Crespy
Recording Secretaries: Noreen Baris, Pat LaVigne
Historian: Sue Norman
RMGANJ Representative: Suzanne Keane, Jim Digney

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2nd Vice President: Linda Franco
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RMGANJ Representative: Barbara Cook

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Finance Chair: Mousumi Patel
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Co- Presidents: Dona Hoagland and Linda Mahler
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Recording Secretary: Diane Gillespie
RMGANJ Representatives: Pat Schanzlin, Jane Gardner

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2nd Vice President: David Regal
3rd Vice President: Tina Helmstetter
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Recording Secretary: Linda Henry
Historian: Mary Stewart
RMGANJ Representatives: Caryl Hannemann, Antoinette Rinehart
The 2014 Rutgers Master Gardener Program Annual Report

For more information on the Rutgers Master Gardener Program, please visit http://njaes.rutgers.edu/mastergardeners/

To contact a Rutgers Master Gardener for all your gardening questions, please visit http://njaes.rutgers.edu/mastergardeners/helplines.asp

This annual publication showcases and highlights both the overall statewide effort as well as the local training and outreach accomplishments of the Rutgers Master Gardener Program as reported by the 18 individual counties offering the program.

Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and County Boards of Chosen Freeholders. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.