Rutgers Master Gardener of Mercer County Committees

PUBLIC INFORMATION and ACTIVITIES COMMITTEES

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS
Creates and presents children's educational programs in classrooms and libraries across Mercer County. Oversees Rutgers Master Gardeners who work in school garden programs.
Co-chairs: Louise Senior(louise.senior@verizon,net), Janet Sheppard (janet.sheppard@gmail.com)

COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS
Develops and conducts educational programs by Rutgers Master Gardeners for the public and other RMGs both at Extension and Mercer Educational Gardens. Committee members assist with the logistics of the programs (AV, handouts, sign-ins), greet the public, and handle their general questions about RMGs of MC. Included in the Community Education Committee is the Speakers Bureau. Speakers Bureau provides knowledgeable speakers to Mercer County community organizations, clubs, businesses, libraries and other venues on topics of importance to the Mercer County home gardener.
Co-chairs: Sheryl Fuller (sheryl_fuller@hotmail.com), Ann Vaurio (amvario@gmail.com)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH
Plans and organizes displays for various community days (e.g. Hopewell Harvest Day, Princeton Communiversity, Earth Day, etc.), and coordinates chairs for each of these events. Event chairs and volunteers staff a Helpline Q&A table, setup, take down and restock display for each event.
Co-chairs: Linda Eyre (lindaseyre@gmail.com), Tara Miller (tealee13@gmail.com)

INSECT FESTIVAL
Plans and organizes the Insect Festival, held every year in September. Our goal is to offer a community event that aims to educate children and adults about responsible gardening by focusing attention on the importance of beneficial insects in home gardens. The insect-related educational activities are designed so that children develop an appreciation for insects. They include puppet shows, fun activities and crafts.
Co-chairs: Heidi Mass (hmass821@gmail.com), Pat Frawley (p2frawley@gmail.com), Janet Sheppard (janet.sheppard@gmail.com), Diane Hennessy(dhennessy@gmail.com)

MERCER EDUCATIONAL GARDENS SITE & GARDENS
The Mercer Educational Garden (MEG) site is the outdoor classroom for the Rutgers Master Gardeners and the public. The MEG committee oversees many specific areas of the site including the compost bins, the shrub borders, the paths, and the native meadow. The committee coordinates with the seven different garden committees, each of which has its own chair(s), and maintains liaison with appropriate Mercer County representatives. This committee coordinates RMG workdays, public activities at the site and ensures that the appropriate signs, publications and websites are available and current.
Co-chairs: Nancy Putnam (nputnam@rci.rutgers.edu), Jack Piepszak (piepszak@aol.com), Robert Coyner (robertcoyner@comcast.net)

PLANT EXPO AND GARDEN MARKET
Plans, organizes, and runs the spring plant sale held each year in May. The goals are to have fun while working in harmony with fellow RMGs; raise money for the RMG of MC organization; and increase knowledge of the public and RMGs concerning plant attributes and suitability for an individual's garden site.
Co-chairs: Ann Calder (caldz@aol.com), Stephanie Foy (s.foy@comcast.net), Harri Lynn Nowrey(hlnowrey26@gmail.com)

PUBLICITY
Promotes Rutgers Master Gardener events, programs, and achievements through various forms of publicity. Prepares and issues press releases, event flyers, brochures and electronic mailings publicizing RMG activities and successes. Maintains the RMG of MC Facebook page.
Co-chairs: Carol Bencivengo (cbenci@verizon.net), Tina Leone (leoniaugeri@verizon.net)

SYMPOSIUM
Organizes and executes an annual all-day educational gardening event open to the public. Registration required. Cost includes world-renowned speakers, breakfast, lunch, book sales and author signings. Traditionally held in March to "kick off" the year of gardening.
Co-chairs: Nora Sirbaugh (Sirbaugh.nora@gmail.com), Marge Steinberg (marjorieabc@gmail.com)

INTERNAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEES

COMPUTER
Maintains the RMG computers in the Helpline Office and ITCH library. Maintains the RMG archives. Recommends and implements software and hardware solutions to improve the efficiency and reach of the organization. Advises RMGs of training outside options to develop those computer skills needed to advance their proficiency as volunteers. Assists the RMGofMC Webmaster in keeping the website current.
Co-chairs: Betty Scarlata (b.scarlata@yahoo.com), Theodora Wang (wangtheodora@yahoo.com)

EXTENSION GARDEN
Plants and maintains the Spruce Street Extension Office's outdoor garden areas. This garden exemplifies hardy and attractive plantings suitable for urban settings.
Co-chair: Jeanne Mzrocko (Jeanne.mzrocko@comcast.net)

HELPLINE
Schedules RMGs staffing of the Helpline; creates, maintains, and updates the training manual; provides Helpline training to new and experienced Rutgers Master Gardeners and facilitates the mentoring program.
Co-chairs: Karen Bennett (karentbennett@yahoo.com), Ursula Wooley (uwooley@gmail.com)

HISTORICAL
Documents the history of the organization: provides the historical perspective on why we do things, the way we are and gives guidance when we are planning new endeavors.
Co-chairs: Greenie Neuburg (HGandEP@verizon.net), Nancy Putnam (nputnam@rci.rutgers.edu)

HOSPITALITY
Supervises provision of refreshments and supplies for General and Executive Board Meetings each month.
Co-chair: Don Vosburgh (donvosburgh@gmail.com)

IDENTIFICATION AND DIAGNOSTICS
Gives members a venue for further learning after graduation; maintains the Amazing Arthropods and insect specimens; updates the ID bulletin board with samples, pictures and articles and reviews the tree and shrub books for the new class each year. Educational opportunities include nature walks, tours of relevant facilities, Learnmores, and sharing of gardening experiences.
Co-chairs: Linda Pickering ljpickering@gmail.com), Kathleen Yurwit (kathleenyurwit@comcast.net)

INFORMATION RESOURCES
Information Resources Committee is responsible for organizing, maintaining and updating the manual and electronic rolodexes, the Rutgers fact sheet files, Barbara Bromley's information sheet files, the Rutgers Master Gardener fact sheet notebooks, the Helpline reference and lending libraries, the Master Gardeners' Bulletin Board, and other resource materials such as donated books and articles. We usually meet on every third Monday of the month at 10 am.
Co-chairs: Jane Murphy (jane@karney.com), Keith Sagers (ksagers@verizon.net),
Barbara Gliddon (gliddonba@gmail.com)

MEMBERSHIP HOURS
Assures that records of Helpline service, volunteer hours and CE hours are up to date; reports needed statistics to Rutgers, Mercer County Horticulturist, and membership.
Co-chairs: Bonnie Ferriolo (bfreader@comcast.net), Don Vosburgh (donvosburgh@gmail.com)

NEWSLETTER
Researches, writes, edits, prepares, and produces the newsletter for online distribution. All RMGs with interest and skills in copy-editing, writing articles, or layout of a newsletter are encouraged to participate in producing the nine issues each year.
Chair: Ruth Tomlinson (rtomlinsn@verizon.net)

PROGRAMS
Develops programs providing speakers/events for monthly meetings; works to further RMGs horticultural knowledge and facilitate the exchange of information within the membership through these programs.
Chair: Janet Sheppard (janet.sheppard@gmail.com)

SUNSHINE
Sends cards and/or other mementos of cheer, thank you, congratulations, and condolences to our members, their immediate families, and others so designated by officers of the organization. Informs Barbara Bromley and President of these events.
Chair: Doris Arents (dcricket2@verizon.net)

TOURS
Plans and arranges educational tours to places of horticultural interest.
Co-chairs: Dottie Prudhomme (dbjorklund@juno.com), Lee Nissen (mnissen@comcast.net)

GARDEN COMMITTEES FOR MERCER EDUCATIONAL GARDENS

ANNUAL GARDEN
Designs, plants and maintains the Annual Garden at Mercer Educational Gardens. Provides education to the public and Rutgers Master Gardeners related to the garden's specialized topic. The chance to make each year's planting of annuals different is what makes growing annuals so exciting. Members explore the design elements of color, texture and shape in combining plants to create a visually appealing garden.
Chair: Dorothy Donnelly (d2donnelly@verizon.net)

BUTTERFLY GARDEN
Plants and maintains the Butterfly Garden at Mercer Educational Gardens. Provides education to the public and Rutgers Master Gardeners related to the garden's specialized topic. Learning opportunities for RMG's include a Winter Learnmore on topics such as Wildflowers, Butterfly ID or caterpillars. We also offer several field trips throughout the summer to learn butterflies in their natural habitat.
Co-chairs: Ellen Kellich (ekellich@verizon.net), Margaret Montplaisir (margaret@montplaisir.com)

COTTAGE GARDEN
The Cottage Garden Committee designs, plants and maintains the Cottage Garden at the Mercer Educational Gardens. The Cottage Garden offers a mix of plants and garden accents/equipment in an informal setting. The garden's unique combination of shrubs, annuals, perennials, vines and herbs give members an opportunity to learn and/or enhance a variety of gardening skills. Additionally, the garden is home to three rain barrels, a birdbath and birdhouse, a variety of vertical structures for climbing plants and a system for protection from the deer. Integrating the traditions of a cottage garden and the challenges of the site keep this group learning and experimenting.
Co-chair: Janet Sheppard (Janet.sheppard@gmail.com)

HERB GARDEN
The Herb Committee meets on the third Tuesday of every month throughout the year at MEG, weather permitting, and at the Extension office during the colder months. Our goal is to increase our knowledge of herbs through personal research, concentrating on areas of gardening practices, companion plantings, cooking with herbs, and medicinal usages, to name a few. We share this knowledge within our group through presentations by members at our meetings. Information is also shared with the public at MEG educational programs and with written literature for the community outreach programs. The gardens at MEG are divided into five sections: culinary, tea, ornamental, medicinal and thyme/sundial. With this organization it allows us to display many different herbs and demonstrates how single herbs have many uses.
Co-chairs: Grace Rarich(gracerarish257@hotmail.com), Claudia DeFino (cvdefino@verizon.net)

NATIVE PLANT GARDEN
Plants and maintains the Karen Coulihan Native Plant Garden at the Mercer Educational Gardens. This large and beautiful garden is filled with native species of trees, shrubs and perennials. Provides education to the public and Rutgers Master Gardeners related to the garden's specialized topic.
Co-chairs: Marie Rickman (marietrickman@gmail.com), Carol Kleiss (carol_Kleiss@msn.com)

PERENNIAL GARDEN
Plants and maintains the Perennial Garden at the Mercer Educational Gardens. Provides education to the public and Rutgers Master Gardeners related to the garden's specialized topic. This garden provides the opportunity to educate the public and Rutgers Master Gardeners about its four distinct growing environments - shade, sun, dry and wet - and the plant materials that thrive in them. Color, texture, and seasonal interest are of particular importance in the garden.
Co-chairs: Karrie Prager (kprager@gmail.com), Ursula Wooley (uwooley@gmail.com)

WEED GARDEN
Plants and maintains the Weed Garden at Mercer Educational Gardens. Provides education to the public and Master Gardeners related to the garden's specialized topic.
Co-chair: