

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON**

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 1984 the first Rutgers Master Gardener program in New Jersey was started by the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) of Bergen County; since then the Rutgers' New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) Cooperative Extension has trained thousands of Rutgers Master Gardeners; and

WHEREAS, today the Rutgers Master Gardener program has existed in Hunterdon County for twenty-eight years, reforming in 2014 to concentrate efforts for the benefit of Hunterdon County residents; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Master Gardener program of Hunterdon County is to assist Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension in its mission to deliver horticulture programs and information to the general public; and

WHEREAS, volunteer Rutgers Master Gardeners of Hunterdon County support Rutgers Cooperative Extension by staffing the Rutgers Master Gardener Helpline answering questions on home horticulture topics; supporting horticulture education programs through which County residents receive up-to-date information from Rutgers Cooperative Extension, School of Environmental Sciences and Biology and Rutgers, the State University; and support the Rutgers Cooperative Extension's outreach programs by providing horticultural education to local community groups, libraries, parks, garden clubs, schools, health centers and government agencies; and

WHEREAS, to become a Rutgers Master Gardener, one must; complete an intensive training program and complete 70 volunteer hours, including 60 Helpline and Community Outreach hours, and recertify annually; and

WHEREAS, Rutgers Master Gardeners of Hunterdon County and Volunteer Team Leader Linda Klug supports Rutgers Cooperative Extension public outreach in having designed and implemented an educational gardening experience that formally presented to over 400 audience members with various special needs in our community and facilitated access to gardening opportunities for these diverse audiences; and

WHEREAS, Rutgers Master Gardeners of Hunterdon County Sensory Garden Team was awarded first place in the 2019 Search for Excellence Award in programming for Special Needs Audiences at the 2019 International Master Gardener Conference in Valley Forge, PA;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Hunterdon does hereby recognize the outstanding dedication of Rutgers Master Gardeners of Hunterdon County Sensory Garden Team for their assistance to the community and County.

| ROLL CALL | MOVED | SECONDED | AYES | NAYS | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|---------------------------------------|-------|----------|------|------|---------|--------|
| <i>Suzanne Lagay, Director</i> | | | X | | | |
| <i>John E. Lanza, Deputy Director</i> | | X | X | | | |
| <i>J. Mathew Holt, Freeholder</i> | | | X | | | |
| <i>Susan J. Soloway, Freeholder</i> | X | | X | | | |
| <i>Shaun C. Van Doren, Freeholder</i> | | | X | | | |

ADOPTED: September 17, 2019

BRAD MYHRE, CLERK

Master Gardener Photo:

Top Row, Left to Right: Jean Agostinelli, Lisa Thomas, Susan Kamich, Adeline Lillien, Ruth Cobb, Pam Withington, Rebecca Magron (Horticultural Consultant), Linda Klug (Team Leader), Freeholder Lagay, Richelle Sommer

Sitting, Left to Right: Linda Cornell, Layce Gebhard, Judy Bruckman, Connie Deetz, Donna McCall, Judy Lynch