

## **Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association**

### **General Meeting Minutes**

**March 24, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by President **Maryann Horgan** with 45 members in attendance at 9:00am.

#### **President's Message**

President Horgan provided copies of an article **Tom Woods** produced for the St James newsletter. It focused on the care of crepe myrtles and the harmful pruning ritual practiced by many. Maryann reminded the membership we do not need to 'reinvent the wheel' when called on to contribute gardening articles. There are binders in the MG workroom that contain many past articles produced by Master Gardeners covering a variety of subjects.

**Marianne Bell** and **Judith Thuer** were thanked for supplying the meeting's refreshments.

President Horgan invited the membership to visit the arbor area in the botanical garden after the meeting. **Bob Kiley** stained the arbor to match the new grey deck material, and **Debbie and Bill Duffy** have assisted **Fred Mina** with completion of the bridge.

#### **Membership Acceptance**

The Minutes from the February meeting posted on the web were accepted with no revisions.

Treasurer **Merry MacBarb** produced the February Treasurer's Report showing an ending balance of \$22,270.54. The major expenditure for the month was the irrigation repair. The report was accepted by membership.

#### **Old Business**

President Horgan outlined a tentative schedule for the upcoming St James Garden Club (4/26) and the Brunswick County Newcomers Club (5/9). Educational tables will be manned by members at the beginning of the visits, followed by an IPM presentation by **Tom Woods**. The clubs will then be divided into three groups and led to various areas of the botanical garden. Two guides will be needed for each group.

A chart displaying the association's 2016 5000 volunteer hours challenge showed good progress. At the end of February the Brunswick Master Gardener Volunteers had posted 580 hours. As of March 24 the hours grew to 1722, and BCMGVA moved to fifth place among North Carolina counties, many of whom are more heavily populated than Brunswick County.

The president proposed establishing a 'What's in Bloom' table that would display flowers from the botanical garden with additional information and research on the respective plants. This would provide volunteer hours for members who are not physically able to work in the garden.

## **Committees**

Corresponding Secretary – **Jenny Newton** reported one 'Thank You' note received and one sent.

Membership – **Lynn Eriquez** and **Kay Swenson** announced the Discount Cards are available for the 66 paid members of the association.

Hardscape – With the arbor area complete **Debbie Duffy** reported the remaining boardwalk will be the next task.

Botanical Garden Committee – **Maryann Horgan** reminded the membership that all are welcome to participate. Mulching and general cleanup are underway in anticipation of the spring club visitors.

Plant Sale Committee – **Vickie Fuhrmann** handed out Plant Sale flyers for the April sale and stated more are available electronically. A target date of April 1 is set to complete information on the website displaying the sale plants. Workdays are planned for the plant arrivals, with the largest order arriving on April 7. There will be a training day for volunteers assisting with the sale. Consistency of pricing and location will be important. This will be the first year the sale has taken credit cards for payment.

All plants pre-ordered by the membership must be picked up by April 13.

**Sonia Smith** reminded members to properly label those plants donated for the 'Pass-Along' sale. Members can drop off plants on April 8 and April 13 between 9am and noon.

Vickie reviewed plans for the May Plant Sale that will emphasize native plants. On the morning of the first sale date a seminar is planned. Tables will be sponsored by other organizations such as The NC Native Plant Society, Cape Fear River Watch and The Audubon Society. After the morning seminar it is anticipated the sale will be conducted in the Botanical Garden. The next day a Bird Walk is proposed through the Nature Trail adjacent to the greenhouse parking lot followed by a continuation of the sale from 9am to 1pm.

Speakers and Library – **Sonia Smith** announced today's speaker is Meg Shelton from Shelton Herb Farm.

History/Publicity – **Donna Coulson** requested members clip any articles covering the BCMGVA and bring to the office for placement in the publicity records.

Social Committee - **Sonia Smith** requested volunteers to supply baked goods for the May 9 Brunswick County Newcomers Club visit.

Field Trips – **Ellen Pecina** advised those participating in the Charleston trip their tickets will not be mailed, but are held at the 'will call' station for the event

### **Extension Coordinators Reports and Updates**

**Michelle Cousineau** thanked the membership for all the hard work in the botanical garden.

### **New Business**

**Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman** asked the membership for questions and comments regarding the proposed changes to the association's By-Laws as well as the Policies and Procedures. A typographical error was noted, and both documents were approved by the membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45am.

**Speaker:** Meg Shelton from Shelton Herb Farm.

Submitted by Anne Coleman  
Recording Secretary