

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

### **General Meeting Minutes**

**January 28, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by President **Maryann Horgan** with 51 members in attendance at 9:00am.

The president reminded the membership that 2015 began with a focus on education and outreach to the community. We will continue that focus into 2016 using the Botanical Garden not only for our own education, but to expand our interaction with the residents of Brunswick County. There will be many opportunities to meet the membership hours' requirements of 9 hours of service in the Botanical Garden and 9 hours of service on the Info Line.

Regarding education President Horgan stated the 'Day in the Yard' program is not only an opportunity for the participants but also for membership if we need to brush up on any skills. The Bolivia class will begin at 9am on 2/1/16 and the St. James class is scheduled to begin on 2/3/16 at 2pm. All membership is welcome at these six session programs.

With the assistance of **Sam Marshall** President Horgan announce the establishment of The Speakers Bureau. This will give our membership the opportunity to select a topic and deliver a speech in front of the General Membership prior to speaking in front of outside groups. The forum will either be the General Meeting or Brown Bag Lunches. The first Brown Bag lunch is scheduled for February 5 with Vickie Fuhrmann speaking on the topic of 'Crepe Murder.' Mary Dixon is planning to speak at the May 26 general meeting on the topic of Edibles in the Landscape.

Our public outreach will include the annual visit from the county sixth graders as well as an April 26 visit from the Garden Club of Saint James and a May 9 visit from the Brunswick County Newcomers Club. Volunteers were requested for tour guides and station speakers in our botanical garden.

**Sam Marshall** addressed the general membership via video. He and President Horgan challenged the membership to increase the annual volunteer hours of our organization to at least 5500 for 2016. He also urged more collaboration with Master Gardeners from surrounding counties, intentional outreach to our communities through programs like House Calls, at least four major Botanical Garden visits by county residents, an increase to 5000 face to face contacts throughout the year, and of the 40 hour volunteer commitment we complete at least 20 of them within 10 miles of our own homes.

President Horgan thanked **Ann Gallman** and **Sonia Smith** for providing the meeting refreshments.

#### **Membership Acceptance**

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

The Treasurer's Reports from November and December as well as the Budget are now on-line. They can be found under the 'About Us' tab on the NCSU webpage and also in the Weekly Weeder in protected pages for Members Only.

The year-end balance was \$24,158.62, and Treasurer **Merry MacBarb** stated we are well positioned for the 2016 Plant Sale expenses.

**Amanda Kiel** demonstrated how to sign up for Amazon Smile, a rewards program that can benefit our organization using our individual Amazon accounts when making purchases.

### **Old Business**

The Brunswick Community College scholarship paperwork has been submitted to the school. One of our parameters is for the selected student to attend at least one of our monthly meetings.

When a Master Gardener is planning to give a speech or write an article for the general public, it is now policy for either **Tom Woods** or **Sam Marshall** to first review it. **Jeanne Pavero** will work as coordinator for speaking engagements and written articles as well as House Calls appointments.

### **Committees**

Corresponding Secretary – **Jenny Newton** reported two letters of 'Well Wishes' were sent and one 'Thank You' note received.

Membership – **Lynn Eriquez** reminded all in attendance to pay the \$10 annual dues and sign the membership statement for 2016.

Liaison Committee to NCEMGVA – **Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman** announced there are now 652 members, and the annual budget was passed. The newsletter will now be available on-line only. She reported other organizations have found that additional liability insurance above what is provided by Brunswick County to be beneficial. **Tom Woods** will investigate.

Botanical Garden Committee – **MaryAnn Horgan** reported the irrigation for the garden will be completed in February.

The committee established a work format for the garden. Staff will walk the garden every Monday morning and note any issues or problems. These will be addressed by a proposed 'Maintenance Team' under the supervision of **Michelle Cousineau**. The website and Weekly Weeder will also post jobs related to maintenance.

A 'Heavy Lifting Team' will be established to handle projects such as pathways, fences, and carpentry, etc., and teams for each garden area will be responsible for the oversight of their particular area. Clipboards were passed among the membership asking for volunteers for the new teams.

The committee formulated a process for requesting a new garden that begins with an informal proposal, followed by a formal proposal with plant list/requirements, layout and photos of any proposed hardscape if available.

Plant Sale Committee – **Vickie Fuhrmann** announced that 180 plugs have been potted up and approximately 1500 plugs will arrive in one week. Volunteers are needed on February 5 from 1-4pm to assist.

There will be a section at the plant sale that will offer plants from our own master gardener gardens. Membership was asked to begin readying plants for this sale. The pot size will be determined soon and they will need to be labeled with botanical name, common name, light/ water requirements, deer/rabbit resistance, etc. **Sonia Smith** has agreed to supervise this section and has suggested the plants not be brought until one week prior to the sale.

The duration of the plant sales has been reduced to 2 days from 3 due to staffing and inventory issues. A possibility of extended sale hours into the early evening was discussed to accommodate working customers.

The Plant Sale committee can order plants for other master gardener projects. **Vickie Fuhrmann** will need this information by the first week of March to combine with the Plant Sale orders.

History/Publicity – **Donna Coulson** requested any clippings about our activities from various newspapers be brought to the extension office for filing. She thanked the membership for their word-of-mouth effort that has helped publicize many events. **Mary Dixon** wrote an article about the refurbished Botanical Garden and it will be published in the January issue of the state newsletter.

Social Committee – A 'Garden Party' is planned for past and present 'House Calls' recipients in the fall.

Field Trips – **Ellen Pecina** arranged for a spring field trip to Charleston, SC for The Glorious Garden Tour on April 21. The tour is from 2-5 pm followed by a wine tasting. Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased on line. Ellen asked for those interested to sign up with her and suggested the tickets be purchased soon as they are expected to be sold out in the next 30 days.

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

**Tom Woods** spoke of the 'coming out' party for the Botanical Garden that will be in April with the visit from the Garden Club of Saint James. He urged the membership to get the word out for other groups to visit. Help is needed by everyone to make sure the garden is properly spruced up for these visits.

Tom warned about a noxious weed called the Bengal Day Flower which is damaging to row crops such as soy beans. Its flowers have 3 petals, 2 blue and 1 white that emerge in the late spring. If spotted Tom requested a picture and note of location be sent to him.

NC State would like to monitor kudzu bugs and their movements. When spotted, note what plant they are on and report to Tom.

No estimate for the budgeted spring clean-up has been received yet. Tom will follow up.

**New Business and Announcements**

**Amanda Kiel** requested that all items for the Weekly Weeder be sent to her by Friday so they can be included in the following Monday's new issue.

Informative one-page and tri-fold brochures have been produced for use when meeting with outside groups. They include a calendar of the year's events with additional information on 'Day in the Yard', House Calls, and the Plant Sales.

Speakers for the following months are Greg Goldfuss in February on new developments in irrigation, Margaret Shelton in March and a speaker on storm water management in April.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15

**Speaker: Tom Woods** spoke on Soils.

Submitted by Anne Coleman  
Recording Secretary