

Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association

General Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President **Maryann Horgan** with 36 members in attendance at 9:05am.

The president announced we must now refer to ourselves as Master Gardener Volunteers or Extension Master Gardeners for legal reasons that **Sam Marshall** will explain at the end of the meeting.

Vice President **Jeanne Pavero** thanked **Ellie Bierman** and **Dominique Loewenstein** for providing the meeting refreshments.

Membership Acceptance

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

The Treasurer's Report from January presented by **Merry MacBarb** was accepted. The ending January balance was \$25,986.92 with \$2100 in Educational Income derived from 'The Day in the Yard' program.

Old Business

A hard copy of the revised BCMGVA By-Laws will be mailed to the membership at least 2 weeks prior to the March meeting. Membership was asked to review the old by-laws along with the proposed revisions and bring any recommendations or suggestions in writing to the next meeting.

President Horgan reminded the membership of volunteer opportunities available. Sign-up clipboards were passed through the audience again with three additional ones: Grants, Speakers' Bureau and Awards of Excellence.

The Grants volunteers will research and write proposals to obtain funds from organizations such as ATMC, BEMC and Lowes. The Speaker's Bureau will produce articles and support speakers from within our organization. The Awards of Excellence volunteers will shepherd three nominations from the BCMGVA: House Calls, Hickman Road Library Info Line and the Hands-On Horticulture with the county 6th Graders. **Anne Coleman** will begin the rough draft for the Hickman Road project, and **Maryann Horgan** will initiate the Hands-On Horticulture nomination. A leader for the House Calls program is needed.

The April 26th visit from the Saint James Garden Club and the May 9 Brunswick County Newcomers Club visit will need additional volunteers to man information tables, act as tour guides and staff educational stations.

Committees

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

Membership – **Lynn Eriquez** and **Kay Swenson** reminded all in attendance to pay the 2016 \$10 annual dues.

Hardscape – **Fred Mina** requested all members to ready their power tools for the needed spring spruce-up prior to the April and May visits to the Botanical Garden.

Botanical Garden Committee – **Maryann Horgan** reported no company has responded to conduct our spring clean-up. Therefore all clean-up and mulching will fall to the 'Maintenance' and 'Heavy Lifting' teams. All members are welcome to pitch in. Maryann pointed out that while there are large areas with specific designations in the Botanical Garden, there are many smaller areas available for adoption. Members interested should contact **Michelle Cousineau** to discuss their ideas. The next committee meeting is scheduled for February 29th at 1pm.

Plant Sale Committee – **Vickie Fuhrmann** thanked the 25 plus volunteers who helped plant 1500 plugs on February 5. More volunteers are needed on Friday the 26th to assist with the arrival of additional plants as well as hoop house inventory. The committee will schedule organizational workdays prior to the plant sale to insure proper pricing and labeling. A Training Day for Sale volunteers is planned for Wednesday, April 13 and will include a map of the pad for ease in locating plant groups. Vickie stated the committee also hopes to experiment with new check-out procedures and will offer a substantial discount to Training Day participants for those plants that arrived in less than perfect condition. The purchase of Plant Sale Aprons was discussed that would easily identify any Plant Sale Volunteer to the public. A show of hands indicated an interest in the aprons as well as 'House Call' shirts, caps and visors. **Sonia Smith** reminded members to get their own plants ready for the Pass-Along portion of the plant sale. She reiterated that no houseplants are needed. Any plant brought for the Pass-Along market should contain information on the botanical name, common name and general growing conditions.

Speakers and Library – **Sonia Smith** announced today's speaker is Glenn Goldfuss who will talk about innovations in irrigation. Margaret Shelton will be the March speaker, and she will bring herbs from her farm for sale. Tracy Scrabble from NC Coastal will join our April meeting, and Mary Dixon will talk about edibles in the garden at the May meeting.

History/Publicity – **Ellie Bierman's** article on roses was well received and published in The Sun News, but no by-line was provided. **Donna Coulson** explained that by-lines for written articles will most likely not be given for items published in newspapers. However the same articles can be provided to HOA newsletters and proper credit will generally be noted. To help in providing future articles for various publications Maryann noted the Master Gardener office maintains records of older articles suitable for recycling.

New Business

Ann Gallman announced the Cape Fear Orchid Society is hosting its 'Big Bloomin' Orchids Day' on Saturday March 5 from 9am to 1pm at the NHC Arboretum Auditorium in Wilmington. Speakers will address the basic needs of orchids and their growing environments. Experienced orchid growers will be available to answer questions, orchids will be available for sale, and raffle tickets offered for orchids and supplies. Pre-registration is \$10 and tickets at the door are \$15.

Extension Coordinators Reports and Updates

Mark Blevins thanked the membership for the positive visible changes in the Botanical Garden as well as the important behind the scenes improvements in the BCMGVA. Mark discussed the benefits of the Connect NC Bond coming up for a vote on March 15. The North Carolina Extension Service will benefit from some of the funds, namely The Plant Sciences Initiative, while no additional taxes or tax increases will be levied.

Anita Handler reported Restitution began January with 7 youths, added 8 during the month and graduated 4 from the program. Anita offered the remaining 11 youths to assist with any heavy lifting projects as needed. Additionally they have started seeds and could possibly adopt a small section in the garden.

Michelle Cousineau announced she has several important calendar work-dates posted on the BCMGVA website to prepare the Botanical Garden for April and May visitors. She thanked the membership for its patience as the garden has evolved.

Sam Marshall stated the fruits of everyone's labor is paying off. He is slated to be filmed May 10th for an appearance on the PBS show Almanac Gardener. He is hopeful some pre-footage can be filmed during the April Saint James Garden Club visit to show off the improvements to the Botanical Garden.

The Leland Library has contacted the Extension office to provide an educational program, and Sam suggested we offer a satellite service modeled after the Hickman Road Library Info Line service. Leland has requested 2 Master Gardener Volunteers be available once a week to answer on site questions. A coordinator for this project is needed.

Four surrounding county extension offices are joining ranks to put together advanced training modules for Master Gardener Volunteers. Sam anticipates topics will include GMO's, New Varieties and Research Trial results. The half day classes will be held in Wilmington at the NE Library.

At a meeting with NC State Legal Services Sam was informed membership must now refer to themselves as Extension Master Gardeners or Master Gardener Volunteers. Simply calling ourselves Master Gardeners will forfeit liability coverage that protects us from lawsuit.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10am.

Speaker: Glenn Goldfuss on Irrigation Innovations.

Submitted by Anne Coleman
Recording Secretary