

Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association

General Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President **Maryann Horgan** with 37 members in attendance at 9:00am.

President's Message

President Horgan introduced the new 4-H director, **Micah Gore**, who addressed the membership. A new transfer member from New Hanover, **CC Hensley**, was introduced and announced the upcoming Coastal Garden Club's Plant Sale. It will be held Mother's Day weekend and proceeds support their scholarship program. President Horgan stated there is Master Gardener apparel still available for purchase. **Merry MacBarb** and **Amanda Kiel** supplied the meeting's refreshments.

Sam Marshall presented a review of Soil Sample procedures. All submitted samples are forwarded each Friday afternoon to the NC Department of Agriculture. Clients should be instructed to check the NCDPA PALS website for results in 2-3 weeks.

The President reported **Anne Coleman** contacted the NC DOT to explore the placement of a sign on Highway 17 to announce the Brunswick County Botanical Garden.

Membership Acceptance

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

Merry MacBarb produced the March Treasurer's report reflecting an ending balance as of March 31 of \$ 19,725.92. Approximately \$4600 was spent on plant sale items through the end of March. It was estimated the April Plant Sale produced \$5000 in net income. **Vickie Fuhrmann** pointed out that some of the funds spent on plant sale inventory applied to the May Plant Sale making it difficult to determine the exact April sale income. The report was accepted by membership.

Merry stated the annual audit was completed with minimal corrections noted.

Old Business

The Saint James Garden Club visit on April 26 was our first formal event and proved to be a successful format. 22 members from the club toured the Botanical Garden after an informational program presented by the BCMGVA. Tom Woods spoke on IPM, and several members manned informational tables. Docents were positioned in 4 locations in the garden, and guides ushered small groups between the major garden spots: The Live Oak Shade Garden, The Sunny Perennial Border, The Birch Tree Shade Garden, the Edible Garden, the Rose Garden, the Vegetable Garden and the Secret Garden. All volunteers at that event were personally thanked by President Horgan. **Jeanne Pavero** will be contacting all volunteers signed up for the May 9 visit by the Brunswick Newcomer's Club.

President Horgan displayed the Volunteer Hours board showing Brunswick County Master Gardeners in 4th place statewide.

Committees

Corresponding Secretary – **Jenny Newton** sent a 'Thank You' note to Meg Shelton, last month's speaker. She also mailed a note to Supply Elementary thanking them for donating the boxes used during the plant sale. She sent a 'Get Well' Message to **Maryann Horgan** and her husband.

Membership – **Lynn Eriquez** and **Kay Swenson** announced there are now 74 members in the association.

Liaison Committee to NCEMGVA – President Horgan requested a volunteer to replace **Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman** who must resign due to health and family issues. Shirley will be available as an alternate and will help with transition. The position involves traveling to quarterly meetings to represent BCMGVA at the state level.

Hardscape – Fred Mina thanked all who helped in the completion of the boardwalk and bridge repair, notably **Bob Kiley** and **Debbie and Bill Duffy**.

Plant Sale Committee – **Vickie Fuhrmann** thanked all who helped with the April Plant Sale. Changes in procedures such as a 2 station check-out alleviated some of the crowd pressure, but going forward more help is needed during the opening session. Other improvements included credit card acceptance, red aprons for MG helpers and a new pad layout which saved plants from being customer trampled. The remaining 35 plants were offered to the membership at a discount. Publicity for the sale was increased through outlets such as Neighbor Next Door thanks to **Donna Coulson**. The Pass-along plant sale managed by **Sonia Smith** was also successful (approximately \$300 profit), but more information on the plants provided is requested in the future.

Vickie stated a flier on the May sale is available, and a list of the native plants offered at the sale should be posted on the website by the first week in May. Volunteer workdays for the sale are posted on the website for May 18 and 19. The morning of the sale the membership will host a Native Plant Seminar for up to 125 attendees. There will be 3 speakers, and website pre-registration is requested. The sale will be 12-5 on May 20 followed by 9-1 on 5/21.

Speakers and Library – **Sonia Smith** announced today's speaker is Tracy Skrabal from the NC Coastal Federation.

History/Publicity – **Donna Coulson** reminded the membership that in addition to services like Next Door. Com word of mouth is also a good way to publicize our activities.

Mary Dixon publicized an article in the NC Extension newsletter on edible landscapes.

Field Trips – **Amanda Kiel, Vickie Fuhrmann, Donna Coulson and Ellen Pecina** visited Charleston for the Spring Tour of Gardens

Extension Coordinators Reports and Updates

Tom Woods reported 44 House Call requests year to date, and noted a higher participation of Master Gardeners is needed to fulfill the ongoing requests. A Health Fair is scheduled for June 18, and a Master Gardener manned booth has been requested. A handout was constructed showing the various county soil sample pick-up locations and the designated Master Gardener responsible for delivery to the extension office.

Tom announced golf course greens are suffering from heavy rains and milder temperatures. Root rot is evident in many of the newly converted hybrid Bermuda grasses some local courses have employed. Master Gardeners should expect to see earlier than usual evidence of mole crickets, fungal disease and spider mites.

Sam Marshall thanked **Jeanne Login** for maintaining an organized greenhouse and hoop house throughout the preparation for the April Plant Sale. He acknowledged the efforts of the Propagation Class who worked to ensure the health of the plants leading up to the sale.

Sam announced he will be a speaker at the Southport Nature Fest on April 30 as well as Wilmington's Sustainable Landscape Class on May 21. The 3rd annual Hands-On-Horticulture is scheduled for May 3rd. On May 11 and 12 the PBS show Almanac Gardener will be filming segments in Bolivia focusing on 'Gardening on the Coast'. Master Gardeners are invited to be 'background' for the segments. The 2016 Master Gardener training class is scheduled to begin September 13, and Sam requested membership publicize this opportunity.

George Wong Chong reminded the membership 'Life on the Farm' needs volunteers for the 3rd grader outing.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10am.

Speaker: Tracy Skrabal from the North Carolina Coastal Federation

Submitted by Anne Coleman
Recording Secretary