

Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association

General Meeting Minutes

August 25, 2016

President Horgan called the meeting to order at 9am with 32 members present. Refreshments were supplied by **Cathy Matheson** and **Maryann Horgan**.

President's Message

President Horgan welcomed the membership back after the July break. She noted several members who have 'stepped up' over the summer to perform needed tasks: **Jeanne Pavero** and **Sonia Smith** for their 'What's in Bloom' table, **John Walters** for assisting **Michele Cousineau** in the movement of the geo-cache sign in the garden, and all the members who worked on the rain garden.

The nominating committee, comprised of **Pat Sams**, **Judi Thuer** and **Jack Bendy**, are working to place names for open offices. President Horgan urged any member who would like to serve in a particular position contact the committee.

President Horgan reported the association's outreach to the community is working. Publicity in the local newspapers and periodicals has promoted the garden, the House Calls program and the Library Info Desks in Calabash and Leland. Last year's House Calls program yielded 44 visits. Year to date there have been 77 requests.

President Horgan awarded a certificate of appreciation to **Amanda Kiel** for the 'Weekly Weeder' publication.

Mary Dixon was honored for her work as team leader for the Edible Garden with a decorative watering can.

Membership Acceptance

The Minutes from the June meeting submitted by **Anne Coleman** were accepted with no revisions.

In the absence of **Merry MacBarb** President Horgan presented the Treasurer's Report for June and July. Income from the Day in the Yard program is expected to exceed original estimates. Book sales grew due to the sales tables hosted at garden tours. Collection of a charge back of \$222 from the May plant sale is being pursued by **Anne Coleman**. The Treasurer's reports were accepted by the membership.

Old Business

Scholarship funds have been dispersed to two Brunswick Community College students.

Committees

Corresponding Secretary – **Jenny Newton** resigned as corresponding secretary due to health issues. She is replaced by **Dotti Hunkele**. Dotti sent 'Get Well' notes to **Ellen Pecina**, **Michele Cousineau** and **Jenny Newton**.

Liaison Committee – The liaison position is now shared by **Vicki Fuhrmann** and **Donna Coulson**. President Horgan thanked **Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman** for her years of service since 1994.

Hardscape Committee – **Fred Mina** announced the committee has plans to make an arbor for the Edible Garden. They will work on improving the hoop house irrigation and outdoor misting tables. Fred asked the members to bring requests to him so they can be included in the budget process for 2017.

Botanical Garden Committee – **Maryann Horgan** reported the committee met the previous week. She provided a copy of the committee's minutes and invited the membership to participate. The garden needs more volunteers, and the committee will use the ELDG as a model for other garden teams.

The House Calls Garden Party is scheduled for October 7. There will be a harpist for musical entertainment, and the association will provide light refreshments. All House Calls recipients will receive an invitation. Maryann requested volunteers as tour guides and workers the week of the visit to police the garden beds and walks.

Forty people from OLLI are expected to tour the garden on September 23. Tour guides and members to man the information tables are requested.

Plant Sale Committee – **Vicki Fuhrmann** announced the on-line sale has sold \$7200 in plants after 3 days in operation, and some items have already sold out. Vicky displayed several of the grass selections to the membership. Members were instructed to bring 'Pass Along' plants to the September meeting.

Speakers and Library – **Sonia Smith** announced Craig Connelly will be the September speaker. He owns 'The Hive' in Southport and will discuss bees and honey making.

Extension Coordinators Reports and Updates

Sam Marshall congratulated the membership on their 2016 volunteer hours. In 2015 the association donated 5,616 hours. Year to date the volunteer hours total 5,298.

The new Master Gardener class will have 15+/- students. Sam will provide a copy of the syllabus so any member can attend. A September 8 trip is planned for the class to the Raleigh Soils Lab.

Sam reported the July Evaluation will be repeated due to low response.

The electric fence around the greenhouse and hoop house area will be replaced with a tall chain link fence.

A more managed process will be employed in the greenhouse and hoop house areas. A keyed lock will monitor entry and all planting pots will be rotated for a 2 year life.

The next Propagation Class is scheduled for November.

Alicia Jenkins requested 6 volunteers to assist at the Family Fair on Saturday August 27.

Tom Woods reported **Mark Blevins** congratulated the association for making the Master Gardener services extend to the Leland and Calabash communities.

Tom reported inquiries on Bermuda grass turning brown. It is likely due to heat induced slower mowing schedules which results in taking more than the recommended 1/3 blade. An alternative cause may be Army Worms. He has also received reports of problems with Pink Muhly Grass and Mealy bugs which can be treated with Horticultural Oil. This grass should not be cut back each year, and no more than 1/3 of blade length.

Moles can now be controlled by poisons in the state of North Carolina. An alternative untested treatment employs castor oil.

Tom announced the October meeting will be held in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Administration Building due to early voting in the government complex.

Anita Handler reported Restitution numbers. July began with 19 participants, 4 were added and 10 were graduated out leaving 13 at the end of the month. The group has spent time weeding in the gas pump garden and the botanical garden.

Michele Cousineau inquired how the clipboard method of posting needed chores was working for the maintenance crew. She reported the Vegetable Garden Class donated approximately 50 lbs. of food to a nearby church, and more will be available by the end of the summer.

New Business

Maryann Horgan announced there will be a brainstorming meeting on September 6 at 9am to stimulate 2017 ideas and projects.

She reminded the membership the 'Herbs and Edibles' booklet needs revision.

Maryann announced a possible fundraiser for the spring of 2018. A travel agency will rebate to the association 10% of fares on a river cruise tour to Holland and Belgium. A minimum of 10 people from BCMGVA is required to receive the rebate.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20am.

Speaker: Andrew Fairbanks of Halyburton Park

Submitted by Anne Coleman
Recording Secretary