

Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association

General Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2017

President **Jeanne Pavero** called the meeting to order at 9am with 45 members present. Refreshments for the meeting were supplied by **Mary Dixon** and **Kay Swenson**.

President's Message

New members were welcomed and acknowledged by the president. She also noted the good work underway at the Leland satellite office.

President Pavero requested a volunteer to shadow **Donna Coulson** who needs assistance on the publicity committee. Copies of any newspaper articles or print publicity should be forwarded to Jeanne.

The BCMGVA posted 7,783 volunteer hours in 2016, and President Pavero challenged the group to exceed 8,000 hours in 2017. Open communication between all areas is a primary focus for 2017.

Membership Acceptance

The Minutes from the November, 2016 meeting submitted by **Anne Coleman** were accepted with no revisions.

The November and December, 2016 Treasurer's Reports submitted by **Merry MacBarb** were accepted by the membership. The association finished the year with a balance of \$39,417.79. Merry noted a revision to the 2017 budget allowing for a separate line item of \$3,500 for 'Pots and Soil'. No total budget figures were amended.

Hank Rapp assumed Treasurer's responsibilities for 2017.

Old Business

The 2017 nominating committee is comprised of **Judy Thuer**, **Diane Frederes** and **Gayle Pfeiffer**. Judy urged anyone interested in taking over an officer position in the future to prepare by shadowing that person in 2017.

Committee Reports

Correspondence – **Dotti Hunkele** sent a get well message to **Tom McGrath**. She requested the membership keep her informed of any needed correspondence.

Membership – **Lynn Eriquez** reminded the membership the committee is currently accepting \$10 annual dues.

Botanical Garden Committee – **Maryann Horgan** announced the committee will have monthly meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month beginning in February. She emphasized the meetings are open to anyone who wishes to participate. Going forward the individual gardens will be modeled after the successful Edible Landscape Garden led by **Mary Dixon** and **Craig Farland**. Each garden will have two co-chairmen and a team of supporting members. Maryann passed out sign-up sheets for each of the gardens including proposed gardens.

Maryann reported President Pavero has requested she be the designated Tour Guide Director for the Botanical Garden. Master Gardeners from Cumberland and Robeson Counties are scheduled for a March 28 visit, and two other groups have requested visits in April. Volunteers were solicited for these tours.

Membership requested the website include team leader contact information for each of the gardens.

Plant Sale Committee – President Pavero reminded the membership of the 2017 sale dates: Spring Sale – April 21-22, Native Plant Sale – May 19-20 and the On-Line Plant Sale – 3 weeks in August.

Webmaster – **Amanda Kiel** made a request for assistance in compiling the 'Weekly Weeder'. Regular articles on pertinent topics are needed. Additionally she reminded membership all submissions should be ready for posting as time does not allow her to compose the articles.

Speakers – **Sonia Smith** reported the meeting's speaker is Derek Smith from the North Carolina DOT. Future speakers will be the New Executive Director of the Bald Head Conservancy in February, **Sam Marshall** on Bugs in March, and Robin Weir of Wild by Nature in April.

Social – **Diane Frederes** announced the 2017 Christmas Party date has been selected: December 7.

Trips – **Merry MacBarb** persuaded **Sam Marshall** to lead another Green Swamp hike at the end of March or early April. The association fall trip will be to the Mum Festival in New Bern. **Maryann Horgan** spoke about the proposed fund raising trip to Belgium in spring, 2018.

Extension Coordinators Reports and Updates

4-H staff member **Angie Lawrence** introduced a new member in the department, **Morgan King**. There are 12 members this year in the 4-H Leadership Training, and Brunswick County will offer a 4-H summer camp. Both programs need volunteer assistance and/or mentors.

Sam Marshall urged the membership to pace itself and avoid burn-out. Focusing on education and outreach continue to be the goals of the organization. He reported, based on the volunteer hours and records of 2016, the BCMGVA reached more than 10% of the total Brunswick County population.

Future educational opportunities for the association involve regional programs with New Hanover and Pender Counties. There will be a propagation class beginning January 31 culminating with a trip to the J.C. Raulston Arboretum in Raleigh. The vegetable garden work will be combined with propagation. A hands-on advanced pruning class is offered in the Rose Garden on January 27. The Ash Maple Tree Farm pruning trip earlier in the month was very successful.

The extension office has received 12 applications for the open curator position. The job description for the position has been modified to focus more in the Botanical Garden and less community outreach.

Sam announced the new procedures manual will clarify the input of volunteer hours.

Restitution began the year with 19 students and expects 8 more to be added soon. **Anita Handler** requested more volunteers to help with the growing numbers in the Saturday morning program. Members spoke briefly endorsing the good and rewarding work done by Restitution.

New Business

President Pavero encouraged everyone to sign up for participation in the Botanical Garden.

Vice President, **Mary Dixon**, announced a seed exchange is scheduled for the February meeting. Members will be allowed to swap up to 3 different kinds of seeds.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10am.

Speaker: Derek Smith, NC DOT

Submitted by Anne Coleman
Recording Secretary