

NC State Extension Master Gardenersm Volunteer Association of Brunswick County, Inc.

General Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President **Jeanne Pavero** at 9:00am with 39 members present. Refreshments for the meeting were supplied by **Dotti Hunkele**, **Pat Sams** and **Diane Frederes**.

President's Message

President Pavero thanked all participating DIY teachers, and noted **Vicki Fuhrmann's** new segment on Native Plants was well received. Two members of the new Master Gardener class were welcomed to the meeting and encouraged to participate in all activities. A full Botanical Garden workday is scheduled November 13 from 9-12, and lunch will be provided. President Pavero urged all members to post their volunteer hours.

Old Business

Membership voted and passed an official name change for the association. The new name is 'NC State Extension Master Gardenersm Volunteer Association of Brunswick County, Inc.' **Hank Rapp** will file all required paperwork with the state. Any member requesting a new name tag reflecting the new name may contact **Tom Woods**. Older nametags are grandfathered and therefore do not require replacement.

President Pavero announced the Field Trip, Education and Speakers Committees will be combined under the leadership of **Krystyna Ochota**. It is anticipated the Executive Board will make the resulting combined committee a Standing Committee in 2018.

Membership Acceptance

The Minutes from the September 2017 meeting submitted by **Anne Coleman** were accepted with no revisions. The Executive Board's minutes for September were corrected to state *a hardcopy of the prior month's minutes will be available for review at each general meeting*.

The Treasurer's report is published monthly in the Weekly Weeder, and the September report issued **by Hank Rapp** was accepted by membership. Monies received during the month totaled \$2,121 largely from Day in the Yard Classes, and monies paid out totaled \$761.83 leaving a month end balance of \$45,054.33.

Committee Reports

Correspondence Committee- **Dotti Hunkele** issued two 'Get Well' cards to members and a 'Thank You' note to the prior month's speaker.

Liaison Committee – **Jeanne Pavero** reported on behalf of **Donna Coulson** the state organization asked for a \$5 per member payment to offset meeting expenses. The next meeting will be held 1/18/18 in Greenville NC.

Members who wish their state dues be paid by the association must pay their BCMGVA annual dues by the end of January. A membership form will be included in the Weekly Weeder.

Botanical Garden Committee – **Maryann Horgan** requested membership participate in the November 13 Botanical Garden workday. All garden leaders should relay special requests to Maryann. A headcount will be needed for the lunch. **Shawn Lennon** is in charge of mulch and will obtain Pine Bark Fines for the full garden.

The Japanese Garden development is on hold due to health issues.

The new Master Gardener class was issued Passports to visit and participate in the Botanical Gardens.

Each garden submitted sign designs and verbiage for review by the committee members.

Jeanne Pavero reported the fundraiser trip to northern Europe has 14 participants. The association will receive 10% of the ticket sales, and suggested gathering ideas for putting the funds to work.

Plant Sale Committee – New volunteers are needed to work with the 2018 Plant Sale Committee. **Vicki Fuhrmann** stated preliminary sale dates for the Spring Sale are April 12 through 14, and the Native Plant Sale will likely take place May 18 and 19. These sales will maintain the 2017 formats. A possible change would be the reinstatement of the 'restock' step if details and logistics issues can be resolved.

Vicki reported she will issue two surveys: one for members and one for plant sale customers. She would like to collect membership responses at the December holiday gathering. It will be published in the Weekly Weeder prior to the party.

New leadership is needed for the committee, and Vicki would like to transition to a new leader during 2018.

Speakers – **Sonia Smith** scheduled Tom Erickson as speaker for the November meeting and Professor Lawrence Cahoon to speak at the January meeting on rising sea levels.

Field Trips/Education/Speakers Committee – **Krystyna Ochota** stated the newly formed committee met, and members are **Gayle Pfeiffer, Sonia Smith, George Wong Chong, Pat Sams** and **Diane Frederes**. The committee plans to augment prior education efforts and tap membership to help. Three areas of education emphasis will be Turf, Plant Identification and Weed Identification. The committee will propose one field trip per quarter. Krystyna offered a sign-up sheet for members interested in a November Field Trip to Bald Head Island. She and **Pat Sams** will attend the donors' reception at Brunswick Community college.

Social Committee- **Diane Frederes** announced the Holiday Gathering party scheduled for December 7 will be pot luck. All members are invited to the 2017 Master Gardener Class graduation.

Nominating Committee – **Judi Thuer** reported the nominating committee has produced the 2018 slate of officers to be voted on at the November General Meeting: **Jeanne Pavero** - President, **Mary Dixon** – Vice President, **Hank Rapp** – Treasurer, **Krystyna Ochota** – Recording Secretary, **Corine Gisseman** – Recording Secretary, and **Mary Ann Gregory** – Membership.

Extension Coordinators Reports and Updates

Shawn Lennon will obtain Pine Bark Fines Mulch for the gardens from Seaside Mulch in time for the November 13 workday.

Anita Handler explained the Restitution Program and made a request for more help as the number of volunteers is diminishing. The program began September with 4 participants added 3, graduated 4 and ended with 3. As school has come back in session the participation is increasing.

New Business

The Holiday Gathering will be an opportunity to conduct a food drive. Members were encouraged to bring staples and/or pre-paid food cards.

Amanda Kiel suggested the viability and need of the Master Gardener library be reviewed.

A seed swap is planned for the January meeting and a book swap is scheduled for the February meeting.

Bob Gelinas reported he has had success with his garage vermicomposting project and is available to share his process.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55am.

Speaker: Meg Shelton

Submitted by Anne Coleman
Recording Secretary