

## **Botanical Garden (BG) Committee Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2019**

**Attendees:** Gayle Pfeiffer, Anne Coleman, Amanda Kiel, Vicki Fuhrmann, Fred Bovier, Pat Booth, Pat Naughton, Mark Matteson, Shawn Lennon

### **Continuing Business:**

We welcomed Mark Matteson, Master Gardener (MG) Intern, to our meeting. We discussed the importance of having all the MG Interns from the 2018 class, volunteer at some time during this year, in each of the Gardens within the BG. This will be a great opportunity for the continuing education of many aspects of gardening. Although the Brunswick County BG is relatively small in area, it has diversity with respect to the many types of horticulture found in southeastern North Carolina. This process will be a focus at future monthly MG Association meetings and in the Weekly Weeder.

We discussed the upcoming BG Spring Work Day on Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. Gayle asked that all Garden Team Leads who want work done in their area that day, to email a list of all materials needed and identify what work they would like to have done on that day. Additionally, Gayle will submit a write up to Amanda for inclusion in the Weekly Weeder about the work day and get a head count on how many lunches to bring.

Additionally, Vicki asked about obtaining some type of edging for the Propagation Garden across the street. Anne said the metal edging was flexible enough to be used in curved areas as in the Rose Garden. The Fragrance Garden is needing some edging as well. Shawn will obtain approximately 120 feet of metal edging for both areas using the MG credit card.

### **New Business:**

We started discussion on the future of the BG. Specifically, we want to develop a 5-year strategic plan for the BG. Should we adopt a name for the plan? Perhaps, “Keep Growing” or “Continuing Improvement” are possibilities.

We reviewed the Mission Statement of the BG Committee and the wording of the Vision of the BG. We all decided that it is acceptable as written. The only change would be to remove the specific number of members in the Committee, “...of five to seven (5-7) members...”. The number of members will vary depending upon the number of themed Gardens within the BG. Members of the BG Committee are comprised of themed Garden Team/Co-Team Leads plus the Cooperative Extension Staff.

We discussed at length, the possible expansion of the BG. Amanda had contacted a person to have a drone fly over the BG and take an aerial photo. We all studied the aerial photo and identified areas for potential future new garden themes.

Shawn mentioned that the area where Sam and he removed a couple of trees recently, between Building N and the street, is where they may be putting in a sod demonstration site. This would show the different types of sod that grow well in Brunswick County.

We identified the area adjacent to Building N, where Sam had removed a lot of old Azalea shrubs, as a possible site for a “residential garden”. This could depict, in small scale, what typical landscape plants are used in Brunswick County home yards.

Those MGs who have more tenure pointed out the initial reason for the development of the BG and how that has evolved through the years. The focus has been on the area of land on the same side of the street as the County Cooperative Extension building, Building N. Most everyone felt that we needed to continue to improve and enhance the existing BG before expanding across the street to the unattended area with the fountain, next to the Government gas station.

However, 2018 was a highly successful year for the BG, primarily due to increased MG involvement, planning, preparation and a lot of hard work. The Discovery Garden came to fruition. The Shady Native Garden expanded by adding an adjacent Fragrance Garden. The Celebration Garden brought about another new idea for a garden to visit. The Pollinator Garden was brought back to life. The Back Entry area became the Welcome Garden which truly does greet everyone entering that door. The Rose and Edible Gardens continued to invite and delight visitors. Additionally, the professionally made signs for the Gardens were completed and installed. In every one of these areas just mentioned, the advice and hands on help from Shawn Lennon, Extension Staff, has been invaluable.

2019 has started out with even more MGs involved in planning improvement and expansion of the BG. Mark Matteson spoke up and offered to take over the Azalea Garden area at the front entrance to the Extension Building. Pat Booth has a team of MGs and is in the process of developing a proposal for the Water Feature Garden area as well as currently doing some much needed maintenance. Fred Bovier has stepped up to bring the neglected Rain Garden back to its intended purpose. Pat Naughton has agreed to take over the Southern Living/Live Oak Garden. Vicki Fuhrmann will be working on the Native Wildflower/Meadow Plant Propagation Garden which takes the BG across the street.

We also looked at the areas at the entrances to the gravel parking lot. Shawn indicated that those areas could also be included in the BG real estate.

Our discussion for this meeting stopped at this point due to time constraints. We will continue at our next meeting with the next steps in the Strategic Plan.

We need to address instructional information for the visiting public, hardscape requirements, publicity of the BG, signage within the Garden and any other topics that we feel is pertinent for this plan.

