



Northeast TN Master Gardener Membership Meeting  
Zoom Meeting  
June 7, 2021

#### **CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

Karen Rowell called the meeting to order and welcomed 35 Master Gardeners who were online.

#### **TEMG STATE CONVENTION**

The dates for the proposed 2022 TEMG State Convention are June 9, 10 and 11<sup>th</sup>. There will be a kick-off meeting on June 29<sup>th</sup> for MGs who are interested in participating on the working committee.

#### **SCAVENGER HUNT**

Brenda McKinnis reminded the MGs that the Scavenger Hunt will be extended through June.

#### **ROCKY MOUNT TIME LINE FESTIVAL**

Don Davis announced that the Rocky Mount Timeline event will be held on June 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers needed for the Master Gardener Table. Sign-up Genius posted.

#### **PRESENTATION BY BEN CASTEEL**

Ben Casteel is an instructor at Virginia Highlands Community College in Abingdon. He toured us through the greenhouses on campus and explained the requirements of a greenhouse such as controlled environment with venting, cooling, shading, watering and intensive management. The purpose of a greenhouse is to extend the growing season. They are also used to propagate plants and increase crop production. The temperature must not be too hot, humidity needs to range from 50-80% and airflow is critical.

Many greenhouses are made from plastic, plexiglass is good but glass is best although the most expensive. Floors can be gravel or concrete for easy cleaning and disinfecting between crops. Aphids can be a problem and they have used sprays and the release of Lady Bugs. They have also used a spray of soap and water to control them. They often use artificial light in the winter and if you want crops to grow the temperature must not get below 45 degrees. However, he suggested that if you are not using the greenhouse for year around growing, it is best to let it freeze in the winter to kill aphids and other insects.

Ben recommended that any size greenhouse can be very effective even in home gardens to extend the growing season.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

August 2<sup>nd</sup> member meeting will be held at 6:30pm at Exchange Place, where Earl Hockin will guide us through the gardens.