



**NETMGA**  
*Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener Association*

Northeast TN Master Gardener Board Meeting  
Ron Ramsey Agricultural Center  
Date: November 1, 2021

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Andrea Belcher, Barbara Voigt, Brenda McKinnis, Chris Ramsey, Don Davis, John Hitchcock, Karen Rowell, Karen Todd, Kathy Wagner, Larry Wagner, Mary Ann Lovelace, Mary Cain, Teresa Gaffner, Millie Sue Hawk

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Barbara Radice, Betts Leach, Carl Voigt, Emily Lemieux, Gwen Ellis, Heather Duby, Maggie McClellan

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Karen Rowell.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mary Cain for Barbara Radice**

The minutes for the meeting of September 13, 2021 were approved as presented.

Motion to approve: Millie Sue Hawk

Seconded by: John Hitchcock

**TREASURER'S REPORT: Karen Todd**

The treasurer's report was read and approved.

Andrea Belcher requested \$300.00 for supplies for Farmer's Market activities.

Motion to approve: John Hitchcock

Seconded by: Don Davis

**BYLAWS REVIEW AND APPROVAL: Karen Rowell**

After some discussion a motion was made to adopt the bylaws. A link to the bylaws will be made available to NETMGA members on the website.

Motion to approve: Karen Rowell

Seconded by: John Hitchcock

**TENNESSEE TREE DAY 2022: Karen Rowell**

NETMGA has been approached to help in distributing trees in recognition of Tennessee Tree Day 2022. There can be more than one site to distribute trees.

### **Programs: Teresa Gaffner**

Most of the board discussion concerned the Christmas Party, December 13. The Cattleman's Association has agreed to prepare food for this year's event. The notice to buy tickets will be sent out to NETMGA members. The cost of the dinner is \$22.00; members will need to pay \$15.00 and the NETMGA will pay the remaining \$7.00. The \$15.00 payment must be received by December 1, 2021. There will be a vegan menu option. The membership can help for dinner set up and/or kitchen staff by signing up via a Sign Up Genius.

### **PROJECT GRANTS UPDATE: Don Davis**

The projects to receive grants this year include Harvest of Hope, Discovery Garden, Johnson City Hospital, Tipton Haynes, Rocky Mount, and Carver Peace Garden. \$1,797.28 was paid out to these 6 grants. Don said that the new class members have put in many hours at Rocky Mount and at other sites as well which has been as very positive thing.

### **FINALIZE OFFICERS FOR 2022 SLATE: Karen Rowell**

The slate of new officers for 2021 includes:

President, Karen Rowell

Vice president, John Hitchcock

Secretary, Mary Cain

Treasurer, Karen Todd and Mary Ann Lovelace

2021 class representative, Millie Sue Hawk

### **VICE PRESIDENT REPORT: John Hitchcock**

John reported that the *Ask a Master Gardener* tables at area Farmer's Markets were very successful and may be expanded in the future. Better equipment (portable tables, chairs, banners, printed materials) may be needed in the future.

### **MEMBERSHIP/CERTIFICATION REPORT: Mary Cain**

Mary reported that the local Membership Form has been updated for 2022 and will be ready to mail out the week of November 8. Andrea has reported that all the UT Extension forms are up to date. Each member will receive the Membership Form and a self-addressed return envelop that can be returned via mail or completed and turned in during the December 13 meeting.

### **PUBLICITY: Brenda McKinnis**

The *Ask a Master Gardener* column is going well. The *Appalachian Farm Expo* is coming up in February. It was discussed to consider a future plant sale or a plant swap as a potential fund raiser. The possibility of a future greenhouse on extension property was also introduced.

**WEBSITE: Carl & Barbara Voigt**

Barb reported that the NETMGA website is now secure. It was discussed having pictures on the front page of the webpage to illustrate current activities at different project sites.

**HOSPITALITY: Larry & Kathy Wagner**

Kathy and Larry have agreed to help the Programs group with the Christmas Party plans.

**SULLIVAN COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT: Chris Ramsey**

Chris announced that the 2022 MG class will begin January 25, 2022, and will be held each Tuesday morning from 10 to 12. The classes will involve 40 hours of instruction by way of in-person classes as well as by Zoom presentations. All Zoom classes will be held at the Extension Center by Extension Specialists from UT. These changes in class structure and timing have come from Dr. Natalie Bumgarner, the Extension Specialist from UT and will help keep MG classes consistent across the state. In addition to the Zoom classes, there will be other hands-on classes held at various locations in the area.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING – Christmas Dinner**

December 13, 2021 at 6:30pm at RRAC

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 at 6:30pm at RRAC

Motion to adjourn: John Hitchcock

Seconded by: Mary Cain