



NE MGA
Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener Association

Northeast TN Master Gardener Board Meeting
Ron Ramsey Agricultural Center
Date: March 7, 2022

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Andrea Belcher, Barbara Radice, Barbara Voigt, Brenda McKinnis, Chris Ramsey, Karen Rowell, Karen Todd, Kathy Wagner, Larry Wagner, Mary Ann Lovelace, Mary Cain, Teresa Gaffner, Don Davis

MEMBERS ABSENT: Heather Duby, Millie Sue Hawk, Betts Leach, Carl Voigt, Gwen Ellis, John Hitchcock,

GUESTS: Susie Morrison, intern for Teresa Gaffner

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mary Cain

The minutes for meeting of January 10, 2022 were approved as presented. Barb Voigt's and Barb Radices' corrections were noted.

The motion to approve was made by Barb Radice and seconded by Karen Todd.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Karen Todd

The treasurer's report was presented and approved.

Karen Todd recommended setting up an electronic payment system for Point-of-Sale transactions during the upcoming state Master Gardener Conference. Square Up.com could be used for this purpose.

The motion to approve was made by Susie Morrison and seconded by Don Davis.

PROGRAMS FOR 2022: Teresa Gaffner

Teresa reviewed each of the programs so far planned for 2022. They include:

April 4th

The program will involve a walk around Rocky Mount to observe Spring Ephemerals. This walk will be conducted by Don Davis and will be from 5.00 to 6.45 p.m. Don is the contact person.

June 6th

The program will be at the Discovery Garden at the Hand On! Discovery Center in Gray, TN by Christy Shivell. Barb Radice and John Hitchcock are the contact people.

August 1st

The program will be located at The Nature Center at Steele Creek Park and lead by Jeremy Stout.

October 3rd

The program will be hosted by Robin Suggs on forest farming. It may be a program by the Appalachian Sustainability Development organization.

December 5th

The program is the annual Christmas dinner.

MEMBERSHIP/CERTIFICATION REPORT: Mary Cain

Mary reported that the membership roster currently has 147 members listed as of 2-8-22 including the members in the most recent class of 2021. There are 8 members that have not paid 2022 dues and will receive another printed reminder. The final count of active NETMGA members is 139 that are current with dues, membership forms, and paperwork. Karen Rowell suggested offering financial assistance to any of the Master Gardeners that have not paid dues. This can be added to the final letter that is being approved by Chris Ramsey.

The names of the new class of 2022 will be added to the membership spreadsheet when the 2022 class roster is made available. Also presented was the need for a clarification from Natalie Bumgarner, UTIA Master Gardener Coordinator, concerning whether or not Master Gardeners that have reached Lifetime status are required to pay membership dues. Finally, the board was reminded that a current spreadsheet of all active Master Gardeners was located in the Google Drive (drive.google.com).

PROJECT REPORT: Don Davis

Don reported that projects are starting up. There was some discussion concerning the project in Johnson County. It was mentioned that Don still needed the project request material. The lead person for the project in Johnson County is Jen Skarsuane.

COMMUNICATIONS: Barbara Radice

Barb reported that she will continue to send out Sign Up Genius announcements as the need arises. One need is for volunteers for STEM class to be held for 7th graders at the Discovery Gardens at the Hands On! Discovery Center in Gray. The date is May 9th from 8-11.30 a.m. The people in charge will be needing volunteers in a range of science related disciplines. Master Gardeners who do participate will need to have a Level 2 certification. The motion was made by Barb Radice to support these educational programs; it was seconded by Brenda McKinnis.

WEBSITE: Carl & Barbara Voigt

In reference to a website revision, Barbara made the suggestion that we can keep what we have or we can update it. There would be a large amount of time involved in renovating our existing website. If the renovation is decided, the request was made for someone to assist Carl and Barb. The suggestion was made to maintain what is currently being used and discuss a potential upgrade later in the year.

HOSPITALITY: Larry & Kathy Wagner

Kathy asked for baked goods and bottled water for the upcoming program at Rocky Mount in April. The committee will also arrange for pre-packaged snacks to be available. There may be a need for a signup Genius for volunteers for baked goods. Teresa Gaffner has been working with Larry and Kathy on Hospitality.

SULLIVAN COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT: Chris Ramsey

Chris reported that due to March being Extension Month there will be a public open house at the Ron Ramsey Regional Agriculture Center on March 23 from 5.30 to 7.30 p.m. Barbeque, chips, and drinks will be available as well as t-shirts. Brenda McKinnis said that she would announce the event in the "Ask a Master Gardener" column.

Chris also mentioned that there will also be a Farm Safety Day on April 9 from 10.00 to 12.30 and will have ATV safety information, presentations on chain saw, tractor, and cattle handling safety. There will also be a Marsh Blood Bank on site.

Chris also mentioned the Grafting Class that will be held on March 17th.

He also announced that Natalie Bumgarner would receive information explaining the Tennessee Extension Master Gardener State Conference, June 9th-11th at Ron Ramsey Agricultural Center. He reminded everyone that anyone can volunteer for tasks associated with this year's conference, including this year's 2022 class. There was mention of a silent auction on Friday during the conference.

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING

April 4, 2022 at 6:30pm at Rocky Mount State Historic Site.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

May 2, 2022 at 6:30pm at RRAC

Meeting was adjourned by Karen Rowell.