



NETMGA
Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener Association

Northeast TN Master Gardener Board Meeting
Ron Ramsey Agricultural Center
Date: May 2, 2022

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Andrea Belcher, Barbara Radice, Barbara Voigt, Brenda McKinnis, Chris Ramsey, Don Davis, John Hitchcock, Heather Duby, Karen Rowell, Karen Todd, Kathy Wagner, Larry Wagner, Linda Spisak, Mary Ann Lovelace, Milliesue Hawk, Teresa Gaffner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Betts Leach, Mary Cain, Gwen Ellis, Carl Voigt

GUESTS: Jane Mullins, Susie Morrison, Megan Hopkins, Joyce Bolden, Evelyn Bolden

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Meeting was called to order by the President, Karen Rowell. She introduced Linda Spisak, a new member who represents the 2022 class. Board welcomed her.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Barb Radice for Mary Cain

Minutes for meeting of March 7, 2022 were approved as presented.

Motion to approve made by Karen Todd; Seconded by Heather Duby; All approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Karen Todd

Karen presented the budget as of March 31, 2022

Motion to approve made by Milliesue Hawk; Seconded by Don Davis; All approved.

STEM Field Day: Barb Radice

Barb Radice presented the STEM field day, where we will be teaching horticulture to about 600 7th grade students. The location is Bays Mountain Recreation Area in Kingsport and will be held on May 9th and 10th. We still need a volunteer or two for the morning of May 9th. Barb appealed to the Board for a volunteer. Heather Duby agreed to volunteer, providing she has transportation that day.

TEMG Conference: Karen Rowell

- There are 85 people registered so far and 25 of them are from NETMGA. Natalie anticipates at least 100 participants and she has extended the early registration to May 15th.
- Karen Todd announced that she has a square account to accept credit cards for items we sell at the conference. She will meet with Susie Morrison to work out the details.
- Brenda McGinnis asked how she can give tax receipts for large gifts. Andrea will get contact info for Brenda.
- Jane Mullins may need some additional volunteers, so she will contact Barb Radice to create a sign-up genius when she knows how many and when.
- Jane asked who is responsible for signage. John Hitchcock is taking that action item by contacting Wes Walker, who is in charge of logistics.

- Jane asked about photography at the conference. Maureen Mulroy was recommended and Jane will contact her about taking pictures.
- Question arose about how to thank our donors at the conference. Barb Radice will contact Natalie to see if she has arranged something such as space in the conference program.

PROJECT REPORT AND GRANTS FOR 2022: Don Davis

Don noted that there are a few new projects he has heard of: (1) The Chocolate Shop with a garden (2) Butler Museum in Johnson County, which already has 5 MGs working there (3) Gardens at the Miller Farmstead in Roan Mountain State Park, which Don will be checking it out this month. Each one needs to complete the project request form; identify a project lead and identify volunteers.

Don also reported that he received six grant applications: Rocky Mount, Discovery Garden, Carver Gardens, Tipton-Haynes, Exchange Place and JCH McDonald House. He stated that they all seem reasonable and suggested they be accepted. John Hitchcock made a motion to award the six projects with the \$300. Grants; Don Davis seconded the motion and all approved.

Rules about the grants were noted:

- Only Project lead or designee may submit receipts for reimbursement (One person per project)
- Receipts must be submitted to Andrea within 30 days of purchase
- Limit is \$300 per project (any amount over that is covered by MGs in that project)
- Project Report on grants to be held at September Board Meeting

PROGRAMS FOR 2022: Teresa Gaffner

April 4th - Teresa reported that she received good feedback about the April Rocky Mount meeting.

June 6th at 6:30pm - Discovery Garden at the Gray Fossil Site will start with a presentation in the museum classroom followed by a garden tour led by Christy Shivell who was the garden creator. Christy will bring some plants from her nursery, Shy Valley Farms, which will be available for purchase after the meeting.

August 8th at 6:30pm – Steele Creek Park, topic not confirmed yet

October 3rd at 6:30pm – Back at the Ron Ramsey Ag Center

MEMBERSHIP/CERTIFICATION REPORT: Barb Radice for Mary Cain

Barb read the membership report from Mary Cain. We currently have 139 active members in good standing and 22 members from the 2022 class for a total of 161 members. Some active members are not on the UT roster and there are some inactive members still on the UT roster. In other words, the UT roster is not reconciled to our roster. These inconsistencies are being handled by Andrea Belcher.

PUBLICITY: Brenda McKinnis

The Jonesborough Garden Gala will be held June 4th this year. Volunteers are connecting directly with Pamela Pope. “Ask a Master Gardener” Program is continuing and doing very well. Andrea Belcher applauded Brenda and the Committee for increasing our presence in the community. More folks are aware of the Master Gardener Program and signing up for classes.

COMMUNICATIONS: Barbara Radice

Next Board meeting needs to move to July 11th due to holiday.

NEWSLETTER: Betts Leach

No report

FACEBOOK: Heather Duby

Heather stated that she continues to get requests to join the site by people who are not members. Although the site is visible to anyone, only members in good standing can post to the site.

MENTORS: HEATHER DUBY

We still need more mentors for the 2022 class. Barbara Voigt suggested that when new members volunteer for a project, it makes sense for someone who already works at the project to mentor the new person. Karen suggested we create a sign-up genius to recruit mentors. Heather would like to have a job description for mentors that we attach to the request, so mentors know what is expected of them. Heather to investigate if we already have a mentor job description, if so she will update it, if not she will create one. Heather will then get with Barb Radice to create a sign-up genius.

WEBSITE: Carl & Barbara Voigt

Barbara requested Word document copies of the January and March Board Meetings so she can post after removing financials. Barb Radice will send them to her.

HOSPITALITY: Larry & Kathy Wagner

Kathy and Larry will provide bottled water for the NETMGA meetings. We can ask members to bring finger foods as refreshments.

SULLIVAN COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT: Chris Ramsey

- Chris reported that lights have been installed in the parking lot at the RRAC
- New staff member: Carrie Kreizka is the 4H Youth Development Coordinator
- 2022 MG class went very well with the in-person and Zoom components; it is now consistent across the state
- Adam Watson of Washington County Extension in Jonesborough is planning to have a new class this fall in the evenings. It will be the same program that was presented January – April at RRAC.

NEW BUSINESS: JOYCE BOLDEN

Joyce Bolden, Class of 2022 proposed Master Gardeners start a “Seed Library” at the Blountville Public Library. Knoxville and other programs have them. The Seed Library would house seeds to share, knowing what grows well in this area. Folks could pick up seeds from the Library and in fall return a harvest of seeds to the Library. The program could grow and be self sustaining, providing seeds to folks who need them. The Master Gardeners could collect and organize the seeds for distribution. They could also provide gardening classes at the library. The Seed Library could provide seeds for “Ask a Master Gardener” tables and at other events. Joyce suggested we start small with just this one Library and see how it goes. Karen Rowell recommended that Joyce write up a business plan to present at the September Board Meeting. Karen offered to help Joyce with the plan write-up.

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING

June 6, 2022 at the Discovery Garden (Gray Fossil Site)

NEXT BOARD MEETING

July 11, 2022 6:30pm at RRAC