

Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener Board Meeting
Washington County Extension Office
March 4, 2024

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Barbara Voigt, Carl Voigt, Brenda McKinnis, John Hitchcock, Adam Watson, Mary Ann Lovelace, Chris Ramsey, Karen Todd, Linda Spisak, Don Davis, Nancy Shilling, Janet Smith, Karen Rowell

MEMBERS ABSENT: Millie Sue Hawk, Valerie Jondahl, Kathy Wagner, Larry Wagner, Betts Leach, Gwen Ellis, Heather Duby, Mary Cain, Susie Morrison, Chris Ramsey

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

The meeting was called to order by Karen Rowell.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Janet Smith

The minutes were reviewed from the 1-8-24 board meeting. No corrections were needed. Linda Spisak made the motion to approve the minutes; John Hitchcock seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by the board.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mary Ann presented the budget as of 03/04/24.

The motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Karen Rowell and seconded by John Hitchcock as approved.

PROJECT REPORT AND GRANTS FOR 2023: Don Davis

Don reported that there were 8 grants given to MG Projects in 2023. Each grant was \$350.00 totaling \$2800.00 for the year. The board discussed raising the amount for grants but decided that the amount will remain the same. Project Leaders should turn in the paperwork for grants by May 1st. The final deadline for turning in receipts is 10/01/24. The Sycamore Shoals Project has a new leader: Sarah Cox who is currently a member of the 2024 MG class but has been working at the site for the past year. Don agreed to be her mentor.

PROGRAMS FOR 2024: Brenda McKinnis

1. The Award Dinner went well. Connie Deacon's presentation entitled "Snakes in the Garden" was well received by those who attended. The board members agreed that speakers should be included in future award banquets. The only concern was that there were too many people taking money at the door. The solution will be to reduce the tables from 2 to 1 to lessen the confusion. Approximately 99 people attended.

2. Project Presentations were presented to the 2024 MG Class on 02/27/24. The feedback from the class was that there was too much information presented at one meeting. Karen Rowell suggested the presentations be broken up into 2 sessions. Nancy and Don agreed. Barbara Voigt offered to create a list of dates that the programs meet and send it through email to the class so that individuals could decide which projects they would like to visit that week. John will let the class know that they will be receiving the list of dates.

MEMBERSHIP/CERTIFICATION REPORT: Mary Cain(absent)

PUBLICITY: Brenda McKinnis (Nancy Shilling)

1. Brenda stated that editors of the Johnson City Press were very positive about the "Ask a Master Gardener" articles. The articles will now be available on the MG Website.
2. Descriptions of the MG Programs will also be placed on the website.
3. The following Speakers will be giving presentations during the April/May membership meetings at the Ramsey Center:
04/01/24- Jess Sanders, "Spring Cleanup and Amending the Soil"
05/06/24- Doug Tallamy, "Nature Gardening"
Although the programs are for MG members, the public will be able to view the presentations through zoom.

COMMUNICATIONS: Heather Duby (absent)

Barbara will send an updated list of board members to Heather, Betts, and Valerie.

NEWSLETTER: Betts Leach(absent)

FACEBOOK: Valerie Jondahl(absent)

MENTORS: John Hitchcock

John proposed that project leaders become mentors to the new class members who come to their sites to work. Karen also proposed to start an administrative mentor group to back up the current board members. Both proposals were accepted.

WEBSITE: Carl & Barbara Voigt

Everything is going well. They will add an updated list of board members and projects descriptions to the site.

HOSPITALITY: Larry & Kathy Wagner (Susie Morrison) (Absent)

WASHINGTON COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT: Adam Watson

1. Jonesborough Garden Tour will be held on 06/01/24. Vickie Hamilton is the leader of this event. Sign-up information will be available soon.
2. Nancy mentioned that the Carver Peace Garden will be one of the sites visited in the Johnson City Garden Tour on 06/08/24.
3. Cris Ramsey is hosting an Open House on 03/07/24 at The Ramsey Center from 5:30 - 7:30 pm. There will be a free barbeque dinner and information will be presented concerning Extension Agency services and gardening practices.

SULLIVAN COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT: Chris Ramsey(absent)

NEW BUSINESS:

Adam is going to apply to have the Lincoln Park Garden accepted as a MG Project. The group has created 17 raised beds in Lincoln Park which is located behind the Senior Citizen Community Center in Jonesborough. Produce from the gardens has been donated to the Center for their luncheon program and the Meals on Wheels Program.

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING PLANS:

The next Membership Meeting will be on 04/01/24 at 6:30 pm.

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

The next board meeting will be on 06/03/24 at 6:30pm. It will be held at the Ramsey Center at 6:30 pm.