

*Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener Board Meeting*

Washington County Extension Office

Date: September 9,2024

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Barbara Voigt, Carl Voigt, Brenda McKinnis, John Hitchcock, Mary Ann Lovelace, Chris Ramsey, Janet Smith, Karen Rowell, Teri lee, Beth Cox, Susie Morrison, Donna Fowler, Mary Cain, Nancy Shilling

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Millie Sue Hawk, Valerie Jondahl, Kathy Wagner, Larry Wagner, Betts Leach, Gwen Ellis, Heather Duby, Mary Todd, Linda Spisak, Don Davis, Jackie Knight, Adam Watson

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

Karen Rowell called the meeting to order.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** The report needed to include the following changes:

Jeremy Stout will present a lecture on invasive plants at the Ron Ramsey Center on the 10/07/24 for the October Membership Meeting instead of John Hitchcock lecturing at The Discovery Garden as noted in the July 8<sup>th</sup> Board meeting minutes. There were also a few grammatical errors. Brenda McKinnis made a motion to approve the minutes and Mary Cain seconded the motion after the changes were noted.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Mary Ann Lovelace presented the budget as of 09/09/24.

Expenses included fees for speakers at membership meetings and the Award Banquet:

\$100.00 Connie Deegan 02/05/24

\$350.00 J. Zander 04/01/24

\$500.00 D. Tallamy 05/06/24

\$100.00 Tipton Haynes 08/05/24

\$464.28 Tipton Haynes 08/05/24

Other expenses were as follows:

Mary Cain/Printing and mailing supplies/\$164.28.

K. Wagner/supplies/\$29.95

K. Todd/Web page fees/ \$ 48.40 on the following dates: 2/4-5/4/24; 5/4-8/4/24; and 8/4-11/4/2024.

John Hitchcock/brochures/\$104.78

Carl Voight made the motion to approve the treasurer's report and John Hitchcock seconded the motion. The report was approved by the board.

**PROJECT REPORT AND GRANTS FOR 2023: Don Davis (absent)**

Karen Rowell requested that Don Davis be sent an email to inform him that all receipts for various projects need to be sent directly to Mary Ann Lovelace so that she can include these expenses in the Budget. Janet Smith agreed to do so.

#### **PROGRAMS FOR 2024: Brenda McKinnis**

A picnic membership meeting was held at Tipton Haynes Historical Site on 08/05/24. A picnic of sandwiches, chips, and drinks was provided by the NETMGA. After dinner, Betts Leach presented a lecture on pollinators. A social time with watermelon was provided after a tour of the Tipton Haynes site. The meeting was well attended.

The next meeting will be held on 10/07/24 at the Ron Ramsey Center. Jeremy Stout, the Nature Center Manager at Steele Creek Park, will present a lecture on invasive plants. Finger foods will be provided by NETMGA members. Susie Morrison volunteered to make a cake to honor Chris Ramsey on his last meeting before his retirement.

The Board approved Eugene Wolf as the entertainment for the Christmas program and his honorarium of \$350.00. The committee suggested that the honorarium be taken from the UT funds. Brenda McKinnis will work with Brandi Miller and Eugene Wolf to set him and future speakers up as venders.

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

Membership forms should be mailed 2 weeks before Thanksgiving. Members could either mail in their forms with their dues or place them in a drop box that will be available at the Christmas Dinner in December. The Board agreed not to raise the dues for next year. The dues will be as follows:

Individual    \$25.00

Couple        \$35.00

A late fee of \$10.00 will be imposed if the member misses the due date for sending in the forms.

#### **PUBLICITY: Brenda McKinnis (Nancy Shilling)**

The AAMG articles are continuing to be presented in regional weekend newspapers. Susie Morrison agreed to draft an article about the NETMGA program and the 2025 Intern class. The AAMG Committee meets once a month to discuss ideas for upcoming ideas for upcoming articles.

#### **2025 Intern Class Report: Susie Morrison**

There are currently eighteen members that have agreed to be a part of the 2025 Intern Class Committee. A zoom meeting has been set up with Natalie Bumgardner who has agreed to mentor the committee on 09/19/24. The first planning meeting for the committee will be on 09/20/24. Susie stated that the committee will be divided into sub-committees to cover a variety of topics including food, materials, field trips, etc.

Chris Ramsey stated he would make sure the classes were on the activity calendar of the Ron Ramsey Center. He also suggested the fee for the class should be \$200.00.

**2025 Officer Slate Discussion:**

Because Susie Morrison has agreed to take on the added task of heading the 2025 Intern Class Committee, the Board decided to maintain the same officers for the immediate future. The officers are as follows:

President: Karen Rowell

Vice President: Susie Morrison

Secretary: Janet Smith

Treasurer: Mary Ann Lovelace

Karen Todd

**COMMUNICATIONS: Heather Duby (Absent)**

**NEWSLETTER: Betts Leach (Absent)**

**FACEBOOK: Valerie Jondahl (Absent)**

**MENTORS: John Hitchcock**

There will be a need for new mentors for the 2025 Intern class. Currently the project leaders are mentors to the members who volunteer at their sites.

**WEBSITE: Carl & Barbara Voigt**

The website now has a list of all the current NETMGA projects in this area. Carl Voight stated he needed the form for the 2025 Intern class to place on the site.

**WASHINGTON COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT: Adam Watson (absent)**

**SULLIVAN COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT: Chris Ramsey**

Chris suggested some guidelines for someone to be reinstated as Master Gardener if they have been inactive due to illness, moving, etc. The guidelines included auditing the Intern class and paying \$100.00 for the latest publication of the Master Gardener Internship Book. John Hitchcock thought there were already established guidelines. Carl Voight looked up the guidelines on The UT Master Gardener site and said they are follows:

1. If the Person had not participated in the Master Gardener Program for 5 years or more, they had to audit the class.
2. Less than 5 years, the person had to pay dues, volunteer for at least 25 hours, and participate in 8 hours for CEU activities.

Chris stated that the "Welcome Home Series" would be offered at the Ramsey Center. It is a series of four zoom meetings on various gardening topics starting on October 4<sup>th</sup> and

would continue for 3 more Tuesdays at the center. If someone is interested, they can contact the Ramsey Center office.

Finally, Chris requested a volunteer to lead the Tennessee Tree Day Project in March. He said it involved handing out free trees to people who had requested them. Some members were interested but needed more information.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

John Hitchcock suggested the dropdown list on the Tennessee Master Gardener Volunteer Hours Log site needs to be revised. He and Chris Ramsey will work on the list to group the various projects into categories thus reducing the number of items on the list and making it easier for members to record their hours.

Mary Cain stated she was having problems with Master Gardeners not recording their hours which makes it hard to tell if they have met the requirements to qualify as a Master Gardener for the next Year. Hopefully, the categorization of the list will help with this problem.

**NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING plans:**

10/07/24 at 6:30 pm at the Ron Ramsey Center.

**Next Board Meeting Plans:**

11/14/24 at 6:30 pm at the Extension Offices in Jonesborough.