

Cabarrus Co. Master Gardener Volunteer Meeting

April 3, 2018

40 Attendees

Wendy Tate called the meeting to order at 9:30 am

Program given by Mary Beth Miller from Lomax Incubator Farm

- She works for Carolina Farm Stewardship Association who works with Locally Grown, Gap certification and manages Lomax.
- Elma C. Lomax donated the land and Lomax Farm was started on 2009.
- Incubator farm is for training the next generation of farmers.
- Average age of today's farmer is 59 and the industry has 0 growth
- Greatest barriers to new farmers are obtaining land and capital. Lomax provides the land, infrastructure and resources for < \$2000/ year. It is an ASDA Certified Organic operation but not all farmers are organic certified.
- Current Lomax activities:
 1. 5 farmers
 2. CFSA Research fields
 3. Hunger relief charity plot
 4. Community garden for \$30/ year
 5. RCCC Organic vegetable production class plot
 6. High tunnels and greenhouse
 7. CABREW hops trials
 8. Several educational programs and multiple events
 9. Spring Volunteer day will be April 28 from 9 am to 12 noon and will be building a rain garden and expanding beneficial's habitat
- See <https://www.carolinafarmstewards.org/lomax-farm/> for all activities.
- Questions answered

Break taken at 10:15 am

Meeting reconvened at 10:30 am

Wendy asked for any corrections to last month's minutes. None were offered. Bob Wilbur motioned to accept the minutes and Darnell Hodge seconded it. All were in favor.

Gerri Harris gave the treasurer's report

Lauren Hill gave her report:

- Only had to spend 1 day for jury duty
- City Nature Challenge handout was passed around to all. Includes all of Cabarrus County and is April 27- April 29.
- 4 -H summer program- she will need volunteers and some have already expressed interest.
- The fair is 5 months away
- Barbee Farms and Dover Farm still have availability for CSA. Barbee Farms will be offering a delivery option this year.

- Rhubarb research- Harvest will be done twice, in April and May, and she will need volunteers for this
- Interior doors of the office are locked and you need to call to get in.
- The auditorium needs to be left in the condition it was found in. No articles should be left in the room at the end of the meeting.

Wendy talked about the recent vote for buying 30 blue aprons to be owned by Master Gardener. These have been ordered through Scott. Talk to Scott if you wish to order one. They will have the new logo on them. The 3 reasons given for no votes were: keeping track of them, why can't everyone order their own and storage.

The aprons will be for sign out only and will be numbered. They are for use at our events only. They will be cleaned and stored at the extension office.

All aprons worn at Herb Fest will be the new blue color with the logo and you can wear your own if you have ordered one and wish to. They will be at Herb Fest for volunteers to sign out when you arrive. Denise and Phyllis will keep track of these.

Scott Maxwell talked about Herb Fest and reviewed the set up for Friday and Saturday. The tents are to arrive at 8 am Friday so we should be able to start bring plants in by 10 am. There are port-a-johns only as we will not be able to use Gold Hall. We have 6 picnic tables for customers to use. There will be a silent auction from 8 am till 2 pm which Wendy has obtained items for.

Saturday will need several people to arrive at 6 am to help with vendors. Volunteers obtained. Parking will be in the back of the midway. An e-sign up sheet will be sent out and you will need to use a computer, not your phone, to sign up for volunteer spots.

Pat Gladden had 2 dolls she showed the group and asked if they thought this would sell at Herb fest for about \$10. Ok was given and she will donate several of them.

Renee Hedrick spoke about the plant tent for Herb Fest. Volunteers can come when they are able and they will be assigned to where they are needed. All left over plants need to be taken back home by the person who donated them. No plants will be taken back to Lomax this year.

Scott stated that if anyone has carts or wagons that can be loaned out for the day for moving large items please bring them Friday or Saturday.

Scott also thanked the marketing committee for a job well done. Lauren and James were on Charlotte Today last week and did a great job.

Everyone encouraged to take fliers and hand them out.

Phyllis Putnam stated Mary Beth declined the \$50 fee for speakers and asked it be given to Lomax. Phyllis moved to do this and Bob Wilbur seconded it. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 am. Lunch at Pier 51

Karen Andre- Secretary