

## **Cabarrus County Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Association**

### **February 2, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

- President Scott Maxwell opened the meeting at 9:30 in the auditorium of the extension office.
- Scott asked everyone to read aloud the Mission of our association as printed on the back of the meeting agenda.

Mission Statement: The Mission of the Association is to improve our community through horticulture by providing education, participating in community outreach, encouraging stewardship of the environment, and providing current research-based information to the citizens of our county. We carry out this mission through a network of volunteers under the auspices of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Cabarrus County Center.

- Glenda Steel, yielding to James Polk, introduced our speaker for this month, John Robbins, Chairman of the NC Wildlife Association Board of Directors, a non-profit statewide grassroots organization. John went over the mission, goals, policy, network of impact and involvement, signature programs and top priorities of the NCWF. They hope to work with us as a joint venture, to have one voice in legislation and education. The NCWF is working on the “Great Outdoors University”, which is a conservation-based experimental education program created by the National Wildlife Federation and the NCWF, designed to bring life-changing experiences to kids 6-18 years who have limited opportunity to explore the natural world. They are also active in the Farmers and Communities Manage Deer (FCMD) program, whereby farmers allow hunting on their property to reduce damage from deers and gives local food banks venison to help feed the needy. John wanted to emphasize that the NCWF is not in favor of Deer Farms, whereby hunters pay to hunt on stocked, fenced-in properties. These conditions promote “CWD” or chronic disease wasting..They work with “The Butterfly Highway” with the goal of restoring native pollinator habitat impacted by urbanization, agriculture and land use change creating green spaces connecting NC to create the Butterfly Highway. Anyone can have a “pit stop”, the requirements are similar to having a Certified Wildlife Habitat on your property: there is no minimal size, needs good sun, adequate soil and

water, shelter, a place to raise young and food sources. Please see [www.NCWF.org](http://www.NCWF.org) to read more about this organization and to apply. John asked that we join as an affiliate member. Glenda moved that CCEMGVA pay the \$50 membership fee to join. Lynne so moved, seconded by Melody, voted on and passed unanimously. Funding for all these activities come from private foundations, fundraisers and membership dues. Please join! John's final message: "Go Outside and Take a Kid".

- Scott asked that the minutes from the previous meeting be approved. Renee Hedrick so moved, Joe Ormsby seconded, voted on and passed.
- Mary Quay presented the treasurer's report for January, 2016. Mary also requested that everyone please fill out, if you haven't done so in previous meeting, the sheet being circulated listing the plants you are bringing to Herbfest. Please email her with plant list if you don't sign sheet. There are 8 pallets available at Lomax farms to jump-start our plants.
- James Polk is happy to report that he has a full booking of speakers for 2016. In March, Sam Fleming will discuss "100 Gardens" which should be very interesting. From internet: Started as a rebuilding strategy for victims of the 2010 Haiti earthquake, 100 Gardens has evolved into a multifaceted educational program focused on aquaponics as a platform for experiential learning and a sustainable means of food production for the future. In April, Lauren will teach all of us about plant propagation, Wolfe Meadow Elementary will tell us all about their very successful school garden in May and Angel Hjarding, from the NCWF, will discuss pollinators and the butterfly highway in June.
- Joe Ormsby went over planned field trips. UNCC is will host their annual "winter walk" 2-28-16 at 1:00. Cost is \$5.00 to be paid at door. Joe will send out email with further instructions. UNCC will also have their annual Orchid Sale, February 11-13th. Joe also asked if there was interest in possibly traveling to see "Pearl Fryar Topiary Garden" in Bishopville, SC. Approximately 2 hour drive each way.
- Glenda Steel reminded everyone about the H.A.W.K presentation in Mathews Feb 2, 2016 in Mathews from author of "Bringing Nature Home" and invited anyone to attend the Garden Counsel Symposium March 8, 2016
- Mitchell Hagler let us know that the Grants Committee approved a \$250 grant to the Weddington Hills Elementary School and a \$500 grant to Kannapolis Intermediate School. He asked that MG members please

spread the word if you know anyone who might want more information about our scholarship program.

- Ginny discussed the latest Bee Committee activities including selling milkweed at the Herbfest, and participating in the written comment period as part of the EPA assessment to determine whether or not to eliminate the use of neonicotinoids in the environment. She encouraged everyone to please participate in this assessment as well as this is so important to the national drive to save our pollinators. Please contact her if you have any questions or want more information.
- Melody Wilkes recommended a great website for MG interested in protecting our bees: Friends of the Earth at [FOE.org](http://FOE.org)
- Scott reported that all forms have been submitted for CCEMGVA 501c-3 and that we have changed our name with the IRS to add “extension” to our official name.
- Scott asked that someone please volunteer to make a 15 minute presentation about something they are passionate about that will appeal to MG members. CCEMGVA members have so much knowledge that we should open up to other members.
- Herbfest:
  - Vicki reported that all spaces are taken for the Herbfest, approximately 80-90.
  - Renee requested that we look for and hopefully provide containers for the Fairy Gardens that are sold at the Herbfest. Please make sure they are rust-proof.
  - Lauren mentioned that Aaron, at Lomax, will have available whatever is necessary to kill aphids if they are a problem this year.
  - Steve Mosier will be working on any parking issues.
  - James will coordinate our information table.
  - Scott will be sure website is updated.
  - Milkweed: MG will buy 50 plugs to sell. Mary and Renee will plant them into 4-5” pots at Lomax. We also decided to purchase another 100 plugs for MG members to purchase at cost, to be paid in advance to Ellen at March meeting.
- Lauren:
  - introduced a new attendee at our meeting, Leah Chester-Davis, who graduated from our last class.
  - mentioned upcoming activities members might be interested in attending such as the Garden Counsel event, Dig-in in Raleigh 3/12/2016, Fayetteville Camilla Club sale March 3 to March 6,

Henderson County Symposium, and a class on blueberry pruning to be held 2-5-2016 taught by a specialist from Raleigh. Extension also offering a class on organic vegetable gardening 3-1-16 through 5--3-16. Please contact Lauren with any questions regarding these activities.[lhunca3@ncsu.edu](mailto:lhunca3@ncsu.edu)

- Tickets were drawn for kitty and door prizes.
- There were 40 attendees at meeting.
- Adjourned at 11:45

Respectfully submitted,  
Ginny Collier, Secretary