

Cabarrus County Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Association
March 1, 2016 Meeting Minutes

- President Scott Maxwell opened the meeting at 9:30 in the auditorium of the extension office.

- Ellen welcomed back extension member Darnell Hodge after a lengthy absence due to surgery.

- Scott requested that members recite together the mission of the MG.

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”.

- Robbie Furr spoke regarding the importance of the passage of the Connect NC Public Improvement Bond. Nearly half of the bond money would go toward projects in the UNC System, and another \$350 million for the community college system and it will, overall, lower our debt structure. Other projects include local governments, the North Carolina Zoo, national guard and for funding public infrastructure, which will grow our economy and make North Carolina a better place to call home. Also, Robbie reminded us that the storage building will be moved mid-March to a location behind S&D Coffee.

- Renee Goodnight discussed the Bee Committee plans to comment on the EPA Assessment of the licensing of Neonicotinoids and encouraged everyone to please do the same and discourage their usage. It allows us to put our voice into what happens to the future of pollinators and the environment.

- Ginny Collier discussed the upcoming NCEMGVA executive committee meeting in April. The Bee Committee will make a presentation inviting other MG groups within the state to form their own Bee Committee and how we could assist. John Robbins, from the NCWF, was introduced to the executive board president and he will be making a presentation to them and asking them to join as an affiliate and will discuss Butterfly Highway and pollinator pit stops.

- Melody Wilkes offered valuable information regarding the zika virus and its ramifications and will leave information at front of room regarding such.

- Lauren introduced Danelle Cutting, the horticulture agent from Rowan County, who thoroughly educated us regarding inputting our volunteer hours into the NCSUgarden.com website. It is now a requirement that all MG must record their hours. If you still have any questions regarding how to do this, please email Lauren and she will be happy to assist.

- Lauren introduced Steven Capobianco, the horticulture agent for Mecklenburg County, who provided additional comments and suggestions for inputting hours.

- Minutes from the 2/2/2016 MG meeting were approved on a motion by Joe Ormsby and seconded by Ellen Vanderburg.

- Ginny passed around a membership list for attendees to indicate their presence at the meeting. This will be a requirement for all meetings henceforth.

- Scott announced that we WILL have a meeting in April.

- Mary Quay presented the treasurer's report for February, 2016

- Joe Ormsby spoke about the upcoming UNCC winter garden tour on 2/28 and more about the possibility of touring Pearl Fryar's Topiary Garden in Bishopville, SC.

- . James spoke of his discussion with Doug Vernon regarding liaisons and that he, Gerri, Ginny and Scott would volunteer to help when needed.

- **Herb Fest: Scott thanked Jackie for getting posters up at farmer's market, discussed who's working the radios (Steve and Bob) and other issues. Clean-up day is April 11 starting at 9 AM. All volunteers welcome and needed! Set-up day is April 15 starting at 9 AM. Scott will post more details on Best Dirt as Herb Fest approaches. Chris Fletcher will provide lunch on clean-up day (B-B-Que!!) and Scott will provide lunch on set-up day. Wayne Fisher will be in charge of our overnight security. The day of the Herb Fest, Saturday April 16, volunteers will be needed at 6AM. Vicki will need about 5 volunteers. We will need approx. 8-10 volunteers to assist Bob and Steve with parking (Larry and Scott and Heather volunteered). James will man the MG information table. Mary Quay passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers to indicate what hours they can work. Vicki asked members to suggest and possibly contact a vendor who can be an entree vendor. This is the BIG event for master gardeners and all members who are able to should be volunteering. Please let Scott or Mary know what you want to volunteer for, if you haven't already.**

- Aurora encouraged everyone, whose neighborhood qualifies, to sign up for NextDoor, an internet site nationally set up and endorsed by CharMeck Police to communicate with your neighbors and neighborhoods regarding many issues but also use it to promote any gardening and pollinator issues.

- Ellen asked that everyone distribute Herb Fest flyers to wherever they had business in the area. If you need more, please contact Ellen Vanderburg. She also wanted to remind everyone that the Herb Fest is NOT a pet friendly event per health dept.

- We had two visitors today at the meeting.

- Tickets were drawn for the kitty and door prizes.

- Meeting adjourned at 11:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Collier, Secretary