

Cabarrus County Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Association May 3, 2016 Meeting Minutes

- President Scott Maxwell opened the meeting at 9:30 AM in the auditorium of the extension office. All members were asked to recite the Mission together.
- Tracy LeCompte, from the Cabarrus County 4H, brought printed brochures for the 4H summer program that she asked members to distribute. She also provided some “sunchokes” (Jerusalem artichoke) tubers to share with members.
- Ginny passed around a member list for MG to initial to indicate their presence at today’s meeting.
- Scott noted that we had one visitor today, Tracy Dickey, who is currently taking the MG course in Rowan County and will be joining the Cabarrus County MG when her class is completed.
- James Polk deferred the introduction of today’s speaker to Marianne Scully. She introduced us to Paula Schrum, the Instructional Technology Facilitator at Wolf Meadow Elementary School. Paula started their school’s garden club at the school approximately 5 years ago. She spoke of the wonderful program that includes raised beds, hydroponics, a greenhouse, pollinator garden, plant propagation, etc. They currently have an eagle scout helping with the pollinator/butterfly garden and the local Rotary Club provided 100 butterfly books for the children to read. The children, themselves, have written and published hardcover books about what they have learned and Paula shared a few copies with us to view. There are 60 members in the club who grow vegetables that they eventually are able to eat, ie 60 pounds of food went home to summer school students last year. The children meet after school and, because Wolf Meadow has changed over to a full year program, the garden will continue to produce over the summer. Paula is very grateful to the school custodian, Harry Blackwelder. His wisdom and hard work have been essential to the success of the garden. She mentioned that, due to economic reasons, 98% of the students qualify for the free breakfast and lunch program. The school’s principal invited the MG to have our meeting at the school any time.
- Scott thanked all those who worked so hard at the Herbfest including Steve Mosier, Nelson, Harry, Mary and Herbfest committee. Mary mentioned that this year was the best festival year ever, financially and plant-wise. There was some discussion regarding enforcing the “no pet” rule, ie the health code says “no pets” under the pavilion but we asked to have a no pet rule for entire festival, which caused some confusion.
- Aurora motioned that minutes from April, 2016 meeting be approved and Ellen seconded. Voted on by MG and approved.
- Mary Quay presented the treasurer’s report for April, 2016.

- James announced that Angel Hjarding, from the North Carolina Wildlife Federation, will make a presentation about the Butterfly Highway at our June meeting. Our Lauren will demonstrate plant propagation and seed saving at our August meeting. There is no meeting in June.
- Joe Ormsby discussed a possible upcoming tour of Mary Ann and Corky Johnson's "woods". Corky has a great affection for and a knowledge of trees. Also, Joe has a tour planned for Laurel Hill Farm, home of the big leaf magnolia, on June 2. More info to follow.
- Mitchell reported on the latest grant and scholarship committee activity. We have 2 applications for grants from elementary schools for \$250 each. They will be voted on at our next grant's committee meeting, May 4th. The committee will also be interviewing candidates for our scholarship at the same meeting. The committee also received a nice thank you from the Fred L. Wilson school and pictures of the success, so far, of the garden at Forest Park Elementary school. These are posted on our website. Mitchell also motioned that MG approve awarding 2 scholarships annually, *as long as we have qualified candidates*. Proposal was seconded by Mary Ann Johnson and MG approved after a short discussion. Currently MG offers one scholarship.
- Renee Goodnight talked about the success of the Pollinator Conservation Committee at the Herbfest. Approximately 300 plant pollinator lists were given out and everyone was very receptive to working to help save pollinators. Renee handed out a flyer regarding the Tucker Tour June 4th, from 10-3. Master Gardeners will have a table for education purposes such as answering questions and providing soil sample kits, the PCC will have an informative table, and Marianne Scully and Harry will demonstrate composting. Tickets are \$15 each. More information to follow. Renee also spoke about her successful talks with Harrisburg personnel regarding planting pollinator plants at public locations in Harrisburg. She also thanked Melody Willkes for her great display at the Herbfest and Emily Tate's efforts to have pollinator plants planted in Concord Businesses. Marianne Scully talked about a volunteer activity at Camp Spencer on June 25th during Pollinator Week. Alex Beck, Plants Program Supervisor, will need some assistants to help plant 600 plants to form "floating islands" Starting time is 9:00 and end at approximately 11:00. Mitchell motioned that we (MG) work at the Tucker Gardens Tour on June 4th and get volunteers to work, possibly a split shift. It was approved by group.
- Chris Fletcher invited MG members to tour the Weddington Hills school garden, partially built by funds from the MG. Please come to visit Monday, June 16th at 10:00.
- Scott asked for a motion to approve the changes to the MG by-laws. Steve Mosier so motioned and Ellen Vanderburg seconded. Voted and passed by MG members. The change in the by-laws had been emailed to all members previously.

- Robbie Furr discussed the NCEMGVA recertification forms: the EMGV Code of Conduct, Media Release, and Copyright Release. **IT IS MANDATORY THAT MG MEMBERS SIGN THE CODE OF CONDUCT FORM AND THE COPYRIGHT RELEASE FORM TO RETAIN MEMBERSHIP.** The only form that isn't required for membership is the media release form. If you don't sign this form, you can't have any picture of you (such as Christmas Party or tours) on the website or any other picture of you for promotional or educational programs. The Code of Conduct Form and the Volunteer Agreement to Assign Copyright to NC State University form **MUST** be signed. If you need a copy of the forms, email me at gc7873@gmail.com and I will send to you. Also, Lauren will be bringing forms to future meetings for everyone to have a copy and to sign.
- Scott mentioned that Friday, May 13th has been reserved for our annual picnic to be held at Steve Mosier's house. Aurora motioned and Nelson seconded that Scott purchase food (picnic food) and utensils from MG budget. Approved by MG group. Address is 1009 Burrage Rd in Concord, 5-8PM. See email from Scott for complete information (May 3). Don't attend without reading Scott's email first.
- Lauren thanked everyone for the success of the Herbfest. She currently is attending the MG class in Rowan County to enable her to teach the class next year in Cabarrus County. She will be attending a broccoli workshop May 13th in Salisbury. She wants everyone to know that The Extension Office will be closed May 30th for the holiday. She wanted to thank Emily Tate for her work in Concord which eventually led to the Kannapolis Library wanting to get involved in planting pollinators at their site.
- Tickets were drawn for the kitty and for many door prizes.
- Meeting adjourned at 12:15.
- 36 members in attendance.

Respectively submitted,
Ginny Collier, Secretary