

Cabarrus County Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Association

August 2, 2016 Meeting Minutes

- President Scott Maxwell called the meeting to order at 9:30 in the auditorium of the extension office.
- Meeting Topics: Cabarrus County Fair (CCF), AgriBusiness Days (ABD) and Seed Collection
- The agenda was briefly reviewed where I was introduced, Lauren's engagement was announced and our Mission Statement was noted.
- A handout was provided detailing the schedule and focus of the two events, CCF and ABD, coming up Friday September 9th through Saturday September 17th, with Fair Set up day being Thursday September 8th from 2:00pm-5:00pm and opening day the 9th from 9:00am-2:00pm. Ten volunteers needed each set up day.
- CCF will have a new more simplified format this year. The Theme: Fall Gardening The booth will be 8' x 16', the stations are: tree banding demonstration to address Canker Worms, Composting with Soil Sample Packets and Extension handouts, Tree/Shrub/Bulb planting: the importance of fall planting (Arbor Day in Dec.), Ask a Master Gardener and will have a box for questions that need to be answered later, and a kid's interactive garden plot with laminated veggies to learn planning the garden. The booth must be staffed the entire duration of the fair with three volunteers per time slot. Please contact Chair: Lauren and Co-Chairs: Wendy Tate and Ellen Rush
- ABD is September 13th-15th the theme: Horticulture/Potting Pansies This year there will be eight stations presenting to six groups of 6th graders per day. Three volunteers per station, your recordable hours will include 1hr. edu. and the remaining volunteer hrs. Your Chairs are: Marianne Scully and Pat Gladden; please contact with your availability for this event. Lunch provided by the Cattlemen's Assoc. Comments noted: Life cycle of the plant is a tie-in with these students curriculum, butterfly handout from USDA available and some a provide quiz handed to teachers. Dorothy Anthony has agreed to work with the pre-school group that will attend the fair on the 16th with assistance from the 4H sponsor.
- James Polk called on our speaker, Lauren, to present seed saving technique and opportunities. To recap: Why save? 1) Are free 2) to preserve heirlooms 3) to share. Which to save? 1) Non-hybrid 2) easy to harvest 3)

sprout reliably. Seed saving tips: select seeds that self-pollinate, cross pollinate by wind or insects, and have the best characteristics, from healthy plants. Technique to save seeds is dependent on type of seed. Dry seed head or pod store as is. Wet seeds need to have sugar washed off to prevent bacteria then dried. Fermentation is the process of collecting, adding water, maintaining temperature 75-85 degrees, stirring daily for 2 to 5 days. Bad seeds and mold rise to top, pour off and wash thoroughly, dry completely and store (tomatoes are an example). Rub dry seed heads into a paper bag (sunflowers/dill are examples) Always label your seeds: variety, date, source, characteristics. Seeds can be saved from annuals, perennials, and biennials. Generally save seeds for 1 year.

- Darnell Hodge announced an American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at the Extension Office on September 29th from 11:30 to 4:00pm.
- Pat Gladden provided her excess Black Pearl Peppers plants for the membership
- Renee Hedrick motioned that the minutes from June 7th meeting be approved and Debbie Smith seconded the motion. Approved by members.
- Mary Quay presented the treasurer's report for June, 2016
- Marianne Scully reported that all were filthy and fulfilled from the volunteer opportunity at Spencer Park provided by Alex Beck. Five volunteers planted 750 plants in three floating islands.
- James Polk reported on events at The Discovery Garden. There are two weeks remaining for 15-25 kids in attendance. They have been planting veggies, having some cookouts and Renee has been bringing in watermelon for them daily. Additionally, James announced the upcoming speakers: Jennifer Newton from Peachtree Market will speak in October and Wendy Tate will discuss fruit tree pruning in November.
- Joe Ormsby discussed field trips. The Nat'l Honeybee Festival will be August 20th from 9am-1pm in Greensboro. The PawPaw Festival is in Winston-Salem on Saturday August 27th from 10 to 1pm. They have 35 trees maintained by Forsyth County Cooperative Extension. Although a 2hr trip, the Flowering Bridge at Lake Lure is a possible destination with the Town Hall having a pruning presentation on Sept 27th. In October there is a pollinator workshop in Pittsboro presented by award winner: Debbie Roos*. The week before Thanksgiving an interesting greenhouse full of poinsettias is slated at Kings Nursery. Joe also reported about July's visit to 100 Gardens at Myers Park HS. The Students there raised money (\$25k) to

build their aquaponics system, the students maintain greenhouse with the help of summer volunteers then the food grown is used in the Culinary Arts program.

- Mitchell Hagler will have a committee meeting in September to look at guidance for changing the Grants and Scholarship guidelines. Mitchell provided a handout of the proposed changes, after reading them he explained these changes would assist the organization in running more smoothly and efficiently.
- Renee Hedrick, Chair of the Xmas Party Committee, has set the Holiday party date for 12/16, from 6-10pm. She has spoken with a planner at the Cabarrus County Country Club, and provided menu options, pricing and seating formats. Toys for Tots will be collected at this event. She called for volunteers for this committee where Mary Haynes, Aurora Ormsby, Ellen Rusk, and Darnell Hodge answered the call.
- Scott informed group that 501-C-3 is under discussion in committee
- There will be a mini Master Gardeners meeting at the extension office on September 6th at 1:30pm
- A recording of the Bee webinar is now available please see your email for a link.
- Lauren shared her schedule as well as what she has been hearing and seeing from our citizens. Viewing both large and small farms she sees a lot of fungus, tomato disease and poor growth rate. NC State article explains that in extreme heat the reproductive structure of a plant shuts down together with the fact Honeybees are busy keeping their brood cool and therefore not foraging accounts for this poor growth. In commercial operations they are seeing a lot of Southern Blight. There is a new Extension Agent, Stacey Jones, who specializes in commercial horticulture that we will meet in the near future.
- Upcoming events: 1) a workshop for licensed pesticide applicators Aug.17th. 2) Next March Davison College will hold a garden symposium, 3) The Garden and Landscaping Show at the Arena in January still has need for a speaker.
- Tickets were drawn for the kitty and prizes awarded
- Meeting adjourned at 11:45am
- 37 members in attendance

Respectively submitted,
Karo Nerenberg, interim Secretary

* Agent of the Year