

Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Association of Cabarrus County

March 8, 2017 Meeting Minutes

- Wendy Tate called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. in the auditorium of the Extension Office
- This month Chris Fletcher arranged a Shitake Mushroom Inoculation demonstration for us to experience presented by David Goforth. These mushrooms are grown on a log culture. David brought his entire workstation so that we could see the tools needed and the inoculation process from beginning to end. He passed around his supplier catalog and while he worked he explained the steps and answered questions. He also had sautéed a mushroom which allowed some of us to taste test. The log he inoculated will be ready for harvest in the fall. Most graciously he donated the demo log to be a prize for our kitty drawing. David is working with children from the YMCA that have a garden behind the McGill Baptist Church at 5300 Popular Tent Road Concord; if you can volunteer to help at this garden please click the link to sign up for a Saturday 8 a.m. to noon in March and April. David works there Wednesday mornings as well he said come lend a hand or just come hang out.
<http://signup.com/go/y14Tk9>
- Last month's meeting minutes was motioned for approval by Renee Hedrick and the second was per Marilyn Griffith.
- Gerri Harris reported the expenditures and receipts for the month and provided the current bank balance.
- An inventory sheet was passed to members again to add plants/items that will be donated for the annual plant sale. Please email Mary Quay at: llquay@ctc.net if you have not yet apprised her of the items you will bring.
- Chris Fletcher has speakers scheduled for the next three months. They are: Kris Reid, Executive Director of Piedmont Culinary Guild, in April, Alex Beck agent with Parks and Rec. Dept. will speak in May, and Erin Lineberger, County Soil and Water Conservation District will speak in June.

- CeCe McFayden informed us our next trip will be at Memorial Gardens in downtown Concord (50 Spring St SW). Either the last week of March or the first week of April the tulips are expected to be in bloom. Additionally CeCe is working out the details for trips to Kirk Davis Nursery in Harrisburg and Sarah P Duke Gardens in Durham.
- Mitchell Hagler said we have received no requests for a scholarship so far and we have one grant request pending that is being assessed.
- Scott thanked all who donated items to be sent to Robbie Furr's son in Iraq. Scott is taking on the packaging and shipping. Personal monetary donations accepted to assist with the shipping cost.
- Regarding Herb Fest, Scott said there are currently sixteen pallets at Lomax. (Aaron Newton is the Lomax Farm Coordinator) you may bring your plants to Lomax for the Herb Fest. Two Kannapolis police officers have been hired for the day. The Herb Fest committee will meet next week again to finalize some rearranging of the vendors. Price tags are on order and there is still a need for pots to create Fairy Gardens.
- Lauren provided updates on events and her activities. Agritunity had 150 attendees and she thanked all who answer her distress call when she was short on volunteers. All the county agents were pleased with the day and will repeat again next year. The Extension's Plant Sale did very well. Lauren was happy to see those who attended Volunteer Appreciation Day and for those who did not she had appreciation lunch bags with treats available for pick-up. Alex Beck, County Parks and Rec will be the presenter at this week's MG class. There were 80 people who attended the Blueberry pruning demonstration. Based on information requests she will teach a Muscadine pruning workshop next year. Senior Health and Wellness Day will be at the Arena on Wednesday March 8th 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The new MG students have been assigned a mentor and there is still a need for three more volunteers to cover the 12 students. Finally, the phone room (an alcove) has been set up to field calls for information; the last step she is currently working on is the time slotted sign-up sheet.

- Lynn Mac-Dougall-Fleming informed us that Cabarrus County Farm and Food Council is presenting a program that simulates the struggles of low-income families to survive month to month on March 9th at 6 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church. Lynn said several MG's volunteer to participate in this very impactful presentation.
- Marianne Scully had a letter from Paula Shire from Wolf Meadow Elementary School they have purchased a heater for the greenhouse and heat mats. They have 6 to 8 beds planted and they have need of a trellis for grapes.
- Both Marianne Scully and Renee Hedrick answered the call to volunteer at Jackson Training Center this past week for two hours starting at 8:30 a.m. There are 22 raised beds at the school in addition to the aquaponics system that Sam has installed (whose hours have been drastically cut to 1 day per week). They report that in order for the children be allowed to participate in the gardening program they have to have graduated or obtained their GED then they are allowed to work for one hour only. They were impressed with the facility, many awards won by the kitchen, recycling and dog therapy programs however the recidivism is a staggering 75%. If you want to volunteer going forward meet Renee and Marianne on Wednesday at 8:30 as everyone has to be let into the facility together. This past week they talked with the children and planted seeds.
- Lauren met with Jonathan Poole, Parks Program Supervisor, to discuss the coming years Discovery Garden Camp. The MG class intern project will be to restructure the program allowing children to work in the gardens every day. Alex Beck continues to work planting natives and pollinator beds.
- Renee Hedrick is hosting a drop-in Bridal Shower for Lauren at her house on Saturday April 29th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The wedding date is May 13th. Lauren and Holmes Hill are registered at Belk, Crate & Barrel and Home Depot.
- Kitty was drawn and door prizes awarded
- Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

42 members in attendance

Respectfully

Karo Nerenberg, Secretary