

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

### **June 6, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

- The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. in the auditorium of the extension office
- Chris Fletcher introduced our guest speaker Mandy Smith-Thompson. Mandy is an Environmental Educator for the City of Concord, a certified member of the professional organization EENC (Environmental Educators of North Carolina) which is an affiliate of the North American Association for Environmental Educators, as well as a liaison to the Wildlife Federation. She loves “critters” but is involved in all aspects of the environment; she names water conservation, recycling, Nature and wildlife. Mandy’s focus is to help people understand their environment through information dissemination, classes, seminars, conferences, also aided by the 190 Environmental Education Centers in N.C. Environmental literacy motivates people to be good stewards of the natural resources. Asking why we need this education; the answer is because it sustains life, our economy depends on it, and it creates health benefits. Studies show that time in nature equals healthier minds and bodies. Our personal and cultural identities are tied to our local environment. The understanding of our local environment in which we live aids us in understanding the global environmental challenges, helps us answer the questions of what do we need to do now and what will we need to do in the future. Connecting people to nature empowers stewards of all ages while building community. Mandy points out that many people today do not know how to garden any longer, or know about pollinators or native plants. The EENC need MG partners for the purpose of intergenerational transfer of knowledge hoping that people will learn that gardening is fun, therapeutic and practical. EENC manages educational opportunities provided for citizens, schools, as well as manages the EE certification program. To connect to the educational and fun EE community

where you will see a calendar of events, trainings, a link to sign up for listserv and e newsletter go to [www.eenorthcarolina.org](http://www.eenorthcarolina.org) or [www.eenc.org](http://www.eenc.org) , or other social media. Mandy opened the meeting up for questions and for MG's to share their experiences.

- It was motioned to accept the May meeting minutes by Ellen Vanderburg and the second was by Aurora Ormsby.
- Gerri Harris reported the activity on the MG's bank statement. Gerri said that two of the guest speakers had declined the stipend and therefore the monies were unused. It was decided that \$50. Would be used for child sized gloves for the Discovery Garden camp and the same amount given to Sam Fleming to purchase tools for Stonewall Jackson Youth Development Center. Approved by show of hands.
- Scott Maxwell provided an update on the Herb Fest Committee's work: he announced that the Fest will be moving to the midway of the Cabarrus County Arena in 2018. The cost for the event includes many things that were paid for separately prior to this move and included some nice perks: no more camping out overnight as the site is secured at night, no porta johns, two arena employees to aid with clean up after the Fest and the huge bonus of double the vendor capacity.
- The pumped-up and energetic, Robbie Furr, dropped by to engender our excitement and provide insight on how this move will impact the next festival. By partnering with a county facility for this event, it allows MG's a unique opportunity to market the event as never before. We will have the use of county resources such as the Cabarrus County communications department and their website. He told us to start working on marketing materials right away and to form a team of volunteers who are adept at social media. He said channel 22 would advertise the event and he expected to see signs, posters, banners, and brochures. The kick off to announce our event will be at the county fair and he wants something to put in the hands of all of the 3000 6<sup>th</sup> graders attending Agri-business days. Also we

need to develop marketing to reach additional vendors so that we use the sites full capacity. It's a new opportunity and we need to jump on it immediately with excitement, energy, and a full head of steam. The Extension office is willing to provide any support that may be required.

- Lauren thanked everyone for the help we have been to her in her personal and professional life and gifts and well wishes for her recent marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Hill honeymooned in Costa Rica then traveled to Moosehead Lake, Maine.

It is the end of the fiscal year for CES and the office is being reorganized; this means a workstation for MG's and some additional storage. Marianne Scully and Pat Gladden are co-chairing ABD's; this year they will have an intern: Cindy Rhodes. Gerri Harris has volunteered to co-chair the fair committee. MG's will have the same booth as last year. This is a great opportunity to serve and inform our community. Lauren will teach two classes for the 4-H camp. The Emerald Ashe Borer that is new to N.C. has been found at Frank Liske Park; a certified arborist is required to treat this problem. Iowa State U. has a research article. Other issues that have come to her attention are: bacteria spots on peppers (this is early, generally appears in July) this is caused by fungus; rain bounces off the ground onto the leaves and then spreads. Seiridium Canker on Leyland Cypress as well as bagworms. Lauren created and submitted a poster to the Farm School Program; she won second prize. Lauren will be attending the state conference June 21-23 then the national meeting July 8-14; she will need phone coverage. Finally she has been busy with commercial work consulting on a future pumpkin garden and the Barbee's new venture growing annual rhubarb. All are invited to a picnic on Wednesday August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at The Farm at Brusharbor.

- Mitchell Hagler reports that G & S committee will meet in early fall to review methods of reaching out to students. Mitchell explained the need to create a Speakers Bureau which will be comprised of

volunteers that would help support the county agent at public speaking events. There are many requests for speakers to come to garden clubs, schools, churches, libraries, etc. to give a presentation and we need a pool of people to draw from. Mitchell passed out a list of topics for consideration or your topic of interest is fine as well. Develop a talk of around ten to twenty-five minutes for presentation to the membership. Chris scheduled no speaker for the month of September in order for these volunteers to give their presentations. Lauren will aid if you need with materials, powerpoint, etc.

- Jackie Ashton and Ellen Vanderburg will comprise the Nominating Committee this year for the two open positions: VP Programs and Secretary. If you want to aid with the Xmas party please contact Renee Hedrick. There is a need for another co-chair for the fair and an intern to learn the skills required and the resources we have available. Please contact Gerri Harris if you will help.
- Kitty was drawn and prizes awarded
- Meeting adjourned at noon
- 42 members in attendance

Respectfully submitted,  
Karo Nerenberg, Secretary