

RUTHERFORD COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS EXE BOARD MEETING: Aug 01, 2017

MGRC Board Meeting:

- The meeting was called to Order at 6:03 pm in the Community Center Classroom of Lane Agriculture Park.
- Officers who attended (6): President Autumn Shultz, Treasurer Lee Etta Cadotte, VP Outreach Jenny Byrum, VP Demo Gardens Marty Boyce, VP Education Warren Anderson, and myself as secretary (Barbara Donnell)
- Officers not in attendance (-1): Lisa Brent, VP
- Other Recognized Members/Guests present (6): Linda Stevens (speakers bureau), Floyd Adams, Jack Smith, Keith Miller (co-chair Farmer's Mkt), Richard Lee (President 2016), Marilyn Rogan came in late
- Extension Agents (2): Anthony Tuggle introduced the new Extension Agent, **Rachel Eatherly**. She grew up in Lebanon. Recently graduated from UT, Knoxville., with a BS and Masters degree in Agricultural Economics. Attendees then each briefly introduced themselves to Rachel; describing how they served the MG program.
 - Anthony reported that he wants to stream line the MG long lists of projects to avoid over-working the members and emphasizing that the demo gardens are seen by the most people. Linda L said "retention recently is not the problem but obtaining leaders is a problem". Keith stated, "if you ask people to be a co-leader, it's an easier process". Others thought there seems to be a general lack of engagement and commitment. Linda S. asked which projects Anthony was suggesting to eliminate. Anthony replied that the MG group should decide. Discussion resulted in a decision to offer a Survey via Facebook to determine which projects the MG members favored. Ext Agent Rachel suggested a software for the survey. The on-line survey should query the current number of volunteer hours by the MG answering the survey. The survey should avoid abbreviations, and have an October dead line. There was a general agreement that several items can be combined into one category with subcategories, such as Demonstration Garden with a breakdown of subtitles (perennial, herb, vegetable, compost, etc).
- Total Attendance: 13
- Autumn invited visiting members to address the group first.

Member Floyd: Mushroom Kit Experiment: Floyd is looking for 3 volunteers to take the mushroom kits he has prepared and take notes of results. He gave verbal instructions but written instructions were requested. Floyd will post instructions on-line Facebook. Jenny and Marty took one. Others were interested, but declined because it was an "under the kitchen sink experiment".

Minutes for July Board Meeting:

- In Barbara's absence, Jenny took notes combined with Autumn's agenda and posted the July minutes. Thanks Jenny!

Financials: Lee Etta Codotte

- Deposits for Cheekwood tour event (checks from Cadotte & Donnell are not revenue)
- Numbers for July are not yet tallied, since this is the first day of August. However, there were checks written in July for compost, which were minimal.

- Ending Book Balance for July. \$13,804.69
- NOTE: Food truck presence is taking away from our concessions profits (about 1/2) (Keith Miller)

President's Report: Autumn Shultz

- Janie Becker's Gift:
 - Did anyone see the solar bird bath that Jenny sent via email? Linda L. (who worked with Janie for years) thought it would be a good gift that she would enjoy (~\$140).
 - Marty motioned to approve, Jenny 2nd, Warren had reservations, but the solar bird bath gift passed unanimously.
- Elections: Nomination Slate to be presented to Association in August. Voting will be in September. Officer-elects start "shadowing" Oct 1. Richard Lee has agreed to head up the Nomination Committee.

Need Nominations For:

- President
- First VP and Program Chairman (Jenny Byrum is interested)
- VP of Demonstrations (Jenny Byrum is interested)
- VP of Outreach (Jenny Byrum prefers to do something different next yr)
- Secretary (Barbara Donnell will serve through Dec 2017)

Willing To Renew Term:

- Treasurer (Lee Etta Cadotte)
- Vice President of Education (Dr. Warren)

- Autumn is also reaching out to Project Leaders to determine their plans for 2018.
- Membership cards will be at the August Association Meeting.
- Demo Garden Signs – Next two are in fact-gathering/design stage now.
- Autumn has Terri Rodriguez's green badge that was ordered.
- Choosing a lapel clip style mic system. (Ken Smith, William Mitchell, Ken Roberge, Jim Phillipson) – Ken sent options – but I really just need them to pick the one they like best.

Vice President Report: Lisa Brent absent. However she said Cheekwood is rescheduled to Sept 9, 2017. Aug 10th is the deadline to sign up. Full details were posted on Facebook.

Vice President Outreach: Jenny Byrum. Giving back gardens project is on the calendar for Oct 28, so applications need to be turned in by the end of September. Suzanne LeBeau has stepped up to lead this project in 2018. Farmer's Market downtown mis-communication occurred and resulted in MG volunteers arriving to work the "booth", but the leader was absent. The communication breakdown was due to the leader canceling due to high probability of rain and not notifying the volunteers of the cancellation.

- Barbara Donnell volunteered to co-lead with Linda Stevens. Jane Lee Wise gets the MG a small spot for free, but MG do NOT have a protective tent. There is not room for a tent. The "booth" location is "under the big Linden Tree on the downtown square".

Vice President Demo Gardens: Marty Boyce. Work day coming up, this Sat @ 8am to noon. Flat rocks are still needed. MG can harvest vegetables when they are ready. There are many tomatoes about to turn ripe and a dozen melons in various stages on the Hugel-Culture. We need to clarify what information Lisa needs for the tomato trials (if we pick tomatoes)?

Vice President Education: Warren Anderson.

- Work day for Grapes is Aug 26. Each cluster will be ~0.2 pounds, acceptable for wine or jelly. These Native American vines tolerate bugs and our climate. Our 9-yr old Vines need pruning (have not been done in 4-yrs). Although it would be nice to have a classroom presentation for those that cannot stand the August heat, Dr Johnson may not be able to conduct a class. We need to reserve the pavilion and have water handy. Asked members to bring 5-gallon buckets and cardboard boxes. Also need Sterile Gallon containers to hold the juice. We estimate ~ 450 gallons of juice (4H, MTSU fermentation class, MG participants).
- Rain garden has many weeds, so feel free to pull up any of the many varieties of weeds. Flat rocks are always welcome.

Old Business not mentioned previously

- July left overs from our Mix-and-Mingle pot-luck went to *Stepping Stone Safe Haven*.

New Business

- Autumn S: As discussed previously, we need to address organizing/pairing down our current approved projects list, compose an on-line survey and rally the troops to fill out that survey.
- Sun Shine Leader duties: Need to Contact members who have not attended more than one association meeting this year.
- Marilyn R (has served as a volunteer for the Disabled Veterans program for over last 5-yrs). She asked the MGRC to consider donating funds for the Disabled military veterans (many with MST, PTSD, etc) to allow fly fishing in our extension pond. There is some equipment that vets need to get down to the water. Each vet makes and assembles their own rod and flies. Many require walking sticks. She was thinking that the concession monies could go toward this endeavor but did not realize it was already ear marked for the 4H. All donations are from private volunteer sources, and the administration fees are 15%. Sept 30th is “healing Saturday”.
- Barbara D.: We encourage gardening for health, why can’t we encourage healthier pot-luck dinner choices? Group felt that MG should not dictate what people choose to bring for pot-luck.

PROJECTS LISTED ON HOURS TRACKING WEBSITE DROP DOWN

Demonstration Orchard
Demonstration Vineyard
Demonstration Butterfly Garden
Demonstration Vegetable Garden
Demonstration Herb Garden
Demonstration Rain Gardens
Demonstration Compost
Demonstration Perennial Bed
Demonstration Mushroom Bed
Rutherford County Newsletter
Rutherford County Web Team
Rutherford County Association Meeting
Garden Basics
Rutherford County Farmers Market (RCFM)
Rutherford County Farmer’s Market (RCFM) Class Support

Main Street Saturday Market
Plant and Seed Swap
Rutherford County Board Meeting and/or Prep
Administrative Support at Extension Office
Annual Master Gardener Training
St. Clair Senior Center Program
Adventures in Agriculture
Speakers' Bureau
NHC Hort Therapy Program
Facilitation of Association Meeting
Easy Breezy Hours from Intern Class
Certification Team

OTHER PROJECTS LISTED IN OUR DIRECTORY

Event Planning
Facebook
Newsletter/Communication
Media
Sunshine Team
Growth Team/Intern Liaison
Historian
Stones River Battlefield Liaison
Meeting Refreshments/Supplies
Parliamentarian
Welcoming Committee
Giving Back Gardens

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm

Submitted by Barbara Donnell, Secretary. Last Modified: Aug 7, 2017