

RUTHERFORD CO. MASTER GARDENER'S EXEC. BOARD MEETING: August 7, 2018

RCMG BOARD MEETING:

- The meeting was called to order by President Jack Smith at 6:00 p.m. in the Classroom at the Lane Agri Park Community Center.
- Officers in Attendance: (5) President Jack Smith, 1st Vice President Jennifer Salter, VP of Education Warren Anderson, Treasurer Lee Etta Cadotte, and Secretary Lecia Anderson
- Officer/MG Coord. Absent: VP of Outreach Susie Hawkins and Rachel Painter, Co. Agt.
- Other in Attendance: (5) Keith Miller, Floyd Adams, Katherine Smith, Brenda Cross, and Miranda Tindle
- Total Attendance: 10

VP OF EDUCATION'S REPORT: Warren Anderson

- Warren reviewed with the Board the memo from Dr. Tony Johnston, Director of the Fermentation Science Program at M.T.S.U. Dr. Johnston has asked that the RCMGs purchase a 275 gallon storage tank to hold the grape juice from the harvest on August 25th. This tank will pose problems in that it will be difficult to store and transport due to size (45" L x 40" W x 46"H) and weight (135 lbs. empty and 22,000 lbs. full). After doing a count of grape clusters in the vineyard, Warren feels that optimistically we will have about 40 gallons of juice. Normally the vines would have 50 to 75 grape clusters per vine but this year's average is twenty. Unfortunately this year we had a late frost which has contributed to the low yield. Warren brought up the purchase of smaller, 5 gallon containers that would be less difficult to move when full, easier to clean and store. The smaller containers have a molded-in handle, opening for filling, and a spigot. Other larger capacity containers were also considered. Warren recommended that the larger requested tank not be purchased and that we should be able to handle this year's harvest with one gallon jugs. After discussion, the members decided to go ahead and purchase the smaller 5 gallon containers. Lee Etta made a motion that we purchase five of the 5 gallon E-Z fill plastic dispensing containers at a cost of \$12.42/each to be used for storage of juice from the grape harvest. The motion was voted on by the Board members and was unanimously approved to purchase the containers. Lee Etta is to make this purchase so they will be available for the harvest on Aug. 25th.
- Warren announced that Dr. Johnston has invited the M.T.S.U. Faculty to participate in this year's grape harvest festivities. It was Warren's recommendation that we have assigned photographers on that day for the various group activities involved in the harvest. He also mentioned that Rachel has informed him that the Master Fooders are going to be making jelly from the juice harvest as well.

- We have been invited to participate in the “Waterfest” on Friday, Sept. 14th from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. hosted by the Stones River Watershed Association. It is anticipated that 1,400 grade schoolers will participate in this event. The SRWA is offering the RCMGs a table where we would be discussing urban gardening impacts on Rutherford County water quality. Last year it was held at Old Fort Park but this year’s location has not been decided upon. The Board reviewed the handout on possible topics we could discuss such as soil sampling, rain gardens, water wise gardening/landscaping, how soil/plants clean water, etc. In the past there have been two groups of 15 stations where the grade schoolers walk through the various stations. Jennifer said this should be presented to the organizers of our Junior Master Gardening Program. It will be brought before the Association at this month’s meeting. Bonnie Ervin is heading up the 2018 Waterfest and her contact information is: bervin@rutherfordcountyttn.gov

1ST VICE PRESENT’S REPORT: Jennifer Salter

- The speaker for August is going to be Roxanne Phillips who is a Master Gardener from Tipton County and will be speaking on Herbs. She will be traveling from the Memphis area and we will need a check for mileage reimbursement. Jennifer will email Lee Etta regarding the amount.
- At the Growth Team meeting it had been discussed to have one or two Interns briefly discuss at the Association meeting their experience with the Master Gardening Program.
- September’s speaker will be from Colorburst Plant Farm, October is still open and November’s speaker will be Sam Mabery from Stones River Battlefield.
- There has been a tour scheduled for Bloomsbury Farm on September 28th at 10 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jack read to the group a letter from Terri Rodriguez who certified as a Rutherford County Master Gardener in 2015. Terri is asking the Board for her MG membership to continue although she was unable to make her minimum hour requirement for 2017 (14.5 Volunteer hours). She had a lot of unforeseen circumstances last year that did not allow her to participate in the volunteer work with the MGs which was due to her active status as a full time member in the TN Army National Guard. She also spent seven weeks attending out of state military professional training as well as a full schedule to complete a Bachelors of Environmental Science degree. Since Terri is a State Safety Specialist in Occupational Safety and Health matters the question of her possibly giving the Association a talk was discussed by the Board. Warren made the motion that we grant Terri Rodriguez’s request for continuance in the MG Program for 2017 contingent on her either giving a presentation or making a 30 slide

PowerPoint on Health and Safety. The motion was made and carried by unanimous approval. Jack ask that Lecia get in touch with Terri to discuss the Board's decision.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Keith reported that he has three months of Farmers Market concession money that he needs to submit to Lee Etta tonight and apologized for having gotten it in so late. Keith has had family issues and other concerns that have required a tremendous amount of unforeseen time and travel for he and his wife over the past several months. Keith mentioned he had attempted to contact Lee Etta but was unable to do so. In the 2016 Audit it was mentioned that we should have a back up plan in place so that the money is turned in monthly. Some of the envelopes for July have not been properly processed and when Keith was verifying them he discovered that there was an envelope that had no numbers on it and had never had an entry in the book. Even when Keith added the money in to the monthly calculation although he had no date for that particular envelope of money, the calculation came up short by \$20-\$30. Lee Etta questioned that the envelopes are always supposed to be signed off with the amount of money they contain. Miranda also reviewed the books and stated that July 13th had no entry in the book. On the spread sheets there is an annual summary and also a monthly spread sheet that contains the months entries of receipts as well as the expenditures. Keith presented the signature documents to Lee Etta. Jack also has copies of the documents. All the documentation Keith has compiled for the last 90 days is also in the Dropbox file. Keith would like to drop the money off at the office or hand deliver it to Lee Etta in the future. There was discussion of giving money to Anthony, however, Anthony is seldom in his office and he may not want to handle it. Lee Etta asked if the volunteers at the Farmers Market are trained on how to do the envelopes. The instructions on how to complete them is laminated and suppose to be in the gray money box. Miranda offered to help Keith when he is unavailable and lives next to the V.A. Hospital so she could easily help get funds to Lee Etta.
- Keith brought up discussion of the Orchard. He has been working on pruning the trees and there at least a dozen left. These trees are in bad shape and the surviving ones in the orchard are going to require a lot of time to get them in shape if they even can be salvaged. Warren had suggested to cut them down and move the orchard. His question to the Board is do we keep the existing orchard or plant a new one. There was no decision made at this time.
- Keith mentioned that the Election Committee has not been able to make all the appropriate contacts so a slate of new officers for 2018 will not be offered at the August meeting. Keith asked the Board members to get with him and let him know if they are interested in continuing in their positions, planning to leave the Board, or are interested in moving to a vacant position.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Lee Etta Cadotte

- The checking account balance was \$14,035.70 at the end of July with one outstanding check of \$32.93. Income was \$122 for reimbursement from the t-shirt order.
- Lee Etta brought up the signage in the demo gardens that was discussed last month with regard to completion of the small signs and the two larger signs for the perennial bed and rain garden. It was previously discussed that up to \$200 should complete these signs. There is \$79 remaining from the monies that were set aside for these signs and there was discussion regarding using some of the Verizon donation to pay for these remaining signs. Lee Etta stated there needs to be a formal motion made in order to dedicate up to \$200 of the Verizon donation for the signage and the installation for the demonstration gardens. The motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lecia Anderson
Secretary

