

**RUTHERFORD COUNTY MASTER GARDENER'S EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:
March 5, 2019**

Attendance:

- Officers Present: (6)
 - President** Jennifer Salter
 - 1ST VP** Brenda Cross
 - Vice President of Demonstration** Lecia Anderson
 - VP of Education** Warren Anderson
 - Treasurer** Lee Etta Cadotte
 - Secretary** Terri Rodriguez
- Officers Absent: (1) **VP of Outreach** Teresa Fly
- Extension Agent(s): (1) Rachel Painter
- Others in Attendance: (4) Jack Smith; Keith Miller; Floyd Adams
- Total Attendance: (11)

The meeting was called to order by President Jennifer Salter at 6:10 p.m. in the Classroom of the Lane Agri Park Community Center.

Treasurer's Report: Lee Etta Cadotte

- Lee Etta brought before the Board the current account balance is \$16,813.77. There was 1 check written in February for reimbursement to Don Richardson. Revenue from General Mills submitted a donation to MG of \$104. Considering changing the line item on the budget to "Corporate donation". It's possible that a member is performing and counting volunteer hours with General Mills and they are sending MG matching contributions. No expenses for March & revenue from Garden Basics.
- Membership dues are due by the 31 of March; per the By-Laws, if not paid by then you are "late" and can be considered "inactive". 58 members at this point have paid. Our budgeted amount from dues was 80.
- Peer review. Linda Lundy is in poor health and unable to be a part of the peer review. Kathy Partch said she would take Linda Lundy's place on this action.

President's Report: Jennifer Salter

- Led discussion on changing up meetings. For instance, having a presentation playing with AGENDA, coming events with important dates to remember, as well as pictures of members participating in recently conducted events. Discussed recognizing members for various achievements earlier in the year as an encouragement tool.

- Membership Directory is Updated and ready for distribution.
- Membership cards will not be printed for distribution this year. MG Badge is sufficient for discounts.
- Review of the Zoom Leadership and Networking meeting on February 8th
- Zoom meeting on April 12 -Demo gardens. Pass on information to all Demo Garden leaders. Do we want to also include the Healthy Gardens Leader? We will meet in the extension office conference room.
- We need to get all of the information on the website up to date. Some is very outdated, e.g., projects, photos, etc. Let's give Ken Roberge the updated project list. Spoke with Ken about teaching someone or multiple someone how to take care of, set up, manage all of the technical equipment and processes he manages for MG's. March is agreed on as a good time for this to take place. The more people who know how to do this the better.

Vice President Report: Brenda Cross

- This month's Association Meeting Speaker will be Rutherford County Extension Agent Mitchell Mote speaking on GMO's.

Vice President Outreach: Teresa Fly

- Not present due to her having the flu.
- Distributing flyers for the Small Fruits Short Course

Vice President Demo Gardens: Lecia Anderson

- Bat houses: Last year, they were infested with hornets and taken down. Rachel suggests we ask Ron Cozart to put them back up. Lee Etta asked to have Riley from UT to offer suggestions on how to keep the hornets away this year. Jennifer Salter said she will ask Riley.
- Signage in DEMO Gardens. More cost effective to purchase 100 metal labels and split the cost across the DEMOS, than to purchase smaller amounts for each garden.
- Rose shrub in DEMO garden is now gone. It has been removed due to it having Rose Rosette Disease (RRD).
- Infrastructure issues that need to be address in DEMO gardens.
 - The pathway- materials for the pathway is discussed.
 - Raised Beds- Wilson county used and recommends Great Cedar Mill
- I have offered my help to Warren and Carol Reese in getting together a plant ID map - the map side for me and the ID side for Carol.

Vice President Education: Dr. Warren Anderson

- UT Soil Tests are back. Rows 4 and 5. Row 5 requires potash. Both rows require 2 tons of lime.

- UT Soil tests are back. Recommendations
Row 4: 60 lbs P2O5, 60 lbs K2O, 2 tons Limestone
Row 5: 60 lbs P2O5, 120 lbs K2O, 2 tons Limestone
Forgo limestone for 2019 and use a 6-12-12 for P2O5 and K2O
Possibility: acquire busted bags of 6-12-12
Possibility: Broadcast application of row 4 & 5
- Dr. Anderson recommends to use 6-12-12. Use a cup to distribute 6-12-12 just by spreading across the top then raking it into the grass (broadcast application). Racheal suggests we do this on April 6th during the Spring Clean Day. Can get broken bags from the COOP for free. Should only need 2 bags.
- Gave articles to Jennifer on Tennessee Conservation and Smart yards. Details how important Rain Gardens are in maintaining water quality.
- Rain garden Guide and Maintenance Schedule handed out Mar 2
- Putting together a maintenance schedule on Rain Gardens for the interns. Want to put a grid on the rain garden to map out plants.
- We will discuss Guide results on Mar 9 at 10:30am. What can be done? Water quality needs – urbanization of mid TN; Walk about drainage channels & R gardens- discuss erosion problems. Grid out RG-1 at 4 way stop – ID plants, and map of RG-1; Prune RG-2 at the pond
- Master Bee keeping class will be held the last week of March.

Extension Agent's Report: Rachel Painter

- Blueberry grant (April 5); Knoxville, Crossville, Cedars of Lebanon, and Rutherford were chosen as trial sites. Rutherford County is not a designated experimental station so this is a big deal to be selected as a trial site for 2 varieties of Blueberry shrubs. Mitchell Mott and Rachel Painter will be responsible for the preparing of the soil and planting of the shrubs. MG's will maintain.
- Apple Grant is waiting for approval (fall or spring delivery). These specimens will be planted to the left of the pavilion NOT out where the existing orchard is currently.
- NRCS Grant of \$500 Pollinator crop- Mitchell and Rachel are looking to be approved for a pollinator grant proposed to be placed beside the DEMO gardens. South branch will provide a wildflower pollinator mix; already ordered. Signs will be installed explaining the purpose and importance of a pollinator plot and the species of flowers. If the grant is not approved, then the Extension has paid for the project. This is being brought before the Soil Conservation Committee.
- UT has a new apiarist coming on board; Jennifer Tsuruba from Clemson County will be working on the Master Bee Curriculum at the Knoxville campus. She is traveling around to other similar organizations to collect ideas and taking classes to be able to apply for bee keeping grants; not the same class as the Basic Beekeeping.
- Thursday, 9-2. March 14 pruning and small fruit short course. Mitchell mote will lead this activity. Orchard will be the hands-on portion. Interns fee are covered, for everyone else it is \$10 fee.

- The Extension is working to incorporate the Master Food Program with the Master Gardener Program in a joint video venture using a 30 second recording with both a MG in the garden and a MFV in the kitchen talking about an edible and how to cook with it. Master Food Volunteer Program is a developing Program here in TN that RCMG is assisting in getting off the ground.

New Business

- Autumn Schultz would like to bring the Murfreesboro Community Garden to the Board as a sanctioned project for volunteers. Not Present.
- Keith Miller would like to address the Board in reference to purchasing a large quantity of coffee cups and recyclable cup sleeves from Sam's Club. This expense will come out of the \$600 set aside for "meeting expenses". **Motion for Keith to set up a not for profit account with Amazon for ordering made by Lee Etta, second by Jennifer Salter, all in favor. Passed.**
- Video Recording for MG classes. Lee Etta presented to the Board the need for MG members to volunteer in assisting with recording teaching events/classes. Currently 3 members are performing this task and due to life events, are unable to capture all of the high profile events.
- Jack Smith reminded the Board about the Small Fruits Class.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Rodriguez
Secretary