

## **Coweta County MGEV Volunteer Meeting January 12th, 2023**

Executive Board in Attendance: Patty Ellis, Pat Lincoln, Colleen Stephens

44 Master Gardeners were in attendance as well as Stephanie Butcher, Extension Representative.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00, followed by the pledge of allegiance and an inspirational message by Sonja Lambeck

The previous Volunteer Meeting Minutes from November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 were approved.

### **Officer reports**

- President- Patty Ellis- None
- President Elect- Open Position
- Vice President- C. R. Phillips – Not Present
- Secretary- Pat Lincoln - None
- Treasurer- Colleen Stephens- See Report Below
- Past President – Mark Hess – Not Present
  
- Extension Officer Report – Stephanie Butcher –
  - We are currently looking for a replacement for Maureen and a Farmers Market Coordinator.
  - We start the monthly zoom meetings with the County Extension Coordinator this month; look for an email announcing the date and time.
  - The Irrigation lines have been replaced.
  - An upcoming pruning class will be held at Dogwood Orchard in Fayetteville February 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM. This class will consist of both classroom and hands-on experience which is unique and has not previously been done.
  - We will be using a new system for registrations and payments called “Destiny” using QR codes.

### **Financial reports**

- Treasurer Colleen Stephens, presented the current financials.
  - Beginning Balance \$13,298. Ending Balance \$14,981.
- 2023 Budget was presented.
  - Also provided a report showing the 2022 Budget versus Actuals.

### **Committee reports**

- Ask the MGEV/Market Day – No Report
- BYA – Melanie Landrum:
  - In January, 75 people attended the presentation given by Bob Westerfield.
  - Donation Box was at the last meeting and collected \$14.00.

- February 14<sup>th</sup> – Pruning Tips to be presented by Don Gentry, Allen Summerlin and C. R. Phillips
  - March – Morning Glory
- Boys and Girls Club – Rebecca Gibson – Plans are to meet and clear an area for the children to plant a garden on Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>. A rain day is scheduled for Friday. We won't start working with the children until sometime in February.
- Communications – Patty Ellis – There are postings being made on Facebook and members are encouraged to share these with friends and neighbors. There have been some delays in posting to YouTube as there are now legal restrictions with regard to closed captioning.
- Demonstration Garden – Kathy Olmsted and Amy Keller – January and February will be spent doing garden cleanup. We are waiting to see what plants have survived the recent freeze.
- Education- Cathy LeBar and Paula Hyatt – The team was introduced. On February 4<sup>th</sup>, a Plant Propagation Course costing \$20 will be held. We need hardwood cuttings for the class.
- FPS/SPS – Kathy Olmstead and Kim Magyar – Because of the lack of heat in the greenhouse, we have not had the mother plants. Heater is now on and a new schedule is being created. We will have a day this month to fill pots with soil and plant seeds.
- Fundraising- Diane Cook- We are working with the Education Committee conducting the Propagation workshop in February. We are selling Soil3 Compost and \$15 off offer is available – see Facebook for details. The Spring Plant Sale is scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Garden Tours – Diane Cook – We have 5 Master Gardeners gardens listed for tours, however, we need two backup gardens. Included on the garden tours will be the Demonstration Garden and the Nature Trail. The Spring Garden Tour will be May 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Greenhouse – Jerry Allen – The heater is now on in the greenhouse. Next week we will start filling pots and getting them ready to plant seeds. Please sign up.
- Help Desk – Patty Ellis – We are continuing with the Remote Help Desk, however, we do need volunteers to work the Help Desk on Mondays and Friday. There are two shifts: 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM and 12:30 PM – 5:00 PM. Training is available and takes about one hour.
- Hospitality – Amy Sharpe – Apologized for the delay in serving refreshments and food as there was a problem with the kitchen oven.
- Nature Trail – Melanie Atkinson – We have a small committed group working on the nature trail. We meet on Mondays from 1:00 PM until 3:00 PM on Mondays. We will be preparing the trail to participate in the Garden Tours this year.
- Scholarship – Jennie Adcock – The applications are going to be posted on the website in May.
- Speakers Bureau – No Report
- Sunshine – Sara Hansen – Please given good contact information when reporting an illness or death.
- The New Leaf – No Report
- Volunteer Awards – - Patty Ellis – Log your volunteer hours by January 24<sup>th</sup> to get credit. We ranked Number 10 in volunteer hours and we came in at Number 1 for Continuing Education Hours.

## **Old Business**

- Stephanie has the updated MGEV Handbook and we are waiting for her final edits/approval. Once approved, it will only be available digitally.
- Reminder for everyone to wear their name tags to meetings and events.

## **New Business**

- We have acquired a new Design Program called Canva. A free version is available. It will be used for the newsletter and flyers.
- Reminder for everyone to post their volunteer hours by January 31st.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> Edition of the MGEV Handbook is available. There's a lot of changes and color photographs. There's \$20 off if the book is ordered before the end of the month. A link will be provided.
- We now have a wireless speaker which is great to use for small groups. You will be required to sign it out so that we can keep track of its location.
- Volunteer Meetings will be held on the following dates:
  - March 9<sup>th</sup> (Note the 4H Staff will provide breakfast)
  - May 11<sup>th</sup>
  - July 13<sup>th</sup>
  - September 14<sup>th</sup>
  - November 9<sup>th</sup>
- The Board Goals this year are as follows:
  - More diversity of MGEV's in the program and the BYA Presenters. We will need to do more public out reach.
  - Include other types of gardening such as container gardening.
  - Increase MGEV activism and leadership opportunities.
  - Increase the community's awareness of the MGEV/Extension Office
  - Maintain a balanced budget
- This year, all Master Gardeners are required to obtain at least 10 continuing education hours to maintain their certification. Some of the ways to obtain those hours are as follows:
  - Thoughtful Thursdays. If you can't attend the live presentation, you can watch the old ones by going to the MGLOG website.
  - Attending Back Yard Association Meetings
  - Presentations by other counties extension offices/extension services.
- Cathy Pugh won the Whole Seed Catalog.
- There is a basket of seeds on the table and everyone is asked to take one.

## **Upcoming Volunteer Meeting dates for 2023:**

-Thursday March 9<sup>th</sup> at 10am

Meeting adjourned at 12:00  
Minutes prepared by Pat Lincoln