

Master Gardener Volunteer Sept. 4, 2018 Meeting

36 in Attendance

Wendy Tate called the meeting to order at 9:30 am

Speaker: Jeff Gillman, Director of UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens speaking on "The Truth About Organic Gardening". Highlights of the talk were:

- History of organic farming
- Allowed organic pesticides and fertilizers and their good and bad points
- Building a healthy soil

Break at 10:45

Wendy called the meeting back to order at 10:52

Wendy called for approval of the minutes from last month with corrections. Debbie Smith moved to accept the minutes and Aurora seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Gerri Harris gave the treasurer's report.

Gerri also gave the fair report. Set up is Thursday from 1-4 and 6 volunteers needed. Tear down will be Sept 16 from 1-3 pm. If you donate anything for the booth and are not present for tear down please be sure to put your name on it. Sign up sheet sent around for people to staff the booth.

Wendy announced that we have been invited to the 12:45 pm Saturday event to award David Goforth with an award at the fair.

Marianne Sully spoke on Agri-Business days. She thanked everyone who volunteered so far. She still needs 9 positions filled plus alternates, so please sign up.

Mitchell Hagler gave the Grants and Scholarship report. Wolfe Meadow was awarded a \$250 grant and have request Marianne Scully to continue as their liaison.

Scott Maxwell gave an Herb Fest report. Vickie Julian and Nelson May have stepped down from their positions. Chris Fletcher and Bob Wilbur will take Nelson's place and Sid Rauch along with a committee will take Vickie's place.

Lauren Hill gave her report:

- She has been busy getting ready for the fair

- Soil testing: Extension provides the educational component. Need to soil test separately for vegetables, flowers and lawn. 10 scoops mixed together taken from 2-4 inches depth for each test site. She is hoping to have the education sheet revised for the fair. Most people think clay soil is bad but it is nutrient rich and holds water well.
- She thanked all for helping her with phone lines and the fair.
- She is currently working towards her master's degree
- There will be another rhubarb trial this year.
- She will have a booth at the fair in addition to Master Gardeners
- There are still has 2 library programs for her to present. See flier.
- She did a 2 day 4-H camp and took them to Piedmont Research Center and Barbie Farms
- A volunteer survey was passed out to all to fill out. This will help Lauren know what our interests are.

Joe Ormsby gave the Tours report. He thanked Terry Edwards for allowing us to tour her gardens this month. Reedy Creek tour will be October 17 at 9 am and info will be emailed out. Still working on something for September. Wing Haven was suggested.

New Business:

Mitchell Proposed Master Gardeners to consider putting on a Symposium in the fall of 2019. Scott has spoken with the Cabarrus Arena and we can get the main room with break out areas for the cost of labor and food. A tentative date of Oct 24, 2019 has been set. We are to think about this idea and vote next meeting. If we decide to do it then work will begin on getting funding, a budget, speakers, vendors etc.

Debbie Smith reminded us that donations are needed for Aurora to continue working on the scape book as clear sleeves etc.

Meeting adjourned at 12 noon.

Karen Andre- Secretary