

Cabarrus County Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Association June 7, 2016  
Meeting Minutes

- President Scott Maxwell opened the meeting at 9:30 in the auditorium of the extension office. All members were asked to recite the MG Mission together.
- Scott thanked Steve and Susie Mosier for hosting the cookout at their home.
- James Polk deferred the introduction of today's speaker to Glenda Steel. Glenda introduced the group to Angel Hjarding from the Butterfly Highway. The Butterfly Highway is a statewide conservation initiative that aims to restore native pollinator habitats to areas impacted by urbanization, land use change and agriculture. They hope to create a network of native flowering plants to support butterflies, bees, birds and other pollen and nectar dependent wildlife. The green spaces will thread throughout NC to create the Butterfly Highway. Angel started the program in Charlotte through the NC Wildlife Federation and it is now throughout NC and expanding into other states. We were fortunate to see the first showing of a documentary film about the decline of bees but most particularly the Rusty Patched Bumblebee which has seen a 90% decline and is now on the endangered species list. Angel discussed their work with the Concord Wildlife Alliance and the Concord Mayor's Wildlife Pledge. Angel stated that there are 74 species of butterflies in NC and approximately 1200 moths. Monarchs travel through NC on their migration, usually in the fall, starting from Canada. There are currently 800 Butterfly Highway designated gardens in NC and 550 acres of meadows that have been restored. There are 45 registered BH sites in Cabarrus County. It takes approximately 3 years to establish a meadow. Angel and the Butterfly Highway have seed packets of wildlife perennials selling for \$5 per packet which contain only NC native perennials that are of very high quality. One packet covers approximately 25 sq. ft. Establishing a BH garden is similar to setting up a Wildlife Habitat, for those who already have that designation. You will receive a sign stating that your yard is part of the Butterfly Highway. Criteria is the following: There is no minimal size as long as appropriate plants and resources are provided. The site requires an area that receives at least 6 hours of sun every day. Pollinator plants have various soil and water needs to prosper. Check before planting. Plants should be planted somewhat close together to provide shelter. Pollinators have different requirements for plants to raise their young and provide food, ie leave debris in yard for bee nesting, leave open patches of soil for native bees, provide milkweed for monarchs. Pollinators need plants that bloom from early spring to late fall to provide adequate food for breeding and migration. Plant different colors, shapes and heights. Angel's final message and part of the BH requirements: Many pollinators are insects and are vulnerable to the effects of insecticides. It is recommended to use organic gardening practices to reduce these effects and eliminate the use of chemical pesticides. To register your garden visit [www.butterflyhighway.org](http://www.butterflyhighway.org)
- Steve Mosier motioned that the minutes from the May, 2016 meeting be approved and Bob Wilber seconded the motion. Approved by members.
- Mary Quay presented the treasurer's report for May, 2016

- James Polk announced the upcoming speakers. Lauren Duncan will discuss seed propagation in August and Jennifer Newton from Peachtree Market will speak in September.
- Joe Ormsby discussed field trips. June 14th MG will tour Corky Johnson's acreage to learn about trees (10:00 AM). Joe is planning a field trip to 100 Gardens with Sam Fleming. Several MG members visited the home of the Big Leaf Magnolia at Laurel Hill and thoroughly enjoyed the trip.
- Mitchell Hagler reported about the Grants program and recent scholarship winners. MG awarded \$1000 scholarships to Makaila Garcia and Tyra Banks. \$250 grants were awarded to AT Allen Elementary School and Beverly Hills Elementary School.
- Chris Fletcher thanked MG members for touring Weddington Hills School garden. Renee Hedrick commented that it was a great learning experience and nice tour. It is a large area and recommended that everyone try to see it.
- Bridget Kolda reminded members that the Discovery Camp starts on the 20th. Anyone who can donate plants and crafts will be very much appreciated. They need volunteers. It is mornings only. Please contact Bridget if you can help. They also need to have the garden beds weeded and the weed fabric removed.. After some discussion, it was decided to have MG volunteers help on Friday, June 10th at 8:00 AM. Scott will send email with particulars.
- Marianne Scully reminded members that members have the opportunity to help plant floating islands at Camp Spencer at Spencer Park on June 25th from 9 AM until approximately 11 AM
- County Extension Agent Pam Outen will be teaching a pickling class at the extension office and the course can be used for education hours.
- Scott announced that a night meeting is planned for July. There will be a potluck and an educational hour. More information will be sent via email.
- Tickets were drawn for the kitty and prizes awarded.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:20.
- 30 members in attendance.

Respectively submitted,  
Ginny Collier, Secretary