

## **Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Association of Cabarrus County**

### **May 2, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

- The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. in the auditorium of the extension office
- The guest speaker, Alex Beck, Park Programs Supervisor and most recently has been overseeing conservation and programs at Frank Liske Park. However he was very excited to announce he is changing positions and will be working at the newly opened (January 2017) Bob Wallace Park in Midland. The 143-acre undeveloped park is in the initial stage of development and Alex will bring his passion for environmental stewardship, and development of outdoor space for adventure and learning. Alex looked at what Cabarrus County Parks had available to explore, manage, restore and enhance which led to him initiating a “Species Survey”. This is a scientist verified, identification program of plants (wild flowers), animals and insects. He enlisted a lot of help (co-workers, students, nature -lovers) and has watched this list grow over the past three years and will be creating a five year compilation. He was able to identify the species that are in decline (Tree Swallows) and/ or endangered (Wood Ducks) and then creates a restoration plan. In addition to program planning for the park activities and camps he also does the feasibility studies for proposed projects, researches the soil and water issues of the location and identifies the Geo-management practices. His primary directive is to ensure that there is a 20 % ratio between developed areas and natural habitat. To enhance natural habitat he has initiated park clean-up days, clears invasive plants and adds native plantings. He is also looking for a person to intern at Bob Wallace Park. He informed us that Vietnam Veterans Park will be turned over to the City of Kannapolis and no longer managed by the Cabarrus County Parks Department. Alex provided numerous facts; a brief synopsis is as follows: Bob Wallace Park is mostly overgrown except for the trails. The annual budget is \$65k. There is an “adopt a

bio-swell” program which cost \$200. Due to the flooding of Irish Buffalo Creek the area is being re-forested with Sycamore and Bald Cypress trees. At Camp Spencer the floating island will be re-vamped this month. Soil and Water works with farmers in attempting to keep manure out of creeks, this department also is responsible for many school parks. There is now a “Wildflower Restoration” banner at Frank Liske Park. This park is now recognized as the top water fowl park in North Carolina. Last year 150 Monarch butterflies were raised and released there. The Green Restoration project here considers wildlife needs for food and habitat as well as aesthetics. Looking forward to next year, Leaf packs will be introduced to streams. Alex was looking for an inexpensive way to enhance the health of streams.

- Lauren began the business part of our meeting expressing her appreciation to all that came to her shower that was at Renee Hedrick’s home to share a fun time. This Herb Fest was her first time and said it was upbeat. Lauren encouraged members to sign-up to cover the phone line. There is a need for three volunteers to be judges for the 4-H public speaking competition in Alexander County being held Friday June 16<sup>th</sup>; the group will leave the extension office at 7:30 a.m. then return by 2 p.m. Finally, the twelve MG students will graduate on May 10.
- The April meeting minutes was motioned for approval by Ellen Vanderburg and Renee Hedrick was the second.
- Gerri Harris provided a verbal and paper copy of the Treasury report detailing the monthly activity and Herb Fest information.
- Scott Maxwell, on behalf of CeCe McFayden, reported that on May 24<sup>th</sup> in Chatham County there is a pollinator event for which there will be a carpool; pre-registration is required and a fee of \$25. Paid.
- Mitchell Hagler invited MG’s to his home on Tuesday June 20<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to noon to see his blooming daylilies. Other future trips discussed are McGill Rose Garden, and Kings Greenhouse.
- Aurora Ormsby asked for event pictures to be sent to her for the scrap book. She will reimburse cost upon request.

- The Executive Committee will be meeting on next week. It is time to start discussing Agri-business days and the Fair. Pat Gladden and Marianne Scully had agreed to co-chair the Agri-business day's committee which will be held September 14<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup> this year.
- Kitty was drawn and prizes awarded
- Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.
- 41 members in attendance

Respectfully submitted,  
Karo Nerenberg, Secretary