

May 1, 2018 Cabarrus Master Gardener Meeting

Wendy Tate called the meeting to order at 9:40 am and introduced Dennis Testerman as today's speaker on land stewardship.

Dennis is a part of the Nature Conservancy and their topic for this year is watersheds.

He shared the history of the farm that has been in his family for 100 + years with pictures and how they lived off of the land.

He also shared several faith-based books on conservation

We then took a break at 10:35

The meeting was called back to order at 10:45

Wendy called for approval of last month's minutes. Renee Hedrick motioned to accept them as written and Darnell Hodge seconded the motion. All were in favor.

It was decided that lunch would be at Pier 51

Gerri Harris gave the treasurer's report

Lauren Hill gave her report.

- This Thursday she will be harvesting rhubarb at the Piedmont Research Station and needs volunteers to help with harvesting and gathering data.
- Master Gardener's class this week will be on botany and is being taught by Staci Jones from 1-3.
- She recently attended an FDA and NC state training on farming
- Concord Place Senior Living has requested help with the flower beds if anyone would like to volunteer.
- Discovery Garden will be starting June 18 on Monday and Thursdays.
- She recently participated in a GAP workshop.
- Dr Mark Parker was seriously injured while teaching a pecan tree-pruning workshop when the lift he was on toppled over.
- July 24 is the 4H junior master gardener event. She will send out an email with information if anyone wants to volunteer.
- She will be gone to state meetings the last week of June and the 1st week of August and will need phone coverage in the office.
- Herb Fest was very successful with much good feedback. Over 4000 in attendance. A vendor's tent blew over and hit a child but we should have no issues with liability.
- The state Master Gardener meeting is June 7-9 in Greenville, NC
- She recently learned that fruit trees that are unhealthy produce ethanol, which attracts insects.
- When buying trees, shrubs or plants look at the root ball first. The roots should be white to yellow in color.

Mitchell Heglar gave a report on the grants and scholarship programs.

- He read part of a thank you note from the Cannon Memorial YMCA to which we gave money for a community garden.
- We recently awarded \$300 to Branch Christian Academy in Kannapolis for the start up of a vegetable garden. They had a booth at Herb Fest and sold plants they had started.
- We have 5 applications for scholarships with 3 strong candidates we will be interviewing. Mitchell moved that we allocate up to \$3000 for 2018 scholarships if the committee selects all 3 candidates. There was a discussion about this, then Debbie Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Scott Maxwell thanked everyone who helped with Herb Fest. He has already scheduled the event for next year with the arena. Vendors were happy with the new venue and did well this year. The arena did not charge us for table rental although port-a-johns cost more than anticipated.

Door prizes were drawn and the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am

Karen Andre- Secretary