

Cumberland County Master Gardeners, Inc.  
General Member Meeting  
June 7, 2022

**CALL TO ORDER:** Jewell Wilhoite at 6:01pm – The meeting was held at the Country Store.

**ATTENDANCE:** 31

**WELCOMING REMARKS:** Rhoda thanked all for the great meal.

**PROGRAM:** Rhoda Hiller introduced the speaker, Mark Baldwin on meteorology in Cumberland County. Some learnings from his talk were:

Hurricane season is June 1st through November 30<sup>th</sup>. Use temperature and dewpoint (to judge humidity). Severe weather will usually occur over a dewpoint of 60, over a dewpoint of 70, prepare to crank up the air conditioning. Derechos are straight line winds with gusts of 70-80 mph that occur in summer. Lightning can travel 30 miles. If you can hear thunder, you need to take shelter. The most damaging lightning strikes are positive strikes with ice being positive and earth and water negative. They can travel great distances unlike those from the base of clouds. We are in a low hail risk area. Average rainfall is 55” per year on the plateau. Folklore: Does it work? No. What does work is: Ring around the moon, rain before noon and red sky in morning, sailors take warning, red sky at night sailors’ delight. Dry months are August to October. Long range outlooks are very iffy. Gulf lows bring snows. Latest Crossville frost on record was June 3, 1956. May 28, 1963, had a super freeze. 1960 had 54.7” of snow! Normal snow is about 12” per year. NASA is working on space plant biology for food production on longer space trips. He has toured the veggie lab at Kennedy Space Center. He is involved in a non-profit, Creative Compassion (ccihomes.org), needs are great, and your donations are welcome. You can look for Mark’s forecasts on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Meteorologistmark.com.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

**President:** Jewell Wilhoite: She thanked Rhoda Hiller and our speaker. She thanked all yesterday’s rose trial planters. Gregg Upchurch reported Dr. Windham’s memo bragging about our contribution.

**Secretary: Julia Wood:** The minutes from May General Meeting with three corrections.

**MOTION:** “I move to approve the minutes as amended.”

Moved: Connie Taylor Second: Patti Smith Approved: All in favor

**Treasurer:** Alan Baker: Through 5/26/2022, total income was \$21,900, total expenses were \$7,774 for a net gain on operations of \$14,127. The ending book balance is \$22,899. In the next few days, we will donate to UT \$1,500 for the Mixed Screen Demonstration Project and \$4,000 to UT for our support of the summer internship at the Plateau Education and Research Center. The board will be reviewing the remaining 2022 budget and report at the July general membership meeting. There is an increase in the budget of \$500 for production more almanacs.

**MOTION** “I move that we receive the treasurer’s financial report as stated.”

Moved: Rita Reali Second: Elaine Peters Received: All in favor

**Vice President:** Rhoda Hiller: no report

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT:** Ernie Wood: Ernie thanked the rose trial planters and said Walt Hitch was also very pleased. Workday is this Thursday at 9:00 am for weeding and supporting mulching is underway. We welcome our PDG summer intern Kayla Selby. Umbrella committee meeting has all the vendors and speakers lined up for the Fall Festival. Flower Plant Sale went very well. A few plants are still available. We also have a few free plants left from Jason from the Jackson. Thanks for Shalena Durkot, Mike Barron and Glenda Wisdom who picked those up. The next Umbrella Committee meeting is July 7, 2022 at 1 pm at the PDG. All are welcome. If you want to speak, you need to request time prior on the agenda.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**State Conference:** The upcoming state conference 6/9-11 has budget set aside for registration reimbursement afterwards. Rosie and Ron Drechnik are planning to attend. Jewell Wilhoite requests attendees report on the state conference.

**Memorial Bench:** Ad Hoc Committee report by Linda Ferris, Ron Drechnik. The committee developed a procedure for the bench. It has been ordered. This first one will be green composite with metal handrails from

Top Bench in Illinois. Future benches will be neutral colors. Honorees will be members that have passed away. We will start with honoring those from the last 7 years. Family members will be notified prior. The bench is ordered. Plaque details will be determined. They plan to install it this summer. Other Ad Hoc committee members were Barbara Moore and Ernie Wood.

**Classes at the Garden:** Rosie Drechnik: Volunteers for hosting June classes are needed. She passed a sign-up sheet. Two hosts per class are needed, one to check-in and the other to do miscellaneous setup. Hosts should come 1 hour before the class start. She will seek volunteers monthly.

**TN Smart Yards:** Mike Barron: 14 FLAG attendees signed up to have MGs visit them and walk through their yards for assessments. Mike and others have conducted most of the assessments. It has been rewarding. It also promotes the Master Gardeners. Some may never seek certification but had other issues. Gregg Upchurch encourages us to get certified.

**The Seed Article:** Thank you Rae Hozer for the great article on the Master Gardeners.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Project Coordinator:** Jewel Wilhoite is looking for a volunteer to coordinate that Project forms are completed, be an organizer, be a communicator, and follow-up to do reviews after the event. They will not conduct the project. We have speaker requests and upcoming projects. These are normally duties of the President- Elect.

**Fall Festival Volunteer Coordinator:** Jan Rice will coordinate all MG volunteer activities.

**Promotion:** Sue Partch reminded all that we have a stick-on letter felt board that can be used for promotion at events.

**Strategic Planning:** It's time for some strategic planning brainstorming. The whole membership needs to be involved in planning. The board will review the budget. We need to develop plans for our future. This is normal renewal for any organization. For example, we need to consider whether we put the effort to put on the FLAG show (planning starts in September) given that many have done positions for years, are tired, we have limited number of volunteers, and nurseries are not on board with providing plants. What other fundraising can we do. What do we want in our future? We do want to maintain our community involvement, and education. As our organization changes, our direction can change. Do we have the funds and volunteers to do what we want to do? July's general meeting will be this initial brainstorming.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Gregg Upchurch introduced our newest member, a transfer Master Gardener, Jan Pitzer. She comes to us after 3 years as a MG in Sevier County. She has interest in native plants and hopes to have a smart yard. They are building a home. She is in a new planting zone and is excited to learn what she can grow on the plateau!
2. Gregg Upchurch offered his corn plant.

### **CALENDAR:**

1. State MG Conference in Kingston – June 9-11 with preregistration required.
2. Girl Scout PDG visit: June 9
3. Executive Board meeting is June 16, 2022, at 1:00 pm at the Country Store.
4. Next Member Meeting: Tuesday, July 5, 2022, with social beginning at 5:15 pm and meeting at 6 pm. The theme is “Red, White and Blue, Happy Birthday America.
5. Umbrella Committee Meeting: July 7, 2022, at 1 pm at the PDG.

**DOOR PRIZES:** Thank you for donations: Toothache plant, bee boxes, bird house, succulent, spider plant, yarn basket, painting, Carex appalachia, pot with carrot décor, oxalis plant and a dracaena. Winners are: Sue Partch, Ron Drechnik, Julia Wood, Dave Armbrust, Alan Baker, Janet Russell, Connie Farley, Ernie Wood, Vicki May, Jan Pitzer, Mike Barron, Connie Taylor and Agnes Bosze.

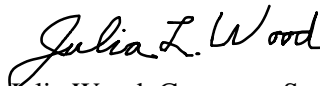
**Adjournment:** Jewell Wilhoite at 8:14 pm

**MOTION** “I move to adjourn.”

Moved: Linda Glenn      Second: Rita Reali      Passed: All in favor

Motion “to approve minutes as amended:”

Moved: Alan Baker      Seconded by: Janet Russell      Approved: All in favor 6/7/2022

Respectfully submitted:   
Julia Wood, Corporate Secretary