

Cumberland County Master Gardeners, Inc.

General Membership Meeting

February 7, 2023

President Mike Barron called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. at the Country Store with a question: What should we do about storm-damaged plants? In attendance were 34 members, 8 interns and 2 guests.

Gregg Upchurch presented volunteer-hour awards and milestone year pins.

Program: John Conrad spoke about the trails system within Cumberland County and plans for its impending expansion within Crossville.

Officers' Reports

Secretary's Report: Rita Reali reported. Minutes of the previous meeting were distributed via email. Rhoda Hiller moved to accept the January minutes as submitted. Elaine Peters seconded. The motion passed unanimously on voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Glenda Wisdom presented the budget as proposed. Following discussion, during which it was agreed classes in the garden would remain free this year, Dick Kaleba moved to approve the budget. Sue Partch seconded. The motion passed unanimously on voice vote.

Vice President's Report: Rhoda Hiller reported. Speaker for the March meeting has not been finalized. A Lunch-and-Learn event has been scheduled for February 23 at the Country Store about logging volunteer and CEU hours. The April 19 Fairfield Glade Garden Club meeting will feature a six- to eight-member master gardener panel. Meeting starts at 9 a.m. The speaker for the March 15 meeting is Lucas Holman, and Bill Morgan will give a presentation on mosses, ferns and spleenworts.

Committee Reports

Classes in the Gardens: Rosie Drechnik reported. The programs are being printed in black and white. The schedule includes 32 classes and three teas. She needs volunteers to sign up to serve as hosts for classes.

Membership: Margo Carroll reported. She's scheduled a membership activities/retention committee meeting for February 16 at 1 p.m.

Arbor Day: Sid Morgan reported. The event is scheduled for March 17 at the cow barns on the Community Complex (fairgrounds). Volunteers should arrive by 8:15; the giveaway starts at 9. He cautioned volunteers to dress warmly.

Teas in the Gardens: Carol Lorenc reported. We have teas scheduled for three Saturdays in 2023: May 13, June 24 and September 9. The committee will be having a meeting at 5 p.m. on February 15.

Mike's Question: Before we wrapped up the meeting, Mike circled back to his question about recommendations regarding “bomb cyclone” plant damage, and when to worry about plants’ death. Ernie Wood suggested doing a scratch test on branches to test for signs of life. Look for leafout from mid May to early June. Gregg Upchurch cautioned folks to be patient. Jewell Wilhoite cautioned against pruning just yet; winter’s not over. Besides, leaving dead matter in place offers protection for the rest of the plant. Alan advised not stressing the plant; just water it.

Door Prizes: Winners were Carol Lorenc, Linda Engel, Beth Morgan, Margo Carroll, S.K. Smallwood, Diane Wells, Rita Reali, Alan Baker and Marilee Lambie.

Adjournment: Patti Smith moved to adjourn. Rita Reali seconded. The motion passed unanimously on voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rita M. Reali, Corporate Secretary