

Cumberland County Master Gardeners, Inc.

General Membership Meeting

January 2, 2024

President Mike Barron called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. at the Country Store. We had 36 members and 1 guest in attendance

Officer/Leader Introductions: Who's who and what do they do?

President – Mike Barron. Sets up/runs a lot of meetings: membership, board, umbrella. Draws up annual proposed budget. Listens to what MGs are saying, what they want and how that fits into the direction we're going. Anyone welcome to any board meetings.

Secretary – Rita Reali. Takes/compiles/distributes minutes of membership and board meetings.

Vice President – Katie DePoortere. Assists Mike in his duties; schedules speakers for meetings.

Treasurer – Alan Baker. Takes in/spends/keeps track of money. Participates in budget development.

Webmaster – Alan Baker. Keeps site up to date, keeps links valid, adds info as necessary for members/public.

Email Coordinator – Alan Baker. Maintains email contact list for MGs. Does not control content of emails, but he just sends them out; he just does what he's told.

President Elect – Margo Carroll. She does whatever Mike tells her. She's also event coordinator for the FLAG Show and handles merchandise.

Director – Ernie Wood. Cochair of PDG. Determines needs of the garden and tries to coerce volunteers into participating. Ernie is keeper of all knowledge worth knowing regarding the gardens.

Classes in the Gardens – Julia Wood. Class list is in development. They're closing in on completion. Hosting has not yet been set up. List/presenters nearly confirmed. Language editing next, along with headshots of presenters. Registration will be open only a couple months in advance. Classes without 5+ registered will be canceled. She hopes to have something ready for the web page soon; printed brochure won't be ready 'til sometime after that. She's planning 20-25 classes. Tours will include a discussion of perennials or some other related topic.

KinderGarden – Sue Maruska. The KinderGarden's sleeping right now. No tours/classes this fall; spring will be the time for the tours. Shade sails already put up. Beehive has been put into the garden.

Helpdesk – Debbie Ward. Answers questions for homeowners in the community: setting up gardens, putting in grass, troubleshooting, planning, etc. Needs volunteers. Open March 1 through November 1, 9-11 a.m. (sometimes 1-3 p.m.). Two hours a day for a shift. She does training, too.

Bulb Fundraiser – Linda Ferris. We did it once and made a lot of money. Set up the website, publicized it and it went well. The company does three sales a year. Carolyn Jozwiak said we could easily coordinate a spring bulb sale. Linda said we didn't have to handle any money or any product. The company handled everything for us.

Rain Barrel Fundraiser – Margo Carroll/Janet Russell. Company in North Carolina manufactures rain barrels in the USA from recycled material. Similar to the bulb fundraiser, we do the publicity and sign folks up, and they'll coordinate delivery.

Silent Auction – Elaine Peters. Collecting items at next three meetings for the silent auction feature at the FLAG Show. Small items may be compiled into baskets. Empty baskets will also be accepted for filling with items. Last pickup is April general meeting.

Thymes Newsletter – Jewell Wilhoite. She invited members to contribute ideas/items/articles to the newsletter. She'll do a bit of editing, but it's your stuff that's being written. She thanked Susan Partch for her regular contributions over the past three years. If you can get submissions in to her by the third Friday of the month, that'll give her time to get it included in the newsletter.

Teas in the Gardens – Susan Partch (for Carol Lorenc). Rose tea in June; Apple tea in September. Speaker, decorations, teas related to the theme, a project of some sort, high hopes. Excellent response, and people have really enjoyed them. It's a lot of work, but it's also a lot of fun. The core committee will probably be returning, but contact Carol Lorenc, Connie Farley or Susan if you want to get involved. Connie said tea dates will also be included in the Classes in the Gardens. Tea meetings will start in February. The first one will be at her workshop, once Carol returns. An email will be sent out with the date. Susan proposed having a booth at the FLAG Show to discuss teas, and have tea.

Christmas Tree – Connie Farley. We get a lot of information out. We fill the baskets under the tree with information about the Gardens, the MG programs and other information. Trees get put up late November and get taken down late December. This was our fifth year doing this project, and they're looking for new ideas for how to decorate that huge tree that's in the back room.

Obed River Watershed Association – Bill Morgan. Looking for people who need help with planting gardens, getting rid of invasive plants. They're also looking for new members.

Nurse – Barbara Moore. Ernie is her biggest customer. Wyndridge donates the first-aid supplies. No one has had anything terribly serious in the years she's done this.

Tree Giveaway – Sid Morgan. City of Crossville Tree Board gives away trees every year as part of Tree City USA designation. A Tree Canopy computation is conducted every year, and it continues to shrink. The tree giveaway is a good way to get trees back in the ground and growing, to replace the consistently flagging tree canopy. As MGs, we owe it to the environment to build back that hurting tree canopy. Cumberland County has experienced a growth spurt, which has contributed to the steady cutback in annual tree canopy. We foster the leftover trees and sell them later.

Transportation Guru – Dave Armbrust. He takes care of the vehicles to transport folks to and from parking at events.

Cumberland County Fair Booth – Connie Farley heads this up. We'd like to continue participating; 2023 was our first year.

Community Events: Friday at the Crossroads, Fairfield Glade events, Veterans Parade, etc. General discussion of the events and what to do at them.

Cookbook – Rita Reali. MG cookbook idea floated. She offered to organize the project and do the layout. She'll get quotes from several printers. Rhoda suggested including usage tips for herbs, etc., and including some of the recipes from items served at the teas. Connie said we already have several pages of info about herbs from the teas, so that can be included as well.

Budget: Alan reported. He went over details of the proposed budget for 2024, including the FLAG Show, dues, various fundraising efforts and other income. Total proposed income was \$29,850. Expenses weighed in at \$17,900, for a net profit of \$11,950. Julia moved to accept the budget. Elaine Hansen seconded. Motion passed unanimously on voice vote.

Calendar of Events: Mike would like to put out a calendar of what happens when. The new Master Gardener Intern class begins in January. Gregg has invited MGs to participate, and to assist in leading classes. Kickoff date is January 30. Official class starts February 6, from 9 to noon. Online registration underway. Six or seven interns have already signed up and paid. Alan will send out a link to all MGs for distribution to prospective students with all they'll need to know.

Proposal to have meetings from 12 to 2 (or 12:30-2:30) for the three months of the intern class, have a potluck lunch to include the interns as a way of getting to know them and immersing them in the organization right off the bat. Show of hands indicated tremendous support for this idea.

Hospitality – possibility of getting Ron and Rosie some help in coordinating and implementing food service each month. Carol Burdett said coordinators ensure tables and chairs are set up, salt and pepper are on the tables, etc.

February – Julia Wood needs a count of almanacs available for the first class.

FLAG Show subcommittee meetings will be at the Country Store Jan. 17, Feb. 21, March 20 and April 11, from 10 to noon.

Jewell said the photo directory (which has been on hold for two years) will be attempted again this year.

March 1 – Ask a Master Gardener Desk opens.

Tree Giveaway

March 25 – picking up tomatoes/peppers

March 26 – repotting tomatoes/peppers

April 26-27 – FLAG Show

May 4 – PDG Plant Sale

June 8 – Rose Tea, 2-4 p.m.

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1/24/2024

July – Daylily Workshop

August – Steak & Potatoes Day
August 27 – Fall Gardeners Festival
August – Cumberland County Fair

September – Member picnic
September 14 – Apple Tea, 2-4 p.m.
September 27-28 – Apple Festival

October 1-22 – Welcome Home... to Tennessee, 5:30-7:30 p.m. (tentative)
October 9-11 – State Master Gardener Conference, Nashville
October – Officer nominations

November – Officer elections

December – Christmas Tree
December – Christmas luncheon

Meetings: Daytime meetings October through April. May through September will be evening meal and meetings (meal at 5:30).

Officers' Reports

Secretary's Report: Rita reported. Minutes of the previous meeting were distributed via email. Alan moved to accept the November 2023 minutes as submitted. Linda Ferris seconded. Motion passed unanimously on voice vote. Rita cannot be here for the March 5 intern class or meeting and needs someone to fill in for her. The March meeting will have to be elsewhere (probably the PDG) for liability reasons.

Treasurer's Report: Alan reported. The “actual” column of the proposed budget will stand as the treasurer's report. Julia Wood moved to receive the treasurer's report. Rita seconded. Motion passed unanimously on voice vote.

Roundtable

Birdseed wreaths are selling like hotcakes. Next session Thursday at noon. Linda asked who wants to go ahead with the bulb sale; the membership overwhelmingly approved the idea.

Adjournment: Mike adjourned the meeting at 2:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita M. Reali, Corporate Secretary