

Cumberland County Master Gardeners, Inc.
General Membership Meeting
July 11, 2023

President Mike Barron called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. at the Country Store; 31 members, 12 interns and 2 guests were in attendance. Jan Rice offered the pre-meal blessing.

The evening began with a successful and well-enjoyed plant swap out front.

At 6, Sid Morgan gave an amusing and informative presentation entitled, “What you missed at the last conference,” about his and Beth’s experiences at the recent International Master Gardeners Conference in Overland Park, Kansas.

Officers’ Reports

Secretary’s Report: Minutes of the previous meeting were distributed via email. Elaine Hanson moved to accept the June minutes as submitted. Linda Ferris seconded. The motion passed unanimously on voice vote.

Treasurer’s Report: Alan reported. Through 6/15/2023, total income was \$4,492.57; total expense was \$2,628.33 for a gain on operations of \$1,864.24. The bank book balance was \$14,176.68. This figure does not take into account the \$725 raised at the June 24 Tea in the Gardens. The memorial bench fund remained at \$107.95. Major future expenditures will be \$4,000 for the PDG Summer Intern donation and the budgeted \$2,000 contribution toward the Fall Gardeners Festival. Rita Reali moved to receive the treasurer’s report. Elaine Peters seconded. The motion passed unanimously on voice vote.

Vice President’s Report: Rhoda Hiller reported. She thanked Sid & Beth for their presentation. She’ll be hosting a kids’ gourd-painting class on Saturday from 9 to 11:30; 14 kids have signed up. Parents can’t drop off their kids and leave. She needs volunteers and is sending a sign-up sheet around on a clipboard. Our summer intern will be the speaker at next month’s meeting, talking about her project.

Linda Glenn is back after her recent knee surgery. She found a gardening podcast at the website www.awaytogarden.com.

Committee Reports:

Teas in the Gardens: Carol Lorenc reported. We had 38 guests for the June 24 Daylily Tea and raised \$725. Combined with the proceeds from the Mother’s Day Tea, we’ve raised \$1,696 so far for the two teas; our projected revenue for the three teas was \$1,500.

Cumberland County Fair: Connie Farley reported. This year’s fair is scheduled for August 14-19; setup is August 10.

Classes in the Gardens: Julia reported. A clipboard is being circulated for hosting upcoming classes. She asked that hosts email her afterward with the number of attendees versus the number of people registered.

Welcome Home to Tennessee: Gregg Upchurch reported. For the five Mondays in October (October 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30), a new statewide program will introduce newcomers to the state (and those possibly new to gardening) to the wonders and challenges of gardening in Tennessee. It'll feature a one-hour Zoom presentation, followed by an hourlong hands-on lab session – akin to the Master Gardener intern classes. Gregg will host these sessions from the Country Store and they'll be open to about 30 people, with a nominal participation fee (approximately \$35). The lab sessions will coincide with the instructional portion. It will also be a possible recruitment tool for the Master Gardener intern class.

By-Law Amendment on Master Gardener Membership: Alan reported. The proposal was presented on amending the bylaws regarding membership to include auxiliary-member status; the membership will vote on this proposal at the next general meeting. This auxiliary status would be for master gardeners who are unable to fulfill their commitments for either volunteer or CEU hours and would create a social/auxiliary member status. Both regular Members and auxiliary members would be required to remain current with their annual membership dues. The reason for proposing this is to walk back the previous recertification rules. To allow us to continue to include non-recertified folks, we proposed these changes. Auxiliary members are not permitted to vote. Gregg said he would not oppose this walk-back and would not mention it to the UT hierarchy. Discussion and Q&A ensued.

Bulb Fundraiser: Mike reported. Jackson County buys upwards of \$10K in bulbs each year for its fundraiser. Discussion ensued. Options for fundraising include selling fostered trees (from the tree giveaway in March) at the Fall Gardeners Festival or at the September 9 tea.

Project Updates: Mike's sunflowers are thriving; he planted a 150-foot patch consisting of a thousand sunflowers of varying heights, and so far he's satisfied with the outcome of his project. No other folks whose projects we'd previously discussed were at the meeting to present updates on their projects.

Adjournment: Sid moved to adjourn. Linda Ferris seconded. The motion passed unanimously on voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita M. Reali, Corporate Secretary