

OSU Master Gardener Volunteers Athens County
July 26, 2021-Minutes

Location: Companion Plants, 7247 N. Coolville Ridge Road, Athens. Tour followed by business meeting.

Meeting time: 6:00 PM

Members Present: (List may not be complete) Tom Forhan, Nan Needs, Laura Caple, Zella Nisley, Alexa Ross, Betsy Brijju, Karen Durniat-Suehrstedt, Terrie Perez, Carolyn Sutherland, Nancy Walker, Patty Mercer-Yahini, Sharon Deno, Billie Kariher, Ed brown, Abby Ament, Lee Gregg, Louise Zwyer, Kathy McCorkle

Business Meeting: 6:00 PM

Tom Forhan called the meeting to order at 7:30 and welcomed everyone. Welcomed Abby and Billy to the meeting. Thanked Kathy McCorkle for hosting the meeting last month.

Old Business

- **Approval of meeting notes.**

Unanimous approval

- **Treasure's Report-Nan Needs**-Another \$20.00 had come in for dues. Deposited \$37.53 with a total of \$5,1137.89. New bills from Children's Garden \$230.00 to pay later.

Committee Reports:.

- **Farmers Market-Carolyn Sutherland**-Carolyn thanked all for condolences and donation to Humane Society in honor of her husband. Billie Kariher responded to the request to run the Farmers Market Booth. Thanks goes to Billie. Carolyn said the Farmers Market is a lot of fun, and plans on having several meetings with Billie, not everything all at once. Taking this job can be done in any way, since Billie can use the materials they already had, they plan on starting next April. Can alter and vary the program any month. Billie will be doing the organization. Tonya Hire is excellent to work with. She is the manager of the Farmers Market and gives out booth maps and very supportive, do not know how next April will be because of Covid. Billie has room to store the equipment which is a plus. Louise thanked Carolyn for all her hard work and Carolyn said that of all the jobs, that was the job she had wanted to do.
- **Children's Garden-Terrie Perez**-Weeding!!! Things are going well. Produce is coming on. Abundance of cherry tomatoes, donating weekly to CFI. Need help with harvesting and watering. Zella and herself are doing most of the work now. Passed around a list to sign up to water and harvest weekly. Had students in the garden. Zella reported on the first session July 15th. Rebecca LaSor-Martin talked about Square Foot Gardening and 8 Girl Scouts ages 10-12 learning how to plant green beans using that method. The next Thursday the Girl Scouts harvested flowers and made arrangements and donated to Nursing homes with 11 girls attending. The Scouts really enjoyed the flower arranging. Lee taught about plant parts, Joke taught about native flowers and pollinators and Laura helped with planting Mother of Thousands to take home. The Scouts would also like to build bird houses using kits. Zella is willing to share the lessons if other troops want to come in. Terrie stood to speak that **Betsy Brijju** was our former president and she had won one of the five **Outstanding Master Gardener Volunteer Awards** last year and will be moving back to India to be with family very soon. The MG's just wanted to thank her for her excellence. She was awarded a tote bag with pictures of her throughout the year. The pictures also showed her holding the award certificate. Thank you for all of your dedication and time. Betsy thanked everyone and was grateful to know each of the volunteers around her. Terrie also thanked Tom for his tenacity which got us a new mower. Kathy McCorkle asked Zella about the Monarch butterflies this year. Zella said she has tracked the Monarchs in her yard and the Children's Garden since 2014. 2014 was a wonderful year and said the population has fallen by nearly 90%. She has not found any caterpillar in-stars as of yet this year, but hoping for late July and August. Kathy has found about 7 in-stars and from a webinar last year, the speaker had said to bring the smaller in-stars (Stages 1-4) inside for care and protection. Kathy said all of her caterpillars have disappeared and so hoping that they were safe and found a place to make their chrysalis.

- **Program Committee-Laura Caple/Lee Gregg**-Laura reported just for your information-We do a program for the monthly meetings, then do field trips in May, June, and July and one longer field trip each year. Starting in August will be back in the the Extension Office. Nancy told about Kevin Clark bringing his moths to the August 23rd Meeting. Really something to see. His speciality is caterpillars, so important for pollination. Some of the caterpillars are very small and it may be a good idea to bring a magnifying glass along. Ed said should be a go getting together inside and having snacks. Laura reminded everyone to bring a snack. Also, Laura talked about a program called Monarch Blitz where you report your count of milkweed plants and caterpillars. Then note your GPS location. Fairly easy. She also wanted to know if we were interested to have someone teach us about iNaturalist. Terrie said we were interested. Terrie also said Google Lens works better and faster. She has used Plant Snap and Picture This, but loves Google Lens. Must have the Google Photo App for Google Lens to work.
- **Newsletter Committee-Ceil Weldon/Marcia Burchby**-Tom talked about a great article about Laura this month. All agreed newsletter doing quite well.

New Business:

- **Update on Plaque in Memory of Mason Chambers**-Char Ray is to check with library, she is on vacation right now.
- **Invasive Plant Removal Opportunity at Anderson Trail (Dairy Barn) Aug. 7th 9:00-11:00-Karen** Rachael Crouch asking for some volunteers to help. Contact Rachel at rachealcrouch@gmail.com or actually just show up. Bring own tools, protective wear, gloves. Some Dairy Barn people helping. So many invasive species. Just cutting and trimming vines out of the trees would be helpful.
- **Continuing Education Opportunities -Ed Brown**-Ed is asking for volunteers for an **Educational Display Booth at the Athens County Fair**-the Fair is August 6-14. Set up August 5th possibly. New building at the fairgrounds will house other agencies and their displays. Ed asking for ideas. Table top display. Pamphlets, articles, color sheet for kids. Also, ongoing zoom on Bees. Will put on his County Extension site with a link. Also, T-Shirt delivery will start this week. Lee said she learned last week at the field trip to Chadwick Arboretum about Julia Wilson and a program called Tree University. Lee and Nancy attended, may be something people want to look up. Ed said there will be a virtual State Conference again this year. Did cost \$40, not a bad price to pay. Also got a notebook from the main speaker. Ed had also sent out info on the International MG Conference. Some did not receive the email and he will place it on the the Extension site as well.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:15.

SPEAKER/PROGRAM: Peter Brochard from Companion Plants, 7247 Coolville Ridge, Athens Ohio.

“Companion Plants is an internationally recognized herb nursery established in 1982 and located in the scenic rolling hills just outside Athens, Ohio. They offer over 600 varieties of common and exotic herb plants including medicinal, culinary, ceremonial, aromatic, butterfly, fiber, and dye plants as well as over 200 varieties of seed, most of which we grow ourselves using environmentally friendly methods.”(per their website) Following the tour from Peter, members could buy plants from his greenhouse.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy McCorkle