

Ruff'ton Roots Community Garden Meeting

Ruff'ton Roots Community Garden, NC
Tuesday, May 7th - 5:30 pm

A. Welcoming/Community Agreements

Community Agreements

- Assume Good Intentions
- Be Kind
- Honor Time with Intentional Focus
- Any Contribution is Valuable
- We are all Learning and we all have Unique Strengths
- Any Question is a Good Question
- This is a Safe to Fail Environment
- Push your Edge - discomfort can lead to growth!
- Both/And Mindset, over Either/Or
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B. May Schedule

- Harvests: Tuesdays 9 am
- Washing and Packing: Tuesdays 10 am
- Distribution: Wednesdays 8 am from Clubhouse to St. Gabriels (Lindy's got this)
- Garden Work Gatherings Details
 - May 9th - Weeding, Summer Sowing and Turning Beds, Patio*
 - May 14th - Round About Maintenance and planting
 - May 16th - Planting Sweet Potatoes, Norris Park
 - May 21st - Weed-O-Thon, Hospital Drive, Patio*
 - May 23rd - NO GARDEN GATHERING
 - May 28th - Succession Planting for Summer Sowing, Patio*
 - May 30th - Weed-O-Thon, Norris Park

Remember to bring water, closed toe shoes (ants), and bring a hat for Norris Park as all shade is now gone!

* Patio = Designated Safe Pathways Dates

All events through May are up on PointApp, please join!

C. Fundraising

- April FA&B Recap:
 - Sales: \$343
 - Costs: \$10 fee, \$20/shirt
 - **Net Sales: \$163**
 - Notes:
 - Good introductory contact with 10+ new to the community
 - Promoted Plant Sale
 - Very Cold - attendance died down at sunset

- **Plant Sale Recap:**

- Gross Sales: \$2,507
- Costs: \$1,079 (incomplete, volunteer purchases unaccounted)
- Plant Sales Total: \$1,790 (vs 2023: \$1,344)
- Merch Sales Total: \$444 (costs included above)
- Donations/Keep the Change: \$273
- **Net Sales: \$1,428.00 (vs 2023 Net: \$930)**

What did we learn? What would we do differently?

- Press and Marketing
 - Social media good - 5 weeks of posts
 - Press coverage good - front page RW and DC
 - Graphics and flyers had 30, seemed good, find a way to share through churches
 - FA&B booth good- hit with a dozen or more people
- Printing - Use Associated Printing
 - Laminated Images were very helpful, and reusable
 - \$3 a page at Associated Printing
 - 2 Step In Signs
 - \$25 each at Associated Printing
 - Print way more than 40 companion sheets (ran out by 11)
 - Maybe don't give to everyone but make available
- Plant Planning
 - Grow more of: flowers in color, dwarf sunflowers, squash, cucumbers, zucchini, basil, yarrow
 - Grow less of: yacon, parsley,
 - Just right amount: tomatoes, peppers
 - Cut out 6 packs, streamline more 3"- 4" pots
- Plant Sourcing
- Growing (Congratulations!)
 - 3 week grow out from transplant to sale (ordering target)
 - Have frost protection in place
- Materials
 - More tags, better communicate how to tag, make sure all are tagged ahead of time
 - Box carrier collection - had way more than enough
 - Can trays from food pantry is enough, stick to that weeks before
 - Take surveys of how they heard about Plant Sale
- Kids Activity Station
 - Try coloring books and sidewalk chalk, not pot up station

- Setting Up
 - 2 loads came to the clubhouse, rest held Fri PM in vehicles
 - 1 truck, 2 carloads from clubhouse to garden Sat AM
 - 5 loads directly from homes to garden Sat AM
 - (8 total vehicles needed Sat AM)
 - *DO NOT START SALES UNTIL START TIME*
 - *If changing start time, allow 2.5 hours of loading, moving and setting up before*
 - *Have a "Free advice (with donation) booth"*
- Budget/Inputs
 - Unaccounted Volunteer Purchases/Donations
 - Volunteer Growing Time not accounted
- **Empty Bowls 2024**
 - Committee meeting recap from earlier
 - Date - November 9th 5:50 - 7:30 pm
 - Location - Rutherfordton Clubhouse
 - June Committee
 - Finalize Graphics
 - Get Menu going

BOWL MAKING EVENTS AND SIGN UPS

- **The Clay Trail**
 - **June 1st - 2:30 - 5:30**
 - **June 29th - 2:30 - 5:30**
 - **Sign Up on Clay Trail Website, \$5**
 - **theclaytrail.com/events-workshops**
- **The Guild (formerly VAC) -**
 - **July 13, 9:30-Noon**
 - **July 27, glazing will be split in two groups, times TBD**
 - **Sign Up on Guild Website, \$5**
 - **Art-at-the-vac.square.site "Empty Bowls Workshop"**

Growing Together Grant from Rutherford Community Health Council

awarded \$1500 for tools and equipment

- Push seeder for quicker sowing
- Bushhog, Broadfork
- New Harvest Knives, Scales and Baskets purchased

D. Open Discussion, Adjourn