

# Houston County Master Gardener Meeting

10-10-17

The October meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Loretta Knutson, and was held at the home of Janene Hosch she is such a wonderful hostess, thank you. As always the food was wonderful. In attendance Loretta Knutson, Janene Hosch, Jean Davy, Mary Thompson, Doug Thompson, Mary Zaffke, Lane Zaffke (guest attendance 2 ½ month old foster baby with the Zaffkes), Charmaine Uphaus, Terri Kolar, Anna May, Barb Hefte, Char Meiners.

Not in attendance Mike Wiste attended briefly then needed to leave for work, Jennifer Wiste working, Vicki Otto emailed unable to attend, Kathy Taylor car issues, Sue Meyer ill, Linda Lind had a prior commitment, Michael Cruse emailed unable to attend, no correspondence from Sarah Goff or Brenda Pohlman.

Michael Cruse emailed he was unable to attend the meeting but asked that we remember to update our hours online. He asked that we continue to work as a group to decide who will enter numbers for each individual event. He will be a speaker at our March garden day conference (soil, fertilizer 101) he wonders if his talk is large group or smaller group with hands on stuff like ribbon testing for moisture. This was discussed and we are open to either.

Loretta will be having total hip replacement this Monday. We all wish you a speedy recovery.

Loretta said maybe we need a little more formality at the meeting such as review of prior month's minutes. All agreed a good idea. Loretta sends the minutes via email after the meeting and Kelly sent them with the next meeting announcement. Upon review minutes were approved as written.

Discussion around speakers for conference:

- Doug Thompson spoke to Prairie Moon Nursery (contact Kaitlyn O'Conner) she indicated yes they could do a keynote and or break out session from learning resource guides on their website such as prairie restoration, plants to increase bees and butterflies in the garden, what are native plants and the benefits of. The group discussed several of these topics, it was decided Doug would contact Kaitlyn and discuss topics most suitable with her. Yeah on this contact and speaker agreement.
- Mary Thompson had contacted Julie W who indicated she may be out of the country at the conference time. Mary will do a follow up. Mary has talked with Harvey at Hidden Springs Nursery, he indicated yes, he will be available for a keynote on shrubs and ornamental tree selection for our zone, planting, care and watering. We will ask if he can incorporate into his talk something on tree replanting and care. Yeah on another great speaker.

Group discussion on gardening with kids what do we want the focus to be geared to, kids or the parents and grandchildren of kids. The other part of this was gardening through the ages which would include things like how our gardening changes as we age or have physical changes such as wearing out hips and knees. Items could be practices changed or tools to help accommodate changes (e.g. raised beds, standing gardens). A panel approach to these topics was well received and could present multiple perspectives.

Overall the group felt speakers were falling into place well but the need to really explore marketing was expressed.

The price for the gardening conference has been \$25 for attendance; this is low compared to other conferences. The price needs to be figured out so it can be posted on early items such as save the date and our face book page. Agreed \$30 must be considered. Before final cost is assigned the food group (Anna May will initiate the

contact to Elsie's to confirm catering for the date is available and the complete cost of the meal). We need to remember in the cost our group does not pay sales tax. The meal will be further defined but similar to last year- soup, salad, sandwich, bars. It was a very nice meal. Several details will be fine-tuned such as the electrical outlet that did not get the coffee and soup hot, and the lack of a tray to make carrying the food to the table easier. The school will need to check the electric outlets for functionality, salads and drinks could be placed on the tables etc.

Doug will continue to be the lead on our Facebook page. He will add our garden conference to "upcoming events". It will then be discussed the most effective time to boost the page activity.

Marketing approaches of all types were discussed, earlier newspaper contact ([geri.parlin@gmail.com](mailto:geri.parlin@gmail.com)), TV spots, library posters, community Ed-the school places our event in all community Ed papers, list serve. Save the date cards and public service announcements were discussed. Prior discussion indicated Kelly could possibly do this.

The marketing group (Char, Doug, & Jen) with Char as lead will produce a save the date card such as a book mark with date, cost, highlights and the link to our Facebook page. This will be available by the next meeting for review if possible.

Charmaine offered up some ornamental peach trees that have edible fruit. She made a great jam this year with the fruit. Several people expressed interest in getting fruit. Jean has dahlia bulbs available; she will even help dig them up but cannot store them all. Contact if interested.

Mary Thompson revised the application and letter for school garden grants. This information went out to schools, daycares and newspapers. November 1 is the deadline and the applications received will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Next meeting November 14, location not yet determined either Justice Center or Janene's. Mary and Doug Thompson will not be able to attend November meeting they will be in China for what sounds like an amazing vacation.

Sue said the December meeting date has interfered for several years with her home maker conference or church. She has asked for consideration with changing the date. A date change will be up to the host in December, no host has yet been determined.

Meeting from 5:30 – 7:00, 1.5 hours of volunteer time plus drive time.

**Loretta**