

# Houston County Master Gardening Meeting

**Date 10-9-18**

**Present:** Loretta Knutson, Linda Lind, Janene Hosch, Sarah Goff, Jean Davy, Mary Thompson, Mary Zaffke, Charmaine Uphaus, Terri Kolar, Lane Zaffke, Anna May, Barb Hefte, Char Meiners, Michael Cruse.

**Absent:** Sue Meyer, Kathleen Taylor, Brenda Pohlman, Doug Thompson, Vicki Otto, Jennifer Wiste, Michael Wiste.

**Welcome.** Meeting called to order by Loretta at 5:30 at the CJC in Caledonia.

**Treasury Report:** Same as last month.

## **Old Business:**

Approve last month's minutes. Approved as written.

New MG website for volunteers:

Wanted to make sure that everyone was aware of the new website they should use logging their hours. First you must go to the new volunteer website: [z.umn.edu/mgweb](http://z.umn.edu/mgweb). There is no link for this website on the new Extension website and there likely never will be. You either need to bookmark this website or save this email for future reference.

Within the new volunteer website you can either click on *Report Your Hours* within the maroon banner towards the top of the page or click on *Reporting Hours* within the black banner on the left. Next you must click on the words *Volunteer Database* at the top of the maroon banner you see on the Reporting Hours webpage. This will finally take you to the login page that I am sure you are all familiar with.

Remember to be logging your hours.

Note Jean has a new email [jdavy888@gmail.com](mailto:jdavy888@gmail.com)

## **New Business:**

Mike checked November 6 is Election Day, November 13 is our next meeting and the CJC is reserved for our use.

No school applications have been received so far.

Two interns are applying to the MG program, Bev Nelson and Richard Bartz. Mike will forward their paperwork on to the state and action steps to the individuals.

Mike said November 16 the first part of our annual report (success story) is due. Last year we were featured for our success with school gardens. He will send us out a PDF with the information so we have time to think and decide what we would like to highlight for this year. This will be a work topic at the next meeting on November 13, so it can be turned in on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Loretta had spoken to Bonnie Tollefson (she does monarch butterfly release). Wonder if she would be a speaker for a break out session at our garden day conference. If this does not work for her maybe we could have her do something at the fair or a lecture to our MG group. It sounds very interesting.

Mary T also had another idea for a topic at the spring conference-“Varmints” (deer, rabbits, gophers, and rattlesnakes). Emphasis on rattlesnakes! Houston County has the highest percentage of rattlesnakes in the state. The owl center had a good speaker on rattlesnakes, Mary T will check on his availability.

Mary T mentioned as our group size increases maybe we should have sub work committees that work and report back to the main group. Examples of subgroup committees could be: **Youth (Junior MG, school gardens), Festivals (Summer Caledonia Day), Spring conference Garden Day, Plant exchange.**

Consider passing a list of subcommittees and people could sign up for what they want to be on. This would make our whole group meetings more productive. The group thought this was a good, but Mike said it is such a big change a vote would be in order. A vote will be taken at the meeting next month. The change would begin in the New Year. Mike also suggested the subgroups could meet monthly and the main meeting maybe every other month with reports given by the working groups.

Everyone was interested in the whole group meeting providing some educational speakers for the MG. Mike said he would be in charge of bringing in speakers.

Jean discussed the Junior MG programs and teachings provided through Texas A&M. Mike said he is familiar with this program it is labor and time intensive but not impossible. We could teach bits and pieces, not the whole thing. Jean had information on the program and said it was very interesting and can be done in conjunction with 4-H.

Loretta asked Mike about the Ag intern. The funding is not absolute yet. If a person is hired it won't be full-fledged to run the JMG. Several people wondered if there are enough kids around that are interested in gardening.

Garden day Committee (Janene, Sarah, Lane) met tonight prior to main meeting. The report from this workgroup “Hands On” will be a break out session probably will need more than one hour. Handmade seed starting pots and seed strips. This would be a hands-on activity. Past reviews attendees have asked for hands on activities. They also thought maybe feature a local treat Spring Grove soda pop then use the 6 pack carry case for people to carry their seed pots home in. The subcommittee will meet again in February.

Janean suggested other possible hands on activity that could be another subcommittee- “propagation” this could cover house plant division, layering, saving and starting seeds, and transplanting. Several people discussed their experience with this, but no volunteers yet for this committee.

Loretta discussed the possible need for pre-registration for these hands on activities so people could attend and enough supplies are available. We could either provide 2 hands on activities or have 1 but repeat it twice.

Mary Z mentioned Heidi Doering as a possible speaker, she has presented in the past was an excellent speaker and well received. She speaks on new plants.

Another possible speaker Jake Overgaard. He is well versed in many different areas, so we could pick a topic and approach him.

Mary Z also mentioned considering the population that attend garden day, many being experienced gardeners it might be fun to have a plant trivia. This could be fun and educational, “trump the MG” with prizes going to winners. Mary T and Mary Z will form a committee for this and present it at a future meeting.

**Tasks:**

None.

**Thinking ahead:**

December meeting will be election of new officers. Loretta (president), Charmaine (treasurer), Terri (treasurer) all will not seek re-election to current positions.

**Sharing Ideas:**

Mary T mentioned she is trying a new app called “picture this”. You take a picture of the plant and it tells you what it is with fairly good accuracy. Check it out!

Barb brought a box of beautiful peppers she grew to share with the group, thank you.

**Volunteer Hours this meeting:** One hour, plus travel time.

<b>Next Meeting: Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
November 13	CJC Caledonia
December 11	Janene’s home

Minutes by Terri, Secretary

Loretta