

## Houston County Master Gardeners' Meeting

**Date:** 3/19/2019

**Present:** Mary Thompson, Barb Hefte, Bev Nelson, Jennifer Wiste, Mike Wiste, Char Meiners, Janene Hosch, Lane Zaffke, Linda Lind, Loretta Knutson, Mary Thompson, Mary Zaffke, Richard Bartz, Sue Meyer

**Absent:** Terri Kolar, Anna May, Brenda Pohlman, Charmaine Uphaus, Doug Thompson, Kathy Taylor, Sarah Goff, Vickie Otto

**Welcome.** The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Mary Thompson at the Houston County CJC conference room.

On motion the minutes of the February 19, 2019 meeting were approved.

Jean Davy gave the Treasurer's report. February debits were: Delux Checks \$24.08 and Spring Grove Garden Grant \$250.00. Account balances are as follows: Checking \$1,740.42; Savings \$1,907.88; CD \$2,000.00; Total assets \$5,648.30. On motion, the Treasurer's report was approved.

Many of the Master Gardeners present indicated that they completed the monthly report provided by Mike Cruse, and they were all satisfied that the report worked great.

Lane reported that he made two separate appointments to meet with the individuals involved with the Spring Grove garden, however, both appointments were cancelled due to weather. He will attempt to reschedule soon.

Cindy Frank, Caledonia Community Education, was present and reported that to date there are 70 individuals registered for the March 30<sup>th</sup> conference. This includes the Master Gardeners who will be attending. There are 7 or 8 individuals registered who have not attended in the past. Janene indicated that she placed flyers at Elsie's Diner and they are gone, so she will replenish the supply. Flyers were distributed to the members present.

Barb will find out the final number of people registered in the next few days so that she can notify the caterer. Catering will be done by the Tasty Shop in Hokah. The menu will include pulled pork, chips, two soups, egg salad, and brownies. Master Gardeners will serve.

Cindy would like inserts for the folders as soon as possible so that she has time to make copies. Vendors at the conference will be Mary Ann's Floral, Harvey, Barb, and possibly the farmers market group. Mary Zaffke will touch base with Brenda to find out if she will be making the signs for the doors and labels for the folders.

Master Gardeners are asked to donate a basket for the silent auction as well as gently used items for the Country Store.

Mary Zaffke will introduce Jean Larson and be the timekeeper for her presentation. Doug Thompson will introduce Barb Perry and be the timekeeper for her presentation. Jean will introduce Sue Haggerty and be the timekeeper for her presentation. Mary Thompson and Mary Zaffke will make their own introductions and Bev Nelson will be their timekeeper. **We forgot to assign someone to both of Linda's presentations. (Need volunteers - MT)**

Setup will begin on Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, at 3:30 or as soon as you can be there. The Toolkit presentation is scheduled for 6:00 to 7:00, so setup needs to be complete by then.

Mary Thompson reported that she will provide houseplants to be divided. All Master Gardeners should feel free to also bring plants for dividing. Janene has potting soil leftover from a previous event and Mary will purchase additional soil as needed.

Discussion was held regarding the tool garden kit presentation being presented on March 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 by Jeannie Larson at the High School Auditorium. This is a one-hour presentation. All Master Gardeners are encouraged to attend and must pre-register. After the session there is an on-line survey to be completed. 1 ½ hours of education time will be given for attending the session and completing the survey. Mike Cruse has invited the Fillmore County Master Gardeners to attend also.

Richard Bartz and Bev Nelson are the 2019 interns. Both received master gardener t-shirts when they registered for the course. Jean offered to order their sweatshirts and it was agreed that they will be paid for from the Master Gardener checking account.

Mary Thompson presented draft policies for establishing an annual budget as well as for the distribution of Master Gardener funds for educational purposes. It was agreed that each year we will budget an amount for education. Mary will make edits to the proposed policies as discussed and present the revised policies at the next meeting.

On motion, it was agreed to reimburse Sarah Goff for one-half of her shade tree conference registration up to a maximum of \$250.00, and to reimburse one-half of the \$130.00 registration fee for Linda, Jean and Sue to attend a landscape conference in Rochester on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Loretta asked that anyone receiving tuition reimbursement make a short presentation/report to our group regarding the conference they attended.

Sue reported that the following educational sessions are scheduled for upcoming monthly meetings:

April – Long Horned Tick (Janene)

May – Monarch Butterflies (Bonnie Tollefson)

June – Vegetable Gardening (Vickie/Sarah)

July – Pollinators (Doug/Mary T/Jean)

August – Monarch Butterflies follow-up on hatching (Bonnie Tollefson)

Mary Thompson reported that she contacted the University regarding the possibility of holding a regional workshop in Houston County. They do not yet know what the topics for the conferences will be. Counties hosting a conference must make arrangements for a facility and pay any rental fee. The facility should be large enough for 75 attendees. We must also provide a list of potential caterers. The University will include the cost of the lunch in the registration fee. The 4 Seasons charges \$60.00 for the small room, but this will only hold 64 people. The large room costs \$320.00. Cindy Frank suggested the possibility of holding the conference at the Caledonia High School. It was agreed that Mary Thompson will submit a proposal to host a conference by the March 29<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Janene reported that the Caledonia Spirit Committee has chosen the theme "Environment" for this summer's Kid's Day event. Mary Thompson would like to see this offered in at least one additional community.

Lane indicated that seeds are needed for the hands-on seed starting workshop. Janene has purchased some seeds and several Master Gardeners indicated that they can also bring seeds.

On motion the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. 1.5 hours of volunteer time will be given for attendance at this evenings meeting.