

Houston County Master Gardeners' Meeting

Date: 7/17/2019

Present: Anna May, Barb Hefte, Bev Nelson, Char Meiners, Charmaine Uphaus, Doug Thompson, Janene Hosch, Jean Davy, Jennifer Wiste, Lane Zaffke, Linda Lind, Loretta Knutson, Mary Zaffke, Mary Thompson, Mike Wiste, Sarah Goff, Sue Meyer, Vickie Otto

Absent: Brenda Pohlman, Kathy Taylor, Richard Bartz, Terri Kolar

Welcome. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mary Thompson at the home of Sue Meyer.

On motion, the agenda was approved.

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

Jean Davy gave the Treasurer's report. The Account balances are as follows: Checking \$2,518.32; Savings \$2,614.38; CD \$2,000.00; Total assets \$7,132.70. On motion, the Treasurer's report was approved.

The fair booth sign-up sheet was passed around. It was agreed that the topic for the fair booth would be composting. We will hold a drawing for two compost bins. Mike Wiste will build a small compost bin with a clear front. Jean Davy will bring compost materials to be layered in the bin for display. Bev Nelson will make a quiz-themed poster regarding what can be composted and what can't. Sue Meyer will bring potted plants that have been grown using compost material. Master Gardeners are asked to e-mail Char Meiners with the location of where composted material is available for their community, and Char will put these together on a list to be made available at the fair booth. Jean Davy will bring tables and tablecloths. Mary Thompson offered to bring chairs and pick up the signs/banners and pamphlets from the Extension Office. Bev Nelson will contact Kathy Taylor in order to get the board with the list of Master Gardeners. Mike Wiste indicated that the flower board with face cut-outs is stored at the fairgrounds. Mary Thompson will also bring a notebook to track the number of children and adults at our booth. The banner "Partying with Nature" will be displayed. It was suggested that a sign "Invite Composting to your Garden for an Enriching Experience" be displayed along with the banner. Master Gardeners are asked to be at the fairgrounds no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 13th, to set up the booth. A short meeting will be held after setup is completed. Master Gardeners are asked to be at the fairgrounds at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 18th, to take down the booth.

The schedule for working at the fair booth is as follows:

Thursday, August 15	noon to 3:00 p.m.	Char Meiners
Thursday, August 15	3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Vickie Otto & Sarah Goff
Friday, August 16	10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Bev Nelson & Sue Meyer
Friday, August 16	1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Linda Lind & Barb Hefte
Friday, August 16	4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Janene Hosch
Sat., August 17	10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Mary Thompson
Sat., August 17	1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Doug Thompson & Sue Meyer
Sat., August 17	4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Loretta Knutson
Sunday, August 18	11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.	_____
Sunday, August 18	1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Anna May & Sarah Goff

Mary Zaffke has signed up for a booth at Uffda Fest in Spring Grove and the “Partying with Nature” theme will be used. A rain barrel will be given away as a prize.

Mary Thompson reminded everyone of the regional gathering being held at the Houston School in September. Master Gardeners must preregister. On motion, it was agreed that we will reimburse Master Gardeners their \$15.00 registration fee. Mary Thompson reported that a representative of the Master Gardeners State Advisory Committee will be in attendance and would like to meet us.

Mary and Doug Thompson attended the State Master Gardener Conference. It was an excellent conference with great speakers. They talked about the utilization of Master Gardener toolboxes. Mary Thompson is currently doing beta testing for the Food Preservation toolbox and she highly recommended it once it goes live.

Mary Thompson suggested that a newspaper article be written about the fair exhibit. It was pointed out that Loretta wrote and submitted an article that has already been published in the Exhibitor’s Guide.

Discussion was held regarding school grants. We would like to concentrate on schools that have not received the grant in the past. Mary Zaffke suggested that we connect with the school from our community to provide information. Jean suggested that a handout be prepared and made available at the fair booth.

Mary Zaffke reported that Mandy’s garden has been a very successful experience. Mandy is harvesting plants and receiving positive feedback from the community.

A round table discussion was held regarding how our gardens are doing this summer.

It was agreed to postpone the training that was scheduled for this evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. One hour of volunteer time will be given for attendance at this meeting.

