

Houston County Master Gardeners' Meeting

Date: 1/21/2020

Present: Mary Zaffke, Jean Davy, Nora Beckjord, Sarah Goff, Barb Hefte, Janene Hosch, Kris Litscher Lee, Anna May, Sue Meyer, Kathy Taylor, Doug Thompson, Charmaine Uphaus, Jennifer Wiste, Mike Wiste, Jean Young, Lane Zaffke, Mike Cruse

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Mary Zaffke, Vice Chair, at Houston County Justice Center.

Introductions were made and Mike Cruse was introduced.

On motion the minutes of the December 17 meeting were approved.

The Treasurer's Report was as follows: Checking account balance: \$1101.86, Savings account balance: \$1618.46, CD: \$3036.92. Total: \$5756.92. Activity was as follows:

-\$100 M Davy Benefit

-\$610.18 Clothing Order (Individuals paid an additional \$100 so total clothing order was \$710.18)

+\$36.60 CD Interest

+\$5.63 Savings Interest

(Mary Thompson and Jean Davy renewed the CD at Bank of the West on Jan. 3, 2020. 1.3% interest for 1 year or \$3036.60)

Report was approved

We discussed if we need to audit the numbers. Mike Cruse said he submitted the numbers and will let us know if there are questions. We can do our own audit (Jean D will contact Char M, to complete an audit of our 2019 books).

Old Business:

Remote access to our meetings is possible in our regular meeting room. Easiest would be Google Hangouts and it's free. To access, you need a Google account and ID. This would be for people that can't attend the meeting. They would still count as "present" at the meeting. We discussed having a dry run in February but since the next meeting will be at Janene's house, we will have to wait until March. (we can't have the meeting the 2nd week in Feb due to election day for County Commissioner.) Please note, we will have to change our April meeting also, the room is not available. This will be decided at a future meeting.

As of Jan. 2, Kelly Peterson, our support staff, is moving. Her job is posted but it's now a 75% position and should be filled by end of Feb, early Mar.

Mike explained that he hasn't been at past meetings because he is sharing custody of his sons. He is looking for a new job that would not have evening and weekend hours.

Update on March Gardening Day:

Food committee members are Charmaine, Barb, Anna, Sue and Jen.

Breakout sessions:

- 1) Kathy Donahue Ness, from Donahue's nursery, will present information on selecting, planting, care and pruning information for growing beautiful clematis in your garden. Donahue's- \$100 speaker fee. They will bring plants to share and don't need a place to stay.
- 2) Linda will demonstrate making a Kokodama, a Japanese hanging sphere planter with plants inside. Barb will present with her.
- 3) Deb Zillmer will do a workshop on how to avoid pain while gardening.
- 4) Barbara Ronningan from North Star Lily Society will do a presentation on "Lilies: Jewels in the Garden". **Barbara Ronningen** has grown lilies in her Afton garden for about 35 years. *Starting with an Asiatic collection, then expanding to martagons, Orientals, interdivisional hybrids and trumpets . She has started both martagons and trumpet hybrids from seed. She currently serves as Treasurer of the North Star Lily Society, and as served as president and recording secretary of the society. She also served on the North American Lily Society Board of Directors. She chaired the 2014 North American Lily Show held in Bloomington. She led the Speakers' Bureau for Master Gardeners in Washington County and was president of the Washington County Horticulture Society. Barbara is a retired demographer who managed the 2010 Census campaign for Minnesota. She charges \$150 plus mileage.*
- 5) Charles Beckjord will do a Q&A presentation on Water Gardens. It was mentioned that Charles can do a quick dry run at our February meeting

Kathy commented that Garden Day is in 2 months and nothing has been done to promote it. We discussed that we're actually ahead of schedule from where we were last year. Char has put together a "save the date" bookmark and we ordered 500. They will be available next week. Several people said they would help distribute. Jean Y asked if name will stay the same as last year: Thyme to Garden. (yes). When the bookmarks are in, they will be available for distribution from the Extension Office. Members will receive an email from Mary Thompson. Members will be asked to identify where they are bringing the bookmarks. Doug Thompson shared that they will bring some to the Owl Festival in Houston, early March. Libraries, Garden Shops, etc are good places to distribute.

We discussed getting it into more publications: Ear to the Ground in Bluff Country Reader, Inspired Magazine and Driftless Newspaper from Decorah. Char and Doug are on the marketing committee. Doug said we can pick up bookmarks from the Extension Office.

Vegetable of the Year Project: Lane brought some delicious beet juice for us to try. (I liked it but several people commented that they would prefer beet wine). The Vegetable Group will meet to discuss how we will be promoting this vegetable this year. Ideas were shared with the group, including identifying a theme of Beets, and having people exhibit Beet food, art, etc... at the County Fair. We might distribute beet seeds at the Garden Day in March. That committee is Bev, Mary T., Mary Z, Kris and Jean Y.

New Business:

Theme for June Caledonia Founders Day is Environmental, from around the World. We thought one of the seven MG Seven Priorities would fit well with this theme. Committee Members are Jean D, Mary T, Jean Y, Barb, Sue and Janene (Maybe Char?). They will meet and narrow down the theme to one that can be replicated for other events.

Next meeting will be at Janene's house on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 106 Adams Street East, in Caledonia. We didn't discuss the April meeting yet.

Other:

Background checks: You should get an email from the state. There is no charge for the background check update. Also Safety with Minors needs to be renewed- both are every 3 years.

Kathy mentioned a group called "MVJ"- Monarch Joint Venture. This is a webinar (\$150 for 8 sessions?) and it's a joint effort with Universities, Wildlife Foundation and State Governments. They do regional studies of migration patterns. She gave an example of something she learned- there is a yellow and pink milkweed plant that actually damages the larvae.

Motion to adjourn was passed. Meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM. 1 hour of volunteer time will be given for attendance at this meeting. If you stayed to work on March Garden Day, you can add another 30 minutes.

Nora Beckjord