

**WASHINGTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**  
Regular Meeting  
Washington County Cooperative Extension Service Office  
October 1, 2019

**PRESENT:** 102 (97 members, 5 guests)

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Susan Young called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. She began by calling attention to the chairs that had been reupholstered by the Washington County Extension Upholstery Club, some of whose members are also Master Gardeners. The Master Gardeners expressed their appreciation. Susan also recognized that Joyce Mendenhall was attending the meeting, and she was warmly received. Susan invited everyone to stay after tonight's meeting to celebrate the contributions of Mary Crumley, who has stepped down after serving for 11 years as chair of the MG Fair Committee for the Washington County Fair.

**APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER MINUTES:** Nancy Sloan offered a correction to the September minutes, noting that she and Regina Gabel are not stepping down as chairs of the project committee. The secretary offered a profuse apology. It was moved and seconded to approve the September minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST TREASURER'S REPORT:** It was moved and seconded to approve the August Treasurer's Report as presented. All approved.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Project Chair Needed**

The Community Outreach committee is still looking for a new leader. This committee doesn't have standing responsibilities. There can be a co-chair or a team as leaders.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**2021 State Conference**

Steve Brizzi said that Washington County has been asked to host the 2021 State Master Gardener Conference, and that before committing to be the host, he wants to gauge the willingness of Washington Master Gardeners to do that. He asked those present at the meeting to complete a brief survey to indicate how many of them are willing to do different jobs associated with the conference. Several Master Gardeners had questions about hosting the conference. A person asked how many people typically attend a conference. The response was that there are normally 400-500 people. Another question was about how long the conference will last. Steve responded that it is typically held over three days, with a half day of activities on the first day, followed by a full day, and ending with another half day of activities. There was a question on whether there is an event space currently under consideration. Steve said that there is not yet, but that after January there will be a concerted effort to put the conference together, if there is sufficient interest. Someone observed that Washington County is being asked to host this conference on short notice, and Steve responded that it is indeed. Janice Neighbors said that it had been fun to host the conference in 2008, adding that being the host provides a great opportunity to show off what we have. Steve emphasized that if we do agree to take this on that we will work hard to make it a great conference.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Chris Bell said that on Saturday there will be Soil Detectives at the Fayetteville Farmers Market and volunteers are needed. E-mail or call Chris to volunteer.
- Master Gardener training via Zoom will begin on October 9. Colin recognized the people who had helped with the interviews.
- 2020 dues are due now. Dues will go up from \$20 to \$25 if they are not paid before December.
- Patsy Louk announced that Master Gardener Appreciation Day will be at Crystal Bridges on October 14 from 10:00-2:00.

**DRAWING FOR HOURS ENTERED**

Margaret Herold won a gift card for having completed her volunteer and education hours for this year and having entered them on the state website.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved to adjourn the business meeting at 6:50 PM.

**PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:**

Lorraine Heartfield presented an overview of the project at Mock Park in Prairie Grove, highlighting the water feature and the native species that the team is planting in the park. She reported that they are seeing more butterflies there now.

**PROGRAM:**

Dr. Lucy Bradley of North Carolina State University presented *You Can Have Your Yard and Eat It, Too!!!* via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathryn Birkhead, Secretary