

Washington County Master Gardeners

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

There were 92 WCMG members present.

Vice President Judy Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. President Gail Pianalto was away on a trip to Mount Rushmore.

The September 2017 WCMG Minutes were approved as presented on the WCMG website.

The August 2017 WCMG Treasurer's Report was approved as presented on the WCMG website.

OLD BUSINESS:

BGO Sensory Garden Update. Vice President Judy Smith provided an update on the status of the Sensory Garden renovations at BGO. At the August WCMG meeting, it was approved to have the WCMG organization donate \$2000 to repair and restore the Sensory Garden and Memorial Fountain. The canvas on the metal flowers and woven butterfly repairs are being completed. The Butterfly fountain was replaced with a new fountain designed and built by WCMG Sonny Sartwell, with WCMG funds. It was installed on Tuesday, October 3. WCMG Betty Swope also donated a large wind chime to the Sensory Garden area. It has been installed. All these renovations are in preparation for the 10-Year BGO Birthday Celebration on October 10, 2017.

NEW BUSINESS:

2018 WCMG New Training Class. Vice President Judy Smith provided details. Dates for the class are scheduled for January 9 – February 3, 2018. Most of this year's training classes will be conducted at the Washington County Extension Office Auditorium. Some additional locations for classes will be announced later. Training classes are not combined with Benton County this year. Evening classes are planned from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, January 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30 and four Saturdays, January 13, 20, 27, and February 3 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. The cost for the training class will be \$110. Letters with application forms were mailed on Tuesday, October 3 to those who have expressed interest in the training. Application deadline is Monday, November 13. Prospective trainee interviews will be conducted on Thursday evening on November 30.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

BGO 10th Birthday Celebration is scheduled on Tuesday, October 10, 2017. The public is invited to a special birthday party from 4 – 8 p.m. The garden will be open for free during these 4 hours, with birthday celebrations from 6-7:30 p.m. to show their gratitude for all the support they have received from the NWA community over the years. In addition to exploring the garden, guests can enjoy ice cream (while supplies last), gardening tips from the BGO horticulture team, a photo booth, balloon animals, music and more! BGO will also be offering 10% off new memberships all day.

Farmers' Market Harvest Fest is scheduled on Saturday, October 7, 2017, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. It will be located on the Fayetteville downtown square. There will be an information table manned by WCMG volunteers.

2017 State Master Gardener Appreciation Day is scheduled on Monday, October 9, 2017, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the South Arkansas Arboretum, El Dorado, AR.

Wilson Park Playground Dedication is scheduled on Saturday, October 14. WCMG volunteers are needed for an activity table.

November 7 WCMG Program will feature the artist Linda Williams Palmer. She does colored pencil drawings of Champion Trees throughout Arkansas. She will share her artistry and experiences with these giant trees. She has a book of the drawings and also beautiful notecards. Both will be for sale and signing at this meeting.

August Photo Contest Winners were announced by Kitty Sanders. The theme was "Insects."

1st Place went to Neta Winston for "She Went That Way!" and

2nd Place went to Patsy Louk for "Checking the Celosia."

The winners for September will be announced later. The theme for October is "Fall Blooms."

Deadline for submitting photographs has been extended to October 20. Kitty provided a brief review for using the form and attaching the form and photographs to the special email address.

Mary Crumley asked the WCMG members to stand and thanked all those WCMG volunteers who helped at the Fairgrounds during the Bikes, Blues, and Barbecue held in September.

Crystal Bridges Program "Discovering the Grounds: Art and Nature" is scheduled for Saturday, October 14, 10-11:30 a.m. The CB director and the director of grounds and trails will provide the walk-around class to discover more about the gardens at Crystal Bridges. It is free with registration on the CB website.

Sanctioned Project Highlights. Project Leader Chandana Becker gave a slide presentation about the Arkansas Air Museum Sanctioned Project. The project was sanctioned in 2008. It is located at the Drake Field airport in south Fayetteville. It has evolved through the years. WCMG volunteers have provided a beautiful garden setting for tourists and local citizens who visit the museum. Chandana read a lovely poem she composed about the project.

The WCMG meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.

The October program featured two of our own WCMG members, Marty Powers and Susan Young, who presented "*When History Gets Dirty: Shiloh Museum's Love Affair with Washington County Master Gardeners.*" Both shared the history of Shiloh Museum and how WCMG volunteers are indispensable to the museum.

Recorded by Jan Lefler for Secretary Jane Bryant (who is on vacation.)

Reviewed, corrected, and approved by President Gail Pianalto on 10/4/17.

