



**WASHINGTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**  
**Minutes**  
**September 1, 2020**

**Present:** 72 members and 2 guests

**Quorum:** Yes

The September meeting of the WCMG membership was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Colin Massey served as host. Massey asked everyone for three things: stay muted unless you're making or seconding a motion, use the chat box for questions and, especially during the program, also turn off your video. He then turned the meeting over to Birkhead.

**Call to Order.** President Kathryn Birkhead called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

**Approval of the August minutes.** Motion and second received to approve the August minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**Approval of July Treasurer's Report.** Bell stated that it was a very clean report just adding back in \$45 in uncashed checks from almost a year ago. Motion and second received to approve the July Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.

**New business:**

- Endowment Committee report. Dolores Stamps shared that a committee has been meeting since July to discuss ideas for the endowment. All committee members agreed that we should keep the endowment and grow it over the next three years so that we can use the fund to award scholarships to U of A horticulture students as was originally intended when the endowment fund was started.
- New Class Committee report. There are currently 19 applicants for the new class, with more applications anticipated. Applicants have been interviewed by Susan Young, Mel Zabecki, Judy Smith, and Kathryn Birkhead. The class will be online beginning Sept 9 and running until December 15. Massey mentioned that under the circumstances this "on-line only" class will place a special emphasis on mentoring to get these students connected.

**Announcements**

- **Awards Program.** Awards are usually presented at the MG State Conference which was not possible to hold in-person this year due to the pandemic. Therefore, awards will be presented in a Zoom program on September 21 at noon during the regular Master Gardener Monday time slot. Interested persons must register in advance.

- Master Gardener Appreciation Day will be held virtually this year at 9:30 a.m. on October 13 with special guest speaker Doug Tallamy, author of *Nature's Best Hope*, and a How-To Demonstration by Lee Witty of BGO on making a fall wreath and then converting it to a holiday wreath with things from your garden. This program is free, but you must register in advance.
- Order forms for T-shirts and face masks commemorating the 2020 MG Appreciation Day were sent out last week. All prices include shipping. Deadline for ordering is September 11. Special incentive: Anyone placing an order will receive a free 2021 Master Gardener Calendar.
- Air Museum Workday is this Thursday, 8:00 a.m. This project site was closed by the city of Fayetteville but is now reopened. The airport is having a big event soon, so it would be good to get that garden looking it's best for that event. Rain date is this Friday.
- Mentor recruitment. Birkhead reiterated the importance of mentors to making our new trainees feel included in this time of social distancing, stating that mentoring is not about having all the gardening knowledge, but about helping our newest members get connected to information about our group and activities.
- Recording hours. Members were reminded not to forget this very important action.
- Garden Thyme. Birkhead reminded everyone to send in their news to Judy Smith for Garden Thyme. This is especially important in our current situation for helping people feel connected.
- Program reminders. Massey reminded everyone to stay muted and turn off their cameras during the program which will help the program run smoother.
- A "Grow Your Own Groceries" program on peppers will be presented by Massey this Thursday, 9/3. Register in advance if interested.

#### **Adjournment of business meeting**

There being no further business to come before the group and with a motion to adjourn, the business meeting ended at 7:05pm.

**Tonight's Program**: Mike Martin, an award-winning nature photographer and native Arkansan, presented a program of his photography along with camera tips.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ruthanne Hill  
Secretary