

WCMG Master Gardener General Membership Meeting

April 4, 2017

Members present: 85

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm.

The March 2017 Minutes were approved as printed on the website.

The February 2017 Treasurer's report was approved as printed on the website.

There was no old business.

There was no new business.

Announcements from members:

- Mary Crumley announced a Lawnmower Tune-up on April 7-8, at the Abernathy Agriscience & Technology Education Center, 1194 Cassatt St., Fayetteville. For more information call 479.575.2035.
- Mary announced a meeting for all chair persons and superintendents for the fair on April 13, 5:30 pm, at the fairgrounds office. Anyone interested in taking more leadership is welcome to attend.
- She also mentioned there are two new classes at county fair in horticulture this year. One is an egg class and the other is an aquaculture class.
- Geri Alvis announced the Farm Friends event on April 27 at the Pauline Whitaker building. School groups come to visit in the morning. Adults come in the afternoon. Beans and cornbread are served. She passed around a signup sheet for cornbread donations. Muffins are preferred.
- Kitty Sanders announced that the website Committee would like input on the *Four Seasons Gardening* page which is found under the *How Does Your Garden Grow* tab. They would like to update that section with more information-especially things pertinent to NWA. Please email them at mastergardener@wcmgar.org by simply clicking on the link in the upper left hand corner of the home page. Suggestions included Betty Swope's list of planting dates by the holidays.
- Kitty announced the Photo Contest winners: 1st, Geri Alvis, *Yellow Tulip Burst*; 2nd, Carolyn Miller, *Welcome Spring*, and 3rd, Robin Skochova, *Early Spring Purple*. Next month's theme for the contest is "Garden Landscape," and the deadline is April 15.

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Project Highlight:

Geri Alvis, Master Composter Demonstration Site Chair, presented a power point on the compost site. Volunteers help maintain the site. She encouraged members to visit. She shared the composting process. The Butterfly Garden is maintained by the Garden Explorers. Activities include school demonstrations, public events, and the donation of vegetables from the raised beds. They meet on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month.

Announcements on screen:

What's Happening at BGO

April 11, Butterfly Garden Class, 6-7:30 pm, Kitty Sanders, Free

Introduction to Succulent Care, April 13, 6-7 pm, BGO Horticulturist. Members \$10; Non-members \$20. Registration is required.

Bird Walk with Joe Neal, April 22, 9-11 am – free. Registration is suggested by calling BGO at 479.750.2620.

BGO Plant Sale Members Only, April 28, 5-8 pm. Open to the public, April 29, 8-10:30 am

Westwood Gardens Spring Open House, April 8 & 9

Compton Gardens Native Tree and Plant Sale, April 29, 8 am-1pm.

Last Day to register for 2017 State MG Conference is April 14.

The Drake Field Air Museum announced a mulching workday this Saturday. They need volunteers.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Program:

Judy Smith introduced Cody George, Horticulturist from Crystal Bridges Museum, Bentonville. The title of his presentation was, "Balancing Aesthetics with Biodiversity: The Gardens of Crystal Bridges." There are 3.5 miles of trails in the garden with 24 outdoor sculptures. Total Genera: 238; Total Taxa: 492. Eight-five percent of the plants at Crystal Bridges are native plants. Natives are part of the ongoing goal, discovering the balance between being aesthetically pleasing and biologically responsible. He stressed the need to increase biodiversity by planting natives. We should be aware that habitat loss = loss in biodiversity. With proper plant and site selection natives can be more drought tolerant and

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disease resistant. "In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations." From the Great Law of the Iroquois Confederacy.

Cody announced the "Discover the Grounds Foodscape Revolution" with Brie Arthur, Saturday, May 13th, 10-11:30 am.

Program ended at 7:35 pm.