

WASHINGTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
Regular Meeting
Washington County Cooperative Extension Service Office
August 6, 2019

PRESENT: 107 members

CALL TO ORDER: President Susan Young called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: It was moved and seconded to approve the July minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: It was moved and seconded to approve the June Treasurer's Report as presented. All approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Website Committee

Jan Lefler announced that Sandy Jensen, who transferred to Washington County from Baxter County, has joined the Website committee. The committee is chaired by Kitty Sanders, with members Robert McMichael, Judy Smith, Sandy Jensen, and Jan Lefler.

Jan said that the information from Berni's Hilltop Gardening Tips from the Garden Thyme newsletters has been compiled and can be found on the MG website in the Four-Season Gardening section under How Does Your Garden Grow. Information on sanctioned projects is listed on the Calendar page, and there is also a separate Sanctioned Projects page, on which more details information on projects can be found. Jan mentioned that links to project host websites, such as the link that the Headquarters House project has to the Washington County Historical Society, can be added to those pages. The committee can also add plant lists, garden diagrams, and other information to the project pages. Jan said that the committee had heard comments questioning the percentage sign that is displayed as the website is being loaded, but since the site was designed with that in place, it is not easily changed. An effort is underway to replace Janet Carson's blog with one from Berni Kurz. Anyone with questions is invited to contact any of the committee members.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

New Project Chairs Needed

The Air Museum project chair has had to resign, leaving that project in need of a chair. Anyone interested in finding out more should contact President Young.

The Community Outreach Committee also needs a new chair. Ginny Wiseman and Regina Gabel have chaired the committee for several years and would like for someone to take their place. Please contact President Young.

Washington County Fair

Adopt-a-Pot -- Volunteers are needed to purchase plants and to plant them artfully in the large planters that will be displayed outside the Horticulture Pavilion at the fair. After the fair, the plants from those pots will live out their existence in the compost area, then following their demise, they will be added to the compost.

Volunteers are needed both for providing food and for working at the fair. Workers are particularly needed on Friday and Saturday. Contact Mary Crumley.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Zoom Training

There will be a fall training class for new master gardeners via Zoom, which is live video conferencing. The class will meet every Wednesday in October and the first week in November. This training takes the place of the training that has traditionally been held in January. Trainee recruitment will take place at the Fayetteville Farmers' Market and other venues as the opportunity arises.

There was a question on why the WCMG executive committee has recommended the change to the Zoom training in October. Washington County Extension Agent Colin Massey explained that the state identifies and schedules the speakers for this training, which lessens the burden on area speakers and eliminates the need for Washington County to organize a separate training in January.

Online training will be available beginning in January for trainees who can't attend the October training.

2021/2022 State Conference

Colin has received a request for Washington County to host the state conference in 2021 or 2022. More discussion will follow.

Appleseeds Workday

Appleseeds workday is now on Tuesday mornings at 8:00 AM

T-shirts

Karla Caraway still has a few t-shirts that members ordered but have not picked up. Members who have not received their t-shirts should contact Karla.

ADJOURNMENT

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

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

Compost Demonstration Site

Geri Alvis, chair of the composting program with the demonstration garden, reported on the significant amount of work that has been done in the demonstration garden and in composting this year.

PROGRAM:

Rose Gergerich, UofA Professor Emerita of Virology, presented a program on the social impact of plant diseases.

Submitted by Kathryn Birkhead, Secretary