

WCMG General Membership Meeting

March 7, 2017

Members present: 119

The meeting was called to order by President Gail Pianalto, at 6:30 pm.

The corrected minutes for February, 2017, as shared on the MG website, were approved.

The Treasurer's report for December, 2016, as printed on the MG website, was approved.

A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's report for January, 2017, as printed on the MG website. Motion approved. Nancy Sloan voiced a question regarding the funds allotted to the extension office project that were voted on last year by the Executive Board. It is not appearing in the budget. Mike Wulf will look into it.

There was no **Old Business**.

New Business: Mike Wulf responded to inquiries about Travel Mileage. Counting mileage does not count as hours. If one itemizes his/her income taxes, travel mileage might be calculated if it is related to charitable work. In 2016 and 2017, the IRS is allowing \$.14 per mile as a deduction. One needs reliable records kept in a timely manner. It would not be recommended to try to backtrack 9 months later and try to calculate mileage.

Kitty Sanders announced the Fayetteville Monarch Project workshop at BGO March 25, 9 am-12noon. Registration is required on the BGO website.

Kitty also announced Geri Alvis as the winner of the February photography contest with her "Smokehouse Daisies." The theme for March is "Spring-Blooming Bulbs."

Announcements:

Please correct the address for the Lincoln Community Gardens in your workbooks. The address should be: On North Street between County Ave. and Main Street (sign on the right side).

Important websites and passwords are located on page 2 of the workbook.

Upcoming **Botanical Garden of the Ozarks** programs

March 8, 6 pm, "Wait! I'm Beneficial; Please Don't Kill Me" Free

March 15, 6 pm, "Vegetable Gardening Throughout the Year" Free

March 28, 6 pm, "Landscape Design and Plant Selection" BGO members, \$10;
Non-members \$20

Please call BGO office at 479.750.2620 to register for any of the above programs.

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Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art – March 12, 1-5 pm. Ikebane Japanese Flower Arranging Workshop, Registration online at crystalbridges.org

Flower Garden and Nature Society, Saturday, March 18, 10 am, “Fields Red with Berries” A History of Growing Strawberries in NW AR, Free; NW Technical Institute, 709 S. Old Missouri Road in Springdale

Arkansas River Valley Lawn & Garden Show, March 17-19th, Fort Smith Convention Center

Gail announced that Martha Ward would be recognized by the Washington County Women in History Coalition at a banquet on Monday, March 27, 5:30 PM, Mermaids Seafood Restaurant. Contact: washcowhm@gmail.com or 479-442-8015 for more information. Congratulations, Martha.

Program: Judy Smith announced that April’s program would be Cody George, Crystal Bridges Field Horticulturist.

Judy introduced Charlotte Taylor, Executive Director of BGO. Charlotte thanked the 170 volunteers who donated more than 13,000 volunteer hours last year. Master Gardener volunteers support BGO in many ways. She encouraged members to attend the Volunteer Orientation, March 9, 6-7 pm or March 11, 11am-12 pm.

Judy introduced Megan Lankford, lead gardener at BGO. Her presentation, “Wait! I’m Beneficial, Please Don’t Kill Me!” was well received by all MG present. Megan discussed the characteristics and life cycles of various beneficial and heinous plants. She shared lists of annuals and perennials that draw beneficial insects to the garden. For further exploring and identifying she listed the following resources: bugguide.net insectidentification.org and Entomology group on Facebook. She will send handouts to Joyce to be emailed to the membership.

Business meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Bryant, Secretary