

## Washington County Master Gardener Monthly Meeting

March 6, 2018

County 76 merchandise was available for purchase prior to meeting.

A contest for Photo of the Year, based on the monthly winners from the WCMG Photo Contest, was open to the membership for vote on their favorite.

Attendance: 107 members

### **General Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by Judy Smith at 6:31pm.

The January meeting minutes report was presented for approval. Dolores Stamps moved for approval, Joyce Mendenhall seconded, and minutes were unanimously approved by the membership.

The February 6, 2018 general minutes were presented for approval. Kitty Sanders moved to approve, seconded by Jane Scroggs, and approved by the membership.

Dolores Stamps made a motion to approve the December 2017 treasurer's report, Jane Scroggs seconded, and report was unanimously approved by the membership.

The January and February treasurer's reports require revisions and will be presented for approval at the March Executive Board and the April monthly meeting.

### **Old Business**

Inclement weather did not allow for a quorum at the February monthly meeting, so several items were presented for discussion and vote.

- **Vote to de-sanction the Fayetteville Parks project**

New staff in the Fayetteville Parks Department and work schedules do not allow for fixed work days and jobs. Question: Will volunteers be allowed to count hours? Answer: Hours will count as "Other Work". Motion and second to approve de-sanctioning. Membership approved the de-sanctioning of this project.

- **Vote to de-sanction the Prairie Grove Battlefield Park project**

Jane Ellen Ross will continue to manage the project, but under the umbrella of Master Naturalists. . Motion and second to approve de-sanctioning. Membership approved the de-sanctioning of this project

- **VA Hospital garden project**  
Steve Brizzi has volunteered to chair this project. Contact 870-350-6606 or sign up on the project sign-up sheet.
- **Evergreen Cemetery**  
The Community Outreach project will coordinate this one-time job. Contact Chris Bell [dane4@Arkansas.net](mailto:dane4@Arkansas.net) for volunteer information.

### **New Business**

- **State Awards contribution**  
There was a call for a vote to increase the Washington County annual gift from \$100 to \$200. It was recognized that Washington County is the second largest membership in the Master Gardener program, and could provide additional support to the awards program, including service pins, state awards, etc. Joyce Mendenhall moved to increase the annual gift to \$200, Jane Scroggs seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously by membership. The donation will be payable in September of 2018 and each subsequent year.
- **Parking Issues for monthly meetings**  
Berni Kurz recognized the new facility for our monthly meetings, the Don Tyson Center for Agricultural Sciences, and Dianne Saffire for her help in coordination. Berni addressed the parking issues that we are currently experiencing and the need to address the bottle neck in the parking lot.

### **New Endowment Fund**

- Berni Kurz introduced Brian Helms from the state extension office to discuss the new state endowment fund. Brian is the Fund Developer for the state extension service. Brian introduced the endowment as a continuation of Janet Carson's legacy. Upon Janet's retirement, the Master Gardener program will lose a substantial amount of annual contributions from her additional projects, i.e. Democrat-Gazette articles, radio shows, etc. Janet's contributions will disappear with her retirement, and the endowment will help replace those funds and support the Master Gardener program. Through the years, Janet has reinvested her earnings from radio and TV shows, newspaper and magazine articles to help support the Master Gardener program. Brian proposed that the endowment fund ask for individual contributions from the community and make suggestions of potential donors. Question from the membership: Is this fund different from the Janet Carson Scholarship Fund. Answer: Yes, it is a separate fund. The endowment will be managed by the U of A under their 501C3. The goal is \$100,000 by the end of 2018, with a two-three year goal of \$200,000-\$300,000. The long-term goal is \$2,000,000. Without Janet's current contribution, the state program will be losing about \$15,000-20,000 annually.

A vote was called to give \$1,000 to the endowment from Washington County for 2018. It was noted that this is not necessarily an on-going donation. Mary McCully moved to donate \$1,000

during 2018, Martha Ward seconded. Question: Can we consider gifts for memorials? Currently memorial gifts are donated to the Washington County Endowment. Individual gifts to the new state endowment can be made as memorials. The membership unanimously approved the 2018 donation.

Additionally, a vote was called for the Executive Board to appoint a committee to investigate ways to raise funds for the new endowment and determine how to direct future contributions to our WCMG endowment. The committee would explore the option to redirect memorial donations from the local endowment fund to the state endowment. Jane Scroggs moved to form an exploratory committee, Dolores seconded, and the motion was approved by the membership.

- **Fayetteville Farmer's Market**

Master Gardeners have been asked to man an information table on April 14<sup>th</sup> and April 28<sup>th</sup> during the Saturday market, including delivery and return of tent and additional supplies to the extension office. If you would like to volunteer, contact Chris Bell or Ginny Wiseman

- **Upcoming Events**

FGNS will host Paul James, The Gardener Guy for their March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting with presentations at 10am and 2pm. Event is free for members and \$15 per session for non members. Meeting will be held at the Don Tyson Center for Agricultural Sciences.

FGNS will host a Tulsa Garden tour on April 21st. Cost is \$50 for bus transportation and lunch and \$6 for Botanic Gardens (entrance to Garden is free for BGO members).

- Arkansas Master Gardener's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday party will be held at Moss Mountain on October 13<sup>th</sup>. A bus has been contracted to provide transportation for WCMGs. Contact Judy Smith, [jbs5100@sbcgloabl.net](mailto:jbs5100@sbcgloabl.net) to reserve a seat on the bus. This event is limited to Master Gardeners. The cost for the bus will be between \$40-50 per person depending on the number reserving seats. The cost for the day at Moss Mountain is \$30 per person including lunch.

## **General Information**

Project sign-in sheets are located in back of room for volunteer sign-up and denim shirts are ready for pick-up. All handbooks have been distributed.

Six planters for the Washington County Fair need to be planted and tended during the summer months prior to the Fair. Any projects willing to volunteer to help with these planters should contact Berni.

Janet Titus announced that the Omni Center will again host a Peace Garden tour on May 26<sup>th</sup>. Anyone wishing to volunteer to open their garden for this tour should contact Janet.

Mary Loftus announced a seminar based on previous program "I Planted It, It Grew, Now What Do I Do". Suggested topics for this seminar are fermentation, dehydration, preparation of fresh salsa, etc. Mary

requested volunteers willing to give 1-hour presentations to contact her. The seminar is tentatively scheduled for July 25 or 26. The 2018 program will serve as a trial for a potential County 76 program offered to regional/state Master Gardeners.

Two transfers were introduced to the membership. Gail Wright transferred from Missouri and Jon Felker transferred from Benton County.

### **Project report**

Joyce Mendenhall presented the Ask a Master program. The work hours are Monday-Friday from 10am-12pm and 1pm-3pm. The project runs from March 1<sup>st</sup> – October 31<sup>st</sup>.

The duties include:

- Check for pink slip phone messages at the beginning of the shift
- Create new log in sheet
- Turn on computer and check the Master Gardener email
- Return calls in order of arrival
- Research answers

### **Photo Contest**

Kitty Sanders announced the February winners:

First Place - Glimpse of Spring, by Geri Alvis

Second Place –Heirloom Hellebores, by Lynn Rogers

Third Place – Is It Spring?, by Kitty Sanders

The March theme is Strictly Bulbs and submission deadline is March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Photo themes for the year are found in the workbook. The workbook form can be returned to Joyce. Kitty requested that the online submission process be used whenever possible.

Business meeting adjourned at 7:14pm.

Susan Young introduced Joanne Olszewski, WCMG, author of Worms Eat My Garbage and owner of Worm Woman Inc., for her presentation on Vermicomposting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Butler, Secretary

