

WCMG General Membership Meeting May 2, 2017

There were 77 members in attendance.

President Gail Pianalto called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

The April 2017 Minutes were approved as posted on the website.

The March 2017 Treasurer's report was approved as posted on the website.

There was no Old Business.

There was no New Business.

Joyce Mendenhall discussed the project request from Willow Creek Family Garden at the hospital in Johnson. Joyce reported that the site did not warrant a project for MG, however, the garden needs help in planting on May 24, 9 am. The Jackson Graves Foundation is a sponsor of the Family Garden. Work at this site will count as "other" hours. Contact Joyce if you are interested in helping.

Photo of the Month: 1st place, Joyce Mendenhall, Garvan Gardens in the Spring; 2nd place, Geri Alvis, Daisy Delight; 3rd place, Carolyn Miller, Into the Woods; May's theme is "Herbs."

The project highlight was the Elkins Community Center Gardens with Jan Judy and Floy Griggs presenting. The membership is encouraged to join the work group anytime on Thursday mornings. The Power Point presentation showed how project has grown from one garden four years ago to several, including a library rain garden. With a relatively small workforce the Elkins MG group is making a difference in their community.

The following announcements were made:

- If you have fair ribbons you no longer want, please give them to Mary Crumley for recycling.
- June 1, 6:00 pm, Extension Office, Jan Lefler will present a program honoring the 20th year of Headquarters House as an MG project.
- June 6, 10am-12:00 PM, Reception at Headquarters House for 20th year as MG project
- Geri Alvis thanked everyone for the support of the Farm Friends Program, 1900 youth and over 1000 adults attended.
- The Greening of the Garden at Botanical Gardens is Tuesday, May 9, 5:30 – 9 PM; \$125; the deadline is May 5th at midnight for buying tickets.
- Gail Pianalto announced a caravan to Arnold's in Leroy, Kansas, on May 13. They will meet at the commuter's parking lot at Cracker Barrel at 6 am sharp. Breakfast will be in Joplin with a stop at Chicken Mary's for dinner.

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- Flower Garden and Nature Society, May 20, 9 am; the speaker will be Derrick Whittle, "Propagating Plants from Softwood Cuttings;" Northwest Technical Institute, 709 S Old Missouri Rd.

Judy Smith announced the plant exchange at next MG meeting, June 6, and urged the membership to avoid bringing invasive plants. She urged members to read May or June GT for plant exchange tips.

Judy announced the June 27 picnic at Mock Park in Prairie Grove. This is the July meeting. More information forthcoming in the Garden Thyme. There will not be a meeting in July.

The business meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

The program was, "Growing the next Generation of Master Gardeners," with Dani Dingman, Joyce Pianalto, and Joyce Mendenhall. Dani's program was titled, "Gardening with Preschoolers." She discussed why it is important to expose young children to gardening, what to grow with kids, activities to do with them such as building terrariums, fairy gardens, seeds in a sack, and grass heads-planting grass seeds in pantyhose, and egg shells.

Joyce Mendenhall and Gail Pianalto presented, "Connecting Children to Nature aka Saving the World One Child at a Time!" Two books suggested by Joyce and Gail were Rachel Carson's book about gardening with children, A Sense of Wonder, and Last Child in the Woods, by Richard Louv. They shared the academic and physical benefits of being outside and learning about nature. Instilling an environmental ethic is a primary goal. Members shared childhood memories of nature.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.