

Washington County Master Gardeners Business Meeting
Tuesday, October 4, 2022

The meeting was held in-person at the Extension Office and virtually via Zoom. Present: 96 members (61 in person, 35 on Zoom). Quorum: Yes

Speaker

Vice-President Linda Morrow introduced the speaker, Susan Young. Susan gave a timely, lively, and quite funny presentation focusing on tombstones in cemeteries in the Ozarks entitled, "Willow Trees, Honey Bees, and Leaves of Three." Susan encouraged all members to stop and study the beautiful, meaningful, and unique symbols on tombstones.

Project Reports

Donilyn Rutherford shared information about Apple Seeds Teaching Farm (located on the edge of Gulley Park in Fayetteville). It hosts in-person programs for kids under ten, virtual programs, and provides produce donations. Last year over 15,000 students benefitted from Apple Seeds. Volunteers are definitely needed.

Marty Powers shared information about the Shiloh Museum gardens. One of the highlights was the seed library. Seeds from the garden are packaged and given away. Over 6000 seed packets were given away last year.

Call to Order

President Hanna-Towne called the business meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

Approval of September 2022 Meeting Minutes:

Kathryn Birkhead moved to approve the minutes, and Darielle James seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of August 2022 Treasurer's Report: Kitty Sanders moved to approve the treasurer's report, and Pam Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business

- Garden Gate Tour will host a Symposium on Gardening, a public meeting, on March 18, 2023.
- Kitty Sanders gave further demonstration on using the new website. Members are not able to pay dues through the website, but they can find out how to pay dues electronically. In the Resources Section, members can learn gardening tips, information about soil sampling, and see listings of Monarch Waystations. Going and Growing shows awards that have been given, something special or new in projects, photo of the month winners, and the themes and forms for submitting photos to the contest.
- President Hanna-Towne reminded everyone to pay dues either personally at next month's meeting, at the Extension Office during business hours, through Zelle, or by mail. Dues are \$20.00 through November 30, \$25.00 after that.

New Business

- The directory is being updated. Any new information should be sent to Marsha West.

- The Executive Committee is collecting data for the future. Of 284 WCMG members, how many are doing physical work? An ad hoc committee of five will be formed to see what members' interests are. Email Karen if you want to be on this committee or want to nominate someone.
- Jan Lefler shared information about WCMG Award nominations, following new guidelines from the State office. Nominations are due no later than November 15. Joyce Mendenhall and Jan co-chair the committee. Awards are the same except Mentor of the Year is now a State award also. All forms are on the new website in the Members Portal – Forms section. A new item is the checklist which provides good guidance on writing a nomination including a sample form. Send nominations, electronically only, to Colin's email with Awards Committee as the subject line. The Awards Committee will review and vote on the nominations in December, send the list of winners to the Executive Board for approval, and winners will be announced at the February members' meeting.
- Chris Bell needs a co-chair for Community Outreach.
- Steve Brizzi will continue as Chair for VA. Volunteers are needed for light construction projects.
- U of A's Insect Festival is October 27. Chris Bell needs volunteers.
- Alfi Anderson is the new MG Training and Mentoring Chairman.
- Ruth Ann Hill will be our new parliamentarian for member meetings, but one is needed for the Executive Committee. Randy Butler will continue until the end of 2022. Thanks again to Randy.

Announcements

- The Winslow Project has been de-sanctioned.
- Ruth Cohoon, 1st Director of Women's Athletics at the U of A, has been recognized with a plaque at Gate 10 and in the Hall of Honor.
- Janine Perry was a panelist for "Does My Vote Matter" at the Pryor Center.
- Outstanding Citizen Award was given to Judy Brittenum by the Washington County Historical Society. Judy is not a member of WCMG but received the award for her historical landscape design guidance at Headquarters' House, and she recently received our Friend of Master Gardener's Award for an Individual.
- Schedule Changes for 2023
January 3rd: Speaker, Officer Induction, and Business Meeting
February 7th: Awards Program
March 7th: Project Fair
Not July 4th – Meeting July 11th
- Photo Contest Winners:
First Place: Patsy Louk for "Basketflower and a Bee"
Second Place: Chris Bell for "Majestic Swallowtail"
Third Place (tie): Tanya Collins for "Prettty in Pink" and DeLee Holbert for "Somebody's Watching Me"

October's theme is *Garden Helpers*. As always, the deadline to submit a photo is the middle of the month. If you want to submit a photo, fill out the form and send it to Kitty Sanders by the 15th.

- Haiku winners: These winners will judge next year's contest.
First Place: Judy Smith
Second Place: Judy Hyden
Third Place: Karen Takemoto
- An invitation was made to come to the Ozark Natural Folk Center, near Huntsville, on October 28 to learn how to identify and attract birds, to put together a bluebird house, and help out Madison County Master Gardeners.

Adjournment

There being no other business, Jody Miskell moved to adjourn the business meeting, and Darielle James seconded. Motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Lynette Terrell, Secretary