

**Washington County Master Gardeners Business Meeting
Tuesday January 3, 2023**

The meeting was held in-person at the Extension Office. Zoom was unavailable for the meeting.
Present: 50 members Quorum: Yes

Call to Order: President Karen Hanna-Towne called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M.

Colin Massey gave a synopsis of the Master Gardener accomplishments for 2022. He thanked the outgoing officers: President Karen Hanna-Towne, Vice President Linda Morrow, Secretary Lynette Terrell, Treasurer Jill King and Assistant Treasurer Darielle James, Members at Large Alfi Anderson, Jenean Hill/Linda C. Smith and Dale Thomas, Parliamentarian Randy Butler.

We grew the WCMG endowment fund to an endowment level that will now gain interest and lay the groundwork for scholarships.

We were able to resume in-person training that came together in a whirlwind and was executed so well.

We revealed our amazing new website.

We survived hosting a monumental State Conference that was just amazing. So many leaders stepped up to serve our peers and did it with welcoming smiles and gratitude despite how exhausting it can be.

Colin said the Master Gardeners from Oct 2021 through September 2022, 284 total members along with 20 trainees served on 19 projects, 20 committees, and contributed 14,862 community volunteer hours and nearly 7,000 hours of continuing education. Volunteer time in Washington County accounted for a value of total value (\$28.95/hr) of \$430,254 given back to our communities

Installation of the new offices by Colin Massey: President Joanne Olszewski, Past President Karen Hanna-Towne, Vice President Elizabeth (Liz) Hale, Secretary Kathy Launder, Treasurer Darielle James, Assistant Treasurer Glenda Patterson, Members at Large Nicolas Sammer, Linda Smith, Dale Thomas, Parliamentarian Ruthann Hill.

Speaker

Tonight's presentation was next. Vice President Liz Hale introduced Alan Ostner, WCMG class of 2019 as the Drainage Doctor. He discussed drainage and how to fix it at the Air Museum phase one.

Approval of the November 2022 Meeting Minutes:

Delores Stamps moved to approve the minutes, and Alfi Anderson seconded. Motion carried.

October 2022 Treasurer's report:

Liz Hale asked if anyone had questions? No comments made, Hale said the Treasurer report will be sent in for audit.

New Business:

Member's Resource Guide and Directory by Jan Lefler and Audley Hall. All members need to look this over as it is a good resource.

Membership Directory Chair Marsha West. Contact information changes such as phone numbers, email addresses need to be sent to Marsha West marsha.l.west@gmail.org

New photos to Susan Young staymoreark@gmail.com This needs to be updated by mid March so it can be posted on the MG website.

Unfinished Business:

Class of 2022 Graduation by Alfi Anderson 2023 MG Training and Mentor chair. Recognized Pam Delaney and Alison Brashears.

Unfinished business (continued):

Report on Members Survey by Nicolas Sammer Committee Chair.

Nicolas discussed the survey asking for input from the membership: Where should we direct our resources and efforts to deliver our mission? And how can we strengthen participation and growth of our organization? A ten question survey will be sent out shortly and members will have until February 7th to complete the survey. Please sign your name to the survey to get entered into a drawing for five gift cards to White River Nursery.

Photo Contest Winners:

November: Colorful Trees

1st place – Geri Alvis

2nd place – Judy Smith

3rd place – Jan Lefler

December: Trellises in the Garden

1st place – Belvalee Juikovich

2nd place – Geri Alvis

3rd place – Patsy Louk

Announcements:

2023 new MG Basic training will take place on February 13,15,17,20,22 at UAEX. If you can assist, please contact Alfi Anderson the 2023 New MG training and Mentoring Chair at cell number 202-302-4083 or email TheGabbyGardener@gmail.com

There is still a need for several Mentors if interested.

January Photo Contest subject: Potourri (photographer's choice) due 1/15/2023.

February and March meetings:

February 7th will be the WCMG awards ceremony held at the Tyson Center, led by Joyce Mendenhall and Jan Lefler. There will not be Zoom for this meeting.

March 7th at UAEX Meet the Class of 2023 Trainees (led by Alfi Anderson) and Project Fair (led by Nancy Sloan and Regina Gabel). No Zoom available for this meeting.

March 18, 2023 at the Tyson Center will be the Garden Gate Symposium funded by proceeds from the Garden Gate Tour this past summer. The GGS is a free educational gardening program offered to the public (community outreach). Online registration required. The public registration is now open. Family and friends can register at wcmgar.org. WCMGs are being asked to wait until February 1 to register.

There will be two sessions in the morning and two sessions in the afternoon.

Morning sessions:

- Organic vegetable gardening by Jane Maginot
- Irrigation for Home Gardens by Benton County Extension Agent Ryan Neal

Afternoon sessions:

- Landscaping with Native Plants by Holly Aaron
- Cooking with Wild Plants by Cook and Wild Food artists Nena & Tim Hammer

Jim Sposato challenged everyone to volunteer as many hours as he does for 2023. He will donate a \$ 1.00 per hour to the endowment fund.

Adjournment

There was no other announcement or business. Karen Hanna-Towne moved to adjourn the business meeting and Darielle James seconded, Motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Launder, Secretary