

**Washington County Master Gardeners Business Meeting
Tuesday July 11, 2023**

The meeting was held in-person at the Extension Office. Zoom was available for the meeting. Present: 64 members, Zoom 35 members Quorum: Yes

Call to Order: President Joanne Olszewski called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Introduction of the program by Joanne Olszewski: Zeb Gattis, the CES intern working under Collin Massey,

- Blackberries are the leading crop of the university's fruit breeding program and 43 varieties have been developed so far, generating almost \$1.5 million in blackberry royalties since 2020, according the university's fruit breeding program webpage."
- "Blackberry varieties at the [Arkansas Fruit Research] station [in Clarksville] have already been developed to provide a higher crop yield; firmer fruit that will hold up in storage with less decay, improved flavor and enhanced sweetness; larger fruit; thornless fruit; and fruit that will ripen earlier."
- "As climate change events like freezes and drought become more common, the need for research increases, as those events make certain fruit crops more susceptible to a poor growing season."

Business Meeting:

Approval of May 2023 Minutes:

Martha Haguwood moved to approve the minutes, Darielle James seconded. Motion carried.

There are no minutes for June 6, 2023, due to the picnic.

Approval of April Treasurer's Report:

Karen Hanna-Towne moved to approve the treasurer's report, and Elizabeth Woods seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of May Treasurer's Report:

Mariette Spidel moved to approve the treasurer's report, and Randy Butler seconded. Motion carried.

Project Update:

Compost Site by Mariette Spidel and Geri Alvis

Mariette explained the process of updating the compost site for the Garden Gate Tour. They thanked the countless volunteers for their hard work over several months. On the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, Mariette and Geri will hold classes on composting and vermicomposting. Mariette held a Wormpalooza worm adoption before the meeting.

Label Committee Update: Dale Thomas, Randy Butler and committee members

Dale and Randy discussed the 4x4 posts and showed the signage box, numbering system, and Q-R code to be installed at Mock Park, Shiloh Museum, and Air Museum. Karen Hanna-Towne discussed the data base for each plant and location.

Slate of Officers for 2024 – Karen Hanna-Towne

President – Liz Hale

Vice President – Alfi Anderson

Secretary – Kathy Launder

Treasurer – Glenda Patterson

Assistant Treasurer - Marilyn Misenhimer

Members At Large – Mariette Spidel, Marty Powers, Carole Ball

This slate of officers will be voted on at the September meeting.

Update on the Garden Gate Tour & Symposium – Diane Standefur

The Garden Gate Tours brought in \$5,195.00 with 354 tickets sold. Planning has started for the spring symposium.

May Photo Contest Winners: Something In The Garden That Makes Me Happy

1st Place – Sara Teague – Keeping Company on my Crocosmia

2nd Place – Roxanne Gallup - Oh Boy.... Bokchoy

3rd Place Tie – Nancy Sloan – Their smile makes me smile

Georgia Ross – Garden in Early Morning Spring sun

June Photo Contest Winners: Container Gardening

1st Place – Ruth Cohoon – Micellaneous

2nd Place – Pam Butler – Bright and Beautiful

3rd Place – Mariette Spidel – Serious Succulent

Announcements:

Joyce's Treasurers – Sale at the Washington County Horticulture Building 8:00-2:00 on July 15th

International Master Gardening Conference 2025 – There is no B planet

August 25-28 from Texas via zoom

Gardeners in the news:

Chris Bell – Altrusa International Foundation

Tarsha Shepard – Bentonville Garden Club

Aileen Wilson – Westfork Public Library garden

Carrie Gamble – Shiloh Museum

Annuals to Perennials Watch Party

July 18th 5:00 – 8:00 pm

For mentors and mentees

Water bottles:

\$5.00 each and Alfi will put your name on the water bottle for \$5.00

Agenda Deadlines:

If there is a member who would like to be on the Executive Board meeting agenda, please have this information to Joanne Olszewski the Tuesday before the 3rd Tuesday of the month. WCMG.Joanne@gmail.org

August Photo Contest : Critters in the Garden

Deadline is July 15th

TRADITIONAL HAIKU CONTEST

Japanese unrhymed poetry format, usually concerning nature or the seasons.

Titles – Most are untitled, so the 1st line identifies the poem.

Subjects – Contrast, creating a shift that divides the poem in two via a cutting word, kireji in Japanese.

Lines – Three.

Syllables – Utilize a 5 – 7 – 5 syllable pattern, for a total of 17.

Due September 15 to Liz Hale. Top 3 entries presented at the October 3 meeting.

Recorded hours

Graph shown – please record your hours.

Next Meeting August 1st

Subject Daffodils Have Class by Kay Shearer

Terry Smyers' sister- inlaw

Adjournment at 7:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Launder

Secretary