

Washington County Master Gardeners Business Meeting Tuesday April 2, 2024

The meeting was held in-person at the Extension Office. Zoom was available for the meeting.
Present: 67 members, 47 Zoom members, Quorum: Yes

Call to Order: President Liz Hale called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Vice President, Alfi Anderson introduced guest speaker, Amanda Holder, PhD, College of the Ozarks, Assistant Professor of Animal Science. Vermiculture – Creating Your Own Worm Farm.

Business Meeting:

- Approval of Minutes from March 5, 2024, WCMG monthly meetings as listed via link in the April 2024 Garden Thyme newsletter.
- Approval of February 2024 Treasurer Reports as listed via link in the April 2024 Garden Thyme newsletter.

Positive Report on the 2023 Financials Peer Review completed by WCMGs Chris Bell and Camille Gollon 2/28/2024. This is the last year to have a Peer Review.

Membership vote regarding proposed Bylaws distributed March 20th via Constant Contact to the membership. A super-majority (2/3 favorable) vote is required in order to pass. Presented by Patsy Louk, Bylaws and Policies & Procedures Chair.

- Joanne Olszewski made the motion to accept the Bylaws as presented, seconded by Karen Hanna Towne. Motion passes.

Washington County Master Gardener Sanctioned Project Proposal

- Prairie Grove Battlefield Neighbor's Garden Co-Chairs Janice Neighbor and Susan Donnangelo
 - A power point presentation of the site and plans for plantings by both Chairs.
- Darielle James made the motion to reinstate the Prairie Grove Battlefield Neighbor's Garden as a sanctioned project, seconded by Martha Haguewood. Motion passes.

February and March Photo Contest Winners

- February Theme "Beauty in the Winter Garden"
 - 1st Place - "Pretty in Pink Camellia" by Martha Haguewood
 - 2nd Place - "Buddha's Winter Repose" by John Ball
 - 3rd Place - "Winter Wonderland" by Alison Brashears
- March Theme "Early Spring Bloomers"
 - 1st Place - "Dazzling Daffodil" by Patsy Louk
 - 2nd Place - "Shades of Pink and Purple" by Pam Butler
 - 3rd Place - "Blue, Bluer, Bluest" by Delcina Cunico

Project Report – Botanical Garden of the Ozarks by Patsy Louk

- Introduction of Ashley Wardlow, Executive Director of BGO
- Discussed all of the volunteer activities available at BGO
 - Visitors Office Center, Horticulture, Education, Outreach and Events

2023 Arkansas Master Gardener Award Winners

- Cheer Them On at the AR MG State Conference
 - Thursday May 30th in Hot Springs
- Arkansas Master Gardener 2023 Mimi Cox Mentor of the Year Award (large programs)
 - Patsy Louk (class of 2009)
- Arkansas Master Gardener 2023 Individual Friend of the Year (large program, 51+ members)
 - Gilbert Alvis (Geri's husband)
- Arkansas Master Gardener 2023 Newsletter of the Year (large program, 51 + members)
 - Judy Smith, managing editor/submissions; Mary McCully, editor/submissions; Pam Butler, reporter; Olivia Harrington, reporter; Lynette Terrell, reporter; and Susan Young, production assistant.

May 7th Membership Meeting

- Speakers from Good Life Farms in Bentonville GoodLifeFarms.net

Recorded Hours through March 2024 - by 98 WCMGs

- 98 members recorded hours
 - BGO top sanctioned project
 - Sanctioned Projects - 1,397.5
 - Sanctioned Committees 1,133
 - Non-Sanctioned Work - 57.25
 - Education - 1,187.75

2024 Membership Resource Guide, Membership Directory by Jan Lefler, Member Resource Guide Chair

- Awards information/description
- Forms for nomination/criteria
 - All listed in this updated Membership Resource Guide
- New nominations for 2024 deadline will be October 15th

Busy Bee Awards

- Why: To celebrate and award more
- WCMGs for their contributions.
- Who: Everyone that records 50 hours of sanctioned work (project or committee).

- When: WCMGs recognized in our monthly meeting, beginning in April (based on monthly online hours report).
- What: Recipients will be awarded a pewter lapel pin.

February 2024 Recipients:

- David Edwards, Class of 2024 Trainee
- Carrie Gamble, Class of 2023
- Liz Hale, Class of 2020
- Karen Hanna-Towne, Class of 2019
- Kathy Launder, Class of 2007
- Mariette Spidel, Class of 2017

March 2024 Recipients:

- Geri Alvis, Class of 2015
- Alfi Anderson, Class of 2021
- Doris Cassidy, Class of 2018
- Ruthanne Hill, Class of 2018
- Teri Kinsey, Class of 2021
- Jayne Laster, Class of 2006, Lifetime
- Jan Lefler, Class of 2008, Lifetime
- Aimee Payne, Class of 2022
- Kitty Sanders, Class of 2012
- Jim Sposato, Class of 2013

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Launder,
Secretary