

**Washington County Master Gardeners Business Meeting
Tuesday August 6, 2024**

The meeting was held in-person at the Extension Office. Present: 82 members Quorum: Yes

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

President, Liz Hale introduced guest speaker, Winfrey Norton “USDA People’s Garden Initiative”. Winfrey is an outreach educator/agricultural economist in the Food Economics Division of the USDA, Economic Research Service, where he manages the production of Amber Waves articles and Charts of Notes.

Business Meeting:

- Approval of Minutes from July 2, 2024, WCMG monthly meetings as listed via link in the August 2024 Garden Thyme newsletter.
- Approval of May 2024 Treasurer Reports as listed via link in the August 2024 Garden Thyme newsletter.

Why Travel Time Doesn’t Count for Hours:

When considering sanctioned projects for a county, one of the requirements, on the proposal, should be the location of the project. If the location is on the far side of the county, you must make sure that you have volunteers that will want to maintain that project. The reason that we do not count drive time to a Sanction Project is because it is not fair to the other members in the group that live close to the projects. If a member lived further away from the project and they get to count drive time hours, they would meet their required hours way before a member who lived nearby. The Sanctioned Project work hours are usually based on the amount of work time it would take to maintain that project. If drive time was allowed to be counted, the actual Sanction Project work would suffer. The only advantage with travel time to and from Sanctioned Project work time would suffer. The only advantage with the travel time to and from Sanctioned Projects, it can be reported as volunteer mileage on taxes. If there comes a time that a Sanctioned Project starts to suffer due to location/drive time, this maybe the time that the project is reviewed/evaluated and becomes a community project and no longer Sanctioned.

Randy Forst

Extension Educator Consumer Horticulture/Master Gardener Coordinator

2024 Washington County Fair

- August 19- 25
- Doris Cassidy 479-684-6833

July Photo Contest Winners – Birds in my Yard/Garden

1st Place – Carol Sue Wooten – “Mississippi Kite: Where is he?”

2nd Place – Kitty Sanders – “A Cold Days Drink”

3rd Place – Marguerite Abowitz – “ Rare Visitor”

Mentors Needed

- Mentor training
 - Monday September 16th
- Call Patsy if you are interested in becoming a mentor 479-841-9865
- Email pjlouk@gmail.com

Recorded Hours through June 2024 – 109/289 WCMG

- Sanctioned Projects – 7,061.75
- Sanctioned Committees – 1,834.25
- Education – 2,908.5

Value of WCMG Volunteer Work Hours through June

- All volunteers work hours – 8,896 = \$297,927.04

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.

July 2024 recipients:

Linda Bennett-Smith, Class of 2022

Stacy Lake, Class of 2023

Judith Reighter, Class of 2022

Vicki Spencer, Class of 2021

Adriana Treadway, Class of 2021

36th Annual MG Appreciation Day

- To celebrate 10/13/1988 AR MG Founding
- Hosted by AR MG Coordinator Randy Forst and MG Agents
- October 14, 2024
- 10:00a.m. to 2:00 pm at BGO

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Launder
Secretary