

Pulaski County Master Gardener

General Meeting Via Zoom

March 16, 2021

Welcome: President Sharon Priest welcomed the group at 11:32 a.m. Members were thanked for their patience and dedication to the Master Gardener Program during the adjustments required during the pandemic.

Speaker: Jodie Majony introduced John Summer of Wild Birds Unlimited in the Heights. He shared information regarding nutrition, nesting habits and migration patterns about several bird species in the Central Arkansas area, as well as interesting species-specific tidbits. Conservation was stressed. Reasons for population decline such as deforestation, urbanization, pesticide use, and avian salmonella were also discussed.

A Moment in History: Jane Gulley explained that graphic artist, Kathleen Ragsdale, designed the Oak Tree currently on our logo, during the 1988 pilot program. It became a legally registered trademark representing Master Gardener programs statewide in 2002. Information about meetings, dues, officer elections and the initial projects was also shared.

Busy Bees: Sharon reminded the membership that Busy Bees are given to Master Gardeners who have logged 40 hours on their sanctioned project. First year members will have to log 60 hrs. on their sanctioned project to qualify.

Arkansas Flower and Garden Show: Patti Womble explained money from the Flower and Garden Show goes to grants all over the state. She also introduced the new Executive Director, Cori Fetters. Cori shared information about a statewide garden design contest to raise funds lost from the temporary Arkansas Flower and Garden Show cancellation. Two designated divisions, Professional and Non-Professional ornamental gardens, will have until May 31 to submit educational and informative garden videos to be judged in June. Winners will be announced July 1. Entry fees for Professional gardeners will be \$75 and \$25 for Non-Professional gardeners. Information can be found at ARgardenshow.org. Funds will also be raised by people paying \$10 to view 5 Professional and 5 Non-Professional gardens on YouTube.

Announcements: Dues are \$20 until the end of April. They go up to \$30 May 1. They are to be mailed to Susan Stewart.

A Chair and Co-Chair zoom meeting will be at 1:30 today, March 16.

Ramblings with Randy: Randy reminded everyone to wait before severely pruning cold damaged plants. His new ram has done a good job. He should have 15 ewes lambing next week and 13 more later.

The meeting was adjourned at 12: 41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Jordan, Secretary

