

Pulaski County Master Gardeners General Meeting

March 15, 2022

Hybrid Meeting

Welcome: President Cindy Strauss called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. She praised members at large Pam Abrams and Jan Brandenburg for scheduling excellent speakers.

Jan Brandenburg introduced speaker Janet Lanza of Arkansas Wild Spaces. This group offers habitat advisors and home visits for a nominal fee to aid gardeners in developing natural spaces and selecting native plants. This is a project of Central Arkansas Naturalists.

Garden Thyme: Past "Moments in History" presentations may be found on the Magnolia Chronicle site and/or the Master Gardener website. Jane Gulley presented a new feature called "Happy To Know You" where members will be interviewed. Today she highlighted Master Gardener President Cindy Strauss and Pulaski County Agent Randy Forst.

Announcements: The State Master Gardener Conference called "Ozark Adventure" will be hosted by Washington County Master Gardeners May 19-21, 2022, at Springdale Holiday Inn and Convention Center. Registration is open on the MG only section of the website. Keynote address will be on perennials. Several garden tours are offered.

March 16, 2022, a class on plant markers will be held by the Continuing Education Committee led by Melody Parsley and Don Ford. The class will instruct project chairs and co-chairs about making the markers for our gardens.

Dues of \$20 are due and payable to Assistant Treasurer Susan Stewart. Susan also has 2022 membership cards.

Concerning Busy Bee Awards, Cindy reminded project chairs to pick up project packet of awards and distribute them. Signed form should be returned to Deeana Montgomery, Busy Bee Chair. Dremel team will be available multiple times this spring.

Upcoming spring sales of plants from Master Gardener greenhouses are scheduled. Pathfinder Greenhouse will be online the week before Easter. Little Rock Greenhouse will sell to Master Gardeners only April 15 and the public April 16.

The St. James Master Gardener workday will be April 20, 2022, from 9-11. Sign-up sheet is available today in foyer or volunteers may email Pam Gadberry. These hours will count as sanctioned project hours.

Cindy explained that the new system for entering work and education hours is not available yet. Members should maintain written records and enter the hours later.

Cori Fetters of the Stuff Committee will take orders for spring T-shirt in the foyer after the meeting. Today is the last day of the spring order, but there will probably be a fall sale. Colors are blue or green with short sleeve \$9 and long sleeve \$12.

Carol Mendel, First Vice President, voiced that the awards application process is being streamlined and encouraged members to be thinking about nominations. The new procedures will be discussed in August or September.

Cindy reminded members of the available Master Gardener Committees and urged members to join. Continuing Education and Social are especially needing interested members. Sara Jordan, Second Vice President, voiced that Social Committee is a good way to meet others and get involved. Some social events are already scheduled.

Cindy pointed out that we will schedule hybrid meetings through the end of the year. She also mentioned that we will resume door prizes at meetings.

Ramblings with Randy: Randy thanked Carol Mendel for a successful Chair and Co-Chair meeting on March 10.

He reminded all of label classes that will be available to produce quality labels for our plants on our projects.

Randy explained the Lifetime Plus Program. After 15 years of service, a member receives the lifetime distinction. To continue to be recognized at 5 year increments, a member must give 10 work hours per year to the sanctioned project.

For new Master Gardeners, requirements are 40 hours of work with half of those on sanctioned project as well as 20 education hours.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deeana Montgomery, Secretary