

Pulaski County Master Gardeners General Meeting

February 21, 2023

Welcome: The meeting was called to order by President Carol Mendel at 11:30 a.m. Carol introduced the new County Agent, Derek Reed, to the membership. Derek is working with officers and members and has already visited several projects.

Announcements: Carol reminded members that dues of \$20 are due. Dues can be paid in the lobby prior to the meetings to Assistant Treasurer Arlene Sevilla-White. This year only in recognition of the organization's 35th year a free t-shirt will be given to members who pay dues by the deadline of April 30, 2023, and to lifetime members who sign up with Arlene.

Carol recognized Paul Nolte's work in developing the website and making it easy for members. Please send Paul project pictures for recognition at each meeting.

The Busy Bee award winners were announced by showing names on the screens in the auditorium. Carol congratulated the winners for their hard work on our various sanctioned projects. Project chairs and co-chairs should get their packet of awards after the meeting and distribute them to the winners. Carol explained the criteria and reminded members of the importance of posting all hours worked on projects.

Carol pointed out the email from the Pulaski County Extension Office giving tips for using the website.

A new area on the website will publish a collection of recipes from members. Submit recipes to Paul Nolte by email.

The editor of The Magnolia Chronicle, Laura Anne Warren, is looking for contributions to The Chronicle.

Susan Reasoner of the Travel Committee announced two upcoming opportunities for members. The committee will coordinate travel plans. The two trips are The Dirt Friends Festival March 11 in El Dorado and Dallas Blooms at Dallas Arboretum April 11.

Carol asked all Busy Bee recipients to stand and be recognized. She also recognized the chairs and co-chairs.

The Social Committee has planned the PCMG Spring Luncheon March 16 at Faulkner Lake Orchard. The cost is \$15, and reservations are required by March 8. She requested that the Social Committee members stand and be recognized.

Board-at-Large member Susan Rose is organizing a St. James workday to thank the church for the hospitality to our group. Work will take place following the April 18 general meeting. Workers can count the work hours toward their own sanctioned project.

The website now contains an updated volunteer manual for all members.

Speaker: Susan Rose introduced our new Pulaski County Horticulture Agent, Derek Reed. Derek has education and work experience in Texas and California. Derek spoke about his job and his experiences. Besides assisting master gardeners, Derek is responsible for educating the public, developing learning opportunities, and connecting with the community.

Door prizes were distributed to members in attendance at the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deeana Montgomery, Board Secretary