

# **Pulaski County Master Gardeners General Meeting**

**October 17, 2023**

**Welcome:** President Carol Mendel called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. She welcomed members to the 35<sup>th</sup> year of the Master Gardener program in Arkansas. Carol praised the recent Master Gardener workday at St. James United Methodist Church where 14 members volunteered time working on the church grounds.

**Speaker:** Carol turned the meeting over to Member at Large Susan Rose to introduce the speaker. Susan introduced Professor Anthony Bowden, Ornamental Specialist with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture. Professor Bowden is a specialist in propagation.

**Announcements:** Carol spoke about the new member training going on currently and recognized the excellent job of the training committee with members Nancy Archer, Anje Nevala, Ann Griffin, Asha Bortz, Lorene Wright, Laurie Drew, and Bud Smith with help from Blanca Hernandez and Derek Reed.

Carol mentioned the memorial service on Saturday October 14, 2023, for member Kathy Ratcliffe held at the Demonstration Garden where many master gardeners, family and friends paid tribute to Kathy.

The Busy Bee Committee has a new project chair, announced Carol. Harold Abbey will take over the committee and prepare for the 2023 Busy Bee awards.

Carol announced that the Magnolia Chronicle is in the process of being revised to contain even more information for members.

The Social Committee announced that the BoBrook Farms event is cancelled. The Christmas Social for all members will be Tuesday December 5, 2023, at Chenal Country Club. Cost is \$25.

Carol announced that the November General Meeting will be held a week early on November 14, 2023. A catered lunch reception for all new members and general membership will be held immediately following the general meeting.

Award Nominations are due on October 31, 2023. At the November general meeting we will vote on the Award categories. Also, the slate of new officers will be presented for a vote. Leave of Absence Requests must be received by the November 14, 2023, meeting. The deadline to record project work hours is December 15, 2023.

**Derek's Remarks:** Agent Derek Reed spoke of his activities during the month. He reminded members that he will hold Mentor Training following today's general meeting.

Door prizes were distributed. Carol adjourned the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deeana Montgomery, Board Secretary

