**Danville Master Gardener Association**

**Membership Meeting**

**April 3, 2023**

 The April 3, 2023, meeting was held at West Main Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m. with 24 members and trainees present as well as several visitors and our speaker. A social time began at 6:30 p.m. with refreshments provided by Jim Clark, Sandy Pruitt and Elizabeth Tomlin.

 Billy spoke of the recent sad loss of Stuart Sutphin, retired Extension Agent and DMGA coordinator for many years, and of Vickie Fuquay, gardening and bluebird authority who was a frequent speaker for DMGA. A moment of silence was held in honor of Stuart and Vickie.

**Educational Program:**

 “How to Keep Lavender Alive” was presented by Annie Baggett from Sunshine Lavender Farm in Hurdle Mills, NC. The farm has been growing lavender for over twenty years and tests varieties for three years before offering for sale. Lavender plants can be ordered online at sunshinelavenderfarm.com. They have several events during the year, including Spring Planting Clinic in March, June Bloom Festival and a Holiday Open House.

 Quick Tips from Annie: Choose varieties carefully, 12-15 will do well in our area. Suggested sites: Hot, Dry and High. Full Sun, at least 6 hours. Water Deeply, soak every 7-10 days or equivalent of 1 inch of rainfall weekly. Air Circulation, plant for mature size, keep clear of weeds. Reflective Mulch, stone & shell, no hardwood. Plant with 50/50 mix of whatever soil you have and rocks from your property or river rocks, etc.

 A door prize from DMGA of a Ficus plant from Gibson Greenhouse was won by Cathy Nesselroade.

**Business Meeting - Call to Order and Minutes:**

Billy Holley, President, called the Business Meeting to order at 7:55 p.m. The minutes of the March 6, 2023 meeting had been sent to the membership by email. There were no corrections or additions. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Kelly Adcock and seconded by Carrie Rogers. The motion carried by a show of hands.

**Financial Report:**

Treasurer Kelly Adcock reminded the membership that unpaid 2023 dues of $20.00 would be in arrears after this meeting; 22 members have paid. She will send reminders to unpaid members as needed. March revenue included membership dues and contribution of honorarium by Pat Morgan; the only expense recorded was $50 speaker gratuity.

The current balances on accounts are as follows:

Main Account $16,369.14

Gibson Greenhouse $ 2,276.30

Swipe/Credit Card $ 1,746.22

**Budget for July 2023-June 2024:**

Billy reported that the Budget committee had met and set up a tentative budget. If any committees or project groups have budget requests, please submit them within the next two weeks. The proposed budget will be presented at the May meeting and a vote taken at the June meeting.

**Programs for 2023:**

 Ann reported that May educational program will be “A Study of Chamomile and Ginseng Teas” by Katherine Craib.

 Ann and Corey shared the excellent “Chalk Talk” You-Tube video from the Danville Public Schools which featured Billy Holley and Gibson students at the Gibson Greenhouse, explaining the uses of the Greenhouse including educational programs for the students.

**DMGA Master Gardener Training Class:**

 Corey reported that we have 6 trainees in the new class. The first lab was Propagation at Gibson Greenhouse, with Soils on April 8 and Woody Plants/Pruning on April 22. An email has been sent to the membership to sign up to attend labs along with the trainees.

 Introduced at the meeting were trainees Penny Martone, Mary Beth Holley, Rhonda Harris and Randee Brown.

**DMGA Website:**

 Brenda Rowland and Elizabeth Lattime are now working on the website together. This has been updated to include meeting information and minutes with further updates to include training class information.

**DMGA Newsletter:**

 Julia Sparrow and Deb Henderson had prepared a handout asking for assistance and articles for the newsletter. They have assumed responsibility for the quarterly newsletter.

**Project and Committee Reports:**

1. Pesticide Recertification Class – DMGA members assist with registration, will be held Wednesday, April 12, at Olde Dominion Agricultural Center in Chatham.

7 am – 10 am. Volunteers needed.

1. Butterfly House spring opening – Saturday, April 15 at the Danville Science Center/Train Station on Craghead Street. Volunteers needed for information table and craft table. 9:30 – 2:30 pm.
2. DMGA Plant Sale – on steps of Train Station/Science Center - in conjunction with the Butterfly House opening, will feature indoor and outdoor plants from the Gibson Greenhouse and donated by members. Proceeds divided 50/50 by DMGA and Greenhouse Fund. Volunteers needed 9:30-2:30 p.m. Sandy plans to pick up plants on Friday April 14 from Gibson Greenhouse.
3. Seed Savers Club – Ann plans to have a tray of labeled seed packets to sell at the Farmers Market, May-October. Donations welcome from DMGA members.

**Other:**

1. The Virginia Extension Master Gardener College will be held June 8-11, 2023, in Blacksburg. Corey noted there are scholarships available, contact him for details. Registration opens in mid-April. Registration Information – Virginia Master Gardener Intranet (vt.edu)
2. The International Master Gardener Conference will be June 18-22, 2023, in Overland Park, Kansas.

**Adjournment:**

Ann Sylvesmade a motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Jim Clark and passed by a show of hands. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**Next Board Meeting: TBD**

**Next DMGA Meeting:**

 **Monday, May 1, at West Main Baptist Church**

 **Refreshments at 6:30**

**Program at 7:00, “A Study of Chamomile and Ginseng Teas”**

**by Katherine Craib, with Business Meeting to follow**

**Respectfully submitted:**

**Bonnie Hill, Secretary**