**Danville Master Gardener Association**

**Membership Meeting**

**February 6, 2023**

The meeting was held at West Main Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m. with **25** members present as well as several visitors and our speaker. A social time began at 6:30 p.m. with refreshments provided by Judy Hodnett, Brenda Rowland and Elizabeth Tomlin.

**Educational Program:**

Bill McCaleb of the Southside Master Gardeners (South Boston and Halifax County), provided our educational program on “How Southside Master Gardeners Association Survived during Covid”. Ann Sylves introduced Bill and led the discussion with questions submitted by the members. Bill has been a part-time coordinator of the Virginia Extension Office SMGA for over 20 years in a paid position with Halifax County. The group has over 70 active members and is currently training 11 new Master Gardeners.

During Covid, the group was able to meet in various ways, using facilities that were outdoors or that allowed them to sit at a distance from each other. Bill states that the group tries to focus on involving youth and providing educational programs for the community. Their primary annual fund-raiser is a plant sale the first Saturday in May.

Bill invited our members to visit any of the SMGA meetings or activites. He is speaking about “Best of the Best for Area Gardens” on Friday, March 17, at the South Boston Museum of Fine Arts and History.

**Business Meeting - Call to Order:**

Billy Holley, President, called the Business Meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

**Minutes of January 9 Meeting:**

The minutes had been sent to the membership by email. There were no corrections or additions. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Judy Hodnett and seconded by Debra Bailey. The motion carried by a show of hands.

**Financial Report:**

Treasurer Kelly Adcock reminded the membership that the 2023 dues of $20.00 are now due. She had already received dues from 15 members. The 2023 Interns are exempt as are Life-Time Members.

The association has received contributions of $1,065.00 for the Ann Roberts-Gibson Greenhouse Memorial Fund.

The current balances on accounts are as follows:

Main Account $16,210.00

Gibson Greenhouse $ 2,276.00

Swipe/Credit Card $ 1,746.00

**2023 Handbook:**

Billy gave a thank-you to all those who worked on the 2023 Handbook. Additional copies are available at each meeting and at the Extension Office.

**DMGA Website:**

Billy encouraged members to log in to the DMGA website to see new information and changes.

**DMGA Committees:**

Billy reminded the members that several committees need volunteers, in particular the Nominating, Social and Audit Committees. Sign-up sheets are available. Any questions please contact any member of the Board.

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

Billy asked that each project and committee group meet or talk by phone before the March 6 DMGA meeting, to discuss financial needs for the budget year beginning July 1 2023. Requests for the budget need to be submitted to the Budget Committee as soon as possible.

**Programs for 2023:**

The March 2023 educational program will be “Native Grasses” presented by Randee Brown. Ann welcomed suggestions for other programs – ideas discussed included Exotic Plants, Terrariums, Ecosystems, Herbal Teas, Bats, Insects, Vineyards (2 Witches), Hydroponic Plants (shop beside Sheetz).

**Projects for 2023:**

Debra Bailey reported that volunteers were still needed for the 2023 on-going projects; sign-up sheets are on the back table, or contact Debra or any other Board member.

The Brookdale Assisted Living Facility gardening class was enthusiastically enjoyed by the Brookdale residents in January. The plan is to meet with them monthly. Pat Morgan plans to lead discussion in February. The residents are particularly interested in adding vegetables, herbs, lettuces and tomatoes to the existing raised beds and landscaped areas.

The new Master Garden Training committee met in January and Corey will be contacting interested persons to get commitments. The course will be available shortly from Virginia Tech. Ten labs are planned and a tentative schedule is in the works. Attendance at five labs is required for the training program.

Spring to Green Committee will also be meeting in the near future to begin plans for February 2024.

**Area Garden Events:**

The Bedford Area Master Gardeners are having a symposium on Saturday, March 11; four of our members have signed up to attend. This would not be enough to use the VT van. If others are interested, please contact Debra Bailey.

Art in Bloom at the NC Museum of Art in Raleigh will be March 15-19. West Main Baptist Church is taking a group on Saturday, March 18, but exhibit tickets have sold out that would work with their bus time frame.

The Pine Knot Farm Hellebore Festival is taking place 4 weekends in late February and early March. Pine Knot Farm is located near Clarksville, VA.

**Adjournment:**

Ann Sylves made a motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Judy Hodnett and passed by a show of hands. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Brannon Blount won the Door Prize of a Mouse-Leaf Poinsettia.

**Next Board Meeting: March or April 2023**

**Next Meeting:**

**Monday, March 6, 2023, at West Main Baptist Church**

**Refreshments at 6:30; Program at 7:00 with Business Meeting to follow**

**Respectfully submitted:**

**Bonnie Hill, Secretary**