**Danville Master Gardener Association**

**Membership Meeting**

**March 6, 2023**

The March 6, 2023, meeting was held at West Main Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m. with **18** members present as well as several visitors and our speaker. A social time began at

6:30 p.m. with refreshments provided by Deb Henderson, Julia Sparrow, Elizabeth Tomlin and Bonnie Hill.

**Educational Program:**

Randee Brown provided our educational program on “Native Grasses”. Randee had a 24-year career with the City of Danville, primarily with Parks and Recreation, with much experience as a Master Gardener and Master Naturalist. She provided a slideshow, brochures, numerous web links and resources. Native plants are defined as plants occurring naturally prior to settlement by Europeans in the 1600’s. In our area, some of the most popular native grasses are Broom Sedge, Fringed Sedge, Northern Sea Oats, Wool Grass, Indian Grass, and Pink Muhly.

Another popular option is to combine native grasses with wildflowers, with the result looking like a meadow. The web links and resources will be available via email from Corey/Extension Office.

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

Billy Holley, President, called the Business Meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. The minutes of the February 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 Pat Morgan and seconded by Ann Sylves. The motion carried by a show of hands.

**Financial Report:**

Treasurer Kelly Adcock reminded the membership that the 2023 dues of $20.00 should be paid as soon as possible. February revenue included membership dues, interest and Amazon Smile payment of $9.88. She noted that the Amazon Smile program has been discontinued. The DMGA is also set up as benefactor of a percentage of sales with Brent and Becky’s Bulbs.

Selling plants at the Farmers’ Market was discussed as a fundraiser. Billy explained that plants sold at the Gibson Greenhouse table are primarily from the greenhouse, with all proceeds going back into the Greenhouse Fund to benefit the greenhouse and to support the education of the children at Gibson Elementary School. A separate sale and display area would be necessary if the DMGA had a plant sale of its own.

In other fundraising discussion, Pat Morgan stated that speaker honorariums were usually given by organizations and could be donated to DMGA.

The current balances on accounts are as follows:

Main Account $16,291.14

Gibson Greenhouse $ 2,276.30

Swipe/Credit Card $ 1,746.22

**Audit Committee Report**

Carrie Rogers reported that the audit committee had reviewed the financial records for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2021, and June 30, 2022, and found that the records were in order. The written audit report was presented and will be filed with the DMGA records.

**DMGA Website:**

Billy recognized Elizabeth Lattime, who has volunteered to assist Brenda Rowland. Brenda plans to train Elizabeth to take over the website and Facebook by June 2023.

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

Billy reminded the members that committees need to meet and determine if they have any financial requests for the July 2023-June 2024 budget. The budget committee will be meeting in April and May, with a Board-approved budget to be reviewed and brought to a vote at the June 2023 meeting.

**Programs for 2023:**

Ann Sylves reported that the April 3 educational program will be presented by

Annie Baggett from Sunshine Lavender Farm in Hurdle Mills, NC, “How to Keep Lavender Alive”. Other monthly meeting programs have been scheduled and will be posted on the DMGA website.

**Project and Committee Reports:**

1. Literature Racks – Isla Wiles has asked that someone else take on the chairman role; Sandy Pruitt volunteered to do this. New supplies and copying costs should be included in the budget.
2. Newsletter – Isla will work with Deb Henderson and Julia Sparrow, who have volunteered to take on this responsibility.
3. Brookdale gardening class for residents – Pat Morgan is leading a class at the end of March. Volunteers will be needed especially in April and May for helping residents plant vegetables and flowers.
4. Garden Tours – Ann Sylves is working on a tour of some of our DMGA members’ gardens, more info to come soon.
5. Plant Clinics and Workshops – the loofah demonstration at the Farmers’ Market was a success with lots of interest. Space should be available at the Farmers’ Market for this – need volunteers and a chairperson.
6. Spring to Green – Debra is assigning responsibilities to each committee member with plans to meet in April.

**DMGA Master Gardener Training Class:**

Corey reported that 4 persons have signed up for the class. Others who had expressed interest had conflicts with scheduling. He will send out the sign-up information and lab schedule to the membership to pass on to additional possible trainees.

The Training Lab Schedule begins with Propagation at the Gibson Greenhouse on Saturday, March 25. The other labs include Soils with Dr. Laura Meder, who is retiring after this year from Averett University; Woody Plants with Jessica Smith, recently-hired arborist for the City of Danville; and Herbaceous Plants with Bill McCaleb of the Southside MGA in Halifax.

With the small number of trainees, the membership will be allowed to attend many of the labs which count as educational hours. Notices will be emailed to the membership to sign up for these.

**Other:**

Corey was pleased to announce that Nancy Thompson will begin as administrative assistant at the Extension Office on Friday, March 10.

The Community Market has 5 raised beds/plots still available for anyone who wants to use them; the area has timed irrigation, is fenced in and locked.

This Saturday, March 11, West Main Baptist Church is having their Spring Clean-Up Day and welcomes any DMGA members who would like to help.

Wayne Allen, owner of the Historic North Theater, addressed the group to request any ideas or assistance from the group to help establish greenery and gardens in the North Danville area. He is starting a “Fairy Doors” garden next to the theater and has talked with Galileo and GWHS art departments about painting murals.

**Adjournment:**

Jim Clark made a motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Carrie Rogers and passed by a show of hands. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Brannon Blount won the Door Prize of a Geranium from the Gibson Greenhouse.

**Next Board Meeting: March 30, 2023, 4:00 p.m. at the Extension Office**

**Next DMGA Meeting:**

**Monday, April 3, at West Main Baptist Church**

**Refreshments at 6:30**

**Program at 7:00, Annie Baggett, Sunshine Lavender Farm**

**with Business Meeting to follow**

**Respectfully submitted:**

**Bonnie Hill, Secretary**