

Danville Master Gardener Association
Membership Meeting
August 14, 2023

The August 14, 2023, meeting was held at West Main Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m. The August 7 meeting was cancelled due to weather concerns/tornado watch and re-scheduled for August 14. 18 members and 4 visitors were present. Social hour began at 6:30 p.m. with refreshments provided by Nancy Carpenter, Debra Bailey and Elizabeth Tomlin.

Educational Program:

Sandy Pruitt, DMGA member and founder of the Danville Science Center Butterfly Garden in 1999, shared “Tips for Successful Gardening without Injury” or “What I wish I knew in my 30’s”. She emphasized being safe while working in your garden, by stretching, using both sides of your body; using your back and hips for lifting and digging; staying hydrated and avoiding over-heating. She shared adaptive tools such as a quick-connect for spigots, rolling stools, kneeling bench, battery-powered tiller, and ergonomic garden tools.

Business Meeting - Call to Order, Minutes and Financial Report:

Billy Holley, President, called the Business Meeting to order. He announced that the Extension Office Secretary, Nancy Thompson, had resigned. The DMGA membership will be asked to help man the office. Extension Agent Corey Reidel is on vacation until August 21, he will let us know dates that coverage is needed.

The minutes of the July 10, 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 Fred Shanks and seconded by Judy Hodnett.

Treasurer Kelly Adcock was not present to give a Treasurer’s Report.

DMGA Educational Programs:

Billy reported that Corey would present a program on Helpful Insects at the September DMGA meeting.

The annual/required “Risk Management/Civil Rights Training” will be sent to the membership to complete online; it is a Virginia Tech requirement for all members to have this training every year. The DMGA trainees have already completed this requirement.

October 2 - Jessica Smith, “Rain Garden Management”

November 6 – Amanda Rhyne, “Bats”

December 4 – Christmas Holiday Social and Trainee Graduation Recognition

DMGA Newsletter and Website:

Julia Sparrow had recently sent the August 2023 newsletter “Gardener’s Corner” including our meeting dates, To Do list, special recognition for Debra Bailey and her many accomplishments, an introduction to trainee Mary Beth Holley, and many wonderful photos of DMGA members’ plants and activities.

Brenda Rowland reported that the DMGA website has been updated with the DMGA minutes. All information for Spring to Green, brochure, registration, etc., will be posted on the website when ready.

DMGA Master Gardener Training Class:

Two labs remain: Saturday, September 16, 11:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.) will be a lunch treating the new trainees at Joe and Mimma’s, with discussion of “Garden Myths/Latin Names/Better Impact/Lessons Learned”, led by Corey. The Training Committee, monitors, and other DMGA members are also invited; please RSVP to Bonnie Hill by September 14.

A Zoom presentation on “Plant Pathology” by Lina Rodriguez Salimanca, VT Professor of Plant Pathology, is scheduled for Wednesday, September 20, from 6 – 9 p.m. DMGA members who wished to participate were to sign up with Corey by August 18.

DMGA Project and Committee Reports:

Debra Bailey led discussion of updates on projects and committees:

1. Community Market – Volunteer coverage is needed for August 19. Plants from Gibson Greenhouse are being sold as well as Seed Packets.
2. Brookdale Assisted Living – Mary Beth Holley reported the summer programs for residents provided by DMGA were well received, with 6-8 residents attending each one. Residents have assisted her in watering the raised beds. She has made a binder with information about plants, gardening tips, and DMGA projects, this is at Brookdale and accessible to the residents and staff.
3. Social Committee – Refreshment volunteers are needed for Sept. and Nov.
4. Nominating Committee – Becky Meadema, Chairman, reported that the 2023 DMGA officers have agreed to serve again in 2024, but asked that members start thinking about serving as an officer in 2025. A description of the duties of each officer will be included in the next newsletter.

5. DMGA Handbook – reminder there is a “Coloring Page” in the front of the book and there will be a prize for the “Best” at our December Holiday Social.
6. “Spring to Green” – Debra reported great progress has been made in planning of the February 3, 2024, Spring to Green Conference at Olde Dominion Agricultural Center in Chatham. Three speakers have committed to participate and the schedule, brochure and poster are being set up. Save the Date emails have been sent to former attendees. Next committee meeting is Friday, August 18, 10 a.m. at the Extension Office building conference room.
7. Sponsorship for “Spring to Green” – Judy asked that DMGA members consider being a sponsor or talk to friends about being sponsors for Spring to Green. The sponsorship amount would be a tax-deductible contribution since DMGA is a 501-c non-profit organization. Sponsor forms are available from Judy or Brenda and will be send to members by email.
8. Plant Sale – Sandy Pruitt led discussion about a possible plant sale of perennials (from our gardens) and houseplants (rooted and established) in late September or early October. Suggested: iris, daylilies, hydrangeas. Please get in touch with her to let her know if you can provide plants for a fall sale. We can use the regular community market table for this.

Area Gardening Events:

Caswell County Horticultural Society is having an event on Thursday, August 17, beginning with a tour of the arboretum at 9:00 a.m. and a panel discussion at 10:00 a.m. on “Green Steps to Save our Earth and Its Inhabitants” – in Yanceyville, NC., Municipal area.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: TBD

Next DMGA Meeting:

Monday, September 11, at West Main Baptist Church

Refreshments at 6:30

Program at 7:00, “All Bugs are Not Bad-Free Help in Your Garden” - Corey

Business Meeting at 7:30

**Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Hill, Secretary**