

**Danville Master Gardener Association
Membership Meeting
January 8, 2024**

The January 8, 2024, meeting was held at West Main Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m. with 19 members/interns present, with refreshments at 6:30 provided by the DMGA officers.

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

Billy Holley, President, called the Business Meeting to order. The December 4 minutes/notes from the Christmas/Holiday Dinner were previously sent by email to membership; on motion by Jim Clark and second by Debra Bailey, the minutes were approved.

Treasurer Kelly Adcock reported that DMGA has received income in December from Spring to Green registrations, partnership/sponsors, and volunteer lunches. Otherwise the account balances are stable. Kelly has established an account with Square to process credit card payments at Spring to Green. Square is an established payment processor and charges 2.6% plus \$0.10 per transaction.

Kelly also reminded the group that dues of \$20.00 are due for 2024. Also, Billy reminded members that Brent & Becky's Bulbs are continuing their program to give DMGA a percentage of sales; DMGA received \$80.00 from them in 2023. The DMGA request is at the bottom of the B&B online form.

Educational Programs:

Ann Sylves reports there are a lot of ideas and contacts being made but does not yet have formal commitments for programs. Possibilities include programs on local wine production and a mushroom business.

Budget for July 2024-June 2025:

Billy asks that any budget requests be submitted to him or any DMGA officer. The Budget Committee needs to have all requests by the end of March in order to present the budget at the June 2024 DMGA meeting.

Standing Committees and DMGA Projects:

Billy asked that all 2023 committee chairs/cochairs continue into 2024; if you cannot, please let him know. The standing committees and chairmen/cochairs are: Awards – Debra Bailey; Budget and Finance – Kelly Adcock; Bylaws – Judy Hodnett; Financial Audit – Carrie Rogers; Nominating – Becky Meadema & Julia Sparrow; Social – Nancy Carpenter & Isla Wiles.

Likewise, those in charge of DMGA Ongoing Projects for 2023 are asked to continue into 2024: Community Market – Debra Bailey; Facebook and Website – Brenda Rowland & Elizabeth Lattime; Gardening 101/Ballou Park – Corey Riedel; Gibson Greenhouse – Billy Holley; DMG Training Program – Corey Riedel; Literature Racks – Sandy Pruitt; Newsletter – Julia Sparrow & Deb Henderson; Plant Clinics, Workshops and Classes – Debra Bailey; Spring to Green – Debra Bailey; Local Garden Tours – Ann Sylves; Travel Tours – Position Open. The Help Desk and Natures’ Handbook Projects have been discontinued.

Corey encouraged the group to increase the DMGA educational projects and participation. In 2023, Jim Clark led tool sharpening classes; Sandy Pruitt & Julia Sparrow assisted with the Gardening 101/Ballou Park classes; other members assisted with the Butterfly House opening in April. In 2024, DMGA is off to a good start with Spring to Green.

Sandy Pruitt suggested that we set up a list of members who are interested in being a speaker for area Garden Clubs and other organizations. She stated that our group has the knowledge and the talents to be sharing information with the community.

Corey feels that more programming for kids would be a plus. The new 4-H director, Terrance Draper, will be starting this week and we anticipate working with him on programs and contacts.

Brenda Rowland asked if the group might be interested in assisting her garden club with upgrades to one of the older Danville cemeteries. Needed are ideas and assistance in planting pollinators and native plants that are easy to maintain, do not require a lot of pruning and will provide seasonal color. Shade and sun areas are included. Jessica Smith is assisting with landscape design. Corey agrees this should qualify as a DMGA project.

Nominating Committee:

Julia Sparrow reported that the committee is now beginning to work on filling the officer positions for 2025. These will be needed by the October 2024 meeting with vote at the November meeting. She says at least two of the current officers will need to be replaced. According to the bylaws, The President and Vice-President serve only one two-year term; Secretary and Treasurer may serve 2 consecutive two-year terms. Suggestion was made to have two co-Vice-Presidents, one for programs and the other fulfilling other duties with plans to be the next president.

Audit Committee:

Carrie Rogers reported that she, Cindy Bailey and Brannon Blount had completed review of the records for the current audit period. They found all records in order for the DMGA account, the Gibson Greenhouse account and the Swipe/Credit card account. Carrie expressed appreciation and praise for Kelly Adcock on an excellent job as our Treasurer.

DMGA Website/Facebook:

Brenda Rowland stated that she is continuing to look after the website and Facebook posts and will post educational/meeting information when it is available. She continues to post information for Spring to Green. Elizabeth Lattime has delayed working on the website/Facebook because of family health issues.

Corey Reidel, Extension Agent-Info and Reminders:

Training Class 2024 – The committee has met and has made progress on setting dates and instructors/locations for the labs, with plans to start in early March 2024. The Soils Lab will need to be re-vamped so he is still working on this; Entomology will again be at Elizabeth Tomlin’s house; Herbaceous Plants probably again in South Boston. Under review is whether to make changes in the Water Quality Lab, perhaps having it earlier in the year or have other instructors with a lower fee. He will also be sending emails in the next few weeks to those who have expressed interest in the class and will then follow-up with a link to registration, the DMGA scholarship information, etc.

Denise Alvarez has accepted the Extension Office administrative assistance position and will begin work on January 25. The Extension Office will be getting new computers; if DMGA members have information on the office computer, please plan to move it to your personal computer.

Also, Corey will be placing an order soon for DMGA name tags – if anyone needs one, please let him know.

DMGA Project and Committee Reports – Debra Bailey:

1. “Spring to Green” –February 3, 2024, at Olde Dominion Agricultural Complex.

As of today, 78 have registered online and we have 10 mail-in, so total of 88; we plan to sell up to 125 tickets. So far two vendors have paid for space and several others are interested. Partnerships (formerly called sponsors) are over \$3000.00.

DMGA will have a raffle for two gardening items; also for sale will be notecards designed by Julia Sparrow and butterfly/flower-design cookies by Elizabeth Tomlin. The Gibson Greenhouse will have a sale of succulents. Brenda Rowland has made and donated a full-size quilt for a silent auction.

Debra is continuing to sign up volunteers for Set-up on Friday, Feb. 2, from 12-5 p.m., and for Saturday, February 3, from 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. (approximate). Volunteers should plan to stay the entire set-up or event time period; updates will be given on duties and time to arrive. Plan to wear black pants, white shirt and your DMGA name tag.

Volunteers for event day should also indicate their lunch choice; payment of \$17.00 for lunch/beverages/breakfast snacks should be given to Kelly asap.

2. Community Market – Sandy noted that the Winter Market is being held on Saturdays from 9-1 through March. DMGA is not setting up a table for the winter months but Gibson Greenhouse will have a table with plants for sale.

Adjournment:

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

Next Board Meeting: TBD

Next DMGA Meeting:

Monday, February 4, 2024 at West Main Baptist Church

Program: “Chemical-Free Family Farming” by Kaleigh DiNoto of Kallan Farm
[Kallan Farm](#)

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Hill, Secretary