**Danville Master Gardener Association**

**Membership Meeting**

**July 10, 2023**

The July 10, 2023, meeting was held at West Main Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m. with 22 members and trainees present as well as 6 visitors. The social time began at 6:30 p.m. with refreshments provided by Julia Sparrow, Elizabeth Tomlin and Bonnie Hill.

**Educational Program:**

Corey Reidel, Danville’s VT Extension Agent, presented an entertaining and informative slide program on “Pollinator Habitat”. The pollination cycle is vital to our world, required by 75% of the world’s plants. Corey reviewed types of pollinators such as honey bees, native bees, bumblebees, flies and beetles; butterflies, moths, hummingbirds, and bats.

In establishing and maintaining a pollinator habitat, the following are recommended:

1) Variety of plants; 2) Plants of varying height and color; 3) Available water and mud;

4) Appropriate habitats for pollinators; 5) Multiples of same plant in an area; 6) Seasonal sequence for spring, summer and fall; 7) Sun and shade plants; 8) Minimal or no pesticide; if necessary, apply at dawn or dusk; 9) Think like a pollinator – natives, diversity, showy, bountiful, be patient, and be a little messy.

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

Billy Holley, President, called the Business Meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. The minutes of the June 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 Judy Hodnett and seconded by Brenda Rowland. The motion carried by a voice vote.

Billy read a thank-you note from Stuart Sutphin’s family for our condolences and contributions. He also recognized Randee Brown for completing all requirements to resume her DMGA membership.

Treasurer Kelly Adcock reported that primary disbursements in June were annual payment for Quickbooks license and the Volunteer Coordinator expenses for MG College in June 2023. The current balances on accounts are as follows:

Main Account $16,044.17

Swipe Credit Card $ 1,746.52

Gibson Greenhouse $ 1,976.65

**DMGA Educational Programs:**

Ann Sylves, Vice President, announced the programs for the remainder of 2023:

August 7 – Sandy Pruitt, “Tips for Successful Gardening”

September 11 – Corey, Annual/Required “Risk Management/Civil Rights Training”

October 2 - Jessica Smith, “Rain Garden Management”

November 6– Amanda Rhyne, “Bats”

December 4 – Christmas Holiday Social and Trainee Graduation Recognition

**DMGA Committees:**

Billy announced that Becky Meadema has volunteered to serve as Nominating Committee Chairman, and Nancy Carpenter as Social Committee Chairman. They are requesting volunteers to serve with them. Sign-up for monthly refreshments is encouraged as well.

**DMGA Card Chairman:**

Billy stated that Mary Beth Holley, new trainee, has volunteered to send sympathy cards to membership, for immediate family members. Please email her at [tumblebug1@yahoo.com](mailto:tumblebug1@yahoo.com) with any requests and information.

**DMGA Newsletter and Website:**

Julia Sparrow is preparing the next newsletter. She has been unable to access the newsletter website recently, so asked that any pictures or info be sent again directly to her email. [Sparrow.pester@Gmail.com](mailto:Sparrow.pester@Gmail.com)

Brenda Rowland is working with our website manager on a number of updates which should be completed soon, including the new logo and contact info for Billy Holley for more information on joining. Already on the website are a list of meetings, minutes, Spring to Green information, and a calendar of events.

**DMGA Master Gardener Training Class:**

The next lab will be July 22, Water Quality, at Anglers Park, taught by members of the Dan River Basin Association. Corey will be away several weeks in August, so August labs are being moved to September. Graduation will be in December at the Holiday Social.

**Project and Committee Reports:**

1. Brookdale Assisted Living – Billy and Mary Beth have worked with Brookdale to schedule three gardening activities for the residents, using plants from the Gibson Greenhouse: July 14 Raised Bed Planting; July 21, Succulent Potting; July 28, to be decided. These are on Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m. Additional volunteers are welcome.
2. Community Market – Jim Clark will be presenting a class on Tool Sharpening and Storage – on Saturday, July 15. 4 sessions planned, at 8, 9, 10, and 11 am. Debra stated volunteers are needed for the market for July 22 and July 30. Ann Sylves is organizing a scavenger hunt for kids at the market.
3. Ballou Park “Master Gardener” class – Corey –July 27 - from 11 am – 12 noon (Shelter 10). Corey welcomes assistance from DMGA members and any “take-home” ideas. He will give Billy information on this to pass out at the Community Market.
4. The Danville Childrens’ Festival on Saturday, June 17, was a success and well-attended. Special thanks to Kelly Adcock, Brannon Blount, and Corey.
5. Spring to Green – Debra reported that the committee had met several times, with next meeting on Thursday, July 13; additional members are needed. Significant progress is being made for this February 3, 2024 event. Two speakers have been lined up, catering bids are being reviewed, and vendor and sponsor requirements set up.
6. Seed Saver Packets – Ann has purchased plastic envelopes and printed pictures of the plants, for seeds that have been collected including Loofah, columbine and cleome. She will have these at the DMGA table at the Market and asks that the volunteers there on Saturdays put these together and display for sale, $1.00 each.
7. Garden Tours – No further updates.
8. Plant Sale – no further updates.
9. Gibson Greenhouse – Billy reported that the first graders had a wonderful time digging potatoes at the outdoor garden. These same students had planted the potatoes and each one took some potatoes home.

**Area Gardening Events**:

Sandy shared, there is a huge papaw tree worth seeing at 451 Hawthorne Drive.

Randee Brown stated that Doug Tollame, noted gardening author and speaker, will be speaking on “Bringing Nature Home” at the EC Glass Auditorium in Lynchburg on Thursday, September 28, at 7:00 p.m.

Randee also shared that the Master Naturalists welcome others to help in removing Japanese Knotweed behind Woodall Chevrolet on Riverside Drive, on Sunday, July 30, at 9:30 a.m. Plan for about one hour, volunteers cut and stack and City employees remove.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made to adjourn; the motion was seconded and passed by a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

**Next Board Meeting: TBD**

**Next DMGA Meeting:**

**Monday, August 7, at West Main Baptist Church**

**Refreshments at 6:30**

**Program at 7:00, “Tips for Successful Gardening”, Sandy Pruitt**

**Business Meeting at 7:30**

**Respectfully submitted:**

**Bonnie Hill, Secretary**