

Danville Master Gardener Association
Membership Meeting
March 4, 2024

Danville Master Gardener Association met on March 4, 2024, at West Main Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m. with 18 members, 10 Master Gardener trainees, and 5 guests present. Refreshments were provided at 6:30 p.m. by the Social Committee.

Educational Program:

“Lavender Successes and Challenges” was presented by Annie Baggett from Sunshine Lavender Farm in Hurdle Mills, NC. The farm has been growing lavender since 2000; it was started as a family project to teach their girls life skills; a few years later they began offering lavender for sale at the Farmers’ Market at Duke Medical Center. Lavender plants can be ordered online at sunshinelavenderfarm.com. They have several events during the year, including Spring Planting Clinic in March, June Bloom Festival and a Holiday Open House.

Quick Tips from Annie: Choose varieties carefully, 12-15 will do well in our area. Suggested sites: Hot, Dry and High. Full Sun, at least 6 hours. Water Deeply, soak every 7-10 days or equivalent of 1 inch of rainfall weekly. Air Circulation, plant for mature size, keep clear of weeds. Reflective Mulch, stone & shell, no hardwood. Plant with 50/50 mix of whatever soil you have and rocks from your property or river rocks, etc. Propagation is best done with cuttings or soil layering. If plants are turning gray/black, they are getting root rot, use a garden fork to aerate the root system.

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

Billy Holley, President, called the Business Meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. Minutes of the February 5 meeting were approved on a motion by Randee Brown and seconded by Jim Clark. Billy announced that DMGA had sent a contribution in memory of Margaret Milam to the Mt. Vernon Church Scholarship Fund.

Treasurer Kelly Adcock reported that income and expenses were still incoming for Spring to Green and would expect to have a completed report in April. She will send a notice to the few remaining members who have not paid their dues.

Current balances on our accounts as of February 29, 2024, are: Main Account \$ 16,699.15; Swipe Account \$ 7,025.48; and the Greenhouse Account \$ 1,644.73.

Educational Programs:

Corey Riedel may present a program in April unless another speaker is scheduled; other programs have been set for June, July, August, and October. Ann is continuing to reach out to speakers for other months. Addendum: Kathy Fell will present “Establishing a Native Meadow” at our April 1 meeting.

Budget for July 2024-June 2025:

Billy has asked committee chairmen to let him know asap any budget requests they have. The Budget Committee will be meeting on March 22 to review the budget.

Corey Reidel, Extension Agent-Training Class & Reminders

Training Class 2024 – Corey reported that 11 have signed up and paid for this year’s training class; he may be able to add a few others. The first lab, Orientation, was held prior to the DMGA meeting with 10 trainees and 5 committee members present. The second lab, Plant Propagation, will be on Saturday, March 23, at the Gibson Greenhouse.

A lab schedule has been distributed to the class and the training committee. Bonnie Hill, Lab Coordinator, will be sending emails about one week prior to each lab with instructions and will be getting in touch with DMGA members to serve as monitors.

Newsletter:

Julia asked for members to consider submitting articles for the newsletter – these do not have to be lengthy, a paragraph and/or picture will be appreciated.

DMGA Project and Committee Reports – Debra Bailey:

The Pesticide Conference will be held tomorrow, Tuesday, March 5, at Olde Dominion Agricultural Center; Debra has adequate volunteers.

Corey gave information on a planned replanting of Ballou Park, with an event planned on Friday, April 19 in collaboration with the City of Danville and community/volunteer involvement. The City of Danville has obtained a grant from the Department of Forestry with plans to plant 10 trees a year.

Area Events:

Alamance County/North Carolina State University are having gardening classes throughout the spring and summer. Information is available at [Gardening Classes | N.C. Cooperative Extension \(ncsu.edu\)](https://www.ncsu.edu/extension/gardening-classes/). Corey noted that educational hours can be earned online and in other localities including North Carolina; however, all volunteer hours have to be earned in Virginia.

Adjournment:

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

DMGA Board Meeting: March 22, 2024, 4:00 p.m.

Next DMGA Meeting:

Monday, April 1, 2024 at West Main Baptist Church
Program: “Establishing a Native Meadow” by Kathy Fell
Time: 6:30 p.m. Social/7:00 p.m. Program

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Hill, Secretary