

Danville Master Gardener Association
Membership Meeting
November 12, 2023

The November 12, 2023, meeting was held at West Main Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m. with 18 members/interns and 4 visitors present, with refreshments at 6:30. The meeting was moved to November 12 from November 5 due to illness of our speaker.

Educational Program:

Amanda Rhyne, Wildlife Conservation specialist based in Danville, presented our educational program on “Backyard Bats”. Amanda provides environmental consultations and has an avid interest in the study and preservation of bats and other endangered species.

Amanda stated that bats are mammals – warm-blooded, have fur and live births, with over 1400 species world-wide and 17 species in Virginia. They are of the order Chiroptera which translates to “hand wing”; Amanda describes the bat wing as being comparable to the human hand. Bats use sound waves for echolocation to find prey and other objects and to communicate with other bats. Ecological services we get from bats include insect control, pollination, seed dispersal and nitrogen dispersal.

In our area, the most common bat types are Big Brown, Little Brown and Evening. We can assist bats by maintaining natural habitat – leave the leaves and downed trees, put up a bat house; grow native plants, avoid pesticides, provide a water source, and practice sustainable forestry by leaving some large trees and replanting.

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

Billy Holley, President, called the Business Meeting to order. The October 2 meeting minutes were previously sent by email to membership; on motion by Jim Clark and second by Judy Hodnett, the minutes were approved.

Treasurer Kelly Adcock reported that DMGA has received income in October from Spring to Green registrations and sponsorships. In expenses, DMGA joined the Dan River Non-Profit Association which provides benefits and services to Danville non-profit groups.

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| Current balances on our accounts are: | Main Account | \$ 17,569.45 |
| | Swipe Account | \$ 2,315.20 |
| | Greenhouse Account | \$ 1,976.98 |

December Meeting:

The December 4, 2023, DMGA meeting will be a Christmas Holiday Dinner with Graduate/Intern Recognition, at 6:00 p.m., in the West Main Fellowship Hall. The main dish will be lasagna (meat and vegetarian). Each member is asked to contribute salad, bread or dessert.

There is a sign-up sheet to sign up tonight; otherwise, please let Isla Wiles or Nancy Carpenter know if you are attending and bringing a guest; if vegetarian is requested; and what

dish you can bring, by Friday, November 17. Several members volunteered to come early on December 4 to set up tables and decorate.

Coloring Contest:

Debra Bailey announced there will be a \$25.00 gift card prize for the winner of the coloring page contest. Entries are to be brought to the Christmas Dinner, please put your name on the back of the page (not the front). The Coloring Page is on the second page of the 2023 DMGA Handbook.

DMGA Newsletter and Website:

Brenda Rowland reported that the Spring to Green brochure/flyer, poster, paper registration form, vendor forms, and link to Eventbrite registration, are all available on the DMGA website. The event has been posted on Facebook with link to DMGA website.

Corey Reidel, Extension Agent Info and Reminders:

Training Class 2024 – he is working on getting this started and has list of interested people, let him know any others. The Committee will be meeting before the end of the year.

Interviews are being held for the Extension Office administrative position and the 4-H coordinator with expectation of filling both positions in the near future.

The link for the annual/required “Risk Management/Civil Rights Training” was sent by email recently; it is a Virginia Tech requirement for all members to have this training every year. When completed, each DMGA member should record the date in the “Qualifications” section of Better Impact. Note: by January 1, 2024, all of the questions in “Qualifications” should be updated with an end date of December 31, 2024.

Volunteer and educational hours for 2023 should be entered into the Better Impact system by mid-December. If any help is needed, contact Debra or Corey.

If educational hours are needed, the monthly VMGA email and the VMGA website are excellent resources with links to webinars, on-line classes, and publications.

DMGA Project and Committee Reports – Debra Bailey:

1. Community Market – Another DMGA plant sale was held in late October with \$147.00 in sales. The Market will re-open the first week in May 2024.
2. Spring DMGA Plant Sale – Sandy Pruitt encouraged members to be mindful of plants that could be sold in the spring – Christmas gifts, amaryllis bulbs, flats of seedlings/starter plants, divided perennials, etc. Billy stated that plants in the Gibson Pollinator Garden were divided and planted temporarily in the raised beds to be put in pots for the spring sale. The plan is to have this sale the same Saturday as the Butterfly Station opening, usually in mid-to-late April.

3. “Spring to Green” – Scheduled for February 3, 2024, at Olde Dominion Ag Complex.

As of today, 30 of 125 tickets have been sold. Sales started on October 15; Early-Bird tickets are \$45 through December 12; Regular tickets are \$50 with deadline of January 17, 2024. Debra expressed a heart-felt thank-you to Carrie Rogers, Cindy Bailey and Brannon Blount for the Eventbrite on-line registration set-up and maintenance.

Volunteer sign-up sheets are available for Set-up on Friday, Feb. 2, from 1-5 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. Contact Debra if any questions.

Volunteers for event day should also indicate their lunch choice; payment of \$17.00 for lunch/beverages/breakfast snacks should be given to Kelly no later than the DMGA meeting on January 8, 2024.

Sponsorships – Judy reported that Caesar’s Casino has declined to be a sponsor. She encouraged members to be sponsors themselves and to contact area businesses with sponsorship information. This is a tax-deductible donation; forms are on the DMGA website, sponsorships start at \$50.00.

Vendors – two garden-related vendors have signed up; Julia asked membership to let her know any possible vendor contacts. There is space for up to 10 vendors.

4. Literature Racks – Sandy Pruitt asked that volunteers maintaining the racks meet with her briefly after the meeting. Billy is storing the Community Market rack over the winter.

Area Events:

The Davidson County Gardeners’ Conference will be held in Lexington, North Carolina, on Thursday, February 8, 2024. Full information is available online at Eventbrite or from Debra.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by Billy at 8:20 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: TBD

Next DMGA Meeting:

Monday, December 4 at West Main Baptist Church
Christmas Holiday Dinner and Graduate/Intern Recognition
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Hill, Secretary