**Danville Master Gardener Association**

**Membership Meeting**

**October 2, 2023**

The October 2, 2023, meeting was held at West Main Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m. with 19 members/interns and 4 visitors present. Social hour began at 6:30 p.m. with refreshments provided by Cindy Bailey, Carrie Rogers, Mary Beth Holley, and Elizabeth Tomlin.

**Educational Program:**

Jessica Smith was introduced by Vice-President Ann Sylves. Jessica is currently a horticulturalist for the City of Danville; she is a certified arborist and has worked 19 years in the horticultural field. Jessica spoke to the group about “Rain Garden Management”, sharing slides of examples found in the City of Danville.

The primary purpose of a rain garden is to control stormwater runoff. The rain garden consists of a depressed area in the landscape, planted with grasses and flowering perennials having deep root systems, so that water will soak into the ground in less than four days. Benefits include reducing runoff of water and other pollutants, reducing flooding, and providing a natural habitat for insects, reptiles, and other small animals.

Jessica distributed VCE Publication 426-043 on “Rain Garden Plants” and recommended the technical guidelines for rain gardens available on the Virginia Forestry Division website.

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

Billy Holley, President, called the Business Meeting to order. The September 11 minutes were previously sent by email to membership; on motion by Jim Clark and second by Randee Brown, the minutes were approved.

Treasurer Kelly Adcock reported that DMGA has received a total of $1801.00 in Spring to Green sponsorships. Outgoing - $89.98 for purchase of STG raffle prize.

Current balances on our accounts are: Main Account $ 17,130.21

Swipe Account $ 1,746.74

Greenhouse Account $ 1,976.90

**Board Meeting Report:**

Billy gave a report on DMGA Board Meeting held on Thursday, September 28:

1. Handbook –decision to re-print every two years instead of annually. Primary changes are to the member list; a list of current members will be updated and distributed in January 2024.
2. Scholarship for MG Training Class –decision to post a scholarship application form with the information on the 2024 Training Class. The cost of the Training is $175, with $100 going to the state office. Application review, interview of candidates and award decision will be made by a committee consisting of one Board member, Corey, and one member-at-large.
3. The Board approved the appointments of the following committees: Social (Nancy Carpenter, Isla Wiles), Audit (Carrie Rogers, Cindy Bailey, Brannon Blount), and Nominating (Becky Meadema, Julia Sparrow).

**DMGA Educational Programs:**

November 6 – Amanda Rhyne, “Backyard Bats”

December 4 – Christmas Holiday Social and Trainee Graduation Recognition

Isla Wiles reported that the main course for the Holiday Social will be lasagna from a caterer, either beef or turkey. A sign-up sheet will be available at the November meeting for members to bring salads, desserts, and bread, and to indicate attendance with/without a guest.

Isla Wiles and Nancy Carpenter welcome assistance with planning and set-up/decorating the day of event. Plan is to use white fabric tablecloths; some are in storage at the extension office.

**DMGA Newsletter and Website:**

Spring to Green links for the brochure/flyer and registration information will be posted on the DMGA website as soon as completed by the STG committee.

Julia has recently distributed the October newsletter by email. She plans a December issue consisting of pictures of DMGA activities and member plants; please send additional pictures to her by email.

**DMGA Master Gardener Training Class:**

Corey reported that our six trainees have completed the 2023 Training Class and are now officially Master Gardener Interns, with 50 volunteer hours to be completed by December 31, 2024. The Interns will be recognized at the December Holiday Social.

The 2024 Training Class committee will begin meeting in the near future; more committee members are needed. Corey would especially encourage some of the 2023 Interns to participate.

**Corey Reidel, Extension Agent Reminders:**

The link for the annual/required “Risk Management/Civil Rights Training” will be sent by email in the next week; 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.

Also, Corey reminded members that volunteer and educational hours for 2023 should be entered into the Better Impact system by mid-December.

Contacts are recorded in Better Impact only when the volunteer gives out educational materials. If this is done in a group setting such as the Community Market, only one volunteer should report the contact.

The Pesticide Return opportunity will be held on October 5 at the Piedmont Cooperative (former Southern States) location near Chatham, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., and also on October 12 at the Martinsville Armory, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The updated 2023 version of the Master Gardener Handbook is currently available on Amazon for $24.99, which is a great price.

**DMGA Project and Committee Reports:**

1. Community Market – The Plant Sale by DMGA on Saturday, September 30, was very successful, with sales of $130.00 and many members contributing plants. Special thanks to Nancy Carpenter for labels and plant information, Becky Meadema for the papyrus plants, and all volunteers who participated at the sale.
2. Community Market volunteers are needed for October 21 and October 28.
3. Extension office help is needed for Oct. 5 (12-3); Oct. 12 (all day); Oct. 18 (all day); Oct. 26 (10-2). Debra will be at the office on October 4 if anyone needs help with anything, from 1-5 p.m.
4. Debra reminded members to bring their completed “Coloring Page” from the 2023 DMGA Handbook to the December Holiday Social. Entries will be displayed with the winning entry awarded an “amazing” prize.
5. Gibson Greenhouse – Billy asks for volunteers for Wednesday morning, October 4, when the special education classes are coming to the Greenhouse. Some of the regular volunteers will be attending the STG committee meeting that morning.
6. Social Committee – Sign-up for monthly refreshments is needed. Please see or call Nancy Carpenter and Isla Wiles to help with the December social.
7. “Spring to Green” – Scheduled for February 3, 2024, at Olde Dominion Ag Complex; plan is to sell 125 tickets. Speakers are Bryce Lane, Mary Ann Hansen and Pat Lust, with focus on Native Plants. The event brochure/flyer, Eventbrite registration link, and other registration information are scheduled to be completed by October 15. Early-bird tickets will be $45.00 through December 12, then $50.00.

Gift Bags are to be given to each attendee. Members are asked to give ideas of businesses or organizations who might contribute 125 of each item, to Mary Beth Holley or Jennifer Pittmon on the STG Committee.

1. Literature Racks – Sandy Pruitt needs volunteers to monitor and replenish the racks at multiple locations. Elizabeth Tomlin offered to cover Tractor Supply and Kelly Adcock, Lowes. Others are needed for; Community Market, Haymore Garden Center, Piedmont Cooperative in Chatham.
2. Randee Brown has begun an educational program at the Mt. Hermon Library, “Ask a Master Gardener/Master Naturalist”, on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, from 6-7 p.m. She would appreciate assistance from any of the other members. This will be added to Better Impact as an approved volunteer activity.
3. For continuing education, Randee recommends the book, “Nature’s Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Begins in Your Yard” by Douglas Tallamy.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

**Next Board Meeting: TBD**

**Next DMGA Meeting:**

**Monday, November 6, at West Main Baptist Church**

**Refreshments at 6:30**

**Program at 7:00, “Backyard Bats” by Amanda Rhyne**

**Business Meeting at 7:30**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Bonnie Hill, Secretary**