## Hancock County Extension Master Gardeners

## Meeting Minutes

## February 27, 2020

**Opening**

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Darlene Trusty at 6:33 PM. The meeting took place at the Purdue Hancock County Extension Office in Greenfield, Indiana.

**Education**

Darlene presented information on creating miniature gardens, such as terrariums and fairy gardens. She also demonstrated how to create an open terrarium, and brought along many examples of miniature gardens.

**Break**

Refreshments were provided by Paul Norton, Ruth Miller, Elaine Whitfield, and Lynn Meier.

**Announcements**

President Jerry LeCount opened the business portion of the meetingby presenting Bronze Master Gardener Awards to Bruce Matter and Greg Arthur, an Advanced Master Gardener Award to Steve Bowlby, and a Master Gardener Award to Emily Snider. Congratulations!!

**Approvals**

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Bob Degitz, seconded, and approved.

The Treasurer’s report was presented by Greg. The current balance is $2851.84, with $138.97 cash on hand, and $2712.87 in the bank. February deposits were $480.00, while expenses were $311.90, mostly for the media changeover. As of February 27th, 29 members had paid their 2020 annual dues.

**Old Business**

Tim Harris demonstrated how to complete the EMG-2, which is required to be completed by March 1, 2020, with Elaine’s assistance. He volunteered to stay after the meeting for anyone else who wanted help completing the form. In response to a question, Jerry confirmed that to remain a Purdue Master Gardener and volunteer for special programs such as Flower and Patio Show, one must complete this form.

Next, the permanent Committee chairs briefly discussed what each committee does. Sheets were available for anyone that wanted to sign up for any of the committees. Chairs for the following committees gave presentations:

* Flower and Patio Show (Bob asked for one volunteer for March 14th)
* State Fair
* Plant Sale
* Daylily Sale (sale will be in July, but no dates set yet)
* Demonstration Gardens
* Scholarship
* Media (working on getting MG presentations and list of committees, with mission statements, on-line)
* Green Thumb Project (Jerry spoke for Vicki Snarr)
* Henry County Seed Library
* Refreshment (enter hour under Administrative)

Greg reported that we now have an account with Square and have a couple of card reader devices coming. With Square there is no annual contract or dues, but there is a little more charge to use it, so we are setting a $5 minimum to use credit cards at the Plant Sale. This will be the test; if it works well we can continue to use it for the Daylily sale, collecting dues, etc. If not, we can return it and try something else.

Darlene has reached out to the Shelby County Master Gardeners, who requested a speaker for an event on April 24th, but hasn’t heard back. Jerry also received a request from Stacey in the Fortville Treasurer’s office to sponsor a Community Garden in Vernon Township. He agreed to be the sponsor, and let us know that we may have to do a planting demonstration.

Paul updated us on the vinca Greenfield Re-greening project. The plants have arrived from the Netherlands, and the beds have been cleaned out. The project should take 3 hours at the most, and the date is either the 13th or 14th of May. He would like 2-3 more volunteers to plant and passed around a signup sheet. He also mentioned that the monarch butterfly population is still declining and that the Environmental Defense Fund is on the forefront of trying to help them. If we are interested in getting involved with this 501(c)(3) organization, let Paul know.

**New Business**

The Community Calendar topic was postponed until a future meeting.

Marsha Burkhart received a request for Master Gardener assistance to design and install landscaping around the Octagon House in Shirley. Marsha and Teresa Bowlby visited the site, observed the current conditions, and took measurements. The Octagon House goals for the area are more color and some height. Marsha suggested native plants, low maintenance and full sun, as there are no trees near the structure. They would pay for the mulch and have a sign advertising us. Do we, as a group, have enough plants to donate? The next steps are that Teresa and Marsha will fill out a project request form with plan, then we’ll address at next meeting. If anyone has ideas as to what to plant there, please let Marsha know.

Darlene passed around a list of interns and asked people to sign up as a mentor to encourage them to come to Master Gardener events. She reminded us that the time spent mentoring interns counts as hours; a specific category is listed there. There was discussion about whether a PowerPoint presentation was required to become certified, and it was brought up that John Orick, Master Gardener State Coordinator, stated that it is NOT a requirement – only something that our previous educator required.

Teresa gave a short presentation on the role of the Youth Education Committee, and reported that a decision had been reached to utilize the Junior Master Gardener program that already exists, as it is endorsed by Purdue.

Teresa also gave an update on the Plant Sale. She passed around the sign-up sheet for anyone who was not at the Plant Sale committee meeting, and offered hard copies of the Plant Sale flyer, which Greg had finished earlier, to post. Colleen Drumm is working on signs for putting the thriller/spiller/filler containers together, as we will not be having anyone help customers do arrangements. Teresa will be sending out a request for plants, she confirmed that the Plant Sale will be advertised on the electronic sign at the fairgrounds and we will be able to get the password. The labels have been ordered, and Jane Pollock is checking with Sign-O-Rama about prices. Elaine has already talked with Chuck Anderson at the Mayor’s Office about advertising on the City Hall sign. Paul suggested that we contact Loretta Livengood to advertise on the Chamber of Commerce sign.

Mary Ann Wietbrock gave an update on the Pennsy Trail project. She thanked several Master Gardeners who helped plan the Habitat Restoration project along the Pennsy Trail at the 400 West trailhead. Around 17,000 square feet of ground is in the process of or has been cleared of honeysuckle and they’ve decided to re-establish the ground with a pollinator seed mix from American Meadows. Mary Ann requested that the Master Gardeners put up the money for the seed. They would like to plant the seed on the first Saturday of June. Jerry would like to discuss this at the next Officer’s meeting, so the topic was tabled.

Lynn stated that a group of Master Gardeners that want to work in the gardens went to the Hope Center for an orientation and registration, and the group is required to return for an interview in March. Elaine clarified that if you only want to work in the greenhouse when the women aren’t present, you aren’t required to go through the training. Jerry asked that someone contact the Hope Center Director and send us an email to clarify the requirements.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded at 8:59 PM. The next meeting will be held on March 26, 2020 at 6:30 PM at the Extension Office.

**Minutes prepared by:**

Teresa Bowlby, Secretary