## Hancock County Extension Master Gardeners

## Meeting Minutes

## July 23, 2020

**Opening**

The meeting was called to order by President Jerry LeCount at 6:00 PM. The meeting took place via Zoom due to social distancing concerns.

**Education**

Jerry introduced Vicki Snarr, Hancock County Advanced Master Gardener Education Committee Chair. Vicki introduced Emily Snider, Hancock County Master Gardener, who presented *Plant Propagation,* inwhich we learned various methods of propagation, including special instructions for succulents. There was an extensive question and answer session.

**Break**

Jerry announced a short comfort break of approximately 10 minutes.

**Approvals**

Jerry opened the business portion of the meetingby asking Secretary Teresa Bowlby about the minutes. She asked if there were any questions, and none were brought up. A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Darlene Trusty, seconded by Vicki, and approved.

The Treasurer’s report was presented by Greg Arthur. The current balance is $4044.84, with $100.00 cash on hand, and $3944.84 in the bank. All July deposits were related to Daylily Sale. Greg assessed the state of the finances as compared to 2018 and 2019, and we are about $1000 short due to not being able to hold the Spring Plant Sale in the traditional manner. Greg also mentioned that ~60% of our Daylily sales were through credit, a trend likely to continue. There were several purchases of more than $50, and no credit sales of less than $5. General consensus seemed to be that sales were boosted due to the availability of credit transactions.

**Old Business**

Teresa gave an update regarding the seeds donated to the group by Wal-Mart. Brenda Hayes had mentioned that we will soon be getting another donation, so we need to consider what to do with the old seed. All of the seed that we currently have is one year old; the older seed has been discarded. There was discussion around giving it away at the Fall Plant Sale, or the next Green Thumb event, if they are held.

Elaine Whitfield gave an update on the 2020 Daylily Sale, expressing her appreciation of those that helped. She was pleased with the results, and expects more sales in the next few days. We brought in approximately $1300.00.

Elaine also updated us on the Shade Garden. Chris Eads was successful in getting the stone moved from next to the building to the north and around the barn. There is still some stone against the building that needs to be moved, and some industrial-strength landscaping fabric to be removed. Elaine will look at the weather forecast and set up a work day. Once that’s complete, she’ll get some topsoil/compost for the area – she plans to call around to get prices. Then anyone who would like to donate shade plants for the area would be able to bring them in. We can also get any hostas not sold at the Plant Sale out of the pots and into the ground.

Teresa reported that she contacted the Hancock County Community Foundation regarding the possibility of obtaining a HCEMG banner to be placed downtown. They provided her with an application, warning that funds were low. Two days later Teresa received word that the banner fund was depleted for the year, and more would be available in 2021. She will contact Signarama, the company providing the banners, and get the design worked out prior to 2021, and complete the application.

Vicki has no plans for the Fall Green Thumb, as she feels uneasy about encouraging people to gather at this point. She suggested that we could do a plant propagation (or something similar) seminar outside; the suggestion was well received. No specific plans were made at the time.

Rosemary Hill reported that the New Castle Seed Library will be hosting a Fairy Garden presentation on Monday, 27 July 2020, led virtually by Darlene Trusty. The presentation will be available via link at a later date.

Don McAuley reported on behalf of the Media Committee. The PowerPoint presentations have been uploaded to the Google Drive, in a folder titled *Master Gardener Presentations*. Don will send instructions to access the drive, and anyone who would like their flash drive returned should pick them at the Extension Office. If anyone else has presentations to upload, please send them to Don or take the flash drive to the Extension Office. Tim Harris commented that the members-only page has been updated with the membership list and committee information. Bruce Matter commented that we’ve had several “Ask a Master Gardener” questions this year – about 12, compared to 3 in 2019. We have ~730 followers on Facebook and Bruce asked anyone wanting to share interesting pictures to send them to him for inclusion, as pictures seem to increase viewership.

Teresa reported on the upcoming Fall Plant Sale, which we are still planning to hold. She will be sending an invite to discuss our options regarding the sale in the event we are required to restrict contact with our customers. Right now the sale is scheduled in the Show Arena for September 18-19, with September 17 also reserved for set-up. Don mentioned that there are several pictures of blooming plants on the Google drive that could be used for the plant sale, if needed. Bruce also suggested that we ask the Herb Society if they would like to join us, and Teresa will do so.

Darlene has prepared a list of mentoring ideas, and Teresa will forward that information. There are still several interns that do not have a mentor, and Darlene included that list as well. She also included a link to her presentation on July 27th.

Darlene also discussed the proposed changes to the by-laws, which were sent out prior to the June meeting. There was discussion around the decision to not change the checking account, etc., as would we have to reincorporate. Darlene will update the by-laws to remove the word “Extension” for Hancock County, but not for Purdue. The chat function was used by the members to vote “yes” or “no” to accept the by-law changes. The by-law updates were approved, and votes collected and attached to these minutes. The officer team will sign the updated document at the next officer meeting and scan a copy to Don for inclusion in the website.

**New Business**

Vicki let us know that the speaker for the next meeting is Roy Ballard, who will be presenting on the care of fruit trees. It was also mentioned that there was no monetary award provided to the Best Flower and Best Vegetable prizes at the 2020 Hancock County Fair due to the limited funds available because of the COVID-19 restrictions.

Lais McCartney provided Extension updates, complimenting the group for continuing to push forward with projects during these uncertain times. Artis Kingston and Marsha Burkhardt have both reached the Advanced Master Gardener status and Chris Eads has advanced to a Certified Master Gardener. Congrats to everyone!! Lais gave us information on potential volunteer opportunities. The Fortville Community Gardens coordinator, Gloria Del Greco, is looking for someone to provide educational presentations related to gardening. Jerry volunteered to present, so Lais will put him (and anyone else interested) in touch with Gloria. Additionally, a developer of Section 42 housing recently approached Lais about a committal letter to assist in the community garden of an apartment complex currently being built. We would be asked to provide educational opportunities and if we’re interested, let Lais know and she will put us in contact with the developer. Lais also provided her cell phone number (317-919-2391) as she’s working remotely more. Lastly, Lais reported that the Master Gardener class coming up will be held virtually, and six people have already signed up. She encouraged us to get involved in the “county connection” part of the class by reviewing the class topics and attending the meetings of anything that interests us, to promote the topic and our organization. We need to let her know if we’re interested, as she needs to provide a safety plan three weeks in advance of the event. Additionally, Lais invited the group to the September 9th class at 6:00 PM, and will provide the details and Zoom link at a later date. The class will involve an in-depth look at soil, and she feels that the information may be beneficial since previous classes weren’t that detailed.

Artie mentioned an opportunity to volunteer at IPS School 105 to fill some planters and provide signs, labels, and fact sheets for the students to put out. There will be no face-to-face contact with the students. The project form is completed and an informative email is forthcoming.

Teresa reported that the work is complete at the Octagon House, including sign installation. She will send photos and information to Bruce for inclusion in the website and on Facebook.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Darlene and seconded by Greg at 7:55 PM. The next meeting will be held on August 27, 2020 at 6:30 PM at a location to be determined.

**Minutes prepared by:**

Teresa Bowlby, Secretary