

Ozark Prairie Master Gardener February 22, 2018 Meeting
Location: Morgan County Seed Meeting Room 6:00 p.m.

The February 22, 2018 meeting of the Ozark Prairie Master Gardeners was called to order by President Earlene Britton. Larry Lackey gave the blessing for the pot luck supper.

As the meal concluded, Norman Kilmer gave a very informative, visual, entertaining talk on Drip Irrigation and how to utilize the wide variety of tubes, connectors, emitters, and regulators available. He answered questions and explained the services available at Morgan County Seed.

The business meeting followed at 7:15 p.m.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report

Minutes of the January 26, 2018 meeting had been emailed to the membership previously. Motion by Pat Moser, second by Lois Weber to approve the minutes as presented. MC. Dan Britton presented the treasurer's report. Motion by Vicki Stark, second by Rita Stockstill to approve the report. MC.

Expenses totaled \$932.34: Versailles Florist and Gifts (\$45.70), scrapbook supplies (Mary Bumgardner - \$260.73), plant sale expenses and MO annual registration (Dan Britton - \$260.01), three scholarships for MG class (\$225), supplies for meeting (Mary Ella Zimmerman - \$54.90), and MOMGA for annual due for OPMG. Current balances: Savings (\$6,030.02), checking (\$1,357.94), petty cash (\$205.00). Total balance (\$7,5592.96).

Dan announced we now have 46 members and 7 inactive members.

Committee Reports

Community Garden: Mary Ella Zimmerman reported. Sue and helpers removed all debris. Mary Ella asked for funds for new weed barrier and supplies to install it. Motion by Andi Woodson, second by Carol Buck to purchase supplies. MC. Mary Ella will notify membership when help will be need to install the barrier.

Pollinator Garden: Joann Billington reported. She had questions concerning the availability and distribution of seeds and extra plants from the garden. Questions for consideration: Should anyone who asks be allowed to harvest seeds? What if they are harvested to sell or raise plants for private profit? Would the membership like to have a designated day to meet and harvest seeds? To what uses should we put the harvested seeds? Joann also reported that she had registered the Pollinator Garden as a Monarch Garden. For the cost of \$40.45, our garden will be certified and we will receive a sign indicating the status as a Monarch Garden. Motion by Andi Woodson, second by Mary Ella Zimmerman to approve reimbursement for the cost. MC.

Education Committee/Advanced Training: Andi Woodson reported. Andi reminded all to complete the on-line quiz and report their .5 credit for Continuing Education. She also distributed a second quiz also available on-line for .5 credit. She reminded members that each member needs 6 hours of Continuing Education every year. (The program tonight will count as 1 hour of credit considering both Norman Kilmer's presentation and Karen Wilson's presentation.) Andi also reminded members of several upcoming opportunities for CE, including Ste. Genevieve Garden Walk May 19-20, Women in Agriculture Workshop in California at First Baptist March 6, and Fruit Tree Care and Pruning at Britton Farm March 6.

Garden Patch Project: Andi Woodson explained that OPMG provides cabbage plants and marigold seeds to students ages 3-12 at the Plant Sale and through the 4-H clubs. Students then bring the plants they raised to the Fair in July. 17 children participated in 2017. Andi will need help passing out plants at the plant sale.

Plant Sale: Joann Billington reported. The group has not officially met, though members have been working on their assignments. At the March meeting, a sign-up sheet for working at the sale will be available. Joann reported on her plans to spend the \$120 allotted for native plants. Members felt OPMG should not be allowed to purchase native plants until the end of the sale on Saturday to ensure the public has a chance at the plants. That will tell us how many to order next year. Dan Britton has already transplanted the broccoli and cabbage plants. If you want the extras, let him know soon. 6 to 7 types of herbs will be ready for transplanting soon, and tomatoes are almost ready. Marigolds, zinnias, and cactus will be ready in a couple of weeks. He will be calling people to help soon. Mary Ella reported that

60 flower baskets were sold last year and she has increased the number of strawberry baskets she will prepare.

Old Business

Junior Master Gardener Project: (Carol Jones) - tabled until March meeting.

Annual Background Youth Check: Earlene reminded members to fill out paperwork for the background check if you work with youth in any way. Give the paperwork to Joni. You should get your card in the mail.

State Association: Dan Britton reported that he had completed and submitted paperwork as assigned to Joni for club, member, and project of the year. Our club voted to nominate OPMG as club of the year, the Field Day event at Britton farm as Project of the Year, and Dan Britton as Member of the Year.

Committees: Earlene passed around the sign-up sheet for 2018 committees.

New Business

Dale Winery Grape Pruning: Dan explained what would be involved at the winery on March 10. Starting at 9:30 a.m., members can help prune the vineyard in exchange for expert information and grapevine clippings. Andi reminded members that this can count as Advanced Training if you work for 2 hours.

West Central Food Pantry Meeting: Earlene reported the Food Pantry would like to have some OPMG attend to brainstorm ideas about programs that would be appropriate for the Food Pantry. Carol Jones and Andi Woodson will attend.

Wal-Mart Gardening Center Opening April 6 & 7: Earlene explained that our club has helped with this event several years. In March, members can sign up for 2-3 hour slots. Wal-Mart wants us to be present in the garden area to answer customer questions regarding plant selection and general garden information. Wal-Mart also provides some plants to give away. Motion by Dan Britton, second by Pat Moser to help with the program in 2018. MC

Scholarship from OPMG: Pat Moser asked if the club wanted to continue the scholarship essay program this year. If so, she will update the form and make it available. Motion by Lois Moser, second by Carol Buck to continue the \$300 scholar program. MC.

Other Business:

Planter Boxes at Hotel: Amy Todd asked if we should continue this. Last year the boxes were not taken care of, and she is not willing to take on that job. She will provide plants, though, if the club wants to continue the project. Mary Ella said that job could become part of the Community Garden responsibilities if the hotel does not want to do that.

Thank-Yous: Pat Moser and Carol Buck expressed thanks for the flowers sent to them recently by OPMG.

Memorials: Members asked the secretary to send flowers to the Janette Brown family for the March 3, 2018 service at First Baptist Church in Stover and a plant to Bunny McGowan in sympathy for the recent passing of her father. (Note: I arranged both items on Friday, Feb 23 with Versailles Greenhouse. Clarice Nelson)

Adjournment: Motion by Pat Moser, second by Lois Weber to adjourn the business meeting. MC. The next meeting will be held at the Hunter Civic Center at 6:00 p.m.

Program

Karen Wilson presented a program on natural medicine. Karen holds a Doctor of Naturopathy from Clayton College of Natural Health in Birmingham, AL. She specialized in women's issues. Her presentation dealt with various approaches to healing the body through natural substances. Submitted by Clarice Nelson, Secretary