

Minutes of the Southwest Louisiana Master Gardeners' Monthly Meeting February 1, 2022



President Rob Piraro called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Betsy Doucet moved to approve the minutes as posted in email. Keith Greenlee seconded, and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

The treasurer, Thelma Cook, reported a balance of \$31,341.08. Cost of LSU Get it Growing calendars was \$430.20. We have collected \$530 in sales of calendars so far. Spring seed expenses were \$350.98. A detailed ledger is attached to the minutes to be filed.

Bryan Walker moved and Janet Piraro seconded to accept the treasurers report. The report was accepted with a unanimous vote.

There was a discussion on our scholarship and the difficulties in finding students to apply. Linda Bienvenue suggested putting a sign on the wheelbarrow raffle at the garden expo to help get the message to the public.

In old business the revision of the bylaws was discussed by the group. Pam Langley showed the web page designed for the club. The URL is <https://swlmg.weebly.com/> and the menu item that contains a link to the proposed bylaws is under Member Info. Keith Greenlee moved and Jessie Arabie seconded that the club adopt the proposed bylaws. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Rob announced that the Expo Steering Committee's next meeting is Feb 11, 2022 at 10 am. The expo is to be held March 25 & 26, with setup of coliseum floor scheduled for March 23 and Preview and Gumbo scheduled for March 24th.

Bryan Walker announced that he has been working on getting donations for our wheelbarrow raffle to be held at the Expo. He has gotten 2 wheelbarrows and enough items to fill both. So far, donations have been received from Tractor Supply, Stine's, Currie's, and Walmart. There was a discussion on whether to raffle only one or both wheelbarrows. It was decided to raffle both wheelbarrows, with one being on display at the north entrance and the other at the south entrance. All tickets will be combined and the drawing for the two wheelbarrows will be drawn from the combined tickets. Pam Langley agreed to print the raffle tickets.

Patty Palmer announced that there was a sign-up sheet to volunteer to work in the hospitality room and Janet has a sign-up sheet to volunteer to work admission at the doors. There was a discussion about contacting the Beauregard Master Gardeners about manning the north door. John Markham who usually coordinates with Beauregard is currently in the hospital.

Raymond Andrews mentioned that someone who had bought plants from us before waged a complaint about the plant not growing. It was consensus that we cannot take responsibility for plants after they are purchased.

There was a discussion of the Silent Auction to be held during the gumbo supper on Thursday before the Expo. Keith Greenlee has volunteered to help. Janice Esthay is chair. Carolyn Miller said she had things left over from the 2020 event that was cancelled due to COVID. Janice and Keith are working on getting donations from vendors.

Thelma Cook has tickets for the Gumbo. They sell for \$10 each and members are asked to sell tickets.

Our field trip chair, Keith Greenlee, announced dates for a trip to Avery Island (Tabasco Factory and Jungle Gardens) followed by a tour of Rip Van Winkle Gardens which is only about 10 miles away from Avery Island. Members will leave Lake Charles at 7:30 am and should arrive at the Tabasco Factory between 9 & 9:30. We will tour the factory and gardens until noon, at which time the group heads to Rip Van Winkle Gardens. Lunch will be at Café Jefferson with a tour of the house and gardens following. Members voted to go on the trip on Wednesday April 13th. The optimum number of attendees would be 20, with prices being lowest for a group that size. Please contact Keith if you plan to go.

Rob announced that we will be planting seeds for sale at the Expo on Wednesday, Feb. 2. Mary McMahan announced that the Livestock Show at Burton Coliseum will start on Wednesday, Feb. 2, so parking might be crowded.

The early tomato plant sale is slated for the last Saturday in February (2/26/2022). Members were reminded that help on that day is needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

Attendance:

1. Thelma Cook
2. Bryan Walker
3. Keith Greenlee
4. Jessie Arabie
5. Janet Piraro
6. Rob Piraro
7. Ervin McLendon
8. Pam Langley
9. Frank Conrad
10. Patty Palmer
11. Linda Bienvenue
12. Dianne Fruge
13. Betsy Doucet
14. Raymond Andrews
15. Veronica Benoit
16. Geoffrey Bond
17. Clare Prejean
18. Suzanne Abshire
19. Jerry Byrd
20. Mary McMahan
21. Carolyn Miller

2022 SWLA MG General Ledger

A	B	C	D	E	F
	Entry Description	Credit	Debit	Current Balance	
1	Beginning balance			\$32,616.78	
2	Capital One Credit Card	\$456.09		\$32,160.69	
3	LSU calendars 430.20			\$32,160.69	
4	Office depot 25.89			\$32,160.69	
5	Deposit - calendar sales		\$530.00	\$32,690.69	
6	Cutter Tonn - scholarship Sp '22	\$1,000.00		\$31,690.69	
7	Mark Derise - seeds	\$350.98		\$31,339.71	
8					

1/31/22 interest
~~1,373,341.08~~