

# Minutes of the Southwest Louisiana Master Gardeners' Monthly Meeting Sept. 6, 2022



Master Gardener President Rob Piraro called the meeting to order at 10:00a.m. Keith Greenlee led the Pledge of Allegiance

## Minutes

Keith Greenlee moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. Mark Derise seconded, and the motion was approved. After corrections to spelling of names, the minutes will stand as posted.

## REPORTS

### Treasurer's Report

Thelma Cook, Treasurer gave the treasurers report. We currently have a balance of \$43,695.57. Expenses included two scholarships, speaker travel expenses, and a cake for the Master Gardener graduation in August.

### OLD BUSINESS

**AgCenter Remodel:** The remodel of the AgCenter is scheduled to begin on October 13<sup>th</sup>. There is very little remaining of MG supplies that need to be moved. Mark Derise reported that some seeds are all that remains. It is estimated that the remodel will take at least 290 days (9 months), which takes us past the spring Expo. Mark reported that they have agreed to start on the greenhouse repair as soon as our Fall sale is complete. So we may have greenhouse available to plant for the spring Expo. Rob suggested that we use the walled in section of the greenhouse to start the seeds. No definite plan was established.

**Scholarship:** Linda Finley announced that she presented a check to Caleb Chaisson and he was very appreciative. She also contacted Haley Harley to let her know she was also a recipient and mailed the check to her. Both checks have been cashed.

**School Gardens:** Nola Ducote reported that she, Keith Greenlee, and Mark Derise met with Leslie Petross of the Calcasieu Parish School Board about our working with parish teachers. It was stressed that we need to contact the teacher to let them know that we are available to provide recommendations and guidance. Leslie will provide email and cell numbers of teachers interested in starting a school garden. There will be an in-service meeting on Oct. 2 with teachers and interested MG's may attend. The MG's need to send the check for the monies promised to the program to Leslie Petross. Some schools that are requesting help are Vinton HS and elementary, Westlake, Prien Lake Elementary and Iowa middle school. Any MG interested in helping, contact Nola to get teacher contact information.

**4-H:** 4-H has moved their offices to the McNeese Farm. They will contact us when they need help with 4-H day.

**Fall Plant Sale:** Mark and Keith purchased 20 small Celeste and Brown Turkey fig trees and repotted them to larger pots to be sold at the Fall plant sale. If they do not sell, they will be saved to be sold at the spring Expo. The tentative date for the plant sale is the third weekend of October. Actual date depends on the growth of our plants.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Introductions:** Two new MG's introduced themselves: Alisa Stevens and Cynthia Robinson. We also had a guest, Haley Lindsey, who owns Petiole Plants and specializes in house plants and exotic plants. She wants to establish a plant swap in the Lake Charles area. She has started a Facebook group entitled SWLA Plant Swap and Event and encouraged members to join the group if they are interested.

**Speakers for meetings:** Allen Owings will not be speaking at our October meeting. Janet announced that Lori Richard will be talking on raising chickens at our November meeting. She then invited our guest, Haley Lynsey, to do a presentation in October. Haley accepted and will present growing house plants and exotics at our October meeting, which will be in the Chalkley room at Buton Coliseum.

**MG Appreciation Day:** Keith Greenlee announced that a small group of members are planning on attending the Master Gardener Appreciation Day in Hammond on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September. He invited other members to join the group if interested. They will be leaving Lake Charles at 5 A.M. on the 16<sup>th</sup> and if time permits they will be stopping at plant nurseries on the route home.

**Adjourned:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am.

**Speaker:** Rod Prejean was our guest speaker. He is a nurseryman who sells wholesale. He specializes in plumerias and desert roses. His talk was on growing and grafting desert roses.

### **Attendance:**

Mark Derise  
Cynthia Shelly  
Ervin McLendon  
Linda Bienvenue  
Cynthia Robertson  
Myna Bogans  
Thelma Cook  
Lenn Knapp  
Linda Finley  
Annette DesOrmeaux  
Veronica Benoit  
Keith Greenlee  
Pam Langley  
Nola Ducote

Jerry Byrd  
Patty Palmer  
Betsy Doucet  
Geoffrey Bond  
Frank Conrad  
Janet Piraro  
Rob Piraro  
Mary McMahan  
Dianne Fruge  
Jessie Arabie  
Alisa Stevens  
Raymond Andrews  
Julie engert  
Haley Lindsey (Guest)