

# Minutes of the Southwest Louisiana Master Gardeners' Monthly Meeting Nov. 7, 2023



Master Gardener President Rob Piraro called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the LSU Lake Charles AgCenter on Gulf Hwy. Raymond Andrews led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

## **Minutes**

Keith Greenlee moved, and Mary McMahan seconded, that we dispense of reading the minutes since minutes were distributed earlier to the group by email. The motion passed.

## **REPORTS**

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Thelma Cook presented the treasurers report. Proceeds from the fall plant sale totaled \$4,411.00. Our biggest expense was the purchase of LSU Calendars the Keith Greenlee agreed to sell. The calendar purchase was \$1335.40. Our ending balance as of 10/31/23 was \$44,730.54. Betsy Doucet moved and Keith Greenlee seconded approval of the treasurer's report. The report was approved.

President Rob Piraro thanked the new members for all their support of our activities.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Parish Fair:** Mark Derise reported that 6 of our members served as judges at the Beauregard Parish Fair. Everyone enjoyed the experience.

**4-H:** Janet Piraro reported there is no new information available. Mary McMahan reported that the 4-H agent has been ill. Keith reported that the 4-H junior leaders are selling sweet potatoes and rice for a fund raiser and items are available at the front desk.

**Schools:** Nola Ducote reported that Keith, Nola, and Mark conducted an in-service meeting for parish teachers on gardening. Eight teachers participated.

Keith pointed out that Parochial schools and Cameron Parish schools do not have any support in gardening. Janice Esthay added that Jeff Davis schools also do not have support. President Rob Piraro replied that the MG will deal with schools on a case by case basis.

**Plant Sale:** Mark Derise announced that plants left over (4" pots) will be sold to the MG for 75 cents each.

**Rose Garden:** Julie Engert announced that a new layer of mulch was put down along the main walkway. Landscape cloth that was donated by Keith was put down first. She thanked all the helpers on the project.

Julie also announced that Cobra head tools are available to MG's as information to new members.

**Front Flower Beds:** Janet announced that the Police Jury is planning on fixing drainage around the entire building so we should not be planting anything around the building until the work is done.

**Tour:** Veronica Benoit announced that the 10 members of the Moss Bluff church that toured the AgCenter grounds were very pleased with the tour. They enjoyed their time in the flower gardens.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Strawberry Plants:** Mark announced that we bought 100 plants and they have been potted for sale in the spring. Mark is harvesting new plants from the shoots and has harvested 25 plants so far. These will also be potted and sold at the spring sale.

**Scholarship:** Linda Finley announced that she received a thank you letter from our latest scholarship recipient, Chelsea Coleman.

**Field Trip:** Patty Palmer reported on the field trip that members took to Robby Maxwell's place. It was an informative trip on native plants and native prairies.

**LSU Calendars:** Keith Greenlee has Get It Growing Calendars for sale. Price is \$10 for MG's and \$12 to public.

**Plant Sale Profits:** Mark announced that after expenses the clear profit from the fall plant sale was \$919.00.

**Extras:** Patty announced that she had purchased a get well card for Ervin McLendon and asked all to sign it.

Keith drew for door prizes. Winners: Carolyn Miller won Angel Trumpet plant, Annette, Nola and Janice won Veidt grape plants, and Clare won a calendar.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 am.

**Speaker:** Robby Maxwell from Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries gave an informative talk on the native prairie planting that he has conducted in his yard.

**Attendance:**

1. Keith Greenlee
2. Mark Derise
3. Pam Langley
4. Gyneth Simmons
5. Patty Palmer
6. Sparkle Benoit
7. Susan Burke
8. Janet Piraro
9. Rob Piraro
10. Thelma Cook
11. Linda Bienvenue
12. Mary McMahan
13. Sabrina Beaty
14. Janice Esthay
15. Cynthia Robertson
16. Nola Ducote
17. Linda Finley
18. Clare Prejean
19. Raymond Andrews
20. Julie Engert
21. Frank Conrad
22. Maria Bond
23. Jerry Byrd
24. Annette DesOrmeaux
25. Betsy Doucet
26. Cindy Ottenweller
27. Dianne Fruge
28. Haley Lindsey
29. Carolyn Miller
30. Roger Newman
31. Charlotte Gray