

Minutes of the Southwest Louisiana Master Gardeners' Monthly Meeting Feb. 6, 2024



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

Minutes

Betsy Doucet moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes, since they were emailed to the members for review prior to the meeting. Janet Piraro seconded the motion. The motion carried. Minutes will be files as the emailed version.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Thelma Cook reported that we had total expenditures of \$3,675.00 this past month. This included \$1000 scholarship, and \$1,400 in gift cards for schools. We had income this past month of \$150: \$100 from sale of woodchipper and \$50 cobra tool sales. Betsy Doucet moved and Mark Derise seconded approval of the treasurer's report. The report was approved.

OLD BUSINESS

4-H: Janet reported that the Calcasieu 4-H was thankful to receive \$250 to help fund their Spring Contest Day.

School Gardens: Nola and Mark reported that 2 \$700 gift cards were donated to the Calcasieu parish school board to help fund school gardens. There was a request for volunteers to help with Louisiana Day in several of the area schools. Louisiana Day is a day that students learn about life in Louisiana including gardening in the state. The event is held in late March.

Rose Garden: Julie Engert reported that Carolyn Miller helped out last week and lots got done. There is still lots to do.

Nominating Committee: Betsy and other committee members are still looking for volunteers to serve as officers. If interested, contact Betsy Doucet.

Speakers: We will start having speakers at our monthly meetings again in April, after the garden expo has taken place. Janet requested that we find someone to speak on Louisiana Irises. If you have any requests for speaker topics or speakers themselves, please contact Keith Greenlee or Rob Piraro.

Scholarship: Linda Finley reported that our latest scholarship winner, Chelsea Coleman will be here next month to thank us for the scholarship.

Calendars: We currently have 46 LSU Get It Growing calendars remaining of the 100 we ordered. Plans are to sell them at a reduced price at the Garden Expo in March.

New BUSINESS

Garden Expo: The Garden Expo planning meetings are on the 2nd Friday of the month for the months of Jan, Feb, and Mar. They will be held at 10 am at the AgCenter. The next one will be Feb. 9th.

Announcements/Discussions

Julie Engert announced that the Gulf District of the American Rose Society will hold their 2024 Winter Workshop on Thursday, Feb. 22 at St. Edmond's Catholic Church in Lafayette. Registration is \$20, payable at the door and will include lunch.

Nola Ducote announced that she will be conducting classes on beginning beekeeping. The first class will be held Feb 24th and the second will be Mar 2nd. Classes will each last half a day.

Mark Derise announced that he has Green Velvet okra seeds if anyone is interested.

Janet announced the Daylily society will hold a meeting at the AgCenter this coming Saturday beginning at 10 am. Anyone interested in growing daylilies is invited.

Ervin announced that he has a handout explaining bud grafting for any interested member. He will answer questions on grafting after the meeting.

Keith reminded members that we need to be selling tickets for the Garden Expo Pre-view party to be held on Thursday March 21. We will be serving jambalaya this year. Keith also asked for volunteers to help with ticket sales.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 am.

Speaker

Kelsey Richard thanked us for our encouragement of his vermiculture and worm casting endeavors. His company is called Bon Vivre which he started in 2019. He reported on his first beginner organic gardener class and encouraged us to look him up at www.BonVivre.us and on Facebook. Kelsey will have a booth at the Garden Expo and will be a speaker on Saturday.

Attendance

Mark Derise
Jessie Arabie
Linda Bienvenue
Keith Greenlee
Linda Finley
Cynthia Robertson
Raymond Andrews
Pam Langley
Thelma Cook
Patty Palmer
Charlotte Gray
Mary McMahan
Ervin McLendon
Gloria Byars
Janet Piraro
Rob Piraro
Susan Burke

Clare Prejean
Maria Bond
Keith Lawrence
Nola Ducote
Cindy Ottenweller
Sam Istre
Alice O'Keefe
Betsy Doucet
Julie Engert
Jerry Byrd
Carolyn Miller
Dianne Fruge
Roger Newman
Gyneth Simmons