

Highland Lakes Master Gardener Association

Minutes for the General Meeting

April 16, 2024

Hybrid meeting from the Burnet AgriLife Auditorium and via Zoom

Call to Order: Terri Winter called the meeting to order at 2:03pm

Attendance: In person: 50 members, 4 guests, 5 associates; via Zoom: 10 members, 1 associate

Terri brought the meeting to order, and asked if there were any visitors attending. She welcomed guests by saying we are glad they came to hear our speaker and they are also welcome to join us for snacks after the speaker's presentation. If any visitor is interested in joining, they can talk to Terri Winter, Joan Altobelli or Julie Sartor during the break. After the refreshment break, we will have our members only business meeting.

Terri thanked Virginie Lamb for setting up the refreshments, and thanked all those who brought snacks to share. She reminded everyone that bringing a snack to the meeting also earns an hour of VS.

Jennifer McMillan introduced Jay White, Publisher of "Texas Gardener" magazine, speaking about Heirloom Bulbs.

Break: 3:05 pm

Business Meeting: Terri called the meeting back to order at 3:23 pm.

March General meeting minutes were approved as emailed and published on the website.

March Financials were approved as emailed and published on the website.

Marybeth Edeen gave an update on the new procedures for background checks instituted by Texas A&M for all County Ag Extension volunteer organizations. The new process requires an online 3 hour training on "Volunteer Standards" and will also count as 3 hours of AT (Advanced Training) hours. This training will be required every 3 years when a member's background check is up for renewal. The entire process is now a three step process which starts with completing a volunteer application form in the Texas A&M system, followed by completing the 3 hour online "Volunteer Standards" training in the AgriLife Learn System, and then finally, submission of background check information on the Sterling System.

Members will be notified by email when it is time to begin this process. Kelly Tarla is currently working on the payment aspect of this as our annual dues includes the fee for background checks. We are asking everyone to please be patient with leadership as we work toward making this new process as painless as possible for everyone.

Roxanne Dunegan spoke about the successful Lawn and Garden Show. She said the volunteers were absolutely amazing, and the weather was perfect. She reported a revenue of \$6,872, exceeding the budgeted revenue of \$6,500. We had almost 1,300 visitors (last year we had 1,000), 42 vendors (last year 35), budgeted expenses was \$1,200, actual expenses were \$810. Plant sales of \$1729, vendor

booth rental of \$2,100. Silent auction brought in \$1,900, and the quilt raffle netted \$975. We also received \$150 in donations.

Roxanne asked for comments/ideas on how to improve the show. She is also "asking" that 2025 be her last year to chair the Lawn and Garden Show. Preparation for the show starts in September contacting vendors. If anyone is interested in chairing please contact Roxanne for more information.

The Burnet County Area Fair is June 7 - 8, and getting ready for the fair will begin June 4th. Lots of volunteer opportunities. Roxanne will have a sign-up sheet available next month. Start thinking about what you are going to enter.

We have new T-shirts for sale, a thinner material and very soft. Order forms are in the back of room. Mena Rueffer's daughter is making them, and the cost is \$15. Shirts will be ready at the May meeting.

Linda Stoneking spoke about the Burnet Farmer and Craft Market, which kicks off this Saturday, April 20th, and continues every Saturday into November. We have volunteers for April, we need more for May. Linda asked for volunteers to sign up for either the 1st shift (7:30-10:30am) or 2nd shift (10:30-1:30pm). Please contact her via email or phone or text if you are able to help.

Carolyn Crouchet updated us on the second Burnet Middle School Greenhouse Plant Sale held in early April. She said this year has been the most successful for plant sales, they've had the most plants, volunteers and biggest sales ever. She thanked all the volunteers for all the hours they put in, for donating pots and boxes. Students were engaged and enjoyable to work with. She spoke briefly about possibly making the sales more county wide and on a smaller scale for community shoppers. Lots of veggies and the prices are so good.

Carolyn also spoke about the required hours members need to earn each year to re-certify as a member in good standing. Please record your hours in VMS on a continuous basis, and remember to continue to add your hours even after you've fulfilled the required hours. We will be honoring those members who have already met their hours for this year at the May meeting. Be sure and record your hours by 5/8 to be recognized!

Marylynne Norman spoke about King's Garden. Now that we are approaching the hotter months the volunteer hours are M,W, F from 8:30-10:30am. They harvest on Wednesdays as the Food Bank distributes food on Thursdays. The Food Bank has gone from serving 130 families to 170. They have harvested 1,192 pounds of produce!

Marylynne also spoke about the Dig It! newsletter. She completed April's issue (kudos to her first issue - it was awesome!), and asked for submissions for the next newsletter be sent NOW, don't sit on anything you can send her. Digitnewsletter@gmail.com

The Garden at Trinity Episcopal Church in Marble Falls needs volunteers as well. They are there M,W, F, 8:00 - ?

Lida Woodul reminded everyone that the deadline for HLMGA scholarship applications is 4-30-24. Please get the word out. If you know a senior high school student or college student in Burnet or Lampasas county who is going into horticulture or agriculture related fields, please encourage them to apply. Information and application is available on our website.

Princess Aschermann is looking for Master Gardeners to share their knowledge and expertise on various gardening topics to educate the public at the Burnet County Area Fair, June 7 & 8. She is asking for 30 minute sessions. If you can help and are interested, please contact Princess (Terri Winter's sister!) at princess.aschermann@gmail.com (She's an associate from our 2024 Certification class)

Our next Green Thumb presentation is Tuesday, 4/23, 2:00-3:00pm at the Marble Falls Library. Ricky and Lisa Grant, owners of Enchanted Mushrooms will be speaking on "The Nature of Mushrooms". 1 hour AT credit.

Green Thumb for May is on Thursday, May 9th, 2:00-3:00pm at the Hermann Brown Free Library (100 East Washington Street, Burnet). Mena Rueffer, Master Gardener, will be presenting "Growing Annuals in Containers". 1 hour AT credit.

IMPORTANT: Our meeting on May 14th will not be at the AgriLife auditorium, and we will not have Zoom available.

WE ARE MEETING AT VAL KLAUDT'S GARDEN, AT 2:00PM.

We will have business meeting first, then refreshments and tour Val's garden.

Bring: Chair, water & also hat if needed

If you are bringing refreshments that require being kept cool, please pack in a cooler.

Her address is: 450 County Rd 200 B, Burnet

Meeting adjourned: 3:57pm

Submitted by:

Terri Clark/Recording Secretary