

Highland Lakes Master Gardener Association

Minutes for the General Meeting

March 12, 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: 62 members, 0 guests; via Zoom: 13 members

Jennifer McMillan introduced our speaker: Samantha Melvin, presenting "Botanical Designs in Art: Theory & Practice"

Terri W. thanked Virginie Lamb for coordinating refreshments and also thanked everyone who brought food. She reminded everyone that bringing food to share at the meeting also earns an extra hour of volunteer time.

**Break:** 2:48pm

**Business Meeting:** Terri W. called the meeting back to order at 3:05pm

February General Meeting minutes were approved as emailed and published on the website.

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

Membership was asked to approve The Garden's request of an additional \$1470.00 needed in excess of their budgeted amount of \$390.00 to repair the pump affected by the recent freeze in January. (Total cost is \$1860 for the repair). Lida Woodul motioned to approve this request, David Waldo seconded, and everyone present was in favor. Motion passed.

Various Project/Activity updates were given as follows:

The Garden: David Waldo shared that they would be planting tomatoes Wednesday, 3/13. They will start at 8:00am and any volunteer help is greatly appreciated to lighten the workload.

Lawn & Garden Show: Roxanne Dunegan thanked all the volunteers who have signed up to help and noted that there are still a few areas that need additional volunteers. She will be emailing the signup sheet and encouraged signing up to fill the remaining slots. There is a lot of great publicity about the show, she secured a radio spot and there are copies of ads to post in area businesses and communities. This is the first time a show has been completely booked with vendors and that's also filling the additional vendor space that was added. Roxanne also asked for donations of plants to sell at the Master Gardener booth, and to please label type of plants & drop off at the Master Gardener plant booth before 10am on 3/30 (morning of Lawn

& Garden Show). This is a huge fundraiser for HLMGA and donations are very much welcomed and appreciated.

County Fair: Roxanne briefly mentioned the fair will be held June 7-8 at the Agri-Life building. This will provide 4 days of volunteer opportunity. More information will be coming soon.

Burnet Farmer and Craft Market: Linda Stoneking noted the Market will begin in April and run every Saturday into November. She has a signup sheet available at the meeting today, and asked for volunteers to sign up either for the 1st or 2nd shifts. (7:30-10:30am or 10:30am-1:30pm) Please contact her via email or phone/text if you are able to help.

The vendor coordinator is Jenny McCoy. We have a Facebook page now for the Farmer & Craft Market. Jana Barner is handling publicity. There are flyers available at the HLMGA mailbox in the AgriLife office to post in area businesses and communities. Please take some and help to get the word out.

Burnet Middle School Greenhouse Plant Sale: Carolyn Crouchet shared that the recent plant sale was an enormous success. She thanked all of the volunteers who helped make this happen. People were lined up at 7am, the sale began at 8am, and the line was long and plants sold quickly. They will be having another plant sale in April. Terri W. noted that the students were so courteous and helpful and everyone was so impressed with how hard they worked helping customers carry plants, etc.

Horseshoe Bay Church Garden: Louise Suhey gave an update on efforts to restore the garden. She would love volunteers to help. She noted the church garden is lovely to tour as well as a Native Park is close by, with lots of native and wildflower plants to see. A great way to volunteer and also enjoy the area. Please email Louise if you are able to help.

King's Garden: Marylyne Norman shared that King's Garden now has its own Facebook page. They are very busy and can always use volunteers. Currently, they are there M-W-F mornings, 9-11am. Summer hours (or when it gets hotter), they work 8-10am. Our 2024 Certification class will be visiting King's Garden March 27th and they hope new associates will be inspired to volunteer.

Seed Library: Samantha Melvin spoke about the Seed Library, located at the AgriLife building. They have a huge inventory of seeds and she thanked all the volunteers who have been helping. She asked if anyone had seeds they would like to donate, please do! Put seeds in the envelope, label plant type, varietal, how to grow, etc. She said they welcome all types of seeds, even leftovers from seed packets. Having the Seed Library is a wonderful community project.

Committee updates:

Volunteer/Membership Committee: Carolyn Crouchet reminded everyone about volunteer hours and advanced training hours required for membership re-certification, and to be sure to record those hours on VMS. She urged everyone to not wait to get those hours completed. We want to celebrate our accomplishments and community involvement!

- Members must complete 6 hours of approved continuing education and 25 hours of approved volunteer service annually for re-certification to maintain membership in good standing.
- Associates from the 2023 Certification class must complete all hours for initial certification by April 5th, 2024, (10 additional hours of approved continuing education, and 50 hours of approved volunteer service) to be accepted into full membership. They will also need to complete the required hours for annual membership by December 31, 2024 for re-certification to maintain membership in good standing.
- Associates completing the 2024 Certification class are required to complete all of the initial certification hours by December 31, 2024 to be accepted into full membership.

Scholarship Committee: Lida Woodul announced applications are now being accepted for the HLMGA scholarship. Information and application is available on our website. If anyone knows of a graduating high school senior (public or home school) or a college student who is planning on taking a college horticultural class, please encourage them to apply. HLMGA voted last year to include Lampasas County to the scholarship applicant area. The deadline to submit applications is April 30th, 2024.

Other reminders:

- Don't forget to buy your raffle tickets for the quilt. Drawing will be held at the Lawn & Garden Show at 3:45pm. You do not need to be present to win.
- Next Green Thumb Program: 3/21/24, 1-2pm @ Lakeshore Library (7346 Ranch Road 261, Buchanan Dam) "Tomato Gardening - From Seed to Table" presented by Lyn Mefford, Master Gardener.
- Our next General Meeting has been rescheduled for the third Tuesday of the month which is April 16th, instead of the 2nd Tuesday (April 9th) to avoid all the Eclipse traffic.

Terri W. expressed thanks to the team of volunteers who helped out at the "Friends of the Night Sky" event. HLMGA was well represented!

**Meeting adjourned:** 3:45pm

Submitted by:

Terri Clark/Recording Secretary

