

Highland Lakes Master Gardener Association

Minutes for the General Meeting

January 9, 2024

Hybrid meeting from the Burnet AgriLife Auditorium and via Zoom

Call to Order: Terri Winter called the meeting to order at 2:05pm

Attendance: In person: 57 members, 2 guests; via Zoom: 6 members

Jennifer McMillan introduced our speaker: Craig Hensley, who presented "Inviting the Natural World Back to Your Yard, a Native Plant Approach"

Terri W. reminded everyone that dues are to be paid by January 31st, 2024. Please see Celia Manlove to pay dues.

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

Break: 3:26pm

Business Meeting: Terri called the meeting back to order at 3:47pm

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

December financials were approved as emailed and published on the website.

The proposed 2024 Budget was presented to membership via email and on website for approval. Motion was made by Carolyn Stephens to approve the budget, Jim Woodul seconded, and motion passed by membership to approve the 2024 HLMGA Budget as presented.

Doug McCoy spoke about the audit results. Doug, Levona Fry and Carolyn Stephens were on the Audit team, and met with Terri Winter (President), Jim Woodul (2023 Treasurer) and Celia Manlove (2024 Treasurer) to discuss audit results. No irregularities were found.

Ray Buchanan spoke about advanced training opportunities for Master Gardeners this spring. Texas Tech OLLI Program is offering 6 gardening related classes this

spring in Marble Falls, and all are approved as Advanced Training (1.5 hrs credit each class) for Master Gardeners. The fee is \$30 per class for OLLI non-members. Ray reminded us that we need 6 hours of Advanced Training to recertify as Master Gardeners each year, and suggested it may be advantageous to consider joining for \$35, and then the member fee per class will be \$15. For 6 classes of your choice, this would save additional money.

Pre-registration is required at: sarah.ramos@ttu.edu (pay at the door)

All classes will be held at TTU Higher Education Teaching Site,
806 Steve Hawkins Parkway, Marble Falls.

Tuesday, February 20th, 10-11:30am (1.5 hrs credit)

Willard Horn, Master Gardener: "Spring Gardening Basics"

Tuesday, February 27th, 10-11:30am (1.5 hrs credit)

Alice Liles, Cactus and Succulent Society: "A Survey of Texas Cacti and Other Succulents"

Wednesday, February 28th, 10-11:30am (1.5 hrs credit)

Dr. Leslie L. Bush, Paleoethnobotanist: "Plants and Landscapes of Indigenous Texans"

Thursday, March 28th, 1:30-3:00pm (1.5 hrs credit)

Dr. Nancy Allen, Botanist: "Hill Country Wild Flowers"

Tuesday, April 2nd, 1:30-3:00pm (1.5 hrs credit)

Lori Davis, Botanist: "Grow Groceries at Home All Year Round"

Thursday, April 11th, 1:30-3:00pm (1.5 hrs credit)

Rachael Lindsey, Hill Country Conservancy: "Texas Hill Country Ecology: Past, Present, and Future"

Terri W. introduced Julia McComas, member of HLMGA, who has been in discussions with the Marble Falls After School program (ACE) regarding their request to have Master Gardeners meet with students and teach them about gardening. The group would consist of around 20 students, either Kinder-2nd, or 3rd-5th grades, meeting for 9 weeks. Julia and Spicewood Elementary school are eager to start right away this spring. To expedite this program, the board voted to approve this as a short term program, set up as an activity, with no funding from HLMGA.

Terri put this forth as a vote from membership. Motion was made, seconded and passed, approving the ACE program as an activity on a short term basis, with no funding from HLMGA.

Roxanne Dunegan gave an update on preparation for the 2024 Lawn & Garden Show. She has several vendors who have paid for their booths, and reminded everyone that the silent auction is a huge opportunity to raise funds for HLMGA and to please bring donations to the AgriLife building. The Burnet County Tourism director is donating 1,000 eclipse sunglasses. We are advertising in the Burnet Bulletin and the Highlander. When asked at the 2023 Lawn & Garden Show, the #1 reason people gave for coming to the show was hearing about it through word of mouth. Roxanne encouraged everyone to let as many people know as possible! She will have copies of the ad/flyer for us to share with others in our community to promote the show. She also has a roster of the Show Chairs, and vendor applications, and extra copies for members to view and plan where they can volunteer. The Lawn & Garden Show is a great opportunity to earn our recertification hours. Please let Roxanne know if you have any questions. Signup sheets for volunteering will be coming soon.

Marybeth Edeen is our new Corresponding Secretary. She explained that she has been working on the email list for notifications, and to please let her know if you are not receiving any emails from her for HLMGA.

The Dig it Newsletter is still in need of an editor. Please contact Terri Winter or Gail Braymen if interested.

The General meeting scheduled for April 9th has been moved to April 16th due to the increased traffic & people that will be in the area for the eclipse event on April 8th. There is expected to be a large number of people still trying to leave after the eclipse has taken place.

Terri gave kudos for the amount of produce donated by our two gardens in 2023. Kings Garden donated a total of 6,111 pounds, and The Garden donated 2,812 pounds. Awesome numbers and a great show of HLMGA volunteerism giving back to the communities.

Terri reminded everyone to log their hours on VMS. Please contact Carolyn Crouchet with any questions about the VMS system and logging your hours.

Joan Altobelli gave an update about the 2024 Certification class. There are 19 people registered, with more expected in the next week. The deadline to register has been extended to February 1st for any late registrants. The first class is on February 7th. If anyone has plants that can be used for the propagation class that will be held on February 14th, please bring plants to the February 13 General Business meeting. Joan also would like 3 board members and/or chairs to attend class to give a brief 3 minute talk about how or why they heard about/joined HLMGA, what their current role is at HLMGA & what their favorite project is.

Does anyone have contact info for DeeDee Wright? Please let Terri W. know.

Terri also asked members to be sure to extend a warm welcome to our new associates when they see them at meetings, etc.

Samantha Melvin asked that all Project Chairs (new and "old") to visit your page on the website and let her know of any changes needed. She would like current updated photos and descriptions of projects on these pages. Samantha's email is samanthamelvin@gmail.com

Samantha spoke about the Seed Library and how it is proving to be a huge success. After an article about the Seed Library in the Picayune was printed, 10 people who were not part of HLMGA came right away to check out the Seed Library. There is a master list with all the seeds available.

Lida Woodul gave an update from the Scholarship Committee. The two recipients of the 2023 Scholarship are continuing to do well with their classes at Texas Tech and Tarleton and the second round of their scholarship checks have been sent.

The next General meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 13th @ 2pm.

Meeting adjourned: 4:13pm

Submitted by:

Terri Clark/Recording Secretary