

DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
Chapter Meeting, Annex
September 28, 2023

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:00. There were 37 in attendance, including President Julie Stanbery, Vice-President Andrea Collins, Treasurer Dawnetta Loomis, Membership Kay Livermore, OMGA Rep Patrice Sipos, OMGA Alt Rep Chris Rusch, and Secretary Bonnie Courter.

Installation of Officers by Nancy Fuller: Dawnetta Loomis, Treasurer, and Chris Rusch, Alternate OMGA Rep, were sworn in to their positions on the Board.

Agenda Approval: The agenda was approved as posted.

Minutes Approval: The July minutes were approved as posted. (There was no August meeting).

Welcome to Guests and New Students

OFFICER REPORTS (Introducing themselves to new students)

Past President - Nancy Fuller:

- Thanks to Diana Woodward for arranging the excellent tour of the Dorena Genetic Resource Center.
- If interested in birds, this is the season for the migration of swifts to Canada. You can watch their flight at the Fir Grove clay kiln right after sunset where Audubon members count them every night.

Membership - Kay Livermore: We have 243 members, including the new students. The new roster is out, but Kay still needs to input their addresses.

OMGA - Patrice Sipos: Patrice talked about OMGA and her duties as chapter representative.

Treasurer - Dawnetta Loomis:

- Dawnetta needs someone to train with her now as this is her last year as Treasurer.
- Some chairpersons are getting close to maxing out their 2023 budget, so submit any requests to go over budget to the Board at the next Board meeting.
- The 2024 Budget will be discussed at the next Board meeting as well, so submit your budget requests to Dawnetta.
- DCFarmers Coop - Dawnetta needs those receipts even though you're on the signers list. Also any outstanding receipts need to be turned in as soon as possible.
- Checks should go out this weekend.

Vice-President - Andrea Collins: In October we will have Bruce Gravens present on garlic for Continuing Education. The November chapter meeting will be on the 16th and Continuing Ed will be on how to prevent cardiac issues when gardening by MG Gerry Crane.

President - Julie Stanbery: We have some new Committee Chairs. Dawn Shumack has really stepped up, taking on lots of new positions including BlueBags, Hallmark, Community Outreach co-chair, Vermicomposting and Compost Tea. Elva Sellens has taken on the iris beds next to her dahlia/lily bed area. Debby Finley has joined the Insect Committee, helping with indexing insects. Dawnetta Loomis and Diane Smith-Lewsadder have taken over hospitality.

MG Program Coordinator - Logan Bennett:

- The class of 30 students is going great.
- He is offering a soils class to the public October 14 at the HLC, 10:00-11:30.
- October 19 at the Discovery Garden at 10:00, Bruce Gravens and Logan will be planting and teaching on garlic for the Pavilion series.
- MG Trivia will commence again this year starting October 18, 6:00-7:00 PM. It's an online, interactive MG trivia contest anyone can participate in, and if you win, you get prizes. It will be on the 3rd Thursday of each month, October through February. Logan will write one session about biologicals and oversee it. Participation counts toward Continuing Education and it's FUN!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Blue Bags - Dawn Shumack: She has bags to hand out. This month 19 bags were donated, and 4 more to turn in. She also has laminated bar code tags to help open the donation door.

Community Outreach - Cheryl Caplan:

- September 17th presentation by Leo Grass and Dawn Shumack to the Secret Wine Club on composting with 6 adults present. Pausing until spring for additional presentations to this group.
- September 21 we had another summer Pavilion class about xeriscaping and shrubbery. About 25 people attended. Next month it will be on planting garlic.
- Cheryl will update the Discovery Garden Tour for our website. She is asking chairs to update their section and get them to Cheryl.

Discovery Garden - Julie Stanbery:

- Congrats to Sylvia Andino for helping with irrigation.
- Sharon Bordeaux wants to start a section in the DG on native plants in the area where the pieris and azaleas are.
- The raised beds where the Biochar demo was could be used for the garlic planting, but needs to be put to use.

Facebook - Barbara Horst: Here is the Facebook report for the last 28 days:

The DCMG have 2,683 followers; 35 are new. We have had 2,286 page likes on our posts this month. The most popular posts were the one about the Victory Garden and how much produce we grow for the food bank. Also popular was the photo of the landscaped tree stump in the Discovery Garden.

Greenhouse West - Carol Bolt: Carol is asking for helpers to help out weekly. They are meeting on Monday mornings and, when classes are over, they will meet on Tuesdays.

Greenhouse East - Ann Severson: They are working Mondays, then switch to Tuesdays when class is over. Starting in October, Ann will be out there every Saturday, 9:00-Noon, for new students to come out to help and be trained.

Hallmark - Dawn Shumack: Thanks to Linda Thames for entrusting me to carry on her Hallmark legacy! To date for September, cards were sent to Janet Parkerson and Kathy Shayler for health-related concerns, and to Barbara Zastrow for the passing of her mother. If you know of anyone in our MG family that could use a card of any sort, please let me know by email, text or phone.

Insect Committee - Diana Woodward: The committee meets on the 1st and 3rd Mondays each month from 10:00-12:00 in the Plant Clinic. They are still going through the drawers as well as identifying new insects. They will not meet in November-January.

MG Training Course - Gloria Cettina: We are halfway through the course already! We have a great group of students and presenters. This week, Carol and her team will be teaching propagation, and Logan will present on pesticide safety.

Newsletter - Bonnie Courter: Submissions are due Saturday, the 30th.

Plant Clinic - Chris Rusch: We start training the new students October 1. There are still some openings for students to sign up. We will train through the month of October, M-F except for Tuesdays. Winter hours start in November-January, open Mondays and Wednesdays.

Plant Sale - Joy Keeling: There is a MG Only Plant Sale today, from 12:00-3:00.

Publicity - Cheryl Caplan:

- Sent out a press release about the September 21st summer class as well as a Facebook event and post.
- It's probably time to write up the change in dates for the Plant & Insect Clinic along with opportunity to get your soil tested.
- Anyone who wants to do a radio spot on any gardening subject, let Cheryl know.

Soils - Gloria Cettina: We have a core team of 4 right now, and hoping to add some new students as well. We've done over 100 tests so far this year. Tests are \$20 for the public, \$10 for MG's.

Swinger Bars - Kay Livermore: Members who have swinger bar updates for July:

One 2022 trainee completed his 60 payback hours.

60 hours: Scott Damschen

100 hours: Andrea Collins, Gerry Crane

300 hours: Gloria Cettina

400 hours: Cheryl Caplan

500 hours: Ed Barrett

750 hours: Roselle Benesh

3000 hours: Ann Severson

Vermicomposting - Dawn Shumack: The worms are doing very well. If anyone is contributing compost, chop it up and place inside one of the worm bins, not left on the ground where it will attract fruit flies.

Victory Garden - Carolyn Ruzicka:

The Victory Garden is in full swing with our harvest. On Tuesday we harvested tomatoes, yellow squash, patty pan squash, zucchini, green and yellow beans, cantaloupes, cucumbers, 3 kinds of peppers, egg plant and the start of the winter squash. We donated 469 lbs. of produce this week and 83 lbs. of produce from Master Gardner's home gardens. To date with the Victory Garden and Home Garden a total of 7,566 lbs. has been donated to UCAN, our local food bank.

Next month the Victory Garden should start slowing down. Prior to winter, compost will be put down on all the beds and a cover crop planted. We are meeting once a week on Tuesdays continuing to harvest and get the Victory Garden put to bed for winter.

OLD BUSINESS: Budget. At the October Board meeting we will review budget amounts left for the year and whether committees need to ask for more. Also discussed will be the 2024 Budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

The League of Women's Voters want to include our Discovery Garden on their spring tour, but first they will need to review our garden with Julie. If selected, we will need 3-4 MG's to help out in shifts for the spring tour day.

SHOW AND TELL:

- "Joy of Gardening" reports - Sylvia Andino attended the event, staying in the dorms, and enjoyed it a lot. The classes were great. Her favorite class was fruit tree pruning. She also took the mulch class, potatoes and onions, fire-resistance and landscape watering classes. They also had a nice book sale there. She encouraged MG's to attend next year.
- Dahlia Show - Elva Sellens reported on the show held last weekend at the Fairgrounds. She hosted some out-of-towners at her house for breakfast. The show was a great success.
- Julie Stanbery brought tiger lily bulblets to share as well as some live tiger lilies and crocosmia.
- Toni Rudolph reminded everyone to save their large 32 oz. containers with lids for the Plant Sale raffle.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Executive Board meeting Wednesday, October 11, 10:00.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:22, followed by MG-hosted potluck lunch for the new students.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Courter, Secretary