

(REVISED WITH 5 CORRECTIONS IN HIGHLIGHTED ITALICS AND UNDERLINED)

Big Country Master Gardener Meeting Minutes for: Business/Education – program topic ‘Making medicines with herbs, presented by Chelsa Istra

Date: February 11, 2025

Time: 6:00

Location: Big Country Extension office – in person

Facilitator: Dawn Graham

Attendees: Karen Saunders, Lucy & John Geib, Pleas & Stephanie McKee, Doris Oltmann, Jo Rake, Dawn Graham, Don Miller, Liz Throckmorton, Julia & Ronnie Tinney, Jackie Lee, Marion Hull, Chrystal McCutchen, Carrie Wright, Barbara Neuman, Jackie Sledge, Melissa Sisco, Holy **(Holly)** & Thomas White, Rachel Perkins, Fran Crumpler, Kathy Turner, Susan Perry, and Dawnyel Luckie (Extension)

1. Review:

- Meeting called to order at 7:30
- January meeting minutes, motion to approve as written by John Geib, second Ronnie Tinney, vote in favor all.
- January treasurer report – no updates

2. Upcoming events, workshops, community outreach, Volunteer opportunities:

- February 22, 9 AM-3PM Saturday Seminar, Topic is Free Plants (\$25.00 fee for this event, snacks, lunch and desserts included with fee) limited to 50 people, flyer/advertisement/sign-up sent out Feb 5 (Must register), location Extension Office Conference Room
- February 27 Farm, Ranch and Wildlife Expo Taylor County Expo – spots open, 9 to 1 & 11 to 1; See Stephanie McKee
- Workdays – Hope Garden Wed Feb 19 9 am to 11 am, work day to trim salvias, 325-669-7225 contact @ laurenwclark@gmail.com,

3. Committee updates:

A. Monthly awards January

- You Rock: Fran Crumpler
- Busy Bee: John Geib

B. Budget & Finance

- No updates

C. Plant sale

- Spring Plant Sale – April 12, 2025 (building reserved April 6-13) - schedule tbd
1 order has been placed to date.

D. Membership

January hours

- 414.50 VOL (Volunteer) Hours, 50.00 CE (Education) Hours, 464.50 total hours for January 2025 reported by 39 Master Gardeners and Interns
- 665 contacts from Library and Long Early Childhood center
- We will increase to 20 (10) Education Hours and 10 (20) Volunteer Hours, (for Certified Master Gardeners.)

E. Projects

- Zoo - We met Thursday 2/6/25 and worked on the pollinator bed
- Sweetwater Community Garden (Julia Tinney) – Trees trimmed, and started cleaning out the beds, Richard came out to prune trees, Swiss chard, broccoli, spinach, kale growing currently as weather permits.
- Maple Street Property - Greenhouse for Maple St has been ordered, delivery Friday, 2/14. As soon as weather permits, work day needed to clean up the whole property and prepare the space. Budgeted \$5K, met Jan 5th to discuss layout, attendance Chrystal, Jackie, Kathy, Anne, Daniel, Fran, Rachel, Jo, Donna and Dawn. Motion to purchase made by Anne, seconded by Dawn, unanimous vote to purchase the Sigma 20 which is 10'x19.5'x7' \$2,900.00. Additional vents will be purchased, 6 at \$55.00 each. Solar lights to be purchased elsewhere. Additional items, rock base, landscape fabric, excavation of site will still need to be purchased and will expect to stay within budget. Thanks to all who went through the thought and decision-making process!

F. Recurring special events

- Farm Ranch & Women's Fair Expo, Feb 27-28, volunteer slots all filled. See Stephanie McKee to be put on waiting list.
- Women's fair presentation: Jackie & Kathy (Liz) will present. Planting your Garden by the seasons.
- 2025 Christmas Party, Date to be confirmed later. Location: Big Country Hall.
- 2025 Spring/Summer Picnic/Fall parties, May 17, 2025, All A Buzz about Pollinators, at Donna Long-Wolfer's home.
- 2025 Field trips/Garden & Greenhouse tours, suggestions and volunteer gardens/greenhouses welcome and solicited.
- Fall Party will be 10/18/25, at Donna Long-Wolfer's home.

G. Resource/Marketing

- Website Additions to Members Only Section - Dawnyel Luckie is working on updates and links for old minutes, newsletters, possibly financial reports.

H. Strategic planning

I. Nominating committee

J. Advanced training

- Advanced Training in Trees, Mar 27, 2025
- Local applicants are still encouraged.

- Certification for 1 year locally required.

K. Programs

a. Library

- Downtown in basement: Trees
- March: Plant and Weed ID

b. Saturday Seminars

- Feb 22: 'How to get plants for Free', If you have plants to donate or give away, please do! \$25 fee, lunch included. Must reserve space ahead of time, class limited to 50.
- March: Making your Bed
- April: Wetting your Bed

4. Old business:

- Policy and Procedures/Bylaws Review – in progress
- Use of Chike Grant – pending
- Rain Barrels – (James Snelson) Tuesday Mar 18, *session 6 Rainwater harvesting (CE for MG & 2024 interns) barrels will be built during class. MG training will be during the Spring plant sale.
- Master Gardener Grants (2) Kulani McDermott and Carrie Wright are willing to give presentations on their grant developments soon, date tbd.
- 2024 State Awards – Total of 64 entries from 26 Associations. BCMG submitted 5 entries. Outstanding individual, Outstanding association, Cotton in the landscape, Abilene public library series, and Kids, Kows & more. Thank you, Kathy and Jackie.
- If you have any ideas/suggestions for 2025 awards see Kathy or Jackie.
- Charter Documents – Due by January 31, 2025 – DONE!

5. New business:

- Dawn remarked on the Intern class 2025 First class Thu the 6th was a full house; 25 Interns & 29 Master Gardeners in attendance. Thank you for preparations and for making it a success and all the yummy food! Ann Clark is lead 325-669-8918. Session 3 (2/18) I am the lead 325-901-4206. Record in VMS Other – food 1 hour, in description i.e. food for Intern class of 2025, session # --
- Directors Meeting - Meeting dates for 2025 – February 7, May 2, August 1, & December 5 via ZOOM @ 9 am. Anyone wishing to sit in on these meetings is welcome as a guest. An e-mail can be sent out with meeting information/link. International MG Conference 8/25-28, (There is no planet B) registration Estimated march 5th, cost tbd, s/b <\$200.00. Search for excellence awards presentation Wednesday May 21, (time tbd) via ZOOM
- Kathy Turner, Jackie Sledge turned in 5 **award** entries for Big Country Master Gardeners

6. Extension office:

- MG Intern Training – check updated schedule; 3 changes have been made. As always dates are subject to change due to speaker availability.
- 2025 Training – February 6 – April 29, 2025
- Application Deadline was January 22, 2025
- Office is closed February 17 in observance of President’s Day

7. Open Forum:

- None

8. Wrap-Up and Next Meeting Details:

- March Business/education meeting – March 25, 2025, CE opportunity; Daniel Sutton presenting Plant Pathology

9. **VMS:** Service hours - .50, Education hours - 1

Adjournment:

- **Time** - 7:58 pm:
- **Motion** – John Geib
- **Second** – Pleas Mckee
- Respectfully submitted by Dawn Graham