

# **BIG COUNTRY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION**

## **AUGUST BUSINESS MEETING**

**AUGUST 20, 2024**

1. Call to order by Pres Jackie Sledge at 7:08 who determined a quorum present.
2. July Business Meeting Minutes reviewed and approved by Rachel Perkins and seconded by Dawn Graham.
3. July Treasurer Reports discussed and Treasurer Kathy Turner concluded with reporting a final balance of \$77,362.53 in the account. The report was accepted as reported.
4. Events/Workdays/Meetings was approved as listed on the agenda.
5. Committee Updates
  - A. Awards – Ann Clark said Kulani McDermott received the Busy Bee award for her work in setting up the template for the newsletter. The You Rock award went to Beth Hamaty for her help with the table toppers for the state meeting and for giving two programs at the library on succulents.
  - B. Budget and Finance – no further reports
  - C. Membership – July Hours reported as 266 Volunteer hours, 41 education hours for a total of 307 total hours for July 2024 reported by 35 Master Gardeners and Interns.
  - D. MG Intern Training – planning begins in October after the plant sale.
  - E. Plant Sale – Topic was discussed in detail at the educational meeting prior to the business meeting.
  - F. Projects – mentioned but no discussion on any of them.
  - G. Recurring Special events

Spring/Summer Picnic was held in May and enjoyed by all.  
Fall Soup & Stew will be Oct 19 at Donna Long Wolfers.  
Fall Garden Tour will be in Nov, possibly the 16<sup>th</sup>, and will include greenhouses.  
Dec 10 at the Big Country Hall will be the Enchanted Christmas party. Food will be “pot luck” and there will be no charge for guests.
  - H. Resource/Marketing

Website – Roger Salisbury is working on the website.  
Facebook – Dawnyel keeps this up and going.

- Newsletter – As mentioned, Kulani and Natasha are doing a great job on this for the association.
- Garden Articles on Website – Sarah Adams gathers articles to be published on the website. They have been very interesting.
- I. Training/Programs
- Saturday Seminars – The August 31 seminar on Birds and Bees will be the last one for this calendar year. The presenters will be two guest speakers.
- Monthly Library Programs – Wildflowers is the topic for the programs Sept 3 and 13; October 1 and 11 will have programs on Seed Saving; November’s program will be on bulbs. Submit names of potential speakers on bulbs to John.
- Advanced Training Opportunities – Jo Rake reports there are no advanced training opportunities the remainder of 2024.
- J. Strategic Planning Committee – A meeting will be held August 29. Several policies and procedures need to be revised.
- K. Maple Street Property – The association continues to wait for County Commissioner Chuck Statler to get the fence moved to include all the property belonging to BCMG.
6. Director’s Meeting – Jackie Sledge reported the meeting August 2 announced the International Conference will be hosted by Texas in 2025 and it will be virtual. Among the potential advanced training opportunities are three on “water” – water conservation, RWH, and water irrigation. Also programs on earth kind, greenhouse management, and a revised “Fire Wise” will be available for MGs.
- Next Director’s meeting – December 6, 2024
7. Old Business
- A. Review of Policy and Procedures and By Laws is in progress.
- B. Organization of storage cabinet continues to be a project in need of assistance.
- C. T-shirts have arrived and will be distributed Sat morning at the Ext office. Cash or check is required.
- D. Second Greenhouse was delivered this month with several MGs watching the interesting process of getting it unloaded and placed. It has several improvements including insulation. The county will need to provide an electrical source for it.
- E. Shade House at Maple St. see topic under projects.

- F. Rain Barrels – Requests by the public have been received for rain barrels. There are 18 barrels available to be made ready for sale before the plant sale. Rachel Perkins will receive training from James Snelson and then an interested group of MGs will make the rain barrels.
8. New Business
    - A. Ann Clark reported 29-30 “sluggers” have been donated by Lowe’s.
    - B. Doris Kinney donated several flats of succulents.
    - C. New Mexico is having their state conference in Los Alamos on Sept 14. It was noted that conflicts with the San Angelo Symposium on Landscape Design.
    - D. Jackie Sledge reported future dates of “Grain Classes” at Long Elem will be Nov 12-15 and for Fruit and Veggie Classes on January 30, 2025.
  9. Extension Office News: Dawnyel reported there will be increased traffic during the upcoming West Texas Fair and Rodeo. The Ext Office, however, will continue to be open for business hours.
    - A. Several MGs have volunteered to assist with the Arts and Crafts Section. Potentially there may be additional hours available.
  10. Open Discussion – none
  11. Dismissal at 8:20 after motion by John Geib and second by Dawn Graham.