

Big Country Master Gardener Business Meeting Minutes

Education: Plant Pathology

Presenter: Certified Master Gardener Daniel Sutton

Date: March 25, 2025

Time: 6.00

Meeting called to order: 7:20 p.m.

Location: Big Country Extension office – in person

Facilitator: Dawn Graham

Attendees: Dawn Graham, Donna Gutierrez, Jackie Sledge, Carrie Wright, Doris Oltmann, Julia Tinney, Ronnie Tinney, Liz Throckmorton, Don Miller, Ellen Presley, Angela Christin, Sean Christin, Barbara Owens, Karen Saunders, Jo Rake, John Geib, Lucy Geib, Jean Seymore, Kathy Turner, Rebekah Oakley, Sharon Owens, Daniel Sutton (Master Gardeners and Interns), and Dawnyel Luckie (Extension)

THANK YOU to all that participated in the session 7 Intern plant propagation class on Saturday, March 22nd.

1. Review:

- **February** meeting minutes. There was a motion to approve as written by Karen Saunders and a second by Kathy Turner. Vote in favor - all.
- **February** treasurer report submitted by Kathy Turner. The treasurer report was accepted as submitted.

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

- March 26 noon – 1 PM Homeowner's series at The Feed Store 148 S Jacobs St Albany, bring your own lunch, topic is Trees and ornamentals presented by Certified Master Gardener Karen Saunders
- March 27 6 PM ****Intern training session 8; Entomology & Plant Pathology**
- March 29 9 AM-12PM **Saturday Seminar** topic is 'Making your bed', in the Extension Office Conference Room
- April 1 6 PM **Library Program**, South branch in Mall of Abilene topic is Container gardening
- April 1 6PM Intern training Session 9; Landscape principles
- April 5 9 AM-4 PM Intern training session 10; topic and location TBD
- **APRIL 6 – 13** **PLANT SALE PREPARATIONS AND SALE WEEK**
- April 8 6 PM **Executive committee meeting** during plant sale, **subject to change**

- April 10 6 PM Intern training session 11; Plant ID & Plant sale prep
- April 11 10 AM **Library Program**, Main branch topic is Container gardening
- April 15 6 PM ****Intern training session 12; Earth kind**
- April 22 6 PM **Education/Business Meeting**; topic intro to fresh milled flour presented by Certified Master Gardener Carrie Wright in the Extension office conference room

**** denotes CE for current Certified Master Gardeners & 2024 Interns**

3. Committee updates:

A. Monthly awards. The awards were presented by Dawn Graham. Kathy Feagan received the February Busy Bee Award, and Liz Throckmorton received the You Rock Award.

B. Budget & Finance (Kathy Turner)

There were no updates.

C. Plant sale (Kathy Turner & Jackie Sledge)

- **2025 Spring:** (building reserved April 6 – 13)

Two plant orders have been submitted, and others will be submitted a week before the sale. Drivers and helpers to go to vendors to pick up plants are being assigned, and all other plans are in place.

- **2025 Fall:** (building reserved October 6 – 12)

D. Membership (Jackie Sledge) **February**

- **VOL** (volunteer) 673.25, **CE** (education) 605.00, **Totaling** 1,278.25 reported by 78 Master Gardeners & Interns
- **Contacts at programs and events – 777**

E. Projects (Jackie Sledge & Pleas McKee)

- **Modern living mall** (Kathy Turner) – Workdays to clean up and prepare beds and ring for replanting will be scheduled. We may also be able to work in these beds during down times at the Plant Sale.
- **Demo beds** (Kathy) – A workday will be scheduled soon to clean beds and get ready for planting.
- **Expo planters** (Kathy Turner) – Plants will be picked up during the Plant Sale so the planters can be cleaned out and replanted in April.
- **Swenson House** (Sandy Shaw & Jackie Sledge) – We will continue with Monday workdays to clean beds and determine what needs to be replanted.
- **Zoo** (Heidi Oracion) – We have had workdays and will replant several areas in April.
- **Hope Gardens** (Lauren Clark) – There was a workday to clean up the pollinator bed, and another one will be scheduled next month.
- **WASP museum** (Beth Hamaty) – More plants will be added to the landscape this year.
- **Sweetwater community garden** (Julia Tinney) – They will be planting the raised beds with vegetables again this year.

- **Thomas Elementary School** (TBD)
 - **Greenhouse** (Jo) – Plants left after the Plant Sale will be kept in the greenhouse until they are planted in projects.
 - **Maple Street** (Rachel) – The shade house was delivered March 17.
- F. Recurring special events** (Stephanie McKee)
- **Updates**
 - **2025 parties** – Spring Picnic on May 17 at Donna Long-Wolfer’s home; Fall event on October 19 at Donna Long-Wolfer’s home; Christmas Party on December 9 in the Big Country Hall. Details will be provided closer to events.
 - **2025 field trips/garden & greenhouse tours** – In the planning stage for tours.
 - **Business/Education program** – Programs have been planned each month through the end of the year.
- G. Resource/Marketing** (Dawnyel)
- **Website** – Dawnyel has been working on links and members only section.
 - **Facebook**
- H. Master Gardener Intern training** (Dawnyel)
- Training sessions are going well.
- I. Chapter updates** (Jackie)
- **Newsletter** (Natasha Henderson & Kulani McDermott) The newsletter is going well and is being sent out on the 1st of each month.
 - **Garden articles** (Sarah Adams) Sarah submits articles for the website and Facebook every week.
- J. Strategic planning** (Extension) TBD
- K. Nominating committee** (Stephanie) No report.
- L. Advanced training** (Jo) No new trainings have been scheduled.
- M. Programs**
- a. **Library** (John)
 - April 1 and April 11 – Topic is Container Gardening.
 - b. **Saturday Seminars** (Kathy)
 - March – Making Your Bed.
 - April – Wet Your Bed.
 - c. **Public requests** (Jackie & Pleas)
 1. St. James United Methodist Women’s Group – **Anne Pierce will present**
 2. Northern Oaks Living & Rehabilitation center – **Nelda is in contact**
 3. Disability Resources Incorporated – **Pleas is in contact, may be a project**
 4. University Place – **Dawn reported no contact had been made**
 5. West Texas Rehabilitation Center – **Jackie has emailed the contact to set up a meeting date**

4. Old business:

- **Policy & Procedures/By-laws** – Continued to be worked on.
- **Grants (2)** – Both will do a presentation on their how they used the grants, but dates have not been set yet.
 1. Kulani McDermott – Completed
 2. Carrie Wright – Active. Carrie provided an update during the meeting. Garden beds are being built and should be completed soon. They will be planted in the next couple of weeks.
- **Chike grant** – No report.
- **Trailer** – No update.

5. New business:-

- **Rain barrels** – Master Gardeners will be given instructions on building rain barrels during the Plant Sale, and rain barrels will be available for sale during the online and in-person Spring Plant Sale. James Snelson demonstrated building a rain barrel during an Intern Training Class.

6. Extension office news: Dawnyel Luckie presented the following information:

- a. Dawnyel will be out April 2 – April 7.
- b. The Expo Center parking lots are being redone. Information will be provided when dates for construction are set.
- c. The Extension Office may have a summer intern who will help with volunteer programs.
- d. April is Volunteer Month. She has requested information from Master Gardeners, and this will be posted during Volunteer Week.
- e. Information about how to do presentations is being worked on. There are requirements on using the Master Gardener logo and required statements on PowerPoints and written materials. John Geib has plant pictures if anyone needs them for presentations.

7. Open Forum and wrap-up:

- Any questions/comments - None

8. VMS: Don't forget to add your hours

- **For monthly Executive Committee meeting:** Administrative – Executive Committee Meeting VOL (Volunteer) Hours. Complete Remarks.
- **For Monthly Association Business Meeting,** Association Meeting – Monthly Association Business meeting, VOL (Volunteer) hours, complete remarks.
- **Monthly Association Education class before Meeting,** Association Meeting – Monthly Continuing Education class before Business meeting, CE (Continuing education) hours, complete remarks.
- **If you bring a snack:** Other - Food. VOL (Volunteer) Hour. Complete Remarks.

Email – BCMgardeners@yahoo.com Hour requirements: 20 volunteer & 10 continuing education

Adjournment:

Time 8:35 p.m.

Motion Kathy Turner

Second John Geib

Respectfully submitted by Jackie Sledge

Plants do not grow merely to satisfy ambitions or to fulfill good intentions. They thrive because someone expended effort on them. ~ Liberty Hyde Bailey