

Big Country Master Gardener Association
Meeting MINUTES
Education topic: Watercolor w/ Marsha Lovelady

Date: June 17, 2025

Time: 6.00

Meeting called to order:7:30 pm

Location: Big Country Extension office – in person

Facilitator: Dawn Graham

1. Review:

- **Last month** meeting minutes, **April minutes**. Vote in favor **Motion: John Geib, 2nd: Julie James**
- **Last month** treasurer's report (Kathy): **Accepted as presented by Kathy Turner**

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

- **Friday-June 20** 10:00 a.m. BCMG Library program – 'Preserving your harvest' at the downtown location 202 Cedar Street. Date changes due to CALF
- **Saturday-June 28** 9:00 a.m. Saturday Seminar, Extension Office Conference Room. The topic is Butterfly and Pollinator Gardens.
- **Tuesday- July 1** 6:00 p.m. BCMG Library program – 'Tropicals' at the South Branch inside the Mall o^oAbilene.
- **Tuesday- July 8** 6:00 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting, Extension Office Conference Room.

3. Committee updates:

A. Monthly awards (Ann Clark)

Busy Bee awarded to MG with most hours for the month (if not already received for the year)

You Rock awarded to MG nominated for doing something special or exceptional.

APRIL AWARDS: Busy Bee: Donna Gutierrez; You Rock: Ann Pierce

MAY AWARDS: Busy Bee: Donna Long-Wolfer; You Rock: Stephanie

McKee

B. Plant sale (Kathy Turner & Jackie Sledge)

- **2025 Fall:** (building reserved October 5 – 12) meeting tbd with Kathy, Carrie, Holly and Misty.
- **2026 Spring: April 5 - 12**

C. Membership (Jackie Sledge)

- **Last Month hours:** VOL (volunteer) 401.25; CE (education) 192; totaling 593.25, reported by 58 Master Gardeners & Interns, Contacts 717 reported in VMS
- **Certifications:** 7 ^orom the 2023 class and 2 ^orom the 2024 class, congratulations!!!

D. Projects (Jackie Sledge)

- **Maple Street** (Rachel) – meeting needs to be scheduled. Decision was made to purchase a lawn mower and weed eater June 10th.

E. Recurring special events (Stephanie McKee)

- **2025 parties:** Fall 10/18 (@ Donna Long-Wolfer home), Christmas 12/09 (Rosa's Catering)
- **2025 field trips/garden & greenhouse tours:**
 - **Big Thanks to Don Miller, Dawn Graham, Donna Gutierrez for garden tours.**
- **Kimberly Brumley won Raffle for Lopper.**
- **Business/Education program: Ideas to Stephanie McKee**
- **Outings/Fieldtrips: Ideas to Stephanie McKee**
 - **Hummer House mentioned**

F. Association updates (Jackie)

- **Dylan Osborn is Summer Extension Office Paid Intern**
- **CONSTANT CONTACT:**
 - **Most recent: June 2**
 - **Email to 900 recipients**
- **Texas Master Gardener Awards – 2024 Search for Excellence awards**
 - 2nd place – Youth: **Kids, Kows & More**
 - 1st place – Research: **Cotton**
 - 1st place – Workshop presentation: **Library Programs**
 - 3rd place – Outstanding Master Gardener Association
 - Honorable mention – Dawn Graham: **Outstanding Volunteer**

G. Strategic planning (Extension) – June 23 President and all past Presidents

H. Nominating committee (Stephanie) meeting soon

I. Advanced training (Jo)

- a. **Earth Kind: Jackie Sledge & Kathy Turner participated**
- b. **Herbs: Ann Pierce participated 6/19 – 24**
- c. **Turfgrass: register by 8/1 for 9/4-5 training**

J. Programs

- a. **Library (John)**
 - i. **F6/20**
 - ii. **T7/1: Don Miller: Tropicals**
- b. **Saturday Seminars (Kathy)**
 - i. **June: Beth Hamaty; NRCS: Pocket Prairies**
 - ii. **Programs will continue for July & August**

K. Public requests

- **Homeplace manor** – Carrie Wright and Jackie Sledge visited. Not enough information was provided. TBD

4. Old business:

- **Policy & Procedures/By-laws** – being worked on
- **Grants (2)** presenting July 15th: **Kulani McDermott & Carrie Wright**
- **Northern Oaks Living & Rehabilitation** – pending. Jackie and Dawn visited April 2nd, project has been written up and submitted to Project Committee June 10th by Jackie, has been tabled for now.
- **Disability Resources Inc** – pending. A non-profit organization, we met with Robert Marshall, President & CEO on April 23rd, project has been written up and submitted June 10th to Project Committee by Jackie, motion to approve, Stephanie McKee, seconded by

Kathy Turner, approved as written. They will fund the project, 2 raised beds that we will construct and in ground planting.

1. **Approved by Master Gardeners. Must next be approved by Extension Office.**

5. New business:

- **Self-watering pots** for Expo grounds quote obtained (Kathy) –the budget allowed the purchase, motion to approve by Rachel Perkins and seconded by Jackie Sledge, approved as presented. Chike grant will be used.

6. Extension office (Dawnyel):

- **Closed Thursday, 6/19**
- **Notify Office of any Hammer Head Worms sighted in the area. Do not kill, bring to office if possible.**

7. Open Forum: any questions/comments/suggestions

- **Update on plans for Thomas Elementary planting/gardening program (discontinued)**

8. Wrap-Up and Next Meeting Details:

- **Executive meeting** – July 8
- **Business/education meeting** – July 15; Education topic is Master Gardener grants, presented by Kulani McDermett and Carrie Wright.

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

- **For Monthly Association Business Meeting**, Association Meeting – Monthly Association Business meeting, VOL (Volunteer) hours, complete remarks.
 - HOURS **1 hour (7:30 – 8:30 pm)**_____
- **Monthly Association Education class before Meeting**, Association Meeting – Monthly Continuing Education class before Business meeting, CE (Continuing education) hours, complete remarks.
 - HOURS **1 hour (6:00 – 7:00 pm)**_____
- **If you bring a snack:** Other - Food. VOL (Volunteer) 1 Hour. Complete Remarks.
 - **There will be a sign up sheet for future food/snacks @ meetings**

Email – BCMGardeners@yahoo.com

PASSWORD FOR MEMBER-ONLY WEBSITE: BCMGA

Hour requirements: 20 volunteer & 10 continuing education

Adjournment:

- **Time: 8:30 pm**
- **Motion: Pleas McKee**
- **Second: Stephanie McKee**

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rachel Perkins, 7/8/25