

Big Spring Master Gardener Association Meeting Minutes

Date: July 8, 2014

Place: Greene County Extension Office

Time: 11 am

Meeting: Association Monthly Meeting

Attendees: Mickey Sizemore, Heather Youngblood, Lamar Neas, Virginia Williams, Jeanne Driese, Jerry Kische, Wolf Spendl, Phyllis Conner, Sandee Cook, Michele Bradley, Bob Fleegle, Bev Walker, Danny Crum, Diane Crum, Mary Goldman, Aliceson Bales, Beth Hembree, Martha Fluharty

Guest Speaker: Sandee Cook, BSMGA member and owner of Mystic Moon Herbs

Sandee shared tips on caring for your herb plants during the summer and proper harvesting methods. Here are just a few of the many tips she shared:

-Feed only potted herbs, twice per month with an organic fertilizer at half strength

-Harvest from the top of the plant down, not from the bottom or sides. Take up to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the plant at a time.

-Harvest before flowering for the best oil content.

- Dry your herbs with the leaves still attached to the stem, then remove the leaves for storage.

Leaves stored whole will retain the oils better. Use a rubber band to hold small bundles of stems and hang the bundles in a dark, dry place until fully dry. Dried herbs will keep several years if kept dark and cool.

-Freezing is another way to preserve herbs. Gently rinse the leaves and make sure they dry completely. Lay on a sheet pan in the freezer. Once they are frozen, put them in a ziploc bag for storage in the freezer. Always label and date the container. Frozen herbs will keep 3-6 months.

- Freeze them in olive oil or water in ice cube trays. Chop the green herbs before adding to the oil. Once the cubes are frozen, store them in a ziploc bag in the freezer. Don't forget to label the bag and date it! This works well for basil, sage, thyme and rosemary. The cubes are great for soups and stews.

-Herb seeds- Cut the seed head and put in a paper bag to dry. Once seeds are dried, remove them and store them in an airtight jar. Label it with name and date. This works well for dill, caraway and coriander.

Meeting was called to order at 11:25 am by President Lamar Neas

June Minutes-Stand as written

Treasurer's Report-Michele

Jul 2014 Financial Report

Beginning balance 6541.51

Booth fees/Donation - Sustainability Fare 115.00

Dues 15.00

Cookbooks 60.00

Farm2Fork 1757.00

Income: 1947.00

Rose, Melody - Farm2Fork supplies (125.83)
Expenses: (125.83)
Ending balance 8362.68

Committees and Project Reports

All About Kids Daycare-Jeannie-no report

Boys & Girls Club-Virginia Herbs were harvested and used during the last 3 meetings for tastings. Bees are active on the oregano plants. The groundhog is still an issue. Virginia made a habanero pepper spray as a repellent, she will watch for results.

Christmas Parade-Michele The float theme has not been announced, Michele will try to find out and report back.

Cookbook Fundraiser- Sandee 100 have been sold, 100 left to sell.

Dickson-Williams-Heather Jerry attended the DW June board meeting. Planting of evergreen trees is planned for the fall.

Extension Report- Fair time is coming up!

Fairgrounds Landscape- no report

Farm2Fork-Mary Everyone is pleased with the results of the event. Attendees expressed lots of interest in another dinner. The vineyard proved to be a great venue. The event proceeds will benefit the Soup Kitchen garden and New Hope Cemetery projects. Final dollar figures are still being worked out, approximately \$1400-1500 was made.

Food Bank- Aliceson They are taking a break from the classes during July and August. Classes will resume in September.

Kids Day-Lamar No activity to report

MG Lab-Jeanne Monday is a good day for people to come to the lab to help with Sustainability Fare projects. Gardeners continue to come or call with lots of questions. Wolf has been putting a lot of reference materials on to the lab computer.

NG Museum- no report

New Hope Cemetery Channel 10 will be airing the New Hope story this week.

Plant Sale-Mary & Phyllis The committee met for a recap meeting. It was proposed that future sales should include subcommittees to take on various parts of the project. (ex. Greenhouse committee, Publicity committee, Fairgrounds setup committee, etc.) The committee also decided that Mothers Day weekend would be a better date for the sale. Lamar asked for any objections to that date, none were given. Aliceson will check with Holly at the Fairgrounds office to secure that weekend for the event in 2015. Mary and Phyllis agreed to chair the committee for 2015.

Soup Kitchen-Mary Mary said that the garden is doing great. Produce is being shared with visitors. Volunteers came from North Carolina to work on raised beds.

Sustainability Fare- Bev The committee has amended the name of the event to “Sustainability Fare & Expo” because of the variety of vendors attending. Slots are still available for those who haven’t paid/responded. Bev shared the names of vendors that have committed so far. Projects will be worked on in the MG Lab on Mondays to prepare for the event. Bev will be mailing 400-500 “Friend Invitations” to people and businesses in the community, which will include a call for donations.

Tusculum View-Diane No activity to report with school out for the summer. A TV teacher, Mrs. Duncan, is doing pre-planning on themes for each month of the school year. She hopes for 4 sessions per month. Randi has agreed to continue with the MG programs at the school.

Old Business

None

New Business

Farm2Fork-Michele motioned to reimburse Mary \$150 as a partial payment for money spent on the event with the remainder to be paid when Melody returns with all the receipts that Mary has given her. Sandee seconded, all approved.

Festival of Nations at Notre Dame Church in Greeneville BSMGA has been invited to participate in the event September 20. Jerry asked for someone to chair the project, Phyllis volunteered.

Greene County Fair (August 11-16) Expo volunteers will be trained at noon on August 2 & 9. MG booth will be located in the Expo building this year. July 15 6:30pm annual volunteer picnic held at the Expo building. Covered dish.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 @ 6 pm Finger foods are welcome!

Meeting minutes are respectfully submitted by Heather Youngblood, BSMGA Secretary