

Hendricks County Master Gardeners
Minutes of the September 18, 2018 Meeting

Call to Order and Welcome - The meeting was called to order at 8:10 p.m. by Steve Pearl, 2018 Hendricks County Master Gardeners (HCMG) President. The meeting was held after the evening's program – Urban Tree Problems presented by Lindsey Purcell.

Officer and Committee Reports:

Steve Pearl announced that Bruce Crum has been appointed by the HCMG Board to act as the interim HCMG Vice President until the next election.

Steve Pearl asked for the April meeting minutes to be approved as posted on the HCMG website, e-mailed earlier this month with the September meeting agenda, and included on the handout at tonight's meeting. Colletta Kosiba motioned to accept the April meeting minutes. Kelly Allen seconded the motion. The motion carried by a voice vote.

Steve Pearl said the Treasurer's Report was on a handout and asked if anyone had any questions. No one did.

Ed Freeman, 2018 Communications Director, said the new and improved HCMG Website is up and running. He went through all pages on the website to show us what information was available.

Jan Myers, 2018 Purdue Master Gardener State Conference Committee Co-Chair, provided a 2018 State Conference recap. Jan thanked everyone for their help. She said 283 people attended the conference. She said the HCMG banked about \$10,000 after all expenses. They are going to meet with John Orick, Purdue Master Gardener State Coordinator, and members of the Hamilton County Master Gardeners to discuss the 2020 Purdue Master Gardener State Conference that will be hosted by the Hamilton County Master Gardeners.

Becky Troutman announced that she is the new Demonstration Garden Committee Chair. Kim and Steve Somermeyer have stepped down as the Demonstration Garden Committee Co-Chairs. Becky thanked Debbie Kovacs, who was the committee chair from October 2016 – September 2017, and Kim and Steve Somermeyer, who were the committee co-chairs from September 2017 to now, for everything they have done to get this project up and running. Becky announced that we have donated approximately 176 pounds of produce to local food pantries this year. Becky said we can always use additional volunteers to help in the Demonstration Garden. She said we may be applying for more grant money.

Steve Pearl discussed the Education Center. He said he felt bad that we did not open the Education Center during 2018. He explained some of the challenges that were encountered. He said Vickie Coleman, Sara Fenton, and Theresa Mathieson met with the prior Education Center Committee Co-chairs Jerry McIntyre and Cathy Dunn to discuss the transition to new leadership.

Jan Myers, HCMG Christmas Party Committee Chair, announced that the HCMG Christmas Party will be on December 11th at 6:30 pm in the North and South Halls at the HC Conference Center. Food will be catered by the Rusted Silo in Lizton. The speaker will be Bill McKnight, the Mad Mushroom Guy, and his presentation will be Gardening Under the Influence.

Rita Kerner (on behalf of Deloris Elza, Christmas Tree Decorating Committee Chair) asked us to save and dry flowers to be used to decorate the Christmas tree. They should be brought to the next meeting. Also, she asked us to bring in large pine cones.

Kim and Steve Somermeyer, 2019 Gardening For All Ages (GFAA) Committee Co-Chairs, announced that the next GFAA will be on April 13, 2019. This will be the 32nd annual spring gardening show presented by the HCMG.

Housekeeping Items

Steve Pearl provided an update on the Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Educator position. We have currently been without an ANR Educator for approximately a year. Per the Purdue Website, there are seven ANR Educator positions open. Steve explained that he had tried to get approval to have an intern class, but his request was denied.

Steve Pearl said we may begin using Sign Up Genius to volunteer for certain events. It has seemed to work well when we have used it in the past. He will let us know when it will be used in the future.

Housekeeping Items (continued)

Steve Pearl said the HCMG year for reporting hours runs from November 1st through October 31st. He asked that we get our hours up to date. He also said the annual agreement is available now in the MG Manager System. He reminded everyone to sign the agreement. Everyone needs to sign the agreement to volunteer. It is a liability issue.

Steve Pearl said that the working with minors certification must be renewed every two years. Anyone working with children in the GFAA Children's Booth and the Demonstration Garden must take the online course every two years.

Steve Pearl announced opportunities available for 2019 Committee Chair positions. He said we immediately need a Refreshment Committee Chair and a Scholarship Committee Chair.

Unfinished Business

Steve Pearl handed out award certificates to several people who had not yet received them at earlier meetings.

New Business

Steve Pearl said that Sheltering Wings sought assistance through the 4-H program. Beth Switzer, County Extension Director, referred them to the HCMG. HCMG Carol Gillaspay has volunteered to handle this project. Suzy Freeman and Theresa Mathieson are willing to assist Ms. Gillaspay. Normally suggestions for new projects are submitted to the Hendricks County Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator (ANR Educator). Hendricks County currently does not have an ANR Educator. Since this project was referred to the HCMG by the County Extension Director, it will be treated as an approved project and Janet Cunningham will approve volunteer hours for it.

Carol Gillaspay, Sheltering Wings Committee Chair, said that a meet and greet was held in mid-August. They want to teach ladies and children to grow vegetables to enable them to be more self sufficient. In the spring, we will help them plant a garden. If you only volunteer once, there will be no need for training. However, if you plan to volunteer more than once, you must attend a training class which lasts approximately 1.5 hours.

2019 HCMG Board Nominating Committee Co-Chairs Rhonda Legan, Jackie Rosales, and Ann Selvy announced the nominees for the 2019 HCMG Board. They provided a background on each nominee. The nominees are as follows:

- Steve Pearl, President
- Theresa Mathieson, Vice President
- Joyce Karns, Treasurer
- Veronica Mount, Communications Director
- Terri Tramm, Secretary

Ed Freeman will continue monitoring and updating the HCMG Website. Judy Kenninger will continue to monitor and update our Facebook page.

Steve Pearl announced that the 2019 HCMG dues are due either by January 1st or at the January HCMG meeting.

Steve Pearl told everyone about a coat drive that is currently being held. A handout about it is available on a table at the back of the room.

Steve Pearl handed out door prizes.

Steve Pearl asked for a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Robin-Elizabeth Parsley motioned to adjourn the meeting. Suzy Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed and the business meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Submitted by,

Terri Tramm
2018 HCMG Secretary