LPMGA General Meeting Minutes

Southside Library

Wednesday June 7, 2023 /12:00 P.M.

Call to Order: LPMGA President Mary Gladney called the General Membership meeting to order at 12:01 PM.

Guest Speaker: Vice President, Bootsie Durand, introduced the guest speaker, Larry Allain (USGS Scientist Emeritus) with the Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society. He gave a brief history of the Louisiana prairie and the ecological factors that contributed. Our area differs from other prairies with high plant diversity of over 500 species. Despite this, our area has shown a large decrease in grassland birds and some pollinators. Mr. Allain proposed solutions citing the research of Douglas Tallamy (homegrown national parks), Mike Phillips (rewilding movement), Allan Savoy, and Justin Fuselier (regeneration grazing). He also mentioned a reference for plants on the USGS website, "Guide to Plants of Louisiana" (WARCAPPS.edu).

Approval of April 5, 2023 General Membership Meeting Minutes

Meagan Stogsdill moved to accept the April minutes. Louann McClelland-Long seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as submitted.

President's Report: Mary Gladney

Mary stated that the Finance Committee is working on an updated budget. When completed, it will be emailed to the membership and then will be presented for membership approval at the August or September meeting.

Mary again asked for a volunteer to chair (or 2 MGs to co-chair) the Ask a Master Gardener Committee. This person is responsible to co-ordinate MGs to man the table at local events. He/she does not have to attend the event, but needs to set up the schedules and make sure that the table and materials are available for members to pick up and return.

Vice-President: Bootsie Durand

Bootsie announced that the first Dans le Jardin was a success. A profit of $1298.93 was made. She recognized the MGs who served on her committee and thanked them for their work. She also announced that a survey to the attendees will be sent out in a few weeks, to assess the first program. A second survey will be sent to the entire membership for suggestions for future programs. Please complete and submit.

Past President Report: Juan Nieto was absent. No report

Treasurer's Report: Angela Moles

Angela reported the following:

Festivals Les Fleurs Plant sale: Reported income: $12,648.58, Expenses- $1493, Profit- $11,155.58

Dans le Jardin: Reported income- $4935, Expenses- $3636.17, Profit- $1298.83

Pine Straw Sale: 422 bales were purchased at a cost of $5460. Five bales were set aside to use in the vegetable garden. The remaining bales were sold for $ 6255, for a net profit of $795

Corresponding Secretary – Meagan Stogsdill:

Meagan announced that the Nominating Committee will be putting together the list of nominees for the 2024 slate of officers (Vice- President, Treasurer, Member at Large, and Membership Chairman). One member of the Nominating Committee must be elected by the membership. Megan asked for members who might be interested in serving on the nominating committee, and serving for one of the offices , to contact her.

Volunteer Coordinator Report: Louanne McClelland -Long

Louann announced that our online recording system (to record volunteer hours) is working accordingly. MGs without any record of entry into this system, for over 4 years, were deleted from the LSUAg system, and can only be reinstated by contacting the state office in Baton Rouge. Members need to record hours for "Top Ten" recognition before 11:59pm on November 30. The LSU Ag Center would like us to record our hours before December 15th because of winter break. However, we can earn and record 2023 hours until December 31st but IT will not

be available if there are problems. Hours must be recorded in the year that they are earned, we cannot record retroactively. If you have problems recording hours, contact the volunteer coordinator Louann Long, mglouann@gmail.com or 337-501-7998.

Members who attended Dan les Jardin symposium, may record 4 CE hours. Those who volunteered to help should add their volunteer hours.

The 2019 MG class has until Dec. 31st to add all volunteer hours (time extended due to COVID). The 2020 MG class must have all hours recorded by Dec. 31st, 2023 as well. After this deadline there will be no more extensions.

Louann said that she has sent the LPMGA Handbook By- Laws revisions to the Handbook Committee to approve. She will then send revisions to the Board for approval. The updated handbook should be out by October 2023. She noted that some state guidelines have changed, and our guidelines need to meet state standards. The changes will be explained before the membership votes on the revisions. The handbook will be posted on our website and in the Facebook group in PDF format. The cost to print individual copies was approximately $3000 in 2017, which may be too expensive now.

Recording Secretary's Report: Mary Kramer, no report

Member At Large Report: Christine Devenport, absent, no report

Newsletter Report: Mary Gladney, no report

LSU AgCenter: Maddox Miller, absent, no report

Committee Reports:

LPMG Class 2023: Paul Manuel

Paul announced that he has 60 applicants for the upcoming class. He has all of the out-of-town speakers scheduled. He is presently working to schedule the local speakers

Paul recognized Julie Gray, a graduate of the 2023 class, who has completed her 40 hours.

Garden Stroll Chairman: Cindy Wiley

Cindy thanked all the members who participated in the 5 Spring Garden strolls. She announced a Field Trip on Thursday, June 8, 2023 to the St. Landry Tourist Information Center. The tour is being conducted by Greg Brandal, Horticulturist, and landscaper in Opelousas. Lunch to follow at Savoie's.

Announcements:

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 1:00PM

The next General Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday August 2,2023 at the Downtown Library. The guest speaker will be Sara Shields, State Master Gardener Coordinator, LSU Ag. 64 members signed the meeting roster. Liz Haynes won the door prize.

Adjournment:

Mary Gladney requested a motion to adjourn. Paul Manuel moved to adjourn; Bootsie Durand seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:33 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Kramer

LPMGA Recording Secretary