

LPMG General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, April 6, 2022 @ 12 PM
Southside Library

Our April meeting was called to order at 12:03. Juan led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mary Gladney then introduced our very own Cindy Wiley as speaker. Cindy gave a powerpoint presentation and led us through the development and history of cottage gardens. Historically, the cottars were the laborers who often worked in the big manors, and in return were allowed to live in a cottage. Herbs grown for medicine, vegetables, fruit, bees and chickens were included at the cottages. It was a garden of survival for the people. Their piece of land was often called the "Plot". In 1798, James Malton wrote about the British Cottage characteristics. In the eyes of the public, he elevated the cottage from poor people's place to a place that was desirable to have. Cindy illuminated the characteristics of a cottage garden. In this type of garden, you will find plants that are easy to propagate and grow, a sense of fullness of beds, hardscapes, and finally benches. Roses are a common plant found in these beds as well as many perennials. Boxwood can be used as a living fence. Hardscapes can include benches, water features, bird baths, gates, arches, statues, and pots. Cindy described the evolution of her own cottage garden and delighted us with many stories. For example, she discovered some features she chose happened to be similar to those found at her grandmother's house. Cindy also began adding various features to her home since 2007. She later discovered when looking through books on cottage gardens that she already had the necessary cottage elements present in her gardens through her own creative work.

In his President's report, Juan asked for approval of the March General Meeting minutes. Motion made and minutes were approved. Juan described the upcoming plant sale and requested help for moving plants at 1 pm on Friday. He also announced that he had some badges for the propagation and sales people for entrance with no fee. Juan called up and recognized Jane Bellard and Liz Hanes from the class of 2021 who have completed their 40 hours. They received their MG name tags. Jennifer McKay was going to be recognized for this on Monday. Papers were made available for the Spring Social in May. Kay Hampton asked that members carpool to her home for this event.

Immediate Past President Don Weintritt announced that if we have a state convention, there will be 8 or 9 committees. Don will send out an email requesting that you let him know if you are interested in working on a committee. At least 3 or 4 people would be needed for each group.

Treasurer Angela Moles gave an update on the finances. We have roughly \$25,000 in checking and \$17,000 in a CD.

Corresponding Secretary Ellen Garacci requested a couple of volunteers in a booth for Wildlife and Fisheries.

Our LSU Ag representative Dan Davenport said he had been getting calls regarding hammerhead worms. He recommended not touching these worms as some have a neurotoxin. Do not slice into pieces as the pieces can regenerate into full worms. Dan recommended you put a little salt on them to dispatch.

Our education committee for the month is Propagation headed by Heather Finley. Heather spoke of the interest generated in propagation. The group is made of different folks who have different skill sets. In the combined group, there is a wealth of knowledge. Experimentation is encouraged so that the group learns the best ways to tackle various issues in propagating and growing plants. There are so many wonderful people to meet and learn from. Also, the first workshop was held this month on basic homeowner irrigation. We thank Don Weintritt and Gail Wakefield for putting together this well attended event.

Announcements: Next Board Meeting is April 19 at Ira Nelson at 1 PM. Next General Meeting is June 1 at Southside Library, 12 noon. Don't forget to sign up for the May Social on Wednesday, May 4.

Lynn Dubois won the door prize this month.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:20.