

LPMGA General Meeting Minutes

Southside Library

Wednesday April 5, 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, Mary Courville, of the Louisiana Wildflower Project. Mary gave a brief history of the organization which started in 1984. Currently the program has evolved into state wildflower planting and mapping, identification, and seed production (the seed barn is in Cade) She also spoke of some of the native wildflowers which grow very well along the roadsides, as well as some of the problems and challenges this project has had in past years.

Approval of March 1, 2023 General Membership Meeting Minutes

Mazie Movassaghi moved to accept the March minutes. Cindy Wiley seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as submitted.

President's Report: Mary Gladney

Mary reminded all of the Festival des Fleurs, which will be held on Saturday, April 15, 2023 at Blackman Coliseum. She asked for donations of food items for the workers and volunteers to enjoy during the day. She referred members to sign - up sheets if they wished to volunteer for both the MG plant sale and the festival.

Mary Reported that she met with Jamie Duval, a financial planner, at Morgan Stanley to obtain additional information regarding our investments. Jamie stressed the importance of reviewing the goals of our organization when considering future investing. Mary stated that she may appoint an ad hoc committee to review and recommend investment goals moving forward.

Maddox Miller, Horticulture Agent mentioned that our current MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with UL was signed in 2017, to run for 10 years. This includes the use of Ira Nelson properties, Livestock Show and other LSU Ag

events. Maddox fully expects a continued MOU between ULL and the LSU AgCenter into the future, with the MOU up for renewal in 2027.

Past President Report: Juan Nieto was absent. Cindy Wiley brought a Sign-up list for MG Volunteers for Festival des Fleurs and asked the members to sign up for various assignments. Mark Wiley also brought a sign-up form from Pam Womack for those wishing to sign up for the Spring Social, to be held on Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at the home of May Vidacovich.

Kevin Besse asked for assistance from the members present in labeling plant tags, for the plant sale at Festival des Fleurs. He reminded those who took the tags that they are due to Propagation on Wednesday, April 11.

Vice- President's Report: Bootsie Durand

Bootsie Durand continues to meet with the committee to plan a fundraising event. This event, "Dans Le Jardin" (In the Garden) will be held on May 20, 2023 at the Hilton Garden Inn on Congress St. There are currently 44 registered. Volunteers will hand out fliers at Festival des Fleurs. Bootsie also asked for donations for the silent auction at this event.

Treasurer's Report: Angela Moles

Angela reported that on March 24 the balance in checking was \$28,422.26 The organization showed a Cleared Balance of \$23,817.61, and an Ending Balance of \$20,951.60. Linda Alesi asked if some of the funds might be invested in a short-term investment. She also suggested that a committee be appointed to research possible investments .

Corresponding Secretary Report: Meagan Stogsdill, absent

Volunteer Coordinator Report: Louanne McClelland -Long, absent

Recording Secretary's Report: Mary Kramer (No Report)

Member At Large Report: Christine Devenport, absent

Newsletter Report: Mary Gladney (no report)

LSU AgCenter: Maddox Miller

Maddox stated that he was looking forward to attending Festival de Fleurs and encouraged MGs to attend and volunteer. He reported that the LSU Ag office volunteers are continuing to answer horticulture calls on Thursday. If interested in volunteering, please contact the Lafayette Parish Ag office.

Plants were delivered to the school gardens in mid-March and all gardens are planted.

Dr. Matthew R. Lee was recently named Vice President for Agriculture and Dean of the College of Agriculture at LSU.

Maddox explained the importance of Advisory Committees in Extension program planning and implementation. The recommendations from advisory groups will help the agent plan educational programs for the year. With that, he asked the members present to access a QR code, that he projected and to 'log on' to a brief survey. Members were asked to rank horticultural topics of importance to the community. He plans to email this survey to the MG membership who were not present.

Finally, Maddox announced a Seed Library at the downtown library. The kick-off will be on April 18, 2023. The time will be announced. Seed packets will be available (2 packets per visit) for vegetables, flowers, and fruits. Sponsors for the first offering of seeds are LSU Ag, Women's Foundation, United Way, and the Lafayette Library. Additional information will be sent out through the Ag office.

Committee Reports:

Healer's Garden- Mary Perrin

Mary reported on a recent work day where members of her committee were invited to forage on a private farm for herbs and plants for healing. She listed several of the plants and their uses. The group was also treated to a musical performance by Les Dames de Terre Master Gardeners (Women of the Earth). The recording can be watched on You Tube or on the Acadian Museum of Louisiana website. It was recorded on April 3,2023 .

Meredith's Place:

Mary Kramer announced the 2nd phase of work at Meredith's Place. MGs will work in the garden, twice per month, to educate and assist the residents with

watering, fertilizing, and identifying insect or disease damage. A schedule was circulated for committee members to sign up.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Announcements:

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 18, 2023 at 1:00PM

The next General Meeting is the Spring Social, scheduled for Wednesday May 3, 2023 at the home of May Vidacovich, 201 Grossie Dr. Lafayette.

35 members signed the meeting roster. Eddie Wharton won the door prize.

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

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Kramer

LPMGA Recording Secretary