

LPMG General Membership Meeting
Wednesday August 3, 2022
Southside Library

Our August meeting was called to order around noon. Juan led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mary Gladney introduced the speaker Gill Mayeaux of Native Sun Nursery. Gill spoke on fall maintenance in the garden and gave a number of helpful garden tips. He said in addition to keeping on top of watering during droughts, it is a good time to prune plants accordingly. Roses can be pruned, rose food added and then a nice fall flush will develop. In addition, remove some of the canes on older roses. For crepe myrtles, remove the seeds pods to get that second flush of flowers. For Rose of Sharon, he suggested cutting back by half in the spring to make the plants double up. Vitex can be pruned at the end of its bloom period (around end of May). As sooty mold develops on plants, a soapy solution can be used or a systemic drench if the problem is severe. Irises in Louisiana are in dormancy, so now is a good time to divide, and fertilizing now will give pretty foliage in the winter. Be on the lookout for army worms (treatment is available) and watch for brown patch (treatable with systemic fungicide). Woody plants such as azalea and camellias may have leggy growth. Some of this can be removed, but not too much because buds are already set for their upcoming blooms. In crepe myrtles, take out cross branches or drop branches. When using fall fertilizer, Gill suggests using low Nitrogen fertilizers with trace elements. In the spring when ready for growth, the fertilizers with higher nitrogen can be used. When asked about ants, Gill suggested using soapy water.

In his President's report, Juan asked for a motion to approve the June minutes. Judy Corne made a motion; Susan Mead seconded. Minutes approved. Juan announced that Maggie Menard is our new pinestraw chairman. Maggie noted that the bales will be slightly more expensive, but members will receive a larger bale. Maggie has a list for members to begin ordering. Only 400 bales will be available; sixty-six of those are going to the demo beds and school gardens. For our School Gardens, we have Mary Beyt and Sue Stoltz in charge of this committee. For our Speaker's Bureau, we have Susan Mead and Kevin Besse heading that committee. Plant Fest will occur on September 24. Sign-up sheets were at the meeting. Kathryn Hargrave is the volunteer coordinator. Speakers

and a children's tent will be featured. No cooking demonstration this year.

Juan spoke of Don's engagement as immediate past president. Don is still active and spending some time at his camp in Krotz Springs while searching for a home in Houston. He participates with the board by e-mail and has asked Heather Finley to start putting the nominating committee together. Once he resigns, we will appoint Heather to his position until the end of the year.

In her Treasurer Report, Angela Moles stated we had an ending balance in July of \$28,000 (rounded off).

Juan also gave the Corresponding Secretary Report. Since Ellen Garacci has had some health issues, she resigned as Corresponding Secretary. Our prayers are with her and her family. Meagan Stogsdill approached the board to start doing the roster duties and has been approved by the board as corresponding secretary along with Cindy Wiley, who has stepped in to mail out cards to our members in need. Cindy said cards have been sent to Beth Mouton who is currently at a rehab hospital. Continued prayers are needed for Beth as she heals. Cards have also been sent out to Mary Waguespack (who recently had shoulder surgery) and Becky Taylor (who fractured her foot). Continued prayers are asked for Ellen, Mary, and Becky as well.

Our Volunteer Coordinator, Louann Long, reminded us that members are asked to complete 20 volunteer hours and 6 education hours this year.

LSU Ag Rep Maddox Miller was introduced to the membership. He has a BS and MS in Horticulture. He is from Iberia Parish and worked as a 4-H agent there. We look forward to working with Maddox.

Paul Manual give a report on the new class. Fifty six applicants were narrowed down to thirty-seven with the help of Anita Petitjean. Currently there will be thirty-four students in the class. Because of the large size of the class, current members will not be able to listen in on the classes.

Juan gave a Moncus Park update. Moncus Park has given us the opportunity to start doing our Ask A Master Gardener table once a month at the farmer's market and some dates to start with garden talks. The first talk is on fall vegetable gardening and they are looking for a speaker. They also want us to participate in a huge plant swap with other organizations. Meetings are still being held regarding other educational activities that we proposed. All proposals are for educational activities, not maintenance. Hopefully a proposal can be finalized by the end of the year for the board to vote on.

Under New Business, in addition to noting a sign-up sheet for Plant Fest, Cynthia Risinger spoke of the drawing. Tickets are \$5 each. Cool prizes are offered in the drawing including garden carts, \$100 gift card to All Seasons, giant pink metal flamingo, and geared loppers and pruners. Cynthia noted that the pre-sales are where most of our dollars come in, so please buy (and sell) early.

Kevin Besse won the door prize. Mary Kramer made a motion to adjourn meeting, Linda Beyt seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:07.

The next board meeting is August 16, Ira Nelson, 1 PM.

The next general meeting is September 7, Southside Library, noon.

Minutes submitted by Kathy Troyanowski