

LPMGA General Meeting Minutes

Southside Library Branch

Wednesday February 7, 2024 /12:00 P.M.

Call to Order: LPMGA President Bootsie Durand called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guest Speaker: Vice- President, John Hebert introduced the guest speaker, Chris Adams, Farm and Food Statewide Organic Agriculture Director. He presented a program on Earthshare Gardens (241 Encore Lane, Scott), a 501c non-profit, organic, community demonstration garden, since 2014. Chris covered the history of the organization and the garden, which is on 4.5 acres, with 1-2 acres in plantings.

Chris explained the following points:

- Importance of soil health, with yearly soil inspection and testing
- Use of both heirloom and hybrid seeds. His sources are Johnny's Seeds (strong hybrid selection) and Southern Exposure Seed Exchange (online or catalogue).
- The most successful potatoes are Red LaSoda seed potatoes from Chastant.
- www.earthsharegardens.org. Chris' number- 337-296-5688

He also assists with a seed incubation program with Nicole Johnson of Fightville Fresh Market and Willamena's Backyard. He also works for TOPP (Transition to Organic Partnership Program), which is USDA funded.

President's Report: Bootsie asked for approval of January minutes. Paul Manuel made the motion, Susan Mead seconded. Minutes approved .

She announced a big "thank you" to Ed Wilham who is leading the replacement of the pergola and storage boxes at the Demo Beds, and his committee, Paul Manuel, Juan Nieto and Patrick Miller. She also read a "Thank You" note from Cassie Miller for she and Maddox's wedding gift.

Vice- President Report : John Hebert continued his request for meeting guest speakers and topics from the membership. He will chair the Spring Pine Straw sale on Saturday, March 23,2024 and will send out order forms to qualified members on March 1st

Past President Report: Mary Gladney, Nominating Committee Chair, asked for a volunteer from the membership to serve on the 2024-25 Nominating committee. Paul Manuel volunteered. Mary moved to nominate Paul, _____seconded.

Treasurer Report: Yvonne Lanoux reported a total income in 2023 of \$63,125.50, and a net income of \$12,242.23. Our net income with investments was approximately \$140,000 at the end of the year. She also announced that the finance committee plans to meet and present the 2024 budget for approval at the March meeting.

Corresponding Secretary: Meagan Stogsdill announced that the membership/ discount cards were delayed but should be ready next week. She will send them to propagation and have them at the March meeting. She noted 3 new vendors who will offer discounts this year.

The new membership roster will also be sent out this week. Check the website for updates.

Recording Secretary: No report

Member At Large Report: No report

LSU AgCenter: Maddox Miller had several announcements:

- He presented the annual Advisory Committee Survey. He invited members to use a QR code, that he provided, to open a questionnaire for Lafayette Parish Horticultural programs. The information that he obtains will be used to help identify problems and plan for educational programs.
- He announced that an email had been sent out regarding the La. Advanced Master Gardener Program registration. Contact Maddox if interested.
- He commended and thanked the MG volunteers who assisted with the annual On Cuisine du Jarden, school garden cook-off. It was well attended.
- He referred to a recent email that listed all the LPMGA “sanctioned” events for volunteer hours. The importance of this document is to have the

approved activities on the Master calendar so that those who volunteer will have insurance coverage by LSU Ag.

Committee Reports:

Handbook Chairman: Louanne McClelland-Long was absent, Meagan gave her report:

“ Members of the Board requested that a partially updated edition of LPMGA Handbook be created as soon as possible. We have received LMG Guideline content and clarifications, and are currently working on this task. This edition will contain all the updates that have been approved so far and will be posted on our website and emailed to members as soon as it receives final approval. The Handbook committee will then continue work on a completely updated Handbook. This will entail bringing several items before the Board and membership for approval.

Committee Chairs will be asked to review the Handbook content regarding their committees and contact the Handbook committee with their updates. The end goal is to have a Handbook that is more “user friendly” and that can be updated on a yearly basis with as little expense as possible since we are no longer creating print copies. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Louann Long at mglouann@gmail.com.”

Volunteer Coordinator: Rusty Petitjean announced that the annual report from LSU will go out shortly. He again encouraged members to keep track of their hours and record soon after they occur

Class Mentor Program: Collette Anzelone asked for volunteers to serve as mentors to our new MG Class in July. Please contact Collette if interested.

Newsletter: No report

Festival des Fleurs: Juliana Ousse, Festival des Fleurs committee was introduced by Bootsie to talk about the need for volunteers. She thanked the MGs for past participation and requested again that we donate food items and sign up for various jobs at the event. It will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2024.

Dans Le Jardin: Bootsie reminded that this MG event will be held on March 22th at the Lite Center. We should register online, on the website, or on fliers with QR

code. The committee needs donations of door prizes of less than \$10 and Silent Auction items of greater value.

Old Business:

Memorial Marker for Mazie Movassaghi: Bootsie stated that \$336 was collected at the January meeting to fund a marker for Mazie at Moncus Park.

New Business:

Southern Garden Festival: Sarah Schoeffler gave a report on the Family Promise fundraiser that she hosts at her home each year. The dinner/dance will be held on Friday, May 3rd and a Fall Garden tour on Saturday, October 5th. She asked for volunteers to assist at these events.

Announcements: The February Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 20 at 1:00PM at Ira Nelson. The March meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 6th at the Southside Library at 12:00 noon.

Sixty- eight members were in attendance. Sue Stoltz won the door prize.

Maggie Chiasson moved to adjourn the meeting; John Hebert seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Kramer

LPMGA Recording Secretary