

Tipton County Master Gardener Meeting Minutes January 5, 2012

President, Paula Sweatt, called the meeting to order at 6pm. She welcomed all attendees, and introduced Tim and Betty Ammons from Oleo Acres as our guest speakers for the program to be held at the end of the evening.

The new interns in attendance stood to be recognized and introduced themselves to the group.

The minutes from the November meeting were approved as posted on our website. Due to the annual holiday party, there was no meeting, and therefore no minutes in December.

The Treasure's report was read by Roxi Phillips as reported by Treasurer, Phyllis Stephens. The beginning balance was \$4,030.46, with pay outs of \$400.40, leaving an ending balance of \$3630.06.

There are still a few people with outstanding dues. Paula asked that those fees be paid as soon as possible.

Committee Reports

*Newsletter- Bob Miller was thanked for the great job he's done on the newsletter over the last few years. He asked to pass the torch onto a new chairperson. Merrie Thomas agreed to volunteer for this position with the support of a committee. Volunteers for the new committee include Pat Keller and Roxi Phillips. Bob Miller agreed to assist for the remainder of the year to ease the transition.

*Sunshine- Gwen Ehret reported she has cards, but needs postage stamps. She requested we let her know when someone is in need of a card.

Other Business

*Paula thanked the Holiday Banquet Committee for their hard work on organization and decorations for our festive December event.

*Expo- Booker Leigh reported, speaker Janet Carson, cancelled due to a conflicting schedule so we'll need to recruit another speaker for the event. Sheryl Rose will be a speaker on the topic of Urban Farming.

It was suggested, expo committees meet on Tuesday evenings during the intern class sessions

*Directory is almost finished! We still need a few more member photos, but the directory is scheduled to be published by February. The directory will include the interns and a list of opportunities for earning hours.

*Beverly Moranville reported that all member's email and home addresses are listed on the website, with the protection of a password only available to our membership.

*Bob Miller suggested we seek additional opportunities for the Master Gardeners to work outside of the Covington area. Some suggestions were, parks, schools, and public buildings. Sheryl Rose suggested we might assist schools in earning certification from the National Wildlife Federation.

*Sally Thomas reported ongoing discussions with the Covington Farmer's Market about ways the Master Gardeners might become more involved by offering demos and Q and A sessions.

Upcoming Event Announcements

*Lichterman Seed Swap, January 28th

*Winter School- February 9-10, two sessions, \$75 (For more information, contact the extension office)

*February Garden Series at the Veteran's Museum in Covington. Several speakers from the Shelby County Master Gardeners group.

*The Future of Plant Diversity, Conservation and Sustainability, March 1st at Rhodes. Speaker Sir Peter Crane.

*Gardeners and Magnolias: Icons of the South, May 1-4, 2012. Natchez, Mississippi. Hosted by Mississippi Master Gardener Conference.

Program

Tim Ammons from Oleo Acres discussed the history of their land and their efforts to farm the "old fashioned way." We were entertained by his slide presentation and his stories of sustainable agriculture. We were encouraged to visit the farm, workshops and seminars offered to the public by this non-profit organization.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

CEU- 45 minutes
Admin- 45 minutes

Respectfully submitted,
Roxi Phillips
Secretary