

## **Boone County Master Gardeners Meeting - September 21, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 9:35AM by President Butch Kidd. The meeting was held in the Community Building at the Boone County Fairgrounds with social distancing being maintained. 26 people were in attendance.

Due to COVID requirements, there was no hospitality.

**Secretary's Report** – Barb Burkhardt. A correction was made to the July 2020 minutes and minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report** - Barb Burkhardt gave the report in Jane Bewley's absence. At July's meeting, the balance was \$1574.61 and since then there has been \$91 of income dues and no expenses. The resulting balance as of 9/21/2020 is \$1665.61.

**Vice-President's Report** - Lynn Kenyon Lynn asked for clarification as to what would be permissible for the November meeting since this is usually our pitch-in. It was decided not to have any food at the November meeting but to make the meeting a "Meet and Greet for the new Master Gardeners" and to have a guest speaker.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Hospitality** - Fran Lind – N/A

**Newsletter:** Holly Catron - Deadline for the newsletter articles is October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Fairground Gardens** – Lydia McNamara - no report

**Community Gardens** - Amelia Braga ( Production Garden at Lebanon Church of Christ) and Steve Isenhower (Caring Center garden)

Amelia thanked the group for the \$200 Master Gardener grant. Even though they reduced the area under production to ¼ what was previously planted in 2018, they increased the production of the area. They have presently harvested 887 lbs of produce and easily anticipate topping 1,000 lbs. before the end of the year. She mentioned that the group was writing several grants. They have applied to REMC to provide money to get better quality varieties of the vegetables for next year's planting. This year it seemed that they got donations of leftovers or unsellable plants. They have also written a Boone County Solid Waste Management grant to fund some compost bins. They are presently writing a grant to the Indiana Native Plant Society. See details under New Business. Amelia mentioned the need to add much more compost to the heavy clay soils and that they are presently buying and/or getting donations from Green Cycle. It was asked how much compost is needed. She reported that if compost was added to a depth of 5 inches, that 29 cu.yards were needed at a cost of ~\$1000. Curt offered a load of top soil to the group.

Steve reported that the Caring Center garden grew 1736 lbs of produce on a 30' x 50' plot. Fran Lind, Lesley Cragun, Earlene Stanifer and Steve Isenhower have done the care of this garden.

**Gardenfest**- Lynn Kenyon and Butch Kidd Gardenfest will be April 10, 2021 and it was mentioned that it may be held outside due to COVID requirements. This would allow for more vendors. Food service and the educational programs would be held in the Community Building. Planning needs to start in November to order the trees, secure vendors and speakers. A question was raised as to the cost of the trees.

**Day Trips** – Linda Tripps It was decided to move any day trips to the spring.

**Old Business** - none

## **New Business**

**Gardenfest** - see above

### **Indiana Native Plant Society Grant** - Mary Wagner- Shields and Barb Burkhardt

Along with Holly Catron, we are submitting a grant to the Indiana Native Plant Society for the purposes of adding signage and plant markers to the Youth Learning Garden at Central Christian Church and at Lebanon Church of Christ a paver pathway from the production gardens to the existing rain garden. Along this pathway there will be 4 native plant gardens (3 along the pathway and one within the production garden) that will be planted with native plants that have been identified to ensure pollination of the fruits and vegetables grown in these gardens. The estimated cost of the project is \$ 1,268.94. What is unique about this grant is that if approved, the sponsoring organization must provide the money first and then INPS will reimburse the costs at the end of the project. If approved, we are requesting that the Master Gardeners loan \$750 toward this project and the remainder will be loaned by us. After many questions and discussion, it was moved by Lynn Kenyon and seconded by Linda Tripps that the Master Gardeners loan \$750 toward the project pending grant approval. Motion was approved.

**Educational Opportunities:** see newsletter

**Volunteer Opportunities:** no additional ones were reported

### **Curt's Report**

Curt reported that the Rainscaping team has been very active in August. Two \$250 Thrivent grants were written by Barb Burkhardt for the rain garden to pay for plant markers and signage explaining what is and the benefits of a rain garden. Plant markers are presently in place. Also the group produced 3 virtual tour videos about the rain gardens at the Lebanon Church of Christ and St. Peter's Episcopal church. The videos can be seen on You-Tube at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCk6FL83DwyG95\\_6-ZtM99kA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCk6FL83DwyG95_6-ZtM99kA).

Curt also asked for 2 volunteers to watch the office and answer phones while the extension office has their staff meeting. He needs volunteers for this Thursday from 9-11am and on Oct 8, Nov 12 and Dec 10<sup>th</sup>.

An on-line version of the Rainscaping class is starting for a total of 5 sessions of a duration of 2 ½ hr per session.

This year's Master Gardeners classes have started. Virtual statewide 2 hour instruction is on Tuesdays. There are 500 people presently registered in the state. On Wednesdays there is a 1 hour county meeting that is either virtual or in person. Boone County has 11 people participating.

Bronze badges were presented to Leslie Cragun, Susan Kovach, Lydia McNamara and Mary Wagner-Shields.

Ingrid Wiebke announced that there were some freebies at the back of the room (fern and blackberry lily seeds) and outside (native plants).

The meeting was adjourned.

Guest speaker was Chris Torp from the Soil Conservation USDA. Program topic was about Wetlands.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barb Burkhardt