

The St. Louis Herb Society
Regular Meeting
Monsanto Center
February 1, 2019

Call to Order

Stephanie Prade, President, called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM, asking those in attendance to check their cell phones to be sure they are silenced

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the December 7, 2018 regular meeting were sent to the membership on January 31, 2019 via e-mail. Several corrections were submitted to the Recording Secretary. With those corrections, Stephanie asked that the minutes stand approved.

Attendance

Stephanie reminded those in attendance to sign in at the Membership table. Jan Hermann, Membership Chair, certified that a quorum is present.

Announcements

Stephanie offered special thanks to Suzanne Switzer for organizing a very well-attended meeting and luncheon for the Herbal Studies Committee. It was great fun! Thanks also to Bruce Chalker for his report on Mediterranean herbs and Suzanne for her talk of Mediterranean diet. Anne Cori was scheduled to speak but had to take her husband, Tom to the hospital emergency room. Thankfully, it was just a bad case of the flu.

Thanks go to Barb Ottolini and her committee for staging today's Book Sale. All proceeds from the sales will unapologetically be deposited in our SLHS treasury.

And, as always, thank you JoAnn Vorih for bringing the best possible topic to us today. It's all about growing massive amounts of herbs at home.

Stephanie read the letter she received from Liz Manning who complimented our website.

Officer Reports

Vice President – JoAnn Vorih

Next month on Friday March 1st we will tour the Oertli Family Hardy Plant Nursery. The tour will be conducted by Andrew Wyatt, Senior Vice President of Horticulture and Living Collections.

Our May outing will occur on Friday, April 26th with a tour of the Whitmire Wildflower Garden led by Scott Woodbury, Conservation Staff, Shaw Nature Reserve.

Treasurer – Mary Hammer

No report

Recording Secretary – Ted Atwood

No report

Corresponding Secretary – Eileen Carr

No report

Standing Committee Reports

Membership – Jan Hermann

Jan reminded the assembled multitude to sign in.

Active and Honorary Members are encouraged to recruit outstanding people, such as our current members. Sponsors for Provisional Members need to have their two letters of proposal submitted by March 1st. Membership requirements include attending a minimum of four (4) regular meetings per fiscal year. After today's meeting, we will have only 2 more meetings in this fiscal year: the March meeting and the Open Meeting in April. Our fiscal year ends on May 31st. Our Spring Outing is in May and it does not count as a regular meeting.

Lucyann Boston complimented Jan for the Sign In table.

Stephanie requested everyone turn in their hours, immediately. The Garden will drop volunteers from their roles, if zero hours are reported.

Finance – Carol Higgins

No report

Herb Sale – Celeste Sprung

The plans for the 2019 Herb Sale are in full swing. All of the plants have been ordered and many are starting to grow. Thanks to Jen Smock and the creative team at the Garden for creating our 2019 flyer which was e-mailed to all of us earlier this week; Anne Brackens has put it on the front page of our website. The Garden does a great job promoting the Sale and all of us can add to their efforts by spreading the word in our own communities. At our next meeting, we will also have business cards available. At that March meeting, we will be sending around the volunteer sign-up sheets for the May 2-4 Sale. At this point, we are asking people to only sign up for one shift until the April meeting to give more people the opportunity to volunteer. If you know that you cannot be at the March meeting, feel free to speak to Bev Schmitt today to volunteer. Thank you for all of your support of the 2019 Herb Sale. Our Committee is geared to go!

Products – Judy Harmon

Judy thanked everyone for our product purchases in November and December. Almost everything sold out. There are still 3 jars of peach jam, 2 bottles of horseradish vinegar, and several jars of lip balm and scrub which Judy will offer at a good price.

Workshops will be scheduled later in February and March. Consideration will be given to products which sold out: 1. Herbal lemon salt, 2. Spicy pepper blend (with grinder lid), 3. Tomato jam (new recipe for winter using canned tomatoes that compares favorably to recipe made with fresh Roma tomatoes). Judy has several jars of the tomato jam made with canned tomatoes available for sale today for those who would like to try it.

Judy wants the Products committee to make a big batch of Za'tar late this Summer or early Fall. Bruce Chalker will oversee this workshop. Bruce indicates that the Syrian oregano used in this product is no longer available. However, "Hot and Spicy" oregano, available at the Herb Sale, is a good substitute. Judy asked members to purchase several plants and tend them lovingly through the summer so we can harvest and dry them to make lots of Za'tar. Celeste indicated that 3 flats of "Hot and Spicy oregano", along with several flats of Syrian oregano have been ordered for the Herb Sale. The other ingredients are readily available.

Publicity – Val Whitney

Val plans on getting the word out to organizations that might be interested in the Herb Sale. She is circulating a sheet for us to identify these organizations and contact information, so we can get the word out.

Provisional Advisors – Mark Kalk

Provisional Reports:

Christy Beckmann, “Cuban Oregano”
Laure Hulverson, “Native Americans and Elderberry”

Volunteers –Bev Schmitt

If members are not going to be present at the March meeting to sign up for the Herb Sale, please call Bev and she can make their assignments.

Communications (Website) – Anne Brackens

No report

Communications (Newsletter) – Pat Hillis

No report

Stephanie complimented Pat on a great issue of the Thymes.

Speakers Bureau – Barb Finbloom

See attached: “Updated Winter Speaker’s Bureau Schedule”

Barb is recruiting for Speaker engagements. March 23rd the Master Gardeners are sponsoring their Spring Fling from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. They want a 15 minute presentation on growing herbs in containers and a 30 minute presentation on edible flowers.

Archives – Barb Ottolini

Per the request by the Garden Library, Stephanie, Lynn Wells, Sheila Hoffmeister and Barb Ottolini, met to remove the duplicates and triplicates of our books. Librarian, Mary Stiffler, has de-accessioned the books and we have them for sale today. Rest assured that there are still copies of these books upstairs in our St. Louis Herb Society Library. Some of the volumes the Herb Society de-accessioned have been accessioned by the Missouri Botanical Garden for their library.

Our next job will be to address the issue of preserving our archives. This will be a little more complicated as we will need to determine how much to digitize and how to store them.

Stephanie explained that the Garden has given us permission to use their \$30,000 digital scanning equipment.

Hospitality – Rhonda Ruester

Rhonda thanked everyone for bringing food today that compliments the Heart Healthy theme for February. Joy Stinger was recognized for her creative/interesting/clever centerpiece for the punch table. Linda Meyer was thanked for the decorations on the food table.

The Herb Society now has an on-site storage cabinet in the kitchen/break room. This allows us to store equipment and supplies used on a regular basis instead of lugging them back and forth each month.

For March the food theme will be: Going Green – Vegetarian Dishes

Rhonda encouraged us to share recipes for the dishes we share, especially the chili recipes. Bring a handwritten copy, a recipe card, or email it to Pat Hillis for the newsletter.

Serving spoons are provided on the food table. It's not necessary to bring your own. However, if you do bring your own serving utensils, please mark them so we can get them back to you. Currently, there are a number of serving utensils in our "lost and found" box. Baggies and plastic wrap are available to facilitate taking leftovers home.

Herbal Studies -- Suzanne Switzer

Suzanne thanked everyone who attended the meeting and luncheon a Aya(?) Sophia. She thanked Bruce Chalker for his presentation on the history of herbs in the Mediterranean. It was very informative. The Herbal Studies Committee will meet the last Thursday in March, the 28th, at 1:00 PM at Suzanne's home. The topics will be ginger and grain.

Mediterranean Herb Book – Bruch Chalker

No report

New Business and Announcements

Ted Atwood

Flower Power is scheduled for Thursday, May 16th, at Tower Grove Park.

Glenda Finnie announced that the Boxwood Society will meet on Monday, March 18th at 7:00 PM in Ridgway. This is the annual meeting. There will be three speakers: the area boxwood area supervisor from the Garden who will review some of the new varieties to be planted this Spring, a presentation on disease resistant varieties, and Kevin Collard from Pine View Nursery who will review the plants he has available for sale. Everyone is invited. You don't have to be a

member to come to the meeting. Members receive a free boxwood plant. Non-members can purchase plants from Kevin Collard as well as from the Boxwood Society.

No other business to be raised, Stephanie asked for a motion to adjourn. Pat Schutte offered a motion to adjourn and Mary Hammer seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM

Submitted by Ted Atwood
Recording Secretary
The St. Louis Herb Society