

NCGC February General Meeting February 4, 2016

****President** Cheryl Fawvor called the General Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and thanked everyone for coming.

Pat Chislett introduced our speaker – Steve Hupp from the Bayou Preservation Association.

****President:** Cheryl Fawvor called the business meeting to order at 11:07.

****Secretary:** Linda Warren announced that the approved minutes from January are now posted on the website.

****Treasurer:** Vikki Rogers gave the treasurer's report:

Beginning balance \$7,348.04

Income \$155.91

Expenses \$724.18

Current balance \$6,779.77

****Programs:** Pat Chislett

Premier Sharpening is sharpening our garden tools during the meeting. Please pay them immediately after the meeting so that they can leave.

“Baking with Alice” was a fun and informative workshop. Thank you, Alice!

Our speaker for March will be Linda Gay on “Bulbs for Naturalizing on the Gulf Coast.”

Also in March, we will have a field trip to the Azalea Trail on March 11. The sign-up sheet and a flyer are on the table. The plan is to meet at La Madeleine on I-10 at 10:00 for brunch. From there we will carpool to Bayou Bend and tour that property together. After that, we will split up by car group and each group can decide on lunch and which homes to visit. We will not return together or try to stay together after Bayou Bend. Tickets purchased before Mar. 1 are \$20, and tickets that day will be \$25. The event is from 11-5.

Originally a visit to Mercer Arboretum was scheduled for April, but that has been cancelled. The date was too close to our Backyard Passions date, so the board felt that time would be too busy.

In March and April the sign-up sheets will be out for the End-of-Year Luncheon. It will be on May 5 (Cinco de Mayo Day) at Alicia's. The cost will be \$20 (payment is due when you sign up) and will include fajitas with all the fixings, as well as drinks and tea. Alcohol will be available for purchase in the bar. There will also be a Busy Bee Exchange. More on this later.

****Fundraising:** Lori Fay reminded members that tickets are now on sale for Backyard Passions, our spring Garden Tour. The date will be April 23. Tickets purchased by April 22 will be \$12. Sheets are also out for members to volunteer to work at the tour.

The results of the drawings were:

Bulb planter – Doris Netto

Fountain – Susie Griffin

Orchid – Helen Pool

Cheryl thanked the fundraising committee for all of their work in setting up the Garden Tour.

****Historian:** Jeannie Gordon asked anyone not yet in the directory to please see her to get their picture taken.

****Hospitality:** Gayle Spence announced that two more hosts/hostesses are needed for March. April has a full slate of volunteers. Gayle also recognized the hosts/hostesses for this month.

****Membership:** Patti Crawford reported that we have 83 members, and that today we have one guest.

Cheryl asked that members plan to pay next year's dues by May 31. Payment by that date helps the board to plan the club budget.

****Newsletter:** Jewel Munoz was not present, but Cheryl reminded us that Jewel does the newsletter and the Facebook page. Please send requests for Facebook membership to Jewel.

****Sunshine:** Maddy Gardner thanked the club for keeping her informed.

****Horticulture:** Jean Bays identified an amazingly large collection of February blooms brought in by members.

****Phone Committee:** Cheryl reminded us that the phone committee will no longer notify anyone except by special request. Maddy Gardner and Pamela

Stephens have instead agreed to be "Lunch Coordinators." Today's lunch after the meeting will be at Salt Grass Steakhouse. Approximately fifteen people indicated they will attend today.

****Federation:** Sharon Cecil invited all members to the next meeting of the Federation. It will be next Friday, Feb. 12, and the speaker will be retired A&M horticulturist Dr. Joe Novak, speaking on "The Holistic Garden." Social time is from 9:30-10:30, with the meeting starting at 10:30.

Cheryl concluded the meeting urging all members to volunteer at least one or two hours a year to the club.

Thought for the day:

A weed is but an unloved flower.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37.