

NCGC November General Meeting

November 10, 2016

****President:** Cheryl Fawvor called the meeting to order at 10:02. After thanking everyone for coming, she turned the mic over to Mary Lou Proctor. Mary Lou introduced Dr. Diane Russell, President of the Coastal Prairie Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists. Dr. Russell spoke on prairies and the need to preserve them. After her presentation, Cheryl called the business meeting to order.

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

****Treasurer:** Vikki Rogers

Beginning Balance -	7888.71
Income -	702.00 (luncheon, new members)
Expenses -	<u>269.70 (speaker fees and set-up)</u>
Ending Balance -	\$8321.01

Vikki also reported that she had done some research on the subject of accepting credit cards at our meetings. She looked into our bank, PayPal, and Square. Our bank would charge a monthly fee, and PayPal would be labor-intensive for our treasurer. The obstacles for Square were that an account would require a Social Security Number and the account would not be transferable. In other words, when we changed treasurers, we would have to open a new account. Therefore, it was decided to not accept credit cards at this time.

****Programs:** Mary Lou Proctor and Claudine Illg

Mary Lou asked each member to pick up a copy of the revised programs for the year. These were on the membership table. There have been several changes since the directory came out:

- Louis Bennett from Wabash Feed and Garden will speak at our meeting on January 5.
- We will be at the MUD for our January meeting because we could not get the bus for the trip to Mercer.
- The Mercer Field Trip will be on January 19, and we will take cars. A sign-up sheet is out, but members can also sign up at the December meeting. We will have a talk at Mercer, followed by a tour of the grounds and lunch. The trip will be from 9 – 3. Please indicate when you sign up if you are willing to drive.
- We have added a Field Trip to the Cockrell Butterfly Center and the Houston Museum of Natural Science on Feb. 17. More on this later.
- We have managed to get the bus for the March 10 field trip to the Azalea Trail.

The Holiday Luncheon will be on December 1 at Pappadeaux on I-10. Thank you to Doris

Netto for arranging this! The cost is \$28, and the luncheon will include salad, a choice of four entrees, a choice of two desserts, and all non-alcoholic beverages. Alcoholic beverages will be available for an additional charge. Please sign up today or else notify Claudine or Mary Lou before Nov. 28 if you wish to attend.

****Parliamentarian:** Kim Patrick

Thank you to everyone who brought a plant for Plant Shoppe or purchased one today.

Elections will be held in January for the following positions: President, Parliamentarian, and 2nd Vice President. Linda Warren is heading up the nominating committee. Please let Linda know if you are interested in serving on the committee or in one of the open positions. Each position is for a 2-year term, beginning in June.

****Fundraising:** Nan Righter

Nan encouraged members to sign up for the holiday luncheon. It will be festive and fun, with many door prizes available.

Each chair today has a flyer on the caladium sale. It will be the major fundraiser this year. Nan explained that pre-orders will run from Jan. 5 – March 2. Payment must be made at the time of pre-ordering. We are offering a mix of colors and a mix of shade-loving and sun-loving varieties for just \$1 per bulb. These bulbs are specific for our area, and delivery will be in late March, just before planting time in April. When asked about whether the bulbs need to be dug up each winter, most members said they do not dig them up.

Pat Chislett filled in for Lori Fay in running the drawing, with Esther Spencer drawing the tickets. The items and winners were:

- Round Top autumn cross and wreath – Pat Chislett
- Ladybugs tree décor – Wendy Noriega
- Herb garden, gloves, and garden stakes – Lisa Spivey

There were also three door prizes:

- Teapot (donated by Lori Fay) – Gayle Granger
- Potted mum (donated by Susie Griffin) – Nan Righter
- Jar of Gardenville Mycorrhizal Fungi (donated by Flora Tiedt) – Naoko Brittin

****Historian:** Margaret St. Clair

Please remember to get your picture taken before you leave if you joined today or won anything today.

****Hospitality:** Pamela

Pamela asked today's hostesses to stand and be thanked. She reported that she has enough volunteers to go through the end of the year.

****Membership:** Patti Crawford

Patti announced that we currently have 76 members, with 35 present today. We have two guests today, and one joined.

****Newsletter:** Flora Tiedt

Please let Flora know if you are having problems receiving the newsletter. She also has flyers to help members join the club's open and closed Facebook accounts, and she will help with these if anyone is having problems joining.

****Publicity:**

Pat was not present, but Cheryl encouraged all members to pick up a couple of the club's business cards from the back table. If we have these with us, we may find opportunities to invite new people to our meetings.

****Sunshine and Lunch:** Maddy Gardner

Maddy thanked everyone for keeping her aware of any concerns. She also asked for lunch suggestions. Today the club will go to Babin's.

**** Federation:** Sharon Cecil

Sharon reported that the Fed had a great presentation on Monarchs in Oct. The Nov. meeting will be tomorrow, Nov. 11, and it will be a Flower Show. Our own Kathy Burleson is competing in this show. December will be the Fed. Gala, but it is already sold out.

****New Business:** Cheryl Fawvor

Some magazines are available for free on the back table. Pamela Stephens asked if anyone could bring magazines to recycle. Cheryl said yes, as long as they take home any that aren't picked up.

Thought for the Day:

We can complain because rosebushes have thorns,
or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses.

Abraham Lincoln