

AGG GENERAL MEETING
OCTOBER 2, 2023
HOLBROOK PALMER PARK, ATHERTON

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 AM.

WELCOME:

Patti Spezzaferro opened the General Meeting by welcoming all members and guests by sharing her recent trip to New York to visit a garden listed in the Garden Conservatory handbook. She urged everyone to join the Garden Conservatory. It is a non-profit organization that takes old gardens around the country and preserves them for all to enjoy.

Patti then mentions the book for this month is called "Wilding." It chronicles the author's struggles with her 3,500-acre farm to make it profitable and decides to bring it back to what it was hundreds of years before farming.

Patti toured the Hudson Yard Tour and attended a lecture presented by the plant man who chose the plants for the site, who told stories of how gardening is both challenging and rewarding. He shared inventive ways to keep the soil temperature at 60's all year so the soil would be protected from extreme temperatures.

BUSINESS:

Suzanne Legallet is planning a garden tour for us next month, and that tour is a fundraiser to pay for the identification labels we placed at the Atherton Town Center.

The Atherton Town Center had its kick-off party on Sunday, September 24th. Many of our members were there to enjoy the event.

The labels were so successful that the Director contacted Patti and asked that we do the trees around the Town Center. Approximately twenty trees are involved, and by a show of hands, the membership agreed that we would label the trees. The labels will be paid for with money from Suzanne's garden tour.

HORTICULTURE:

Patti reported that this month, we fertilize our hydrangeas with acid fertilizer. Consider planting natives because they are easy to grow and drought-tolerant. But plant what you love: plant pollinators for the bees and butterflies. Consider the four seasons when planning your garden so that you have things of interest all year round.

GUESTS:

Nan Ray introduced her two guests, Bee Brown and Bee's daughter Mindy. Suzanne Legallet told us that it is Bee Brown's rhododendron garden we will be visiting in April.

Suzanne Legallet introduced her guests, Martha Edwards, Carrie Drake, and Mimi Hillyard.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS:

Members were interested in the ground cover under the Hornbeam trees on the garden tour of Joan Sander's neighbors. The plant is called Kurapia, which can be left to grow about three feet tall or trimmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Congratulations to Joan Sanders, Patty Leugers, and Marion Oster for their excellent work on the Atherton Centennial Celebration. They were featured on the cover of Atherton Living. Joan Sanders told the members that the town of Atherton gave away one hundred, fifteen-gallon oak trees. The event was a massive success for the town and residents of Atherton.

Mademoiselle Colette opened the day of the celebration and will be open seven days a week. It is a great destination.

Nancy Butler announced that her son Rhett Butler will be giving a lecture at Holbrook Palmer Park on October 10, 2023. The lecture will begin at 6 p.m., and there will be light refreshments. Reservations are requested to determine refreshment requirements. The lecture will have a slide presentation of the many projects he has been involved in for wildlife preservation, habitat, and cultural preservation around the world.

Martha Woollomes was commended again for her lovely monthly Newsletter. It's always a treat to see what she has done.

There is an article in the newsletter on the labels we used at the Atherton Town Center and how to contact them if you want labels for your garden.

There is a new column in the Newsletter called "Who's in the Garden." One of our members is featured and is asked questions about their garden. It is an excellent way to learn about our members and gardening.

Karen Handal introduced today's Table Top Setting program. Our members participating are Kasey Hansen, Karan Handal, Pam Smith, and Kathy Ladra.

The meeting ended around 10:25 a.m. for our program.