

LAMG Meeting Minutes from November 7, 2019

Dr. Olivia Carril presented a talk on native bee populations. She spent most of her talk on the results of long-term field studies showing that there is a great more to learn about the “decline” of bee populations. Her fascinating talk was laced with personal stories about her experience collecting bees in protected areas such as National Parks and Monuments and with technical details of bee life cycle, foraging behavior, and reproduction. She suggested three books for further reading: [The Solitary Bees](#), [A Buzz in the Meadow](#), and especially [Keeping the Bees](#). She also suggested opportunities for citizen science: upload any photos of bees to iNaturalist for ID and formal recording in a national database; or sign up for the Great Sunflower Project to monitor bee activity at sunflowers. She offered her email thebeesinyourbackyard@gmail.com for follow-up questions. Olivia said she would be happy to present a talk on flower that attract bees at a future meeting. We finally concluded our questions around 8:30.

Laurie reported that her records are in agreement and that we have \$5,950.53.

Carolyn asked for a motion to approve the September and October minutes; the motion from Michelle, seconded by Coleen, was approved.

Carolyn reminded everyone that volunteer and education hours are due; Carlos explained that the online system didn't seem to work out so well last year and that sending him totals directly would be acceptable. Carlos said the MG class would start in January, even if there weren't many sign-ups; he will send Christine a flyer to post on Facebook.

Concerning the Demo Garden, Denise had previously sent out an email to all explaining the path forward for Martha's Orchard. This project will be a multi-year effort and she would appreciate more volunteers for the many tasks ahead.

Michelle reported that the 2020 Garden Tour committee will meet on November 16, location TBD, to decide which gardens to include. Not having found a surplus of gardens in town, they are considering including White Rock gardens.

Doris reported that the Hope Garden committee met and is planning to present a proposal at the February LAMG meeting on placement of memorials in the Hope Garden.

Carlos spoke to the NMSU Foundation about the grant process for the MG class fees; they suggested a paragraph from the applicant of no more than 200 words describing why they want to take the class and a commitment to volunteer.

Carolyn reported that Kimberli will retire as Secretary as of January 1 and asked for volunteers for this position. She offered that the job could be shared by more than one individual and anyone interested should contact her.

Carolyn displayed an article written for the New Mexican by one of the Santa Fe Master Gardeners and questioned how the Los Alamos Master Gardeners might expand their community education efforts by publishing materials written especially for Los Alamos County. Carlos said we might also consider re-publishing appropriate materials prepared by NMSU. Michelle reminded that we should consider posting these on our Facebook page.

The Christmas Party will be held at Denise's home at 6, December 12. The next general meeting will be on February 6. The Statewide Survey of Community Trees will be presented at the March meeting, and Biosecurity will be presented at the April meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.