

Minutes of Meeting Marion County Gourd Artists
November 15, 2014

President Glenda Damm called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. Treasurer's report was read and accepted with the treasurer to have an updated report at the next meeting as to the expenses and income of our annual Gourd Festival held on Nov. 7, 8, and 9th.

Glenda thanked everyone who helped make the festival a success. The club wouldn't be able to succeed if it wasn't for all the work of its members.

Glenda reported that Carole Madler wrote a nice letter explaining her absence the past year due to medical conditions. The full letter will be available for anyone who wishes to read it. Carole donated 10 new painted gourds to the club to sell, along with 7 gourds we have from last year to raffle. We also had 17 painted birdhouse gourds donated by our members who came to the October meeting to work on them, and also from members who could not finish their birdhouse that day or were unable to be there.

Thank you to Pat Thompson for being the photographer at the festival and promptly sending the pictures to Carole, who reported that the pictures were already posted on the website.

She thanked Ella for her fantastic PR work, and thanked Lanie for her work on signs and also being available throughout the show covering vendors' booths and also our members table. Al was there for Friday and Saturday and Lanie covered by herself on Sunday. Carole painted the large sign for the members table, plus covering the classes, demos, and other signs and notices. Ella brought t-shirts to the show for members to order, and also announced that she could have future t-shirts printed up for anyone who wanted one. Price \$14.84.

Glenda also reported that Dan Hoefly, who is the manager of the Market of Marion, had put up banners advertising our festival. He said that he is keeping the banners for next year. He also said that we may outgrow Building H for our show next year at the rate the show is growing, and also mentioned the building may have a permanent tenant in the future. But he will work with us for our future shows either by erecting a 30'x70' pole barn or rent a tent for us. He is super good to us and loves having us there. Lanie thanked him with homemade cookies, which seems to solve our problem of what to do to say thank you, since he was very pleased.

Glenda asked for suggestions for our 2015 gourd festival. The following suggestions were made:

- *need more volunteers

- *need to beef up the classes

- *need to look at the price of our regular monthly workshop, because people tend to come to our monthly workshop @ \$10 for visitors, \$5 for members, rather than taking our classes at the festival. Glenda would like to receive input as to members' opinions.

- *It was suggested that every member and vendor donate an ornament to be put on our Christmas tree at the show. We would then hold a raffle at the end of the show with the winner getting all the ornaments.

- *Hazel said at her previous club each member promised to donate three painted ornaments for their Festival. Each paid \$45 in January. If they painted and donated the 3 ornaments then they were refunded their money. Each ornament was for sale for \$15 each. Sandy suggested \$10 each would be better for this area.

- *need to notify all vendors in advance of the time and set up information and directions and mention

that lighting is not too bright, so they may want to bring lighting for their table.

* We may add a judging table to the show for next year

Glenda received an email from Reggie Eakin letting her know that he has some medical problems with his back and will decide after January 1, 2015 whether or not he will have surgery. Glenda replied to him that it would be wonderful if he would consider teaching classes at our Gourd Show next year on November 13, 14 and/or 15. She will keep us posted. At a previous gourd club meeting, when a sign-up sheet was passed around, 14 signed up indicating they would be willing to pay up to \$45 for one of his classes.

Our 2015 dues will be collected in February since our year runs from March 1st to the end of February of the following year. Dues for the FGS are now due and delinquent by December 31. The Florida Gourd Society members are allowed first choice of classes at the state gourd festival. Our Patch is currently part of the FGS, and in order for our patch to maintain our good standing with FGS, they require at least 50% of our membership to also be members of the FGS. Membership provides many benefits, including a newsletter informing us of activities of all the various patches in Florida, discounts and advanced notice of classes and the retreat, interaction with other patches, and a helping hand to pay guest teachers. The American Gourd Society year runs for one year from whenever you pay your dues, and they send their members a great magazine three or four times a year with information on state gourd clubs and great ideas for growing and crafting gourds.

Lanie donated the tote that holds our supplies and has been hauling it back and forth in her car. We are now storing it in the back of the room at Cherokee Park so that those that arrive early can get the tablecloths out and on the tables, name tags, etc.

Election of officers for our club will be held at the March meeting.

Hazel Small volunteered to be Hospitality Chairman, coordinating those bring snacks, getting coffee made, and making sure new visitors and guests are greeted and made welcome. Hazel will call in advance to remind those members who have signed up to bring in snacks for a monthly meeting.

We will not be meeting in December, but will have a potluck meal in January. Club will furnish the main course meat. Sign up on our website as to what you are bringing to the dinner. We will need a count of how many are coming so we know how large a ham to purchase.

Stell Phillips, a member of our club, had a fall her niece said, and will not be back for a while. We wish her a quick recovery.

Carole Sheftic reported on the workshops scheduled for next year. Carole teaches in February; Orchid Davis is scheduled for April. 23. Teachers are requested to let Carole know the maximum number of students they can comfortably teach, so there will be a cut-off figure for signups on the internet.

Ella Curtis will be teaching how to make the "Gourd Thunder Drum" in March. The supply fee for that workshop needs to be paid in advance before the Florida Gourd Show February date, so she will have sufficient time to purchase supplies and prepare the gourds before the March meeting.

Carole suggested that for all workshops that require a large amount of special supplies the money for that workshop should be paid in advance, and the class fee of \$5 can be paid at the time of the class.

Motion made by Diane Surrige to approve Carole's suggestion was seconded and passed. Students can sign up for workshops each month on the website.

Carole suggested that all teachers should have a complete packet with instructions to be handed out to those who paid for the workshop.

A few members said that they did not have computers in which to sign up for workshops. Al said that he would send a postcard out to those without access to a computer.

Our "Sunshine" chairman, Pat Thompson asked that we write the month and day of our birthday on the sign in sheet so she would have that info.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Loyally submitted,
Diane Surrige
Secretary pro tem