

**NORTH COUNTRY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 27, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 4:07 PM by President Janet Mangold.

Those in attendance were: Deb Studley, Katie Childs, Vicki Gee-Treft, Nancy Reis, Barb Boatman, Tony Weber, Donna Amidon, Russ Parker, Carol Taylor, Paul Thompson, Janet Mangold, Sue Reinardy and Kevin Schoessow.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of the March 30, 2017 meeting.

Barb Boatman reported a checking account balance of \$1,166.02

Old Business:

1. Level 1 training (March 7 – May 30). Thirteen students are enrolled who are well engaged and bonding as a group. Classes are taught by MG volunteers and Kevin.
2. Seed starting – tomatoes and peppers have been started and are at the repotting stage.
3. Repotting of peppers scheduled for Friday, April 28th and tomatoes for Monday, May 1st at 1:00 PM at the greenhouse.
4. Plant Sale update:
 - a) Perennials around the Ag. Station will be dug and divided and repotted for the plant sale. This will be Tuesday, May 2nd at 4:30 PM, weather permitting.
 - b) The rose bushes in the front of the building will also be removed.
 - c) Top soil has been ordered and there are enough pots in storage for perennial repotting.
 - d) Carol spoke to the students about helping the evening before the plant sale to get everything set up.
 - e) Prices for the plant sale are \$4.00 perennials, \$3.00 tomatoes and \$2.00 peppers. Ceramic tile plant markers will also be sold for \$1.00. There are also two tubs of grape vines that will be offered for sale.
 - f) New signage will need to be made up for two tomato varieties and any perennials we may not have signs for in the basement.
 - g) One of the new trainees will take care of coffee and donuts
5. Mini-Master Gardener program held at Bashaw's Gardens on April 1st was a success. Thirty children attended with adult supervision. Four teaching stations allowed the children to learn about plant parts, transplanting, soils and vermicomposting.
6. Hunt Hill Prairie Fling – Will be held same day as plant sale, May 20th, from 10 AM – 4 PM. Vicki Gee-Treft will host a booth to publicize the NCMGV and recruit other volunteers to assist her. Vicki stated that we need to identify the groups we want to work with since our mission is to provide education, not just provide a one time service for other groups. She would also like to see a NCMGV booth at both the Burnett and Sawyer County Fairs, not just Washburn County.
7. Paul Thompson is transferring from the Dakota County, Minnesota Master Gardener Volunteers where he has been a member since 2006. He is semi-retired from BASF. His email is paulthompson226@gmail.com.

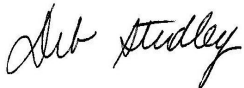
New Business:

1. AAS Garden – the theme for 2017 - "Interspersing Edibles in the Ornamental Garden". We will use this for the basis of all garden programs this season.
 - a) Janet will contact Sharon Tarras about designing the AAS garden plots.
 - b) Tony reminded us about donating produce to food shelves.
 - c) A new "family garden" will be designed and planted at the south end of the demonstration garden. Roundup will be used to clear the area next week. Russ and a committee will work on this plot.
 - d) Spooner middle school students (15-20) will volunteer at the garden on May 12th from 1:00 – 2:30 PM for Service Learning Day. Russ and Kevin will supervise.

2. Meet Me In The Garden
 - a) Sue Reinardy has formatted a presentation for July 13th from 6:00 – 7:30 PM. More information on our website at <http://www.northcountrymgv.org>
3. Proposed bulb sale discussion. It was decided not to go ahead with this idea but possibly have a fall expo with invited speakers sometime in the future.
4. Twilight Garden Tour
 - a) Tuesday, August 15th
 - b) Speakers will be making presentations in the garden, not the Ag. Station.
 - c) Discussion of obtaining a big tent to house speakers and visitors in case of rain.
 - d) The gravel pad where the sheep hoop house stood could be a possible location for a tent. Kevin will pursue further with Phil Holman.
 - e) Speakers confirmed:
 - P. J. Liesch – Director of UW-Madison insect diagnostic lab
 - Brian Smith – Professor of Horticulture, UW-River Falls (fruit & vegetable production)
 - Brian Hudelson – Plant disease diagnostic clinic, UW-Madison
 - f) A label with NCMGV contact information will be attached to common milkweed seed packets and given away at the garden tour.
 - g) A committee needs to be formed for the Twilight Garden Tour. More volunteers are needed to serve. A step-by-step handbook has been developed for guidance.
5. Background checks
 - a) Kevin announced that background checks will be required for all UW-Extension employees and volunteers. This is to comply with Regent Policy #20-19 and the UW-Extension Criminal Background Check policy.
 - An email will be sent to each MG volunteer from Angela Schultz, CBC Coordinator for UW-Extension explaining the checking process and alert you to watch for an email from the GIS vendor contracted by UW-Extension to perform the criminal background checks.
 - Your information will be entered into GIS's secure website to complete the check.
 - Anyone not completing the check will not be allowed to work or volunteer for UW-Extension.
 - There are no exceptions.
 - An informational Q & A is posted on our website <http://www.northcountrymgv.org>. Go to the website, click on the menu at the top right, click on member handbook, the link is just above the photos on the page.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Deb Studley
Secretary