

NORTH COUNTRY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER OFFICERS & DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES
16 JAN 2018

Those present were Donna Amidon, Carol Taylor, Vicki Gee-Treft, Sheila Squires, Russ Parker, Roseann Meixelsperger and Sue Reinardy.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM by President, Donna Amidon.

Old Business:

- AAS Garden discussion: For the AAS 2018 Contest theme "Get Social in the Garden" there was discussion on what this means. Consensus that we are using mixed media, having presentations, and are already being social in the garden. The Intent to Participate in the contest was reviewed, and Roseann will send this intent to AAS for our participation in the contest.
- MGV Spring 2018 Training: Vicki showed us the flyers, brochures, and news release from last year. Decided Vicki will update that material for 2018. The training will start on Tuesday, April 3rd and run thru Tuesday, June 19th. The time will be the same as last year, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. There are currently fourteen (14) people on the list who have expressed interest in the class. Minimum students would be twelve (12). The tuition will remain at \$125/person or \$200/two people. Master Gardeners will be asked to help with coordination, set up/tear down, and other tasks needed to help the instructors. Sue will have a syllabus ready for the Jan. 25th general meeting for people to see the schedule, and sign up. Russ suggested getting seeds started during the first class. Barron County will be contacted as they didn't have enough students to hold the class last year to invite them into our class. A Training Committee will be set up after the Jan. 25th meeting. Sue has testimonials from last year's students. Discussion about stating our three (3) Counties in the Press Release to be sure those Counties residents know they are invited. Carol suggests adding to the volunteer service commitment "a minimum" of 24 hours annually.
- MGV Handbook: Sue will add monthly calendars to the 2018 Handbook. There is also a Google calendar on our website – submit information to Sue for this. Discussion on adding accomplishments – decided to keep summary in the book and detail on our website. Bylaws will be added to our handbook. Donna will draft a greeting. Discussion on adding a place for volunteer hours and CEU tracking. Decided to keep it "as is". Sheila asked if during the orientation session the web site could be shown as a resource. Russ will change the garden layout by eliminating the Children's Garden section and the lower part of the layout – replacing the lower part with the Hoop Garden and the Shed. Sheila volunteered to get the Committee Descriptions and Chairs/Members summaries to Sue for the handbook. Sheila requested we all e-mail our committee descriptions to her for this purpose after sharing this with the Jan. 25th group meeting.
- Committee redrafted descriptions: (Note: These are summary descriptions. Full details are on an attachment to these minutes)
 - o Speakers Bureau: Provides volunteers to present on horticultural subject matters, which may include seminars, hands-on activities and informal/formal presentations.
 - o MGV Training Committee: Volunteers organize and conduct 36 hours of UW- Extension Master Gardener Volunteer curriculum sessions with hands-on training, in addition to online videos.
 - o Children and Youth Programs: Volunteers will provide sessions twice a month from mid-June to mid-August where children, ages 5 to 14 accompanied by an adult, will learn how to plant and care for a garden. Each session will include tastings and educational topics.
 - o Marketing: Volunteers will increase the publics' awareness of the NCMGV Association and its diverse resources and draw participation to the many exciting and informative programs offered. Note that this used to be called Publicity. Carol reminded us to have consistent use of logos.
 - o Signage: Responsible for creating, assembling and the placement of all signage within the Teaching and Display gardens.

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- o Seed Starting, Saving and Plant Maintenance: Responsible for saving seed from selected open-pollinated plant specimens grown at the Teaching & Display Gardens to maintain varieties offered at the annual plant sale and other MG horticultural needs. Performs germination tests on older seed where applicable and procures new seed from established sources. Develops a schedule for all seed starting, and helps with pot cleaning, transplanting and plant maintenance; watering, fertilizing, hardening off, etc.

New Business:

- Social Media: Sue stated there are about 400 Facebook followers. We could expand this to other social sites such as Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, Snap Chat, etc. We would need Volunteers for this expansion. Sue also suggests blogs. Sue continues to receive a low response from the MGs for website info. There are over 100 visitors per week on the site. One of the top pages is pollinator information. Suggests we add "Ask a Master Gardener" area on our website and on Facebook. We should emphasize focal points during events. Discussion on possible socials before events.
- Volunteer Roles: Vicki suggested the following positions: (Note: These are summaries – full descriptions are on attachment to these minutes)
 - o Teaching & Display Garden Volunteer: Planning and maintaining specific garden plots and providing educational horticulture programming for the public. This volunteer would coordinate MG's "owning" a bed during the season; coordinate volunteers gathering on a scheduled basis to maintain the gardens.
 - o Community Events Coordinator: Set up and staff informational displays and provide interactive horticultural activities, such as at County Fairs, Schools, and community events.
 - o Horticulture Inquiry Volunteer: Responds to calls, e-mails or visits from the public regarding horticultural questions and plant health diagnostic inquiries.
 - o Training Support: Volunteer responds to and supports the needs of trainees, facilitators/presenters, staff and guests to ensure a successful MGV training experience.
- 2018 Budget: Sheila drafted a budget based on the November meeting. She has reviewed receipts and expenses with Russ. Discussion ensued, with some changes requested. Sheila will redraft and send out.
- Next general meeting on January 25th: Will go over Committees and Chairs. Plant Sale. MG Training. 2018 Budget will be presented, and Committee Chairs will be requested to review their sections.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 PM.

Next meeting will be on January 25th 1:00 PM at the Ag Station for all Master Gardeners. Will schedule the next Board & Directors meeting at that time.

Respectfully submitted,
Roseann Meixelsperger
Secretary