

**NORTH COUNTRY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS
MEETING MINUTES
28 JUNE 2018**

Members present included Donna Amidon, Janet Mangold, Vicki Gee-Treft, Sue Reinardy, Russ Parker, LTE Mitchell Shellito, Barb Boatman, Terri Johnson, Katie Childs, Deb Studley, Mark Fox, Cindy Lawson, Karen Morris, Terrie Strand and Roseann Meixelsperger.

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 PM by Donna Amidon.

Meeting minutes from May 23rd, 2018 were reviewed. Janet M. moved to accept, second by Cindy L. Motion carries unanimously.

Treasurer's Report as of May 2018 was presented by Cindy.

Beginning Balance =	\$ 762.49
Less Reimbursement to Charolette Thompson, Refreshments for Mini-Master	(60.00)
Economart-carriers for Pollinator Garden	(36.00)
Spooner Advocate-ad for Plant Sale	(249.39)
Plant Sale take out cash	(150.00)
Plus: Mini-Master Gardener registrations	110.00
Plant Sale income	2,943.00
Children's Program donation	<u>50.00</u>
Ending Balance =	\$3,370.10

WIMGA Report from April Meeting: Janet e-mailed a good summary of WIMGA's roles to the MGv list on June 26th. WIMGA is trying to get more names for on-line virtual meetings. Web site is better, password is wimga18. The organizational move to becoming a department under UW-Madison is effective July 1st, 2018. On line reporting will be required soon. WIMGA is looking for speakers for their bureau. Speakers can limit the number of miles they are willing to travel.

Committee Reports:

Teaching and Display Garden/AAS/TGT/Meet Me in the Garden: On June 4, 15 MGv's planted the 8 AAS ornamental beds which were designed by members of the training class and MGv's, and finalized by Terry Strand, Katie Childs & Vicki. All totaled, there were 21 ornamental varieties, ranging from 12 to 54 plants per variety, for a total of 639 plants—over 100 plants less than previous years. Katie Childs drafted a description for each of the beds that was distributed to all attending, which will be posted in front of the bed. Props for each bed's theme have been made, donated or borrowed—a few items missing yet, e.g., tea cups/saucers, tennis racket, etc. On June 22, interns Mitch and Kenzie completed planting the AAS & non-AAS vegetable beds!

Among the preparations has been the following:

- Till & edge the beds
- Lay down landscape fabric, if needed
- Germinate seeds, water & transplant
- Inventory, alphabetize & duplicate signs as needed for AAS, non-AAS and perennial varieties
- Record & update all lists of plants, photos and maps for on-line and paper distribution
- Add AAS website link to our website
- Clean, rework & plant flowers around the SARS building
- Revise Scavenger Hunt for kids

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All ornamental and edible beds are in maintenance mode: weeding, watering, fertilizing, deadheading/trimming, edging, from the perennial beds to the vegetable beds. GROUP GARDENING TIMES are Mondays starting at 8 am and again at 5:30 pm, and Tuesdays starting at 9:00 am.

To support MAPS, MGV Sharon Tarras will be volunteering on Mondays in July from 8-10am, and new MGVs have been invited to spend time with her, learn more about perennials and the design of the garden.

With no staffing on weekends, Spooner and Shell Lake MGVs have indicated willingness to water the edible and ornamental beds on a Saturday or Sunday, if needed. Vicki recommended getting an orientation to the process of watering with Mitch and possibly pairing up with another MGV as a co-waterer. With a list of volunteers willing to water, an assigned MGV could call others if needing to exchange a watering day. These volunteers could identify which Saturdays & Sundays in a given month they could be available.

Twilight Garden Tour

Committee Members Donna Amidon, Russ Parker, Nancy Reis, Kevin Schoessow & Vicki met June 19 to plan the scheduled event on Tuesday, August 14, 2018, 4:00-7:00. Kevin will confirm the following, who will repeat every 20 minutes for 3 presentations:

- Mike Maddox, MG program director, possibly on horticulture therapy;
- Julie Dawson, Seed to Kitchen project, assistant professor, department of horticulture; - Erin Silva, assistant professor, organic and sustainable cropping systems specialist, department of plant pathology.
- Other possible UW-Extension staff, who may attend: Brian Smith, Erin Peot, Ruth Genger, etc.
- Organizations involved in the garden will be invited to participate: Girl Scouts, Spooner Lions, MOMS Club, etc.

The following are being considered as continuous displays and demonstrations:

- Invasives by Nicole Butler, Landowner Outreach Assistant, St Croix Red Cedar Cooperative Weed Management Area
- Wine tasting by Lorraine
- Tomato Salsa, Corn Salsa & Watermelon Salsa tasting
- Roasted Vegetables by Nikki Halvorson
- Cut flower demonstration by Cindy Lawson & Carla TePaske
- Display/demo by interns Mitch & Kenzie
- Wicking bed by Linda Anderson
- Spooner Garden Club
- Pollinator garden: native bees & cranberry marsh research by Hanna Gaines, UW-Madison
- Emily Stone at Cable (gone for the summer, but another staff member?)
- Edibles by Sam Thayer (fee cost)
- MGVs Schultzs from Rice Lake
- Shitake mushrooms by Tavis Lynch
- Honey bees by John Haack or Messick
- Selected vendors

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Note: There is a Seed to Kitchen event the same day from 2:00-4:00 for farmers, growers and participants, with chefs and foodie-types. During the TGT, their organic soybean plots will be open to participants to view and staffed by Shelbi & Nathaniel.

Miscellaneous

Met with MGV Jessie Crane (and her husband) of Rochester, MN, who is interested in transferring next year to here: spends weekends at their Long Lake cabin, works full-time, has been their Association president twice with 80 members.

Spoke with former MGV Jim Strunk, trained in Yankton, SD, who is a pharmacist working fulltime at LCO Hayward area about re-engaging.

Lorraine spoke to a caller who resides in TX about transferring here as an MGV and gave him Sue Reinardy & Vicki's contact info.

MGV Paul Thompson (transfer from Dakota County, MN) will be meeting with Vicki to provide feedback on several potential projects.

Children and Youth Programs: Roseann passed around the youth garden layout showing the specific use of each of the raised beds by our program, the MOM's Club, and the Girl Scouts. She also passed around the books we are using for the sessions – and explained that we need to purchase three of each book to laminate the pages for the story walk and have one book for the story reader. We are publicizing the program on our web site, Facebook page, and are getting some free press from our community newspapers. Roseann plans to give the local school teachers a presentation of the program in our Counties this Fall to get more participation. We have had modest turn out (six kids), but this is the first year, as we are learning as we are putting the program in action. Roseann stated she has submitted a \$400 education grant to WIMGA for our 2019 program. Thanks to all the MGV's who are helping make this program successful, and to all who have donated items needed to run the program.

Plant Sale: Very successful. Grossed \$3,050.00. This is our only fund raiser of the year.

Signage: Vicki stated the Display Garden banner cost \$70 and is located on Hwy 70 at Orchard Lane. Thanks to Mitch for helping put this up.

Seed Starting, Saving, and Plant Maintenance: Mitch and Nathaniel went thru the greenhouse. We have a mouse issue. All that is left in the greenhouse at this point are peppers, pumpkins, and corn. Requests for watering over the weekend when the LTE's are gone is in progress, and a watering schedule will go out. Volunteers are asked to work with Mitch to be trained on proper garden watering, with a note it takes about 2-1/2 to 3 hours for one person to water the gardens, so we may want to work in teams. Vicki will be getting out a watering schedule, as several MGV's have volunteered to take on this task. Russ assured us we have enough wind and adequate water, and that Nathaniel is backfilling the pump. Mitch stated that Kenzie will be gone in July, and that Mitch will be gone in August until right before our Twilight Tour.

Publicity and Marketing:

Please send photos to both Lorraine for Facebook and Sue for our website. We need a social media point person. If you are interested, please contact Donna or Kevin. Garden photo opportunities have been identified, and Otto Weigand has agreed to be our photographer—just remind him when and where.

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Communication to Public and Members/handbook/newsletter/website.

Sue stated our website is getting 200-400 unique visitors per week. Mobile Facebook is our #1 referral. Insectary is trending #1 view in June. Mitch suggested we also consider using Instagram.

MGV Training Update: Sue stated ten completed the course. Discussed evaluation comments. Many trainees told us that they were attracted to the MG program because of the renewed interest in growing our own food.

Old Business:

MG Letterhead for thank you's:

Roseann will meet with Sheila about using the Master Gardener logo on plain bond paper, then send their recommendations to Donna for review and approval. Roseann has submitted several names for thank you's for the donations to the Children's Program.

New Business:

Marilyn Saffert's Gardens near Rice Lake tour offer: Donna will check on dates that are available to MGV's interested in a tour. Watch for e-mails from Donna.

July 26th meeting site at Katie's: Katie offered her home in Webster for our July 26th meeting. Goes with our desire to get more familiar with Counties other than Washburn that we represent (Burnett and Sawyer). Come at 3 pm to look at her gardens, then we'll have our meeting. Bring lawn chairs and beverage of your choice.

Officer nominations/elections in August: Reminder that we will vote for some new Officer's in August. Officer's whose terms are expiring in September 2018 are President: Donna Amidon, Vice-President: Carol Taylor Secretary: Roseann Meixelsperger Directors: Russ Parker and Tony Webber.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Watering in the Gardens: See Vicki and/or Mitch to water preferably in the mornings on the weekends.

Spoooner Elementary: July 14th TBD as a thank you from Sabrina Brown

Meet Me in the Garden: July 17th at 6 pm. Sue will send out a press release next week. There are still some open speaker slots on several topics for 5-10 minutes each.

Twilight Garden Tour: August 14th. See Vicki if you'd like to help.

Geocaching: September 7th. See Russ if you'd like to help.

Meet Me in the Garden: September 8th. Suggestion to have a buckthorn speaker.

4H Camp at Hunt Hill: August 8th – 10th. One hour with three separate groups (total 15-25 kids).

Head Start (Spoooner) – Planted last Fall. Will get quack grass out in Fall 2018, date TBD.

Educational Opportunities:

Upper Midwest Regional Master Garden Conference recap: Donna and Sue attended this event at Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, the #1 Arboretum in the country. Look for blogs on several subjects from the conference. Pollinator focus. Excellent Community Garden presentation by Minneapolis students.

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WIMGA Conference September 21-22: Janet commented the early bird special ends July 9th. Brochure was distributed to all. Conference will be held in Eau Claire.

Volunteer Vibe: Many educational opportunities available to MGV's. This is a monthly e-letter exclusively for certified and intern MGVs.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Next Membership Meeting is July 26th, 4 PM at Katie Child's home. Directions will be sent out before the July meeting.

Reminder on options for members who can't attend meetings: WisLine Anytime Service can handle up to 50 phone lines. Members who cannot come to meetings can listen to the meetings live via WisLine (by phone). All you must do is contact Lorraine (715-635-3735) in advance of the meeting and she will give the member the number to call and the code to enter so they can listen in to the meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann Meixelsperger, Secretary