

**NORTH COUNTRY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS
MEETING MINUTES
22 MAR 2018**

Members present included Donna Amidon via WisLine Anytime Service, Sheila Squires, Janet Mangold, Vicki Gee-Treft, Carla TePaske, Sue Reinardy, Kevin Schoessow and Roseann Meixelsperger.

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM by Treasurer, Sheila Squires. There was discussion on using modified Robert's Rules of Orders for our meetings, which do not require motions for minutes and reports, unless there is disagreement voiced.

Meeting minutes from January 25th and February 22nd, 2018 were reviewed. After corrections, minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report as of February 2018 was presented by Sheila.

Beginning Balance =	\$1,489.82
Less WIMGA donation for Fall Conference	(75.00)
Ending Balance =	\$1,414.82

Committee Reports:

MGV Training Spring 2018. Sue reported we have twelve (12) enrollments. Eight (8) went thru orientation on March 17th, and the other four (4) will be scheduled to catch up. Sue has facilitators for all the classes and will be sending out an updated Syllabus for Facilitators.

Plant Sale May 19th: Sheila reported that Russ has started the plants in the greenhouse. Needs volunteers to take care of them until the end of March, in the morning and afternoon. Sheila will send a request to the list and/or make phone calls after discussion with Kevin. The Six Pack carton that is new this year was demonstrated. Sheila will take the peppers that Russ started home, as the greenhouse may be too cold for them to germinate properly. Discussion of daylily donation offer from Kris Henning of Frederic was discussed. With the new pollinator offerings this year, it was decided to respectfully decline the offer. Sheila and Carla thanked all for the photos provided for our plant sale. Thanks to Sue who has again prepared the sales brochure. Janet asked if volunteers have been requested for set up, check out, etc. Sheila will contact Carol, the Committee Chair, on that process.

Children and Youth Programs: Roseann and Sheila reported on the mini Master Gardener event at Bashaw Nursery March 24, 9-Noon. The session will start with "Work It Backwards, Cheese back to plants", then break into four groups (age/grade), go thru four station rotations on Soils, Seeds & Germination, Creative Containers and Transplanting, and Plant Parts, Grocery Store Botany, vermicomposting, then activity and certificate distribution, followed up by lunch with Grandma Charlotte. Sue reminded us to get photo releases. Janet asked us to cross-advertise to our website, resources & events. Vicki mentioned that Ruby's Pantry in Siren wants to do a Little Sprouts (mini Master Gardener) session. They have Master Gardeners in Burnett County, but could use some lead volunteers using their manual. Vicki is interested in connecting with home schoolers to invite them to participate in horticultural and social activities around the designated AAS garden bed.

Signage: No report

Seed Starting, Saving, and Plant Maintenance: Sheila reminded us the April 10th training class will be seed starting tomatoes.

Teaching and Display Garden/AAS/TGT/Meet Me in the Garden: Regarding the AAS Garden, Roseann and Linda Zillmer are helping with the big picture. As in the past, some Volunteers may

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take on a bed and maintain it thru the season. Vicki is contacting other organizations such as the Girl Scouts at the Middle School - In April they will be seed starting; in May they will go thru information and plant bed layout; will design towards earning a badge and have a social. At the Mom's Club, the Board is in favor of adopting a bed, will be up for discussion by the group in April. Hunt Hill will consider having a garden bed. Vicki is intending to contact Lakeland Family Center and 4-H. Roseann offered to contact the Spooner Food Shelf. Vicki will write up an agreement about what we expect from the groups. Janet suggested "adopt a garden" as she has been involved with at other organizations. Vicki stated there is a grant proposal to work on pairing nutrition and gardening. She will check with Kevin and get back with the details at a future meeting. Sue brought up having a porta-potti in the garden, with all this new activity and our own ongoing activities. Consensus that this would be a wonderful thing to have in our garden. This porta-potti has been discussed in the past and will be on next month's agenda for the group's approval. (After the meeting, received this information from Vicki: Lynn's Honeywagon charges \$130 per 4-week cycle, cleaning weekly, portable potti, call a couple of weeks ahead for delivery: [715-469-3322](tel:7154693322). For example, If from June 4 - to Sept 22, 4 cycles = \$520.)

Publicity and Marketing: Thanks to Sue for the plant sale notice on our website and the 2018 handbook. There was a good discussion on Facebook and our Website. Sue stated we have 125-175 visitors per week on the website. Decision was to keep our resources on the website vs. Facebook. We could consider a blog where people can subscribe to our RSS feed to get alerts when something new is added. Sue, Carla, and Pam have blogs – could use these to "Get Social". Sue will research RSS feed and update us at a future meeting if Master Gardeners are ok with this.

Communication to Public and Members/handbook/newsletter/website. Request from Julie Hustvet to submit articles by April 13th for the May newsletter. These should be sent to Julie at hustvet@centurylink.net or mastergardenervol@centurylink.net. Discussion on sending the pollinator article "as is". Vicki wants an article on the garden i.e. calendar of events from our handbook. Sue will mail out the 2018 handbooks to all certified MG's next week.

Old Business:

MG's need to sign up for volunteer activities. Sign up list went out in February with few responses. Sue will send out reminders prior to the Meet Me in the Gardens. The Board will be discussing this at the April meeting.

New Business:

Educational Opportunities: Reminder for all to check out Mike Maddox's CEU offerings in the March 2018 Volunteer Vibe. These trainings are their new Level 2 Plants Plus Series. Can get 2 hours of continuing education credit for watching and reading the package of information, just complete the short quiz! Topics are Tree Roots, Apples, Cole Crops, Shade....and Light! Worms, Post-Harvest Handling, and Legumes. Sue reminded us that on April 27th Spooner has a Home & Garden Show. Roseann stated that on April 7th Barron County Master Gardener Volunteers have their Spring Expo at the WITC Conference Center. June 14-15 is the Midwest MGV Conference at MN Arboretum.

WIMGA Rep: Janet was appointed new at-large director. Roseann is assuming Sue's position as our local rep. Both Janet and Roseann will attend the April 28th Spring WIMGA face to face meeting. Janet stated WIMGA is working on a strategic initiative such as the newsletter future consideration on going to two longer newsletters and put four other shorter ones on line. Janet will participate in the

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Leadership seminars/workshops and be involved with Awards/recognition. WIMGA is revising their website. Discussion on what we get from WIMGA for our dues. Both reps will be asking about this at the April meeting and report back to our group in May.

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.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Janet; second by Carla. Motion carries unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Next Membership Meeting is April 26th, 4 PM at the UW Research Station.

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann Meixelsperger
Secretary