

**NORTH COUNTRY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS
MEETING MINUTES
23 MAY 2018**

Members present included Donna Amidon, Sheila Squires, Janet Mangold, Vicki Gee-Treft, Sue Reinardy, Russ Parker, LTE Nathaniel Slack, LTE Kenzie Tingo, LTE Shelbi Jentz, Dorothee Hembrook, Nancy Reis, Barb Boatman, Tom Johnson, Katie Childs, Deb Studley, Linda Anderson, Kevin Schoessow and Roseann Meixelsperger.

Kevin introduced our new Limited Term Employees (LTE), Nathaniel Slack, Kenzie Tingo and Shelbi Jentz. Both Nathaniel and Shelbi will be involved in Seed to Kitchen. Kenzi will have crop emphasis and be in our display garden. Kevin will have meetings with the LTE's on Tuesday mornings with Master Gardener designee input. Sue R. will add the LTE's to the list serve so they are aware of our communications, events, etc., and will also be able to communicate out to the MG's. Kevin stated that Mitch will also be returning this summer as an LTE.

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

Meeting minutes from April 26th, 2018, 2018 were reviewed. Vicky G-T moved to accept, second by Janet M. Motion carries unanimously.

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

Beginning Balance =	\$ 895.57
Less Reimbursement to Russ P. for pots and soil	(133.08)
Ending Balance =	\$ 762.49

Committee Reports:

Teaching and Display Garden/AAS/TGT/Meet Me in the Garden:

- a) Signage: Need to replace our current display garden banner. Vicki has a quote of \$100 from White Birch Printing. Motion by Barb B. to accept, second by Nancy R. Motion carries.
- b) AAS (All American Selection) layout. Twelve MG's and trainees met today to discuss the layout. The trainees have laid out three of the beds for the Get Social in the Garden AAS theme. The rest are being designed and all will be planted on June 5th. Katie showed us some of the props that she donated for the garden, and others have volunteered to donate the rest of the props.
- c) Shed cleanup – Vicki cleaned up the shed and it is ready for our 2018 season. An inventory was made of what is in there – leaf rake, 5 garden rakes, an ax, a pitch fork, an industrial broom, a hand broom, waste basket, 2 hoes, a rectangular shovel, 3 hand trowels, a 1-gal. watering can, a First Aid Kit, a heavy-duty extension cord, 2 plastic wire crates, and a hand clipper. Plans are to add a shelf to the back of the shed for storage, and Russ has plans for a white board on the south shed exterior to facilitate communication with staff and volunteers on tasks to be done.
- d) Planting dates by others: MOMS will plant on June 5th from 9am to 10am, and the Girl Scouts will plant on June 6th from 4pm to 5 pm in raised beds in the Children's Garden area. Spooner High School Horticulture class will be planting AAS bed 1:20-2:20 p.m. on Tuesday also.
- e) Pergola signage – we will be adding signs to the new pergolas as a welcome/Who We Are/What We Expect

Children and Youth Programs: Roseann reported that the program has been set and a blog and the brochure is on our website front page to view. A press release will go out on Friday, May 25th to all our local newspapers and radio stations. Each program will have an educational presentation, an activity, a nutritious snack, and end with a topic-related story read by a former teacher for the children on story boards while walking around the garden. This Youth Garden area is the former raised bed area of the gardens. A youth garden layout was passed around showing the specific use of each of the raised beds

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by our program, the MOM's Club, and the Girl Scouts. Our program is modeled after the successful Prairie du Chien Kids in the Garden that has been running about 3 years. We have speakers for all the presentations. Parents will be required to sign a waiver of liability and have the option to sign the photo release permission form for their children to participate in the program. Children 10 years of age and under will have to have an adult present with them. Thank you to all the speakers and people who have donated needed supplies. This is our first year, we have not set an enrollment cap on participants, and we are hopeful it will be successful. Sheila advised us we already received a \$50 donation for the program.

Plant Sale: Donna and Sheila thanked all who helped. Plant sale gross income was \$3,050.00. Our new offering of the 6-pack of Pollinators was very successful – thank you Sheila, Carla, & Cindy. The cost including pot, soil, plant, and box was \$0.91/box, or \$5.46 for the 6-pack. We charged \$12/pack, making a profit of \$6.54 or 54.5%. Sue R. noted the #1 blog was of the Power of Yellow written by Carla to advertise the pollinator 6-pack. Kevin commented there has been a strong following, and it's a great community event. Russ stated it has been a tough year with the wintry weather to get all the plants started.

Signage: Russ recommends purchasing step stakes and cards from Parker Davis. Signs will go up at the time of planting. Lorraine will print them on weather proof stock. Proposed spending \$100 for more step stakes. Motion by Katie to purchase an amount up to \$200, second by Sheila. Motion carries unanimously.

Seed Starting, Saving, and Plant Maintenance: Kevin has been donating plants to community gardens. Consensus of approval.

Publicity and Marketing:

- a) Vicki asked Otto Wiegand (retired UW-Extension) if he would take photos of our events, such as the June 5th planting. Otto is happy to do this.
- b) Spooner Advocate – Julie Hustvet will to interview Donna on programming and engagement of community groups in the garden. Will publish article June 14th.
- c) Kevin noted that Sharon Tarras and Terri Strand had a phone interview with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on Food Scaping. The reporter, Ann Schamberg, had been referred to us by AAS as the 2017 winner.
- d) WI Federated Garden Club – Regional Annual Meeting is on June 9th. Kevin will talk about Food Scaping and our garden as the 2017 AAS contest winner at the Pair O Lakes Lodge. We were invited by Nancy Newman of the Spooner Garden Club.
- e) Deb S. stated AAS has a Facebook page – we could snap pictures of our current AAS garden as it's growing and post them there. LTE Kenzie will help with You Tubes, etc.

Communication to Public and Members/handbook/newsletter/website. NCMGVA newsletter was e-mailed out. Vickie asked for in garden blogs – can do a video blog or written. Kevin has a You Tube account we can use for this purpose. Sue R. asked for us to send articles on our blogs. Lorraine puts it on the stations Facebook page. This week our website brought in 244 new visitors. We can use something from our gardens i.e. disease – put in educational information.

MGV Training Update: Russ and Sue stated there is good participation by both Trainees and MGV's. Kevin asked if any MG's want to audit the sessions. June 12th Brian Smith and Linda Degner will be at Bashaw Greenhouse at 6 pm.

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Old Business:

WIMGA 2017. Katie reported on last Fall's WIMGA Oct. 13th & 14th meeting & conference. Provided handouts. Receipts for 2018 are \$17,000. WIMGA has 3,000 members statewide. 53 out of 72 WI counties are represented.

Honey wagon latrine for display garden: Kevin stated that Phil has approved it being placed near the 3 soil bins near the shed. Sheila stated this is not in our 2018 budget. Motion by Sue R to spend \$520 for June thru September with weekly cleaning. Second by Janet. Motion carries. Sue R. donated one month's rental towards the latrine, and others donated after the meeting. Thank you! Nancy R. volunteered to place the order.

New Business:

SARS T&D Garden one-sheet printouts: Vicki stated MGVA paid \$144 for 500 sheets two years ago. They have a current quote from Runey Printing of \$75 for 500 sheets. Sheila stated this is not in our 2018 budget. Motion by Katie to purchase for \$75; second by Barb. Motion carries.

Pergolas: Russ stated that John Stensvold made the two new pergolas and benches (4 slat and 2 Aldo Leopold) as a donation to SARS. Russ would like to give John two \$50 gift certificates for Arrow Building Center and Pine Brook on County A. Vicki moved to approve \$100 for this purpose, second by Sheila. Motion carries.

Geocaching: Russ has an event scheduled September 7th from 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm. Russ will set up plant based geocache signs. The coins identify the station – no new coin's need be purchased this year.

MG Letterhead and Thank You letters: Vicki stated that Katie Childs created a letterhead customized for us. Discussion on recognizing donations. Sheila offered to send out thank you letters. Please submit names and addresses of people/organizations who donate items to Sheila for this purpose. Please place on next month's agenda for discussion on producing NCMGVA stationery.

WIMGA: Janet M. would like this on next month's agenda.

Volunteer Opportunities:

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

Head Start (Spooners) – Planted last Fall. Will get quack grass out in Fall 2018, as there are no summer programs there.

Family Fest – June 2nd from 11am to 3 pm at the Washburn County Fairgrounds. Volunteers to date are Jane Lauterbach, Jill Schroeder, Dorothee Hembrook and trainee Cheryl Pippin.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Roseann; second by Katie. Motion carries unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 PM.

Next Membership Meeting is June 28th, 4 PM at the UW Research Station.

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