

## **NCMGVA Monthly Meeting for February 27, 2020**

**Attendance:** Amanda Kupsch, Vicki Gee-Treft, Russ Parker, Sandy Niewinski, Janet Mangold, Jill Washkuhn, Sue Reinardy, Terri Johnson, Jill Fries, Nancy Reis, Laird Niewinski and Kevin Schoessow.

The meeting was called to order by Amanda Kupsch at 5:30 p.m.

**Secretary's Report:** Lynn Ford was on vacation and it was noted that the January meeting minutes were available online.

Janet Mangold moved to accept the minutes.

Jill Washkuhn seconded the motion.

January meeting minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report** – Vicki Gee-Treft announced that it is with great sadness that Pat Johnson, our Treasurer, had a cardiac arrest on Sunday and passed away. Vicki passed out details on Pat's funeral. Vicki was able to get the Treasurer's records from Pat's husband. Since there is an open position on the Board, Vicki recommended that we take nomination for Treasurer at the March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting and vote at that time. We need to add Amanda to the NCMGVA bank account since Pat is gone and Roseann is out of town until April.

Janet Mangold made a motion to add Amanda Kupsch to the Bank of the West account.

Jill Fries seconded the motion.

It was approved to add Amanda to our bank account.

**Training Update** – Amanda and Vicki will meet tonight to finalize the calendar events for 2020 and will get them to Sue Reinardy for both the 2020 NCMGVA Handbook and our online calendar.

Amanda reported that she is able to secure Mike Maddox Horticulture Therapy training on October 9, 2020. We need approval to reimburse Mike \$250 for expenses and travel.

Jill Fries moved to approve the \$250 for Mike's expenses and travel.

Nancy Reis seconded the motion.

Mike's expense reimbursement was approved.

**Volunteer Updates** – Sandy Niewinski reported that we are working on three upcoming events. The Mini Master Gardener event will be held at Bashaw Greenhouse on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 to noon. Sandy and Laird Niewinski will chair this event, with Nikki Halverson, Jill Fries, Lynn Ford, Jill Washkuhn and Jane Lauterbach volunteering. Sandy is looking for 1-2 more volunteers for this event. The April 22<sup>nd</sup> Earth Day at Hunt Hill event has been staffed with volunteers. Donna Amidon and Roseann Meixelsperger will do a composting demo and Carla TePaske and Sheila Squires will do an herb gardening demo. That same night, April 22 from 6:00-7:30, we have been asked to do a composting demo. Jill Fries volunteered to help Vicki. Terrie Strand and Carol Taylor have also been asked to help. We are also looking for volunteers for the Hunt Hill Prairie Fling on May 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 to 2:00. Jill Fries will work a morning shift. We are looking for 5 additional volunteers for ½ shifts.

**Plant Sale** – Russ Parker gave us an update. He has purchased seeds and supplies for the plant sale on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Native plants are in cold storage. Planting will begin the first week of March. There is a Plant Sale Committee meeting on Saturday, February 29<sup>th</sup> at noon at The Dock Coffee Shop in Spooner.

**Seed Starting and Greenhouse Update** – Russ has cleaned the greenhouse and thrown out old supplies. We are ready to begin planting in March with peppers first, followed by tomatoes and herbs.

**NCMGV Handbook Update** – Sue Reinardy reported that the handbook is ready to go except for the calendar of events. Amanda and Vicki will send the 2020 events to Sue this week. Sue print and deliver the handbooks to the Spooner Ag Station. A message will be sent to all members and the handbooks can be picked up at the Ag Station.

**Website, blogs** – Sue Reinardy is maintaining/updating the website. She requested that all members send her information on their events for her to publish. Sue will add a blog honoring Pat Johnson, like what we did for Katie Childs.

**By-law Amendment dated January 24, 2020** – Sue talked about the changes in the by-laws highlighting that our official name will be North Country Master Gardeners because that is what is listed with the IRS. In the by-laws, the word “Volunteer” will be added everywhere that Master Gardener is mentioned.

Sue Reinardy motioned to accept the NCMGV by-law changes.

Janet Mangold seconded the motion.

The NCMGV by-law changes were accepted.

**Teaching and Display Garden Proposal** – Jill Fries and Terri Johnson are working with Russ Parker on signage and ways to help volunteers know what tasks need to be completed in the gardens. Jill discussed volunteers helping with weeding, watering, etc. and Jill and Terri came up with task sheets for each garden area that would list what needed to be done to maintain each garden. She will have the task sheets laminated and post them at the gardens with instructions and dry erase markers to date and initial when the work has been completed. Jill will be at the garden on Wednesday nights and Terri on Saturdays to work in the garden and help volunteers. Tuesday mornings have been popular in the past.

**WIMGA Update** – Janet Mangold reported that WIMGA has been working on the wording for “retired” volunteers. The new status will be called “Honorary” and will apply to volunteers who have had 10 years of service or 1,000 hours of volunteer hours. The next WIMGA meeting will be held on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. There is also an all-day meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup> in Hancock, WI. Janet, Roseann and Donna will attend. If there is anything a member would like brought up at the meetings, please let Janet know.

**Placemaking Lite Course** – Vicki Gee-Treft reported that 19 MGV’s have signed up for this class. It’s an online course but Vicki has organized Tuesday evening beginning on March 10 for the group to discuss/work on each segment together. Participants should watch the course introduction online before getting together. This course is not designed to be taken by a group, but Vicki is modifying it so that we can do it together and have group discussions.

**Consideration of Art Students using the Teaching and Display grounds** – Vicki shared that the Shell Lakes Art Center has a group of artists that meet on a regular basis. Vicki asked if they could set up easels this summer and have art students painting in the garden. The group felt like it was a great idea. Janet Mangold suggested that we review the program after this summer to see if it’s something we would like to continue. It was suggested having a tent at the Twilight Garden Tour where the artists could display their work.

**Kevin gave us an update.** We are close to securing speakers for the Twilight Garden Tour (the date is Wednesday, August 26, 2020.) So far, we have Julie Dawson, speaking on Seed to Kitchen, Jason Fishback speaking on Hazelnuts, a student of Irwin Goldman, a beet breeder and one more speaker. Possible topics are goats used to eliminate buckthorn or pollinators. There will be two speakers in the garden area and Jason and Julie will speak at the hazelnut orchard and at the Seed to Kitchen field. If anyone has suggestions or ideas for speakers, please let Kevin know.

Kevin also reported that the high tunnel collapsed in December. It will be replaced with caterpillar tunnels that are moveable and we will get another high tunnel for the Seed to Kitchen project.

Amanda reminded everyone to take a 20 sticker for this year’s membership.

**The meeting was adjourned at 6:30.**

***The next meeting will be held on March 26 2020 at 5:30 at SARS.***