

**NORTH COUNTRY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS ASSOC.
MINUTES OF 26 MAY 2022**

The meeting was held at the Spooner Ag. Station and via Zoom.

Present on Zoom were: Sue Reinardy, Susan Barbieri, Kimberly Kayler, Jess Crane, and Janet Mangold.

Present at the Ag. Station were: Donna Amidon, Deb, Studley, Jill Fries, Nancy Reis, Vicki Gee-Treft, Jill Washkuhn, Linda Anderson, Terri Johnson, Kevin Schoessow, Roseann Meixelsperger and Linda Zillmer.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Jill Fries at 5:30 PM.

Jill welcomes suggestions on how the group moves forward. She suggested polling other MG groups in Wisconsin to get their feedback.

Meeting Minutes: The minutes of April 28, 2022, were accepted as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Jill Washkuhn reported a bank balance of \$2,917.04. Many check payments have not yet cleared the bank.

WIMGA Update: Janet Mangold reported that the recent educational offering by Lee Reich sponsored by WIMGA had Zoom technical difficulties and only allowed 100 people to access the offering. Improvements are being made to allow more people to register for programs. The communications committee is making website, newsletter and social media improvements. On June 2nd there will be a Zoom meeting for all state WIMGA directors and representatives.

Plant Sale Update: Many tomato plants were outside of the greenhouse when a hail storm went through and were damaged. People with orders were contacted and offered refunds. Only two took refunds, others donated the proceeds to the NCMGVA. Most accepted the plants "as is". The plant orders were boxed up on Friday, May 20th and distributed in the parking lot north of the Canoe Museum in Spooner on Saturday, May 21st.

Pollinator Week – June 20-26: Kevin suggested we provide a program for the public as we have the MAPS garden at our disposal for teaching purposes. Jill F. suggested having our monthly meeting June 23rd in the garden area. We could issue a press release and provide handouts to visitors publicizing the importance of pollinators in the environment. Linda Zillmer volunteered to handle the press release. There was discussion of having a kiosk built using plant sale funds, similar to one in Shell Lake, to assist in directing visitors. Linda Anderson will get more information on costs and a timeline for getting a kiosk built. Sue Reinardy suggested implementing QR code signage in the garden whereby visitors could scan the code and get plant/pollinator information on their phones for individual plants.

Teaching and Display Garden:

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!!!

- Garden clean up from 8:00 a.m. - noon, **Saturday, June 4th** – Maintenance, edging, weeding, signage.
- Planting the pinwheel beds scheduled for **June 1st and 2nd from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**
- Children's Garden – Roseann will use the damaged tomatoes for teaching moments as the season progresses. A railroad theme will be used this year.

- Twilight Garden Tour –
 - Scheduled for Tuesday, August 23rd – late afternoon to dusk.
 - Speakers may include UW-Madison plant pathologist Brian Hudelson; a representative from the Seed to Kitchen program; Renae Essenmacher, DNR forester, speaking on buckthorn and oak wilt and possibly Tavis Lynch speaking on mushrooms.
 - Possible vendors
 - More discussion needed on possibility of taste testing in light of Covid and health safety reasons.
 - **All MG's are expected to volunteer for some aspect of the TGT.**

Websites, Blogs, Facebook:

- Sue Reinardy has scheduled weekly blogs through June 26th – contact her for more information.
- Kimberly Kayler is managing the Facebook page and encourages us to ask friends and family to like the page for more outreach.

Horticultural Inquiries: None

ORS Reporting to UW-Extension: We are required to submit a minimum of 24 hours of volunteer service and 10 hours of education to keep MG certified status. We report volunteer hours to a specific organization. The database is already populated with organization names to choose from and new organizations can be entered as needed.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Kevin passed along a request to Jessie Crane from the Farm to School Coordinators of the Shell Lake Schools requesting a gardening presentation for summer school. It was suggested that she ask if the kids could come to the garden for instruction.
- Washburn County Family Fair – June 4th. Roseann and Jess will represent NCMGVA and provide a seed planting experience.
- Jill F. will be providing a basic gardening presentation at the Spooner Library on June 8th from 6-7 PM. Russ will provide a seed-saver presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

After the general meeting, several people involved in the plant sale stayed to discuss plans for future plant sales. It was agreed to discontinue the spring plant sale for the future. The general consensus was to hold a perennial sale in conjunction with the TGT using plants divided from the perennial and MAPS gardens and from gardens of members.

Roseann was informed that the Spooner Garden Club would be dissolving as there are so few people involved. The garden club planted and maintains a perennial bed at the State VA Cemetery south of Spooner. The group is interested in allowing the NCMGVA to divide plants from that bed for our use. The Shell Lake Lions Club would help with the maintenance.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb M. Studley

Deb Studley
Secretary