

**NORTH COUNTRY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS  
MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 24, 2016**

Present: Russ Parker, Carol Taylor, Terrie Strand, Barb Boatman, Chris Weyh, Nancy Reis, Deb Studley (via Google), Sue Reinardy, Terri Johnson, Darlene Steinhart, Kevin Schoessow

The meeting was called to order by President, Russ Parker at 4:00 PM at the Ag. Research Station.

Minutes of the February 25, 2016, meeting were approved as written.

Barb Boatman reported a checking account balance of \$3,069.72. The \$400 WIMGA grant check was recently deposited.

**Plant Sale:**

Tomato seed starting will be Friday, April 1st from 2:00 - 3:00 PM at the greenhouse.

**Education and Schools:**

Nancy & Chris reported that they are ready to go with their program on April 2 for the Mini-MG Program. It was agreed to purchase a book (***Roots, Shoots, Buckets, and Boots*** by Sharon Lovejoy) for each family participating 20 books @ \$11.75 = \$235 total.

**Teaching and Display Garden:**

A proposed planting schema was presented for this year's AAS Design Garden planting. See Russ Parker for details.

**AAS Design Contest:**

Russ has sent the AAS seeds to Madison for starting. Tony is currently in Mexico.

**Twilight Tour:**

Discussed potential venue change with the speaker presentations being at the station building at 3 or 4 pm and then moving to the garden for informal walking tours. This will be discussed with the Twilight Tour committee and interns. The venue change to the station would be used also in case of a rain-out like last year.

**Old Business:**

- New Ventures Gardening Seminar – reported from Julie Hustvet - there were 185 paid attendees, several MGV and the Spooner Garden Club volunteered at the program.
- The Garden Events Brochure has been developed by Sue Reinardy and was distributed at the New Ventures Gardening Seminar. The document is available under events from our website.  
<http://www.northcountrymgv.org/events.html>
- Partnerships – open discussion. This subject was re-addressed because additional information was provided by Kevin Schoessow explaining the policies and procedures that need to be followed when soliciting donations (money and in-kind) as a government/university associated entity in Wisconsin. Additional steps would need to be taken to ensure that these policies/procedures are followed. Given that there is no identified need for these donations, NCMGV's primary focus is education, and the time/effort needed to research these procedures would be burdensome, it was agreed to suspend pursuing partnerships at this time. We will continue to seek out ways to promote our efforts as an organization to local community groups and businesses and look for ways to partner that are within University policies.

- NCMGV Membership Handbook is completed and was sent to 2015 certified MGVs. It is also posted on the website at: <http://www.northcountrymgv.org/member-handbook.html> Sue Reinardy will send a note to the mailing list to direct them to that site and also offer a copy of the handbook to those that request it.
- NCMGV website is up-to-date at <http://www.northcountrymgv.org> Any changes or additions should be directed to Sue Reinardy at [sreinardy@centurytel.net](mailto:sreinardy@centurytel.net)
- Garden Intern Status – Kevin Schoessow reported that the UW-EXT intern has been hired; she is Hannah Meister from UW-Platteville. This intern's focus will be on the variety trials, job shadowing, assisting with garden programs (including Meet Me in the Garden and Twilight Tour). In addition Kevin is interviewing for a second intern whose main responsibilities will be the maintaining the garden. There are currently two candidates (both from UW-River Falls). Kevin will be making a hiring decision soon. It is anticipated both interns will begin late May.

### **New Business:**

- News Letter – Articles are needed – deadline is April 20. E-mail to Julie Hustvet at [mastergardenervol@centurylink.net](mailto:mastergardenervol@centurylink.net)
- WI Master Gardener Association – Sue Reinardy discussed the response she provided on behalf of NCMGV to the WIMGA survey sent to each county association. The questions/responses:
  1. Primary Service provided: Supporting the Spooner Research Station demonstration garden, displays and answering questions at events, supporting, managing and volunteering at school and community gardens
  2. What concerns that we have regarding UW-Extension changes: How the changes will affect the Spooner Ag Station, availability of Ag Agent because of expanded region, and the continued education of MGV and future MGVs.
  3. How County Boards are reacting to UW-Extension changes: Some of the Boards are considering reducing or eliminating funding to reflect the UW's reduced funding
  4. How are the UW-Extension changes positive? It is an opportunity to refocus for best value.
- Hayward Garden Club is volunteering to create and care for a planting for the Hayward Community Food Shelf and is requesting a donation of any plants left over from the plant sale or divided from the garden. It was agreed that any available could be donated.

### **Educational Opportunities**

- Create a Butterfly Garden, March 31, Bill Leibler, Rollingwood Nursery Stone Lake, WITC 1:00 to 4:00 PM, Hayward and Rice Lake (pre-registration was required)
- Barron County Master Gardeners' Spring Expo, April 2 at WITC Conference Center in Rice Lake
- April 14 Apple Pruning Workshop at Jeff and Sue Burch, 3-5pm. (Sponsored by Burch's & UW-Extension)
- April 14 Apple Grafting Workshop at Spooner Ag Station, 6:30-8:30pm (Sponsored by UW-Extension)
- April 23 Grape Pruning Workshop at Spooner Ag Station, 1-3:30pm (Sponsored by UW-Extension)
- Meet Me in the Garden Series: June 14 @ 6pm, July 12 @ 6pm, September 10 @ 10 AM
- Twilight Garden Tour-August 16, 4:00 to Twilight

## Volunteer Opportunities

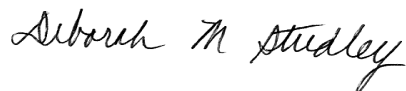
- Beautiful Savior Church, garden presentation April or May (email received 3/17)
- Webster Library Week Garden Presentation, April 13 or April 15 (email received 3/14)
- Grantsburg School Garden Volunteer Opportunity (email received 3/14)
- Presentation on composting and vermicomposting; a request from the Spooner Garden Club (presentation request for 2017, Jan. (?))
- April 1 - Starting tomato plants for the annual plant sale
- Repotting tomatoes and peppers (TBD) for plant sale
- April 2, Mini Master Gardener Short Course at Bashaw Valley Greenhouse 9am – noon. (sponsored by NCMGV and Bashaw Valley Greenhouse) (Chris Weyh, Nancy Reis)
- Dig up and pot heeled-in perennials for the plant sale (TBD)
- May 14, Prairie Fling at Hunt hill (Audubon camp, Sarona), Extension MG station. (Vickie Gee-Treft and others?)
- May 20th - Plant sale set up (time TBD)
  - Moving plants from greenhouse to the station
  - Staking plants
  - Signage
  - Make final assignments for cashiers, placement of tables, etc.
- May 21st - Plant sale 7:00 a.m.
- Ruby's Pantry Garden, Siren; community gardens - contact Patti Hurd at [pattih2@aol.com](mailto:pattih2@aol.com)
- June 4, Washburn County Family Fest, (Vickie Gee-Treft and others?)

The next meeting will be Thursday, April 28.

Sue Reinardy will speak at 4:00 PM about how to make presentations to groups.

The business meeting will follow at approximately 4:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Deb Studley (with notes taken by Sue Reinardy)