

**NORTH COUNTRY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS
MEETING MINUTES
25 FEB 2016**

Members present: Russ Parker Carol Taylor Terri Johnson
Sue Reinardy Tony Webber Chris Weyh
Terrie Strand Kevin Schoessow Nancy Reis
Janet Mangold Deb Studley (via Google hangouts)

Prior to the regular meeting, a Partnership Committee meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. at the Spooner Ag. Research Station.

Janet Mangold presented a draft letter to be sent to three nurseries who provide pollinator plants - Dragonfly, Winter Greenhouse and Rollingwood in Stone Lake. The letter is asking these businesses to help us financially and/or with planting materials for the renovation at the demonstration garden with pollinator-friendly plants. We would also provide public recognition to those participating nurseries. Suggested changes to revise and simplify the letter were made. Janet will update the letter and get it sent out.

Sue Reinardy will update our website <http://www.northcountrymgv.org> with pollinator education websites.

The regular meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by President, Russ Parker.

Minutes of the January 25, 2016, were approved as written.

Russ reported the checking account balance, per Barb Boatman, of \$2,669.72.

Committee Reports:

Plant Sale:

- The plant sale committee consists of Tony, Carol and Russ.
- Expect to offer 700-720 tomatoes, 300 peppers (7-8 different varieties) & 442 perennials (heeled in at the demonstration garden)
- Seeds have been purchased
- Planting pots were cleaned and sanitized last fall during a work day
- Will have to buy pots for tomatoes
- Have enough gallon pots for perennials
- Russ calculated our cost of seed, soil, fertilizer and pots for peppers at 38¢ each and tomatoes at 72¢ each
- Need to decide if we will start tomatoes for veterans again
- Russ will provide Deb with a list of all plant varieties so she can develop lists and photos for the website

Education and Schools:

- Nancy Reis reported that lettuce will be ready to harvest next week in schools
- Nancy and Chris attended the Ready, Set, Grow Winter Garden Seminar in Eau Claire
- Horticulture inquiry training will be offered June 2nd in Cameron at the Barron County Historical Society building.

Teaching and Display Garden:

- Tony needs volunteers for a committee to decide how to plant the AAS design contest beds. Since the theme is pollinator education, he suggested that some beds could be planted in designs which when viewed overhead would include shapes of butterflies and bees.

Publications:

- Sue Reinardy has updated the membership handbook which is currently at the printer.
- Last year's cost was about \$2.80 per book
- All NCMGV members who were certified in 2015 will receive a paper copy of the handbook in the mail in early March. Most of the materials in the handbook will be added to the website. Those volunteers who were not certified in 2015 can request a paper copy of the handbook by contacting Sue Reinardy at sreinardy@centurytel.net.
- Sue will be developing a garden events brochure

Ag. Station Update:

- Interviews with three prospective applicants will be held February 29th. Two candidates are from UW-River Falls and one from UW-Platteville
- This individual would be shadowing Kevin and helping with farm tech days, and working with plant trials through Erin Silva of UW-Madison.
- Kevin also wants a second intern to work exclusively at the demonstration garden.
- Kevin would like to offer the shepherd house to the interns for housing free of charge.
- We would like to get the interns involved with our programs as presenters.
- Barron and Rusk counties may be added to Kevin's responsibilities.

Educational Opportunities:

- March 19th - New Venture Garden Seminar, 9:00 AM- 3:00 PM at Northwoods School, Minong
- March 31st - Create a Butterfly Garden, Bill Leibler, Rollingwood Nursery Stone Lake - offered through WITC 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM at the Hayward and Rice Lake locations. Must pre-register with WITC.
- April 2nd - Barron County Master Gardeners' Spring Expo - Sue Reinardy and Carol Alcoe will attend
- April 14th - Apple Pruning Workshop, at home of Jeff & Sue Burch, Spooner, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (Sponsored by Burch's and UW-Extension)
- April 14th - Apple grafting workshop, at Spooner Ag. Station 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM (Sponsored by UW-Extension)
- April 27th - Sue Reinardy will be giving a presentation on Low-Maintenance Strategies for Gardening at the Hayward Library from 1:00-3:00 PM - the presentation is free and open to the public.
- April 23rd - Grape Pruning Workshop at Spooner Ag. Station, 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM (Sponsored by UW-Extension)

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Ruby's Pantry Garden, Siren. Contact Patti Hurd at pattih2@aol.com for further details.
- March 3rd - Family Science Night, at the Spooner Middle School. Need assistance with station setup and manning the display from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
- March 19th - New Ventures Garden Seminar, Northwoods School - Minong. Need volunteers for setup, registration, kitchen duties, cleanup and tear down.
- March 19th - Wilderness Fellowship Garden Seminar - Contact Kris Henning or Sue Armstrong.
- April 2nd - Mini-Master Gardener Short Course at Bashaw Valley Greenhouse - 9:00 AM - Noon. (Sponsored by NCMGV and Bashaw Valley)
- May 14th - Spring Fling at Hunt Hill, located at the Audubon camp at Sarona. Contact Vicki Gee-Treft.
- June 4th - Washburn County Family Fest, Fairgrounds. Contact Vicki Gee-Treft for details.
- January, 2017 - Spooner Garden Club - request for presentation on composting and vermicomposting

Russ requested authority to expend funds for the plant sale. Request approved.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 24th, at **4:00 PM** at the Spooner Ag. Station. Google hangouts will again be available for anyone wishing to join in the meeting electronically. Lorraine will provide the log-in information.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Studley
Secretary

Deborah M Studley