

**Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, October 13, 2016  
UW-Extension Office  
6:30PM**

**1. Call to order** – Amy Boettcher, President

Board members present: Ellen Terwilliger, Mary Jane Griffin, Dick Lienhardt, Ede Strand, Nina Logan, Deb Spickler, Lori Kempen, Amy Boettcher, Carla Pelzl

**2. WIMGA Representative report** – Ellen Terwilliger

- Ellen reviewed a draft of the Master Gardener 2016 Report for Eau Claire County. Wisconsin MGA organizations can submit up to four of their group's programs/activities in their report to the state. The board decided to include the following:

Teaching and Demonstration Garden – This garden consists of various container and raised bed gardens located at the UW-Extension office in Altoona. It provides a convenient location for teaching and demonstrating best horticultural practices. Education programs conducted at the site included a Teens Garden Program and individual tours with people seeking horticulture related information. In addition, countless community members stopped by outside of business hours to take a closer look at ideas they could use in their home gardens.

Master Gardener Plant Sale – In 2016 our organization's annual plant sale was held in cooperation with the Northern Wisconsin Hosta Society in June at the Farmers' Market pavilion. The new location downtown and the larger selection of plants brought in many more customers and increased our sales. Master Gardener Volunteers were on hand to answer questions and provide quick education to customers. The funds raised help to provide scholarships and support MGV projects in the community.

ECAMG Monthly Education Programs – Our monthly meetings include a horticulture-related presentation. They provide our volunteers with continuing education opportunities and are also open to the public.

Ready, Set, Grow Garden seminar – This is held in Eau Claire in early winter and is well attended by local master gardener volunteers, MGV's from a distance, and the community. Attendees benefit from presentations on a variety of horticulture-related topics. They also become more aware of UW-Extension, the Master Gardener Association, and what services are offered. With 20-plus vendors present, there is also a positive economic impact to gardening-related businesses in our area.

- Joint meeting with Minnesota MG program/Arboretum representatives: The 2018 WIMGA Conference will be held in Eau Claire September 21-22. The counties hosting the event will likely be Pierce/St. Croix, Dunn, Chippewa, Barron, and Eau Claire. MGV's who are organizing the event will meet with Minnesota MGV's and the Arboretum staff to discuss our state conferences. There may be a possibility of co-ordinating efforts with Minnesota, exchanging ideas on topics and speakers in hopes of increasing attendance at both state conferences.

**3. Treasurer's Report** – Ede Strand

- Due to computer problems, the report could not be completed in time for the meeting. Ede will email it to board members as an Excel spreadsheet. She said we have a \$12,000+ balance.

**4. Education Committee Report:** Lori Kempen and Nina Logan

- Upcoming programs:

October 25th – Christina Buening, “Creating a Bee Habitat”

November 15th – Larry Bennett, “Winter Bird Feeding”

December 6th – Potluck and election of officers

(Education Committee Report, cont.)

- The committee is asking for topics for monthly meetings for 2017. Several suggestions were:  
Growing succulents  
A how-to garden program for beginners, to be held March – May  
A gardening session for kids and their parents
- Ready, Set, Grow Seminar, January 28, 2017

The planning committee had its organizational meeting. Subcommittees/chairpersons to take on various responsibilities have been determined. Additional committee volunteers are welcome. The following topics/presenters are being considered:

- a - Keynote speaker – Tim Johnson, Seed Savers Exchange – Growing Heirlooms
  - b - A representative from Winter Greenhouse (small ponds, plant care, garden maintenance, etc.)
  - c - Crystal Schmidt – garden writer and speaker, rare plants
  - d - Dan Zeri – water conservation, keeping our water clean and safe
  - e - Bill Hogseth
  - g - Megan Cain
  - h - JoAnn Clark – Roses
  - i - Joe Carstens – straw bale gardening
  - j - Steve Betchkal – birds
  - k - David Drake/ Jamie Knack
  - l - Don Pope
- Ellen Terwilliger suggested including information on jumping worms.

The next planning meeting is October 25th at 3PM at the Extension Office.

## **5. Old Business – none**

## **6. New Business**

- We will need to replace 2 outgoing board members. Ellen T. would be willing to serve.
- It was suggested that our monthly meetings should begin with a brief, 5-minute report on MGA business, activities, and upcoming events. Mary Jane offered to be the Greeter to welcome community members and volunteers at our meetings.
- Plant Sale 2017 – Ede Strand  
Ede has reserved the Phoenix Park pavilion for Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. She will let us know the fee structure for the event. The 2016 fee was \$140 and it could go up to \$220 for next year.
- Motion to adjourn – Ellen Terwilliger; second – Lori Kempen. The meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.  
The next meeting will be Thursday, November 10, 2016

Respectfully submitted,  
Carla Pelzl, Secretary

