

Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 14, 2016
UW-Extension Office
6:30 P.M.

1. Call to order – The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Dick Lienhardt.

In attendance: Dick Lienhardt, Nina Logan, Carla Pelzl, Lori Kempen, Deb Spickler, Ede Strand, Ellen Terwilliger, Amy Boettcher, and Plant Sale Chair Susan Merten

2. WIMGA March Board meeting report – Ellen Terwilliger
 - a. WIMGA is soliciting the Western District Master Gardener associations for articles for the May issue: one about a project, another about a display or craft item to make or use, and another about a place to visit in that district. The intention is to have three articles from each district in each of the six issues. Nina offered to write an article about Beaver Creek Reserve and the May native plant sale.
 - b. Ellen will attend the spring face-to-face statewide WIMGA Board Meeting at Hancock Research Station on Saturday, April 23rd. On the agenda is a review and discussion of the draft of WIMGA's Strategic Plan, to give opportunity for input from local reps.
 - c. The 2016 Upper Midwest Regional Conference will be held in Wisconsin Dells September 14th-17th. Registration details are being finalized and there will be an announcement when registration opens.
 - d. The Eau Claire Area MGA has inquired about hosting the 2017 or 2018 Annual Conference, but has not yet made a final decision. The Conferences Committee will remain in communication about this. Ellen feels we need more information from the state board before we can reach a decision: What are the responsibilities of the hosting organization? Would neighboring MGA organizations (Chippewa and Dunn County) be interested in co-hosting? Could we handle such a large event?

3. Secretary's Report- Carla Pelzl

The minutes of the March 10th board meeting were reviewed and approved as written. (Move to approve – Ellen T., seconded by Lori K., passed)

- 4.. Treasurer's Report – Ede Strand

The accounting for the Winter Seminar is completed, and a profit was shown. This outcome was due to an attendance of over two hundred, and the attendance fee having been raised by five dollars. Co-chairs Nina Logan and Lori Kempen were thanked for all the work that went into such a worthwhile and successful event.

Ede was thanked for her report.

5. Horticulture Educator's Update – Erin LaFaive was conducting the new MG Training Class and was not able to attend. The board reviewed her written report. A summary follows:
 - a. North River Front Youth Garden is getting a new fence. The work day for installation is May 26th from 2-7 p.m. The project will receive a City of Eau Claire Neighborhood Matching Grant, for a \$1350 match. Erin's report detailed how she came up with a \$1400 match, through donations of money from organizations and time from volunteers. Kohl's Cares Program will try to find volunteers to help build the fence. If this happens, they will donate \$1500.
 - b. It will soon be time to get the Teaching Garden ready. Volunteers will be needed to prepare the raised beds, plant, and add plant labels.

- c. A pickle ball court will be installed at McDonough Park, which means the youth garden there will have to be relocated in the park. Erin hopes Longfellow Elementary School might be willing to provide a place for the youth garden on its grounds.
- d. The Level 1 Training class is going well.

6. Education Committee Report – Nina Logan and Lori Kempen

Upcoming education programs:

- a. May 17th – Gary Mathis and Andy Heren will present Gardening with Heirlooms. Erin will see if the presentation could be held at the Altoona Library, with their co-sponsorship.
- b. There will be no education meeting in June. We will be touring two Menomonie gardens. Tour dates have not yet been finalized.
- c. July 19th – Chad Zutter will present on using groundcovers to improve soil health.
- d. August 30th – Catherine Emmanuelle will discuss canning and preserving the harvest.
- e. September 20th – Don Albrecht - permaculture with fruit trees and companion planting
- f. October 18th - Kristina Beuning will give a presentation on honey bees.
- g. November 15th – Larry Bennett will discuss Winter Bird Feeding
- h. December – annual Christmas Party Potluck and election of board members

There is interest on the part of some of our members in making a quilt to raffle at our next seminar. It is possible to get a one day raffle license. Labor and quilting will be donated.

The committee is soliciting members' suggestions for program topics and speakers. One idea suggested by Ellen Terwilliger was the need for education about jumping worms, an invasive non-native species that has been found in southern Wisconsin. Landscapers, nurseries, soil providers and gardeners need to be educated. Ellen suggested that Erin could maybe do a press release using a DNR brochure to help bring attention to this new threat.

7. Old business

- a. Demmler Community Garden in the 3rd ward is requesting a donation of \$800 to help install raised garden beds and a fence. After discussion, Nina Logan moved that we donate \$200. In return we ask for credit on the signage, a report describing the work done and how the donation was used, and photos of the project. The motion was seconded by Lori Kempen and passed.
- b. Susan Merten – Plant Sale update - The sale will be heavily promoted through a number of local media outlets, including newspaper, television, radio, and Volume One. Judy Wibel is working on the advertising. Susan asked if we would be interested in sharing promotion costs with the Hosta Society. She will meet with them to discuss what we could do jointly. Posters are being designed, as well as smaller ads to place in businesses for their customers to take with them. Sale reminders will be in the newsletter and emailed to our members.

There was no further business. Lori Kempen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dick Lienhardt.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M. Our next meeting is May 12, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,
Carla Pelzl, Secretary