

**Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 11, 2016
UW Extension Office
6:30pm**

1. Call to order

Members present – Nancy Spak, Nina Logan, Lori Kempen, Mary Jane Griffin, Ellen Terwilliger, Amy Boettcher, Deb Spickler, Dick Lienhardt, Ede Strand, Carla Pelzl, Erin LaFaive

2. WIMGA Report – Ellen Terwilliger – Business conducted by the WIMGA Board included:

- The Newsletter Committee is soliciting articles from several different groups about MGA projects. Deadline for articles is the first of the month before publication.
- There was continued discussion about the proposed Vision Statement. The second choice was favored by the majority: *The Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association (is) (will be) the collective voice for the local Master Gardeners Associations and individual members in active support of their horticultural projects and services; building networks to enhance outreach, share ideas and promote projects; and help extend UW Extension's educational role to the public.*
- Technical issues prevented the working committee on a new WIMGA website from meeting, but they have some options to consider.

3. Plant Sale update – Susan Mertens, Sale Chairperson

The joint Master Gardener Association/Hosta Society Sale is Sunday, June 12, at Phoenix Park.

- There will be two cashier's tables to keep monies for the two organizations separate.
- We will not be potting plants up before the sale; members are to bring their plants potted and labeled. Focus on more choice plants rather than common varieties.
- Publicity needs to begin soon – information and reminders in our newsletter, email reminders for members, possibility of joint ads for the public via various media.
- Seed-starting is encouraged, so we have seedlings as well as mature plants to sell. The Jeffers Road greenhouse could be used as well as gro-lights at Extension Office.
- Ellen sent a list of reminders to Susan Mertens to forward to MGV's regarding how to prep plants for the sale, including a template for plant labels, other items to bring, such as portable tables, wagons, etc.

4. Secretary's Report – The minutes of the January meeting were reviewed and approved, with the following correction to the Program Committee's report: The program topic for April will be “Invasives”, with Kathy Stahl presenting. Andy Heren and Gary Mathis will give a presentation on “Heirlooms” at another time. Nancy Spak moved the minutes be accepted as amended. Nina seconded. The motion carried.

5. Treasurer's Report – The audit will be completed by the March meeting. Disbursements still to be made are payment to CVTC for the seminar, training scholarships for students in the CVTC Horticulture program, and two scholarships for MGV trainees. Ede will not be at the March meeting, but will email a report to board members.

6. Horticulture Educator's Report – Erin LaFaive

- Scholarship request for new MGCV trainee; approved by the board.
- Horticulture Therapy training for MGCV's by Mike Maddox on March 4th from 9AM – 4PM at the Extension Office. This is available to MGCV's from Eau Claire, Chippewa, and Dunn counties. Those interested need to contact Erin.
- The Chippewa County MG seminar is next week, and the Menomonie MG seminar is Saturday, March 5th.
- Mayo Clinic is sponsoring Earth Box Make-and-Take programs. Erin has MG volunteers to help. One session is planned for Saturday, June 11th, with another date to be determined for a second session. Each program can accommodate twenty-five people.
- Mayo Clinic asked for suggestions for an MGCV to replace Judy Robison as their head gardener. The board decided it is not appropriate for us to make such recommendations.
- Due to budgetary constraints, extension offices will be reorganized as regional offices. Chippewa and Eau Claire counties will form one region, under one Extension educator. Erin will not know for some time where she will be assigned. The impact of the recent cuts in state funding for UW-Extension will be felt state-wide. We must do more with less, and MGCV's will need to provide more support to the hort educators as needed.
- Jeanne Vox will donate wooden rain barrels for our Teaching Garden. Land Conservation will donate a plastic barrel.

7. Education/Program Committee report – Nina Logan and Lori Kempen –

Attendance at the Winter Seminar was 204, with 14 vendors represented. We came out well with food costs. There was much positive feedback on the seminar ; comments on the food were less enthusiastic. A more complete report will be given at the March meeting.

Upcoming events:

- March – Erik Kessler – programs and volunteer opportunities at Beaver Creek Reserve
- April – Kathy Stahl – Invasive Species
- May – Andy Heren and Gary Mathis – Growing Heirlooms.
– Beaver Creek Plant Sale Saturday, May 7th
- June – Plant Sale, Menomonie Garden Tours,
- October - Kristina Buening's Sunbow Farms CSA garden.

8. Old Business:

- a. The Treasurer's audit will be completed and reported at the next meeting.
- b. The 2016 budget proposal was reviewed. Highlights:
 - Nina moved we continue to fund two CVTC scholarships. Recipients are chosen by CVTC. Motion passed.
 - Decision to continue granting two MGCV training scholarships. One recipient approved.

9. Motion by Lori to thank Nancy for providing the elegant salad to accompany our pizza meal. Seconded by Dick Lienhardt and passed.

10. Motion to adjourn by Nina, seconded by Ede. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 6:30PM at the Extension Office.

Respectfully submitted, Carla Pelzl, Secretary

