

**Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, January 14, 2016  
UW Extension Office  
6:30pm**

1. Call to order

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

2. WIMGA Report /summary from December 10, 2015 WIMGA Board Meeting - Ellen Terwilliger.  
Highlights included:

- a. A new, improved Annual Accomplishment report form has been designed for county MG association reporting.
- b. 2015 WIMGA Conference final report was presented and is available online
- c. Board members will review the top three Vision Statements chosen by a majority of the Board and will select one of them by group vote before the next meeting.
- d. There has been no progress on developing a new WIMGA website. A small group will come up with specific suggestions for the full Board to consider at the next meeting.
- e. The At-Large Director position is up for election. Candidate bios will be published in the January newsletter for an election. Ballot deadline is March 25<sup>th</sup>.
- f. WIMGA Conference profits are currently split 75% to WIMGA, 25% for the host association. The split will now be 50/50%. The local association may keep all profits from a silent auction or raffle.
- g. Southeast Urban Cluster report (Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties and Racine-Kenosha MGA) provided a written report of over 30 projects, including their Garden of Giving which produced over 6,000 pounds of produce for donation to various community organizations. Their horticulture Educator, Patti Nagai, will retire in January 2016 and it is not known if her position will be replaced.
- h. Next WIMGA meeting is January 14th by WisLine starting at 4:30 p.m.

3. The Eau Claire County MG Volunteer Program list of approved Projects from 2014 was distributed. Additional volunteer projects must be approved by the Horticulture Educator and must include an educational component. The following points were added for clarification:

- a. Volunteer work with a youth or teaching garden can be recorded as Youth Education hours.
- b. Hours spent planning education events (such as the seminar or programs) can be applied under Education activities.

4. The September and November 2015 minutes were reviewed and approved.

5. Treasurer's Report – Ede Strand

- a. Treasurer is waiting for dues totals before sending our \$5.00 /member share to WIMGA
- b. Several bills were turned in for payment
- c. Lori Kempen and Ede will meet after the seminar to audit the treasurer's books

6. Horticulture Educator report – Erin LaFaive

- a. Erin will be presenting on the topic of growing herbs at the Chippewa Co. “Think Spring” seminar on Saturday, February 20, 2016.

Hort Educator report, continued:

- b. A reorganization of county extension offices will take place due to recent cuts in state funding. The NExt Generation model will put Eau Claire, Chippewa, and Dunn counties together in one “region”. We would still have an Eau Claire Co Extension office, but the counties grouped into a region can coordinate and share workloads and responsibilities.
- c. New MG training begins in March at the Extension office. Susan Frame will present one horticulture session at CVTC.
- d. We are waiting for the IRS notice of renewal of our non-profit status

7. Program Committee report– Lori Kempen and Nina Logan

- a. Around 50 have registered for the February 6, 2016 Ready, Set, Grow! Seminar. Online registrations must still be added to that figure.
- b. Other upcoming programs and events:
  - January 19, 2016 program will focus on the history of the Eau Claire Area MGA by Erin LaFaive and Mike Maddox (via distance learning technology).
  - March (third Tuesday) Beaver Creek Reserve will present the program
  - April – Kathy Stahl will discuss Invasive Species
  - May – Andy Heren and Gary Mathis speak on Growing Heirlooms
  - Plant Sale – June 12, 2016, beginning at 10 a.m. We may combine our sale with the Hosta Society sale at the downtown Phoenix Park pavilion. Chairperson is Susan Mertens

New Business:

1. Vacant officer positions filled: two year terms

a. Secretary – Carla Pelzl

To save meeting time, minutes and reports will be sent out a few days before the board meetings so members can print out and review them prior to the meeting.

b. Vice President – Dick Lienhardt

Duties include being the second signer on checks, taking minutes in the absence of the Secretary, and presiding over meetings in the absence of the President.

2. Proposed Budget for 2016 was distributed by Ede. Please review it prior to the next meeting.

3. Agenda items for the next meeting:

a. Susan Mertens will provide an update on the upcoming plant sale

b. 2016 proposed budget review

c. Results of audit of treasurer's books

4. Next board meeting – Thursday, February 11, 2016 at the Extension office. Pizza will be ordered.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. (Motion by Lori; seconded by Nina)

Respectfully submitted,  
Carla Pelzl, Secretary

