

**Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 8, 2016
UW Extension Office
6:30PM**

1. Call to order --- Amy Boettcher, President

In attendance: Nancy Spak, Lori Kempen, Amy Boettcher, Nina Logan, Ellen Terwilliger, Dick Lienhardt, Ede Strand, Carla Pelzl, Erin LaFaive, Deb Spickler

2. WIMGA update --- Ellen Terwilliger

The WIMGA reps from Pierce, St. Croix, Dunn, and Eau Claire counties met with representatives of the Lismore Hotel staff to discuss hosting the 2018 WIMGA Conference at the hotel.

Following are highlights from Ellen's meeting notes:

- While no deposit is required for the conference center, it would be in our best interest to put \$500 down to hold our Sept. 21-22, 2018 dates.
- Ellen submitted a \$400 WIMGA Continuing Education grant application to help toward that \$500. The WIMGA reps discussed having each of our 4 counties put in \$25 for the remainder.
- The Catering/Event Manager, Ryan Day, has been asked to provide some rough estimates on costs. Ellen will disseminate that information once she has it.
- The following Association division of labor was discussed:
 - a. Conference Chair: Ellen Terwilliger, Eau Claire Conference Co-Chair: Nancy Spak
 - b. Program Committee: Pal VanDenMeerendonk, Ken and Barb Kolbe, St. Croix/Pierce
 - c. Publicity: Paul Wagner – website assistance, Eau Claire
 - d. Facilities: Eau Claire
 - e. Finance: Treasurer – Chris Southworth, Eau Claire
 - f. Registration: Eau Claire
 - g. Vendors and Exhibitors: Diane Klemme and Dunn County (to be finalized)
 - h. Fundraising and Prizes: Barron Co – Hali Dessecker – to be finalized All counties would assist with this. Marilyn Gorham has a good silent auction list.
 - i. Tours: Eau Claire
 - j. Final Report: All counties

After some discussion we decided that the following would be the outline for the conference events for September 21-22, 2018:

- a. Thursday 20 rooms would be held for people from a distance wanting to go on the Friday tours.
- b. Friday would be tours in the area, departing from the Lismore, with box lunches provided.
- c. Friday evening would be a meet-and-greet, vendors, buffet supper and keynote speaker.
- d. Saturday would be a buffet breakfast and another speaker to get the conference going, with breakout sessions to follow.
- e. Some state MGVA conference budgets have been requested from Becky Gutzman, to help with planning for the conference.

A conference theme has yet to be decided. One suggestion was “Gardening Sustainably”.

The WIMGA Regional Conference is September 10 – 14, 2016.

3. The minutes from Thursday, August 11, 2016 were approved with the following correction: The Education Committee (Nina L and Lori K) had asked for ideas for speakers for 2017. One suggestion was to invite a representative from Black Dog Urban Garden (originally written as Black Dog Urban Farm).
4. Treasurer Ede Strand's report listed a balance of \$12,662.82.
5. Horticulturist's report – Erin LaFaive
 - a. Gordy's Farmers' Market committee is donating \$200 for repair of the Jeffers Community Garden greenhouse. Steve Terwilliger and Dick Lienhardt will take care of the repair work. There is still a question about where to place the repaired greenhouse – at the Jeffers site, or the Southside Community Garden site at Fairfax Park.
 - b. Carl Martin has been appointed by UW-Extension as the new Dean.
 - c. There is a project involving removal of buckthorn from the area around the Priory. It was suggested to consult with the lower Chippewa Invasives Species organization and with Kathy Stahl.
 - d. The McDonough Youth Garden has been removed from its former site to the North River Fronts garden.
 - e. Erin is speaking at the “Garden Visions” seminar in August 2017. The Midwest Women's Herbal Conference has invited her to give three presentations on different topics at their event in Stevens Point.
 - f. The Sustainable Future Conference is September 17, 2016.
6. Education Committee report – Nina Logan, Lori Kempen

Nina showed us the handmade quilt that will be raffled off at the Winter Garden Seminar. \$122.95 worth of work was donated by the group of quilters. \$78.00 to cover cost of fabric came from our treasury. Raffle tickets will be sold at \$5 for five tickets, or \$2 per ticket. A one-day “Class B” raffle license will cost \$25.

The Garden of Hope at Lakeview Cemetery was cleaned up by a group of MGV's and looks good.

Lori reviewed the presentations planned for Sept – Nov.

- Sept 20 – Don Albrecht, “Permaculture”
- Oct 26 – Christina Beuning (Sunbow Farms), “Creating a Bee Habitat”
- Nov – Larry Bennett, “Winter Bird Feeding”
- Dec – annual potluck and elections

7. New Business

The “Ready Set Grow” winter seminar date had to be changed due to a scheduling conflict. Computers at the conference site are being updated that weekend. The new dates being considered are February 11th (preferred) or January 28th.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM. (Motion was made by Lori K, seconded by Nina L.)

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Pelzl, Secretary