

MASTER GARDENER MINUTES

AUGUST 8, 2017

The meeting was held August 8, 2017, at the lovely home of Janene Hosch in Caledonia. Thank you Janene for hosting! Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. Present were: Janene Hosch, Linda Lind, Sue Meyer, Anna May, Kathy Taylor, Jean Davy, Mary Thompson, Doug Thompson, Lane Zaffke, Terri Kolar, Charmaine Uphaus, Mike Cruse Extension Director, and Loretta Knutson. Several notified us they could not attend. Vickie Otto is working at the Farmers Market in La Crescent, Sarah is on her way back from California, Char is on vacation, Mike and Jennifer are in Alaska. Did not hear from the others. A request was made to have Kelly (the office secretary) send out a new, updated, list of Master Gardeners. Many are using one as old as 2014 and there have been many changes since then.

First off, Janene discussed the booth for the Houston County Fair to be held August 16-20. At previous meetings we decided to feature Children's Gardening. Janene and others had done a booth at Caledonia Fun Day on that subject and it went over well. Anna and Terri will do a display of "micro-gardening" as part of it. Also, several will bring herb flavored water with hyssop, mint, etc. and plants with a "smell" as the theme will be "Smell it, Grow it, Taste it". Also, some can bring plants to dress up the booth. Mary T will bring tablecloths again. Char made two nice poster boards for our Garden Day and they will be used again in the fair booth. Mike has the banner and a lot of brochures in the office and will bring them – How to become a MG, and on many other subjects we have used in the past. Someone will check into purchasing stickers for the kids who try the flavored water. Loretta will apply for a Thrivent grant to help pay for the supplies and for the "Head in a Hole", made by Mike and Jennifer Wiste. A schedule was passed around for the group to decide when they wanted to be in the booth. Those who were not at the meeting please fill in the blanks and let Loretta know when they want to work – there can be more than two in the booth at a time:

Tuesday, August 15, set up the booth – all

Wednesday – no one as it is entry day

Thursday – 2-5 - Doug & Lane

Thursday 5-8 – Sarah & Vickie

Friday 2-5 – Sue & Janene

Friday 5-8 - _____ & _____

Saturday 2-5 – Barb & Linda

Saturday 5-8 - _____ & _____

Sunday 12-4 – Anna & Terri & Mary T

Sunday 4: tear down booth – all.

Each year we give awards for “Best Overall” in the Flower Department with a \$25.00 award to 4-H and in open class. Judging will be done on Thursday am by Kathy, Doug & Sue at a time to be determined by them.

Mary T had mailed out a proposed new form for applying for a grant for school gardens. We are opening it up to any organized group such as Scouts, 4-H, etc. Her form was approved with minor changes. We discussed how to remember to ask for a final report after the year is up.

Janene talked about a program called Power of Producer for extension and farmers markets. Coupons are given out to be used by children for produce. Maybe La Crescent FM can research it with Vickie. Loretta had earlier talked to the group at Mabel and Caledonia and apparently they were not interested as they didn't do anything about it.

Decided to have a September meeting to work on a calendar of events so we know from year to year what needs to be done in a specific month.

Janene mentioned the plant exchange to be held the third Saturday in September again.

Meeting was turned over to Mike to fill out the 5-year MG state strategic plan. The questions mainly pertained to how the state office can be of more help to us. Mostly we feel we are so far away and if we want someone from there as a speaker, etc. the mileage, etc. gets very high.

Mike and Jennifer Wiste were not able to attend to tell the group about the “Head in a Hole” they have made at Loretta's request. It will be placed in Floral Hall and children can put their head through the board and have their picture taken.

It was decided to have a September meeting and Doug & Mary invited us to their place. Again, snacks will be brought and the spouse is also invited as they have a new home, new landscaping, goats, birds, and many interesting things to see. It will be held at 5:30 as usual. Their address is 9593 Mound Prairie Drive, Houston.

Note: no one is assigned to do a newspaper article in September – who would like to do it?? Let Loretta know.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm. 1 ½ hours volunteer time plus drive time.

Notes by Loretta Knutson, Leader