

Houston County Master Gardener Meeting

September 12, 2017

Meeting was held at the home of Doug and Mary Thompson. We started at 5:00 pm with a tour of their place. What a beautiful home, gardens were amazing-no weeds, neat tomato and squash trellising system, the plants all looked great no deer or rabbit problems. Compost piles, 31 dairy goats (hand milked twice a day), 6 dogs, 2 cats, chickens. It was a real treat to get to see everything. Thank you to our hosts.

Present were: Doug & Mary Thompson, Linda Lind, Jean Davy, Sarah Goff, Vickie Otto, Terri Kolar, Sue Meyer, Charmaine Uphaus, Barb Hefte, Mike and Jennifer Wiste, Janene Hosch, Anna Mae, Mike Cruse, Extension Educator, Loretta Knutson, Leader. Char Meiners, Mary & Lane Zaffe notified us they could not attend. Kathy Taylor also notified Loretta she could not attend. No word from Brenda Pohlman

Mike began the meeting by letting us know the first part of the annual report was done. Fillmore County is planning a garden tour June 16, 2018. They would like to borrow our signs. They also may need some help from our group covering some of the gardens.

The Houston County Master Gardeners status/contact list was updated as of 9/6/2017 by Kelly Peterson and mailed out to everyone.

Email group list, check to make sure you are using the group that includes everyone.

Discussion of the fair, all said it was successful, many contacts (Mary T will enter contacts for the group with her hours). The head in the hole was a great success (nice job Wistes). Two prizes were awarded for the fair, one recipient, Garrett Waldenberger, made a nice thank you card. Thrivent grant came through too late so not able to utilize. Those with bills should present them to Charmaine for payment.

Janene would like to include \$ in our historical records, Charmaine will make this available for Janene.

This Saturday is the plant exchange in Caledonia meet at the gazebo at 7am.

At a later date, we will discuss a possible garden tour for 2019, alternating years with Fillmore County.

There will not be any future master gardener calendars published by extension.

Newspaper articles:

September-Linda (watering don't forget)

October-Mary T

November-Sue

Brain storming and discussion for gardening 2018 conference and a year timeline of events. A very nice year calendar was provided by Terri that we can list everything on; these items also need to be emailed to Kelly at the office so she can put them on the main calendar. Review of the 7 priorities of the master gardener program, and discussion on what we do should fall into these priorities. Comments and suggestions from evaluations from last year's conference were reviewed.

Garden Day is March 17, 2018 theme "Gardening with your Neighbors". Gardening with the experts had been discussed but was decided against. Mary T had a picture of a nice mural type sign that showed the 7 priorities of the master gardener program, it was decided it would be nice to have something similar we could use it at all our events.

Workshop Schedule:

8:00-8:25 Registration & Refreshments

8:25-8:30 Welcome

8:30-9:30 Keynote: Gardening Curb Appeal by Julie W

9:30-9:45 Break, Networking, & Shopping

9:45-10:45 Breakout Session 1

- Gardening with kids and grandchildren by _____
- Master Gardener Panel "Gardening through the ages" discusses hips, knees, and raised beds, gardening practices you have changed to accommodate physical changes, also discuss gardening for persons with disabilities, rehabilitation centers, and nursing home settings.

10:45-11:00 Break Networking & Shopping

- Understanding fertilizers and soil amendment, natural fertilizing with compost and manure, working with the soil you have by Michael Cruse, Houston County Extension Educator.

12:00-1:00 lunch Elsie's

1:00-2:00 Breakout Session 3

- Native Plants why they are so beneficial, discuss plants for pollinators, touch on invasive species by Prairie Moon Nursery

2:00-2:15 Break, Networking, & Shopping

2:15-3:15 Keynote: Shrubs and Ornamental Trees-selection for our zone, planting, care and watering by Harvey from Hidden Springs at Spring Grove

3:15-3:30 Wrap-Up

October 10, Meeting at Janene's house at 5:30 pm

November 14. MG meeting

December 12 MG meeting, Christmas potluck, work on save the date postcard

January 9 MG meeting, mail out save the date postcards (Kelly can generate these postcards), finalize conference brochure

Mary T will contact Julie W, Harvey and Prairie Moon as speakers.

We will continue to work as a group brainstorming marketing of the conference (community ed, emails, face book, postcards, newspapers: La Crosse Tribune, Caledonia Argus, Spring Grove Herald, Houston County News, garden centers, horticulture magazines), silent auction, country store, brochure design & print, vendors (3 is good), donations.

Past assignments made, more will be set up:

Marketing/promotion-one from each town. Char, Doug, Jen.

Food-Elsie's. Terri, Charmaine, Sue, Anna, Vickie.

Speakers-Mary T, Mary Z, Lane.

Facebook-Doug.

Vendors/Donations-Caledonia-Jean, Spring Grove-Kathy, La Crescent-Vickie.

Brochures, projectors, etc. Brenda. She was not present but we hope she will continue in this capacity.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30. 3 hours Volunteer time plus drive time.

Notes by Terri Kolar and Loretta Knutson