

# Houston County Master Gardening Meeting

**Date 01-09-18**

**Present:** Loretta Knutson, Linda Lind, Sue Meyer, Janene Hosch, Kathleen Taylor, Jean Davy, Mary Thompson, Charmaine Uphaus, Terri Kolar, Doug Thompson, Lane Zaffke, Anna May, Michael Wiste, Barb Hefte, Char Meiners, Michael Cruse.

**Absent:** Brenda Pohlman (working), Sarah Goff, Mary Zaffke, Vicki Otto (vacation), Jennifer Wiste (working).

**Welcome.** Meeting called to order. (Justice Center) at 5:30 pm

## **Treasury Report:**

Not available. Charmaine (treasurer) will email in report. Bill for flowers for Kelly Peterson, discussion if we pay taxes or not. If we pay taxes we need to send a check to the flower shop for the amount of the tax.

## **Old Business:**

Approve last month's minutes. Approved with the correction of Mary T. reported that Julie W. not Mary is not available as a speaker.

January is nomination of offices month. Chair, secretary and treasurer. Current position Loretta chair, secretary Terri, Charmaine treasurer. Mary T made the motion that nominations cease, unanimous all positions. All in favor, accepted unanimous.

## **New Business:**

Annual report presented by Mike. Charmaine will email for the report the starting balance, expenses, costs, final balance for the year. 2017 total # of events. Garden horticulture skills 8 ( apple pruning, taking care of garden tools, micro greens, maple syrup, school gardens, 2 plant exchanges). Local food 5 (micro greens, farmers markets, peanut growing, herb water). Community gardens 2 (La Crescent, Caledonia Green). Plant biodiversity 0. Worked alongside gardeners 2 (La Crescent , Spring Grove). Food Banks some but not an actual count. Climate change 1 (speaker). Nearby Nature 3 (Caledonia, Bird trail Spring Grove, Pruning). Clean water education 1 ( Sarah speaker "water wisely"). Install rain garden 0. Focus on pollinators 4 ( fair information, caterpillar, butterfly display, pollinator display board). Install or help design a pollinator garden 0. Total events native species 1 ( native plants board). School base 4 ( La Crescent, Caledonia 2, Spring Grove). Emails and phone calls (more than last year) (we need a better way to keep track) a suggestion was to keep a running tally at each months meeting. Regular information booth 792 contacts ( fair, farmers market). Diagnostic clinic 0. Horticulture day 100 (Spring Conference). Habitat for Humanity plant donations from Charmaine. Elder Care 0 ( we have done this in the past, were not asked this year). Junior MG program 0. 4-H 1 ( shade and sun plants, building containers Barb and Linda). Snap-ed- (La Crescent farmers

market). Email 20-25 people. Social media (Facebook, 176 likes, MG website). Monthly newspaper articles, radio spots 1, TV interview 0, micro green interview for newspaper. Share information with members email 1, meetings 2, social media 3. Anything we would like added to the report education, glad WebX will be changed at some point to utube presentations. Would be great if state speakers did not need to charge for mileage. Professional development overall Mike feels like we are on the right track and doing well. The group would like any trainings and trainings closer to us. We would especially like education on professional development for working with kids and getting volunteers in rural settings. There is such a big difference between urban and rural settings.

Mike adds a lot to our meetings we are always glad when he is in attendance. Mike will file the report. For full details ask him to see the final report.

Doug created a website for the Houston County Master gardeners <https://houstoncopuntymastergardeners.com> The site looks great. The cost is \$48 a year. Mary T made a motion to pay for it out of MG funds and Terri seconded. All were in favor of this. Discussion on if we could use pay pal on the website so people could register on the site for conferences. Mike will check on this. If we are not able to use pay-pal we could put a link to the school registration. Everyone should look at other websites and see if there are other items we should include on our site. Hennepin County has a nice site, displays garden tours and learning skills. Doug requests that anyone that has pictures of our activities please send them to him for posting. We may also list our monthly newspaper articles here. The website is a great place for history and archive information. Face Book also has a place. Both will be maintained. The group also agreed it is time to boost Face Book for our Spring Conference promotion.

June 16, 2018 Janene is heading up the Caledonia Funfest. The focus/theme will be bicycle safety. Jean, BJ and Char have volunteered to help. June 16 is also Fillmore County Garden tour.

Sprague Woods educational trail, the city and Caledonia Green is asking if the MG would be interested in restoration, maintenance, upkeep of this trail. Janene will get more specifics.

Mary Z. and Sue will visit Little Lions on 1-22-18 to discuss their gardening project and grant award.

Mike presented ideas on the big rain garden project. Soil & Water Conservation push up pond project has money available. Conservation effort rain gardens on a community scale. Caledonia was used as an example (water behind the lumber store, run off by the golf course). City, rural area combined effort. Mike is concerned about ongoing maintenance, upkeep, and the larger time involvement. Mike would like to see MG boots on the ground and ongoing energy with this project. MG are requesting and need education on rain gardens. We need to know much more about rain gardens and the ongoing maintenance of them. MG would possibly help provide education, door to door, and maintenance especially 3-5 years out. Mike provided a few handouts on rain gardens. For this year Mike will continue the conversations with soil and water conservation and consider providing education for the MG. Olmstead County has done some of

this so would be a possible resource. Doug found some good rain gardens info and put the links on our <https://houstoncountymastergardeners.com> website. They are on the Resources page.

### **Spring garden conference**

Char has completed the save the date posters and book marks, extension is able to print a small quantity and then these need to be distributed. Distribution thoughts area garden groups, Winona and La Crosse garden day conference, library, owl festival, area bulletin boards.

Doug has posted information regarding the conference on Facebook and the new website. Facebook will be boosted. Doug will also finish the brochures and make minor changes as need.

Mary T. will get the information to Northern gardener.

Sue will contact the La Crosse Tribune for posting in the home and garden section.

Brenda updated and provided a spread sheet of conference attendees from 2014-2017. Loretta will contact Brenda to see if she is able to email information to this list serve group. Prior attendees without an email should be mailed a brochure.

Vendors-Hidden Springs Flower Farm, Barb's soap products.

Char will provide butterfly display education board; Terri will provide Pollinator-native plant display education board. Mike will look for any type of display or information that would cover water gardens.

Anna has met with Elsie caterer twice, the lunch will be similar to last year vegetable beef soup, cheesy potato soup, 4 sandwich options-turkey, ham, cheese, egg salad. Bars, cookies, coffee. Cost is the same as last year \$6.95 a person. Discussion on taxes and tips. If the school purchases something they are tax exempt, but it is unclear if the MG group is tax exempt. This will be further researched and if we pay taxes and gratuity that will be added to the meal cost. Food work group will meet next week to cover all other details.

Gardening with kids panel, so far the panel is Mary T., Janene, and Anna. They are planning a work group meeting.

It was noted more people may be needed at the registration area to help obtain accurate emails and addresses.

It was also noted from last year the country store and Silent Auction needed more help. With all the members now we should be able to add people to both and also have a "floater" or two if needed.

### **Tasks:**

Charmaine-will fill out request for Kwik trip doughnuts and check with local church group on borrowing of food trays since we can't use those from the school.

Jean-contact Ironworks as a possible vendor

### **Newspaper articles-**

January Mary T. (houseplants), remember to promote spring garden conference .

February Lane Z., remember to promote spring garden conference

### **Thinking ahead:**

Does anyone have herb plants for the tables or a rosemary plant that we could use sprigs of rosemary in the water (something to tie in the herb theme)?

### **Sharing Ideas:**

Winona garden conference not sure on the date.

La Crosse Spring into Gardening conference 3-10-18

UMN calendar of events does have Houston County Garden Day-Thyme to Garden listed 3-17-18

**Volunteer Hours this meeting:** 2 ¼ hours plus travel time

### **Next Meeting: Dates**

### **Location**

1-6-18 Food workgroup (Charmaine, Terri, Anna)- Charmaine's House

1-23-18 Master Gardener Group- Janene's House

2-13-18 Master Gardener Group- Justice Center

3-6-18 Master Gardener Group-Justice Center

Submitted by Teri Kolar, Secretary