

## Houston County Master Gardeners' Meeting

**Date:** 5/16/2019

**Present:** Anna May, Loretta Knutson, Barb Hefte, Bev Nelson, Jean Davy, Janene Hosch, Jennifer Wiste, Mary Zaffke, Mary Thompson, Mike Wiste, Sue Meyer, Vickie Otto, Char Meiners, Lane Zaffke, Sarah Goff, Deb Zillmer, Bonnie Tollefson

**Absent:** Charmaine Uphaus, Brenda Pohlman, Doug Thompson, Kathy Taylor, Linda Lind, Richard Bartz, Terri Kolar

**Welcome.** The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mary Thompson at the Houston County CJC conference room.

Bonnie Tollefson from Caledonia gave a very interesting 45-minute presentation on raising butterflies.

On motion the minutes of the April 16, 2019 meeting were approved.

Mary Thompson stated that Jean Davy had to leave early, but provided her with information for the Treasurer's report. The Account balances are as follows: Checking \$2,765.97; Savings \$1,908.38; CD \$2,000.00; Total assets \$6,674.35. On motion, the Treasurer's report was approved. Mary Thompson reported that Nancy Runningen will be sending us a check for just over \$704.00 for our proceeds from the March garden day event.

Lane Zaffke reported that he delivered the \$250.00 check for the Spring Grove garden. Jennifer Wiste reported that the Spring Grove School would like assistance with starting a butterfly garden, however, there are only 8 days of school left which does not allow much time. It was agreed that Lane Zaffke would deliver some brochures in this regard to the school.

It was agreed that Janene Hosch will provide education at the next meeting on the Asian Long-Horned Tick. Sarah Goff and Vickie Otto will also do a power point presentation on vegetable gardening.

Janene Hosch reported that the Caledonia Fun Fest event on June 15<sup>th</sup> will have the theme "Partying with Nature". Loretta Knutson received a \$250.00 Thrivent grant which will be used to purchase 3 rain barrels and 3 indoor composting pails which will be given away as prizes at this event, as well as two additional events this year. Mary Zaffke will check into offering this at Spring Grove Uffda Fest. Sarah Goff suggested the possibility of offering it at an event such as La Crescent's Relay for Life, as it was felt that Apple Fest is too big of an event.

The Regional Gathering for Master Gardeners will be held Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at the Houston Elementary School. The theme will be Integrated Pest Management. The cost will be \$15.00 which will cover the cost of food. Mary Thompson suggested that the restaurant in Hokah be contacted for catering this event, as they did a great job with our March gardening event.

Mary Zaffke reported that Mandy's Garden at the June Kjome Place has been an ongoing project for the past four weeks and has been very successful.

Sarah Goff distributed a calendar of events for the Master Gardeners. There are several additions to the calendar and Sarah will e-mail an updated version.

Janene Hosch reported on the plant exchange, which was a successful event.

It was agreed that the summer picnic will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, at Sue Meyer's farm. Doug and Mary Thompson and Janene Hosch will do a presentation on pollinators.

Sarah Goff suggested a vegetable display table for the Fair booth. Loretta Knutson stated that in the past the Master Gardeners gave \$25.00 awards for the best in 4H and the best in open class. She was contacted by the Fair Board inquiring whether we would give these awards again this year. It was agreed to do so, and that Loretta will write up a paragraph to be included in the Exhibitor's Guide in this regard.

Janene Hosch reported that the Argus interviewed her on behalf of the Master Gardeners. She passed around this news article as well as one regarding Linda Lind's presentation on Scandinavian gardening.

Mary Thompson stated that she would like to see the Master Gardeners submitting monthly news articles to the newspapers again. Previously, Mike Cruse brought up the U of M's concern with plagiarizing elsewhere in the state, and at that time we stopped submitting articles. However, she felt the articles show our presence and involvement in the community and she would like to see this started up again.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour of volunteer time will be given for attendance at this evening meeting as well as  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour of education time.

