

## Master Gardener Board Meeting

April 3, 2012

Present: Mary Shepard, Co-President; Linda Petek, Co President; Mary Wiedenmeier, Past Co-President; Jane Kuhn, Co-Vice President; Ivan Placko, Co-Vice President; Sue Egner, Treasurer; Alice Graf, Past Treasurer, Linda Baeten, Secretary; Carole Dorsch, Diana Dougherty, Kimberly Miller.

Excused: Kathy Daniels, Past Co-President, Roy Anne Moulton, Marge Menacher, Audrey Ruedinger, and Anne Murphy. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

### **Treasurer's report** – Sue Egner, handout available

All accounts as of 3/31/12 - \$12,456.24

Budget sheet/Projects & Profit & Loss Statement also included. Sue will do the budget sheet and the balance sheet only for next time. Very thorough report...thanks Sue.

### **Secretary's Report** – Linda Baeten

No problems reported.

### **Old Business**

- **New Project Request Form** – Kimberly reported this is still in the works.
- **Planting containers for Oshkosh** - Mary talked to Mark Ziemer who is leading the project. There will be a single planting day in May, date TBA. He will get back to us by the next Business Meeting. There is still a question on who will water the containers. The City has contracted with a nursery for plant selection. Design is still in process. The pots would need maintenance 2 times a week. We have some people interested. We would only do some of the pots such as those located near our Farmer's Market area. 104 pots all together.

### **New Business**

- **Picnic** – Mary Wiedenmeier will arrange the June Picnic to be held the second Tuesday in June. Would like to hold it indoors at Park View. Will not do the plant exchange this year. Spent \$230 last year. Mary asked for input. Hot beef, pulled pork, or chicken for sandwiches were suggested. She is also looking for entertainment ideas....speaker, band, Project summaries, etc. Everyone enjoyed the plant door prizes. Bring a side dish or dessert to pass.
- **New requests for speakers or projects:**
  - Christine Anne Center – Pat Berger, volunteer at the Christine Anne Center, has requested assistance for creating new beds and maintenance of existing beds at the Center. She has sent in the project forms. Any help is welcome. Background checks are needed. There was a question whether those who help need to fill out the individual project form. Mary Shepard will find out who is interested in volunteering at the Business meeting. No money involved.
  - UWO Earth Day, April 17 & 18 from 10 to 2. We have been invited to have a presence for Earth Day on Campus. Mary Shepard will ask Cindy and Joni for the display boards. UWO provides the table. More info to come.
  - Menasha Corp Rain Barrel/Compost Bin Sale April 28. Mary passed around a handout. A rain barrel costs \$55 and a compost bin costs \$45. Mary will ask the membership if anyone is interested in offering information on composting and rain barrels. The location of the event is at the Menasha Corp, HWY 41.
  - Head Start Planting Presentation on April 5. A volunteer is needed to do a planting exercise. Lil Hansche is helping Mary Shepard. Containers and soil are being contributed. They expect 20 to 25 families to participate with only one planting project per family. This is from 6 to 7 this Thursday and located adjacent to the B&G Club in the Wilcox center in Oshkosh. It was decided to send an email to the membership.
- **Business Meeting Presentations** – Linda Petek
  - April – Benefits of Trees & Care, Kimberly Miller.
  - May - Anita Carpenter will talk about butterflies.

- Project Leads to speak in April – Lawanda, invasives; Betty Kuhn, Paine Gardens; Jerry Robak, Octagon Gardens; Ken Hawk Parkview Prairie; Ann Gratton, Plant Health Advisors.
- Project Leads to speak in May - Dara Sitter, humane society; Ruth Freye, Community Gardens; Dorothy Kunz, Farmers Market.
- Garden tours – Stan Meyer of Neenah Historical Society would offer a tour the Octagon House, and other historical houses in August.
- July – Linda Merz garden walk near Pickett. Also Carol Neindorf would be willing. Wild ones Center on Strobe Island is another possibility. Mary Wiedenmeier will contact the Wild Ones. Linda Petek will contact Linda Merz and Carol Neindorf. Garden tours usually begin at 6:00pm.
- **Education committee report** – Linda Baeten
  - The trip to the Midwest Master Gardener Convention to be held in Minnesota July 18, 19 & 20 has been discontinued due to costs and lack of transportation flexibility. Members are encouraged to attend this convention on their own. Information is available on line.
  - The Philadelphia trip is moving along. A pre-trip meeting is planned for April 18 at the Coughlin Center, 6:30 pm. Bus transportation to Milwaukee will be available for an extra \$20.
  - There were 19 participants at the pruning workshop. Audrey suggested the MGs give a donation to Dave Leonard to cover the cost of the lunch. Ivan/Diana moved and second to give Dave \$50 for the food.
- **Liability insurance** – Mary Shepard suggested it is prudent to have liability insurance for the Philadelphia travelers. Roy Anne checked with State Farm. It would cost \$250 for MGs to have a liability insurance policy that would cover all of our trips and outside events per year. Mary asked the Board if we should we explore the idea. Discussion followed. The State MG organization strongly encourages this. Moved and seconded, Ivan/Mary Wiedenmeier to further explore liability insurance. This would be a yearly expense for the MGs. UWEX coverage does not cover us on trips. Kimberly will get more info regarding insurance from UWEX and the State MG website. There may be a link for insurance.
- **Lawanda Book Project** – Mary Shepard. It is posted on the website. 46 books have been sold, 18 or 19 from website orders. 500 were printed. The Oshkosh Northwestern did an article. There are copies at Apple Blossom Books and in the Neenah bookstore. Talking to Park view and Museums to sell in their shops.
- **Worm Casting Brochure** – Mary Shepard. The Brochure could use some re-designing. Mary will touch base with Ken Hawk. Synda Jones could be contacted to see if she is willing to help.
- **Other New Business:**
  - Ivan reported Mary Freye has asked if she could mentor an at-risk North HS student who wants to learn horticulture. Can be an individual project. The Board agreed.
  - Alice Graf – brought in an example for a new MG sign from West HS industrial tech classes. It would be done in cedar using a laser to cut the words. Cost would be \$7.00 each. We would need to coat the signs with polyurethane to make them weatherproof, and decide on a method to stake them. Ivan will check out the stakes...ask Bob Potter too. Alice will go back with our suggestions and bring a new example.
  - Agnes Carpenter sent a thank you note.
  - Scholarships – Mary Wiedenmeier asked about scholarships. Marge Menacher will check into it.
  - Discussion on the need to know who is working on the projects...and the Project Lead's responsibility to close down a project when it is done.
  - Thanks to Diana for doing the Newsletter.
    - Kimberly – asked about the possibility of reducing the number of hard copies we send out, especially if these people have e-mail. We will look over the list of those who want hard copies and suggest they “go green”.

Meeting Adjourned 7:45

Respectfully submitted,  
 Linda Baeten, Secretary  
 Winnebago County Master Gardeners