

Isanti County Master Gardener Meeting

January 14, 2016

Educational Presentation: “New Plants for 2016”, Kelsey Sparks, Green Barn Garden Center. Twenty-seven people were present.

Members Present: Alison Almos, Barb Barry, Gretchen Beecroft, Deb Bodnar, Carol Bray, Mark Breeding, Rhonda Breeding, Duane Bunnell, Lucy Bunnell, Melissa Carstensen, Poppy Irwin, Sandi Johnson, Sandi Knolls, Rebecca Mauriala-Kuehn, Debra Minnich, Ruth Paschke, Ken Schroepfer, Ruth Thunstrom, Katie Walker, Joan Watson, Dawn Watson, Robin Weber, Rocky Wilson, Laura Yust, Wayne Yust.

Secretary’s Minutes: It was *moved, seconded and carried* to accept the November 12, 2015 minutes as distributed.

Treasurer’s Report: It was *moved, seconded and carried* to accept the treasurer’s report as presented.

Interns: The 2016 interns were introduced. Those attending were Alison Amos, Rhonda Breeding, Melissa Carstensen, Rebecca Mauriala-Kuehn, Katie Walker, Laura Yust and Wayne Yust. Master gardeners volunteered to mentor the interns.

Burst Into Spring Status (March 12): Ruth P. reported that two vendors with double set ups have opted to participate in the craft sale at Cambridge-Isanti High School on the same day. She is looking for replacements. We will take advantage of this additional event by posting our event at the high school. It was also suggested to add it to a web site that lists all such events in MN. Duane Bunnell will be working on the silent auction and will pass around a sign up sheet for those who want to contact businesses and/or donate items for the auction. Sample fliers have been sent/handed out to the membership. There will be a little tweaking before they will be sent to those who attended last year. If last year’s participants register this year, they will be given \$5 off the registration cost (\$20 instead of \$25). Poppy would like members to send her pictures of their gardens (trees, shrubs, pots, flowers, vegetables) to use for a slide show at the Master Gardener booth. The Master Gardener booth will also offer a house plant sale, so any plants you can part with will be appreciated.

Farmer’s Market: Ken Schroepker encouraged members to take advantage of this volunteer opportunity which starts in April. He suggests having a booth every other weekend. He is working with the City of Isanti

and City of Cambridge market coordinators.

Allina Grant: We have the option of again applying for the Allina Grant, but should we do so a coordinator is needed. Robin Weber volunteered to head this project.

MG Coordinator Report: Joan Watson distributed checks to last year's interns upon completion of their 50 volunteer hours and the coursework. Badges have been ordered. Carol Bray was recognized for 1000 volunteer hours. Sandi Knolls was recognized for 15 years as a Master Gardener.

Joan attended Chisago County MG meeting and reported that they have a 15-20 min. conversation time. Members are to consider this addition to our meeting time.

Miscellaneous: Samples of the green bags ordered for our various volunteer events were passed around. A sign-up sheet for hosting and bringing treats was passed around. A tentative date for the spring plant sale is May 7. After checking with the Garden Club on their date, the firm date will be announced at the February meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Beecroft, Secretary