

Isanti County Master Gardener Meeting

September 8, 2016

Educational Presentation: "Growing Giant Pumpkins" by Benjamin Weiner, Pine County Master Gardener. Twenty-two people were present for the presentation.

Members Present: Alison Almos, Gretchen Beecroft, Deb Bodnar, Mark Breeding, Rhonda Breeding, Duane Bunnell, Lucy Bunnell, Nancy Carlson, Melissa Carstensen, Ruth Paschke, Ruth Thunstrom, April Tighe, Katie Walker, Dawn Watson, Joan Watson, Robin Weber, Rocky Wilson, Laura Yust, Wayne Yust.

Secretary's Minutes: The June 9, 2016 minutes were approved as distributed.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Website Analytics: No report available. Robin Weber indicated an interest in helping with the website until Carla Trupe's return.

Event Reports:

Isanti Rodeo Parade: Joan Watson reported that it was a great time with participation by Community Gardeners, Master Gardeners, and Junior Master Gardeners, featuring a float and a drill team. Joan and Ken Schroepfer will work on plans for next year.

Isanti County Fair: Ruth Paschke thanked the master gardeners who hosted the booth during the fair and those who contributed flowers and weeds. There were 417 visitors to the booth including 73 children. Ruth's inquiry into 6 hr. shifts instead of 4 hr. shifts was received less than enthusiastically, so the shifts will remain at 4 hr. each. Since there were so many questions regarding diseases, Ruth suggested that our booth theme for 2017 be plant diseases.

Community Garden Picnic: Duane Bunnell reported that the event took place on August 30, 6:30-9 p.m. Since 65 attended out of the 135 registered, there was much food left over. Leftover food was given to the SAC's kitchen to use. The Cambridge mayor attended and helped choose a scarecrow winner. Michelle Grabowski from the University of Minnesota talked on plant diseases and their prevention, after gleaning samples from the community garden.

Intern Open House: Joan Watson reported that only one interested person showed up. Because there were several master gardeners present, the guest received much one-to-one attention and information. The publicity for the event was sufficient and free. There was a suggestion to have a session at Burst into Spring about becoming a master gardener. If not a session, cards at the master gardener table could be filled out by interested individuals. To keep their interest until the October deadline, these individuals could receive invitations to each month's meetings.

Master Gardener Coordinator's Report: Joan shared that the following events need someone to coordinate them: March 11 Burst Into Spring; Monthly presentations, October 1 intern deadline, Christmas Party,

The PICKKM meeting will be held October 25 at the Minnco Center from 5:30-

9:30 p.m. It is a potluck meeting of master gardeners from the surrounding counties. It was suggested that, at this meeting, we acquire/share a list of master gardeners willing to make presentations at monthly meetings or at Burst.

Highway Cleanup is scheduled for Sept. 24th. Those volunteering are to meet in the Government Center parking lot at 8 a.m. Dress appropriately for the weather, wear gloves, etc. Food and garbage bags are provided, as well as some grippers for picking up the trash.

2017 Budget Discussion: Dawn Watson (with assistance from Rocky Wilson, Mark Breeding and Robin Weber) led us through the proposed 2017 budget. The 2017 budget will be approved at the October meeting. We still have unspent money from the Allina Grant, so we did not reapply. Several line items were discussed - publicity, scholarship, website hosting. The coordinator of each area listed on the budget may use the money for that area at their discretion as long as they stay within the designated amount. Since Jr. Master Gardeners has grant money remaining, it was suggest that their budget amount be reduced by \$150 and publicity be increased by \$100. To save on speaker costs, it was suggeseted that we use our own master gardeners and have a time period for Burst or monthly meetings divided into 3 - 15 min. sessions, were individuals talk on their area of gardening expertise or interest.

An Eagle Scout group requested a donaton of \$200 from Isanti County Master Gardeners to support a project that they are undertaking. *It was moved, not seconded and therefore dropped.* The membership felt that our commitment is to teach and share aspects of gardening, but we are not a philanthropic organization.

Next meeting: October 13

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Beecroft, Secretary