

# Isanti County Master Gardener Meeting

## August 10, 2017.

**Educational Presentation:** “Preserving Your Bountiful Harvest” by Dawn Watson, Isanti County Master Gardener. Eighteen people were present for the presentation.

**Members Present:** Alison Almos, Sherry Banwart, Barb Barry, Gretchen Beecroft, Debbie Bodnar, Lucy Bunnell, Nancy Carlson, Melissa Carstensen, Poppy Irwin, Sandi Knolls, John Nordin, Ruth Paschke, Ken Schroepfer, Carla Trupe, Katie Walker, Dawn Watson, Joan Watson, Wayne Yust.

**Secretary’s Minutes:** It was *moved, seconded and carried* to accept the June 8, 2017 minutes as distributed.

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

**Website Analytics:** Carla Trupe reported 27 website visits yesterday, 281 visits so far this month and 887 visits in July.

**Isanti county Rodeo Parade Report:** Ken Schroepfer and Joan Watson reported a successful and fun participation in the Master Gardener float. There was lots of candy left over, because bags were unopened in the truck cab. The float, similar to last year’s in design was festooned with master gardeners riding and walking alongside. Next year it is hoped we can come up with different design. Ken and Joan will discuss ideas for next year. If members have ideas for a new design, please submit them to Ken or Joan.

**Isanti County Fair:** John Nordn reported that all the slots for covering the booth were filled. There were many visitors with 37 signed up as interested in becoming a master gardener. The door prize, soil map and samples, and the water feature were very popular.

**Braham Pie Day, August 4:** Ken Schroepfer, Poppy Irwin, Sherry Banwart and Bonnie Boese greeted 156 adults and 11 youth to the master gardener booth. The most frequently voiced concerns were regarding Japanese beetles and tomato plants that were tall and leggy with tomatoes that were slow in ripening.

**Community Garden Picnic:** Ludy Bunnell and John Nordin reported that the picnic on August 8 at 5 p.m. drew 75-80 community garden plot holders and master gardeners. They were served beverages, corn on the cob, brats, cole slaw, chips and root beer floats. Awards were presented to the plot holders for various categories, and Mayor Marlys Palmer spoke to the group. The community garden board and the city approved an additional shed which will house master gardener items. It is felt that the city needs to include the garden board in discussions of the

larger view of city parks. The garden board has expressed concerns regarding the dog park that will be located adjacent to the community garden. It is felt there must be a specific trash receptacle for the doggy park.

**Farmers Market:** The slots for covering the booth at the farmers markets were filled. Interns needing hours are encouraged to help those signed up. Ruth Paschke and Poppy Irwin will cover the master gardener booth for the Cambridge Customer Appreciation Night on Sept. 15. Others may join them.

**Burst Update:** The venue and keynote speaker (Julie Weisenhorn, UMN) have been secured. The venue charge has increased to \$700. It was suggested that the menu be decided by September so that it can be included in the paperwork/applications sent out to vendors.

**Yard and Garden Report:** No calls.

**Intern Update:** As a result of the fair, there are 37 potential interns. Joan Watson will be phoning or emailing these people to see if they are serious about their interest. Scholarships, mentors, etc. will be discussed at the September meeting. The 2017 interns seem to be accumulating their hours and remaining interested.

**MG Coordinator's Report:** Joan Watson encouraged members to consider the president and secretary board slots for election in November. The fall highway pickup may be a no go because of construction on Highway 95. Joan will check with the DOT in St. Cloud. Master gardeners are encouraged to update their volunteer hours. It was suggested that the December Christmas party be held on our regular meeting night in December. MinnCo will be contacted to reserve the facility. The Fall 2017 PICKM potluck meeting will be held at the Chisago County Community Center in North Branch on October 17, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Mary Meyer will be the speaker.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gretchen Beecroft  
Secretary