

Isanti County Master Gardener Meeting

June 8, 2017.

Educational Presentation: “The Buzz About Roses” by Gary Skarsten. Seventeen people were present for the presentation.

Members Present: Alison Almos, Gretchen Beecroft, Debbie Bodnar, Rhonda Breeding, Lucy Bunnell, Nancy Carlson, Melissa Carstensen, Poppy Irwin, Sandi Johnson, Sandi Knolls, Ruth Paschke, Ken Schroepfer, Carla Trupe, Dawn Watson, Joan Watson, Robin Weber, Rocky Wilson, Wayne Yust.

Secretary’s Minutes: It was *moved, seconded and carried* to accept the May 11, 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 40 website visits this week, 222 visits so far this month and 873 visits last month.

Plant Sale Report: Rocky Wilson reported that despite the weather plants sold well and there was an overall positive feeling about the sale. A canopy was erected and helped protect the people and the plants. Rocky will be reimbursed for the canopy. The canopy is stored in a box in the community garden shed. Rocky has pulled together a committee of about 5-6 people to help organize next year’s plant sale. If you have information/suggestions for the plant sale, please share that information with Rocky. It was suggested that members divide plants in the fall, put them in the ground, huddle them together and mound dirt around them. The plants will then be ready for the spring sale.

Isanti Rodeo Parade: Joan and Ken reported that the fair theme “Watering Wisely” will be used also for the parade. The parade is July 6. Members are urged to participate. The paperwork was turned in early, so we should have an early spot in the parade line up. Duane will pull a hay wagon with a truck. We will put ladders on the side with plants between the rungs and bales to sit on. If you have plants to share bring them along. Our group will meet at 4 to decorate the float. We will eat pizza or Subway at 5, so we are ready to go when the parade starts. Handouts and candy for the spectators will be available. More information will come via email.

Isanti County Fair: Dates are July 19-23. John Nordin with Wayne and Laura Yust will coordinate the plans. Ken will help install the pergola and a water feature. Members are urged to share hanging baskets. “Watering Wisely” is the theme. There will be examples of soils and under/over watering. If members have distressed plants from over or under watering, bring them for examples. Two-four people are needed to be at the booth for each session. A sign up sheet

was passed around. Sign up on line if you haven't already. Working at the fair is a fun way to earn volunteer hours. On June 15, 6:30 p.m. there is a need for helpers to weed the flower areas at the flower beds.

Community Garden Picnic: The picnic will take place on August 8 at 5 p.m. Master gardeners and plot holders are invited to attend, as well as city dignitaries. Food will be provided. More information will be sent via email.

Only three plots have not been planted. Those reserving those plots will be contacted and, if they are not going to use the plot, it will be opened to others on the waiting list. There is a need for another shed. It was *moved, seconded and carried* that Master Gardener support the community garden with \$500 toward the building of a shed in which Master Gardeners are able to store miscellaneous items. Robin Weber has looked into lawn mowers. John Deere is willing to give us an at cost discount. She will check other options. The issue of building the shed and where to keep the lawn mower is for the community garden board to decide.

Farmers Market: There are still openings. Notify Ken Schroepfer if interested. Volunteer sign up sheets were again passed around.

Yard and Garden Report: Mellisa Carstensen had 3 calls, Poppy had one general gardening call, and Sandi had a call regarding a tomato plant.

Braham Pie Day, August 4: Ken Schroepfer and Poppy Irwin will be handling the booth, but welcome helpers, especially interns who need hours.

Master Gardener Fun Day: Interested gardeners will gather in the community garden on June 29th at 6 p.m. for a potluck and making concrete hand planters. More information will be sent via email regarding supplies that you will need to bring.

MG Coordinator's Report: Joan Watson is working on intern recruiting through informational meetings to be held in June, July, August and September. Master gardeners are asked to think about becoming an officer for the group.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Beecroft
Secretary