

Isanti County Master Gardener Meeting

May 11, 2017.

Educational Presentation: “Starting Seedlings” by Robin Weber, Isanti County Master Gardener. Twenty-four people were present for the presentation.

Members Present: Alison Almos, Holly Anderson, Barb Barry, Gretchen Beecroft, Debbie Bodnar, Mark Breeding, Rhonda Breeding, Duane Bunnell, Lucy Bunnell, Nancy Carlson, Poppy Irwin, Deb Minnich, Ken Schroepfer, Ruth Thunstrom, April Tighe, Carla Trupe, Katie Walker, Joan Watson, Robin Weber, Rocky Wilson, Laura Yust, Wayne Yust.

Secretary’s Minutes: It was *moved, seconded and carried* to accept the April 13, 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 33 website visits this week, 257 visits so far this month and 777 visits last month.

Highway 65 Adopt a Highway report: Ken Schroepfer and Rocky Wilson reported that the turnout was great. It took about 3.5 hours, the job was finished by 11. We are cautioned not to walk across the highway, but the group decided if they used caution they would like the median cleaned too. John Nordin hosted the group at his place for a pizza/beverage lunch.

Community Garden: Duane and Lucy Bunnell reported that the plots are filled. There are still plots available in Isanti if someone asks. Two compost bins will be added so that the compost has time to break down enough to use on the beds. The VFW is working with the garden to help disabled vets have raised beds and accessible entry. Because of the enlarged space it is hard to keep up with the mowing. A riding lawnmower with a catcher on the back is needed. Robin Weber will look into places that might donate such a mower and report back at the June meeting.

May Plant Sale: The MG Plant Sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 20 in the Community Garden area. The morning has been divided into 2 - three hr. blocks. A sign up sheet was passed around for workers. Set up will begin at 7 a.m. with set up and the sale ending around noon or until plants are gone. Clean up help is needed at the end. Part of our volunteer job is to educate, help patrons decide what is best for their needs, etc. Workers are to wear their master gardener t-shirts or polo shirts and name tags. Rocky will prepare sheets describing the plants, their use, etc. Please send information to Rocky Wilson on the plants that you are bringing by May 16th. Customers are to get first choice of plants; master gardeners are to pay full price if they want to buy something at the beginning. There is a need for tables. It was *moved, seconded and carried* that the master gardener fund buy 4 strong tables before the plant sale (approx. price \$90 ea.). Duane will be responsible for purchasing the tables. Tables will be used for other MG events and stored in the Community Garden shed. There is a table for the cashier in the Community Garden shed. Members are urged to bring extra boxes for sales and wagons if you have

them. Signs will be installed on Friday. Rocky will check the supply and see if we need more. Ruth has agreed to be in charge of pricing. Coffee, lemonade and cookies will be served to customers. Please be sure to name each of the plants you bring.

Farmers Market: Cambridge Farmers Market begins Saturday, May 13 and Isanti Farmers Market begins Friday, May 26. Volunteer sign up sheets were again passed around.

Junior Master Gardeners: We have no Junior Master Gardener program. Katie Walker mentioned an Adventure Center program at the high school garden available to elementary school children. Nancy will organize with school groups, email timing, etc. Carla will send out an email when this information has been gathered. 4-H kids are busy with their own projects, so it might be best to form an event and then invite kids of the community.

Intern Mentors: There are three interns who need mentors. Katie Walker volunteered to be a mentor for Mary Eklund. Joan Watson will work on this.

Isanti Rodeo 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. We will pull a hay wagon with a truck. We do this to make our presence known. Specifics will be reported at next month's meeting.

Yard and Garden Report: Nancy Carlson had one call regarding a magnolia tree.

MG Coordinator's Report: Joan Watson is working on mentors and finding new master gardeners.

Isanti County Fair: Dates: July 19-23. A location for the master gardener booth has been secured. Joan or Carla will check with Ruth Paschke to see if she will coordinate. Ken Schroepfer is in charge of the set up. It was decided that our theme will be "Soil and Water."

Master Gardener Activity: Making concrete hand planters is an activity that will be offered on either Thursday, June 29th in the evening or Saturday, July 15 in the morning. The event will include a potluck meal and the activity will be led by Gretchen Beecroft. Please let Carla know which date will work for you. We will go with the date chosen by the majority and send more information closer to the date.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Beecroft
Secretary