

Isanti County Master Gardner Meeting

April 14, 2016

Members present: Alison Almos, Holly Anderson, Sherry Banwart, Barb Barry, Gretchen Beecroft, Deb Bodnar, Carol Bray, Duane Bunnell, Lucy Bunnell, Nancy Carlson, Holly Gerard, Poppy Irwin, Pat Jaeger, Sandi Knolls, Rebecca Mauriala Kuehn, Debra Minnich, John Nordin, Ruth Paschke, Ken Schroepfer, Ruth Thunstrom, Dawn Watson, Joan Watson, Robin Weber, Carol Wood, Laura Yust, Wayne Yust.

Secretary Minutes: It was moved, seconded and carried that the March 10, 2016, minutes be accepted as distributed.

Treasurer's Report: It was moved, seconded and carried that the treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Burst Into Spring Summary: Ruth Paschke shared that the vendor evaluations were very positive, stating that the event was nicely organized. Suggestions included installing more signage from Highway 95, encouraging more outside shoppers, staggering classes for more shopping time or bringing demos back for more activity in the main auditorium. Vendor spots are already filled for next year. Participant evaluations were on the whole very positive, citing good speakers and enjoyable keynote. The only general negative was food - food for thought for next year. Some suggestions for workshops next year included mushroom growing, growing giant pumpkins, succulents and organic gardening.

Plant Sale: The plant sale is scheduled for May 21 with set up beginning at 7 or earlier. Bring plants (indoor or outdoor) and other garden related items you might want to sell. Rocky will again do plant info with pictures, etc. Send pictures and information to Rocky so that he can make the tags. Information sheets from last year were saved, so there should be some already completed.

Farmers Market: Ken Schroepker announced that both Cambridge and Isanti Farmer's Markets would like to have Master Gardeners present. Dates for Isanti are Fridays, May 27-Sept. 30 and Cambridge will start the first or second Saturday in May and end when it's cold. Ken suggests staffing every week for the first 4 or 5 weeks, then go to every other week or Friday one week and Saturday the next and go back to every week when the produce comes in the last 4 or 5 weeks. Ken will set up the shelter at the May meeting so members know how it is

done. With doing both makets it is essential that materials be returned to the Community Garden shed when volunteers are finished on Fridays, so the materials are ready for the Saturday volunteers. Sign up sheets were passed around. Interns must work with a master gardener.

Community Garden: John Nordin shared that more space will be added to the community garden on the north end. More raised beds will be added. The changes will be made on April 20. Saturday, April 23, from 10-noon, is set up day for the community garden. Master gardeners are encouraged to help. The entrance will be fixed to make it safer. The city approved the addition of another spigot. Junior master gardeners will plant flowers around the sign.

Junior Master Gardeners: Ruth Thunstrom reported that the first Junior Master Gardener meeting will take place on April 21, 6:30 p.m. at the Government Center. Flyers were delivered to the schools and other advertising was done. Because of the grant funding, family involvement will be stressed . Money will be used for a booklet, snack and presentation. The format will be similar to last year with field trips, and picnics in the park.

Yard and Garden Report: Robin Weber answered three calls.

Safety of Minors: Joan Watson reminded everyone that they are required to watch the 10 minute video on Safety of Minors.

Coordinators Report: Highway Cleanup is scheduled for May 14, 8-11:30. Meet at the Government Center to pool rides. Rocky Wilson will coordinate. More volunteers are encouraged to take part in this effort.

It was also announced that the Master Gardeners will take part in the Isanti Rodeo Parade. Ken will make the reservation. The community garden participants, high school garden participants and Junior Master Gardeners will also participate. The parade is July 7.

Carol Wood was recognized for 10 years as a Master Gardener.

Next meeting: May 12.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Beecroft, secretary

