

Isanti County Master Gardener Meeting

June 11, 2015

Educational Presentation: Master Gardener Ken Schroepfer presented “Establishing and Maintaining your Lawn” to 26 people.

Members present: Sherry Banwart, Barb Barry, Gretchen Beecroft, Carol Bray, Mark Breeding (and son), Duane Bunnell, Lucy Bunnell, Poppy Irwin, Sandi Johnson, Sandi Knolls, Ruth Paschke, Kenneth Schroepfer, Dawn Terrizi, Ruth Thunstrom, Carla Trupe, Dawn Watson, Joan Watson, Robin Weber, Rocky Wilson, Carol Wood.

Secretary Minutes: It was *moved, seconded and carried* that the May 14, 2015 meeting minutes be accepted as distributed.

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

Website Analytics: Carla Trupe reported a steady decline in hits. There were 1200 visits to the site in January as compared to 426 in May. In June so far there have been 143 visits to the web site.

BIS Venue/ keynote: The armory has been secured for the venue for the second Saturday in March 2016. Ruth Paschke is heading up the vendor search. Carol Bray and Poppy Irwin are contacting/securing speakers. If you are interested or have someone to recommend, contact Carol or Poppy. A keynote speaker has been secured for 2017 and they are waiting to hear from a contact for 2016.

Plant Sale Update: Proceeds from the plant sale were \$472. The sale lasted about two hours and the plants were all sold. There was some discussion about needing more plants. It was suggested that they be dug this fall, put in pots and put the pots in the ground over winter. If anyone knows of someone moving that has extra plants they would like to get rid of, that is another source for possible plants. A request for such plants could be put on Craig’s list.

Farmers Market: Discussion centered around the necessity of participating. It was decided that not every week needs to be covered, but it is a good recruitment site. Isanti has also invited the group to set up a booth for a couple of times for recruiting. North Branch has no Master Gardener booth, but it was felt by the

group that we should concentrate on Isanti County venues.

Braham Pie Day: Carol Wood and Poppy Irwin will set up the booth on August 7.

Junior Master Gardeners: Ruth Thunstrom reports that 14-15 Junior Master Gardeners have been meeting every two weeks. The group has planted two plots at the Community Garden and families are signed up for their turn at weeding. They will be meeting next at Green Barn where Ruth will show them different plants. The program will purchase a plant for each Junior Master Gardener and they will be planted under the sign at the Community Garden. Future plans include a trip to Rod's Berry Farm, and they will also be targeting Isanti County Parks.

County Fair Chairs: Ruth Paschke reported that the Master Gardener booth will be located in the front corner of the shelter. Dates for the fair are July 22-26. No theme has yet been established for the booth. The fair theme has to do with the remembering the past, embracing the present and looking to the future. Suggestions for the booth were to include a pergola with perhaps hanging baskets and maybe even a water feature.

Yard and Garden Report: Poppy had about 14 questions/requests for information.

Miscellaneous Discussion: Master Gardener State Conference at the Arboretum is June 26-27. Perhaps there could be a drawing at the fair booth for a free pass to Burst Into Spring. It was suggested that a flyer be available at the booth with information on upcoming programs. Business cards need to be changed since the current format includes Les's email.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Beecroft
Secretary