

Isanti County Master Gardner Meeting

May 12, 2016

Educational Presentation: “Aquaponics” by Jacquelyn Zita of Women’s Environmental Institute. Thirty-one people were present.

Members present: Alison Almos, Sherry Banwart, Barb Barry, Gretchen Beecroft, Deb Bodnar, Carol Bray, Rhonda Breeding, Duane Bunnell, Lucy Bunnell, Nancy Carlson, Melissa Carstensen, Holly Gerard, Poppy Irwin, Sandi Knolls, Debra Minnich, John Nordin, Ruth Paschke, Ken Schroepfer, Ruth Thunstrom, April Tigbe, Katie Walker, Dawn Watson, Joan Watson, Robin Weber, Rocky Wilson, Carol Wood, Laura Yust, Wayne Yust.

Secretary Minutes: It was moved, seconded and carried that the April 14, 2016, minutes be accepted as distributed.

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

Spending Guidelines: John Nordin summarized the spending guidelines that were emailed with the April minutes. Each person responsible for a particular area (Community Garden, Jr. Master Gardeners, etc.) will be authorized to spend the budgeted amount in the approved annual budget and upon review by the treasurer. Emergency expenditures can be approved by the president, vice president or ICMG coordinator and then become a modification of the approved budget.

Plant Sale: The sale is set for 5/21/16. Bring plants already priced. Dawn will bring the cash box. Arrive at 6 or 7 for set up. Sale begins at 8 a.m. and the set should be complete by the time shoppers arrive. Duane and John are bringing tables. Miscellaneous garden “stuff” can also be contributed for sale. Spread the word.

Isanti Community Garden Open House: John Nordin and Nancy Carlson will be our representatives at this event to be held near the new Heritage Park in Isanti.

Farmers Market: Ken Schroepfer passed around a sign up sheet for working at the Farmer’s Markets in both Isanti and Cambridge. Dates for Isanti are Fridays, May 27-Sept. 30 and Cambridge will start the second Saturday in May. Staffing

is desired every week for the first 4 or 5 weeks, then go to every other week with Friday one week and Saturday the next and go back to every week at both markets when the produce comes in the last 4 or 5 weeks. With doing both markets 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. Interns must work with a master gardener.

Community Garden: Duane and Lucy Bunnell reported that a meeting was held last Tuesday. There are still some plots available. All but one raised bed has been claimed. The plots were fertilized and tilled. This coming week work will begin on enlarging the garden area. Junior Master Gardeners will plant around the sign next Thursday. Help is needed to build the wall for the Junior Master gardener planter.

Junior Master Gardeners: Ruth Thunstrom reported that the first Junior Master Gardener meeting took place on April 21 at the Government Center and will be held the first and third week of the month. Fifteen kids are involved although continuity is difficult because of their other involvement. The next meeting will be a tour of Green Barn nursery. Each participant will receive a plant. The group has planted peas, onion sets, radishes and lettuce in the community garden.

Yard and Garden Report: John Nordin shared that there was a question about bare root planting of trees.

Coordinators Report: Joan Watson announced that the permit for the rodeo parade has been sent, so our group is committed to participate. It was unclear if the paperwork has been completed for the county fair. Ruth Paschke will check on this with Carla. Joan reminded everyone to complete the Safety of Minors training and report to her when it has been completed.

Next meeting: June 9, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Beecroft, secretary