

**Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Volunteers Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 8, 2018
Extension Office**

In attendance: Ellen Terwilliger, Nina Logan, Jerry Richards, Lori Kempen, Mary Jane Griffin, Dick Lienhardt, Paula Bonnin, Ede Strand

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M. by President Mary Jane Griffin.

Secretary's Report: Carla Pelzl

The minutes of the February Board Meeting were reviewed. The following corrections were recommended:

- Education Program Committee Report update: A. J. Leiden from Beaver Creek Reserve will present information about Aquatic Invasive Species in July. An earlier date for his presentation been canceled due to inclement weather.
- Alternate Meeting Sites for the monthly educational meetings, if needed: Ellen had said that CVTC's Energy Education Center might be a possibility, but not the Wisconsin Credit Union Building.
- WIMGA Update: The early bird cost for the conference (without the tours) is \$105. After that the cost will be \$125.

Ellen moved that the minutes of the February board meeting be accepted as amended. Seconded by Lori Kempen. The motion passed.

Education Committee Report: Nina Logan, Lori Kempen

The March educational meeting will feature a presentation on "Permaculture" by MGV Mari Jackson.

April – Asian Edible Plants and Cooking With Them – Chef LaLaine Gunem

May – Wild Edibles – Jim Schwiebert

June – The Nature of Bears – David Schmitt of Haycreek Outfitters

July – Garden Tours, dates TBA; also A. J. Leiden from Beaver Creek Reserve – Aquatic Invasive Species

August – TBA

September – State MG Conference in Eau Claire

WIMGA Update: Ellen Terwilliger

Twelve registrations for the State Master Gardener Conference have been received so far. The ECAMG organization will offer up to six \$50.00 scholarships for local MGV's who are in good standing. Ellen asked whether we need to develop criteria for selecting scholarship recipients in case we have more than six applicants? And if so, what criteria do we want to include? She offered to draft criteria in time for the full scholarship information to be included in the April newsletter. There was a question about how to determine whether a scholarship applicant is a member in good standing. Erin LaFaive tracked dues payments and volunteer hours reports from members, so she probably left a list of members in good standing.

Ede Strand has a new tax exemption certificate for use by MGV's who make purchases for MGA programs or arrangements for special events (conference meeting rooms and meals, etc). The new certificate is under our association's name rather than under the county, as was the case with the old certificate. The WIMGA conference committee will need a copy to use for the State MG Conference arrangements.

Treasurer's Report: Ede Strand

Next month Ede will have a summary of our Winter Garden Seminar expenses. She will also provide an update and a more complete report once all checks have been processed and she has the monthly bank statement. The book balance as of 2/28/2018 was \$9,173.29. There was a motion to accept the report (Dick Lienhardt; Second by Jerry Richards.) The motion passed.

Ede received a request from the Junior 4-H Fair Committee for a donation. Donations help support 4-H Day events, trophies, and ribbons. The board approved a \$200 donation.

Old Business:

- Ready, Set, Grow Seminar report: Nina Logan and Lori Kempen

The date for next year's seminar is Saturday, February 2, 2019. Conference space reservations at the Chippewa Valley Technical School have already been made. Lori is looking for ideas for a make-and-take workshop. She hopes to keep the cost down to \$10-\$15. Ideas suggested were a small succulent planter, decorating and sealing a flower pot, or making a small terrarium.

- New MG Gardener Training: It was asked if there would be a training program for new MG's in 2018. At the Chippewa County MG seminar, their agent Jerry Clark had said he hoped to have a training class in 2018. We will have to see whether one will be offered. If so, perhaps an interview with Jerry Clark could be included in our association's newsletter.

New Business:

- Our April education meeting will be at the Extension Office. The Extension requires that an Extension employee must be present in the building when outside groups are meeting there after hours. Andy Heren has agreed to represent the Extension at our meetings and will accommodate our meeting schedule. Paula Bonnin had also checked on alternate sites. The Altoona Library charge is \$10/evening and closing time is 8:30 P.M. The Eau Claire Library charge is \$50/evening. L.E. Phillips Senior Center is free, although during the summer there might be a charge for the extra air conditioning used after 5:00 P.M.

- Member in Good Standing cards/ Name Tags: Many of our members have not received a new "Member in Good Standing" card, which used to be handed out annually to all members who had completed their volunteer hours and paid dues. Andy Heren will follow up on that. Also, new MG's should receive their official magnetic name tags. After members submit their hours and dues this fall, those names should be turned in to the state and name tags requested when the state association is ready to fill another order.

- It was suggested that MGV vests be made available for volunteers at the Farmers' Market booth and at the Plant Sale, to identify our helpers as Eau Claire Area MG volunteers.

- It was asked whether the ECAMGVA could give members discount cards from local garden centers. Someone from our organization would have to approach the businesses to see if they might be interested.

- Lori Kempen will contact the Senior Center so they know we will not be using their facility for meetings on a regular basis, but we appreciate their kind offer to provide meeting space. She will also check to see if they would like to include our education meetings in their newsletter for the benefit of their members.

- MG's will be needed to lead some of our volunteer efforts. Paula Bonnin has agreed to lead the Teaching Garden project at the Extension Center. Judy Mitchell and another MG will head up the North River Front Garden, Suzanne Gallagher is working with the Sessions Street Community Gardeners. Beaver Creek said the Boys' and Girls' Club would like to work with MG's on a project there.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:42 P.M. Next meeting – April 12, 2018 at the Extension Office, 1:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Carla Pelzl, Secretary