

**Ozaukee Master Gardeners
Minutes of the February General Meeting
Ozaukee County Administration Center, Port Washington, WI
7:00 PM, February 25, 2016**

An educational program "The Rockylights Railroad—Constructing a Railroad in your Garden" was presented.

Call to order at 8:15 PM -- President Jerry Nelson.

Minutes of the October 25th meeting were approved as distributed by e-mail.

Minutes of the January 2016 meeting were approved as distributed by e-mail.

Treasurer's Report—Joy Schulz

Joy will bring the final 2015 Report to the next meeting. January and February reports were distributed. Our total income was \$1,819.29 for January & February. The report was approved as presented.

2016 Project Committee Reports—Cindy Behlen

ADVOCATES OF OZAUKEE – Kathleen Doenier, Chair

The OMG members who volunteer their time and talents at Advocates of Ozaukee are scheduled to have a planning meeting on March 11th. Late last fall a number of members visited county locales to study native grasses. We'll be incorporating plantings of our choices this spring. At our upcoming meeting we'll determine the new priorities of the 2016 growing season.

ALL ABOUT HERBS – Kathleen Awe & Denise Nelson

This lecture series has been running for over a dozen years and is a joint presentation of Ozaukee Master Gardeners and The Herb Society. Three lectures are held every Spring on ways to use and grow herbs. The Series is held at The Ozaukee Pavilion on the Cedarburg Fairgrounds and begin at 7:00pm. The cost is \$8, which includes handouts, recipes and herbal refreshments. The Lectures for 2016 are:

Tues., March 15th - "Seasons of Show-Stopping Soups"

Wed., April 13th - "Incorporating Herbs into Raw Foods"

Thurs., May 5th - "For the Love of Peppers" (Herb of the Year)

HEIRLOOM PLANT SALE- Jane Spaulding

Our Heirloom Plant and Herb Sale is now less than 3 months away!! Sale will be at Concordia College, Saturday May 21 --this year the sale is the week BEFORE Memorial Weekend.

Thanks to all who have attended the evaluation and planning meetings so far, it's so helpful to have you around the table.

Everyone is welcome to come to planning meetings. Next meeting will be Monday, March 14, 6:30 PM in the Auditorium.

Now is the time to confirm your job preference. It takes all of us and more to have a fun and successful sale.

Thanks to everyone who has already let Connie Baldwin, Plant Sale Volunteer Coordinator, know where they are willing to help this year.

Not sure what you want to do/ what jobs there are? Contact Connie for all the possibilities.

Remember you can recruit family and friends to join us and then get their info to Connie.

We are especially looking for someone to take over flyer and poster distribution. (Jean Schanen oversaw this area last year) Contact Connie Baldwin or Jane Spaulding for details.

KUHEFUSS HOUSE- Susie Granzow

Final fall cleanup was mid-November – several things were still blooming! One of the new hellebores had 5 blossoms the week of Thanksgiving (it blooms Nov-Dec). New hydrangeas were mulched for the winter. No new work days until April or May.

LASATA HORTICULTURAL THERAPY-Judy O'Connell & Diane Strobel

Our green house is full of geranium, coleus and other cuttings the residents have been working on, and we have begun planting tomatoes. We also did our "winter sowing" project last month and will be anxiously waiting to see if it worked as well as previous years. Diane and I are planning to meet in March with our volunteers and will send an invitation to everyone as we are looking for more help.

OZAUKEE COUNTY FAIR-Cindy Behlen & Jim Layton

We had our first planning meeting on Feb 4 and our second was at 6 pm tonight. The Ozaukee County Fair is Aug 3-7 this year, and our booth theme for this year is WISCONSIN POLLINATORS. We will provide information on bees, butterflies (especially the increasingly decreasing numbers

of Monarchs), hummingbirds, pollinating insects and how to create a pollinator habitat in your backyard. We are reviewing ideas and pricing for our free handout this year, and will additionally be giving out free milkweed seeds with planting info. Watch for our email in late spring regarding sign-up to work a 3-hr shift at the booth, and PLEASE be generous with your time.

PIONEER VILLAGE-Cathy Cabelka

Workdates have been set for monthly work sessions.

PORT TRIANGLE GARDEN-Jean Schanen & Heidi Janous

There is nothing new to report from Triangle Garden

TENDICK PARK-Susie Granzow

The Park Service removed the damaged animal shelter – they will not replace it. They intend to make repairs to the cabin. Fall cleanup was the end of October. No new work days until spring.

USS LIBERTY MEMORIAL LIBRARY (Grafton)-Joan Suelflow & Susan Spatz

The committee for the garden at the U.S.S. Liberty Memorial Library in Grafton is gearing up for a spring cleanup in April, followed by the library's plant exchange on May 5th, 6th and 7th. Gardeners can donate plants from their garden on Thursday and Friday, returning on Saturday to choose the same number of plants from other gardener's donations. In June, the committee will plant annuals. As always, we welcome any volunteers; please contact Joan Suelflow or Susan Spatz for more information.

WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY GARDEN-Mary Reilly-Kliss

The sign-up sessions for the Washington County Community Gardens will be on Saturday, March 19 at Noon and Monday, March 21 at 7:00 P.M. As of now, all plots are rented and there is only one person on the wait list. Our opening day is weather dependent and will probably happen mid-April.

WEBSTER SCHOOL TEACHING GARDEN-Stan Suring & Marion Kanack

In November, 2015, we finished up the installation of the new perimeter fencing for the Webster Garden. Gates and signage will be completed this spring. In January, the student team members constructed counter top models of hydroponics, aquaponics, plant cloning and constructed bird feeders from natural materials. In February, they made Valentine corsages using fresh flowers, and are planting winter seedlings in milk jugs.

Operations Committee Report—Jerry Nelson for Erin Schanen

Education, Lou Hefle

1. The Education Committee arranged a December 2015 workshop on creating a “Williamsburg Topiary Tree.” Nancy Witte-Dycus was the designer. Approximately 40 people participated.
2. About 71 people attended a February gardening seminar on Straw Bale and Square Foot gardening presented by Dick Zondag, president of Jung Seeds. The presentation was preceded by a great breakfast.
3. The committee has confirmed presenters for all of the 2016 membership meetings. The information will be published after a few details are worked out.
4. The committee is considering the option of offering Level One training this year and what format that would be. More information will be available at the next membership meeting.
5. The committee is in the process of buying a new projector, laptop computer and printer. The hope is to have this taken care of by the next meeting.

Hospitality, Carolyn MacLaurin and Nancy Byers

Thank you to everyone who brought snacks. A sign-up sheet for future meetings is on the back table.

Membership, Heidi Janous and Jean Schanen

January 28th was the Annual Meeting, Graduation and Pot Luck Event. Graduates received their Master Gardener Certificates, name badges and congratulations on being graduates. Awards were given for large numbers of volunteer hours. This is always one of the organization’s favorite meetings each year.

We will be resurrecting the best practice of having the Membership Committee being at the table at the door of the monthly meetings. We feel this makes members feel more welcome and provides answers to any questions which may surface.

We have also been tasked with revitalizing the defunct mentoring program. This project will be researched and formulated to develop a program which will prove to be mutually beneficial for both the mentor and the mentee. More information will be communicated in future reports.

Newsletter, Roseann St. Aubin

Please note that the email address published for Roseann is incorrect. Her correct address is roseannstaubin@gmail.com. Any communication regarding the newsletter should be sent there.

The next issue of The Best Dirt will likely be published in late April. It may feature a new look; Roseanne has upgraded her home office and will no longer be able to support Microsoft

Publisher, the tool we have been using to do layout of the issues. Instead, the editor will be using Apple Pages. Any new layout will still strongly feature the OMG logo and mission statement, and many of the same elements to which we have been accustomed. Your contributions are welcome!

Please prepare to send your articles and/or photos (with captions) soon. A request for material will be made in early April. The editor will be traveling through much of March and will not have dependable access to email at that time. So, wait for the solicitation of articles in early April so that your material is not lost!

Publicity, Jean Schanen

A press release was sent to the local media concerning our speaker for the February general Ozaukee Master Gardener meeting. Committee members and other master gardeners have been working on reviewing several gardening books for publication in local media and The Best Dirt.

Website, De Murr

De's primary focus has been on updating the website calendar with committee meeting information. Committee chairman should make sure to get information on their meetings to De so she can update the website appropriately.

Yard & Garden Line (YGL), Maxine Ellis-Online and Kathleen Awe-Office

The Yard and Garden Line resumes operation in March. Everyone is welcome to the team at 1 p.m.

Old Business—None

New Business

Financial Audit

We need a volunteer to audit the Treasurers Activity for 2014 & 2015. Jay has created a template to use. Please let Jerry know if you would volunteer .

Sign up sheets for the plant sale are in back of the room. Please sign up.

The Management Person for the Extension office is Kathleen Butler. Claudia is still our office contact person.

Adjournment—8:45

Next General Meeting—March 24, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

Candy Witt took notes, Kay Krier wrote the final draft
Thank you Candy