

Ozaukee Master Gardeners
Minutes of the March General Meeting
Ozaukee County Administration Center, Port Washington, WI
7:00 PM, March 24, 2016

An educational program “Peonies – The Little Shrub with Big Flowers” was presented.

Call to order at approximately 8:10 PM – President Jerry Nelson

Due to a significant snow and ice storm, there were only 13 members present for the educational program and meeting.

Minutes of the February 25, 2016 meeting had not been sent to members through list serve, so the approval of the minutes was tabled until the April meeting.

Treasurer’s Report – Joy Schultz

The most recent Treasurer's report was read and accepted by those present. Joy did comment that our expenditures exceeded our income. As of March 31st our income was \$2657, of which \$1060 are funds which belong to Hales Trail Garden Project. Thus, our income from January to March is \$1572. Our total expenditures for the same time frame was \$6386.

2016 Project Committee Reports – Cindy Behlen

Advocates of Ozaukee – Kathlen Doenier Chair

The Advocates committee met this month to plan for the year ahead and to schedule the summer work dates. We’ll be meeting at 8:30 am on April 19th to clean up and evaluate the next steps we’ll be taking. Other dates include May 10th and on June 7th when we hope to have the hillside prepped for its new planting of native grasses. If you’d like to join us, contact Kathleen for more information.

All About Herbs – Kathleen Awe & Denise Nelson

The first lecture of “All About Herbs” lecture series was well attended and enjoyed. The second lecture entitled “Incorporating Herbs into Raw Foods” will be on April 13th, and the third and final lecture in the series entitled “For the Love of Peppers” will be on May 5th. All lectures begin at 7pm and are held at the Cedarburg Fair Grounds Pavilion.

Heirloom Plant Sale – Jane Spalding

There is less than two months to go and we have plants ordered, seeds started, publicity planned, etc.

We are still looking for someone to chair the Kaleidoscope table. Please give careful consideration to stepping in to this important position, and contact either Jane or Connie Baldwin.

Kuhefuss House – Susie Granzow

Spring cleanup is scheduled for **Saturday, April 23, 8:30 am**. Bring the usual: pruner, shovel, trowel, tarp or bucket to haul yard waste and mulch.

Lasata Horticultural Therapy – Judy O’Connell & Diane Strobel

We had our organizational meeting last week and were pleased to see all our volunteers return and several new people joined our group. Due to the renovation going on at Lasata, some plants have been damaged or destroyed. We will evaluate how much damage has been done once the plants are up. Right now we are working on spring cleaning our beds.

Ozaukee County Fair – Cindy Behlen & Jim Layton

Plans for our Pollinator booth are rolling along. We have all donated daily door prizes thanks to our generous & talented Master Gardeners Bill Greymont and Richard Voigt, as well as the generosity of Johnson’s Gardens in Cedarburg. Our tradition of booth workers wearing a theme-related button will continue thanks to the talents of Master Gardener, Maria Kramer. We began packaging our bulk milkweed seeds as a handout: and with the help of Jeanne Mueller, we are working on a plan to give out a “Honeybee Fact Card” that will have a honey stick attached. We are working on informative handouts, and plan to include the latest information o the jumping worm dilemma. Just a reminder that the Fair is August 3-7, and we plan to begin filling our booth volunteer schedule after the Plant Sale event is finished. However, if anyone has a particular day or time that they really want, I am delighted to put your name and requested time on the schedule **any time** you wish to contact me. And remember – you can sign up for more than one time slot if you’re looking to rack up some volunteer hours.

Pioneer Village – Cathy Cabelka

We set work dates for the coming season with spring cleaning scheduled for Saturday April 30th at 8:30 am. We will be doing general maintenance and assess what plantings survived the winter and determine what plants are needed. Also, we will look at possibly redoing the iris bed on the east side of the Losse House. All master gardeners are invited to participate in the clean-up. Additional work dates are on our website calendar.

Port Triangle Garden – Jean Schanen & Heidi Janous

Jean and Heidi had nothing new to report for this month.

Tendick Park – Susie Granzow

Spring cleanup is scheduled for **Saturday, April 16, 9:30 am**. Bring the usual: pruner, shovel, trowel, tarp or bucket to haul yard waste and mulch.

USS Liberty Memorial Library (Grafton) – Joan Suelflow & Susan Spatz

The committee is beginning spring preparations. The garden clean-up and spring planting will be Saturday, April 30th at 9:00 am. The annual plant exchange will be held May 5th, 6th and 7th. There will be a second planting of less cold-hardy annuals after the danger of frost has passed.

We’ve lost several members in the last year and could use some volunteers. If anyone is interested, please contact Joan Suelflow or Susan Spatz.

Washington County Community Garden – Mary Reilly-Kliss

We have completed registration, all plots are full and we have a wait list. A big thanks to the OMGs who manned (and womaned) the registration tables and collected fees.

Webster School Teaching Garden – Stan Suring & Marion Kanack

On April 14, the Webster Green Team will be getting ready for Earth Day, and April 19th is the second semester field trip. We will be visiting OutPost Natural Foods for a tour of the facility and learning the philosophy behind organic foods and leaving a small footprint. We will also be visiting Wellspring Organic Farm for planting and gardening information. Our final stop will be Riveredge Nature Center to enjoy the paths or do some tree hugging or rather tree climbing!

It will be crunch time in April and May. We will be completing the garden fence, designing a new gate, and prepping and planting the garden beds. We need extra volunteers for these upcoming tasks, so we will be announcing scheduled work dates soon. Please consider one of these projects as a source for gaining some valuable volunteer time.

Operations Committee Report – Erin Schanen**Education, Lou Hefle**

Lou reported that the Education Committee was working on Level 1 training. There would be further updates as they moved forward.

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

Heidi reports that the membership committee is working on the new mentor program that will connect new trainees and novice members with experienced master gardeners for mentorship, guidance and counsel. As they develop a more defined program for application they will keep the membership posted.

Newsletter, Roseann St. Aubin

No report as the editor is currently traveling.

Publicity, Jean Schanen

A press release was sent to local media regarding the speaker for the March meeting.

Website, De Murr

De continues to update the website with committee meetings and other events of interest to our members. Several members responded to De's request for photographs and Kathleen Awe outdid

herself and sent a whole thumb drive of wonderful photos from her garden. De is adding these photos as time allows. Thanks to all who responded.

De also put up the scholarship application for area graduating seniors and college students pursuing a degree related to horticulture. She has also added a new email address for general contacts and questions. That email address is ozaukeemastergardeners@gmail.com

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

The Yard and Garden Line has started up again. Inquiries should pick up as people get outdoors and spring arrives. Everyone is welcome to help.

Old Business

Audit – Jerry reported that at last month’s general meeting he requested that someone volunteer to perform the financial audit of the Ozaukee Master Gardeners for the 2015 year. Since there was not a volunteer, Jerry approached the Executive Board to see if they would agree to allow him to perform the audit. The board agreed and Jerry reported that he was nearly complete with the audit. He also commented that seeing the amount of activity and the accuracy was very rewarding. He said that since he was member there were three people who had performed in the role of Treasurer – Maxine, followed by Joy who was followed by Pat who now has passed the role back to Joy. We as an organization were very lucky to have such talented and accurate people handling our books.

There was no additional old business.

New Business

Jerry advised that we had received a request from Portal, Inc., of Grafton – a nonprofit agency serving individuals with disabilities. He read the following paragraph from their letter:

“I am writing today to ask the Ozaukee Master Gardeners to consider supporting Portal’s Gardening Class by making a financial donation that would be put towards the purchase of soil, compost, seeds, etc. We would also welcome the time and expertise of your members by volunteering to join a class. Classes are held two times a week. Guest speakers are always welcome.”

Jerry advised that the letter had been discussed at the last Executive Board meeting and a decision was made that while we would not donate money, we would be willing to donate several of our extra plants, following the plant sale. We would also make their request known to the membership should anyone want to volunteer some time.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:35 pm.

Next General Meeting – April 28, 2016

