

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

“The Seven Hills Seed Library” Program

Annie Beringer, Adult Services Librarian of W.J.Nieder Korn Library, described this 2 year old program that she has started there. She described how to save seeds, store seeds, and select the right seeds. Anyone can visit Nieder Korn Library, donate seeds to the Seed Library, or take packets of their seeds home. The Seven Seeds Library seeks to provide wholesome food and promote biodiversity in the seeds we plant.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm by President Jerry Nelson.

Minutes of the June 23rd, 2016 Meeting

The June general meeting minutes were approved as distributed by e-mail.

Treasurer's Report - Joy Schultz

Joy's report was approved as presented. The plant sale took in \$49,737.62, paid \$35,122 in expenses, and thus made \$14,615 in profit.

Project Committee Report - Cindy Behlen

ADVOCATES OF OZAUKEE – Kathleen Doenier, Chair

News from OMG's Advocate's project is that we've been busy planting switch grass, little bluestem, prairie dropseed, and butterfly weed in swaths on a steep hillside replacing a challenging-to-maintain mix of odds and ends that have covered the slope haphazardly until now. It's a big undertaking that we hope to complete next year along with a renovation of the gardens lining the walkway. We'd love to have you join us. Contact Kathleen Doenier for more information.

ALL ABOUT HERBS – Kathleen Awe & Denise Nelson

No report submitted

HEIRLOOM PLANT SALE- Jane Spaulding

Congrats and thanks to everyone who helped with our 2016 Heirloom Plant and Herb Sale. A follow-up meeting was held on June 21. Supplies are back in “the closet”, notes were gathered including lots of job descriptions, and the official profits are \$14,614.61!!

PLEASE NOTE: Facilities chair, Volunteer coordinator, and Event Coordinator positions are AVAILABLE/NEEDED for 2017. Please consider stepping into one of these important roles for OMG.

KUHEFUSS HOUSE- Susie Granzow

Our main focus has been on weeding and watering

- The new lacecap hydrangeas are stressed from the heat and drought, but all 3 plants have flowers - they're supposed to be pink, but some are also blue, violet, and white – all on the same plant
- With the hydrangeas, we are testing different companion plants to see how they do in this location. We've planted 3 types of ferns, catmint, perennial hollyhock, bleeding heart, and Solomon's seal.

LASATA HORTICULTURAL THERAPY-Judy O'Connell & Diane Strobel

The gardens are starting to look like late-August, but still lovely. The new gardens planted this spring came through the hot summer OK, thanks to the diligence of our faithful volunteers. One new thing just added are 8 bird houses built by an Eagle Scout as his final project -- two bluebird houses, 2 Flicker houses and 4 wren houses. They have been installed all around the building. Also, a Mequon company, Charter Manufacturing, has offered to send 15 - 20 people to help out for 4 hours at Lasata one day in September, and we are planning to put them to work in our gardens as well as other areas of Lasata.

OZAUKEE COUNTY FAIR-Cindy Behlen & Jim Layton

The Ozaukee County Fair was fortunate to have good weather and good attendance, despite running concurrently with the Wisconsin State Fair. We received reports from visitors that our booth was by far the most attractive in the building! This was due to our good fortune in having talented and generous volunteers who worked diligently to pull it all together. The exquisite colorful pollinator photos used in our wall displays were taken and shared by several of our own Master Gardeners. Four of our five daily door prizes were created and donated by, again, our own Master Gardeners, Bill Greymont and Richard Voigt. From the door prize entry slips, we have an additional 58 names of people interested in being added to our OMG mailing list for the plant sale & want information on our upcoming Master Gardener training class. In addition to the general gardening handouts, we gave away honey sticks, milkweed seeds, our newly designed OMG refrigerator magnets, collapsible vases, stickers & chenille bumble bees

for the kids, and several informational handouts related to pollinators, preservation, and beneficial gardening practices. We had 54 booth volunteer shifts to fill (not including set-up and take-down) that were filled by 32 individuals, several of whom filled in multiple shifts.

A highlight of the booth this year was the “Butterfly Nursery” loaned to us by Joy Schultz. The Swallowtail and Monarch caterpillars fascinated adults and children, and we could see them increase in size from day to day as they devoured their daily fresh food of dill and milkweed. It created quite a springboard for talking to booth visitors about the urgency in preserving our pollinators and their local habitats, since we only had two caterpillars for display.

Due to an increase in our fair budget this year, we were able to pay for reserved parking spots beside the building. This was offered to anyone with physical limitations and those who volunteered to take the 7-10 pm shifts which kept them after dark. Next year’s goal is to offer all shift volunteers a reserved parking spot.

A sincere thank you to all who contributed in any way in making our Master Gardeners shine for five days at the Ozaukee County Fair.

And please keep in mind that we need someone to step up to take over the coordination of the fair booth for next year. Hopefully you have all received the email earlier this week. Jim and I are happy to talk to anyone interested in learning about what is involved in chairing this project.

PIONEER VILLAGE-Cathy Cabelka

No report submitted

PORT TRIANGLE GARDEN-Jean Schanen & Heidi Janous

A new program of maintenance was initiated this summer with teams of our volunteers assigned to specific weeks for weeding, deadheading, and general maintenance of the garden and it has gone very nicely. The garden is thriving in spite of the lack of rain and we are looking forward to a few plant moving projects as we approach fall.

TENDICK PARK-Susie Granzow

- The vegetable garden is doing very well
- The new plants added in the herb beds this year are: chamomile, sorrel, calendula, 2 varieties of bee balm, and a pale purple coneflower - which suddenly disappeared
- After digging out the invasive tansy plants last year, I have discovered BIG healthy tansy plants in the prairie immediately east of the cabin. It's just too big for me to dig out, so I'm trying to keep it cut down to prevent it setting seed.

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

We're most grateful for the recent rains and we anticipate a beautiful fall. Clean-up date to be set later!

WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY GARDEN-Mary Reilly-Kliss

The Washington County Community Garden is having a STUNNING year! Thus far, we have recorded over 4,000 pounds of food which has a market value of over \$8,000. Our Annual Pot Luck is this coming Sunday, August 28 at 5:00PM at the gardens and we would welcome any OMG volunteers who would like to attend. Bring a dish to pass which uses something which you grew in your garden. The only sad news is that the bees left the hive about a month ago, so there won't be any WCCG honey this year.

Feel free to come and visit the gardens where we build community one zucchini at a time!

WEBSTER SCHOOL TEACHING GARDEN-Stan Suring & Marion Kanack

For those of you that could not attend the Webster tour as part of the summer Garden Crawl, the science teacher who leads the Green Team, along with a number of student team members, did a great job hosting the OMG tour. They provided a selection of healthy snacks using produce from the garden, along with an update of the team's mission and accomplishments.

We have been able to harvest green beans, tomatoes, broccoli, peas and cucumbers which we have been bringing to Family Sharing in Grafton.

The Webster Middle School Teachers will be meeting in the garden on one of their in-service days this week. I believe they will be looking at ways to use the garden as a resource for their curriculum.

Many thanks to Jeanne Mueller for the time and effort she contributed to getting our application completed and submitted for the International Master Gardener Search for Excellence competition regarding the Webster Youth Garden project. FYI: The International Master Gardener Conference will be held in Portland, Oregon next summer, July 10-14, 2017.

Operations Committee Report - Erin Schanen

Education, Susie Gransow

No report.

Hospitality, Carolyn MacLaurin and Nancy Byers

Thanks to everyone who brought refreshments tonight. A sign-up sheet for future meetings is in the back.

Membership, Heidi Janous and Jean Schanen

Our biggest summer effort is always the planning, prep, and execution of the Sixth Annual Summer garden Crawl Event. This summer was July 21. Unfortunately, we ended up with a smaller than usual attendance due to the very bad threatening weather that happened the evening of the event. Regardless, we had about 60 people turn out for the crawl which showcased two gardens, Webster School Garden in Cedarburg and Stan and LaVonne Suring's beautiful micro farm in the Town of Cedarburg.

Moving forward we will be urging members to submit their volunteer hours by the October 1 deadline. Stay tuned for emails and other reminders for this very important part of the Master Gardener Program. Pat Jakse will be replacing Joette Slaasted as the Volunteer Hours Manager. Her contact information will be updated on the OMG website very soon. An email about submitting hours with directions went out on the list serve yesterday.

Newsletter, Roseann St. Aubin

The Summer issue of The Best Dirt is in the works. We expect to print and circulate in early September. The editor, Roseann St. Aubin, wants to thank everyone for the articles and photos. We have articles on the County Fair booth, our scholarship award winner, stories on a much-loved and very big cactus, dumpster diving (yes!) and an appeal from our president for volunteers to step forward and fill key positions. There may have been a record number of submissions - and there is still one more day left to provide material. The deadline for submissions is Friday, August 25. Send to Roseann's email roseannstaubin@gmail.com

Publicity, Jean Schanen

Notice of tonight's meeting was sent out to local newspapers.

Website, De Murr

We have had some updates to activities on the website. But the big news is that I am finally moving. We need to advertise for a new web master. I can easily do this job for a couple of months until we locate the right person. I can work with that person over the phone and email to get them started.

De sent out an email to the list serve earlier this week with a job description. She estimates this job only requires a couple hours a month, which would be a great way to get your hours in for the year. Since De is available to train the new webmaster, this shouldn't be a difficult job for a

computer savvy person. De's done a great job on the website for several years so we thank her for all her hard work and we'll miss her.

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

Kathleen reports: The office Yard and Garden Line has been erratic. Last month I had no calls, and this month Ann and I worked hard for three hours. Please tell gardeners about us, and join us if you can on Thurs. afternoons at 1:00.

Old Business

We need people to step up and fill the positions that will soon be vacant.

New Business

Hours need to be submitted with a \$20 check for the yearly dues. Forms are on line and were also handed out. Members need to submit their volunteer hours to Pat Jakse by the October 1 deadline. An email has gone out to members about this.

Budgets for the upcoming years will be made and get out to the membership.

The yearly calendar will also be created.

Everyone gave a bid round of applause to:

- Jane Spaulding for her work on the Plant Sales.
- Cindy Behlen and Jim Layton for their work on the Ozaukee County Fair.
- Lou Hefle for his work on the education committee.

Steph Plaster invited members to attend next Saturday's Invasive Plants Workshop. Another will be held later in September.

Adjournment—8:45

Next General Meeting—September 22nd, 2016