

Union County Master Gardener Association

Business Meeting Notes

March 25, 2015

Attendees: Dixie Bowen, Bobbi Brown, Debbie Brown, Al Burnard, Chris Burnard, Kay Covert, Vera Cyre, Harvey Goertz, Scheral Greider, Joan Griffin, Betsy Hauck, Mary Ann Haynes, Eunice Hornsby, Pat Houser, Julie Jones, Dilu Juvarkar, Harry Kirtley, Audrey Kise, Lisa Kovinchick, Natalie Landon, Donna Maley, Bea Metz, Karen Moots, Sara Mudd, Kay Nichols, Brodie Rockenbaugh, Bill Ronschke, Penny Rushmore, Mary Salimbene Merriman, Carole Stolte-Brouillette, Patty Sweeney, John Walkup, Jon Weiss

Al called the group to order. There were no updates to the Secretary's Report.

Treasurer's Report: Al indicated we will include verbiage in the meeting notes during the next election of officers, to indicate names, titles and those with authorization to sign checks on behalf of the group.

Coordinator's Report: there were no updates.

Old Business:

- 2014 State Conference
 - Eunice and Julie emailed group members for their input and are coordinating requests for use of the proceeds. They are working with the Ecuador group for a list of things they need, in response to a suggestion to provide help for that group.
 - Awaiting proceeds from last year's event.
- VMS Front Page (Monthly Musings)
 - Send announcements, educational and volunteer opportunities and other items to share with the group, to Lisa Kovinchick (gatesyk@hotmail.com) and she will include them in Monthly Musings. If possible, please send items at least two weeks beforehand.
- In the Garden with Ohio Master Gardeners
 - Visit the [State MGV website](#) and the [OSUE MGV Facebook page](#) to read the weekly updates on MGV activities throughout Ohio. Share the information with friends and family.

New Business:

- Recognition Banquet
 - To be held April 1st, 6:00 PM Allen Township Hall
 - Invitations and map were emailed to MGVs. Al plans to send an invite to Bobbi Brown who has rejoined the group. *Welcome back, Bobbi!*
 - Bring a dessert or an hors d'oeuvre to share. BBQ meatballs, Vienna sausages and beverages will be provided.
- Project Handbook
 - Template and instructions were emailed to all committee chairs.
 - Thanks to Audrey for completing a handbook for the scholarship committee.
 - Julie and Al are working on ways to make the information readily available to everyone.
- Officer's Handbook - Officers agreed to complete a position handbook for each officer position.
- In addition – Audrey reminded everyone as they plant their gardens this spring to remember the wonderful library in the Extension office. She has updated all of the items and everyone should feel free to browse and borrow the books.

Project Reports:

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- **Adopt-a-Pot** – Donna Maley & Mary Salimbene Merriman reported two more businesses have signed up to participate. **They will begin planting on May 16.**
- **August Plant Sale** – Audrey Kise stated set up will take place August 14 and the sale will be held August 15. **Set seeds and plants aside now.** The more plants we offer, the better the turnout will be. We will offer shrubs, trees, perennials and bulbs. There are pots in the garage behind the Extension office building for MGVs to use. Question was raised about the possibility of getting soil from Scotts and whether George has already approached Scotts this year.
- **Covered Bridge Festival** – Bea Metz reported the committee received positive feedback at a recent local tourism meeting. The group has permission to clean up the property and may hold a work day. The group has been asked to decorate the entire area. **Send ideas for demo tables to Bea (smetz9@woh.rr.com).** Will need 30 volunteers and a 10x10 pop-up tent for the event.
- **Diagnostics/Helpline** – Laurie Lowe – anticipate gearing up in the May/June timeframe.
- **Love & Learn** – Chris Burnard disclosed **the group will start planting May 15**, focusing on square foot gardening and companion plants.
- **Magnetic Springs Beautification** – Karen Long - John Weiss talked about the area and handed out a flyer. Last year the committee planted numerous beds and citizens in the town watered the plants. The committee plans to add a bed beside the community hall and the town will provide \$500 for the project. **Volunteers are needed to help plant on May 30.** Showing citizens and a Boy Scout troop how to prepare a bed for planting provides an educational component for the project.
- **Marketing** – Kay Covert & Lorna Williamson – no updates.
- **McCloud Park** – Dixie Bowen & Julie Jones ask that the bed chairpersons create something to demonstrate in each of their beds. For example, how to include edibles, how to use fertilizer and so on. **On May 11 we will divide perennials. Volunteers are needed.** Plants will be used for the August Plant Sale and the **May 25 Passport to Fishing event at Alders Gate Park (volunteers are needed for this event).** Plants may also be donated to Habitat for Humanity. A local hardware store will provide materials to refinish the bench and a local Boy Scout troop will do the refinishing.
- **Monthly Meeting Educational Program** – Dixie Bowen – the April education program will be on the topic of backyard chickens, by Lucinda Miller (at 7:00).
- **Project GROW** – Al Burnard stated the committee will receive an SFE Award at IMGC 2015 in Council Bluffs, IA. Al plans to distribute the work schedule to committee members shortly.
- **Scholarship Committee** – Audrey Kise indicated **the application is online and due April 2.** Any Union County student planning to study plant science can apply for the \$1000 award.
- **Speaker's Bureau** – Eunice Hornsby & Lisa Kovinchick indicated we will participate in the Nestle Wellness Fair. Eunice plans to distribute a list of those willing to speak. **Volunteers are needed to speak on various topics. Please click on 'volunteer for the project' in VMS.** The local radio station will request more topics now that the weather is warming up.

April Educational Program:

Lucinda Miller will speak about the topic of backyard chickens at 7:00. The next meeting will be held April 15, 2015.