

Union County Master Gardener Association
Business Meeting Notes
May 27, 2015

Attendees

Dixie Bowen, Bobbi Brown, Debbie Brown, Al Burnard, Chris Burnard, Kay Covert, Scheral Greider, Joan Griffin, Mary Ann Haynes, Melissa Henry, Pat Houser, Deb Jeffers, Julie Jones, Dilu Juvarkar, Johanna Keiser, Harry Kirtley, Audrey Kise, Lisa Kovinchick, Karen Long, Laurie Lowe, Carolyn Madziar, Donna Maley, George McVey, Bea Metz, Sara Mudd, Kay Nichols, Bill Paloney, Bill Ronschke, Penny Rushmore, Mary Salimbene Merriman, John Walkup and Jon Weiss

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

May Educational Program

Doc Jordan from Wild Birds Unlimited gave a presentation on attracting birds to our backyards.

Introduction of 2015 MG Scholarship Recipient

Audrey presented the \$1000 scholarship to Skyler Foos. Skyler spent the past year at ATI in Wooster, studying sustainable systems and specializing in agronomy. While at school, Skyler was president of the Agronomy Club. His activities included bee care. The committee took a photo with Skyler.

Treasurer's Report

Carolyn posted the report to the website.

Coordinator's Report

- Laurie announced she will soon email the group with details for ordering the new MG t-shirts. Anyone that wants to order a shirt will need to pay up front and then Laurie will place one order for the group. **MGs that want to order a shirt are encouraged to bring a check to the June 24 Business Meeting.** Styles include a t-shirt, polo shirt, v-neck women's shirt and round neck unisex shirt. The Union County MG logo can be printed on the sleeve for an additional \$5. Additional shirt styles will likely be available to order later in the year.
- Karen indicated an MG training class will be offered in September. We will hold an Open House on Monday, June 15 to recruit new interns. **MGVs: please let friends, neighbors and co-workers know about the Open House and class. Let Karen or Laurie know about anyone that is interested, and if you can volunteer and/or bring finger food for the Open House.**

Old Business

- **Proposed recommendations for distribution of the 2014 State Conference proceeds**
 - Al presented a slide showing the list of recommendations, and provided brief context for each item. *[See table at end of these notes.]*
 - Julie reviewed the selection criteria
 - Al solicited thoughts from the floor. One member observed that a good variety of items were selected.
 - Al put the proposed recommendations forward for a vote, Kay Nichols recommended approval, Joan moved to vote, and the group voted in favor of the proposal
 - Next, we plan to create a process to track and disburse the monies
- **Project Handbooks and Officer's Handbooks** - Al reminded the group **to continue working on Project Handbooks and Officer's Handbooks, and include notes and digital photos as projects**

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progress throughout the year. Officers are asked to complete handbooks before the fall nominations and election of officers.

New Business

- We will hold an Open House on June 15 to recruit prospects for the next class of interns. Volunteers are needed and asked to bring a snack to share.

Project Reports

- **Adopt-a-Pot** – Donna Maley & Mary Salimbene-Merriman: planted pots for 17 merchants, some of which had up to 4 pots. 4H group provided assistance. Candi planted the city pots.
- **August Plant Sale** – Audrey Kise: sale will be held August 15 at Fairgrounds Merchant Building. Compost, potting mix, pots and labels are in the garage and available for our use.
- **Covered Bridge Festival** – Bea Metz: the first cleanup will be held June 6, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Need volunteers to do demos.
- **Diagnostics/Helpline** – Laurie Lowe: looking for volunteers to work a couple hours, once per week. Last year's schedule was Wednesdays, 1:00 – 3:00 pm. A computer, the library and the new Extension Coordinator are some of the resources available. If enough people volunteer, we may only have to work once per month. George plans to go to people's yards as needed. Dilu indicated volunteers don't have to know everything, it's a learning process. Questions and plant samples have started to come in from the public.
- **Love & Learn** – Chris Burnard: planting and mulching is completed and the 2 sq. ft. gardens are roped off. Need volunteers to work June 20 workshop, to help with registration, tours, answering questions, and more. Workshop promotions include a newspaper article, postings on Facebook and the MG website, item submitted to ThisWeek News and distributing flier at recent events.
- **Magnetic Springs Beautification** – John Weiss and Karen Long: received a donation for \$500 for plants to landscape in front of municipal building. A local resident donated plants from his greenhouse. Event starts at 11:00 am May 30, with educational projects and food. We will plant beds at the Municipal building, post office, Methodist church and ball field.
- **Marketing** – Kay Covert and Lorna Williamson – nothing new to report.
McCloud Park – Dixie Bowen and Julie Jones: a big thank you to everyone that has volunteered. We mulched and planted before the Memorial Day Parade. The City agreed to maintain the paths and gravel playground area. We will take care of the lawn and beds. Need volunteers to work Second Saturdays in the coming months – next one is June 13, 9:00 – 11:00 am, to prune lilacs, remove daffodils and more. Bed chairs: please provide a list of plants in your beds that we will create labels for. We are planning an event for senior citizens in August. Contact Kay Nichols if you would like to co-chair her bed, check and water it a couple times per week.
- **Monthly Meeting Educational Program** – Dixie Bowen: June program to be held at Mary Anne Haines' home. Presenters are scheduled for remainder of year. Let Dixie know if you know of other speakers.
- **Project GROW** – Al Burnard: pumpkins are now planted; the kids enjoyed the asparagus; strawberries are coming next. The kids have been very responsive. Containers are painted and ready for perennial garden remake.
- **Scholarship Committee** – Audrey Kise (see Scholarship item above)
- **Speaker's Bureau** – Lisa Kovinchick and Eunice Hornsby – no report at this time.

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- **Other** – Scotts/Miracle Grow Wellness and Life Balance expo – Al, Carolyn and Terri worked the May 15 event, hosted by women at Scotts. More than 100 people attended. There were lots of questions about the MG program and gardening. We handed out fliers and obtained contact information from interested prospects, which Carolyn plans to send to Karen.
- **Dalia show** – George: will be held Sunday, August 16. Six volunteers are needed at 4:00 to deliver flowers to local nursing homes. Bring a 5-gallon bucket and pruners.

June Educational Program

Will take place June 17, 2015, at 7:00 pm at Mary Ann Haynes' home, 15814 Jolly Rd., Marysville, OH. Topic will be Fairy Gardens. Bring a lawn chair. A map will be provided with the June meeting agenda. Please carpool if possible, and park in the driveway or along the road in front of the house.

Union County Master Gardeners – Recommendations on Investment of State Conference Proceeds

- Criteria used: permanence, impact, use over time and effect on the community; in accordance with MG mission

Recommendations for use of \$7,416 Conference Proceeds

Amount	Item or Activity
\$2,000	Collaborate capital project with the City of Marysville for McCloud Park
\$1,500	Materials for a senior project, if there are MGVs interested in leading it. Assume a partnership with county agencies offering services around aging.
\$1,000	Educational materials and workshops for the public with paid speakers, refreshments, materials, etc.
\$1,000	Banner and sandwich boards (price being researched)
\$700 - \$1,000	Two commercial-grade canopies, the type that have replacement parts (price examples below): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 x 10 (60 lbs.) \$240 at CostCo• 10 x 15 (73 lbs.) \$335 on sale, \$420 regular price at Cabela's
\$500	Ecuador Project – to be used to build raised beds in the greenhouse

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Covert

Kay Covert
Secretary