

Union County Master Gardener Association
Monthly Business Meeting Minutes
May 25, 2016

Attendees: Al Burnard, Chris Burnard, Carole Carrico, Kay Covert, Joan Griffin, Mary Ann Haynes, Eunice Hornsby, Pat Houser, Deb Jeffers, Beth Johnson, Dilu Juvarkar, Harry Kirtley, Audrey Kise, Lisa Kovinchick, Laurie Lowe, Karen Long, Ron Long, Donna Maley, George McVey, Bea Metz, Karen Mikols, Karen Moots, Bill Paloney, Penny Rushmore, Patty Sweeney, and Jon Weiss

Call to Order: Al Burnard, President, called the group to order and introduced May's Education Program. Joetta Callentine, Stratford Ecological Center, gave a presentation titled *Arthritis, An Herbal Outlook*.

Monthly Business Meeting

Secretary's Report: in Donna Gehring's absence, Kay Covert asked for and received no updates to the April meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Al Burnard, temporarily filling in for Mary Salimbene-Merriman, summarized the Treasurer's report, which is posted in VMS: opening checking account balance is \$12,235; income was \$865 for Adopt-a-Pot; expenses totaled \$1,148 (\$1,000 was for the scholarship); ending balance is \$11,951. The 2 CD's have a combined balance of \$5,023. Please submit any expenses to Al while Mary is out.

Coordinator's Report: Karen Long submitted nominations for the State awards, including Dutch Mill Greenhouse/Leo Burbee, for friends of the MGs, and Al Burnard for MGV of the year. Contact Karen if you would like to purchase a size small, red, ladies polo shirt for half price.

Laurie reported the MGs will have a table at the Volunteer Fair to be held May 26, 4:00 – 7:00 pm. She plans to seek out volunteer opportunities among the many local organizations at the event. Some MGVs may have received email from First Advantage regarding the background check. Once you've been checked, you won't be asked again. The process, done entirely online, only needs to be done once now, and the Extension Office is notified when it is completed. Laurie recommended a 30-minute video on safe handling of fresh produce from your garden, available via a link on the VMS website.

New Business

- Recognition Banquet
 - We sent a thank you note to Allison Hamilton, Allen Township for providing the history of the township and tour of the cabin, during the banquet.
 - We plan to survey our members to learn your preferences for future banquets. We'd like to hear your ideas for ways to recognize MGVs and increase attendance.
 - Everyone agreed that Dixie created beautiful centerpieces for the event.

- Community Outreach –
 - Passport to Fishing – Marysville Parks Dept., held May 7. Al reported there was lots of interest in our pollinator display (repurposed from Pollinator Workshop), from parents, kids and ODNR staff. Twelve people expressed interest in becoming MGVs.
 - Pollinator Paradise, June 12, 2:00–3:00 pm, Mill Valley Park South, Marysville Parks Dept.
 - Denise Ellsworth will be the featured guest and lead the walk.
 - We will have our pollinator display there. Carole, John, Karen Mikols and Karen Moots will participate. Watch for more information.
 - Peaches and Pollinators, June 25, Dutch Mill Greenhouse – times to be determined
 - We will have the MGV pollinator display there in conjunction with National Pollinator Week. Vera, Dixie, Al and Bobbie will participate. More information to come.
 - Al offered and distributed the last of the plastic pots and soil for the August Plant Sale.
- Cultivating Community Gardens update
 - Al and Chris Burnard recently coordinated efforts with Union Co. Health Dept., Community Mental Health Board and Dutch Mill. In one project, the Love and Learn raised beds were moved to Wings Enrichment Center on Walnut St. and Buckeye House on 9th St. In another project, we will collaborate with Dutch Mill who offered to use raised beds in the rear of their facility, to educate provide fresh produce for the Marysville & Salvation Army Food Pantries and the Hope Center's daily lunches. West Central Community Correctional Facility residents will provide the work force for the vegetable garden at Dutch Mill Greenhouse.
 - Wings and Buckeye House: Chris presented a basic gardening overview on May 7 for residents at Wings, a mental health facility, and together they planted hanging baskets, containers and the raised beds. Chris worked with residents of Buckeye House, a facility serving women in drug and alcohol recovery, to plant the raised beds. She will provide a basic gardening overview for residents at a later date. Al provided fact sheets and information on growing vegetables at both locations.
 - Dutch Mill: Bob Berbee approached Al about using their raised beds to support the Health Dept.'s Community Garden initiative. Dutch Mill will provide the tools, seed, soil and logistical plans. MGVs are assisting with the planning. Our role will be to educate West Central residents on gardening. MGVs will participate during main planting days and share knowledge on planting, maintenance and harvesting during periodic visits. Bob Berbee will give direction at other times. Al and Chris will provide a vegetable gardening overview presentation to the West Central on Tuesday, May 31 at 9:00 am The planned start date for the Dutch Mill Garden is June 1st. This garden will replace the produce raised in the Love & Learn gardens for the local food pantries, since those gardens had to be moved to accommodate expansion at the Extension Office.
 - MGVs participating in these projects will go through training for working with inmates, similar to training for Project GROW.
 - To participate in these projects, sign up in VMS and Chris will email you as needed.
- 2016 State MGV Conference

- Registration is now open at <http://u.osu.edu/mgv2016/>. The theme is *Cultivating Passion for Gardening*, and the event will be held in Cuyahoga Falls on Sept. 16 and 17. There's also a link on the State MGVS website.
 - Early registration cost is \$99. That includes Saturday lunch when State MGVS Awards will be presented. Cost for Friday Tours is \$65. Friday's Book Signing/Reception Dinner is \$55.
 - Keynote Speakers –
 - Dr. Michael Dirr, author of *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*, will present "In Praise of Noble Trees" and "Flowering and Evergreen Shrubs: An Alphabet Soup."
 - Dr. Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*, will present "Treasures Among Our Natives."

Project Reports

- Adopt-a-Pot – Donna Maley and Mary Salimbene-Merriman
 - The pots look nice. There were a few challenges. Five MGVS and Beth Johnson, Intern, participated. Bill Paloney delivered the potting mix. Each pot has a small sign indicating MGVS coordinated the project.
- August Plant Sale – Sat., Aug. 13 (set-up Fri. Aug. 12) – Karen Long
 - This event is our only fund raiser and everyone is expected to participate by donating at least 10 plants. Natives, unusual and interesting plants and ground covers are sought after. Hostas were popular last year. Transplant your plants now. Photograph plants when they bloom and attach the photo to the item so people know what they're buying. Include growing instructions. Get on Facebook and share the event with your friends.
- Covered Bridge Festival – Bea Metz and Kay Nichols
 - Met tonight and MGVS are invited to participate in the event to be held Sept. 23 – 25. We'll mulch on Sept. 10 to clean up the two venues. Need MGVS(s) to do two demos. Pollination is recommended. Can duplicate demo on Sat. and Sun. Al indicated we can get more milkweed seeds and instructions from our contact at Wildlife. We have display items and presentation. Steve will speak about the bridge and history of the area. Bea will get information to Laurie who will get it on calendar so MGVS can sign up.
- Cultivating Community Gardens – Chris Burnard
 - Quickly moved and planted raised beds (see above). Zucchini's are up. Meet Tuesday, May 31 at 3:00 pm at Wings to weed and thin the beds. In the process of coordinating roles with all the parties involved. Sign up in VMS to participate and Chris will email you.
- McCloud Park – Al reported on behalf of Dixie Bowen and Julie Jones
 - Al passed along a big thank you to everyone that participated on mulch day. Check your beds for weeds and have annuals planted by Memorial Day. Irrigation system to be turned on. Dixie contacted Chad to remove timbers from playground.
- Monthly Meeting Educational Program – Dixie Bowen
 - See below

- Project GROW – Al Burnard – only had to cancel one work day. The city delivered compost, all beds are planted, the irrigation system is in, and the plants are thriving. Karen will oversee the next work session, next Weds., June 1.
- Speaker's Bureau – Eunice Hornsby and Lisa Kovinchick
 - Lisa plans to contact Pete at WQTT radio who has been extra busy lately, about programming.

June Educational Program:

Dawn Seymour, 7:00 PM, *Herbal Teas*

Future Educational Programs:

July – Trip to Stratford Ecological Center – Details to be given during June Meeting

August – Mark Miller, Delaware Area Rose Society, Home Rose Gardening – To be held at McCloud Park

September – Mary Lewis, Eco-Manager and Volunteer Coordinator, Friends of the Ohio Governor's Residence and Gardens, *Governor's Residence and Gardens* – a Virtual Tour

October – Linda Wuethrich, North Central Ohio Solid Waste District, Recycled Yard Art

November - TBD

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Covert on behalf of Donna Gehring, Secretary