

SEWMG Monthly Business Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2018

Members Present-26

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 by President, Roger Kocher.

Prior Meeting Minutes

The minutes from March 2018 were approved.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurers report for March 2018 was presented by Pat Conole.

Old Business

Committees

Plant Sale – Diane Thieme reported:

- Sue Ratkowski brought a clipboard for MGVs to sign up to work at the plant sale. Volunteers are able to sign up for the area where they want to work, and then they only need to learn that area.
- The Plant Sale Committee walked the grounds at State Fair Park to determine how to set up the sale. They are keeping away from lawn and soil due to jumping worms. They will be using the concourse area for plants, not the parking lot. And they will have a nice circular route for customers. They will be using the North DNR building as a pass through. Education will have their own area away from checkout.
- Diane ordered 600 pairs of shoe covers for the pot-a-thons. Everyone will be wearing the shoe covers to avoid spreading jumping worms. Tools will be sterilized.
- Pot-a-thons are starting on the 19th. This has been communicated and is on the website.
- SEWMG is establishing a partnership with Brent and Becky's bulbs. Brent and Becky's Bulbs will donate 25% of all sales which are, at any time during the year, earmarked to go to SEWMG. Their website will have a place to designate SEWMG as the recipient of the donation. We will advertise this at the Plant Sale.
- Sharp Brothers (tool sharpening company) has agreed to set up a station on the Wednesday of Plant Sale week. They will charge \$7 per tool for sharpening. MGVs can bring any garden tool, pruners, mower blades, kitchen knives, scissors, etc. Serrated edged items are NOT included at this price. MGVs should bring tools in a bag with their name on it.
- Educators Credit Union will donate bags for the Plant Sale.
- A closed garden center in Cudahy will donate new garden tools to sell at the Plant Sale.
- Plant Health Advisors, Jumping Worms and Pollinators will all have a table at the Plant Sale.
- Larry Papham stated that because of the new setup, delivery drivers will not have to back up into plant sale when delivering plants.
- Plant sale t-shirts will be black with lime green lettering .
- Ann Armstrong is doing publicity for the plant sale.
- A plant sale display will be in the window at Boerner.

In House Education- The Jumping Worms program is this coming Monday at the New Berlin Ale House. Ozaukee Master Gardeners are also sponsoring a jumping worm presentation on April 25 at the Ozaukee Pavilion. The speaker will be Brad Herrick from the University of Wisconsin Arboretum. Melinda Myers will do a series of programs on sustainability at the Mequon Nature Preserve.

Trips and Tours- There is an upcoming trip to Bookworm Gardens in Sheboygan and Christopher Farm.

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Special Events- nothing to report

Clothing-Bette Frangesch reported that all orders for Milwaukee County have been distributed. They are holding off on more sales until it is determined if the logo is going to change.

Sunshine –nothing to report

Membership – Only 10 MGVs have not yet paid their dues.

Projects

Lifelong Gardening-Mary Redlinger stated they are working on train the trainer programs.

Garden Support-Jennifer Lazewski reported that we have 30 approved gardens. 46 people attended the Garden Chair Forum. Break out discussions were a positive experience and went longer than expected. Plant label templates are posted on the website with an example. They can be found in the document section under approved gardens.

Plant Education

5-6 signs are being prepared for education. They will be available by the end of April. Some examples are plant health, sun/shade, pollinators and annuals vs. perennials. They will be metal in 2 colors with basic information.

Pollinator group

They are currently working on landscaping and wildlife habitat for native plants. They will be working on field trips for summer. They are also looking at different types of pollinators.

WIMGA –

John Hahn – SEWMG rep to WIMGA and WIMGA director:

Many things are up in the air. They are getting to the end of a long range plan of where to go and how. The main thing is communication. WIMGA.org has lots of information. The next meeting is on April 28 in Hancock in person. They meet in person about 4 times a year, other meetings are via teleconference.

UW Extension Report

Ann Wied reported:

- Eloisa Gomez is retiring July 6.
- The county is taking time to review Sharon Morrissey's position before posting.
- Ann asked that master gardeners state that they are a UW Extension master gardener with Southeast Wisconsin when making presentations. The connection to the university is important especially when making presentations.

Susan Taylor stated that Plant Health advisors will start May 1.

Pat Conole asked that members mail treasurer requests and checks to her and not put them in the folder at the Extension office.

Laura Herzog asked that request for handouts be emailed to her. She has no access to Nancy Lehrer's email so please make sure Laura has your request.

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Announcements

- Diane Thieme reported that our insurance will only allow certified trained chain saw operators to operate chain saws. Sawzalls are ok though.
- Sharon Morrissey and Nancy Lehrer's retirement party is Friday April 27 at Boerner from 3-6. It will be an open house. There will be a tree dedication and a brick dedication as well as a gift. We will provide wine, soda, and cake. There will be a potluck for appetizers.
- The Invasives Group will work at Ten Chimneys on April 18.
- Bernita Hile provided Holiday cactus cuttings for anyone who wanted them.
- The Speaker workshop is going forward. Laurie Baker and Jeff Trader will be the presenters.
- A check was received from Northwestern Mutual for \$500. This is due to their policy of matching volunteer hours for their employees with a donation. Hope Marusic is the MGV that works at Northwestern.

Reminders

May 9 – Boerner Botanical Gardens – 9:30 AM

The meeting was adjourned at 10:34.

Respectfully submitted, Bernita Hile, secretary