

SEWMG COMMITTEE REPORTS – April 16, 2019

The following committees provided a report for the April business meeting.

Garden Support Committee – Jennifer Lazewski

The Garden Chair Forum took place on March 20. The approved garden chairpersons and representatives discussed past successes and future ideas for their gardens and received an update on annual reports and forms. We were pleased to have our new Milwaukee County Coordinator, Caitlin Sprague, participate in this program for the first time and for Ann Wied's continued guidance and support of our garden projects. The committee will be meeting on May 11 at Project and Committee Day to review our events and discuss garden visits for 2019.

Pollinator Group – Jennifer Lazewski

Members of the group will be representing SEWMG at Retzer Nature Center for Earth Day activities on April 27. We will be meeting on May 11 at Project and Committee Day to continue our discussions on natural plant communities and planning pollinator gardens.

Youth Gardening Outreach-Karla Geiger

The SEWMG Youth Gardening Outreach Committee has been working to consolidate and organize the curriculum that is housed at the extension office. Very soon, there will be a general topics and age groups spreadsheet online for our MGV's to use as planning when considering presenting to youth.

This Spring, we have worked to secure volunteers for [4] High Interest Days for elementary schools. These events impact hundreds of youth with our education!

Our committee team continues to grow, as more of our MGV's share their interest in gardening with youth. It is an exciting process to be helping future gardeners get excited about playing in the dirt.

Sunshine – Judy Savage

There have been two instances of Sunshine. MGV Carol Stankiewicz died and a memorial was sent in her name to the State MGV Fund and Patty Witt's husband, Greg, died. Patty didn't want a message to go out on the listserve so I didn't send anything out. Unfortunately another MGV decided to send a message. Just remind everyone that not all the MGV's want to use the listserve and would rather it be more private and use word of mouth. If I find that the case a card is sent but no general message.

Lifelong Gardening – Ann Loper

The Lifelong Gardening Project will have their "trial run" Train the Trainer program for local MGVs Saturday, April 27, 2019, 9:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the Grandparents Room at Boerner Botanical.

Plant Sale – Diane Thieme

The Plant Sale Orientation meeting was held on March 28 and was attended by 79 people, including committee members.

The Pot A Thon schedule has been emailed to the listserv and is posted on the website. The first Pot A Thon will be Wednesday, April 24 at PhilMainwaring's.

Carlin Day was held Tuesday, April 9. Supplies have been delivered to all the Pot A Thon sites.

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2019 Realtor's Home & Garden Show

Event Dates: March 22, 2019 through March 30, 2019

Location: State Fair Exposition Center

Booth Subject: TLC for Trees

Number of visitors to the booth: 1872

There were between 1 and 3 shifts per day. Show was closed on Monday and Tuesday. Open half days Wednesday and Thursday.

Ann Wied made two presentations on our subject TLC for Trees at the "Solutions Stage."

Literature taken by the public: 4022 documents PLUS 600 plant sale bookmarks

Most Popular Literature: Creeping Charlie, EAB Wild Cards, Gardening Resources Card, Proper Tree Pruning, Pruning Deciduous Trees, WI Lawn Care Calendar, Effects of 2019 Winter Weather, and the favorite "24 Ways to Kill a Tree."

Shift Captain Reports – Common comments:

Booth well received. Inviting, easy to navigate.

Would like to have had literature regarding choosing and maintaining fruit trees available.

Suggestion that we add Search Engine guideline: "Subject" + site:.edu to get University research-based info on your subject to the Gardening Resource Card. We had this on a plastic placard on the top of the cabana bar throughout the show. Many people took photos of the instructions.

Connie Tjarksen and Valorie Sangsland will review show data, notes, and photos, and archive for future use. Will evaluate any changes we might wish to make for future shows, and will work with Ann and Caitlin, possibly adjusting the number of workers on certain shifts taking into account traditionally slower times.