

SEWMG Committee Reports – June 12, 2019

The following committees provided a report for the June business meeting:

Trips/Tours – Doris Fons

We had a successful and beautiful day at Jerry Nelson's for our program. On Aug 23rd we will be taking a bus trip to Anderson Japanese Gardens with lunch there before we head to Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville. Registration for this trip will begin on July 16th. Watch for an email notice on July 9th from Lindy Pawlak with the information about the trip. That will be our last event for the year.

Lifelong Gardening – Ann Loper

The Lifelong Gardening Project successfully "pulled off" their first practice Train the Trainer on April 27 for local MGVs. There were 10 enthusiastic participants. A small group of LLG members made some changes/adjustments for a future Train the Trainer session, which we plan to have with Mike Maddox which is still in the works.

There will be one Lifelong Gardening member every day from 1-5 p.m. at State Fair talking about our vertical gardening & elevated gardens. We also will be handing out sunflower seeds to children who come to our area with a one page description on planting the seeds. There will be a limited amount for each day.

SEWMG Newsletter - Janet Wintersberger

Ann Weronke, Sandy Manning and Janet Wintersberger continue to work on providing the newsletter. Our thanks goes to everyone who submits articles for inclusion. SEWMG is a very active organization and we want to keep our members informed. If an MGV would like to join the newsletter team (or submit an article), please let us know. The deadline is the first of every even month.

Annual Garden Reports/Budget Requests - Janet Wintersberger

Make sure to submit your annual reports and requests to the Finance Committee no later than September 15. Now that summer-like weather is here, time will pass very quickly. A reminder for Garden and Project Chairs to submit your funds reimbursements (and requests) to the Treasurer shortly after making purchases.

Garden Support Committee – Jennifer Lazewski

We will be scheduling garden visits by members to about 1/3 of the approved gardens to be completed in July. There will be a GSC meeting in August, date and place to be determined yet.

Pollinator Group – Jennifer Lazewski

No report

In house education – Rita Piper

We will have programs in October and November. We need a chairperson to start the process of choosing 2020 programs; a process typically started in late summer. A few committee members will stay on after I leave, although no one wants to chair or take responsibility for 2020 programs, so we need to find a replacement if there are to be educational programs next year.

Sunshine – Judy Savage

The Sunshine Committee has nothing to report except that there will be an article about the "committee" in the next newsletter. Hopefully this will alleviate the confusion as to why not all new hits the list serve.

Special Events Report – Valorie Sanglsand

Connie Tjarksen sent the invitation to volunteer at the 2019 State Fair to the List Serv on Wednesday 6/5/19.

The 2019 Fair runs from Thursday, August 1 through Sunday, August 11.

Volunteers are needed for three shifts per day in our area in Exploratory Park:

9:00-1:00

1:00-5:00

5:00-9:00

SEWMG Committee Reports – June 12, 2019

There will be one Shift Captain and four MGV volunteers per shift.

We are entertaining one MGV-in-training per shift, as part of the four.

In order to make certain the opportunity to volunteer is afforded to all MGVs, shifts will be limited to a maximum of two per MGV, unless we have challenges filling all the shifts.

There will be one daytime and one evening orientation on the Tuesday and Wednesday prior to the start of the fair. Times TBD.

This year we will have many visitors to our area from Extension, which should encourage lively discussions with the MGVs and the public:

Tuesday, 8/6: Brian Hudelson, Plant Disease Specialist, UW-Madison will be in our area 9 a.m. until Noon, and 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. **At 1 p.m. Brian will give a presentation: “Easy-to-See Plant Diseases.”**

Thursday 8/8: PJ Liesch, Insect Specialist, UW-Madison will be in our area 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.

Thursday 8/8: Dr. Bierneke Bron, Tick Specialist, UW-Madison will be in our area 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.

Friday 8/9: Vijai Pandian, Horticulture Educator, UW-Extension will be in our area 9 a.m. until noon.

At 11:30 a.m. Vijai will give a presentation: “Growing Blueberries”

Saturday 8/10: Vijai Pandian, Horticulture Educator, UW-Extension will be in our area 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. **At 1 p.m. Vijai will give a presentation: “Growing Fall Season Crops”**

There will be a youth garden scavenger hunt daily from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m.

We encourage everyone to volunteer at this year's event !

Plant Sale – Diane Thieme

The 2019 Plant Sale was held on Saturday, May 18. The pre sale for members was on Friday, May 17, and the post sale was on Monday, May 20. The number of plants available for the sale was down about 2,000 from previous years, but preliminary figures show sales were up over the past two years. We were fortunate to have significant donations from Jerry Nelson and Roy Diblik. We also received very large donations of bulbs and dahlias from several people. To supplement our inventory, we purchased more Song Sparrow plants than we have ever before.

The total number of transactions for the 3 days was 954, within our normal range. Friday numbers were down slightly, Saturday was typical, and Monday sales were the highest we have ever had. Silent Auction profits were down. We will have to address the location of the auction on the grounds and, perhaps, do more promotion of it to members.

Since Song Sparrow is closing at the end of the year, the plant sale committee would like to investigate the possibility of buying plants now for next year's sale. Song Sparrow plants have been a significant portion of our profits since we partnered with them in 2013. If money for next year's sale could be made available now, we could buy plants while they can still be purchased. We now have a space of our own at Fire Fly Ridge and could heel in the plants there until next spring. We will also look into other sources for additional plants beyond our traditional member/friends donors.

There were about 150 flats left after the sale. Six garden chairs picked up plants for their gardens. We gave plants to Dennis Lukaszewski for his community gardens, gave some to Frame Park in Waukesha at their request, and gave the remaining plants to Habitat for Humanity.