

SEWMG Committee Reports – August 7, 2019

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

Trips/Tours – Doris Fons

We will be going to Anderson Japanese Gardens with lunch there and then to Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville on Friday, August 23rd. We presently have a full bus of 56 people and a few people on the wait list. We're hoping for a nice, cool and sunny day.

Lifelong Gardening – Ann Loper

At Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville, WI there will be a Horticultural Therapy symposium August 6, 2019 and the Lifelong Gardening Project will give 3 presentations throughout the day. It's a fun and informative day for physical therapists and Master Gardeners. Lifelong Gardening has been doing presentations at this Horticultural Therapy event for the last several years.

Mike Maddox suggested some ideas in regards to our Train the Trainer program which some of the members will be meeting to discuss.

SEWMG Newsletter - Janet Wintersberger

The Oct/Nov newsletter will be out later this week.

Annual Garden Reports/Budget Requests - Janet Wintersberger

- Make sure you have submitted all your expenses to the treasurer by 9/15. We use that as a basis for determining the next year's budget.
- September 15 is the deadline for annual reports for gardens, projects, committees and activities.
- Please add an attachment that 'tells a story' about your particular garden, project, committee or activity to show how what mgvs do impacts our communities.
- Budget requests for 2020 are also due on 9/15.
- Items purchased (\$25 or more) need to be added to our inventory.
- All forms are on the website. Hard copies should be mailed to the Milwaukee extension office. The deadline is September 15.
- In recent years, SEWMG expenses have grown but revenues have fallen. Please be mindful of this when developing your budget.

Plant Sale – Diane Thieme

We were very fortunate to receive a generous donation of about 180 large, healthy perennials from Groth Country Garden in Cedarburg. The plants have been heeled in at Firefly Ridge. Several volunteers have worked very hard to get Firefly Ridge in better shape. It has been weeded and fertilized with Early Bird. Wood chips have been spread to create walking paths between the planting sections. A volunteer crew is watering and weeding regularly.

Worm inspections of donor gardens are beginning. The dig team will begin collecting plants after the worm checks are completed. If any money remains in the budget, we will buy more of the Song Sparrow discounted plants while they are still available.

Youth Gardening Outreach – Karla Geiger

Recent activities included Monarch Butterfly education ~

7/20/19 @ Waukesha County Fair 4H [125 Youth]

7/27/19 @ Brookfield Farmers Market [60 Youth]

7/28/19 @ Enchanted Evening at Boerner, collaborating with Pollinator Group [96 Youth]

8/1/19 @ Jackson Park Farmer's Market [27 Youth]

8/1-11/19 @ State Fair, Scavenger Hunt [500+ Youth?]

Early August @ Stagecoach Inn, Assisting with Educational Materials

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Wisconsin State Fair – Valorie Sangsland

There were many new additions and changes at our location in Exploratory Park at the 2019 Wisconsin State Fair.

- The center garden was recreated from the soil up
- The shade and native area were cleaned out and will be rejuvenated for 2020
- A container garden contest for MGVs yielded eleven gorgeous entries with the public voting for their favorite
- A youth area was created where kids could sit on small scale Aldo Leopold benches and dig in a tiny raised bed
- A youth scavenger hunt engaged our younger visitors, and was also featured in the Sunday, 7/28/2019 edition of the Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel.
- Lifelong Gardening again shared their expertise, with an elevated gardening focus
- Visitors from UW-Madison and Milwaukee Extension were on site four days to share their expertise directly with the public: Brian Hudelson, Plant Disease Specialist; PJ Liesch, Insect Specialist; Dr. Bierneke Bron, Tick Specialist and our own Vijai Pandian, Horticulture Educator
- A dying maple tree was turned into a colorful and educational highlight, focusing on the insects that feed on dying trees, and subsequently become food for the woodpeckers living in the area

Traffic in the areas was at an unprecedented high versus previous year, and volunteers reported having more fun working the site this year than they ever had before.

Congratulations and a huge Thank You to all involved in this year's garden and event!

Website Review Group – Valorie Sangsland:

Working with the Milwaukee Extension office, we were able to make some needed updates, corrections and additions to the Volunteer tab on the website. The Review Group may be reaching out to MGVs directly to validate their information is correct. Additionally, a Listserve email was sent 8/3/19 asking MGVs to validate their information and send updates to Valorie Sangsland (email: vjsland@gmail.com), who will coordinate corrections.