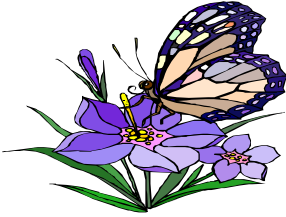


WHAT'S COMING UP?

Volume 6

August 2008

The Newsletter of the Polk County MG Association



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PCMGA August 18, 2008 Meeting Minutes

The August meeting of the Polk County Master Gardeners Association was held at the National Park Service Headquarters. The education portion of the meeting began at 6:00 PM so the meeting was not called to order until 7:45PM by President Fritz Coulter.

Potluck dinner was held tonight beginning at 7:45PM. We had many delicious dishes and even though it was very warm & humid in the beginning a wonderful breeze came up to cool us down during dinner.

TREASURERS REPORT: Not read this month.

OLD BUSINESS

The Polk County fair was held July 24th-27th and this is the largest community presence we have all year. Our booth was manned and the weed contest was held. We had a cedar planter given away for a door prize. We did not have the master gardener presence we usually had at the fair this year. We need to have more volunteers for next years fair.

We had a few questions on general public for next year. We will have to think of more to peak interest for next year.

Fritz won a ribbons for his Hosta, and coleus entries.

NEW BUSINESS

Education & Volunteer hours are to be done and handed in or mailed to Ryan Sterry by September 22nd. Our hours need to be in Madison by October 1st, 2008. We have no new volunteers as no new class was held.

Agriculture meeting in Spooner will be held Tuesday August 26th beginning around 4:00 pm. Spooner has talks on tomato varieties and other vegetable information. Flowers are tested to see how they survive in our zone. Samples of tomatoes with recipes made with them are available for tasting. Brochures are available from the master gardening group with plant information and also county agriculture information and recipes.

Meet at the Apple River Inn –west side parking lot by 4:00 PM if intending to attend. Please let Sally Pickard know as she has room for 8-10 people to ride along.

Specialized Master Gardening class will begin September 20th. Sign up needs to be done by September 16th to Ryan Sterry, Polk County extension office. Ryan Sterry or Fritz Coulter has the agenda being offered.

New Master Gardener class is being offered beginning January, 2009. We need a minimum of 10 people to hold class. New requirements to take class include mandatory volunteer hours for community and background check must be done. Fee is \$110 and deadline to register is November 1st, 2008.

Autumn Fest-September 27th & 28th, 2008. If master gardeners want a table at the event to publicize our organization it will be manned Saturday the 27th from 9-5PM. Contact Bob Kazmierski or www.scfwi.com for more information. Festival is emphasizing arts, nature and sustainability. Let Fritz know if interested in a table. using donated. We could save the donated plants for projects where money was not available.



EDUCATION

Robin Maercklein, Park Biologist for the National Park Service spoke to us this evening. Robin shared a short film that is shown by the park service highlighting the history of the St. Croix Scenic Riverway and how we can enjoy its beauty.

Robin gave us a tour of the building and explained some of its features for ecological savings of energy and green uses of the building. Cabinets in the building for kitchen and another area are made from sunflower stalks chopped and pressed for chipboard. Poured concrete wall inside building is 2 feet thick and sunlight comes in through the windows and heat is stored in winter for heat and it stays cool due to shade of trees in summer becoming a passive solar system.

Rooftop gardens(3 total) is full of native plants and Robin is still experimenting to see what plants will grow in a 4-6 inch depth of soil. No phosphorous fertilizers or additives are used. Water from the rooftops run down to a drainage system that feeds into a trout stream and it has an insulated barrier to stay warm in winter. They are still trying to get control of the algae growth in the pond due to loss of trees. New trees are being planted around the building and the shade should help with water health.

List of flowers & plants used around the building and on the rooftop will be attached.

Some plants featured are Hairy Grandma, Partridge pea and purple prairie clover.

Robin and national park staff continue to pull purple loosestrife and buckthorn since these are considered invasive and noxious weeds and are prohibited from being planted in Wisconsin.

Building is 50 ft lower than original building and 100 feet back from the river. Building is screened from the river to keep esthetic look of the riverway.

Please come and bring others to share the vast knowledge and history of the St. Croix River. The giftshop has many books, artifacts and other items to help us with plants, wildlife and how to bring nature into our everyday lives.

Next meeting Monday, September 15th at 6:45PM at Polk County Government Building, NW conference room and our speaker will be on Food Preservation.

A LIST WAS GIVEN OF THE PLANTINGS AT THE CENTER. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED LET US KNOW AND A COPY WITH BE PDF'D TO YOU.



THERE IS STILL PLENTY OF ROOM FOR ADDITIONAL HELP ON COMMITTEES. THIS GROUP IS ONLY AS GOOD AS ITS VOLUNTEERS. WE WILL BE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH CLASS IF THERE IS ENOUGH INTEREST.

Club Volunteer Opportunities.

SEE MINUTES

If you are looking for volunteer opportunities think about hitting one of the project gardens we have done and do a little weeding. If you don't know where they are, send a quick email and we will let you know. A couple to remember: Golden Age Manor in Amery, the Polk County Fair Grounds, the Polk County Government Center and Garfield Park on Lake Wapo.

