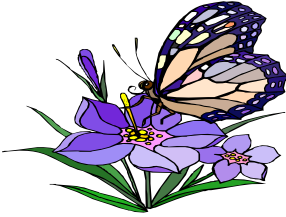


WHAT'S COMING UP?

Volume 5

June, 2009

The Newsletter of the Polk County MG Association



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PCMGGA June 15, 2009 Meeting Minutes

The June meeting of the Polk County Master Gardeners Association was held at the Polk County Justice Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:45 by President Fritz Coulter.

Treasurers report: Was not given at this meeting

Old Business:

Polk County Fair: Set up set for Wednesday, July 29th at 6:00 PM. We will set up the booth and if anyone has pots to use for display on the wagon please bring them. It will be a \$6.00 fee to get into the fair unless you have entered something in the fair for judging. Jim West will provide a fan to be used at the booth as we have paid for electricity this year.

Fritz suggested a trivia contest this year. He will come up with 3 garden question to use and we will place answers in a large pot. The cedar planter made by Stu Kuehl will be given away as the prize. We will need the question put on a smaller paper(maybe 4 to an 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper to be cut). We will need names & phone #'s on the slips to contact the winner.

We will take orders for those wanting Mason Bee Nesters since we won't be selling at the fair. We will check with Ryan Sterry to see if can have people pick up from his office-otherwise make other arrangements.

We will also have our Share the Bounty information and Polk Co display of pictures. Schedule will be attached at end of this report for times available for working. Our booth will be manned Thursday-Saturday from 10-6:00PM. Sunday 10-4:00PM and then booth will be dismantled. Help will be needed then too.

PGMG will pay for the license for Stu & Julie for trailer they use to bring the booth to the fair & sportsman show. Motion made by Sally to pay for license & seconded by Fritz. {Passed}.

Gardens at the fairgrounds are being worked on Thursdays from 6-8:00PM. Terry Wallin is in charge of the gardens & project. Check with her if interested or show up for work. In September we will go and clean-up the gardens for the year.

Master Gardeners Convention at Baraboo, WI-October 2nd & 3rd. Sally has reserved 5 rooms if anyone interested in going.

We will donate some Mason Bee Nesters to the convention to use as door prizes or whatever they feel they want to use them for.

Raffle ticket stubs and money need to be turned in to Maggie Swiontek by August meeting. Fritz will contact Sauk County extension office we need more time to collect the money.

Golden Age Manor , Amery—is having their 100th anniversary in August. If you can help weed or water during the summer please contact Deb Peterson. She has been coordinating the plantings & work schedules their and let her know what you can do. I am not sure the exact date of the anniversary celebration at this time.

New Business:

Spooner Agriculture Research Center will have the night of Twilight Garden Tour and featured seminars & speakers on Wednesday, August 26th from 4-7:00PM. Sally will drive and has room for 11 in her van. We will pitch in for gas for her & stop afterwards for a bite to eat.

Next meeting:

Monday, August 17th at Paula Kramers for potluck. Everyone please bring a dish to pass at 6:00PM. Paula is located south from Menards ½ mile in St. Croix Falls. Go south on 208th Menards) to 122nd (1st road on left)-207th Street is a short street to the 2 story house. After dinner we will go to the fairgrounds for drawing up some plans for plantings this fall (September).

NO MEETING IN JULY DUE TO COUNTY FAIR.

Education:

Joe Wiberg from Prairie Restorations in Scandia, Minnesota came to talk to us regarding what they offer. They have farms in Burnsville, Elk River, Eden Prairie, Moorhead, Cloquet and the main and original farm in Princeton.

Prairie specializes in Native Grass plantings & wildflowers. They work with communities and private customers for landscaping, wetlands, rain gardens and eco-systems. They provide the highest quality work and plants available. They take into consideration the size, shape, aspect, slope, topography, hydrology, soil type and wildlife that are part of the planting sites.

Biological diversity-more variety of plants, more butterflies and birds will be attracted-they plant up to 40 species of flowers & native grasses. They look at the direction of the slopes and fields to be planted. They take into account the amount of heat, sun, wind the area will be exposed to.

Steep slopes tend to have thinner plants so heavier seeding.

Topography affects the quality and movement of water entering a space.

Soil type plays a large part in determining what kind of plants can be grown-Encourage activity of desirables-such as attracting: butterflies, birds & deer. You can deter mice and deer sometimes by what is planted at your site.

Prairie Restorations uses 2 -3 applications of herbicides to get rid of undesirable plants. They suggest you begin work on your area at least the year before using your herbicides to clear the weeds & growth. You can then get into till the ground and spray again if necessary. If you spray around Halloween you can kill off the cool season grasses that could reseed. Use it on your walking paths, lines of sight and sitting areas. Then look at these sites from different angles to complete your plans and choice of plants.

They also burn, disc in the fall and again in springtime, then plant.

Make sure you have clear plans on what you are using the land for smaller sites use smaller grasses & plants. Towns and cities are beginning to require mitigation of new building developments and sites using native grasses.

In formal gardens have compatibility with your choices of flowers and plants that are used. Make sure you look at the palette of colors and landowner preferences.

Turf grasses will creep into your native grass plantings in short amount of time if your not careful.

You need to decide if you want to use plugs vs seed a;sp. Obviously seed takes longer but is less expensive vs. using plugs.

Rain gardens should have more plants used in the bottom & sides. Many people make the mistake of using bark mulch in them and when it rains the bark floats. It can make quite the mess in your garden and is not suggested. Coconut blankets are suggested which are used for erosion.

Plant your rain gardens with plants every 15” or so and then use flower seed of similar plants to fill in the spaces. Sedges, bluestem and wetter grasses along with flowers that tolerant wetter conditions are recommended.

Prairie Restorations does sell flower seed & grass mixtures that work in your rain gardens or native grass plantings.

To access Prairie Restorations for help with planning, gardening, hiring for projects or purchasing products contact them at Princeton 763-631-9458 or Scandia 651-433-1437 or Duluth near Munger at 218-729-9044.



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Wisconsin Master Gardeners Convention-October 2 & 3, 2009 at HOCHUNK Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells.



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.

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 and Good Samaritan Nursing Home in St. Croix.

SEE LISTING FOR WORKING AT FAIR. REMEMBER THIS COUNTS TOWARDS YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS.

Polk County Fair schedule

Wednesday, July 29th : Set up at 6:00 PM

Paula Kramer

Marge Swiontek

Stu & Julie Kuehl

Thursday-July 30th: Paula Kramer 10-6:00 PM

Jim West 10-2:00PM (will bring a fan)

Friday-July 31st: Paula Kramer 10-6:00PM

Jackie 10-12:00 NOON

Saturday-August 1st: Sally Pritchard 10-12:00 NOON

Ron Hermansen 10-12:00 NOON

Sunday-August 2nd: Nan 12:00-4:00 PM

Tear Down at 4:00 PM Stu & Julie Kuehl