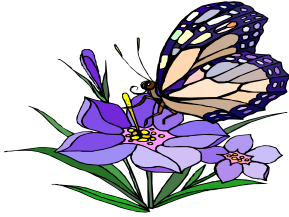


WHAT'S COMING UP?

Volume 4

April 2008

The Newsletter of the Polk County MG Association



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PCMGA April 15, 2008 Meeting Minutes

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

The April meeting minutes were not read but were asked if corrections needed to be made by Fritz. No one had any corrections to be made.

Treasurers report: Report was not read due to no new activity but balance in account is \$948.64.

Old Business:

Andrea Siefert sent a thank you note for our contribution to the “Share the Bounty” program. She thanked us for our participation and donation to her program. She will have information for us to work with for the Sportsman Show. She will get the information to Julie or Fritz.

Sportsman Show-set-up is still scheduled for Friday night 4/25th at 6:00 PM and 4 people are needed to set up and tear down will be Sunday 4/27 at 4:00PM. . Looks like we will have the required amount of help to accomplish both tasks.

Julie has set up little packets with a jiffy pellet pot and pumpkin seed with instruction for kids to plant their own pumpkin plant to watch and place in the garden at the appropriate time. Sportsman show will be 4/26 and 4/27 at the Polk County Fairgrounds, hours will be Saturday 9-5 and Sunday 10-4:00. Volunteers will be needed to work 2 hour shifts on Saturday & Sunday. Sheet was sent around for work sign up at the show.

We will having demonstrations at the main area if possible to share whatever knowledge we can share. Contact Julie Kuehl (715) 268-8066 as soon as possible if you have something you can demonstrate. Door prize will be a wooden tomato ladder.

Fairbooks

Ryan said Polk County fair books will be available next week April 20. Please get 1 as soon as possible so you can make your decision on what you are going to enter at the fair.

Plant Sale

Jim West is coordinating the plant sale through the Wanderoos Pancake Breakfast on **Sunday May 11th from 8:00-11:00 AM**. Please get your plants to Jim West on Friday or Saturday May 9 & 10th or drop off early Sunday morning. Please clearly mark your plants clearly whether annuals, perennials or houseplants. Include small information sheets in case of questions if possible. If you mark prices please be in tune with what nurseries in the area will be charging. Bonnie Corcoran will be providing a wagon that is 6 ft wide and 12/14 ft long to display plants. Jim & Bonnie will coordinate getting the wagon to plant selling site. If questions or directions needed contact Jim West at 268-2506. Ryan Sterry will place information on the sale in the newspapers community and master gardening articles. Jackie and Sally will get the information to the Wisconsin public stations for community announcement on cable and WXCE.

Community planting for community garden at Turtle Lake on May 24th. Fritz may have more information by next master gardening meeting.

Todd Demers will schedule 1 garden planting at the government center before Memorial Day.

Garden Journals are still available for \$8.00 and \$2.00 shipping and handling. If more than 10 journals ordered shipping is free.

NEW BUSINESS

Fritz had information on 3rd Annual Lunch w/Gardeners in Eau Claire. Seminar is being held on Saturday, April 19th from 9-1:30PM. Featured speakers will be Mike McKinley from GEM Gardens, Nancy Shelley-The Potting Shed, Louise WhiteRoach, Traci Bauer and Jenny Reit. Information will be on True Victorian Gardens, Mays Floral Gardens-sustainable garden practices and Creative Combinations.

Reservations can be made by calling 715-836-8184 and by contacting FANNYHILL.COM. Cost is \$25 which includes a wonderful lunch.

Linda Leef has been in contact with the Luck Ag teacher, Tom Wesley. They are looking for help in assisting the classes with composting and landscaping projects.

WIMGA representative has been Ron Johnson who has not been able to make our last few meetings. If anyone is interested in taking over the position contact Fritz or Ron Johnson. Usually 2 meetings are required for the year and information from WIMGA is sent to the representative to sort and pass onto groups if interested.

Master Gardeners Conference in July –Early registration is \$150 for the Thursday, Friday Saturday conference which ends by April 19th. After April 19th date cost will be \$175. Connect to Wisconsin Master Gardeners website through University of Wisconsin for further information.

Featured Speaker

Luella Greene from the Chisago County Masters Gardeners came and spoke to us about Soil Improvement and Composting. We received many information sheets explaining the Nature of Soil, Gardening from the Surface Downward, Understanding Soil PH, Soil Testing & Why, Using Manure on Our Gardens, Properties of an Ideal Soil for Gardens & Lawns, Composting & Mulching-A Guide to Organic Waste.

Luella also explained and included information on natural organic fertilizers and how we can build our soil the natural way. Points were given on what to use in our compost piles and how the University of Minnesota did tests and found the best compost piles are made using the layering system not compost containers sold by most garden supply companies. Most containers are not wide enough or designed to allow enough air & water to get into the container to break down our material.

A information sheet was handed out to help us break down what are nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium sources which help us maintain good soil. A few other important soil amendments that can be used is Limestone(calcium carbonate), Gypsum(calcium sulfate) and Borax Mule Team to address boron deficiency.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, May 20th at Lake Country Nursery and we will talk about summer bulbs. Please be at the nursery by 6:30 PM. Directions will follow.



2008 COMMITTEES

MEMBERSHIP:

This committee will work to encourage new members to join the group and become active members of the group. This could entail mentoring new members.

GROUP FUNDRAISER:

This committee will work on developing fund raisers for the group and coordinating the implementation of the fundraiser.

Maggie Swiontek

Debbie Peterson

Sally Pickard

COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

This committee will work to develop educational programs and speaking engagements in the community. These may be through the schools, 4H groups, youth groups, senior citizen groups, community education, etc.

VOLUNTEER PROJECTS:

This committee will work to coordinate the volunteer projects that the group will take on for the year. They will be responsible for collecting requests, getting the information out to the members and coordinating the volunteers for the projects.

Todd Demers

Jim West

POLK COUNTY FAIR:

This committee will coordinate the display and the workers for the booth at the Polk County Fair.

Bonnie Corcoran

Ann Ringlien

Todd Demers

SPORTSMAN SHOW:

This committee will coordinate the display and workers for the Sportsman Show.

Julie Kuehl (Chair)

Maggie Swiontek

Jackie Whitcomb

Ann Ringlien

COUNTY HELPLINE:

This committee will help Ryan's office with answering questions that come in on the helpline.

Paula Kramer (Chair)

Amy Muryn

MASTER GARDENER TRAINING PROGRAM:

This committee will help coordinate the MG training program.

Paula Kramer

Amy Muryn

ADVERTISING:

This committee is in charge of getting information out to media for events.

Jackie Whitcomb _____

Other possible ideas:

EARTH DAY AT RECYCLING CENTER

ARBOR DAY PROGRAM

Jim West _____

FIELD TRIPS (In addition to the monthly meeting speakers)

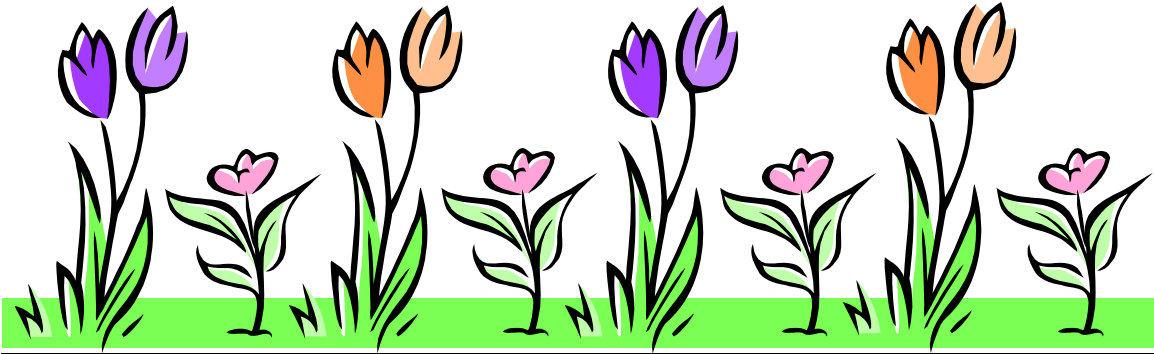
Ann Ringlien _____

Arboretum/Conservatory _____



THERE IS STILL PLENTY OF ROOM FOR ADDITIONAL HELP ON COMMITTEES. THIS GROUP IS ONLY AS GOOD AS ITS VOLUNTEERS.

Club Volunteer Opportunities.



**THIS PAGE IS WAITING FOR THE
SUMMER PROJECTS.**

Sportsman Show in St. Croix Falls

**April 26 from 9-5 and April 27 from
10-4.**

Contact Julie Kuehl at
julie.kuehl@leonard.com if interested in
helping. Demonstration will be on
pumpkin growing.



CLUB PLANT SALE

Calling all plants!!!!!!!!!!

Wanderoos on Mother's Day. We will have a booth to sell plants. Everyone who has house plants, vegetables, annuals or perennials they're willing to part with should contact Jim West knjwest@centurytel.net and let him know what you have and if you can work.