

Outagamie County Master Gardener Association

Member Meeting

August 18, 2011

Location: _____

PROGRAM – started at 6:30PM

Kathy Baum and Peter Kordis provided a wonderful presentation on Spring bulbs.

MEETING – convened at 7:30PM

Education Committee: Kathy informed the group that we will not be offering the general Master Gardener (MG) classes in 2012. The State is currently revamping their program so we are taking advantage of the opportunity to revamp ours as well. We are planning on a longer training session with more hands on activities. For example, if we are talking about prairie gardens we hope to locate that class at a prairie garden for hands-on education and observation. We will also block off some weeks off in order to offer projects at which students may volunteer. This will help members of the new class to get to know some of the current members by working with them and will also assist them with getting volunteer hours in right away. We are also looking at developing an application process for the MG class and for becoming a MG member. The plan is to limit class size to no more than 20 people in the new classes, as compared to the 30 we've had in the past. Through initiation of the application process, limiting class size, and providing more hands-on activities, we hope more active members will result and that the new program setup will promote higher retention rates.

Fundraising Committee: Carol VandeHey announced that Judy Peters will be co-chairing the Fundraising Committee with Carol. Donna Kidder and Sue Mings will be co-chairing the Digging Committee for the plant sale. The Fundraising Committee is looking into revamping the plant sale for this next year. The Committee hopes to have a gardening fair and plant sale all in one event. We will be looking for vendors to show their garden-related goods, with the exception of plants, so that doesn't compete with the sale. The vendors will be juried and approved by the Fundraising Committee, and must provide proof of insurance. We will look at both outside vendors and Master Gardener who would like to sell their wares. Ten percent (10%) of sales from the vendors will come back to the MG organization. Gail Clearwater and Kathy Baum will head up the fair portion of the plant sale and will begin the process of looking for vendors.

Our next meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday, September 15, 2011, at Homestead Meadows in Appleton.

Meeting adjourned: 7:15PM
Attendance: ___ members

Education hours = 1 hr
Support hours = 15 mins