



University of Wisconsin-Extension

Chippewa County
Courthouse, Room 13
711 N. Bridge Street
Chippewa Falls, WI



Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Calendar of Events	2
Chippewa County CVMGA Information	2
CMVGA Meeting Minutes	3
CVMGA Committees	4
Volunteer Opportunities	4
Upcoming Events	5



President's Message

Is a decrease in pollinators affecting our morning coffee?! Now you have our attention. So why are pollinators important? It's not just about flowers as we may have previously thought.

It is estimated that more than 1,300 types of plants are grown around the world for food, beverages (yes, coffee), medicines, condiments, spices and even fabric. Of these, about 75% are pollinated by animals. More than one of every three bites of food we eat or beverages we drink are directly because of pollinators. Indirectly, pollinators ultimately play a role in the majority of what we eat and consume. - Joe Lamp'l, Growing a Greener World, The Importance of Pollinators

Our May program focuses on our VIPs, Very Important Pollinators. Mary Jo Fleming will give a presentation designed to provide MGs with information needed to help with planting and maintaining our pollinator garden at the Northern Wisconsin State Fair and for sharing the message about the importance of pollinator habitat when volunteering at our booth during fair week, July 13-17, 2016. Both of these activities and attendance at the May meeting count toward MG volunteer and education hours.

Have you ever heard this from a friend or relative? "You are a Master Gardener. You should know all about X,Y,Z!". I certainly have. Perhaps Master Gardener Volunteers will agree that while our 30 hours of training and 10 annual hours of continuing education have given us a solid core of knowledge about gardening we are by no means experts on all, or on even a single topic. Sometimes we know just enough to know how much we don't know! But what we each are, is experts at using our base of information, and our ability to access resources to help people find answers to their gardening questions and to take on gardening projects of all types.

This month we have had requests for Master Gardener Volunteers to: help with setting up a rain garden; provide guidance for organizing a plant swap and sale and a container planting lunch-and-learn, and to present basic vegetable gardening information to novice gardeners. (See the Volunteer Opportunities section of this newsletter.) None of these requests come with the expectation that the MG volunteer will do all the work, but that they will help steer the requesting organization toward the information and resources needed to make their projects successful. Even if you do not have a lot of time to give, consider helping these projects get off the ground by meeting with their organizers to find out what they need to get started. Often it is just a little push in the right direction.

And if a bit of financial aid is needed for the success of a project we can help with that too. The Volunteer Project Grant application is included with this newsletter. It is intended to help Master Gardener Volunteers working as a minimum group of three by giving a monetary boost if needed to undertake projects worthy of accomplishing CVMGA educational objectives. Any current MGV may apply.

Happy May! Get in to those gardens! And, as Ms. Frizzle* always says, "Take chances, make mistakes, get messy!"

Laura Kasdorf, CVMGA Co-President

* The Magic School Bus

Calendar of Events 2016

May

- 1 Outdoor Ed-Venture**, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Cornell Mill Yard Park
- 9 CVMGA Meeting**, Pollinator Garden volunteer Orientation, 6:30 p.m.,
Courthouse Room 16
- 20 Pollinator Garden Planting Session**, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Northern Wisconsin
State Fairgrounds
- 21 Pollinator Garden Planting Session**, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Northern Wisconsin
State Fairgrounds

June

- 13 Open Board Meeting** - location to be determined



Visit us on Facebook. Search for Chippewa Valley Master
Gardeners Association

CHIPPEWA COUNTY MASTER GARDENER INFORMATION

2016 BOARD of DIRECTORS

Co-Presidents: *Sharon Bergstad (2016)*
Laura Kasdorf (2017)

Secretary: *Sandy Kenner (2016)*

Treasurer: *Shirley Blizek (2017)*

Membership Director: *Mary Jo Fleming (2017)*

Directors at Large: *Sue Crisp (2016)*
Steve Hesselberg (2016)
Joy Lancour (2016)
Sue Larson (2016)
Elaine Olsen (2016)

Elections are held each November.

CVMGA Committees

Pollinator Garden: *Mary Jo Fleming*
bingnjo@charter.net

Think Spring Seminar: *Laura Kasdorf*
wolterkasdorf@sbcglobal.net
(715-726-1963)

Exhibits/Activities: *Mary Jo Fleming*
Linda Stockinger
ldstocking@aol.com

Programming: *Laura Kasdorf*

Bluebird Trail: *Mary Jo Fleming*

Newsletter Deadline

Information for the Master Gardener Newsletter is due by the 15th of the month, for the next month's newsletter.

UW-Extension Office Contacts, 715-726-7950

Jerry Clark, Crops & Soils Agent, jerome.clark@ces.uwex.edu
Heather Lubs, Administrative Assistant III, hubs@co.chippewa.wi.us

Meeting Minutes

**Chippewa County Master Gardeners Association
Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2016
Courthouse, Room 16
6:30 p.m.**

The April meeting of the C.V.M.G. was held at the Chippewa County Courthouse. Fifteen members attended the meeting: Sharon Bergstad, Shirley Blizek, Stacy Bucheger Mazu, Sue Crisp, Mary Jo Fleming, Diane Gorton, Steve Hesselberg, Elizabeth Kalata, Laura Kasdorf, Sandy Kenner, Joy Lancour, Sue Larsen, Elaine Olsen, Linda Stockinger, and Mary Tarbox. Advisor Jerry Clark was also present.

President Laura Kasdorf called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. She welcomed everyone and short introductions were made by all attendees.

The minutes of the January 11, 2016 were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer Shirley Blizek gave the treasurers report, which showed a balance of \$17,185.72. A grant for \$6,500.00 was received from the Chippewa Valley Community Foundation to pay for a fence around the community garden plots. Shirley presented a balance sheet and evaluation summary for Think Spring 2016. Profit from the event was \$1,039.89.

Sandy Kenner thanked Jerry Clark on behalf of the CVMG members for his inspiration, motivation, assistance, encouragement, and prodding in holding our Think Spring seminar. THANK YOU, JERRY.

Laura Kasdorf will reserve the Avalon for Think Spring 2017 and planning for the event will begin in late summer and fall. Any member with ideas for good speakers should refer them to the planning committee.

Mary Jo Fleming gave a power point presentation about our various club projects and opportunities to serve and accumulate volunteer hours.

Bluebird Trail
Pollinator Garden
Think Spring 2017
Exhibit and activity planning
Events that showcase the fair

Cornell Outdoor Ed-Venture
Bloomer Junior Garden
Beaver Creek Native Plant Sale, Saturday,
May 7, 2016
Bare root tree sorting to assist Chippewa
County Land and Conservation
Community Gardens

Advisor Jerry Clark reminded members to write and submit articles to our local newspapers. Also, the Town of Wheaton would like someone to consult with them about landscaping at their fire station.

There will be a Wellness Committee Lunch and Learn meeting at courthouse May 25 to perhaps include a talk on basic gardening and a possible plant swap. Volunteers anyone?

Unfinished Business:

Mary Jo and Laura will work on by-law updates for the September meeting.

New Business:

Laura Franta is currently our regional and state representative.

Beth Kalata, owner of Pleasant View Bed and Breakfast, asked that her business be considered when we provide lodging for club speakers.

The Hosta Society in Menomonie will hold a meeting with guest speaker April 23 at the Red Cedar.

Jerry Clark announced that there will be a new Master Gardner Class offered this fall in Chippewa Falls.

Steve Hesselberg, Joy Lancour, and Elaine Olsen received completion certificates from Jerry Clark.

Sign up sheets for the various club activities were passed around for members to sign.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 9, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Chippewa County Courthouse. Co-president Sharon Bergstad will chair the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by Sandy Kenner



CVMGA Committees

Master Gardeners Association has a variety of committees our volunteers can participate in. Please see the descriptions below and contact the committee lead if you are interested in helping.

Pollinator Garden Committee: Help plant, label, and manage the native plant pollinator garden at Northern Wisconsin State Fairgrounds.

Think Spring Committee 2017: Help organize venue, speakers, and vendors for 2017.

Exhibits/Activities Committees: Keep our master gardener exhibits up to date and work on activities that we can use at venues such as fairs and other events where we are invited to display what we do.

Program Committee: Work with the board to set up programs and activities for CVMGA members.

Bluebird Committee: Organize a schedule for the nesting season and plan work parties to clean and repair boxes on the Old Abe Bluebird Trail.



Bluebird nest on the Old Abe Bluebird Trail
Photo courtesy of Mary Jo Fleming



Volunteer Opportunities

County Wellness Work Group Plant Swap and Sale

The Chippewa County Wellness Work Group will be hosting their first Plant Swap and Sale on Wednesday, May 25th at the Chippewa County Courthouse. The County Wellness Work Group is seeking Master Gardener volunteers, plants, seedlings, seeds, and garden related items for the sale. The Work Group is also seeking someone to provide a short informational session on container gardening. Proceeds from the plant sale will benefit the Chippewa Falls Food Pantry. If you are available to assist the County Wellness Work Group please contact Rebecca Jahnke 715-726-7746 or at rjahnke@co.chippewa.wi.us

Rain Garden at Wheaton Fire Station

Provide consultation to establish a native plant rain garden. If you can help contact Jerry Clark at 715-726-7955 or by email at jerome.clark@ces.uwex.edu

The Cadott Community library is looking for someone to do an intro to gardening presentation as part of their focus on healthy living. Basic information for novice gardeners on how easy and beneficial gardening can be is the goal. Contact Jerry Clark for more details if you are interested.

Articles for the Herald Telegram and the MG newsletter

Use your creative writing skills to share your knowledge of gardening with the Chippewa Falls community and the Master Gardeners. Contact Jerry Clark at 715-726-7955 or by email at jerome.clark@ces.uwex.edu for more information.



Upcoming Events

CVMGA Grant Funding for Projects

CVMGA will accept requests for grants to help fund CVMGA member projects that contain an educational component. Monetary awards will be up to \$200. It is required that at least three master gardener volunteers be involved in the project. Grant applications can be submitted at any time and are subject to approval by the CVMGA board. The application includes a description of the project, its educational component, and the target audience. A short written report including results and expenditures is due to the CVMGA board by September 1. Photos are welcome. The grant application can be found in this newsletter and on the Chippewa County UW-Extension website under the Master Gardener tab.

June Plant Sale

The Eau Claire Master Gardeners and the Northern Wisconsin Hosta Society are partnering to provide hostas, perennials, annuals and herbs for sale. The sale will be on Sunday, June 12, 2016, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the Phoenix Park Pavilion. Come visit and get some new items for your gardening/landscaping needs.

OUTDOOR "ED-VENTURE" **Sunday, May 1st 11am-2pm** **Cornell Mill Yard Park**

Family Event sponsored by Cornell/Lake Holcombe
 21st Century Community Learning Center

Free family-friendly event offering hands-on activities, demonstrations & info on healthy outdoor opportunities. Door prizes and kids games are part of the event. Lunch, catered by Fosters Restaurant will be available for a small fee. Contact Andrea Smith 715-861-8011 asmith@cornell.k12.wi.us for more information or see the CLC website: <http://communitylc.weebly.com/family-events.html>



LAKE WISSOTA GARDEN CLUB SALE OF PERENNIAL PLANTS

Saturday, June 4, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. downtown Chippewa Falls, exact location to be determined/ Watch your coming newsletters for more information.

Our plant sale will feature over 2,000 potted plants all dug from local gardens. Most are priced at \$2 - \$6. We will be selling hostas, many types of flowering perennials, berry bushes, sapling trees & shrubs.

Proceeds from our plant sale fund our community projects. Present and past projects include the native wildflower garden at Irvine Park, the historic garden at the Cook Rutledge Mansion, Habitat for Humanity house landscaping, junior garden club, Arbor Day tree plantings, and floral designs at the Heyde Center for the Arts. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Lake Wissota Garden Club. The plant sale is part of our long tradition of promoting the love of gardening in the Chippewa Falls area.

If you are downsizing your garden or have perennials that need to be divided and want to donate these plants to our sale, we will come to your garden and dig them for you. We will give you a receipt for tax purposes.

Call Virginia at 715-720-9092 for further information.

The Oz Run

Chippewa County 4-H has been selected as a beneficiary of the 2016 Oz Run! We need volunteers to help at the event and are encouraging members to register to participate in the run/walk. As an affiliate of the UW-Extension family, we are reaching out to you for help too. The Oz Run is scheduled for Saturday, May 28th at the Northern Wisconsin Fairgrounds. Volunteers/groups are needed for the areas of cheer/water stations, route guides, etc. If you or a group of you are willing to provide some of your time that morning at the race we would greatly appreciate it. To confirm your availability to volunteer please send an email to volunteer@theoZRUN.com noting you are helping benefit Chippewa County 4-H. For information about the event, visit the Oz Run website at <http://www.theozrun.com/home.html>

We appreciate all of our volunteers and hope to see you race day!!





CVMGA will accept requests for grants to help fund CVMGA member projects that contain an educational component. Monetary awards will be up to \$200. It is required that at least three master gardener volunteers be involved in the project. Grant applications can be submitted at any time and are subject to approval by the CVMGA board. The application includes a description of the project, its educational component, and the target audience. A short written report including results and expenditures is due to the CVMGA board by September 1. Photos are welcome.

Chippewa Valley Master Gardener Volunteer Project Grant

Grant Amount is \$ _____

Name of Project _____

Names of CVMGA volunteers associated with the project (a minimum of three CVMGA members):

Name of Contact Person _____

Address of Contact Person _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone of Contact Person (____) _____ Email _____

Date of Application _____

I. Grant money will be used to fund the following program or education resource. Specify the nature of the program or resource.

II. Describe the educational component and the targeted audience.

III. A short written report of the project including expenditures and results is due to the current CVMGA president by September 1 following the awarding of the grant.