



University of Wisconsin-Extension

Chippewa County
Courthouse, Room 13
711 N. Bridge Street
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729



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Greetings,

At our meeting this month we will do some very preliminary planning for Think Spring 2017. The Avalon Hotel and Conference Center is reserved for Saturday, February 2017. **SAVE THE DATE** on your calendar!

Over the next few months we will review the results of last year's Think Spring participant evaluations, brainstorm speaker and vendor possibilities, assign tasks, and tweak the plan to create a new version of our perennially popular kick-off to the gardening season.

Our September program features Joy Lancour and Steve Hesselberg showing and telling about their experiences with straw bale gardening. We've seen some photos and can tell you their success is notable.

See you on September 12!

Laura Kasdorf
CVMGA Co-President



Calendar of Events 2016

September

- 12 CVMGA Meeting, Straw Bale Gardening, Joy Lancour's Home, 232 W. Vine Street, Chippewa Falls.**
- 14-16 Upper Midwest Regional Master Gardener Conference, Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI**

October

- 10 CVMGA Meeting/Think Spring Planning, 6:30 p.m., Courthouse Room 16**



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

**Chippewa County Master Gardeners
Association
Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2016
Home of Jerry & Karen Clark
6:30 p.m.**

The August meeting of the C.V.M.G. was held at the home of Jerry and Karen Clark. Two guests and ten members attended the meeting: Sharon Bergstad, Shirley Blizek, Sue Crisp, Mary Jo Fleming, Beth Kalata, Laura Kasdorf, Sandy Kenner, Elaine Olsen, Stacy Bucheger Mazur, and Peggy Sprauge. Advisor Jerry Clark also attended the meeting.

Jerry Clark conducted a tour of his hops crop and presented an informative presentation on the Wisconsin Clean Hops Program. He answered all of our questions before we moved to his beautiful back yard and enjoyed root beer floats and brownies.

President Laura Kasdorf called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the May 9, 2016 meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter. Peggy Sprauge moved and Sharon Bergstad seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer Shirley Blizek reported a current balance of \$17,159.19.

Officer and Committee Reports:

Laura Kasdorf reported that the deposit for the Bridgewater for Think Spring Feb. 18, 2017, is due August 15th. A motion was made by Sue Crisp, seconded by Peggy Sprauge, to pay the deposit. She suggested that members think of potential speakers for the event and reminded us that duties should be assigned at the September meeting.

Mary Jo Fleming said that the pollinator garden at the fairgrounds is looking good thanks to our wonderful weather. She also said the Bluebird Trail will be checked one more time before putting it to bed for the year.

Stacy Bucheger Mazur said she enjoyed helping with the Wellness Lunch at the Courthouse.

Laura Kasdorf reminded members to write articles for the newsletter and said that the Community Gardens had done well this summer and the new fence is a great improvement.

Unfinished Business:

Mary Jo and Laura will work on updates to our by-laws before the September meeting.

Sandy Kenner and Sharon Bergstad will present a slate of nominees for the open board positions to be voted on at our annual meeting in November.

Jerry Clark gave an update on the IRS audit. The required information was sent July 6.

New Business:

The regional meeting of WIMGA will be held September 14 thru the 17th in Wisconsin Dells. Mary Jo Fleming moved and Sue Crisp seconded the motion that our club send \$50 as our Silent Auction donation. Motion carried.

Laura Kasdorf reported that Laura Franta said the Eau Claire, St. Croix, and Chippewa Valley Master Gardeners have been contacted about helping with the Upper Midwest Region Conference in 2018.

Sharon Bergstad told the group about Levens Hall, a possible speaker she met on a recent trip to Great Britain. The group encouraged her to contact him to see if he would be available to speak at Think Spring.

Sue Crisp was contacted about helping start a wild flower garden at Lake Wissota State Park. Mary Jo Fleming suggested that helping park volunteers identify and pick invasive plants might be beneficial.

Joy Lancour will present a program on straw bale gardening at her home for our September 12 meeting.

*Respectfully Submitted:
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.

Master Gardeners are welcome to attend the September 8th Lake Wissota Garden Club program at 7:00 p.m. at the Lafayette Town Hall, 5765 197th St., Chippewa Falls, WI.

Program: "THE AMAZING MONARCH--The life story of one of the most readily recognized and beloved insects that needs our help, and how we can create the best habitat for these beautiful creatures. We will also hear about the Monarch Way Station designation that anyone may apply for by meeting certain criteria for butterfly habitat.

Presenters: Mary Jo Fleming and Linda Stockinger. Both of these Master Gardeners have been the leaders in creating beautiful WI Native Pollinator Gardens in our area.

If possible let us know you are coming by responding to Laura Kasdorf at wolterkasdorf@sbcglobal.net or 715-726-1963

Master Gardener Event

The August Master Gardener Meeting was held at the home of Jerry & Karen Clark where the attendees received a tour of the Clark Hops Garden and received some insight on growing hops.



Clark Hops Garden



Jerry Clark providing a tour of his hops garden



Hops on the vine

Committee Reports

2016 Bluebird Trail Report

Bluebird Trail volunteers wrapped up another season monitoring nest boxes on Old Abe and Riverview trails. Our 2016 volunteers were Christy Roshell, Lee Sault, Dick Turner, Beth Kalata, Stacey Bucheger Mazur, Mary Jo Fleming, Ray and Ruth Forsgren, and Linda Stockinger.

Of the 25 nest boxes on the Old Abe Trail, only 8 were used by bluebirds. And of those

8, 4 boxes successfully fledged two sets of young. A total of 46 bluebirds, 4 chickadees, 12 house wrens, and 38 tree swallows were fledged. We still need to replace more of the Peterson boxes on the trail. We have the new boxes and can replace the old ones now that they are vacant. Wrens seemed to prefer the Petersons, but they were very difficult to check because of the type of opening. We also need to move some of the house locations because they are too close to shrubby vegetation.

Riverview Trail was not very successful this year, and most nest boxes will have to be moved if we decide to continue this trail. Too many nest boxes are too far off the trail or hidden in shrubs. Only 4 boxes out of 14 were used by bluebirds, and two of those boxes failed to produce young. The trail fledged 6 bluebirds, 7 chickadees, and 31 tree swallows. After July 11, there was no activity.

Overall, CVMGA helped add 52 bluebirds to Chippewa County's population, but volunteers also had the opportunity to chat with folks along the trails who asked us bluebird questions or just stopped to see how the birds were doing. Nest boxes have been emptied on both trails, and a report of trail activity has been sent to Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin who tabulates data from around the state. We will try to schedule a few work dates in September to improve the trails.



Nest of baby chickadees

If anyone has anything to contribute to the monthly newsletter, please send your submission to Laura Kasdorf at wolterkasdorf@sbcglobal.net or Heather Lubs at heather.lubs@ces.uwex.edu.

Weather it be an interesting article, recipe, tips and tricks or a garden related craft we would like to make this monthly newsletter great and interesting for all.

