SEWMG Business Meeting Minutes  
Date: March 9, 2011  

Members Present: 19

Meeting was called to order by: President Mary Thiele at 9:40am. She started the meeting with nuggets and favorite things segments.

“Favorite Things”
1. Kent Simons brought in trowels that he had talked about at the last meeting. They are made by OXO and are available with large handles at Stein’s; he also noted that they are very sturdy.
2. Kay Costello brought in her gardening hat with a neck shading feature.
3. MaryClare Waller shared with us her weed twister, with a long handled T-bar to remove weeds with a simple twist of the bar.

“Nuggets”
1. The Speakers Workshop- Kay mentioned that the use of power point was again reviewed to utilize its use in presentations. Mary Redlinger, also went over the use of various colors, to which can be seen the easiest.
2. Volunteer Opportunity Fair – Janet Wintersberger mentioned how well this event was attended, with over 120 people present.

Consumer Horticulture Educator: Ann Wied of the Waukesha Office thanked everyone for giving a donation to “Walnut Way” so that the program can be continued. She also reminded us of the up-coming Pruning Workshop on 3/19 and 3/28; and the Plant Health Advisor training on 4/15.

There was some discussion about possible budget cuts at UW-Extension in Waukesha.

Prior Meeting Minutes: were read by Secretary Mary Redlinger and approved.

Treasurer’s Report: was given by Treasurer Joy Towell, after some discussion over various topics on the report it was approved.

Old Business:
1. Mary Thiele read 3 Thank You notes from recipients of our donation. Walnut Way, Hispanic Community Center and a report from Boerner in how they dispersed their funds they had received earlier.
2. Judy Williamson explained the NEW SEWMG web site which is more user friendly and it can be accessed by either going to the old site, which has a link to the new one or by going directly to the new web site (http://fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg). Ann suggested that Judy come to the training classes for new MGVs to alert them to the fact of what is available on the website – which now includes an events page with a list of all up-coming events, plus most committee meetings (Judy should be contacted to put additional meetings on this site). This website will also provide up-to-date “pot-a-thon” information as well as the SEWMG extension event calendar.
3. Plant Sale update was given by Patty Witt. The first 3 important dates; 3/28 configuration of the trailer at the storage unit, 4/4 pickup supplies at Carlins and 4/9 training “pot-a-thon” at Eble.
4. Realtors Home and Garden Show – all time slots have been filled, in record time!
5. The Garden Support Committee will have Co-Chair Forum on 3/14.
6. Mary Thiele pointed out that Janet has been sending out a postcard to those who do not have e-mail, to know “What’s new in SEWMG”.

New Business:
1. For the Inspire by Example Award luncheon SEWMG will send 7 of our volunteers; Kay Costello, Doris Fons, Ruth Marshall, Patty Witt, Leila Leisch, Ann Phillips and Cheryl Rasmann.
2. It was announced that Carolyn Dressler is receiving the 2010 volunteer of the year award in Wauwatosa.
3. SEWMG will be having our annual picnic in August at one of our sponsored gardens. The North Point Light House was named as a possibility.

Announcements and Reminders
1. Trip to Chicago Flower Show – 3/11
2. “A Year on the Farm”, George Radtke – 3/16, 6:30
4. “Worldly Plants”, Marcia Zientek (mixer) – 3/30, 6:30
5. “Edible Garden”, Mark Dwyer – 4/6, 9-11
6. Plant Health Advisor Training – 4/15
7. Ruth stated that Janet has been working on the “flow” of the Annual Garden Reports and that Kris Jensen has completed the inventory of all our property and will keep this up-to-date. She also reminded us of the Audit Committee which will be chaired by MaryClare, with Fred Redlinger and Sandy Manning on the Committee. Ruth also reminded us that there would be a Finance Committee/Board Meeting following today’s business meeting.
8. MaryClare gave us a brief report on what has been done and what still needs to be done on the Audit. She suggested possibly making an amendment to the by-laws, stating that the audit will be done by the end of the first quarter rather than by January.
9. Janet gave a report on the Leadership Committee, stating that we will be having many empty positions to fill for next year’s slate of officers and board members. She also reminded us of the newsletter deadline of 4/1.

Next meeting: 4/13 – 9:30 – UW Extension Office, Milwaukee

Adjourned: at 11:05am

Respectfully submitted,
Mary E. Redlinger, SEWMG secretary