MGV Collaborative Meeting

Date: November 13, 2010

Those in attendance were: Jerry Nelson from Ozaukee County, and 8 MGs from Milwaukee/Waukesha, Marcia Zientek, Janet Wintersberger, Judy Savage, Ann Dougherty, Mary Thiele, Fred Redlinger, Mary Clare Waller, and Mary Redlinger.

1. Welcome from chair Marcia Zientek at 9:40 a.m.
2. Greeting from president: Janet who thanked all those present for coming.
3. Introductions were made by Marcia.
4. Future Programs on the horizon:
   - **Milwaukee/Waukesha Co.** is looking at youth programs, Saturday meeting and possibly a “mentor” program to assist our newly trained MGs on getting involved and not feeling so overwhelmed.
   - **Ozaukee Co.** is looking at working on a project/ Milwaukee River Water Shed Fish Passage with several other organizations.
5. Successful/proud endeavors of the past year.

   - **Ozaukee** is proud to have completed the gardens at the Kuhefuss House in Cedarburg which is a very historic area.
   - **Milwaukee/Waukesha** is very proud to have successfully introduced the Garden Support Committee, Garden Tours, and Judy also stated that we are continuing our spending down with our finance committee and we are trying to put a handle on the various gardens that we support both financially and with personnel. Jerry offered that Ozaukee doesn’t approve a garden till they have sufficient people willing to maintain it.

6. Open Discussion

   - **Training: General Meeting**
     - **Ozaukee**: Jerry stated that these meetings were held the 4th Thursday of the month from 7-9p.m. The first hour is spent with an educational program, and then the second half is their business meeting. They usually have between 50-60 members show up for these meetings and their membership has only 213 active members. They do not have meetings in July and August, but they do have a picnic in August. He stated, when questioned, that this did not seem to present a problem during the winter months.
     - **Milwaukee/Waukesha**: Janet stated that we have both a separate business and program meeting and have 25-50 members present at each of these meetings. We also alternate between Waukesha and Milwaukee Co. and a.m. and p.m. events to try to accommodate our working members.
Scholarship:
**Milwaukee/Waukesha** has been very successful in being able to offer endowments and MG-in-training Scholarships to benefit horticultural students with financial need. **Ozaukee**: Tried to start a program similar to this and did not have anyone apply. SEWMG suggested that it might just have been offered at a bad time of the year.

Plant Sale:
**Ozaukee**: Has their plant sale in a rented gym. This provides them to have it rain or shine. The herb society started this and the MGs have taken it over and expanded it to include Heirloom Vegetable Plants, herbs, and their Kaleidoscope garden (which is made up of plants grown by MGVs in their own gardens). These plants were dug up by the individual MGVs.

**Milwaukee/Waukesha**: Our plant sale is done outside, with a group of dedicated MGVs doing most of the digging. We usually have a week of set-up then an all day sale. Many of the members take part in the sale, but we do not have an accurate account.

Picnic:
**Milwaukee/Waukesha**: Has had a picnic which is held at one of the gardens that we support. Usually we have had as many as 80 members come.

**Ozaukee**: Used to have it at Pioneer Village in Saukville. But currently they have been having it at various members own gardens. Last year, they went to 3 homes kind of like a “round robin” and rented 3 school buses and had a great time.

7. Other mentioned accomplishments:
**Milwaukee/Waukesha**: Members of Milwaukee/Waukesha delegation stated that we were also proud of both our Long-Term and Life-Long gardening Committees and how much they had accomplished in the past year.

**Ozaukee**: also mentioned that they sold the “Plant of the Year” to their interested members.

8. There was also concern offering the Basic Training in both counties, unsure if the new members our intimidated/overwhelmed over the large quantity of material that is presented to them in the beginning or what, but Ozaukee has noticed a decline in their fall enrollment (they do their training in the fall of the year).

9. Evaluation:
It was decided that these meetings were worth having, but the WIMGA president and the 5 counties in our area will be contacted by personal phone calls next year, and hopefully there will be a better response. The next meeting will be on November 11, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Secretary, Mary Redlinger