

Iowa Master Gardener Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes April 1, 2016

The Iowa Master Gardener (MG) Advisory Committee met Friday April 1, 2016 at the Speer room of the Mahlsted Building, Reiman Gardens, Ames at 10:00 am. The meeting was called to order by Chair Megan Will.

The following members were present:

- Megan Will MG member Central,
- Suzette Striegel Staff Central,
- Gary Whittenbaugh MG member NE,
- Jeri Bailey MG member SE,
- Shannon Bielicke Staff SE,
- Jennifer Miller Staff SW,
- Alan Ladd REED,
- Donald Lewis campus staff,
- Susan DeBlicke campus staff,
- Cindy Haynes campus staff, and
- Denny Schrock campus staff.
- Sue Jarvis, was introduced as the member representing MG member NW.
- Richard Jauron campus staff, and Laura Irish, Graduate Assistant arrived later following campus commitments.
- Unable to attend were Ashley Sherrets, Staff NE, Margaret Murphy Staff NW, and Cathy Booth MG member SW.



Upcoming Master Gardener training has 31 sites offering to host. Registration is being accepted online. There will be some changes to the post test, including set of 100 questions for all trainees (instead of random selection from a bank of questions for each trainee/session) and testing can be completed in more than one session (instead of restarting if test is not completed). Master Gardener Training components Face to Face and Class on Campus sessions will be videotaped and available for county use. The tentative schedule for this fall's training was dispersed. The resource guide will be reprinted (in color) for the training this fall. There is quantity of workbooks in stock for this training; but it will need reprinted in 2017.

The Volunteer Reporting System is now being used by all counties! The tracking options in the system includes Background Checks, which ALL county Master Gardeners should have their Background Check completed by Sept 30, 2016. The first screens completed need redone every three years, which impacts Master Gardeners who were first screened in 2013.

The Iowa Master Gardener website is being converted to Drupal format, which is mobile friendly. The Iowa Master Gardener newsletter is a Constant Contact ALL STAR, top 10% of their newsletters, for a high newsletter open rate.

The Horticulture Inservice was held on February 19, 2016 at Reiman Gardens; 40 attended the MG Coordinator meeting in the morning. 55 county staff attended the Inservice.

The 2015 International Master Gardener (IMGC) conference held in Council Bluffs was profitable! Upper Midwest MG Conference will be September 2016 in Wisconsin Dells, IMGC 2017 will be in Portland Oregon. Links for more information for these events is on the Iowa Master Gardener website.

School garden 101 training was held this spring in Des Moines, Oelwin, and Waterloo this spring. There will be another train the trainer for Extension staff this summer.

The Food Security project (funded by SNAP-Ed) had 64 applications from Master Gardener groups for mini-grants. They were able to award 25 applications totaling \$20,000 for Master Gardener groups to increase food pantry donation gardens and educational opportunities. Susan and Laura are meeting with the Master Gardeners and seven research farms that have demonstration gardens. There will be field days at the sites this summer; the Iowa Master Gardener newsletter will have specifics.

There were four Search for Excellence applications. The applications and individual committee member's scores for each application were reviewed. Constructive comments will be sent to the applicants, with encouragement to reapply next year. There was a motion made by Megan, seconded by Shannon, to move the 2017 application due date to February 15, 2017. Motion passed unanimously. Consensus was to rework the application to indicate the scoring criteria information emphasizing the scores associated with measurable learning and number of people impacted.

Susan and Denny met with ISU Extension evaluation campus staff regarding program evaluation. It was determined development of a Logic Model (What do we do? What do we want?) would be helpful. The committee brainstormed both elements. Once a Logic model is

