

Iowa Master Gardener Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes November 4, 2016

The Iowa Master Gardener (MG) Advisory Committee met Friday November 4, 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,
- Cathy Booth MG member SW
- Jeri Bailey MG member SE,
- Shannon Bielicke Staff SE,
- Jennifer Miler Staff SW,
- Ashley Sherrets, Staff NE
- Alan Ladd REED,
- Donald Lewis campus staff, arrived later following campus commitments.
- Susan DeBlicke campus staff,
- Cindy Haynes campus staff,
- Denny Schrock campus staff,
- Richard Jauron campus staff, arrived later following campus commitments.
- Unable to attend were, Margaret Murphy Staff NW, and Sue Jarvis, MG NW.



Susan DeBlieck has been promoted to Program Coordinator I from Program Assistant II. She will be on maternity leave this spring (tentatively mid-February to mid-May). The work-study student will be filling in on communication duties, with Denny Schrock available for coordinator support.

Terms are up for Gary, Cathy, and Margaret with none eligible for an additional term. The application process for Gary and Cathy's positions will be opened and are due December 30. Potential replacement(s) for Margaret's position will be from ISU Extension & Outreach REED suggestion(s). Communication will occur between the remaining committee to select the new members. New members will be selected before the next meeting in April 2017.

Fall training has 26 sites with 355 trainees, of which 4 are ProHort. We utilized state-wide online registration. Some counties had earlier cut off dates for registration. Pre and post test and training session evaluations are also online. Discussion indicated a comment box (with limited characters) is needed on the evaluation and possibly sent after each training session. Class on Campus evaluations including comments were reviewed. Trainees' online registration was converted into the Volunteer Reporting System (VRS). Discussion recommended the VRS be shown and explained at orientation to the trainees.

Susan and Denny attended the National Extension MG Coordinator Conference in Yellowstone; one of the topics was working with USDA NIFA to evaluate impact on MG projects.

There is an eXtension course on use of social media which county MG coordinators and Master Gardeners can complete (and are encouraged to if their Master Gardener organization has a social media presence).

Hort In-service will be February 17, 2017 at Reiman Gardens. This in-service will have a consumer inquiry emphasis with hands on activities. Staff (including OAs) who handle consumer inquiries are encouraged to attend. A meeting for county MG coordinators will be held the same day prior to the in-service.

Discussion included potentially having regional county horticulture staff meetings, possibly by Zoom.

Counties MG coordinators are encourage to utilize the archived summer ISU Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic Zoom sessions for supplemental county MG trainings.

The International Master Gardener (IMG) conference is July 10-14, 2017 in Portland, Oregon. It is recommended for coordinators to encourage their MGs to attend. Denny will be presenting.

Susan showed the SNAP-Ed partnership [Our Story video](#). For 2016 there were 65 applications of which 26 were funded. Over 58,000 pounds of produce were donated to food pantries by mini grantees. Over 7,000 pounds of produce were donated from the demonstration gardens. For 2017 there will be grants up to \$5,000 with \$70,000 total awarded. The winter webcasts (research results, vegetable production and how MG project measure impact) are funded by SNAP-Ed and county webinar costs will be covered. There will be sites at six of the demonstration gardens (in 2016 there were seven).

The logic model with feedback added was discussed. There was discussion of how are we promoting outcomes and how are we promoting when we reach outcomes (at both county and state level). Suggestions included for short term outcomes: Pre and post test results being included in program promotion, publicizing data of county horticulture inquiries handled by MGs, and including this information on stakeholder and year end reports. Suggestions for medium term outcomes included: publicizing number of presentation by MGs, accurate calculation of contacts for presentations, brochures of county projects, using ISU EO template to brand/identify MG events (including in other counties), county newsletters, consistent use of Extension website, including county Extension calendar, and having MG-only pages on county website. There was discussion county MG groups having Facebook pages. Long term outcomes suggestions included increasing and improving our partnerships which have effects on improving quality of life. Examples discussed included the monarch habitat partnership with Plant.Grow.Fly of the Blank Park Zoo.

Via conference call, Laura Klavitter explained Dubuque's county's experience this training as a pilot county for utilizing a "flipped" classroom concept. Class was capped at 20. Their training site had trainees watch last year's recorded presentations prior to class sessions. Class time was a hands-on activities and tours related to the subject matter with community presenters. Laura utilized the suggestions from Wisconsin and ISU for the activities and met with presenters prior. They started earlier than the state wide training and did not follow the order of topics state wide training followed. For some topics the training sessions were held at sites outside (and earlier in the training schedule) while some topics were combined. MGs utilized as facilitators in the "flipped" classroom did more than facilitators in Adobe Connect training role. The activities for some topics did have expenses, but Laura estimated the total budget was under \$300. Discussion from the committee indicated we could record a better training sessions for individualized viewing, some activities might need to be required for a few specific topics and the acknowledgement not all counties could have community presenters for all topics and could utilize a 'flipped' hybrid.

The next Iowa State Master Gardener Advisory committee meeting will tentatively be Friday April 7, 2017 with meeting location to be announced. Meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm.

Submitted by Suzette Striegel, Secretary