**Mille Lacs County Master Gardener Meeting Minutes**

**July 26, 2017 - Immanuel Lutheran Church**

**Type of meeting:** General Meeting - 4:45-6:00 p.m.

**Meeting called to order:** Sandy Bronson

**Secretary:** Nancy Winkelman

**Attendees:** Sandy Bronson, Nancy Winkelman, Laura Pipenhagen, Shirley Miller, Jenny kick, Lynell Barthel, Bonnie Zurek, Diane Hamann, Lynn Gallice & Barbara Shaw.

**Approval of last meeting minutes:** Laura motioned to approve minutes and Barb seconded the motion. **Treasurer's Report:** Reported by Diane - Balance on May 16, 2017 was $466.65. Net sales from the Plant Sale was $488.74 (after removing $49.26 for our ad in the Town & Country paper). We paid $245.00 to the Garden Club for their 50% share of the profit. We also gave $25.00 to MLC Historical Society as a donation for allowing us to use their site for the sale. This brings our new balance to $734.65. Laura motioned to approve treasurer's report subject to audit and Barb seconded the motion.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Community Garden:** The gardens are looking very good. We are still in agreement that we should not look to ever take over the project but we are feeling that maybe we should have a presence on the board. Bonnie and Shirley have an interest in doing this so Bonnie will look into it.

**2. Classes at Princeton Library:** We did cancel our Water Wisely class on June 20th because we had such poor attendance at the Attract Pollinators class on May 16th. We do feel that these classes are still worth presenting and are beneficial to the community. We think that lack of advertising may be the problem as to why attendance is so low. The next time we want to offer a class, we would like to take more control of the advertising plus try putting an ad in the newspaper.

**3. Plant Sale:** It was held on May 20th at the Princeton Depot. We felt the sale went very well despite the rainy day. We do want to try it again next year so Diane will talk to the Garden Club and see how they feel about it.

**4. Update on State Conference:** Diane went to the conference and reported that she attended several classes. One was about soil and another about how to make your garden look like it's in the wild. She purchased books from both of these classes which she shared at our meeting and felt she had learned a lot. NOTE: Next year the State and Regional Conference will be held together at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in June.

**5. County Fair:** The fair will be on Aug. 9th-13th. Florence Dehn said we can have the same spot as last year. She also gave us arm bands to get into the fair. Our theme this year is "Potatoes & Tomatoes." Laura and Diane will set up the display. We will have a planning meeting at Lynell's house on Aug. 2nd at 3:30 p.m. Some possible ideas that were talked about are having a Trivia poster, handing out a new tomato pamphlet that Diane received, soil sample testing, diseases, harvesting, recipes and providing website information. We decided to also hold a drawing again this year for 2 books - this does seem to draw people into our area. Shirley will look for books on tomatoes, potatoes or vegetables. Diane will print out more drawing slips. We also have a new Master Gardener Banner to use.

**6. State Fair:** Diane is the only one signed up to help at the fair this year.

**7. Vonda Schiebout 4-H Club:** Laura is going to talk to Vonda at the fair.

**8. 2017 Annual Lake Health Conference:** The conference will be held at McQuiod's Inn in Isle, MN. It is a free conference including free lunch from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There is an optional free Launch Tour and dinner from 5 -7 p.m. Conference topics include: Watercraft Inspection, Mille Lacs Band Fish Hatchery, MN Sea Grant on how invasives are affecting native species, vegetation techniques for shoreline protection, Compass Lake Stewardship Program and much more including discounted rain barrels and opportunities to speak to County Zoning experts. To register call 320-983-2160 or go online to: <https://lakehealth.eventbrite.com>

**9. 2017 Northeast Regional Gathering:** It will be held on Thursday, Oct. 19th in Grand Rapids from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Laura, Sandy, Diane and maybe Shirley voiced an interest in attending - they will talk about carpooling. The class they are offering this year is "The Benefits of Native Grasses to Butterflies and Moths." They are also offering a Train-the-Trainer Workshop entitled "Flowers for Pollinators."

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Fall PICKM:** Will be hosted by Chisago County this year in North Branch on Tues., Oct. 17. Sandy will send out more details when they become available.

**2. Jackie Froemming, State Leadership Team:** She has offered to come to county meetings to meet with volunteers and share program updates. We are considering having her come to our January meeting. But before we meet with her we feel that we should re-evaluate what our focus as Master Gardeners should be at our Sept. meeting. Below are what the Master Gardeners priorities should be according to the University of Minnesota: z Horticulture Skills: Teaching current research-based horticulture principles and practices.

\*Plant Biodiversity: Promoting invasive species management and native species conservation and restoration in landscapes.

\*Pollinators: Educating on ways to help native bees and other pollinators thrive in home and community landscapes.

\*Clean Water: Promoting water-wise gardening and landscaping practices to conserve water and minimize polluted runoff.

\*Local Food: Promoting the use of sustainable techniques for growing local food on multiple scales and at various locations.

\*Climate Change: Teaching ways to create resilient landscapes that are adopted to our changing climate.

\* Nearby Nature: Partnering with local community groups to create success to plants and green space for health and well being.

**3. Outing for next year:** John & Elaine Christopher raise and sell Daylilies and Hostas.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** Diane motioned to adjourn the meeting. Laura seconded the motion.

**NEXT MEETING:** Sat., Sept. 9th or Wed., Sept. 6th or 20th in Onamia with Barb Eller. Sandy will check with Barb to see which date would work. If Sept. 9th works, we will ask for an 11:00 tour of the High Tunnel Project followed by having lunch and our meeting in the Farm Market Café.