

District 8 MSHS Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

Submitted by Jan Dzwonkowski, Executive Secretary

MINUTES of the February Meeting

Michael's on the Course
Virginia, MN
Saturday, February 13, 2010

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by President Dale Hurst. Present were Dale Hurst, Carol Borich, Jan Carey, Jan Dzwonkowski, Verna Jean Craig, Sue Kolstad, and Dave Wildung,

Recording Secretary's Minutes: A motion was passed to accept the minutes of the last board meeting as printed in SEEDS.

Treasurer's Report: Carol read the treasurer's report; a motion was made and passed to accept the report pending audit.

Executive Secretary's Report: Jan gave out new address info for Board members.

Horticulture Report: Dave reported that Shengrui Yao has accepted another position elsewhere and that the situation for the Horticulture program at the Grand Rapids Outreach Center looks bleak. There probably will be no Hort day this year. Dave will let our clubs know where to send letters in support of the Center. (See Page 11 of this issue of SEEDS.)

Wildflower Report: Sue Kolstad attended a Soil & Water meeting. She reported that grants are available to eliminate invasive species of plants. Some species are "escaping" from private gardens and showing up in many rural areas where they are difficult to eradicate. We discussed other invasive species as well.

Membership: It was decided to update and print new membership folders using a different color than last time.

SEEDS: Dave reported that we ended last year with a surplus of about \$250 from SEEDS, partly due to a donation from the now-disbanded Oatmeal Hill club. So far this year we have \$930 in subscriptions, ads and donations, and clubs and individuals are encouraged to contribute towards the newsletter. All advertisers have renewed their ads for 2010 though we do not have any new advertisers. He reported that one club has requested many

copies of SEEDS instead of paying for subscriptions for its members. It was decided to send them one copy and a bill for the newsletters. Dave reported that he does send one copy to 18 clubs who choose not to subscribe. He needs an update on club presidents or contacts from some of those clubs. Carol submitted a bill of \$6.40 for scanning photos. Motion made and passed to pay the bill.

Historian's Report: No report

Youth Scholarship: No formal report, as Alice was not present at the meeting. Verna Jean brought up the question of whether a former scholarship winner can apply for second scholarship. We discussed the situation and it looks like that would be acceptable. We have to make sure all high schools receive copies of the application and information. We should email a copy to all high schools. Dale Hurst suggested increasing the scholarship budget; it was felt that there needed to be a scholarship committee to determine any changes. Dale appointed a Scholarship committee of Alice Haglund, chair; Dave Wildung, Carol Borich and Dale Hurst.

Beautification Committee: Jan Carey wondered whether we would consider raising the grand prize from \$50 to \$100 to encourage more entries. A motion to do so was made by Jan Carey, seconded by Carol Borich, and was passed. The monetary award only applies to the individual gardens, whether large or small, and not for civic or commercial gardens. There was a discussion of monetary incentive to clubs who submit a nomination of their own or another civic garden. Motion made by Jan Carey, seconded by Sue Kolstad, to present a monetary award of \$50 to the garden club which nominates the winning civic garden in 2010. The motion passed. This incentive will be evaluated before it is renewed for 2011.

Community Service Awards: Beautification and Community Service Award nomination forms will be included in the Spring 2010 issue of SEEDS.

Old Business: None

New Business:

_A proposed two-year budget for 2010-

2011 was discussed.

Announcements: The 8th District Spring Meeting, hosted by Hortus Club of Duluth, will be held on April 17. Garden clubs were asked to collect door prizes from different businesses, like garden centers if possible. Register by April 10 with the form in Spring SEEDS.

Duluth Garden and Flower Society Spring Luncheon "Contain your Succulents" on April 24, Holiday Inn, Duluth; cost \$20 per person. Register by April 19; send to Mt. Royal Garden Club, 1815 Carver Ave., Duluth 55803. Lunch choice: London broil or chicken Marsala.

Tour Des Fleur is on June 5th. Dale Hurst is working on bus arrangements.

The 8th District Fall Meeting will be hosted by Cook Garden Club on Sept. 18 at Mt. Iron Community Center.

The 8th District MSHS will have an informational table at the "Relying on the Land" Master Gardener-sponsored workshop March 27 in Grand Rapids; Carol and Alice will man the table.

Jan Dzwonkowski announced that Camp Esquagama (formerly St. Louis County 4-H Club Camp) will be holding a 75th anniversary open house July 10.

Dave will talk to the Ely Garden Club on March 9 about blueberries. Guests are welcome; call Liz at 218 365-6045 for details. The club is trying to increase its membership.

The St. Louis County Extension Spring Extravaganza will be held the mornings of March 20 (first part) and April 17 (second part.)

Itasca County Master Gardeners will have a plant sale on May 20. The Grand Rapids Garden Club will hold its plant sale on May 22 with the proceeds going to the Horticulture program at NCROC.

Biwabik Home & Garden Club's Spring Plant/Bake/Rummage Sale in on May 6.

The Summer Board meeting on July 17 at Olcott Park in Virginia is a pot luck, and guests are welcome!

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12 noon.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jan Dzwonkowski,
Executive Secretary

Youth Gardening

Submitted by Jennifer Behm

Spring is on the way, we are gaining a couple more minutes of daylight every day. It will still be months before we can dig outside, but there are many projects to give your children a taste of the fun to come.

****One easy project is WINDOWSILL PEAS.**

We have had great success growing peas (both shelling and snow peas) in a pot on the windowsill. Peas grow quickly and easily and the large seeds are easy for young children to handle.

Sufficient light is important. Use a southern facing window that gets full sun. Use a pot at least 5" diameter, organic potting soil, and plant 4 peas in each pot. Depending on your germination, you will need to thin the plants to just 2 plants per pot. Simply snip the extra plants off with your fingernail and eat them (they taste just like a pea!).

To feed the curiosity, do some experimenting. Soak some of the peas in water for 12 hours before planting. See how much faster those sprout. Try different varieties.

"Golden Sweet" is a pole yellow-edible-pod pea. After it sprouts, tie yarn from the pot to the top of the curtain rod for it to climb on. The pole pea vines are actually very pretty as they twine 5' up to the top of the window and bloom. "Tom Thumb" is a dwarf shelling pea that does great in containers and won't take up much space.

Start this in mid-February and have peas to eat before all the snow has melted. We don't get many peas, and the plants don't last as long as they would outside, but it is a real treat to have a few fresh peas to snack on.

****A second easy project is FORCING BRANCHES.**

Dress warm, give your children some pruners, and head to the woods. Snip branches about 18" long that will fit into a quart jar. We've had luck with willows, crabapple, apple, elderberry, and dogwood but experiment with any deciduous branches your child chooses. Arrange the branches into a bouquet in a jar of warm water. Change the water every 4-5 days. The little vase of sticks

slowly gets leaves and then even flowers (from the crabapple and apples). The willows even grow roots. By Easter you will have a pretty little green bouquet.

Bookworms Garden Club News

Submitted by Dale Hurst

Bookworms Garden Club, who plant and maintain the gardens at the Duluth Public Main Library, held a fund raiser **February 9, 2010**. It was at Ferguson Bath, Kitchen and Lighting on Airpark Blvd. It was an evening of gardening, very informal with speakers Bob Olen, Roger Hill, Bryn's of Zim, Dave Severson and others at stations and the guests going from place to place interacting with them. The food was provided by the Duluth Grill and was very good.

Chisholm Hibbing Garden Club News

Submitted by Carol Borich

The first meetings of 2010 found the club considering the options for the summer bus trip destination, electing to focus on small garden plantings as the summer "Open Gardens" theme, and deciding to give those members hosting an Open Garden a \$10 "Thank-You" gift. Plans for the volunteer projects were discussed: the Hibbing Public Library gardens, the Iron Man Statue gardens, and the Roses and Iron garden at the Greyhound Museum in Hibbing will again be the focus for 2010. Members are asked to contribute 5 hours over the summer to volunteer gardening if possible. For the first time in many years the club will develop an informational brochure for distribution to prospective members and organizations.

In January members enjoyed Dianne Sikkila's presentation on planting bare root plants with a special section on blueberries, and wished there had been time to learn more. In February, members learned to create wire art for the garden with Harlan Hansen.

Ely Garden Club News

Submitted by Liz Schendel

Ely Garden Club is setting up a 2010 schedule that will be informative and fun. For our **February** meeting, our program was

based on the article from the recent issue of Northern Gardener on The Top 25 Must Have Plants, with a little tweaking to suit Ely's slightly colder climate. Even though Ely is technically Zone 3, we are right on the edge of Zone 2, and regularly experience winters where temperatures drop to -40 or even -50 F.

In **March**, Dave Wildung will be our guest to talk about blueberries, one of our favorite subjects. In **April**, Chris Williams, a local naturalist, will be speaking about Forest Biomes. We also have a spring tour of greenhouses planned as well as our annual local garden tour in **July** and possibly an overnight tour to gardens further afield in **August**.

A new fundraiser (we hope) this summer will be Ely Garden Club's involvement with our local Farmer's Market. It is held every **Tuesday** night at Whiteside Park, in the middle of town, starting in early **June**. We plan to have a table to sell plants, from houseplants to annuals to divisions of bulbs and roots from our civic gardens. We are considering having a raffle at our table, as well, and perhaps baked goods. Let's hope **Tuesday** nights are not rainy as we recruit Garden Club members to take turns at the table.

The Ely Farmer's Market has evolved to include an arts/crafts fair, with vendors selling everything from jewelry to rugs, home baked breads and organic meats. It is a good time, and precedes Ely's other weekly event, **Tuesday Night Live**, which features free music played by local musicians at various venues around town. If you want Mexican ballads, go to the Chocolate Moose; if you want the city band, go to the park; if you want folk music, go to the Front Porch Coffee shop. This is just a sampling of the fun choices of things to do in Ely on **Tuesday** nights starting in mid-**June**. Take a trip to Ely this summer, and enjoy a nice dinner and **Tuesday Night Live**. You might want to bring a lawn chair.