AAMG EAB Meeting Minutes
2 April 2014

Actions

All:

• All EAB liaisons should talk to their project chairs before the June EAB in regard to increasing quantifiable education-focused goals for the projects.
• EAB members should forward all 2013 Year End Reports and 2014 Project Proposals to Mike for filing.

Mike:

• Mike will review the state Extension code of conduct.

Kay:

• Kay will rework the map to try to place people more accurately where they really live.
• Kay will start giving Erin info about what is new on the web page for Newsletter.

Joyce:

• Joyce will attend the State Coordinators Meeting with Mike on April 3 to find out what other groups are doing to improve intern participation.
• Joyce will make multi-colored “tickets” for plant distribution, approximately 15 each of 5 colors.
• Joyce will contact the Raymonds regarding what help they need at the Hope Garden.

Sharon:

• Sharon will give a demo of the new timekeeping database at the April meeting.

Rose Mary:

• Rose Mary will send the name of the West County magazine publisher to Carole.
• Rose Mary will coordinate a date for the Pilgrimage in 2015.

Welcome

In attendance today were Mike Ensor, Joyce Dail, Rose Mary Swartwood, Sharon Smith, Kathy Enderle, Kay Stringfellow, Harry DeLong, and Carole Fullagar.

Coordinator’s Comments

• Coordinators meeting tomorrow. Joyce attending.
Annual State Extension Conference was last week. Dr. Wright, the new Extension Director is very enthusiastic about the future of Extension. Mike saw lots of new people. Mike is to report to Dr. Wright what we are doing with regard to our outreach, so he is happy to be able to report that we are being active on our web site, on Facebook, through displays at events, and through traditional media.

Mike has been hearing good comments on projects. He had a call from a reporter from the Capital-Gazette who had questions about how our delayed spring will finally progress.

The AA County Extension faculty held a meeting on technology use and has decided to obtain iPads for use by Extension services.

Constant Contact Software: No renewal.

Mike has contacted the banner company and will review the new printing. No date for completion.

John will continue to screen candidates, but Mike is to contact him and ask him to write out the criteria he uses.

Mike got a request from our area Extension Director, Carol, regarding having a presence at Family Fun Day at Ft. Meade on April 26. Lisa Winters will coordinate this participation.

Extension is doing demonstrations and seeking individuals to speak on camera about our work at the AGNR convocation on May 8.

Old Business

Speaker Report: Rose Mary will send an email to our speaker for next week, providing an overview of MG goals and some background on our membership. Dennis Whigham is to speak on native orchids. Two new ideas for 2015: Patuxent River Keeper Frederick Tutman; teacher from Belvedere Elementary School who was featured in the Capital about her gardening with schoolkids. Could relate to Junior MGs, a program we are getting started. FYI: Junior MGs can begin in grades 3-5, with different programs for older kids.

Pilgrimage/AA County Advanced Training Day: This will be postponed until 2015 because of the problems scheduling all three locations and the transportation on the same day. Rose Mary will schedule a day soon.

Web site: Kay still needs to rework the map and to send recent changes to Erin for the Newsletter.

New Business

Publicity

Carole has arranged with the Community News editor at the Capital-Gazette to have a reporter visit the Dairy Farm and the B&A Trail Garden and to feature MG in their upcoming Home and Garden special section. The goal is to bring awareness of MG to the entire county.
Finance Report

- No report on finances this month.

Hours and Contacts

- Sharon will give a demo of the new time tracking database at the April meeting.
- For those without computer access or who need additional help, there will be a computer set up to use at the Extension Office. Be sure to bring your password with you!
- No reports yet from new database.
- Some people having trouble. One problem is trying to use the database on the iPad or iPhone – doesn’t work on these platforms yet.

Project Liaison Reports

- Everyone has contacted their project chairs to let them know they are the new liaisons.
- Kathy:
  - CEC: Has sent out a schedule of work days
  - LT Plant ID: Meeting this Friday.
  - LT Science in the Garden: Dates are scheduled for visits through May.
  - LT Garden Guides: No response yet
- Harry:
  - Has reviewed the proposals from the AA Co Flower Show, Hancock’s Resolution, and Dairy Farm. Nothing yet from Beekeeping.
- Carole:
  - Composting at Quiet Waters: Has set a schedule
  - The B&A Trail has its initial clean up of the beds on 12 April
- Sharon:
  - Kinder Farm Park Apprentice Garden: Meeting with the seven new families tonight. Plots are 3’ x 10’.
  - KFP Woodland Garden: planting on April 3.
  - KFP Wildflower Garden: Visited Chesapeake Natives at Rosaryville State Park in Upper Marlboro to help transplant 200 plants in exchange for the 200 plants we will get for the new wildflower garden. Looking for volunteers to help when it comes time to plant at KFP, about 10:30 am on May 31.
- Kay:
  - Facebook: Robin Noonan has some excellent new helpers, Helenrose Tucker and Teresa Caplan, who have joined Meg Kauder, Erin Lassen, and Nancy Allred in posting. Total reach for last week was 482 people.
  - Bay-Wise: Bay-Wise held a kick off meeting on Sunday, March 30, with a good turnout of members present. We have 44 requests for yard visits so far this year. We had a table at the Davidsonville Green Expo that was very successful and will also have a table at the Pascal Sr. Center Garden Party in May.
Joyce:
  - Ask a MG has had two training classes. Clinics start April 19 through early November.
  - Dairy Farm will have a table at the Pascal Garden Party to sell bricks.
  - Grow It Eat It also will have a table at Pascal.

Educational Goals:

- All EAB liaisons should talk to their project chairs before the June EAB in regard to increasing quantifiable education-focused goals for the projects.
- We will schedule 5-minute presentations for project chairs to share what they are doing at the general meetings through the year.
- Kathy put together an excellent checklist of “educational best practices” for her Monastery Garden group and shared it with them. While these were designed specifically for that project, many are applicable to other projects.
  - Make sure that our mission – education – is perceived by people outside MG: identify what we do and translate that into teaching/learning opportunities using the garden features, such as:
    - Demo on herb gardening, how to make a container herb garden
    - Replacing non-natives with natives, planting for pollinators
    - Planting for tough places, shady hillside vs sunny hillside
    - Plant ID/notebook inventory
    - Annuals vs perennials, sun vs shade
    - Storm water runoff, parking lot rain gardens, and creekside plantings
    - Lawn care, new fertilizer rules
    - Composting
    - Pruning
- How to reach the public
  - Advertise work/demo schedule at St. Mary’s Church and school, newspaper, Facebook, flyers on bulletin boards at grocery and libraries (flyers can be copied at Extension Office)
  - Have an educational table/demo at St. Mary’s Church annual picnic
• Document activities with photos and write-ups for state success stories (Robin Hessey), Facebook, Newsletter, and website.

• Be more proactive about asking people questions while they are there

• Provide handouts of HGIC bulletins

• Be more proactive with engaging interns to participate

• Update brochure

• “Rebrand” the garden to show homeowners that they can achieve this, too.

May Meeting Plant Swap:

• The EAB thanks George Lambert for organizing this for several years and the Dronebergs for leading discussions during the plant distribution.

• This year, the EAB members will assist volunteers with the set up and distribution of plants. We will allow time at the start to preview plants, hold a raffle for choice specimens, and enjoy socializing and networking time during the distribution. We also will have volunteers to assist those still needing help with the database. Be sure to bring your password that was emailed to you!

• Joyce will make multi-colored “tickets” for plant distribution, approximately 15 each of 5 colors.

Other:

• The Raymonds, who care for the Kinder Park Farm Hope Garden, have requested some help, possibly with pruning shrubs. Joyce will clarify their needs and then seek volunteers for limited MG Consultant work.