AAMG EAB Meeting Minutes

1 July 2015

Actions

- **Kay:** Contact Rose Mary re our discussion about future speakers. (Done)
- **Harry:** Check with Lew Shell about church availability.
- **Harry:** Check with Barbara P. and Marion Frye re butterfly bush question.

EAB Reports

- In attendance today were Harry DeLong, Joni Miller, Carole Fullagar, Marilyn Kinkel, and Kay Stringfellow. Don Steward and Susan Smouse were absent. Mike Ensor was at a mandatory meeting at U MD. Joyce Dail attended to discuss the Tawes Garden.
- John Connor has been interviewing candidates for the next intern class. There are about 16-17 at this point. It was suggested that the EAB members speak to the class about the importance of taking leadership positions. Speakers have been arranged for the class.
- The EAB agreed that any forms for purchasing bricks for the Village Garden should come to Carole Fullagar. Carole will retain them until time to send an order. The EAB could use a file cabinet to keep at the Extension Office.
- Someone has requested that the directory be printed. It is cost prohibitive, so we suggest that MGs print it at home or at the library.

Discussion in regard to Invasives

- The EAB shares the concern of an MG who contacted us in regard to our stance on invasives. A great article ran in the Maryland Gazette on our work, but unfortunately the suggestion that “butterfly weed” is a good native plant for sun was published as “butterfly bush,” which we all know is considered somewhat invasive. We have noted that there are butterfly bushes in the Village Garden, there before AAMG began work. Anne Arundel County Parks and Recreation asked the Dairy Farm committee to leave them in place. If they cannot be removed, we discussed the possibility of adding a sign that explains that there are better choices. In addition, the water hyacinths in the Village Garden water feature are considered invasive. The EAB has discussed these issues with the Dairy Farm committee.
- The EAB believes that we would all benefit from either a speaker or advanced training class on invasives. Kay contacted Rose Mary about arranging a speaker. The EAB will continue to pursue the idea of a class.

Project Advisor Reports

- **Beekeepers:** Hives are doing well at Quiet Waters, Hancock’s, and Dairy Farm
- **Hancock’s Resolution:** Gardens look great!
- **Monastery Garden:** Continuing Wednesday morning meetings, 7:30 a.m.
• Youth Garden at Arnold Elementary: Held a workday June 17. Having difficulty getting volunteers. Garden was mentioned in a newspaper article.
• Bay-Wise: Continuing to schedule yard visits.
• Apprentice Garden: Pulled spring crops, transplanted tomatoes in their place, put out organic fertilizer.
• Wildflower Garden: Held a workday to weed and mulch. Have placed some very nice signs to identify the flowers.
• Tawes Garden: Is holding monthly programs for 3-5 year olds.
• Ask-A-MG: Meeting on July 14 at the Dairy Farm, 6:30 p.m., to discuss new leadership plans and direction. All Ask-A participants are asked to attend.
• Facebook: Rosie Tucker has been keeping the page fresh daily. She has received some submissions from new AAMGs, and that’s great! Just a reminder, please make any entries you send to Rosie as educational as you can. For example, if you tell about something you’ve done in your own garden, include a picture, and explain the how or the why that you use a particular gardening practice. Research a link to more information and send that along as well. And please send pictures and notes about our MG projects!

Tawes Garden

• Joyce Dail and Sharon Smith are co-chairing the Tawes Garden projects. When the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) contacted AAMG about helping, there were seven areas that they suggested could use our help. At this time, we are working on three of those.
  o Tree and shrub database: Bonnie Pavlak, Sue Owens, and Pat Morrison worked on this over the winter, mapping enough data to meet the numerical qualifications for Level 2 Arboretum Status for Tawes. This work is ongoing, but on a reduced basis.
  o Discover Nature Programs: This part of the project is ongoing. The program is open to 3-5 year olds, with a parent. Joyce, Sharon, and Susan Graves have been working on this. One morning a month they meet to prepare a story and practice a craft. The 4th Wednesday of the month they conduct morning and afternoon sessions with the children. The activity is advertised on the DNR website and in their newsletter, the Black-Eyed Susan. There are usually 6 – 9 kids. To participate, MGs must be fingerprinted. This can be done for free at the Department of Motor Vehicles.
  o Identifying invasives: Sue Owen, Cherie Loustenau, Mary Yee, Sally Iliff, and Pat Morrison began work on this aspect of the garden on June 23. They plan to hold scheduled and unscheduled group work days. They are researching controls and eradication.
• If anyone is interested in working on any of the Tawes Garden projects, please contact Joyce.