AAMG EAB Meeting Minutes

2 July 2014

Actions

**Mike:** Prepare awards and recognition for July meeting.

**Kay:** Write an article on the Tawes Garden for the Newsletter

**Joyce:** Edit Tawes Garden article. Speak about the Garden at the July meeting, especially as an educational partnership, plant identification, insect/IPM program, discovery for children.

**Joyce:** Ask Dottie Oliff to continue to manage the ice cream social.

**Sharon:** Request that reports of hours are not available for members.

**Sharon:** Send out a Newsflash requesting everyone update their profiles.

Welcome

In attendance today were Joyce Dail, Sharon Smith, Kathy Enderle, Kay Stringfellow, Harry DeLong, and Carole Fullagar.

Tawes Garden, Proposed New Project

The EAB met at the Department of Natural Resources in Annapolis. We had a tour of the Helen Tawes Garden, given by Ranger Jay Meyers. The Garden is a State facility, maintained by State employees and the Friends of the Tawes Garden. Their overall objective is more exposure for the garden and promoting the idea of stewardship, from our own backyards to state parks, for example, with preventing their top 3 invaders: English ivy, poison ivy, and honeysuckle. Their Board meets aperiodically and needs some invigorating. They have an estimated 5,000 – 7,000 visitors a year. They use IPM, with very little spraying.

They are seeking AACoMG assistance with the following, all of which are priorities:

- Collate paper records and develop a tree/shrub database in support of application for Level 2 Arboretum status
- Develop a science-based curriculum for preschoolers, possibly to work in conjunction with Discover Nature Programs
- Develop a practical invasives program with an educational component tied to identification for our site and followed up with physical removal
• Investigate potential for developing e-materials and e-guides and a PowerPoint presentation for use by Tawes personnel
• Adopt-a-Native-Habitat (there are three habitats in the garden: Eastern Shore, Mountain, and Coastal Plain) – evaluate status of the areas and develop a plan to address outstanding issues
• Develop interpretive programming for public (e.g., lecture series on native plants, garden/yard stewardship, invasives, etc.)
• Help develop better community and stakeholder connections and support
• Serve as a member of the Board of the Friends of Tawes Garden

**Project Reports**

• Woodland Garden: Meetings scheduled for July 9 for planting, 9-11.
• Wildflower Garden: Planted, deer fenced, partnering with Apprentice Garden for education
• B&A Trail: Maintenance only
• Quiet Waters Composting: lots of public contact
• Hancock’s Resolution, Apprentice Garden, Ask a MG, Bay-Wise, and Facebook: going strong
• Ask a MG: 1,648 contacts as of June 1
• Dairy Farm: workdays scheduled
• Arnold School: on hold for summer; garden installed
• CEC: met in June, last time till fall
• Monastery Garden: Setting up table with sign and reference books every Wednesday; also pamphlets on lawn care; getting lots of questions; groups doing church tours have requested garden tours as well, focusing on history behind a “Mary Garden.”
• Sharon has asked to be relieved of project liaison duties for now. Kay agreed to take the Kinder Farm projects.
• State Fair: Lisa Winters sent a Newsflash seeking volunteers; Joyce will mention at meeting.

**Time Tracking Database**

• Reports of hours are not available except to the administrators. Sharon will request that this be changed.
• Eighty MGs have put in 2,288 volunteer hours and 1,121 education hours through 30 June. 2013 Interns Serena Boyd, Stephen Berberich, Pamela Mc Farland, Cyrena Simons, and Jim Wilson have completed their hours. Way to go!
• Sharon can now update the directory information from the time tracking database, so she will send out a Newsflash requesting everyone update their profiles.

**July Meeting**

• Awards and Recognition – Mike is in charge of it.
• Two project talks
• Raffle
• Ice cream social
• Short recap of project proposals for Tawes Garden and Seed Library and mention of State Fair

Seed Library at Crofton Library, Proposed New Project

• Barbara Crispin presented a detailed proposal for a new project at the Crofton Library. The idea came from a challenge issued to librarians from Jon Traunfeld.
• Purpose: promote community interest in growing and saving of open pollinated seeds of fruits, vegetables, and flowers by providing seeds and gardening info to library patrons.
• AAMG would provide speakers for public training sessions and maintain and organize the seed library.

Other Proposed New Projects

• Grow Annapolis’ Anne Von Allen has an urban agriculture community garden project at City Dock and another location. Needs clarification on what they really want from us.
• Historic property Linthicum Walks in Crofton would like MG consultant help in planning their garden, as has been done at Hancock’s Resolution.