AAMG EAB Meeting Minutes

7 May 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. Also, encourage them to stay engaged with the MG Group and EAB, through attendance at meetings and reporting their activities.
- EAB members should forward all 2013 Year End Reports and 2014 Project Proposals to Mike for filing. (Note: We didn’t discuss this item this month, but some of us may not have done this yet.)

Mike:

- Mike will look into getting another banner company.

Harry:

- Harry will gather information regarding what counts for volunteer hours and education hours for discussion and clarification at an upcoming meeting.

Kay:

- Kay will start giving Erin info about what is new on the web page for Newsletter.

Sharon:

- Sharon will assist members with the timekeeping database during the May meeting.

Rose Mary:

- Rose Mary will continue to try to 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. Special guest was intern, Jim Wilson.

Coordinator’s Comments

- Mike has heard good comments and feedback on the article that appeared in the Home and Garden section of the Capital-Gazette. Good work, Carole, coordinating with the reporter.
- AA County Extension will celebrate 100 Years of Extension Services on Friday, 24 October, with an Open House. Participation will be from all areas of Extension. MG involvement will be determined.
• Mike cannot get the banner company to return calls. Discussion held in regard to finding another company.

• Joyce attended the quarterly coordinators meeting with Mike last month. Some of the things she learned:
  o Lots of counties push Ask a MG as their major project.
  o Many partner with schools and libraries. They require commitments from at least one teacher, a vice-principal, a nurse, and a janitor.
  o Many are expanding their work with community gardens.
  o The Advanced Training Native Plant Class will soon be available online at no charge. It focuses on historical associations between plants and wildlife, soil conditions, and such, rather than on particular plant studies.
  o Jon Traunfeld, state MG coordinator, spoke in regard to the appropriate use of the MG title and association with U MD Extension. We will receive more information once the language is finalized.

Speaker Report and Advanced Training Day

• Rose Mary drafted a short statement about who we are as MGs to send to our potential speakers, so that they will know more about our group's activities, training, and focus.

• Pilgrimage/AA County Advanced Training Day: If Rose Mary cannot get the date coordinated for 2015 with all the participating locations and the transportation company by July, the EAB has voted to shelve the idea.

• Congratulations to our bonsai expert speaker, Chris Baker, who has been promoted and is now curator of the bonsai exhibit at the Chicago Botanic Gardens.

Project Liaison Reports

• The Bay-Wise team has 71 visits being scheduled or completed already this year. This far surpasses the 50 visits conducted last year.

• The Apprentice Garden has its full contingent of families. Planting has begun this week.

• The Wildflower Garden team has worked at Chesapeake Natives in exchange for getting free plants for the new garden. Team needs help planting on May 31.

• The Woodland Garden has begun planting.

• Ask a MG has begun its season. They still need one additional team leader for the first Saturday each month at the West County Library in Odenton.

• Facebook is very active, still maintaining new posts daily.

Project Talks

• Responses to the EAB's request for short project talks at monthly meetings have been mostly positive. The EAB wants the membership to hear from the projects -- and be able to put a face with the projects -- throughout the year (rather than just at the February general meeting). While this is voluntary, we encourage each project to participate. So far our volunteers are:
May – Janet Clauson, Apprentice Garden; Don Droneburg, Londontown Plant ID
July – Pam Dennison, Composting; Nancy Allred, Hancock’s Resolution
Aug – Bonnie Pavlak, Woodland Garden; Pat Shema, AA County Fair
Sep – Robin Noonan, Facebook
Oct – Bob Bates, Beekeeping
Nov – Polly Katauskas, B&A Trail

Hours and Contacts

• You can find the link to the database under Just for MGs/Timesheets. It is called Time Tracking Database.
• Sharon will assist members who need help with the new time tracking database during the May plant swap meeting. Be sure to bring your password with you!
• The database does not work on any mobile platforms, such as iPad, iPhone. It also does not work with Internet Explorer 8 or Windows XP. Use IE 10 or above, Chrome, Firefox, or Safari.
• There was discussion in regard to what counts as education hours and what counts as volunteer hours. Harry will gather information in this regard for discussion and clarification at an upcoming meeting.

New Project Proposals

• The EAB reviewed and approved a proposal submitted by Jessica Zinder for a garden project at Arnold Elementary School. It will be called the Youth Garden at Arnold Elementary, State Site Code 15, County Activity Code 9.
• Mike and Joyce will visit the Helen Tawes Garden for discussions about MG participation there. No further information available at this time.

May Meeting Plant Swap

• Agenda for Plant Swap Meeting:
  o Explanation of rules. You will select plants when your color is called. Colored “tickets” will be handed out at the door on your way in. Honor system for number of plants you receive.
  o Two short project presentations.
  o Raffle; special plants as well as usual raffle items
  o Plant swap!

Other Old Business

• Thanks to Bonnie Pavlak who assisted with the request at the Kinder Farm Hope Garden.
• No report on finances this month.
• Newsflashes are to be sent directly to Erin Lassen. She will coordinate with Mike, if necessary.