MASTER GARDENER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 19, 2013

PRESENT: Monica Davi, Harry Clayton, Joy Gulotta, MaryJo Novak, Nancy Kuhajda, Pat Kosmach, Rusty Nave, Tracy Mulliken, Shey Lowman, MaryAnne Spinner, Rachelle Hollinshead, Jennifer Fishburn, Kari Houli, Roger Harfst, Sonja Lallemond, Lisa Valle, and Brenda Dahlfors.

Call to order: The meeting of the University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener Advisory Committee was called to order via Blackboard at 10:07am, by Chairperson Pat Kosmach. A motion to approve the Minutes from 9/18/13 was made by Nancy K. and seconded by Tracy M. Motion passed.

Reports:

Awards Banquet 2014 – The date has been changed to June 13th and will be moved to the IHotel.

Manual and new quizzes – Manuals should be available after Dec. 20th. Printing costs increased from $20 to $35. The price will remain the same for Master Gardeners. Monica will make the Organics chapter available to coordinators on their page of the MG website. This can be shared with current MGs, but it is not to be made available to the general population, in its entirety. There are still 150 old manuals left – some suggested ways of selling them (currently going for $40) are:

- Contact local libraries
- Contact Jr MG leaders, FFA chapters and Ag High Schools

Monica has already contacted junior colleges and prisons. They can only be given away within the Extension system which means that she can give them to local counties, and they can resell for their profit.

Training 2014 – Training sites and dates are listed on the MG website. Online training is also available. Elluminate classes will be offered on Mondays but cannot be used for make-up sessions or continuing ed.

JMG trainings – Bill Million and Monica will be traveling throughout the state giving this training. Sonja L. reported that her county is requiring JMG leaders go thru 4H Leadership training, and the kids must register for 4H. Monica will look into this. ** Note- after talking with state 4-H staff this is not the case and leaders or kids only need to register if the program is a 4-H spin club.

New committee members – Harry Clayton, Roger Harfst, and MaryAnne Spinner have each finished 2 terms. Replacing them from the East Central region will be John Bodensteiner from Vermillion Co, and Deb McFarling from Macon Co. Monica has also received 2 applications so far from the North East region, one from Kane County and one from McHenry County – those will be sent out for votes in the near future.

Discussion Items:

Ideas for future MG Coordinator Lunch N Learns – Monica reported that she usually has 15-20 participants. Some suggestions were:

- ADA requirements for community gardens
- Possible interview questions (for potential MGs)
- How to work with volunteers (management styles, motivation, difficult MGs)
- GMOs
- How to do trainings for new coordinators
- How to set up the volunteer reporting website

Ideas for hands-on activities to improve Blackboard trainings – lists would have to be sent to coordinators of supplies to buy, or “kits” would have to be provided. Tracy has a good insect instructor she used for Master Naturalist. Jennifer and Jennifer are putting together a kit for the Woodies class. It was also suggested that this be a topic for LunchNLearn.
  - Dissecting flowers
  - Twig and bud samples
  - Use keys
  - Rhonda Ferree plants grasses to teach ID for turf
  - Share social media sites, phone apps
  - Make soil texture samples/do the “ribbons”
  - Phil Nixon has insect samples in resin from Toys R Us – these would have to be provided by him or thru Monica

Keynote speaker for 2014 awards banquet – some suggestions were:
  - John Carloftis – Kentucky
  - Dan Hinckle/Amy Stewart
  - Tony Avent
  - Ed Lyon
  - Doug Tallamy – U Delaware
  - Rick Bayless
  - Paul Capallano(sp?) Kentucky
  - Guy Sternberg – Starhill Forest Arboretum

Regional MG Coordinators meetings – the NE region reports that it meets face to face 4X a year. Consensus is that it is a great idea. We may need to redefine “regional”. Would we meet regionally and/or statewide? Educators would be encouraged to attend. It was thought that minimally, we could meet 1X per year statewide, and 1X regionally. It was pointed out that 4H meets statewide several times a year, and sometimes they are 2 day events.

Springfield – we had been talking about having a Master Gardener Day, or an Ag and Natural Resources Day in Springfield, similar to 4H. Monica spoke with Marilyn Brengle. Having an “Extension Day” was suggested, but we would prefer not to dilute our message. By making it an Ag and Natural Resources Day, we could make the focus on MGs and MNs as well as Energy and Local Foods. Monica will continue to pursue.

MG Awards judging for 2014 – Applications will have to be turned in by late April so voting can be done in May. It was suggested that pins be developed for OMG and Sustained MGs. The question was raised about receiving them retro-actively. The #s average 40 – 60 per year. Records are available for who received the award from 2000 on so it was decided that pre 2000 recipients would need to produce their certificates in order to receive one.

Mini-grant judging for 2014 – voting will take place at the February meeting. Applications are due Jan 31st. There is approx. $5000. To clarify – only one mini grant per county will be granted.
**Recent tornados/severe weather** – no Master Gardeners were lost in the recent storms, but many counties have been declared disaster areas. It was discussed what MGs and MG groups could do. A planting day in the spring was suggested for public spaces – parks, libraries, etc. Rhonda Ferree has put together a task force to address these issues in Unit 11. Monica will work with Unit 11 and Unit 13 plus others to see how we can assist them in spring planting/clean-up.

**Bylaws – revisions if needed??** – Joy moved and Shey seconded a motion to change “Chairpersons” to Chair and Vice-Chair (Sec 8).

**MG history – how do we move forward?** – Monica has collected several – now what? Some kind of online scrapbook was suggested. It may be possible to piggyback on the 100 Years of Extension website. Monica will check with Jane Scherer.

**Future Meetings:**
- Feb 17th (not the 24th) 10 to noon via Blackboard
- May 5th on campus
- Sept 10th on campus
- Nov 12th on campus

Meeting adjourned – Thank You again, Harry, Rodger and MaryAnne!!!

Respectfully submitted:
Brenda Dahlfors, McHenry Co.
Secretary