The meeting was called to order at 10:08am by Chairperson Pat Kosmach. In attendance were Pat, Monica David, Tracy Mulliken, Brenda Dahlfors, Deb McFarling, Lee Maki, Corinna Martinez, Pat Hirsch, Sonja Lallemand, Shey Lowman, Joy Gulotta, and Rachelle Hollinshead. Via Blackboard were Mary Jo Novak, Rusty Nave, Nancy Kuhajda, and Jennifer Fishburn.

The Minutes from the November meeting DO NEED TO be approved, and the February Minutes were approved as written.

Reports

Awards Banquet 2014: letters to award winners have been mailed out. Lee Maki talked about the Teamwork Award for Peoria’s Wildlife Prairie Park. The registration link is open and there have been several registrations received. Monica is excited about the keynote speaker, Doug Tallamy. His newest book “The Living Landscape” with Richard Dark does not go to print until the week after conference, but he will have his other book available for sale. Shey suggested having book plates printed that he could sign. Nancy asked about the availability of his lectures being available on CD. She will get Monica info on that, since Monica isn’t aware of them. Tour details are still being finalized, based on the final attendance. Registration help will be needed at 9:30am on the day of. Please contact Monica to volunteer.

Awards applications: The October Lunch n Learn will discuss how to write a good awards application. Shey made a motion that #2 in the awards application read “...must be submitted as a single pdf file.” Motion passed. Shey will also restructure the form/format and define terms for our next meeting.

Conference 2015: will tentatively be held in the Madison/St. Claire area – most likely O’Fallon, Sept 18-20 @ Regent Conference Center/Hilton Garden Inn. Contract to be completed in June. Monica is hoping to secure Rosalind Creasy as the keynote but her speaking fee may be too high.

Training 2014: 5 days before the online training started, Java did an update that basically shut down the Banner system on campus and made all of the taped modules inaccessible to most users. There was scrambling, but things were patched and the modules were turned into Mp3 files, all the modules will have to be retaped for 2015. Monica expects 120 students will complete the training, 10 will not. The webinar training went very well. The “hands on” part was very well received, particularly when the trainer was enthusiastic and well prepared. Getting the supplies might be a challenge. A list was handed out which covered the hands-on activities for each lesson. The new quizzes had a few glitches which will be fixed for next year. Monica hopes to have the webinar training available for use across the state in 2015. She will distribute the hands-on activities for use by counties at webinar or face-to-face trainings.

Training for 2015:
Northeast Region is planning several fall MG trainings. Positives: It frees up Educators for winter training, fewer weather/travel issues. Negatives: Ties up Educators for other programming, trainees have limited projects available after graduation to keep the momentum going, would this thin the pool of trainees if it were offered twice a year? Consensus was training should only be offered once in a year per unit.
JMG: Monica and Bill Million continue to do training across the state. We are reminded to apply for the Challenge Grants that were listed in the latest IMAGINE newsletter. In some places, 4H and MGs work well together, and some do not. Reminder that JMG clubs do not have to register with 4H, but SPIN Clubs do. It is OK for kids to be counted twice (once for each program area). JMG has a new curriculum area they are piloting titled “Learn, Grow, Eat & Go” to be released in 2015. There is another curriculum from Cornell called “Nature Detectives: Habitat Connections” that MNS and MGs can use. Rachelle has curriculum for a Kindergarten Conservation Day that she can share.

Lunch n Learns 2014: A list of topics was distributed. These are for staff (volunteers can be invited to listen in with staff on some sessions) on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 11am. Future topics were solicited. One topic mentioned was How to Close/End a Project Gracefully. Others mentioned, like Using Veggies from School Gardens, are taped webinars that are already available (Nancy K). Working with Youth webinar is actually linked on the MG website.

Child Protection training: The Reporting Abuse webinar will only have to be completed once by each volunteer. It is only ½ hour long and counts toward continuing education time. Some units are incorporating it into their regular MG training, some are offering it as a group training, and some are relying on individual follow thru. There is a certificate that MUST BE SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF A STAFF PERSON. The training is linked into the MG website under Educational Events.

Discussion Items
General Discussion:
- Monica reported that, although total volunteer hours went down this year, the contact #s were up. It was suggested that the horrible growing season may have to do with the slight reduction in volunteer hours.
- Dr. Czapar is working on integrating Extension throughout the campus, not just College of ACES. There has been a request for proposals for different units on campus to do educational outreach with Extension programs. MG and MNS were involved with a proposal to partner with the new Center for Sustainability on campus. The proposal was not accepted but both Monica and Rhonda Ferree, director of MN see possible areas for future collaboration.
- Lindsey is finishing up Outstanding and Sustained Excellence pin designs and will have those ready in June for our approval.
- There are many variations on the MG nametags. Some suggested a dual nametag for MG/MN volunteers. Monica reported that there is now one format: U of I logo/name/Master Gardener and she has no say in the matter.

Educational Modules/Videos/Advanced Training Modules: There are 3 more IPM continuing education modules which will go online this summer – Oak Problems, Gypsy Moth, and Dogwood Anthracnose.

TV Gardening shows as Continuing education: The question was raised whether TV Gardening programs (PBS or HGTV) can be considered as cont. education. After much discussion, it was voted NO.

Partnerships with MN program: Can there be crossover in the MG and MN training? Soils and Botany are probably the two overlap topics. Sonja felt that the MN training was too specific to the area it is located in, to be standard across the state, let alone be blended with MG training. There are a few core classes that cross over. Training hours for MN count for advanced training in Ecology certification for
MG, but no double dipping volunteer time. Projects can overlap. There is consideration to include the MNs in the 2015 conference, particularly if there is programming on invasives.

**Website:** Both the coordinators site and the MG website are poorly organized. Since not all the Advisory members are privy to the coordinators site, Monica will print it out and send copies so that we can all review and have suggestions on how to reorganize, at our next meeting. We all need to review both sites for the next meeting.

**MG History:** Monica is still looking for information from individual counties. This might be a volunteer project? Photos, stories, timelines, lists of projects, etc. It was suggested to send out a template for counties or MGs to fill in their local histories and then these can be compiled. This would include things like: when did the county begin training; who have been the coordinators; list of projects in the county and how many Master Gardeners.

**Future Meetings:**
- Sept 10, 2014 on campus
- Nov 12, 2014 on campus
- Feb 11, 2015 via Blackboard
- May 13, 2015 on campus
- Sept 16, 2015 O’Fallon, IL (preconference)
- Nov 11, 2015 on campus

**Extra Notes:** Sonja invited the group to the May 29th conference on Invasives in Springfield. She will also send out flyers re: Stop the Spread (Callery Pear) from the State Urban Forester, Jennifer Menkin.

**Meeting Adjourned** 3:07pm. Respectfully submitted, Brenda Dahlfors, secretary.