

## Minutes Goodhue County Master Gardener Meeting January 13, 2009, 6:30 p.m.

1. We had a small group of 6 because of the extremely cold weather including Karen O'Rourke, Peg Hansen, Mary Brickzin-Gale, Bonnie Mann, Nancy Braschler (a 2009 intern) and myself. We all signed up for volunteer activities and I will put the lists on our website (see below for info on how to get to our MGOly webpages). Please email me with your volunteer choices. Keep in mind that when reporting volunteer hours you should always add transportation and research time to the total volunteer time. For those of you driving from other towns that can add appreciably.
2. We introduced ourselves and described our best or worst of the gardening season 2008. Success with square foot gardening seemed to be a favorite for many of us.
3. I presented the 2008 interns Karen O'Rourke and Peg Hansen with their permanent name badges and certificates. Congratulations! I will bring the remaining badges to the next MG meeting in April.
4. **We voted** to adopt the following mission statement for our group: *Goodhue County Master Gardeners benefit their communities by providing quality, research-based horticultural information and educational activities that improve our environment and quality of life.*
5. Karen O'Rourke would like new volunteers to work with Dan Guida and Cindy Peterson to plan the Red Wing Arts Assn. Garden Tour that we volunteer for every July. Karen would also like to expand our educational efforts this year at the Red Wing Community Garden. She would welcome ideas for programs we can demonstrate at the Community Garden. **We voted** to pay for the expenses to replant our demo garden again this year and perhaps build another square foot garden.
6. Karen and Peg Hansen need volunteers to help with the square foot garden at the Women's Shelter in Red Wing.
7. We showed the plans and discussed the MGs involvement with the new Discovery Garden at Colvill Park next to the Universal Playground. I have committed the Master Gardeners to planting the annuals in the garden every spring.
8. We decided that it is up to the discretion of the MG how much she/he should charge groups for speaking. It is also easy to just download the donation form that is online at our MGOly website and give it to the group after you speak. The form does not have any specific amount, but does "nudge" the group to think about donating something. We did decide that we should charge the Goodhue County Horticultural Society when an MG does a full presentation. Most speakers charge at least 100 bucks plus mileage so we felt that they are still getting a good deal. Bonnie Mann volunteered to bring it up at the next Hort. Meeting. Update: The Hort. Society voted at their meeting to donate \$50.00 whenever a Goodhue County Master Gardener does a program for the garden club.
9. We discussed the Pottery Park Rain Garden. Bill Rooney (public works) told me at our last meeting that they did go in and dig the rain garden out. He went on to say that there were rain events after they re-did it and the water did not stand for very long. So that's a good thing! We did lose a lot plants between their digging and the standing water so I need volunteers to help replant little bluestem from my garden to the rain garden this spring to fill in the bare spots. If you have any extra turtlehead (chelone), Joe-Pye Weed or any other moisture loving plants to donate they would be appreciated, as well. Unfortunately, they are cutting Public Works, etc. down to the bare bones this year so they will not be replacing any plants that did die.
10. MN MG Conference is in the Twin Cities at the U of MN St. Paul campus this year! We talked about getting a group together to car pool up to the conference. There will be garden tours and educational seminars. Peg thought it might be fun to stay at the dorms which is where they are putting up out of towners.
11. I have posted the new MG Handbook on our MGOly webpage. Julie W, Linda w and David M have added quite a few new things so please take a little time to read the entire handbook. There are also instructions on our website on how to access the online 2009 core course ([http://blog.lib.umn.edu/mgweb/goodhue/for\\_mgs\\_only/](http://blog.lib.umn.edu/mgweb/goodhue/for_mgs_only/) passwords goodhueMG & Extension). You

can take 3 educational hours for each module you do online. (Goodhue County Master Gardeners need 8 educational hours per year). You will also find several other new pages at our website such as the Co-op newsletter with an article by MG Amy Olson, the Hort. Club calendar, our donation form, plant diagnostics, and also tips for public speaking. I have updated the regional calendar, as well; do you have anything in your area you would like me to include?

12. Peg Hansen asked how many educational hours we should take for the MG meetings. I told her one hour for the presentation and she asked me, “Why?” She went on to say that our entire meeting is educational and new intern Nancy Braschler concurred saying, “I have learned more here in the last 2 hours than I’ve learned anywhere else before!” When I thought about it, from the start of the meeting when we all discussed what we planted, how we planted, etc. to the end when we discussed Mary’s excellent program on container gardening it WAS horticultural education that came straight from master gardeners, no less. Even when we aren’t talking about gardening—which is rare—we are usually talking about how to be better Master Gardeners. So long story short, please take the entire meeting time as educational hours from this time forward.
13. Delicious spice cake and other refreshments were provided by Karen O’Rourke.
14. Mary Brickzin-Gale did a wonderful job on her presentation “Container Gardening.” Lots of great tips on containers and the photos were inspiring—especially this time of year! If you would like to see and/or download the original PowerPoint program by Mary Meyer (without Mary B’s “tweaks”) it is now online at <http://www.mg.umn.edu/reference.html>. There is also a long list of other PowerPoint presentations that you can download and use when speaking to groups. Please remember to reserve the lcd projector and laptop from Robin at the Extension Office (651-385-3100) a while in advance of when you would like to use them. If you would like to try one out on the MGs at a future meeting—just let me know. Oh, and if you have a subject you would like to speak on, but it isn’t on the list I can usually find a PowerPoint presentation in my huge collection that will fit the bill. Or if you want to put your own presentation together I would be happy to help you with that, as well. So don’t be afraid to ask!
15. I forgot to draw for the door prize—as usual. Next meeting remind me!
16. Meeting over and I hope to see you all at the next meeting April 7th!