

***Carver / Scott Extension Master Gardeners  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
February 12, 2024***

**Meeting Minutes:**

Coordinator Kristy Mock opened the meeting at 6pm. The meeting was held via zoom with a large turnout of EMG members and interns.

**1. Guest Speaker**

Linda Wendland introduced the guest speaker for the evening – Erin Buchholz. Erin is a Plant Health Specialist at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Erin gave an informative presentation entitled, “Using IPM to Protect Pollinators and Plants”. Her lecture included an overview of IPM, the Impact of pest management in general, making choices on when to treat plants, and recognizing need.

**2. Garden Fever Event Update**

Patti Tibbs gave an overview of the volunteer needs for Garden Fever 2024. This year’s event will be held on April 6<sup>th</sup> and represents the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this annual garden conference and learning event. Patti explained that the following volunteer duties will be available on SUG on 2/13 for interns, and on 2/17 for active master gardeners. The volunteer positions being added to SUG for Garden Fever include:

- Donation Solicitation for door prizes and silent auction
- Silent Auction Basket Assembly
- Registration Folder Packet Assembly
- Decorating for the event
- Vendor Assistance
- Registration Table
- Education Booth
- Hospitality and guest speaker hosts
- Silent Auction set up and monitoring
- Door Prize distribution
- Tech Support during the event

Check SUG for dates and any special skills or directions needed for these opportunities. Patti also pointed out that if you volunteer at the event for 4 hours you can register for the event at a discount by going to our Carver Scott Master Gardener website member-only page. Patti also indicated that people could bring any donations received for Garden Fever to the in-person March EMG meeting at the Chaska VFW.

### **3. Sign Up Genius Update**

Linda Wendland gave an update on the current status of Sign Up Genius for Lori Braun-Ruschmeyer, who was absent from the meeting. Everything that is currently available is up and loaded into Sign Up Genius and interns and active EMG's are encouraged to sign up for events and opportunities soon and/or as they are ready. As mentioned earlier, Garden Fever opportunities will be added the week of 2/12. New things will be added continuously throughout the Spring and Summer months. Kristy reminded the group to contact her first if you have a volunteer experience to add to SUG and to remember to get as much information as possible onto the sign-up page so people always know what to expect when arriving at a volunteer opportunity.

### **4. Intern Spotlights**

There were four intern spotlights at this meeting. The group loves getting to know our newest members. We were grateful to hear from Renee Levesque, Heather Land, Sheri Lechner, and Justin Signalness. All four had interesting tidbits to share about themselves. Thank you interns.

### **5. Coordinator Updates**

Kristy provided updates from the Coordinator's perspective as follows:

- Kristy gave a recap of her presentation for 2023 to the Carver County Extension Committee. She highlighted our Wednesday Webinars, Garden Fever, Program Access and the strides we have made there, new partnerships, our giving gardens, and a general year in review in terms of numbers of volunteer hours and numbers of events attended. Kristy pointed out that showing our Counties the value we add and bring is essential to keeping the support firmly in their annual budgets.
- Kristy also pointed out new features added to the members-only portion of our website. They include Garden Fever Volunteer registration, a new 2024 meeting schedule, the program tracking form which is now a google form too, and an updated google form for our Giving Gardens.
- Kristy reminded the group that in the event they need to check out equipment or supplies from either the Carver or Scott County offices, be specific and clear about what is taken and when it will be returned. We have many EMGs out attending events and everyone has different needs. The only way to keep all of it efficiently working is to be clear about what you need, what you take, and when you will return items. If you need to purchase anything for volunteer events, you must get permission from the Coordinator's office first, use the tax exemption when possible, and submit the required forms for reimbursement. The form can be found in the members-only section of the website in "forms and documents".

- Kristy explained the rationale about changing our annual banquet from a January to a February event. The executive committee already passed this motion and it will be a benefit to all who are planning the event and to those that are attending perhaps.
- Lastly, Kristy explained that she received a public health grant for the Scott County Teaching Gardens for two ADA stand up beds and soil, a picnic area, and pergola. Scott County granted \$1700 toward this effort.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm. The next meeting is March 11 at the Chaska VFW. This is an in-person meeting scheduled from 6-8pm.