

April 13, 2013
Michigan Nut Growers Association (MNGA) Spring Meeting Minutes
Held at MSU Farrall Hall, East Lansing, MI

President Mike Dority called for meeting to start at 9:13 and people were situated by 9:22 a.m. Welcome and thanks for coming. This is supposed to be a fun meeting: scions, auction, presentations, and people's plans for the year.

Old business:

Bylaws:

Secretary's note: LOTS of comments were made. I did my best to record them all.

Mike: we have been working on the Bylaws since January 2012. Bylaws were last revised in 1987. We have strayed over the years. We have tweaked it to tighten it up and bring it into alignment to how MNGA works now. Bylaws are in **MNGA News** and on MNGA website. All have had a chance to read through it. Need a motion to bring it to the floor: debate/comments/up or down vote. We must have a majority vote twice through to accept. Summer is second vote.

Tom Lattener: motion to accept as written.

Discussion:

Mike:...we do not want to wait 25 years to revise the bylaws again. Board will review and look at where it needs tweaks. We will make amendments from here on in.

Dick Wolthuis seconded the motion.

Clay Ottoni: we need to be consistent in the name of the association in the Bylaws. Need to say in the bylaws that we can do things electronically: See Section 9, Article 2: needs to say that we are doing it, not just an option.

Alan Van Antwerp: we must be careful not to send message that non-web folks do not count.

Matt Dochoda: can opt out of electronic/or paper. The member needs to ask for it.

Clay: need board to be able to communicate electronically. It is an authorized method not mandatory. If bylaws don't say it, can't do it.

Mike: we have talked about a lot of things. Keep looking for bylaws to be the way we want to keep working.

Ken Howe: uncomfortable with many things in this revision. Board member appointed, not elected. What is the board supposed to do? No mention of budget. Do we have a budget? Mike: No. Ken: Lot of little linguistic things. Suggests one more rewrite. He has been on many bylaws committees.

Sheila Hill: Treasurer Section: \$100 is better than \$50. Section 10 Dissolution: money to charitable organization: better to have all members figure out money distribution. Does not say who is going to make that determination.

Clay: Section 10, article 1: says they board will decide. Sheila says it should be members: board can make a recommendation to the members.

Alan: section 3: article 2: manage association: removes control from the membership. Sect 2, art 1: 4 categories listed are excellent: but leaves out MNPC (45% of members). Vote down today and let it be rewritten better. (Alan commented later in the meeting that he is one of the 45% who will be out if the bylaw revisions are accepted.)

Clay: Forum = 6 board members: do we have that many? He suggests simpler: majority of board members present.

John Hohman: 6 was not arbitrary

Clay: concerned of how many may have in the future and how many are available: sickness, whatever. Overall, he wishes us to do it right the first time.

John: Do it right the first time is matter of opinion. Even if not perfect, we have something to work from.

Ken: if accepted: in the next annual review: okay to rewrite in next revision in worst case situation?

John: Yes, okay. Bylaws not supposed to be there for years.

Tom: let's pass it now. Then let's make changes. What does it take to make a change to the bylaws? Mike: two votes after prior notice.

Ken: in practical terms: committee has met and come up with these. It has taken two years to do a cycle.

Clay: what was the objective of amending the current bylaws? Mike: we were not following the current bylaws. Clay: not a good reason: we should follow them.

Mike: There were areas where we had drifted from the bylaws in doing our business. Trying to make bylaws more like what we do.

Clay: amend old to new, but at least conform to something we are doing.

Mike: Have heard some very good suggestions today. We did not have all of these in our lap for consideration before. Hope that the group will take this seriously enough to make suggestions. We could not hope not to come out with perfect bylaws. Need a new outline that works and go forward. Over years get votes for amendments. Working and updating our bylaws keeps people thinking about how we are doing our business. Bylaws are the way we work. Read them, take them seriously and then our operating process follows them. We have a good framework to build on.

Steve Rheaume: Can we vote on the amended version at the summer meeting?

Mike: two votes on same document. After a year or two we can get it honed in to a really good set of bylaws. Get votes today and then again in summer to get the base package in place.

Steve: why critical today that it has to pass today.

Mike: if try to wait for the perfect package to vote on, we will never get there.

Dick: Made a motion to close discussion, Seconded by Dick's seating neighbor (sorry...did not get his name)

Mike: Vote to accept as written. 2nd vote will be at the summer meeting and, if passed, the new bylaws will be in place for the fall 2013 meeting.

Clay: need to have the name consistent.

Mike called for a vote by show of hands: 32 in favor, 3 opposed. Motion to accept bylaws as written is passed. This will come up for vote again in the summer. Please put your suggestions in writing. Then we can go to the amendment process beyond the fall meeting. All suggestions can be forwarded to the Secretary: Dennis Strahle

Treasurer's report: no questions or comments. To be filed as it is written. Thank you to Alan.

October 7, 2012 Fall Meeting Minutes: Motion to accept as written made by Frank Wilbur second Henry Ohmer seconded. Voted and accepted.

Any other old business: none

New business:

Ag Expo: excellent entry point for MNGA. Need volunteers: More the better. Sign-up sheet circulated produced this list of fine folks: Hank Frechtling, Franklin Wilbur, Ken Howe, Dick Wolthuis, Roger Miller, Tom Latterner and Dennis Strahle

MNGA: hosted by Michigan for 2013 in the Kellogg Center at MSU. Sign-up sheet for volunteer workers was circulated and produced this list of fine folks: Jim Fydroski, Hank Frechtling, Clay Ottoni, Ken Howe, Tom Latterner, Marc Boone, Frank Radosa, Mike and Rose Powell, Bob and Ginger Rinkel, Roger Blackwell, John Ohmer and Dennis Strahle. Offsite tours to Rogers Reserve, Pete Ivory and Marc Boone. This is an opportunity to network with people from all around the country. Attendance is typically 90-140 people depending on where it is held.

MNPC question: MNPC used to pay for MNGA membership and both would meet on the same day for the spring meeting, until 4 years ago...meetings got too long. MNPC will then consider dropping that arrangement: 32 MNGA members are affected.

Mike: actionable item?

Alan: anyone object if there is no connection?

Tom: what are we talking about: what in MNPC?

Alan: MNPC: Midwest Nut Producers Council. MNPC growing a nut crop for profit. MNGA is hobby/amateur/experimental growers and interested individuals.

Separate yet? It has not happened in two years. But, MNGA has not thrown anyone out.

Other comment: Hank Frechtling was in Florida and came across the Echo program. If you like growing things: veggies to nuts and fruits. They have a global farm tour. Hank has information. It is an outreach program. Website: echonet.org

Other comment: Steve: maybe the **MNGA News** inside cover byline could be changed to add "and minor fruits?"

John Hohman made a motion at 10:18 to close the business portion of the meeting. Seconded by Tom L.

Jerry Lehman of Terre Haute, IN discussed persimmons. Jerry learned a lot of information from Jim Claypool and has done much more beyond what Jim taught him. He and his wife collected and sold 4000 pounds in 2012. Last fall he had a taste test at his farm and many folks provided input, including Marc Boone and Bill Nash. Jerry recommended we visit the persimmon website: persimmonpudding.com Thank you Jerry for being our presenter. Dennis Strahle has more notes, but these will not be recorded here.

Lunch from 12:15 to 1:00

Dennis Fulbright, President NNGA

NNGA will be hosted by the Michigan nut groups. It is Aug 11-14, 2013 at MSU Kellogg center. Sunday is Welcome Day. Monday and 1st half of Tuesday is scientific presentations. Tuesday PM for touring chestnuts on MSU campus. Wednesday will be a bus tour to Pete Ivory's chestnut farm, Mark Boone's paw paw farm and to Roger's Reserve.

Sunday: NNGA cannot afford to pay for workers on Sunday: we need volunteers!

List of areas needing support throughout the event:

- Help with registration
- Welcome guests
- Police the display room
- Put things in display room
- Help with the auction
- Gather auction items
- Sunday night is welcome dinner
- No free "lunches" for us and no free conferences for MNGA
- MUST be NNGA member to attend the conferences
- Presenters pay their own way and do not get paid to present
- Dennis S. will store the auction donations at his home

Dennis Fulbright on Chestnuts:

New website: www.chestnuts.msu.edu this replaces: www.rogersreserve.org

Of note for chestnut commercial growers: New orchard rule: cannot plant Chinese species with ANY other commercial species...ONLY Chinese with Chinese...set by nature. We cannot let Chinese cross breed European species: 30% of nuts will be spoiled.

We can market chestnuts because we can produce good quality nuts...better than imports, but not if ignore this newly discovered orchard rule.

Dennis then provided a photo tour of Italy and Turkey. Bad news all across that region is that they are not protecting themselves from the Asian gall wasp.

Thank you Dennis Fulbright for this information.

\$136 total from the 50/50. Thanks to Tom Latterner for collecting in Dan's absence. Congrats to winners Tom Latka and Al Sohacki

Scion exchange AND grafting demonstration (thank you John H. for setting up the grafting demo on the big screen) and thank you to ALL who brought in scions and labeled them for the exchange.

SIG Break Outs:

Walnut:

- Dan and Sheila have the MNGA huller; Tom and Dennis have built their own and assisted a builder in New Mexico. Tom gets questions from worldwide about the YouTube nut husker video.
- Quarantine walnuts for TCD: Nut meats are okay to transport. Processed bark-free wood is okay. Please visit the <http://www.thousandcankers.com/> website for more information.
- Tom brought in 99 walnut trees through IN and Gordon Barlow: English and Black Walnut
- Dick's black walnut graft appears to be alive. Others were not so fortunate using the John Hohman's heater. But, the experimentation will continue.

Hazelnuts:

Note that someone brought a tree in that is infected with EFB! Good example tree. It will go to Rutgers with the shipment from Mike,

Paw Paw:

- The group was huge: two people
- Burying pits to get trees
- If pits dry out they die

Persimmon

- Not too many who have planted around the state...need more trees going!
- Jerry provided stratified seeds...plant them and make them grow...then three years later we can have graft material
- Easy to graft
- Plant 1" deep and eye up in pots and then plant out in June
- Can put them into the ground right now...but they may not pop up until middle of June
- May winter kill the first year, but not to worry...they will come up again.
- INGA will gladly send more scions to us
- Drought tolerant because of DEEP roots
- Need to plant in DEEP tree pots if want to keep them in a pot for a year

Auction: Started at 3:00 (right on time!!!!) Bidders used numbers for the auction for simplified recording. Auction completed at 4:05. Thank you John Hohman auctioneer, runners Mike Dority and Marc Boone, AND ALL who bid.

Mike: one last item: Shall we give \$500 in continued support to MSU for their continued support of MNGA? Motion by Jim Fydroski and seconded by John Hohman to do so: Passed. No Nay votes.

Done at 4:10 p.m. Lights out at 4:53 p.m. Whew!

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Strahle
MNGA Secretary
517-626-2303