

# MNGA Spring Meeting Minutes 2014

## April 12, 2014

MSU Agricultural Engineering Hall

9:20 meeting called to order by President Mike Dority

- Fall Minutes copies were distributed: Dan Hill made a motion to accept as written and 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Ohmer. Passed with unanimous oral vote.
- Treasure Report: Note: MNGA News has wrong year, but data is good.
  - Comment was made that dues brought in less than cost for sending out the MNGA News. There was much discussion and there were many ideas, including: raising the membership cost, e-mailing more of the MNGA News instead of snail mailing by asking membership if they need a hard copy (various methods of asking mentioned), eliminate mailing to deceased members (response: already a process in place for that), posting it on the website for all to see. Other comments: MNGA News is a vital part of the organization and an excellent reminder that there is a meeting coming up, people like saving old copies as reference, eliminating paper copy has killed other organizations, \$8 is good to capture new members, could put MNGA news on the website except that informational/educational articles would only get the first paragraph of the article (then mention that full article is available to members), it is nice having the issue that has the member's names and addresses.
  - Mike summarized: we can work to improve MNGA communication efficiency, but for the time being, we need to keep a hard copy going to all members. We can continue to improve the website and help it become a communication tool available to all.
- 2014 Nut Evaluation Day Presentation by Dennis Strahle: Reviewed process and provided awards to the category winners. 2015 Nut Evaluation Day will be on January 10. Save best nuts and harvest scions from your 2014 crop.

### New business:

- MSU Master Gardener Program is June 20-21. Last year Mike gave the grafting presentation. Others from MNGA can be instructors too.
- Ag Expo 2014 is July 22-24: Volunteer list circulated.
- Summer Meeting: At Bill Nash Nursery, Sunday, July 13.
- Fall Meeting: In Hudsonville at Carl DeKleine Farms, Saturday, October 4.

### Presentations by Trevor Newman:

Trevor provided an excellent presentation about his journey to become an edible and ecological landscape business owner.

- Website: Trevor opened it on the big screen for all to see. He walked us through the various features and pages.
  - Comments were that maybe we could add a snail mail address to the website? Could we add a "Donate" button? Presently we are not set up with PayPal or other on-line money systems. We need to get more people to visit the website and gain interest in MNGA. The 180 snail mail count seems to be rather consistent despite outgoing and incoming members.

- Comment that we might be able to drop off MNGA flyers at nurseries. Others agreed, but note that the only way nurseries would do it is if a member does it...the personal touch.
- MNGA is on Facebook with about 50 members. It is an open group. Website is set up to count hits. Trevor can retrieve the data.

Presentation by Bill Nash:

Bill presented the MNGA slide presentation that has not been shown for many years. It contains an immense amount of information on a huge variety of nuts and the minor fruits of MNGA.

- Ken Howe and Clay Ottoni sought member input for the bylaws. The goal is to work on areas of the bylaws that need updating and improvement, not rewrite the whole thing. There were a number of suggested areas/changes offered: officer elections in the spring, improve technology, mass texting, create budget, method to vote if not present, bylaws should be general and not detailed, etc.
- Jim Fydroski made a motion to make a \$500 donation to MSU and specifically Dr. Fulbright's research. 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Ohmer. Motion passed with unanimous oral vote.
- Dan Hill collected \$140 for 50/50: Winners Frank Radosa and Tom McKarns each received \$35.
- Scion exchange completed. This was an unusual year in that there were not any apples. There were scions from the 1<sup>st</sup> Place Black Walnut and the 1<sup>st</sup> Place Carpathian Walnuts from the 2014 Nut Evaluation Day. There were also a number of scions from Hank and Nghi Frechtling's farm that were sampled at the 2013 Fall Meeting. Marc Boone generously provided a large selection of paw paws. Ginger Rinkel provided a large selection of chestnuts. There were numerous other scions available.
- Auction total was over \$500. Thank you everyone for your generosity in bringing items and in bidding.
- The snack room was a popular destination throughout the day. There were some excellent fruit and nut offerings. Thank you everyone for sharing your cooking talents.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Strahle  
MNGA Secretary  
Eagle, MI  
517-626-2303

