

Michigan Nut Growers Association Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2013

Mike called us to order at 1:00 after we had enjoyed a bountiful potluck meal made from many Michigan-grown treats. He thanked Hank and Nghi Frechthling for hosting MNGA Fall Meeting. The tent was very welcome on this rainy afternoon.

July MNGA Summer Meeting Minutes circulated: no questions. Motion to accept by Sheila Hill and seconded by Dan Hill. Motion accepted on oral vote, no nays.

Financial: look at your MNGA News label: if it says 2012, you must pay to continue as a member. MNPC should have MNPC on the label. There were no questions, so the report can be filed. Alan Van Antwerp noted that he had a \$20 fee that he had to pay with a credit card and then reimburse himself.

50/50 tickets: Thank you Dan for selling tickets.

Fall meeting goal: full slate of officers to go forward.

Alan nominated Clay Ottoni as 2nd VP to replace John Hohman (John resigned from MNGA)

Marc Boone nominated Trevor Newman for Director at Large position

Mike reviewed the current slate of officers:

Mike Dority: President. He is willing to continue, but commented that it is best to get fresh people in these offices to keep MNGA fresh and new.

Dick Wolthuis 1st VP

Alan Van Antwerp Treasurer

Gordon Barlow: director at Large, but unable to participate regularly due to health issues.

Dennis Strahle: secretary

Ken Howe asked if the Board meets face to face or internet? Mike: face in January to map out the year. We have several others that we do by telecom, WebEx, etc...as long as all can call/dial in. Important on big issues to get together for face to face.

Clay nominated Jim Fydroski. for 2nd VP, but Jim declined as already busy doing the MNGA News

Marc made motion to close nominations and Ken seconded. Mike: Let's have a vote to accept the slate: All in favor except Clay! Slate of officers approved.

Old business: Mike reviewed that at the July Meeting the proposed Bylaw changes were voted down. Alan brought copies of our bylaws and constitution. Mike: Continue but on a slightly different track. Not COMPLETE overhaul. Look at Bylaws now. See where the Bylaws are working well and where not working as they should. This time, we will tweak it: far more piece meal. It will be easier to get our arms around. Ursula Chapman commented that some of the language of the Bylaws is weak. Some of it can be translated either way. Clay suggested that we reserve ½ hour to list concerns. Ken suggested a white board exercise or with big tablet on easel. All provide input. Then we can put stickers on hot issues. Ken: written in manner so high school educated can understand it. Mike: clear, concise language. We do not want Bylaws to take over our meetings. Nice, manageable chunks. Clay: homework: look at the bylaws between now and April and bring to meeting. Mike and Jim: will put Bylaws in the Spring MNGA News. Cecelia Fydroski: If cannot attend: send comments to Dennis S. Clay: identify problems and rework to improve. Ken: Need full participation. Make your opinions known during the development phase.

Jim: Made a motion to add \$300 to the \$500 donated to MSU at Spring meeting. There were many comments of the benefits of supporting MSU/Dennis Fulbright. Matt Dochoda 2nd. Oral vote was unanimous.

Frank Radosa asked about the need for hybrid walnuts noted in MNGA News? Mike explained that this is an effort to develop juglan strains that are resistant to TCD (Thousand Cancer Disease). Mike is trying to find the

person who brought a bucket of hybrids to the 2009 Fall Meeting at Roger Shultz's farm in Vicksburg. Anyone with hybrids can either take photos and send to Mike or pick up nuts and save/ship to Mike. Mike was on an NPR-type radio program and asked for hybrids. Many people contacted him to come and see their nut trees.

2013 Ag Expo: was a success. Several new members at this meeting who signed up at Ag Expo.

New business: Mike: in process of changing the MNGA website management. Trevor has created a Facebook page for MNGA. Trevor: it is a way for people to participate on-line. Search MNGA and you will find it.

Dick: Made a motion to close the business portion of the meeting. Tom 2nd. All in favor.

50/50: 2 pots of \$23.00 each: Hilda & Dennis won.

“Show and Tell”

Mike commented and explained the Will Fischer nut husker project. It is a donation to MNGA. Full comments in the MNGA News. The husker was on display and plugged in, though it is missing the main chain.

Mike *now* has a permit to remove material from MSU. He will bring scions to Spring meeting of the grafted multi-nut tree he found on campus. Mike brought nut samples from the tree.

Mike brought Shellbark hickory/king nut from his own trees. Hickories graft in late June when it is warm. Rind grafts work. These crack out to a nice nut.

Henry Ohmer brought in 2 Siamese hickory nuts he found while cracking 6 bushels of nuts.

Dan circulated a catalog from Forest Keeling Nursery. They have nice nut and fruit trees.

Trevor: brought samples of edible dogwood. Interesting flavor and consistency. Kind of like paw paw flesh.

George Horny: saw a tree that had 9-10 hickory nuts in each group.

Henry found a tree with up to 7 butternuts on each stem.

Hank and Nghi set out several trays of named persimmons and Nghi offered Asian pear slices.

Hank took us on a tour of their planting. We saw lots of persimmons, some non-bearing paw paws, a heavily loaded grape vine, the Asian pears, and Hank's innovative methods for keeping animals out of their fruit (homemade tree guards and an electric fence). Aside from the rain, it was a great tour.

Back in the tent, we auctioned off the donated materials. Thank you everyone for bringing materials and for bidding.

Thank you again to Hank and Nghi for graciously hosting!

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Strahle
MNGA Secretary