

Michigan Nut Growers Association July 18, 2015 Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting held at Marc and Susan Boone's farm southwest of Ann Arbor.
2. Started with potluck featuring nutty breads, cake, fudge, plus venison, cheese, cold potato soup, salads, pulled chicken, pasta and many more delicious dishes.
3. The weather was suspicious, so the farm tour was next. Boone's have an awesome fruit selection. The paw paws and apples were nicely fruited. Marc does a very nice job of mulching with hay throughout the farm and it works well. We saw honeyberry, plums, quince, pears, aronia, seaberry, elderberry, autumn olive, cornelian cherry, currants and more. Though they were not recognized in the tour, Boone's also have two huge black walnuts that were heavily fruited...unusual in comparison to most other BW trees this year. Mosquitos were miraculously held at bay! Thank you Marc and Susan for hosting MNGA!
4. 2:18 the meeting was called to order by President Newman.
5. Trevor noted that the June 17 English Walnut grafting demonstration video is posted on-line with a link found at MichiganNut.org, the MNGA website.
6. Alan Van Antwerp handed out the Treasurer's Report. No questions or concerns. Alan described the three nut books MNGA has for sale.
7. The Spring Meeting Minutes were circulated and accepted as written through motion by Tom McKarns and 2nd by Ray Moses, passed by oral vote.
8. Old Business: Trevor plans to put an MNGA subscription payment system on the MNGA website.
9. Association's black walnut huller: Dan and Sheila have it and it is for anyone to use. Tom Latterner and Dennis each have a huller and welcome others to bring nuts for hulling in the fall.
10. Minutes: discussion about whether to print the Minutes in the MNGA News resulted in consensus that it is better to hand them out at the following meeting, post on-line and save the MNGA News space for interesting articles. The MNGA News can note that the Minutes are posted on-line.
11. SIG's: Trevor asked if they have value. Whereas we all have our specialty, it seems that a lot of people are interested in various fruits and nuts. The SIG meetings took a lot of time from the Spring meeting. The website lists the SIG leaders. Dennis Strahle commented that he does get contacted throughout the year as a Walnut SIG leader via website views.
12. Ag Expo Replacement: The Ag Expo is gone. It was a great venue for MNGA to enlist new members. How do we replace it? Ken Howe provided a whole list of ideas and there was discussion of what might work. Ken believes that we need several sets of promotional material available so that those with opportunities have props. Marc found the MNGA banner and displayed it for this meeting. MNGA is on Facebook. Dennis published community announcements.
13. Fall Meeting: Neal Peterson (<http://www.petersonpawpaws.com/>) may be making a presentation at Boone's, Zingerman's and Rogers Reserve in the last half of October. Marc will follow up with Neal. Hank and Nghi Frechtling offered that we could meet at their persimmon orchard again. Jim Fydroski noted a commercial blueberry operation on the west side. Oikos would be a good destination, but they are not set up for groups. Hartmann's Plant Company, about 50 miles south of Grand Rapids, was suggested.
14. Meeting adjourned 3:09 p.m. with motion from Ken and 2nd from Ray. All in favor except for one dissenting vote from Mike Dority (just to be contrary and to see if anyone was listening!).
15. Auction included seedlings, kitchen wares, gooseberries, raspberry jam, a birdhouse, silicone omelet makers and much more!

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis Strahle
MNGA Secretary