

Michigan Nut Growers Spring Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2015

MSU Ag Engineering Hall, East Lansing, MI

9:42 a.m. meeting called to order

Trevor Newman introduced himself as the new MNGA President

Fall Meeting Minutes passed out for review and approval. Motion made and accepted to accept as written.

Treasurer's Report: Alan Van Antwerp passed out copies of the Treasurer's Report. There were not any questions or comments. Alan has books for sale: Dennis Fulbright book: \$45 + tax. \$2 "Growing Nuts" is an excellent starter book.

Old business: Ag Expo is gone. Community newspaper announcement was responsible for several people attending per a show of hands. Trevor had his "Roots to Fruits" display at the Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference" in January in Traverse City and handed out ~100 MNGA flyers.

New business: The snack room popped a circuit breaker by plugging in too many coffee machines!

Web site: Trevor would like to explore a method for people to pay for their membership on-line. He looked into PayPal and noted that they take about 5% fees. It is hypothesized that the ability to pay on-line may attract younger members. Someone commented that it might grow our group too fast. A motion was made to institute an on-line pay system for MNGA and limit fees to 8%, but then it went to discussion and did not get a vote. Comments: maybe we are premature for this vote, get electronic pay in place ASAP, needs more investigation, could be that some members sign up electronically then glean information electronically and never attend a meeting, suggest that we have a button for donations. We closed the discussion with the suggestion that the MNGA Board make a decision outside of the meeting and bring the decision back to the membership.

Jim Fydroski suggested a \$500.00 MSU research donation. We can look at additional funds in the fall if the year goes well. Brought to a verbal vote and none were opposed.

Electronic Newsletter: Jim: spring 2015 was the first issue of the "MNGA Newsletter" that had some distribution via e-mail. A list was circulated and more members have signed up to receive newsletters electronically.

Alan sent out postcard reminders for the upcoming events. A quick head nod showed that the postcards were appreciated.

Dr. Dennis Fulbright's presentation, "Michigan's Long and Winding Chestnut Road." was nicely done and well received. In a nutshell for those not in attendance: visit Chestnuts.MSU.EDU It is a very good website.

Trevor counted 76 attendees but saw that some additional people came after he counted.

Trevor did an on-line michigannut.org demonstration. The old michigannutgrowers.org is gone. Audience comments: add a list of who grows what, concern with privacy if we list member names for the world to see, NNGA uses a "Have" and "Want" section, add a discussion board, discussion board adds another layer of complexity, appreciate that the photos do not scroll as that uses more computer power. Trevor commented that Dennis Strahle is going to be more active in working to keep the website current once Dennis is healed and ready for website training.

The agenda was rotated slightly so that the auction was completed and then the scion exchange was done. That seemed to work well as it gave people a chance to peruse the scions while others were in line to pay for their auction items. The auction was a huge success. 50/50 collected \$180. \$90 given out: \$60 returned as cash and \$30 paid for auction items.

Everything was cleaned up and the lights were turned off at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Strahle
MNGA Secretary