

Michigan Nut Growers Association Minutes

April 9, 2016 Spring Meeting

- Called to order at 10:19 by President Trevor Newman with 3+ inches of snow outside at MSU Farrall Hall, East Lansing, MI.
- How many here first time: at least 10 hands went up.

Old Business:

- Fall Meeting Minutes were distributed. Trevor said that he has the Neil Peterson video from that meeting and plans to post it on the MNGA website. Minutes accepted as written.
- Michigan State Fair is September 1-5, 2016.
- Trevor displayed his company and MNGA at the Northern Michigan Small Farms Conference in Traverse City in January.
- Treasure's Report: Alan Van Antwerp noted that we have not done much financially. However, we can now pay memberships on-line.

New business

- Summer meeting will be at Hilda Oakes's farm in Breckenridge, MI.
- Fall Meeting: Kellogg Preserve (12685 E C Ave, Augusta, MI), (Tom Latterner will investigate) or Hartmann's (310 60th St, Grand Junction, MI). The Board would like to have member input.
- Spring Meeting: Tried to get MSU's John Beardbaum to speak about integrated crop management, but he was unavailable. Again, member input is requested.
- Fulbright research: Jim Fydroski made a motion to donate \$500.00. Discussion: Does Dr. Fulbright still have control of these funds? Seconded and passed with oral vote.
- Mike Levine: presented at the 2016 Stewardship Network Conference: "Restoration Agriculture: How Can We Restore Land While Farming It?" for the Nurture and Nature group. Mike suggests that MNGA should be present at this conference. For more information see: <https://www.stewardshipnetwork.org>
- In January: Mike applied to be a Terra Madre delegate for the International Meeting in Italy! He would like to learn more about hazelnuts and chestnuts. It was suggested that Mike contact Dr. Fulbright or Mario Mandujano. Henry Ohmer mentioned that he has several bushes that have not been affected by the blight and that he has 100 nuts in the stratification box.
- Michigan State Fair (MSF): Contact has been made with the MSF coordinator. They welcome MNGA to attend and will give us a free booth. MNGA needs a coordinator for the MNGA booth. MSF is in Novi, MI on September 1-5. More info at <http://www.michiganstatefairllc.com/> Discussion followed about creating a display to showcase MNGA photos of fruits and nuts (use our own photos to eliminate any copyright issues). Trevor has many photos. (After the meeting, Marc Boone volunteered to coordinate this event for MNGA).
- Trevor commented regarding the upcoming fall elections. He would especially like to see a new president!

- Trevor did a website review of Michigannut.org. Ken commented that it would be good to have the MNGA logo or the MNGA name on each page. Ken showed which is the best logo to use. It was suggested that the drop down headings should include the drop down heading in the list of drop downs that shows when you mouse over it. The Minutes might be better with the newest first. Trevor said that Word Press captures website viewing information but that he is willing to have others help interpret the data for MNGA benefit.

Presentation time:

- 1st Presentation: Mark Angelini, Co-Founder of business he and Trevor run: Roots to Fruits LLC. Acorns are an underutilized crop that have a huge world history and usage to current day. Mark very enthusiastically led us through a lot of unusual and interesting acorn information and then treated us to delicious acorn cookies.
- Lunch: Grafting demonstrations during lunch with many enthusiastic “students.” Thanks Marc Boone for the lesson.
- 2nd Presentation: Trevor presented “Uncommon Fruits” photo story. Trevor and company work with fruits that many of us have only seen in catalogs. The selection is impressively huge and has many culinary and healthy benefits. Excellent presentation. Mike Levine commented that there is a market for these Michigan products as he was selling his kiwi for up to \$1.00 each and \$100.00 for two, 5-gallon buckets.

The auction netted many sales with a great contribution to the MNGA bank account. Thanks to all who participated.

The next Meeting will be held on July 23 at Hilda Oakes’s farm in Breckenridge.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Strahle
MNGA Secretary
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