

## UVM EMG/C Southeast Chapter Meeting Minutes

2/20/23

### I. Welcome and Introductions

Attendees: Nicole Conte Stevens, Michele Delhayé, Bill Emerson, Cindy Heath, Deb Heleba, Bob Little Tree, Peg Solon, Marsha Wayler, Penny Weingarten

### II. News and Updates

- A. Deb Heleba started an advisory committee last year, comprised of two members from each EMG chapter. We need one volunteer to attend some of the online meetings, with Peg or in her place if she can't make it. The meetings are a good way for the chapters to connect with each other and share ideas, are a good way to get to know people in different parts of the state, and count for volunteer hours.
- B. Cindy Heath's film series continues this Friday 2/24 at 9am. The film is "Beatrix Farrand's American Landscapes" followed by a discussion with Lynden B. Miller, who wrote the book "Parks, Plants, and People: Beautifying the Urban Landscape". The previous film "My Garden of a Thousand Bees" is still available online for viewing. The next film, on Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9am, is Portrait of a Garden, a documentary about two long time friends caring for a garden on a Dutch estate.
- C. This Wednesday 2/22 at 12pm is the UVM Webinar "Winter Peas as Dual-Use Crops". This counts towards EMG educational credits. It will be available to view after the 22<sup>nd</sup> as well.
- D. Deb Heleba is working on a jumping worm program for March or April with Josef Gorres.
- E. We will have an Ask a Master Gardener table at the Windham Conservation Plant Sale on Saturday 5/6 at Green Mountain Orchards in Putney.
- F. Bob Little Tree is discussing invasive pests at the Vermont Flower Show at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex which runs from Friday 3/3- Sunday 3/5.

### III. Financial Update

- A. We have \$2,394.91 in the bank.
- B. Melanie Campbell stepped down as Treasurer and we need someone to volunteer as there have to be two names on the Mascoma bank account. The treasurer is responsible for 2 reports a year.

### IV. Plant Sale

- A. The plant sale will take place at Hartford Transfer/Recycling Center from 9am-12pm on Saturday 6/3. The coordinators are Bob Little Tree and Cindy Heath. Set up will be from 8am-9am with Little Tree providing 2 6-ft folding tables.
- B. Needed: water in jugs as there is no water at the recycling center.

- C. In the past, we paired with In the Garden Greenhouses in Claremont, NH to sell hanging baskets and we split the proceeds with them 50-50.
- D. There was discussion about including and reaching out to current EMG students to volunteer at the plant sale.
- E. Peg is working on an April workshop, possibly with Henry Homeyer, at the Howard Dean Educational Center in Springfield to help us prepare pots for the plant sale. This is tentatively scheduled for Saturday 4/15, 9am-1pm. Peg will ask Gardener's Supply to donate soil and seeds.

**V. Project Site Visits/Garden Tours**

- A. At the last meeting, Julia Boger-Hawkins mentioned Willing Hands as a possible site. We hope to get an update at next month's meeting.
- B. Peg is waiting to hear from Phil Carter from the Ludlow Community Gardens.
- C. Peg is giving 3 talks at the Hartland Library Herb Garden. Bill Emerson is trying to get permission to add a pollinator garden there.

**VI. Wrap Up and Action Items**

- A. Peg needs to contact Gretchen Morse at the Howard Dean Educational Center to confirm availability for 4/15 workshop.
- B. Little Tree and Cindy will continue to plan for Plant Sale on 6/3 in Hartford.
- C. Peg will check with Jodi Larison about having a bulb sale and an Ask a Master Gardener table at the Wilmington Flea Market in September.
- D. Julia will contact the people at Willing Hands about a garden tour.
- E. If you are interested in volunteering for the the treasurer position, please email Peg at [margaret\\_solon@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:margaret_solon@hms.harvard.edu).
- F. If you are interested in participating in the virtual UVM EMG Advisory Committee meetings, please contact Peg. They last about an hour to 90 minutes, and you would be responsible to fill Peg in with the discussion if she was unable to attend.

**VII. Educational Program**

- A. After our meeting, we had an informative presentation by Martha Leb Molnar, author of "Playing God in the Meadow: How I Learned to Admire My Weeds". She talked about the difficulties of turning her land from an old orchard into a meadow for birds, bees and butterflies. Her book is available by mail order from Phoenix Books in Rutland.