Alpine Master Gardener Association

Minutes of October 26, 2011

Our association meeting was called to order by Karen Blewett at 6:45 p.m.  Our speakers of the evening were Jason and Julie Sitzema form Pillywiggins Gardens.  They gave a great presentation on raising gourds and making wonderful treasures out of them.  There were many questions and much enthusiasm from the members.  Those who were present received one hour of education.

We broke for refreshments, which were provided by Margaret Albert, Sharon Whitmore, and Susan Dengler. Delicious!

Minutes from September were corrected to read Otsego County Library instead of Gaylord Library.  Also, a clarification of the August minutes was made, with the spelling correction of Morris Press. Minutes then stood as corrected.

Treasurers Report: Michelle Roberts presented the balance sheet and the profit and loss statement. The association’s current checkbook balance as of October 14, 2011 is $4,412.80. We have 64 paid members for 2011. Margaret Albert moved to approve the statement. Randy Goddard supported motion. Motion was approved.

Events:  Jeanne Freymuth shared a letter from a person who attended the fall conference.  It was very positive.  Some of the committee members are coming back to help with next year’s conference.  Carol Buxton volunteered to organize the May Library/Educational series.  Cathy Campbell will be glad to help her.

Monthly Meeting Committee:  Karen Blewett explained that the November meeting is our annual Christmas Party.  It will be the 30th of November at 6:00 p.m. at the Gaylord Congregational Church.  Randy Goddard will prepare the ham.  Everyone is to bring a dish to pass.  Carol Buxton will set up a silent auction. The money raised will go to the Otsego Conservation District.  Karen asked members to contact her for ideas for speakers for next year.  Also if you want to bring can goods for the food pantry or supplies for the animal shelter.

Fundraiser Committee: Betty Steinhoff reported that the cookbooks are still selling well.  Cathy Brandenburg will help her co-chair the fundraiser committee next year.  Betty also talked about a couple of new ideas for fund raising next year.  A garden calendar and / or a gardener’s apron or smock were discussed.

Education Committee:  Annette Yasin & Suzanne Stock  No report.

Communication Committee:  Brent Stoddard  No report.

Old Business:  The nomination committee (Sharon Whitmore, Margaret Albert and Marian Wescoat) presented the slate of the following for the Executive Board for 2012 & 2013:  Sharie Plain, Betty Steinhoff, and Kent Strawderman.  We will vote on these nominees at the November meeting.

Jeanne Freymuth read a letter from Mary Wilson, the MSU Extension State coordinator.  She congratulated Rudi and Sandi Edel on being the new coordinators for Alpine Master Gardener Association.  We are very happy to have them!  Rudi presented Ken Strawerman with his MG Badge.  Rudi & Sandi have set up an E-mail account for the coordinator position:  mgc.otesgo@gmail.com.

Gardens:  Friendship – Annette would like to see us get out into the gardens in May – no decision was made.

               Herb – Betty would like to see a new chair next year.

               Perennial – Karen  No report.

              Humming bird - Jeanne said that things were put to bed.  Patricia commented that the people used the chairs a lot   this summer.

New Business:   Reminder to get your hours caught up & into Lori Hansen for 2011.

Patricia is working on continuing to improve Children’s Gardens next year.  The students from Gaylord High School have been working on a project plan.  She would like a person from AMGA to help with this.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm

Respectfully,

Karen Blewett for Brent Stoddard