

POLLINATOR FRIENDLY HABITAT WORKING GROUP

Minutes for May 9, 2016

Meeting room 314

Menomonie Alliance Church

1. Call meeting to order at 6:02
2. Select meeting note taker – Jenny Gruber
3. Attendance – Jenny Gruber, Charlie Anderson, Gary Johnson, Veronica Knudsen, Mary Lotten; New: Doug Fuller and Alon Coppens.
4. Introductions – new people – Doug and Alon – Will hear from them at another meeting regarding their interests and current efforts.
5. Review minutes of April 11, 2016 meeting – none to review
6. Organization of group
  - a. Purpose statement – Discussion lead group to shorten the purpose statement to the first sentence and then listing ways to accomplish the purpose. The purpose statement can be revisited at any time.
  - b. Web site - What should be post? – postponed for another meeting.
    - i. Members? – what personal info?
    - ii. Group email address
    - iii. Agendas/minutes?
    - iv. Products
7. Topics of interest - the original list was condensed at the prior meeting to a more concise. Did not have time to discuss in depth.
8. Other – the group spent most of the time in general discussion. Items of interest include:
  - a. Miniature grape hyacinth (*Muscari armeniacum*) are early blooming bulb plants that honey bees like. Can dig bulbs and separate or use seeds to create more plantings.  
<http://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/bulbs/grape-hyacinth/propagating-grape-hyacinths.htm>,
  - b. Paint Creek Nursery near Cadott has seedlings for sale.
  - c. Everwilde has many seeds and unique packaging in foil which would help maintain viability. Located in Sand Creek near Bloomer.
  - d. Many of the attendees set out water in the apiary for their bees. Chicken feeders and containers with rocks or sticks/leaves for the bees to land on and not drown were used. One person feeds water with a little 'mineral salt' added (one third teaspoon to quart of water) so that you can barely taste the salt. Mineral salt is found at places like Fleet Farm. Even though there may be a fresh water source – creek/pond – the bees will use the feeders.
  - e. Bee sting home remedies – two remedies were discussed – they neutralize the bee venom.
    - i. Tobacco – carry dry tobacco (not menthol) in a tin case (Altoids) and mix with a little water to make juice and apply to sting area.
    - ii. Baking soda paste – mix with water to make paste; apply to sting
    - iii. Many other remedies are listed at this site:  
<http://www.rapidhomeremedies.com/remedies-for-bee-sting.html>
  - f. Field peas, cow peas and more – These 'peas' are not really peas, but beans. Cow peas and field beans are the same but there are many varieties. Two interesting links:  
<http://www.camelliabrand.com/about-the-bean/about-crowder-peas/> and  
<http://www.motherofahubbard.com/cowpeas/>
9. Meeting adjourned at 6:58