

Coordinator Endowment—The VT Foundation Agreement with VMGA

VMGA's Board and members present at the December 11, 2000 bi-monthly meeting voted to enter into a partnership with Virginia Tech where VMGA will raise funds to support the State Master Gardener Coordinator position. The agreement was signed by the President of VMGA, Bill McCaleb and the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Sharon Quisenberry.

The text of the agreement is below. In it, VMGA is assured that this fund will be managed by the Virginia Tech Foundation in accordance to its policies. Money distributed can be used for the salary, benefits, and travel and program expenses associated with the State Coordinator position. It also specifies that VMGA leadership will be involved on the interview panel when a new State Coordinator must be hired.

The Virginia Master Gardener Association Endowed Fund Agreement

INTRODUCTION AND SOURCE OF GIFT

In order to document the intentions and understanding of the parties, the Virginia Master Gardener Association, Inc., (the "Donor"), and the Virginia Tech Foundation, Inc. (the "Foundation"), in support of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University ("Virginia Tech"), for use of a gift intention of \$1,000,000 to be given by members and friends of the Virginia Master Gardener Association, Inc. on or before December 31, 2007, and all other contributions directed to the Fund created herein, the Donor and the Foundation agree as follows:

BACKGROUND AND USE OF GIFT

Recognizing the continuing need for endowed funds to support the Virginia Cooperative Extension programs at Virginia Tech, the Donor directs that the above-referenced gift, along with all other contributions to this Fund, shall be held in an endowed fund, specifically the Virginia Master Gardener Association Endowed Fund, (the "Fund"), to provide program support for the Virginia Cooperative Extension-Master Gardener ("VCE-MG") program at Virginia Tech. The Donor has made this commitment to help ensure that the mission of Virginia Cooperative Extension ("VCE enables people to improve their lives through an educational process that uses scientific knowledge focused on issues and needs"), in relationship to the Master Gardeners, is carried on in perpetuity.

Since inception in the 1980's, the VCE Master Gardener program has disseminated the unbiased, research-based information of the land grant universities in Virginia toward the VCE mission. Requiring specialized training, Master Gardeners are dedicated to working with the community to encourage and promote environmentally sound horticulture practices through sustainable landscape management educational programs. Community needs are assessed, programs developed and delivered. Impacts are reported and programs evaluated. Programs are delivered through lectures, consultations, field days, demonstration sites and publications, with Master Gardeners administering all aspects of the programs.

The position of State Coordinator is critical to focus local VCE-MG volunteer efforts on relevant issues. The State Coordinator must develop and disseminate educational materials that serve the changing needs of the units in response to horticultural and environmental issues and train VCE-MGs throughout the state so that they can better serve the mission. The State Coordinator is necessary to provide a unified voice and consistent directives from the state level to maintain the strength of the collective group. It is the vision of the Virginia Master Gardener Association Endowment to provide full-time leadership at the state level in perpetuity.

MATCHING FUNDS AND FUND MANAGEMENT

It is understood and agreed that this Fund's earnings shall qualify for such matching funds as may be provided by the Commonwealth of Virginia, or any other state, and under any applicable public or private program. This endowed Fund shall be maintained and managed by the Foundation in accordance with the Foundation's endowment management and accounting policies. The Donor and others may make additional contributions to the Fund over the years.

DISPOSITION OF ANNUAL DISTRIBUTIONS

Annual income distributions from the Fund, as determined by the Foundation's endowment policies, shall be used to provide funding support for the State Master Gardener Coordinator position in the Virginia Cooperative Extension program within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, using the following guidelines:

- 1) Funds will be used to provide program support for the position of a state coordinator for the Virginia Master Gardener program, an educational outreach program utilizing specially-trained volunteers to extend university-based research to the citizens of the Commonwealth in horticultural and environmental stewardship. In particular, funds will be used to support salary, benefits, travel and program expenses associated with the position of State Coordinator of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener volunteer program.
- 2) As has been the practice in the past, VCE leadership will be involved with VMGA leadership on the interview panel at such times when the state coordinator position is vacant and the hiring process has commenced.

In the event no funds are used in a given academic year or there are remaining unused funds, the Donor directs that the unused annual distributions be returned to the principal of the Fund in order to increase the corpus.

DISPOSITION OF FUNDS UNDER EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

In the event the Fund created herein cannot be used for the purpose intended because the purpose is no longer appropriate, necessary, practical, or possible, or if for other substantial and lawful reasons the purpose cannot be accomplished, the Foundation may, in its discretion, and in consultation with the donor, use the distributions from the Fund for a substantially similar purpose, or for such other purpose as will foster and promote the growth, progress, and general welfare of Virginia Tech, as the Foundation may specify, keeping in mind the original intent of the Donor