

VMGA Minutes August 2002 – Annual Meeting Jun 2003

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**Minutes of the August Regularly Scheduled Meeting of  
The Virginia Master Gardener Association, Inc.**

**August 10, 2002**

**Virginia Beach, VA**

**(Draft)**

**Attendance**

(Chesapeake) Doris (Pinky) Derieux, Jane Montgomery, Pauline Price; (Fairfax) Frank Reilly; (Fauquier) Jim Scibek; (Gloucester) Sherry Ratcliffe; (Halifax) Bill McCaleb; (Hanover) Cheri Haggerty, Evelyn Parker; (James City /Williamsburg) Dale Firestone, Angela Cingale; (Newport News) Gary Bill; (Norfolk) Tom Bolt; (Northern Neck) Jinny Estell, Pat Rogers; (Prince William) Pat Reilly; (Suffolk) Betty Freedman; (Virginia Beach) Paul Campbell, Bill Everett, Barbara Lott, Fran Shelton, Betty Villers; (York) Jackie Lohr, Sybil Przypek.

**Call to Order**

President Jim Scibek called the meeting to order at 1005.

**Introductions**

Members present introduced themselves. Betty Villers, representing the host unit, Virginia Beach, gave an overview of their projects. They have 191 active members and celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. Virginia Beach held the first ever Plant Sale as a fundraiser and work closely with the Hampton Roads Research Center. In 15 years, their GrowLine has answered over 54,000 calls. Visit them on the web at [vbmga.org](http://vbmga.org). The Virginia Beach MGs have joined with Suffolk, Chesapeake, Portsmouth, Norfolk

and York County in forming a Regional Leadership Group. They presented a tour at the Botanical Garden after the meeting.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the June meeting were approved as presented.

### **Treasurer's Report**

President Jim Scibek reported for Shelby Snider:

Checking Account Balance as of August 1,2002.....	4874.17
Money Market Fund.....	5370.30
Savings Account.....	3217.65
Certificate of Deposit.....	<u>6323.21</u>
Total Funds .....	\$19785.33

The treasurer's report was accepted. The budget was reviewed and accepted as presented.

### **President's Report**

Immediate Past President Pat Reilly reported that the meeting with Drs. Barrett and Umberger has been postponed until September. President Jim Scibek reported the following:

- 1.) A decision guide CD was purchased at the Southeastern Master Gardener Conference and copies will be made and distributed to units.
- 2.) Reminded members present to use the VCE MGs Listservice. Directions for a free subscription can be found through the VCE MG link on VMGA.net

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Education**

Lenore Plissner was not present but reports that the next program offered by the Education Committee will take place on November 16 at 10:00 am at the Leesburg Extension office. The focus will be on Restoring, Renovating, and Rejuvenating a Garden. A tour of Oatlands is scheduled following the program.

It was moved and seconded to advance the Education Committee the necessary funds, \$87.50, to reserve 25 spaces for the Oatlands Tour following the November 16<sup>th</sup> program. Oatlands is an old plantation known for it's sunken gardens. The Education Committee will recoup these funds through the registration fee.

A second Education Committee program is tentatively scheduled for March 8, 2003, at Virginia State University with Andy Hankins. Topic to be announced. It was recommended to repeat the Diagnosing Plant Problems from last November.

### **Newsletter**

Florace Arnold was not present. It was moved and seconded to purchase the Newsletter group a copy of Publisher to facilitate the publication of the newsletter. They will try to either get a stand alone desktop copy (\$125.00) or possibly we can be added to Tech's license (about \$40.00). Florace will contact Sara Lineberger.

### **Membership**

Julie Cochran was not present but reported that we currently have 394 members. There are 144 yet to renew, 162 renewed through May 2003, 26 have renewed through May 2004 and there are 62 life members. A cut off date of September 15 was set for updating the member directory. There are no plans to post the directory online.

### **Unit Support**

Consists of Kerry Goldmeyer, Karen Sacasky and Frank Reilly, Chair. Frank reports no recent activity and that this committee is here to support you in your constitutional, incorporation or treasury dilemmas. This committee is concerned that VMGA reps are not informing their folks about what VMGA is doing.

### **Communication Committee**

Members: Julie Cochran, Cheri Haggerty, Alice Nicolson, Shelby Snyder and Chair Frank Reilly.

1. Since the June Meeting, there have been 2398 discrete visitors to VMGA.net. Since the June meeting, the web page has been updated on 23 separate occasions.
1. The Calendar, Useful Links, and Hort Update pages are our most visited pages. Please send in you events. We get the traffic, and maybe your event will too.
1. PLEASE UPDATE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESSES.

### **State Fair**

Evelyn Parker reports the following volunteer schedule for the State Fair (9/26 –10/6):

September 26 Chesapeake - September 27 Chesterfield - September 28 Hanover

September 29 Fairfax - September 30 Henrico - October 1 Stafford - October 2 York

October 3 Gloucester - October 4 Norfolk - October 5 Hampton - October 6 Hanover

She also reported that the State Fair wants to cut volunteers again but she held firm to our numbers.

## **Education Endowment Fund**

Bonnie Appleton's donation to the Endowment Fund from her book proceeds so far amounts to \$265.00. The nominations process needs a little fine-tuning. Several nominees did not make it to MG College so we had to find other nominees. Sally and Chuck Walters will be asked to continue as chairs for this committee.

## **Nominations and Elections**

The report was given at the annual meeting.

## **Extension Liaison Report**

Sarah Lineberger was not present but reported the following:

- 1). The requested recipes are on the VT MG WebPages.
- 2). Currently updating Coordinators manual. It should be ready this fall.
- 3). She is requesting sample questions in order to update the exam. Please e-mail to Sarah.

Jenny Estell said we need an exam of basic competency and common to all units.

It was suggested that members could place their ideas or tidbits of knowledge of "What an MG should know..." on the Forum at VMGA.net

Pat Reilly paraphrased a 3-page e-mail from the VCE office regarding the budget cuts and future plans for VCE. It will be available on VMGA.net.

## **New business**

It was moved and seconded to purchase a new tape recorder for the secretary's use. The current recorder is an "antique" held together with black tape and prayer. Jim Scibek will take responsibility for this.

## **Announcements**

The next board meeting is Saturday, October 12, 2002 from 1000-1400 in Halifax County.

The following units have offered to host the next three meetings:

December, 2002 - Hanover

February, 2003 - York

April, 2003 – Fairfax

June, 2003 - Blacksburg

Respectfully submitted,

Cheri Haggerty

Secretary

VMGA, Inc.

**Minutes of the October Regularly Scheduled Meeting of  
The Virginia Master Gardener Association, Inc.**

**October 12, 2002**

**Halifax, VA**

**Attendance**

(Chesapeake) Doris (Pinky) Derieux, Jane Montgomery, Pauline Price; (Fauquier) Jim Scibek; (Halifax) Donna Brauda, Pauline Decker, Agnes Gregory, Edna Guthrie, Kat Kotter, Helen Lloyd, Bill McCaleb, Brenda McDannald, Elizabeth Overton, Bobbie Taylor, Joan Whitt, John Wilder; (Hanover) Cheri Haggerty; (James City /Williamsburg) Angela Cingale, Raymond Cingale; (Lynchburg) Susan Wingfield, Catherine Powers; (Prince George) Cheryl Sebera; (Prince William) Pat Reilly; (Virginia Beach) Fran Shelton; (Virginia Tech) Sarah Lineberger; (York) Jackie Lohr.

**Call to Order**

President Jim Scibek called the meeting to order at 1007.

**Introductions**

Members present introduced themselves. Bill McCaleb, representing the Southside Master Gardeners, introduced the Southside MGs. He said there are more students and faculty at Tech than there are residents of Halifax County – 35,000. The Southside Master Gardener Association takes in folks from South Hill to Victoria, Charlotte, Lunenburg, and Halifax counties and including the Route 85 Corridor and Bobby Taylor from North Carolina. They have 67 MGs of which 48 are active. This past year they have helped celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Halifax County, dedicated a tree to Elizabeth and Ed

Overton, and worked in the Farmer's Market. Since they are a rural area, they do a large number of field visits. Bill's claim to fame was the 14 inches of Snow received in January.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the August meeting were approved as presented.

### **Treasurer's Report**

President Jim Scibek reported for Shelby Snider:

Checking Account Balance as of October 9, 2002	5198.17
Money Market Fund	5706.05
Endowment	3618.76
Certificate of Deposit	6323.21
Total Funds	\$20846.19

The treasurer's report was accepted as read.

A new tape recorder was purchased for the secretary's use. Thank you!

### **President's Report**

President Jim Scibek reported the following:

1. The President, Immediate Past President, Vice President and Secretary met with Drs. Barrett and Umberger in Charlottesville on September 24. Discussion included the Budget Cuts and their effect on local and state VCE operations. They emphasized how appreciative their offices are of all MGs and how they are assisting during these staff reductions. The next cuts could range from 5 – 15 %. They indicated it would be fiscal year 2004 before rebounding from these cuts.
2. VCE will be looking for sponsors in the General Assembly for a line amendment to add \$1 million dollars. This would cover about 20 agents.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Education**

Lenore Plissner was not present but reports that the November 16 program is on track. It will take place at Monroe Technical Center. Full information is in the VMGA Report.

A second Education Committee program is scheduled for March 8, 2003, at Virginia State University with Andy Hankins. Topic to be announced. Fran, Pinky and Jane toured the Aquaculture and Hydroponics centers this past week. They were favorably impressed. It was suggested that the topic be a broad overview of Organic Gardening. A timely topic during our drought conditions.

### **Newsletter**

Florace Arnold was not present. They mailed out 330 copies to members and one to each VCE unit. The next issue will be November. The newsletter needs reports from Units, not just the cursory information found in unit newsletters. Any articles on how a unit is making a difference will be greatly appreciated.

### **Membership**

Julie Cochran was not present but reported that we currently have 331 members and 67 life members. January 2003 will be the next update. According to VCE, there are 3,881 active Master Gardeners in Virginia. VMGA membership represents 8.5% of that total. The membership committee would like to see that total increase to 10%. Sally LaCava will lead an effort to create a VMGA brochure to increase awareness and recruit new members. Special thanks to Bill McCaleb for recruiting 11 new members. (Used a special lime green paper in his efforts.) Also a big thanks to Shelby Snider for forwarding membership applications in a quick and timely manner.

### **Unit Support**

Consists of Kerry Goldmeyer, Karen Sacasky and Frank Reilly, Chair. Frank reports no recent activity.

### **Communication Committee**

Members: Julie Cochran, Cheri Haggerty, Alice Nicolson, Shelby Snyder and Chair Frank Reilly. Frank reports that Angela Kahn has joined the committee and will be taking charge of the Calendar.

1. Since the August Meeting, there have been 7162 discrete visitors to VMGA.net. Since the June meeting, the web page has been updated on 27 separate occasions.
1. The Hort Update has ended for the season but pages remain archived on the site.
2. Many thanks to Alice for her assistance over the past 2 years.
3. Use the Forum if you have time constraints and want your event posted immediately.
4. Preparing an updated CD of MG College so please send them any photos you want to share.
5. E-mailed a little over 500 letters regarding the recent budget cuts to members asking for their help in contacting Governor Warner and Secretary Whelan.
6. Can use e-mail addresses of your local units so more MGs could be contacted in future information mailings. They will not be abused.

### **State Fair**

Evelyn Parker was not present. Cheri Haggerty recommended that those who volunteered at the Fair send comments to Evelyn so we can improve, if necessary, on anything involving the booth.

## Education Endowment Fund

Pat Reilly donated \$150.00 received from a Steward class she taught.

## Unit reports

Each unit present gave a report on activity since the August meeting.

## Extension Liaison Report

Sarah Lineberger reported the following:

- 1.) The Leadership Development Newsletter went out this week. Please contact your local record keeper if you are not receiving this.
- 2.) Currently updating all of the Environmental Hort web site. She will send a notification when this process is complete. To access the VCE Intranet site, [www.ext.vt.edu/vce](http://www.ext.vt.edu/vce), click on anr, horticulture, environmental Hort, then MG volunteer. This is a non-public site. It cannot be linked to any external site.
- 3.) The test questions have been updated against the 2000 MG handbook. Special thanks to the Northern Shenandoah Valley MGs for their assistance. They are still accepting questions. The page is password protected but your coordinator or training coordinator can get access from Sarah.
- 4.) In the process of revising the 4-H Horticulture brochures. They will be called the Young Virginia Gardener Series and will be available online at [www.hort.vt.edu/hort6004/network](http://www.hort.vt.edu/hort6004/network). The site is set up for primarily for teachers. To access the information, click on Lesson Plans.
- 5.) On November 2, the 10 member MG College Advisory Committee will be meeting to give direction for MG College 2003. **Remember it will be early next year, June 5-8.** This move was due to the International MG Conference taking place at the end of June in the Cincinnati area. Also the fact that 4-H and FFA will be on campus at last weekend of June should eliminate the rooming problems we had this year.
- 6.) Looking for suggestions for updating the MG display board. It is available for all units to use at their events. She will have it at the December meeting for your input.
- 7.) The International MG Conference will be held in Cincinnati on June 18-21. Our very own Pat Reilly will be a speaker. Early bird registration, saving \$45, ends December 31. Regular registration ends March 31. See the IMGCC 2003 website at <http://mastergardener.osu.edu/imgc2003> for more information.
- 8.) The Northeastern Regional Conference will be October 6-8<sup>th</sup> 2004 in Baltimore. (Possibly a daytrip?). Sarah gave us this information in case any MG would like to prepare proposals for a presentation. More information is available at their website, [www.hgic.umd.edu](http://www.hgic.umd.edu) and click on Master Gardener.
- 9.) For those interested in watersheds, Sarah recommends checking out the EPA Watershed Academy at [www.epa.gov/watertrain](http://www.epa.gov/watertrain). It is an online certification for Watershed Management.

10.) A group called Environmental Concern is working with Maryland MGs on a community shoreline restoration. They have developed a youth program called "Wow, the Wonders of Wetlands" If you are interested in working on this project in Virginia should contact Sarah.

11.) The Virginia Office of Volunteerism sets volunteer hourly rate as \$19.77.

### **Unfinished Business**

Pat Reilly brought up Unfinished business from the October 2000 meeting, held at Charlotte Courthouse. At that time, Pat showed a report that the New Jersey MGs had prepared. It was a summary of what their counties are doing or had done in the past year (1999). It contained information on the number of hours and their dollar value to the state of New Jersey. It addressed significant cost saving programs. They used it to "toot their horn" with funding agencies.

Pat wanted to know if the VMGA membership would be interested in preparing something similar to present to the legislature. The information on hours by unit and their value is readily available from the office of Sarah Lineberger.

A motion was made and seconded to fund the publishing of a similar "Executive Summary". Arrangements will be made to present it to the legislature when it convenes in early 2003. Pat will have it available for presentation to the VMGA body at the December meeting. Various means of dissemination were discussed. There will be more discussion at the December meeting.

Bill McCaleb will get information on what dates would work to our advantage in presenting this to the Legislature. Volunteers will be needed in Richmond. More information on this as it becomes available.

### **New Business**

Fairfax has not presented a firm commitment to the April meeting. James City/Williamsburg offered but since the December meeting is in Hanover and the February meeting is in York, a site in another region would more appropriate for April.

### **Announcements**

The next board meeting is Saturday, December 14, 2002 from 1000-1400 in Hanover County.

The following units have offered to host the next three meetings:

February, 2003 - York

April, 2003 – OPEN

June, 2003 - Blacksburg

The meeting was adjourned at 1325.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheri Haggerty

Secretary

VMGA, Inc.

## **Minutes of the December Regularly Scheduled Meeting of**

**The Virginia Master Gardener Association, Inc.**

**December 14, 2002**

**Hanover County, VA**

### **Attendance**

(Chesapeake) Pauline Price; (Fairfax) Charlie Hood; (Fauquier) Lenore Plissner, Jim Scibek; (Gloucester) Florace Arnold, Sherry Ratcliffe; (Hanover) Pamela Armstrong, Bill Bonwell, Christy Brennon, Colleen Calderwood, Joie Carter, Judy Durant, Cheri Haggerty, Willie Mills, Evelyn Parker, Harland Patch, Maryann Rice, Vicki Scheffler; (James City /Williamsburg) Angela Cingale, Dale Firestone; (Lynchburg) Karen Sacasky; (Northern Neck) Jinny Estell, Susan Lindsey; (Prince George) Cheryl Sebera; (Prince William) Frank Reilly, Pat Reilly; (Roanoke) Lynn Snider, Shelby Snider; (Rockbridge) Caroline Norrington, Chuck Norrington; (Stafford) Micheal Holmes, Don Saunders; (Virginia Beach) Paul Campbell; (Virginia Tech) Sarah Lineberger, Diane Relf; (York) Jackie Lohr, Lanna Rackley.

### **Call to Order**

President Jim Scibek called the meeting to order at 1002.

### **Introductions**

Willie Mills, President of the Hanover Master Gardener Association, gave an overview of what is happening in Hanover. He promised that the Brunswick stew for lunch was all local animals and critters but no road kill. (Actually the Black Creek Volunteer Fire Department and Mrs. Fearnow prepared it.)

He noted that Hanover Master Gardeners have been around since 1982 and the association was incorporated in 1993. Hanover has trained over 600 Master Gardeners, holding both afternoon and evening classes. There over 300 MGs on the mailing list with 125 - 150 MGs actively turning in hours. Some of the their projects include the State Fair, the demonstration garden at Black Creek Volunteer Fire Department, Virginia House and Agecroft Hall. Hanover MGs also volunteer at Maymont and Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens. In the past, they have worked at local elementary schools. They hold two plant sales a year with the proceeds going towards \$500.00 scholarships to each of the four county high schools. In the past 5 years the MGs have logged over 33,000 hours and have volunteered over 4000 this

year. In July, the MGs sponsor a booth at the Tomato Festival where the attendance was over 30,000 with 500 stopping at the MG booth. Not only has the extension office been moved this year but also their agent retired. The MGs picked up the slack at the VCE office but also found time to write letters about the effect of the budget cuts on Hanover VCE.

## Minutes

President Scibek asked that reference to Unit Reports be included in the minutes. The adjournment time will also be included. The minutes of the October meeting were accepted with the aforementioned amendments.

## Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Shelby Snide reported:

Checking Account Balance as of December, 2002	3955.55
Money Market Fund	5393.28
Endowment	3618.76
Certificate of Deposit	6363.21
Total Funds	19330.80

Shelby reported that she did not have information on the CD so last month's figure was used in this report. She is to check with the bank on the amount. The treasurer's report was accepted.

## President's Report

President Jim Scibek reported under New Business.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Education

Lenore Plissner, Chair, reported that over 50 people attended the program in Leesburg with four new VMGA members signed up. Inadvertently the program cleared over \$685.00. Consequently, the committee decided to adjust the amount they will need to charge for future programs. The committee was surprised that more local people did not attend (only eight were from Loudon with 10 from Fauquier).

The next event will take place March 8 at Virginia State University. The topic is "The Organic Garden of Eden, Herbs, Flowers, and Fungi ". The morning session, presented by Andy Hankins, will be "Organic Production of Specialty Crops" including vegetables, herbs, mushrooms, composting, natural pest

control and fresh cut flowers. There will be two breakaway seminars in the afternoon given by Chris Mullins (VSU) on Small Scale Greenhouses for the Home Gardener and Lynn Trott (James City County MG) on Successfully growing Dahlias.

The committee is considering programs at Monticello and Lewis Ginter. In March 2004, the program hopes to be including the symposium in Prince George in memory of Tom Geer.

Lenore hesitated to name her committee members because she was afraid someone would steal them from her.

However, they include Ann Gorrell, Mike Holmes, Fran Shelton, Pinky Derieux, Louise Livinghouse, Margaret Van Winkle, Debbie Hamilton, Joan Clements, George Graine, Nicole Call and Cheri Haggerty.

### **Newsletter**

Florace Arnold reported that the newsletter staff was thankful for the great support from everybody. She would love to have articles on gardens or places off the beaten path. What they really need is Unit news.

### **Membership**

Julie was unable to attend but sent her report via President Scibek. There are 366 members and no new life members since her last report. She reminded members to download the current application from VMGA .net. A brief discussion was held on membership getting the applications first then forwarding to the treasurer. No decision was made to change the current system of the treasurer getting the applications first..

The committee has come up with a Draft generic recruiting brochure. It was passed around for the membership to review. Once she gets the updated Unit Reps list, it will be distributed to them for distribution.

### **Unit Support**

Consists of Kerry Goldmeyer, Karen Sacasky, Pat Reilly and Frank Reilly, Chair. Since the last meeting, Karen Sacasky has visited with the new Master Gardener training class in Nelson County. She gave a presentation covering MG program history, VCE and VMGA. Bob Carlton, the new non-paid coordinator for Warren, Page, Clark, Shenandoah, and Frederick counties along with Susie Howard met with Pat Reilly to get information on educational programming, needs assessment and planning development

### **Communication Committee**

Members: Julie Cochran, Cheri Haggerty, Angela Kahn, Shelby Snyder and Chair Frank Reilly.

November 12 marked the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of vmga.net. It has grown from a single page giving the minutes of the last meeting to a large web site with more than 200 pages of content. Since the October meeting there have been 8,229 visitors to the site. Outside of the U.S., visitors came from 29 countries with Canada having the most followed by The Netherlands and the UK. Since the October meeting, the

web page has been updated on 17 separate occasions. 66 people downloaded registration forms for the last Education event.. The most popular pages in the past 3 months have been Membership, links to member's pages and the Forum. Interestingly enough there were many more links to the directions to this meeting than to last month's Minutes. (Apparently folks were more interested in coming to "Cheri's party" than reading her minutes!).

Angela Kahn is accepting changes to the Calendar page while Cheri Haggerty is accepting sites for the Useful Links pages. Membership applications are available for download from the site. Updated Master Gardener College CDs are not finished yet.

### **State Fair**

Evelyn Parker reported that 126 MGs from all over the state contributed 555.25 hours before, during and after the State Fair. That works out to a \$10,977.29 donation to the taxpayers.

### **Education Endowment Fund**

Pat Reilly donated \$100 received from the last Education event.

### **Extension Liaison Report**

Unfortunately, this is Sarah's last meeting. She has been offered a very good opportunity in Fort Bend, Texas. She will be a Horticultural Extension Agent. She has enjoyed working with us for the past 21/2 years. The position will be filled later this spring.

The e-mail address for handbooks, certificates and recordkeeping is [vtmg@vt.edu](mailto:vtmg@vt.edu).

Coordinator manuals have been delivered to unit offices.

Frank Reilly has agreed to "take the lead" on MG College.

She also reminded us about the International MG Conference in Cincinnati in 2003. The International MG Conference has a program called "Search for Excellence". There are monetary awards for those programs selected in this process. There is more information in the winter Leadership Newsletter.

Recordkeepers are being asked to update awards information when submitting hours.

Nametag orders have been placed on hold until the first of the year.

Sarah's last official words were "I will not miss the snow or the ice!"

Dr. Relf expressed an enormous thanks to Frank for assuming the MG College lead. She and her husband will be in New Zealand from the middle of January to the middle of April. She will be working with the University there and doing a lot of touring. She reinforced that Sarah will be replaced!

### **Unit Reports**

The Unit reps attending gave reports. Cheri Haggerty presented a draft list of Unit reps and asked that the membership review it and offer corrections. This will be distributed to the reps and all committee chairs for their information. Unit reps were reminded to keep their reports brief and turn in a written copy to the Secretary.

### **Unfinished Business**

Before resuming unfinished business, Colleen Calderwood, Hanover Coordinator, presented an overview of their town hall meeting with Delegate Frank Hargrove on December 2. to discuss the budget cuts and the resulting effect on VCE. Delegate Hargrove felt the budget cuts were a result of poor analysis of revenue. He was confused about VCE funding and that legislators as a whole appeared to be uninformed about what VCE and MGs do. He recommended that MGs meet with the general assembly and educate them about what we do as MGs and continue getting out the word about the education programs that Master Gardeners represent.

Pat Reilly brought the first edition of the VMGA's "VCE Master Gardener Volunteers Summary of Impacts - 2002". This covers the different kinds of impacts the Master Gardeners make statewide. It uses Sarah's summary of hours and includes an introduction by Sarah. The information is archived in past newsletters at [www.ext.vt.edu/anr/hort](http://www.ext.vt.edu/anr/hort).

We have made available approximately six copies for each unit to distribute to their legislators and local supervisors. Discussion was held on the best way to achieve this distribution. Mailing is not acceptable. Meeting face to face with the legislator or their aides will be more effective. Pat presented guidelines on a cover letter to accompany the brochure. Suggestions included using local letterhead not VCE or VCE penalty mail, add statistics to back up your information or one or two pictures representing your projects.

Stress that we are a non profit organization and are self funded as you keep them both informed and educated on the MG program.

Pat also suggested to ask for their support on the \$1.04 million extension budget amendment and for restoring fund to VCE. This amendment would return money to the municipalities who are picking up the state's portion of VCE funds. This amendment would cover funding for four high priority extension specialists in Turf, Cotton, Corn and Small Grains and Horse and 19 field agents (9-ANR, 9-4H and 1 FCS).

Dr Relf said that we should reinforce that MGs are about education - hands on face to face- and about changing behaviors. Homeowners cannot get that from the Web. She also suggested that you invite your delegates to serve a role as a speaker or attend any special events you might have locally.

Karen Sacasky recommended that you meet locally with your delegates before January 7 rather than going to Richmond during the assembly session. The key is that you would have their attention.

### **New Business**

President Scibek received a letter from Barbara Geer requesting VMGA co-sponsorship of a Prince George Symposium being presented in memory of her husband, Tom Geer. Tom was a longtime MG, well liked, and respected VMGA member and representative. She asked for the co-sponsorship

beginning with the event in the spring of 2004. Lenore Plissner said that she is meeting with Barbara at the March 8 education event to discuss VMGA involvement. Pat Reilly brought up that many MGs have asked for an alternative to MG College in that area of the state. She also informed us that funding from the Geers is already in place.

Frank Reilly reminded us that the purpose of education events is to educate not generate revenue. We all are required to have 8 hours of education a year. He also said that support comes in many forms, not just financial.

Karen Sacasky commented that we are committed to four education events a year and that partnering with someone will make that easier to accomplish.

After lengthy discussion, the membership present voted to "support co-sponsorship in principle and further task the Education Committee to work out the details." of the Prince George Master Gardener Association annual symposium. This will be a permanent VMGA-PGMGA partnered event.

In other New Business, the VMGA presented Sarah with a gift certificate to Brent and Becky's and thanked her for all the wonderful things she has done for us. We will miss her!

Dr. Relf presented Sarah with a picture of SNOW from VCE.

### **Announcements**

The next board meeting is in York on February 8, 2003 at 1000.

The next two meetings will be hosted by:

April, 2003 – Fairfax

June, 2003 - Blacksburg

James City County-Williamsburg has offered to host the August meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1335.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheri Haggerty

Secretary

VMGA

**Minutes of the December Regularly Scheduled Meeting of**

**The Virginia Master Gardener Association, Inc.**

**February 8, 2003**

**Yorktown, VA**

**(Draft)**

**Attendance**

(Chesapeake) Pinky Derieux, Pauline Price; (Fairfax) George Graine, Gwendolyn Graine; (Fauquier) Lenore Plissner, Frank Reilly, Jim Scibek; (Gloucester) Florace Arnold, Sherry Ratcliffe; (Halifax) Bill McCaleb; (Hanover) Pamela Armstrong, Cheri Haggerty; (James City /Williamsburg) Barbara Brouse, Dale Firestone; (Matthews) JoAnna Brown; (Northern Neck) Pat Rogers; (Prince George) Barbara Geer, Cheryl Sebera; (Prince William) Pat Reilly; (Suffolk) Betty Freedman; (Virginia Beach) Paul Campbell, Fran Shelton; (York) Margaret Cotton, Terry Hanson, Rene Kauder, Jackie Lohr, Evelyn Parker, Sybil Przypek, Lanna Rackley.

**Call to Order**

President Jim Scibek called the meeting to order at 1002.

**Introductions**

Terry Hanson, outgoing Coordinator, welcomed the VMGA. She introduced Jacki Lohr as the individual who pulled together the meeting. She mentioned that their Learning Garden was in front of the building and we were welcome to tour it. Eagle Scouts and Gold Scouts have used the garden to build animal houses, benches and installed mailboxes to hold brochures and information sheets.

**Minutes**

The minutes were accepted with the following corrections; correct Caroline Norrington's name and correct the dollar amount of the VCE budget amendment from \$1.04 to \$1.04 million.

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Shelby Snider reported:

Checking Account Balance as of February 1, 2003	3955.55
Money Market Fund	5400.07

Endowment	3644.02
Certificate of Deposit	6362.22
Total Funds	18392.96

It was requested that future reports break the expenses into their budget items. In addition, interest expense was reported but not to which account it was deposited. This will be corrected by the next report. The treasurer's report was accepted as written pending annual audit. (This the accepted method of acceptance and will be used from now on.)

### **President's Report**

President Scibek reported that Dr. Steve Umberger been selected to replace the retiring Dr. Dave Barrett. Dr. Umberger has been involved with this board so there should not be much of a change in our relationship. Dr. Relf is in New Zealand until mid April. We hope to see a replacement for Sarah at MG College.

Sarah sent a note expressing her thanks for the gift certificate. She also thanked the VMGA membership for their support during her tenure as Extension Liaison Coordinator.

Kerry Goldmeyer sent a brochure about seminars being offered at Virginia Tech during the winter.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Education - Lenore Plissner, Chair**

Lenore reported that we are a month away from our education event at Virginia State. So far, we have 65 registrations. After the December 2002 VMGA Board Meeting, every unit that was not represented at the meeting was mailed a covering letter, description of the program and speakers and a registration form. The covering letter requested those units to include contents of the program, the leaders of each part and a copy of the registration form in their newsletters. The next meeting of the Education Committee will be during MG College. Barbara Geer gave a brief overview of the Prince George Gardening Symposium to be held March 15. They have room for 40 and have 20 registrations.

Committee member Fran Shelton is planning to take the driver's test required by her city in order to drive the municipal van with Master Gardeners to VSU.

#### **Newsletter - Florace Arnold, Editor**

Florace reported that the path the newsletter takes is simple. News is routed to the Editor, sent to Greg Adams for layout and then to Pat Reilly to be printed and taken to the printer. Prince William MGs prepare it for mailing. The editor needs someone to be responsible for the Resource Corner. The reviews should be 250-275 words. George Graine offered to do book reviews. Florace recommended that you use word wrap rather than "Enter" at the end of a line when submitting an article or news.

Remember that this newsletter is of importance to MGs statewide and your news and articles should reflect that. Try to have your news to the Editor by the first week in March so the newsletter can be distributed before the next meeting.

### **Membership - Julie Cochran, Chair**

Julie reported that membership is at 388 with 68 life members. A special thanks to Jinny Estell (Northern Neck) for recruiting 18 new members.

### **Unit Support - Frank Reilly, Chair**

Consists of Kerry Goldmeyer, Cheri Haggerty, Pat Reilly, Karen Sacasky and Frank Reilly.

Pat Reilly has made two speaking trips to Charlottesville. One for Master Gardener Retention and the second for Master Gardener Training. Cheri Haggerty has updated the unit contact information and has made Unit Reports available on the web site. Volunteer Coordinator handbooks have been distributed by Tech. Jim Scibek has a CD version.

### **Communication Committee - Frank Reilly, Chair**

Members: Julie Cochran, Cheri Haggerty, Angela Kahn, Shelby Snyder, Frank Reilly and whomever else we can get. This time we had the unbelievable help of Greg Snider, an employee of a MG Trainee in Prince William. He has redesigned the web site for beauty and efficiency. Since the December regularly scheduled meeting, there have been 7,865 visitors to VMGA.net. Outside of the US, our visitors come from more than 29 countries. Canada supplies the most hits followed by Netherlands and UK. Since the December meeting, the site has been updated on 47 separate occasion including the major facelift and restructuring. The most popular pages have been Membership, links to member pages, meeting schedule and educational events.

Angela Cahn is currently accepting changes to the calendar and Cheri Haggerty maintains the links page. Membership applications are available on line at the Membership page.

Master Gardener CDs will be available soon after some minor tweaking.

### **Extension Liaison Report - Currently vacant**

Frank Reilly reported on Master Gardener College. There will be no major changes in the format. The dates are June 5-8. We have arranged for Kent Mungford (featured recently in the Washington Post) to speak on build out around the bay. The announcement for MG College is scheduled to come out in the March Leadership Newsletter. It is distinctly possible secure online registration will be available. Secure housing reservations will be available on line through Virginia Tech.

### **Unit Reports**

The Unit reps attending gave reports and they will be posted at VMGA.net.

## **Unfinished Business**

Several units reported that they did hand deliver the "Summary of Impacts" to their local legislators. Pat Reilly distributed additional copies for use at the local level.

Barbara Geer and Lenore Plissner said that the Prince George education event is open to locals, not just MGs. An endowment created by the Geers will make funds available for speaker's fees.

## **New Business**

Julie Cochran has resigned as chairman of the Membership Committee. She has given two hardworking years to this endeavor. She has been responsible for many improvements to this committee. Pauline Price (Chesapeake) volunteered to assume chair of this committee.

Bill McCaleb (Halifax/ Southside) announced that there is an education event on Tuesday, March 18 at Blackstone Research Station. The topics include Entomology in the morning and Brambles in the afternoon.

George Graine reported that MG tuition is tax deductible on line 26. See page 32 of the 1040 instruction booklet.

## **Announcements**

George Graine said the April Meeting will be held at the American Horticultural Society Headquarters (River Farm). It is an 18<sup>th</sup> century building; one of George Washington's many homes. A Mount Vernon garden and landscape tour, with an interpreter, is being arranged for VMGA meeting attendees. We have also been invited to tour Gunston Hall, home of George Mason. He was the author of American's first Bill of Rights. For a view of 21st century art, visit the internationally acclaimed Torpedo Factory Art Center located in Old Town Alexandria. All studios and galleries are open and the public is welcome. Another enjoyment and educational opportunity is the Alexandria Archaeology Museum & Research Laboratory located on the third floor of the Torpedo Factory. This is a working archaeology museum. These folks really dig dirt!

Fairfax will host the next board meeting on April 12, 2003 at 1000.

The future meetings are scheduled as follows:

June 2003 - Blacksburg

August 2003 - James City County-Williamsburg

The meeting adjourned at 1320.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheri Haggerty

Secretary

VMGA

## **Minutes of the April Regularly Scheduled Meeting of**

### **The Virginia Master Gardener Association, Inc.**

**April 12, 2003**

**Fairfax, VA**

**(Draft)**

#### **Attendance**

(Chesapeake) Jane Montgomery, Pauline Price; (Fairfax) Adria Bordas, Charlie Hood, George Graine, Teri O'Brien; (Fauquier) Andrew Orland, Lenore Plissner, Jim Scibek; (Gloucester) Florace Arnold, Noel Prieseler; (Goochland-Powhatan) Alexandria Haselman (Hanover) Cheri Haggerty; (Henrico) Susan Anthony (James City /Williamsburg) Angela Cingale, Ralph Cingale, Dale Firestone, Shirley Firestone; (Lynchburg-Amherst-Campbell) Catherine Powers, Karen Sacasky; (Northern Neck) Jinny Estell, Pat Rogers; (Northern Shenandoah Valley) Chuck Walters, Sally Walters (Prince George) Cheryl Sebera; (Prince William) Julie Cochran, Scott Cochran Debbie Hamilton, Louise Livinghouse, Frank Reilly, Pat Reilly; (Roanoke) Lynn Snider, Shelby Snider (Rockbridge) Caroline Norrington, Chuck Norrington; (Virginia Beach) Paul Campbell; (York) Jackie Lohr.

#### **Call to Order**

President Jim Scibek called the meeting to order at 10:02.

#### **Introductions**

George Graine welcomed us on behalf of Fairfax County. He introduced Tom Underwood from the American Horticultural (AHS). Tom welcomed us to River Farm on behalf of the AHS. The AHS has 27000 members across the country. He presented each of us with a copy of their publication, "The American Gardener". River Farm has been home to AHS about 30 years. He asked us to be sure to walk the grounds and enjoy the plants and the view. AHS offers many programs throughout the summer at River Farm. The AHS Board has adopted an exciting vision statement that will create a national center for home gardening at River Farm.

George then introduced us to the Fairfax agent, Adria Bordas. Adria brought copies of the Fairfax annual report to share with us. He also introduced Teri O'Brien, incoming Fairfax President.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes were accepted as posted with the provision to correct the header. It still says December.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Shelby Snider reported:

Checking Account Balance as of February1, 2003		5517.23
Deposit		3482.00
Checking Account Balance		<u>8999.23</u>
Expenses		
PC Banking @ \$9.95 month	19.90	
Treasurer of VA Assessment	25.00	
Newsletter - Postage and Printing	609.83	
Speakers - VSU education event	200.00	
Ettrick Deli - VSU education event	751.05	
	Total Expenses	1605.78
Checking Account Balance		<u>7393.45</u>
Money Market Fund		5390.89
Endowment		3632.22
Certificate of Deposit		6362.22
Total Funds		<u>22778.78</u>

The treasurer's report was accepted as presented pending annual audit.

### **President's Report**

President Scibek commented that the VSU event was a fantastic happening! The following week he attended the Gardening Symposium at Prince George. He was quite impressed with the affair. The VMGA will be cosponsoring the symposium beginning next year. He returned to the Prince George area to present certificates to their new class.

He also created letters for Roanoke to present to the new MGs. They are available for other units to use at their graduations.

Diane Relf is retiring from VA Tech this July. She will continue to assist the VT Horticulture department and the MG program until a replacement has been hired for Sarah Lineberger.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Education - Lenore Plissner, Chair**

"The Organic Garden of Eden" on March 8 at Virginia State University (VSU) was a great success. The subjects of the sessions plus the speakers (Andy Hankins, Chris Mullins, and Lynn Trott) received very positive comments. Thanks to Fran Shelton and Pinky Derieux for their preliminary trips to Petersburg to arrange for the rooms and lunch; to Debbie Hamilton, Louise Livinghouse, and Margaret Van Winkle for handling pre-registration and registrations at the door, to Cheri Haggerty for working with Cheryl Sebera and Barbara Geer (non-members of the Education Committee) to see that registrants were well fed before the first session; to Mike Holmes for collecting comment sheets (92 out of 129 in the audience); and to Ann Gorrell for volunteering to analyze the comments.

Save September 27 for a fall trip to Monticello and Tufton Center for Historic Plants. Peter Hatch and Peggy Cornett have been recruited to keep us on their calendar for the date. Topics for the visits will be firmed up later this spring.

March 13, 2004, has already been scheduled for the second Garden Symposium day in Disputanta, Prince George County, under the direction of Barbara Geer.

The next meeting of the Education Committee will be at MG College in Blacksburg.

### **Newsletter - Florace Arnold, Editor**

Florace thanked all of us for our contributions to the newsletter. She asked that we share our resources with the newsletter staff. Resources include favorite publications, web sites, nurseries or garden sites.

Because of the early date for the June Master Gardener College, Florace would like to get the Report out by the end of May

### **Membership - Julie Cochran (Outgoing Chair)**

#### **Pauline Price, Chair**

For the last 18 months, Julie has had the privilege to serve as Membership chair and today was the big handoff to Pauline. We gained 99 members since the last meeting and March 20. As Of March 20, we have 487 members. 248 in current renew status, 165 renew for 2 years and two people who couldn't stop sending in their membership and are renewed through 2005 and 72 life members. Once Pauline gets in sync with Shelby, we will go over 500 members for the first time. We picked up 60 members from the VSU event and 22 new members from Northern Neck.

Julie thanked Karen Sacasky, Shelby Snider and Pat Reilly for their tremendous help. Their names have been passed on to Pauline.

### **Communication/Unit Support - Frank Reilly, Chair**

#### **Unit Support**

Members: Pat Reilly, Karen Sacasky, Kerry Goldmeyer, Cheri Haggerty and Frank Reilly and whomever else we need.

1. Cheri Haggerty has updated the Unit Contact Information, and made a contact information request to each Unit. A form for contact information exists now on the web site
2. Frank Reilly has fielded some questions about the utility of forming an association from two different local associations.

### **Communication Committee**

Members: Cheri Haggerty, Angela Cahn, Shelby Snyder and Chair Frank Reilly and whomever else we can get. This time we had the unbelievable help of Eleanor Ames a MG in Page County who has finished a MG College recruiting CD.

1. Since the February, regularly scheduled meeting there have been 11088 visitors to VMGA.net. Outside of the US, our visitors come from more than 27 countries. Canada provides the most hits (1103 during the period) followed by Australia (244) and the UK (101).
2. Since the February regularly scheduled meeting, the web page has been updated on 27 separate occasions.
3. The most popular pages in the last three months have been Membership, and the October minutes they must have been pretty entertaining with over 600 visitors. The Hort updates as a whole dwarf all but the front page for visitors, but each one only gets about 200- 300 visitors.
4. Angela Cahn is currently accepting changes to the calendar. Cheri Haggerty maintains the links page. Both pages have been updated and you can expect more there soon.
5. The MG College Agenda is already up at the VMGA page. As soon as the on-line registration materials have been distributed to the Agents and Coordinators, we will have a link at VMGA to the registration page.
6. We will be sending out a MG College CD in the next two weeks, and I could use some help burning the CDs.
7. Membership Applications are available on-line at the Membership page.

### **Unit Reports**

The Unit reps attending gave reports and they will be posted at VMGA.net.

### **State Fair**

Reservations for unit days can be made after May 1. The Fair will be in the same location this year.

### **Education Endowment Fund**

The committee consists of Pat Reilly, Chuck and Sally Walters. Nominations for MG scholarships are due May 15 with awards being made May 25. The actual check will be given at our annual meeting. The criteria are the same as last year. The recipient must be an active MG and a member of the VMGA. The target audience will be MGs who are in a leadership position or show potential to be a leader or role model. Preference will be given to MGs who have not yet attended MG College or show need. Information will be distributed to Agents/Coordinators with the Master College CD. Local units will determine how the nominees are selected.

The total dollar amount of scholarships is determined by the amount of interest paid on the money market and Endowment fund plus any other funds contributed to the endowment.

We want to maintain the original amount of \$3000.00. We have had more donations to the fund than interest earned due to the economy.

After discussion, it was moved and seconded to offer ten \$50 scholarships. Motion carried.

The executive board asked that the current committee continue to serve. Noel Priseler also volunteered to serve on the committee.

### **Extension Liaison - reported by Frank Reilly**

The rough draft of the agenda is posted at VMGA.net. The final agenda has gone to the printer and will be out in one to several weeks. Within the next week or two, a list of hours will be sent to local Agents/MG Coordinators of those up for service awards. We will use the state reporting system to generate the list of award winners. Hours posted by April 15 will be used as the basis for awards. The committee will accept hours submitted by Agents/Mg Coordinators if they are not in the state reporting system.

Registration will be accepted via mail, telephone, fax or the secure online system. Within one to two days of the receipt of registration, you will receive your confirmation.

Brag Night and the Herbal Cooking contest will be offered again this year. Contact Jim Scibek for a Brag Night table.

### **Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

### **New Business**

A motion was made and seconded to allocate \$500 from the General Fund to the Education Endowment Fund. The motion passed unanimously after limited discussion.

Discussion was held on how best to honor Dr. Relf at her retirement. Suggestions included some type of yard art, custom stepping stone, donation in her name to The Flora of Virginia Project or renaming the Education Endowment Fund in her honor.

A motion was made and seconded to rename the Education Endowment Fund to The P. Diane Relf Education Endowment and to purchase an appropriate stone or yard art with a limit of \$200. Pat Reilly will head the committee to make the appropriate choice. George Graine and Louise Livinghouse will serve on the committee.

### **Announcements**

The annual meeting is Saturday night at MG College at 7:00PM.

Future Board meetings are scheduled as follows:

June 5,2003 - Blacksburg 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

August 9, 2003 - James City County-Williamsburg

The meeting was adjourned at 1335.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheri Haggerty

Secretary

VMGA

**Minutes of the June Regularly Scheduled Meeting of  
The Virginia Master Gardener Association, Inc.**

**June 5, 2003**

**Blacksburg, VA**

**Attendance**

(Brunswick) Larry Woyer; (Chesapeake) Pinky Derieux, Jane Montgomery, Pauline Price; (Fairfax) George Graine; (Fauquier) Frank Reilly, Jim Scibek; (Halifax) Bill McCaleb; (Hanover) Pamela Armstrong, Cheri Haggerty; (Loudoun) Debbie Dillion; (Northern Neck) Angela Cahn, Jinny Estell, Linda McConahey; (Northern Shenandoah Valley) Bud Gregory, Fran Gregory, Chuck Walters, Sally Walters; (Prince George) Cheryl Sebera; (Prince William) Pat Reilly; (Roanoke) Shelby Snider; (Rockbridge) Kate Jenks, Ted Jenks, Chuck Norrington; (Suffolk) Linda Spence; (Virginia Beach) Paul Campbell, Fran Shelton; (Virginia Tech) Diane Relf; (Washington) Bill Davis. (There were more attendees but they did not sign in.)

**Call to Order**

President Jim Scibek called the meeting to order at 1110.

**Introductions**

President Scibek welcomed us all to the June meeting in beautiful Blacksburg and Virginia Tech. This meeting was held on opening day of MG College.

### **Minutes**

The April minutes were accepted as posted.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Shelby Snider reported:

Checking Account Balance as of June 1, 2003		6708.44
Deposit - Dues		3093.00
Checking Account Balance		<u>9801.44</u>
Expenses		
PC Banking @ \$9.95 month	19.90	
Web Hosting	1510.57	
Newsletter - Postage and Printing	533.60	
VSU education event	93.52	
Misc. Postage	102.61	
Refund Dues overpayment (2)	10.00	
American Horticultural Society	200.00	
Misc.	103.93	
Transfer to Education Endowment Fund	750.00	
	Total Expenses	3324.13
Checking Account Balance		<u>6477.31</u>

Money Market Fund	5410.74
Endowment	4426.96
Certificate of Deposit	6396.51
Total Funds	<u>22711.52</u>

The treasurer's report was accepted as presented pending annual audit.

### **President's Report**

President Scibek reported that the board would be meeting with Dr. Umberger at 1:30 this afternoon. He received a nice letter of thanks from AHS for our donation at the April meeting.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Education - Lenore Plissner, Chair**

Lenore was not in attendance but sent word through the Secretary. The Education Committee has no activity to report for June 2003. The committee will hold its next meeting on Friday, June 6 at 5:30 p.m. at MG College. The agenda will include planning for the next Continuing Education program at Monticello and Tufton Center for Historic Plants on September 27 as well as looking ahead to the second Good Gardening Symposium in Disputanta on March 13, 2004, with Barbara Geer providing an update.

#### **Newsletter - Florace Arnold, Editor**

Florace was not in attendance. No report.

#### **Membership - Pauline Price, Chair**

VMGA Membership Report as of June 3, 2003

	2002	2003	Increase
Total Membership	381	536	155
Regular Members	321	457	
Including : Renew for 2	14	55	

We therefore have 13% participation in VMGA by Master Gardeners, based on 3,881 active MG's in Virginia as reported in the fall 2002 issue of the VCE MG Leadership Development Newsletter. Membership will hold a recruiting drive at Brag Night. We will offer a MG window cling free to anyone becoming a member, free to any member "upgrading" to Lifetime status or for \$1.00 to existing VMGA members (so no member feels left out). We will not be selling them to MG's who are not members of VMGA.

### **Communication/Unit Support - Frank Reilly, Chair**

#### **Unit Support**

Consists of Karen Sacasky, Kerry Goldmeyer and Frank Reilly.

Since the last meeting, we have provided tax and incorporation information to two different Associations and information regarding the State record keeping system to 8 units. We have fielded 15 questions dealing with becoming a MG or educational programs throughout the state. Unit representative information is available through the web site.

#### **Communication Committee**

Members: Cheri Haggerty, Angela Cahn, Shelby Snyder and Chair Frank Reilly.

1. Since the April, regularly scheduled meeting there have been 14018 page requests to VMGA.net.
2. Since the April regularly scheduled meeting, the web page has been updated on 116 separate occasions.
3. The new College home page, calendar, Useful links and Hort Update pages are our most visited pages.
4. Cheri Haggerty maintains the links page. If you have any interesting gardening links to add, send them to her.
5. We issued the MG College Promotional CD.

#### **Unit Reports**

The Unit reps attending presented written reports or have e-mailed them to the secretary. They will be posted at VMGA.net.

#### **State Fair**

Evelyn was not in attendance. However, President Scibek announced that September 25,26,29,30 and October 1,3,4 were open for volunteers. The schedule is 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM. The deadline is July 15 for signup. Volunteer name and address information must be sent to Evelyn by August 15. Cheri Haggerty offered to take requests back to Evelyn. Loudoun and Chesapeake sent requests.

## **Education Endowment Fund**

The committee consists of Pat Reilly, Chuck and Sally Walters. The committee received 12 nominations for the ten \$50 scholarships. They could not decide on 10 recipients so the board was petitioned to add two additional scholarships. The board concurred and 12 scholarships were awarded. They are as follows:

Betty Beardsworth	Arlington	Christy Brennan	Hanover
Paul Campbell	Virginia Beach	Sharon Corbin	Prince William
Jean St.John	Hanover	Mary Elliott	Halifax
Susie Howard	Northern Shenandoah	Denise Reeder	Arlington
Fran Shelton	Virginia Beach	Rachel Fleury	Prince William
Agnes Gregory	Halifax	Jim Revell	Bedford

## **Extension Liaison - reported by Diane Relf**

Diane has been officially retired since January 1, 2003 but has continued to work in the office. Her position has been noted as a critical replacement position. Things will continue as these positions have been advertised and interviewing is ongoing. Rich Marini is acting as departmental liaison for the Master Gardener Coordinator. The money is there for her position. She reported that Frank has done a fantastic job in organizing MG College.

## **Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

## **New Business**

President Scibek announced that the audit committee would be reviewing the books before the Annual meeting.

A motion was made and accepted to maintain yearly dues at \$10.00.

## **Announcements**

The Secretary announced several new Unit Representatives. They are Jack and Pat O'Leary (Western Tidewater), Ted Jenks (Rockbridge), Cecile Dingus (Wise), Gail Augenreich (Bedford) and Peter Warren (Albermarle).

Future Board meetings are scheduled as follows:

August 9, 2003 - James City County-Williamsburg

The meeting was adjourned at 1155.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheri Haggerty

Secretary

VMGA

**Virginia Master Gardener Association, Inc.**

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting,**

**June 7, 2003**

**Call to Order**

President Jim Scibek called the meeting to order at 7: 00 PM in the theater of Litton Reeves on the Campus of Virginia Tech. President Jim Scibek welcomed those attending.

**Minutes**

The minutes of 2002 Annual Meeting were approved.

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Shelby Snider reported that at the end of the Fiscal Year 2003, our net worth is \$19,414.75. The report was accepted pending audit.

**President's Report**

President Jim Scibek reported:

- The Board met with Dr.Umberger this past Thursday. They will meet again in the fall. These meetings keep the lines of communication open.
- Membership is over 500.
- The Summary of Impacts was completed and presented to all units.
- Urged members to continue their support to replace the lost agents and specialists.
- Lost Sarah Lineberger to the State of Texas where she continues to be involved in Cooperative Extension

- Lost Dr. Relf to retirement. Although we didn't really lose her because she is continuing to assist on a limited basis.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Education - Lenore Plissner, Chair**

Lenore reported that the VMGA sponsored two major education events between September 2002 ("Rejuvenation- Is your Garden Tired or Are You Tired of Your Garden?") and March 2003 ("Organic Garden of Eden"). Evaluation and comment sheets were very positive. A third event will be September 27 ("Mr. Jefferson's Gardens") at Monticello, which will include tours of the gardens and a seminar at Tufton Farms. Lenore also announced the VMGA- Prince George collaboration of the second Good Gardening Symposium to be held March 13 in Prince George. Speakers to be Brent and Becky Heath ("the bulb folks") and Peggy Singlemann of Maymont.

Lenore also thanked her committee made up of Joan Clements (Lancaster- Northumberland), Margaret Van Winkle (Prince William), Debby Hamilton (Prince William), Louise Livinghouse (Prince William), Mike Holmes (Stafford), Fran Shelton (Virginia Beach), Pinky Derieux (Chesapeake), George Graine (Fairfax) and Cheri Haggerty (Hanover). Ex-officio members Chuck and Caroline Norrington (Rockbridge), Barbara Geer (Prince George) and Cheryl Sebera (Prince George) were also thanked. A special thanks to Frank Reilly, Communication Chair.

### **Newsletter - Florace Arnold, Editor**

Florace was unable to attend but reported that the newsletter is being published on a regular basis. Feel free to contact Florace with suggestions, complaints and ideas you might have to make this a newsletter one that you will be eager to receive

### **Membership - Pauline Price, Chair**

Pauline reported that as of June 5, 2003 we have 536 regular members, an increase of 155 since June 2002, and 79 life members, an increase of 19 over the 2002 figure. We have 13% participation in VMGA of the 3881 active Master Gardeners in Virginia. Thanks to Paul Campbell (Virginia Beach) and Julie Cochran (Prince William), we have added 36 new members at Master Gardener College, making the membership now 572!

## **Unit Support**

Members: Kerry Goldmeyer, Karen Sacasky, Pat Reilly and Frank Reilly, Chair. The Unit Support Committee is available to help units and local associations with organizational problems, questions and resources. If your Master Gardeners are conducting something new, another group may have already tried it, asking the Unit Support Committee for help could save you from reinventing the wheel.

In the past year we have been asked to help :

- 6 Units with by-laws selection
- 10 Units with incorporation questions

- 8 Units with questions on recordkeeping

### **Communication Committee**

Members: Angela Cahn, Cheri Haggerty, Shelby Snider and Chair Frank Reilly. The duties of the Communication Committee are to foster communications throughout VMGA and all MGs in Virginia. We administer the Web site, send messages, facilitate the communication and work of the Board members, and help to produce and disseminate certain products like the MG College Promotional CD.

- In the past year, the web page has been updated an average of 2 times a day (you must hit the refresh button...)
- There are over 70 pages of content on the site and thanks to an employee of a Prince William MG, the site has a new look.
- We have had over 60,000 visitors this past year from over 100 countries and 3 planets.
- Our Calendar page has been the most popular page.
- The web site sponsors links to local associations and will provide a limited amount of space and help to start any local MG web pages. Use the [webmaster@vmga.net](mailto:webmaster@vmga.net) email address to ask for help.
- The web page sponsors a forum that may be useful for discussions that seem inappropriate for the MG Listserv administered by Tech.
- A copy of The History of VMGA produced by Karen Sacasky is available at the  
  
web site.
- The Communication Committee prepared a Promotional CD for MG College in the past year. We also maintained a MG College page with all the information needed to register for MG College online.
- A page was established for information regarding the budget cuts at VCE.
- Send your questions, suggestions, etc. to [webmaster@vmga.net](mailto:webmaster@vmga.net).

### **Education Endowment Fund - Pat Reilly, Chair**

Committee members are Chuck and Sally Walters and Noel Priseler.

- Scholarship recipients were awarded their scholarships at MG College this year. The 2003 recipients are Betty Ann Beardsworth (Arlington), Paul Campbell (Virginia Beach), Christy Brennan (Hanover), Sharon Corbin (Prince William), Mary Elliot (Halifax), Rachel Fleury (Prince William), Agnes Gregory (Halifax), Susie Howard (Northern Shenandoah), Jim Revel (Bedford), Fran Shelton, Virginia Beach), Jean St John (Hanover) and Pinky Derieux (Chesapeake)
- Contributions to the fund were up this past year.
- Due to increased funding, the number of scholarships was increased from 6 to 10 this year.
- Fauquier County is donating \$.65 from the sale of their CD, [Chuck Hoysa's Hort Updates](#) to the endowment fund.

- The Education Endowment Fund was renamed the Diane Relf Education Endowment

### **State Fair - Evelyn Parker, Chair**

Over 120 volunteer MGs from all over the state participated in the State Fair booth this past fall. The savings to the state were over \$10,000. The Fair will remain in Richmond next year

### **Audit**

The audit committee consists of Barbara Geer, Bill Scott and Julie Cochran. As soon as the bank statements are received they will conduct the audit.

### **Extension Liaison Report**

Diane Relf reported that the program is fine and to continue our faith in Dr. Umberger that the Extension Specialist and MG Coordinator positions will be filled.

### **Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

### **Announcements**

Next Board Meeting – Saturday, August 9, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. in James City County-Williamsburg.

### **MG College Challenge**

- At MG College 2000 - Goochland/Powhatan challenged Prince William that they would bring more MG's to MG College 2001 than Prince William. They lost 25-2.
- At MG College 2001 - Goochland/Powhatan challenged Virginia Beach that they would bring more MG's to MG College 2002 than Virginia Beach. Goochland brought 2, Virginia Beach brought 11, so Goochland/Powhatan lost again.
- At Master Garden College 2002 - Goochland/Powhatan challenged Henrico. This year they won 3-1!

### **The challenge for 2004 is Henrico challenging Washington County.**

International MG Conference is in 2 weeks in Cincinnati

The Northeast Regional conference is October 6-8, 2004 in Maryland. Susan Anthony extended an invitation to Virginia Master Gardeners.

The meeting was adjourned at 1957.

Respectfully Submitted

Cheri Haggerty

Secretary

VMGA.