

VMGA Minutes Aug 2010 – Jun 2011

August 14, 2010

October 9, 2010 [p. 6] (minutes are not available)

December 11, 2010 [p. 6]

February 12, 2011 [p. 13]

April 9, 2011 [p. 19]

June 24, 2011 [p. 26]

Annual Meeting June 25, 2011 [p. 27]

VMGA, INC
BI-MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 14, 2010 (As amended 11/5/12)
NEWPORT NEWS, VA

HOSTED BY NEWPORT NEWS MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

ATTENDANCE

Officers:

Bill Scott, Prince William, VMGA President

Christy Brennan-Hanover, VMGA Vice President

Peggy Fox-Newport News, VMGA Secretary

Jim Kincaid-VB, VMGA Treasurer

Dave Close and daughter, Molly-VCE State MG Coordinator/Liaison

Betty Villers-VMGA Past President, absent

Unit Reps and VMGA Members:

Central VA: Edna Musser, Ira Wallace, Tina Chaleki

Chesapeake: Pinky Derieux

Chesterfield: Lynne Foote

Fairfax: George Graine

Fluvanna: Jo Anne Henry

Franklin: Nelda Purcell

Gloucester: Bonnie Bernard

Green Spring: Cyndi Bishop, Joan Richards

JCC/Wmsbg: Angela Cingale, Marilyn Riddle

Newport News: Anita Smith, Linda Fuller Silver, Mary Wright, Anne Warren, Evelyn Knox,

Katherine Duncan, Janice Ward

Norfolk: Don Snipes, Tom Bolt

Piedmont: Joyce Grunewald
Prince George: Barbara Geer, Cheryl Sebera
Prince William: Janet Scott
Roanoke: Kathryn Debnar
Southside: Karen and Pat Coughlin
Virginia Beach: Fran Shelton, Mary Ann Kincaid
Western Tidewater: Betty Jo Hendricks

Call to Order and Welcome

Meeting was called to order at 10:05am

Anita Smith – Newport News VMGA Unit Rep
Mary Wright – Newport News Horticulture Programs Coordinator
Mary presented a powerpoint slide show of what the Newport News Master Gardeners are doing in their community.

Unit Introductions

Introductions:

Unit Reps and VMGA members identified themselves, their units and any VMGA office held.

The Unit representative roster was passed around and representatives were asked to update information and return the form back to Peggy.

Minutes of the June 2010 Meeting

Minutes were approved as posted on the VMGA website. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Jim Kincaid, VA Beach

Budget FY 2011 began June 1, 2010. Due to computer problems, he was not able to prepare a complete financial report as of July 31, 2010. A completed report as of July will be submitted at the October Board meeting along with the September report.

Standing Committee Reports

Newsletter – Peggy Fox, Newport News, Content Editor

Changes to format are coming. Unit reports will no longer be included in newsletter but will continue to be published on the VMGA website.

Membership – Mary Ann Kincaid, VA Beach

As of August 10, there were 538 members of the Virginia Master Gardener Association. Of these, 383 are active members; 6 are auxiliary members; and 149 are Lifetime members. This is an increase in membership of 38 since the June 2010 report, as we await renewal of 141 members.

There are currently 36 more VMGA members than reported a year ago, in August 2009.

The decrease in Lifetime members resulted from verification of units' rosters by the reps. Some Lifetime members were reported as being deceased or no longer active and were removed from the VMGA roster.

A reminder, there will be a change this year in the distribution of the Membership Roster. It will be distributed by e-mail in early October. Any VMGA member without e-mail will receive a printed copy.

Mary Ann expressed her desire to step down as Membership Chair, therefore this committee is in need of a new chairperson.

Unit Support – Frank Reilly, Prince William

No report.

Communications – Frank Reilly, Prince William

No report.

Education – Barbara Geer, Co-Chair, Prince George; Betty Jo Hendrix, Co-Chair, Western Tidewater

Committee meeting is scheduled for August 19 for the February 26, 2011, education event to be held at VSU at 10:30am. A name for the event will be chosen then. Send suggestions to Barbara or Ira Wallace.

Registration forms for the School Gardens Continuing Education program in Natural Bridge/Rockbridge County on 16 October, 2010, are 1) available on the VMGA website www.vmga.net, 2) will be sent to all unit representatives, unit volunteer coordinators, etc., and 3) were given out at today's meeting. Registration opens 16 August and closes 10 October. Fee for program will be \$13 for VMGA members and \$23 for non-members.

Venues and topics are under discussion or in early planning stages for Spring 2011 and Fall 2011. Suggestions and ideas from all are most welcome

Finance

No report. This committee is in need of a chairperson.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MG Coordinator Endowment – Bill Scott, Prince William

The current balance of the endowment: \$319,223

Breakdown:

Cash on hand (paid pledges)	\$130,381
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Unpaid pledges	13,975
Deferred gifts	150,000 (\$100,000 Dempsey)
Interest earned	24,867

The fundraising efforts conducted at MG College 2010 earned \$3,700. Future efforts will focus on gaining donations from donors who have not yet been tapped, i.e. businesses, non-VMGA members.

A committee consisting of MGs from the across the state will be formed to address this. Our contact from the VT Foundation is Vernon Meechum. He is scheduled to meet with VMGA at the December 11 board meeting in Fluvanna. Bill Scott has met with Dean Grant to discuss the endowment.

Virginia Green Industry Council (VGIC) – Cheri Haggerty, VMGA Representative, Hanover

No report.

P. Diane Relf Education Endowment Fund (EEF) – Kathryn Debnar, Roanoke

Eight scholarships were awarded to MGs to attend MG College 2010.

Six regular scholarships

One held over from last year, which was unused

One in memory of Bud Gregory, Northern Shenandoah

Fundraising

No report. This committee is in need of a chairperson.

State Fair – Christy Brennan, Hanover

Dates of the fair: Sept 23 - Oct 3

Volunteers are needed to staff the booth. The MG booth is well visited. This year's focus will be Water Protection and Quality. An interactive stream demonstration table, on loan from Hanover-Caroline Soil and Water Conservation Department, will be a part of the display. There will be no charge for parking for volunteers.

Contact Christy to sign up for times that are still available. ctb47@comcast.net

Search for Excellence – Christy Brennan, Hanover

Members are needed for this committee. Please contact Christy to assist.

The 2011 International MG Conference (IMGC) is being held in Charleston, West Virginia, October 11 -14. <http://imgc.ext.wvu.edu/>

State Master Gardener Coordinator Liaison Report

Dave Close, State MG Coordinator www.hort.vt.edu/mastergardener

1. Nine agent positions have been advertised. It includes ANR, 4-H, and LCS agent positions across all districts.
2. National search is underway for an Extension Director. The College hired a consultant to oversee the search.

3. Restructuring Task Force Update – Three subcommittees have been collecting data from surveys. MGs have been invited to provide input on one of these and the survey was due by August 20. Information will be summarized and presented to Dean Grant in early September. The Task Force will meet and begin working on recommendations for three additional focus areas: create efficiencies, reduce administrative costs, and evaluate programs. Their goal is to have a preliminary plan to the Dean by late September.
4. Pest Management Guide – Updates and changes for the 2011 edition will be presented and discussed with agents at the annual pesticide safety training conference in September.
5. State Record Keeping System update –Have seven units willing to test the new system.
6. MGCAT will meet on August 25. The 2010 MG College had around 225 attendees. Dates for MG College 2011 will be June 21-26. The theme will be Land Care Stewardship.
7. Land Care Steward Project – the books are printed and sitting in my office! It is titled Smart Yard Care: Big Rewards from Small Investments in Stewardship. Can purchase online. \$19.95/copy including shipping. Cases of 50 for \$600/case. Will be going to Gettysburg, PA, to attend the 2010 Mid-Atlantic Firewise Conference, September 21-23, to present our work along with Frank Reilly and Barb Stewart of the National Park Service.
8. Will be making a presentation at the 2010 State MG Coordinators conference in Davis, CA, on Funding MG Programs. I will talk primarily about the Endowment efforts.
9. Opportunity for training and volunteer hours in partnership with FCS agents. There will be four trainings in October, one in each District, on Project Learning Tree (PLT) and how to use it to train early childhood development workers to promote outdoor environmental learning experiences for children in daycare settings. MGs and MNs can be trained as trainers but there will be an expectation to provide some volunteer service in return for the training. More details soon to come.

President's Report – Bill Scott, Prince William

VMGA membership: Why become a member?

To foster communication, education and fellowship among those involved in the Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Program and to support and promote the Program. (VMGA, Inc. bylaws, Art. II).

1. Communication: “The Voice of the Master Gardener”
The newsletter: What information are you looking for from VMGA? What will make it worth your while to read it?
2. Education:
Analysis: provide quality programs. MG College provides a level of education as good as any professional conference. Based on evaluation responses, this year's educational event held at VSU in March was well received.
3. Camaraderie

4. Define it
5. Work on increasing membership

Discussion:

Bonnie Bernard – Gloucester

The mini college was beneficial.

VMGA offers an opportunity to connect with units across the state

Many comments received regarding “Why do they make it so hard to give?”

The Gloucester unit voted to donate \$500 to the Coordinator Endowment

Kathryn Debnar – Roanoke

Kathryn is available to speak to units about the endowment

Fran Shelton – Virginia Beach

Suggested units share the article written by George Graine about the benefits of VMGA membership

George Graine – Fairfax

In reply to the President’s question: Is VMGA actively discussed with each new class of MGs in your unit? In Fairfax, yes; it continues throughout the year. Documents have been created on:

Why VMGA? , MG College and sign-up sheet for those interested in attending MG College

Benefits of VMGA membership--

Information dissemination on state budget information

Tina Chaleki – Central Virginia

Mini college: the time commitment is more achievable

MG College: other commitments may have taken priority

Joan Richards – Green Spring

Difficult to convince some members to attend MG College

Karen Coughlin – Halifax

Provide an introductory session about VMGA

Pat Coughlin – Halifax

He graduated in '09. Was unaware of VMGA and what it did until 2010 when he expressed interest in attending MG College.

Angela Cingale – JCC/Wmsbg

Attends local educational opportunities

Mary Ann Kincaid – VA Beach

Four or five units provide paid VMGA membership to its new members for one year.

Fifty percent of those members continue their membership.

Tom Bolt – Norfolk

A monthly “blurb” by VMGA would be helpful to be included in unit newsletters. This would provide monthly exposure to VMGA.

Additional comments made by:

Fran Shelton – VA Beach

Barbara Geer – Prince George

There is an informational/promotional powerpoint presentation available on the VMGA website that can be shown at unit meetings or trainings. http://vmga.net/vmga_preso.pdf

Unit Reports

Reports are due to the secretary by the 25th of the month following the bi-monthly board meeting. They will be posted in their entirety on the VMGA website.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Some of the VMGA members in Newport News are not receiving the newsletter. Mary Ann Kincaid instructed Anita Smith to send to her the list of those not getting the newsletter.

Jim Kincaid informed us there is an official form to use when requesting reimbursement for VMGA expenses. He will get the form posted on the website as soon as he is able.

Announcements

Next bi-monthly board meeting will be in Galax on October 9.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Fox, Secretary
Newport News

**VMGA, INC
BI-MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 9, 2010**

October 9, 2010 Meeting Minutes are not available at this time.

**VMGA, INC
BI-MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 11, 2010 (amended 11/5/12)
PALMYRA, VA**

HOSTED BY FLUVANNA MASTER GARDENERS

ATTENDANCE

Officers:

Beach

President Bill Scott, Prince William

Vice President Christy Brennan-Hanover

Secretary Peggy Fox-Newport News

Past President Betty Villers-Virginia Beach

VCE State MG Coordinator Dave Close-VT

Absent: Treasurer Jim Kincaid-Virginia

Guests:

Sarah Gugercin, VT, Research Associate, Horticulture

Vernon Meacham, VT, Director of Development, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Paige Gifford, Fluvanna Record newspaper

Unit Reps and VMGA Members:

Arlington/Alexandria: Joe Kelly

Bedford: Pat Waring

Central VA (Louisa): Edna Musser, Tina Chaleki, Jan Parrish

Charlottesville/Albemarle: Joyce Grunewald

Fairfax: George Graine

Fauquier: Jim Scibek

Fluvanna: JoAnne Henry, Connie Dombrowski

Green Spring: Joan Richards, Cyndi Bishop

Halifax: Bill McCaleb

Hanover: Cheri Haggerty

Henrico: Beverly Cochrane

Hill City: Deborah Straw

JCC/Wmsbg: Marilyn Riddle

Loudoun: Larry Burk

Lynchburg, Amherst, Campbell: Karen Sacasky

Newport News: Anita Smith

Northern Shenandoah Valley: Fran Gregory

Prince William: Janet Scott

Roanoke: Kathryn Debnar

Rockbridge: David Mims

Call to Order and Welcome

Meeting was called to order at 10:15am

Welcome by:

Connie Dombrowski, President, Fluvanna County MGs

Unit Introductions

Introductions:

Unit Reps and VMGA members identified themselves, their units and any VMGA office held.

The Unit representative roster was passed around and representatives were asked to update information and return the form to Peggy Fox.

For the Good of the Order:

The Virginia Gardener magazine is looking for writers. Following are the topics for which articles are needed.

April Growing corn in Virginia

June Landscape Design

Oct Growing lettuce

Nov/Dec Nuts in the home garden

No question from the president was presented for discussion at this meeting due to scheduled guest speakers.

The board was reminded to send Unit Reports to Christy Brennan by the 25th of the month in which the Board meeting is held.

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 2010 MEETING

Cheri Haggerty suggested including the last names of people mentioned within the body of the minutes. Minutes with corrections were approved. Any additional corrections submitted will be made to the minutes before posting to the VMGA website. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Bill Scott filled in for Jim Kincaid, VA Beach

No report was available due to Jim Kincaid's recent surgery. Bill Scott reviewed the general cash position and indicated that a detailed report would be presented by Jim upon his return.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

NEWSLETTER – Peggy Fox, Newport News, Content Editor

Send articles to Peggy Fox by the 20th of the month in which the bimonthly board meeting is held.

MEMBERSHIP

Cheri Haggerty is the new chairperson effective December 10th. As of December 11th there were:

572 total members comprised of:

- 415 active
- 7 auxiliary
- 150 lifetime

VA GREEN INDUSTRY COUNCIL – Cheri Haggerty, Hanover

- The council consists of any business in the “green” industry. The latest meeting discussed the restructuring of VCE and the Chesapeake Bay cleanup.

- *Updates to Virginia Agriculture United*

ANPC (Agricultural Nutrient Policy Council) commissioned analysis finds substantial differences between EPA and USDA data and models

The key concerns outlined in the report are:

1. EPA should not finalize the TMDL (total maximum daily load) until USDA and EPA reconcile differences in estimates.
2. Differences in land use are substantial.
3. Differences in hydrology and their implications need to be investigated
4. USDA and EPA model assumptions regarding cropland differ dramatically.
5. Major differences in the model frameworks and their implications need to be understood
6. The model results are substantially different and raise significant concerns that should be investigated and resolved before the TMDL is finalized.

- **Virginia Cooperative Extension meeting on 12/17 in Dayton. RE: Bay Issues**

To be held at Woodmen of the World on John Wayland Highway in Dayton.

This summer, the federal EPA ordered six states, including Virginia, to reduce the pollution in the waterways that flow into the bay. Area farmers say more mandates could raise food costs and drive them out of business.

Speakers include Virginia Tech professors, officials from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Virginia Cooperative Extension, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Environmentalists praised the action, but area farmers worry that costly mandates and regulation could drive them out of business.

In November, the U.S. Department of Agriculture released a report that said Virginia’s farmers had made progress in cleaning up their operations, but said more must be done before pollution reaches acceptable levels. Virginia's latest plan, submitted to the EPA a week ago, includes cost-sharing programs to help farmers reduce the pollution originating from their operations. Corey Guilliams, district conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service Harrisonburg office, will discuss which of these so-called “best management practices” are crucial to local agriculture.

- **Upcoming General Assembly**

The 2011 General Assembly Session will begin on January 12 and it appears that Bay-related issues, from urban fertilizer to nutrient trading to funding streams and much more will be hot topics of discussion. At the Legislative Commission meeting a few weeks ago, legislators mentioned 20 to 25 different environmental proposals that they may consider introducing as legislation in January.

- **Interviews being conducted for Extension Director**

Interviews and public presentations took place with the three candidates for Director of VCE. VT CALS Dean Alan Grant invited volunteers to participate in the selection process. The candidate information and seminar presentations were available online.

- Next Go Green Festival will be held in September 2011.

UNIT SUPPORT – Frank Reilly, Prince William

Bill Scott reported on behalf of Frank. No activity was reported for unit support.

COMMUNICATIONS – Frank Reilly, Prince William

Bill Scott reported on behalf of Frank.

Communications

Website activity: 24,152 visitors. Most enter through the homepage. Ninety changes have been made to the website. The Endowment page saw 225 visitors. Reminder to units: Under certain conditions, this committee can help units host their own website.

EDUCATION – Barbara Geer, Co-Chair, Prince George; Betty Jo Hendrix, Co-Chair, Western Tidewater

Ira Wallace, Central VA MGs

Bill Scott reported on their behalf.

1. October 16, 2010 “School Gardens” held in Natural Bridge was very successful. A very good presentation was provided by Rockbridge MGs. Approximately 50 attended.
2. SAVE THE DATE: The spring MG program conducted at Virginia State University will be held February 26, 9:00am-3:00pm. There will be 2 main tracks. Registration forms will be sent to coordinators December 15th. Registration opens Jan 1. Bill Scott complimented the committee on their efforts. This venue (VSU) allows us to work with VSU and their great facilities.
Fee for the program:
Current VMGA members: \$15
Non VMGA members: \$20
Fees are subject to change for future events.
3. Work is being done for the spring and fall programs. More details to come. Speaker suggestions are welcome.

MG COORDINATOR ENDOWMENT FUND vs FUNDRAISING--Bill Scott, Prince William

The fundraising committee raises money for VMGA. Over the past few years, money raised from the sale of t-shirts and other items has been designated to be contributed to the coordinator endowment fund. The MG Coordinator Endowment Committee focuses its energy on raising money specifically for the coordinator endowment.

P. DIANE RELF EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND—Leslie Paulson

No activity.

FINANCE

No activity at this time. Additional members are desired.

STATE FAIR—Christy Brennan, Hanover

Christy reported over 9500 contacts were made. The MG booth is included as part of the required educational tour for Richmond schools. Unit reps were asked to encourage their unit members to volunteer. Information handouts will be available digitally in the future. There was a good turnout of visitors despite three days of rain.

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE--Christy Brennan, Hanover

Applications for units to submit their projects for the International Master Gardener Conference (IMGC) are due by February 1, 2011. Awards will be given out at the International Master Gardener Conference in Charleston, West Virginia October 11-14, 2011.

Download applications and guidelines at

http://imgc.ext.wvu.edu/search_for_excellence. The key to this competition is to capture the results of your program and describe the impact of your program.

FUNDRAISING

This committee is still in need of a chairperson. Orders for Master Gardener merchandise can still be placed through Bill and Janet Scott.

STATE MASTER GARDENER COORDINATOR LIAISON REPORT

Dave Close, State MG Coordinator www.hort.vt.edu/mastergardener

1. Three candidates were interviewed for VCE Director: Mary Holz-Claus from Iowa State, Ed Jones from NC State, and Mike Parella from UC Davis. Not sure when the Dean will make a final decision and announce to whom the job has been offered
2. If your unit needs copies of the 2011 PMG, it is recommended that you download the pdf file and have it printed locally. VCE will not be printing and shipping copies of the 2011 edition.
3. The MG College Advisory Team met in October to continue planning for 2011 MG College which will be held June 21-26, 2011. We have outlined the keynote speakers, tours, workshops, and concurrent sessions. More details should be released soon.
4. Presentation at the 2011 International Master Gardener Conference (IMGC) was accepted. Dave Close will be teaming up with Frank Reilly and Barb Stewart to present our Smart Yard Care book and project.

5. Dave backed out of the People's Garden Initiative proposal due to lack of time to contribute. Still a supporting partner if they receive the grant. We will have access to the network they hope to establish and any trainings they would offer.
6. The Department of Horticulture has recently concluded interviews for three positions: one on campus and two at ARECS
 1. Rhizosphere Biologist – on campus; research & teaching split
 2. Tree fruit – Manchester; research & extension split
 3. Landscape/Green Industry – Hampton Roads; research & extension split, heavy on extension, less on research.
7. The Hort Department will go through a NIFA (National Institute for Food and Agriculture, formerly CSREES) review in January; we have compiled a document on our department that addresses all three mission areas: teaching, research, and outreach. I contributed to the outreach portion under the direction of Joyce Latimer.

Cheri Haggerty, Hanover, asked a question regarding any evaluation of the nursery pot recycling program by Dr. Latimer.

Issues are: sorting and storing of the pots.

This program has been piloted in the Richmond area. The Missouri Botanical Garden was recently featured on PBS for the pot recycling program.

SILENT AUCTION—Betty Villers, Virginia Beach

The auction will be held at MG College. A letter will be sent to units. There will be more information available at the board meeting in February. Donations from volunteers are needed. Help with planning and conducting will be provided by JCC/Wmsbg.

MAYMONT FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW

Dates of Show: February 10-11. Help is needed. go to www.macevents.com. Click on VA shows and the Maymont Flower and Garden show.

GUEST SPEAKER

Sarah Gugercin, VT, Research Associate, Horticulture

Spoke on invasion of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and the newly developed and released education module, "Emerald Ash Borer Monitoring and Management", for public audiences. EAB was discovered in Michigan in 2002. Virginia is one of fifteen infested states. It was discovered in Fairfax in 2003. A quarantine is currently in place on the transport of firewood, nursery material and wooden pallets.

The educational module is targeted for citizen science groups such as Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, Forestry, Parks, Arboriculture, Crop Advisors. The six modules require 10-20 minutes each to complete. They are hosted by the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) at the University of Florida. It was reviewed by six

*interest is earned on the current cash on hand and is rolled back into the principal.

GUEST SPEAKER—Vernon Meacham, Director of Development, CALS

Mr. Meacham discussed fundraising in general and specifically how he and his staff plan to work with VMGA to complete the funding of the Endowment. He noted as mentioned earlier that we would have to obtain corporate donations as well as individual contributions from the entire population of Master Gardeners in the State of Virginia. He then answered the questions of the Board regarding his estimate of what it would take to complete the Endowment (types of donors) and the Development Office's approach to potential donors. A handout listing suggested levels of giving and the number of gifts needed at those levels to meet the goal of \$1 million.

NEW BUSINESS

George Graine—Fairfax

RE: VCE restructuring. George spoke to his representative, Richard Saslaw. To have an effect and gain a listening ear in the state government you'll need to talk with Budget Committee members.

Cheri Haggerty—Hanover

How to talk with representatives in their home offices. There will be an Open Call on Jan 6. General Assembly session could start Jan. 12. The focus will be on environmental issues.

MG Units are usually invited to participate in Information Day during the week that VESA (Virginia Extension Service Association) sets up their displays. Cheri will check into this.

Next bi-monthly board meeting:
February 12 in Henrico

Meeting adjourned 2:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Fox
Secretary

**VMGA, INC
BI-MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 12, 2011 (as amended 11/5/12)
MAYMONT
RICHMOND, VA**

HOSTED BY HENRICO MASTER GARDENERS

ATTENDANCE

Officers:

President: Bill Scott, Prince William
Vice President: Christy Brennan-Hanover
Secretary: Peggy Fox-Newport News
Treasurer: Jim Kincaid-Virginia Beach
Past President: Betty Villers-Virginia Beach
VCE State MG Coordinator: Dave Close-VT

Guests:

Lisa Sanderson, Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources Horticulture,
Henrico County

Unit Reps and VMGA Members:

Albemarle/Greene: Molly Anthony
Arlington/Alexandria: Joe Kelly
Bedford: Pat Waring
Central Shenandoah Valley: Wes Ford
Central VA (Louisa): Edna Musser, Jan Parrish
Chesterfield: Lynne Foote, Dawn Lerch
Fairfax: George Graine
Fauquier: Jim Scibek
Franklin: Nelda Purcell
Gloucester: Bonnie Bernard
Goochland/Powhatan: Elizabeth Bass
Green Spring: Joan Richards, Cyndi Bishop
Hanover: Cheri Haggerty, Kim Singhas
Henrico: Beverly Cochrane, Landon Davis, Jean Boddy, Genne Johnston, Carolyn
Snyder, Sally Stockslager, Barbara Donley, Tatter Hartmann, Erica Gilliam, Anne Julias,
Linda Lang, M.E. Vetrovec, Annie Berry
Hill City: Deborah Straw
JCC/Wmsbg: Marilyn Riddle, Angela Cingale
Loudoun: Larry Burk
Louisa: Jerry Giaccai, Jan Parrish
Lynchburg, Amherst, Campbell: Karen Sacasky
Newport News: Anita Smith
Northern Neck: Peggy Lassanske
Northern Shenandoah Valley: Fran Gregory
Piedmont (Charlottesville/Albemarle/Greene): Joyce Grunewald, Pat Huber, Karen
Roney
Prince George: Barbara Geer
Prince William: Janet Scott
Roanoke: Kathryn Debnar

Rockbridge: David Mims
Virginia Beach: MaryAnn Kincaid
Janice Kohns

Call to Order and Welcome

Meeting was called to order at 10:15am

Welcome by:

Beverly Cochran, Unit Rep, Henrico County MG Association
Lisa Sanderson, Ext Agent, Henrico County. Lisa reported there are 120 Henrico Master Gardeners.

Unit Introductions

Introductions:

Unit Reps and VMGA members identified themselves, their units and any VMGA office held.

The Unit representative roster was passed around and representatives were asked to update information and return the form to Peggy Fox.

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 11, 2010 MEETING

Minutes were approved as presented.

TREASURER'S REPORT –Jim Kincaid, VA Beach

Report was accepted as presented and will be filed for audit.

It was announced the option to make a donation to the State MG Coordinator Endowment Fund is no longer available on the VMGA membership form.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

NEWSLETTER – Peggy Fox, Newport News, Content Editor

Send articles to Peggy Fox by the 20th of the month in which the bimonthly board meeting is held.

The Executive Committee, in July 2010, made the decision to discontinue the inclusion of unit reports in the newsletter and move to the current format. A “spotlight” on a single unit’s activity may take this place.

Unit reports are available on the VMGA website.

Unit reps are asked to send the contact information for their local legislator to Peggy in order to compile an address list for the purpose of sending the VMGA newsletter to legislators via email.

Unit reps were encouraged to send a copy of their unit newsletter to their legislator.

MEMBERSHIP—Cheri Haggerty, Hanover

652 total members comprised of:

- 495 active

- 7 auxiliary
- 150 lifetime

This is an increase of 80 members since December. Marilyn Riddle, JCC/Wmsbg, requested the names of her unit's most recent joining members for recognition at the unit level.

UNIT SUPPORT – Frank Reilly, Prince William

Bill Scott reported on behalf of Frank. No activity was reported for unit support. The purpose of this committee is to help local units.

COMMUNICATIONS – Frank Reilly, Prince William

Bill Scott reported on behalf of Frank.

Since December 2010, 11,394 visitors have been to the VMGA website. The most popular pages were:

- Educational Events
- About VMGA
- Membership

Updating—Frank Reilly and Dawn Meyerricks do their best to maintain the website. Bill Scott put out a call for assistance from additional volunteers. Betsy Lyon, Hanover, has responded.

Reminder to units: Under certain conditions, this committee can help units host their own website.

EDUCATION – Barbara Geer, Co-Chair, Prince George; Betty Jo Hendrix, Co-Chair, Western Tidewater

Ira Wallace, Central VA MGs

VMGA members were asked to provide current email addresses to the education committee.

Interns are eligible to attend the Day At VSU and other Education Committee events. Information from the workshop on Community Gardens held in April of 2010 is now available for units to use.

Email will be used to send out event registration confirmations.

26 Feb MG Day at VSU

127 registered

Volunteers are needed to act as moderators.

New plans:

1 April Backyard Fruits

Limit of 40

\$5 fee for materials

Rockfish, VA

Rocky Mount—Nelda Purcell

Planning an event on riparian buffers

Central Shenandoah—Wes Ford

Community Gardening—Local Foods—Sustainability
To be held in Harrisonburg/Staunton area
Sept/Oct date

If a unit hosts an annual event, please contact the education committee to inform them of the event, its date and its content so there won't be duplication or a scheduling conflict.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MG COORDINATOR ENDOWMENT FUND

Bill Scott reported on behalf of the committee.

The fundraising committee raises money for VMGA. Over the past few years, money raised from the sale of t-shirts and other items has been designated to be contributed to the coordinator endowment fund. The MG Coordinator Endowment Fund Committee focuses its energy on raising money specifically for the coordinator endowment.

The current balance of the Endowment Fund:

Cash on hand (includes gifts and pledge payments)	\$146,610.62
Outstanding Pledges	4,450.00
Dempsey Deferred Gift	100,000.00
Bequest	50,000.00
Interest Earned	<u>28,485.22</u>
TOTAL (as of Feb. 11, 2011)	329,545.84

*interest is earned on the current cash on hand and is rolled back into the principal.

VA GREEN INDUSTRY COUNCIL – Cheri Haggerty, Hanover

The council consists of any business in the “green” industry.

Chesapeake Bay: The EPA accepted the VA proposal.

Nutrient management plan.

VA Agri Business newsletter can be forwarded to anyone interested in reading it.

P. DIANE RELF EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND—Leslie Paulson

Leslie Paulsen, Prince William, is in the process of recruiting judges and distributing requests to the units.

FINANCE

No activity at this time. Additional members are desired.

FUNDRAISING

This committee is still in need of a chairperson.

Orders for Master Gardener merchandise can still be placed through Bill and Janet Scott.

Joyce Grunewald, Piedmont, had successful sales of items taken to her unit. The question of developing a sample packet of saleable items for unit reps to show to their units was brought up.

PROS & CONS

-the chairperson mentioned that having items on loan can create a problem with inventory when filling orders

-would orders be shipped or picked up at board meetings?

-logistics of inventory storage

STATE FAIR—Christy Brennan, Hanover

2011 dates: Sept 29-Oct 9

Christy had photos of the displays on hand. If any MGs have photos of their time at the fair, please forward them by email to Christy. The Stream Table will be used again this year. Junior MGs can volunteer.

STATE MASTER GARDENER COORDINATOR LIAISON REPORT

Dave Close, State MG Coordinator www.hort.vt.edu/mastergardener

Dr. Alan Gran, Dean CALS, announced on Feb 10, a new VCE Director has been hired.

Dr. Edwin Jones has served as associate director and state program leader for agriculture, natural resources, and community and rural development at North Carolina Cooperative Extension since 2004, and is a professor of forestry and environmental resources at North Carolina State University. He will assume his new position as associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech and director of Virginia Cooperative Extension on April 1, 2011.

Pest Management Guide 2011

The new edition will be available on the web March 1. Indexes will be at the end of each chapter.

Department of Horticulture positions filled:

Rhisoshpere Biologist: Mark Williams, MS State. June 1

Tree/Fruit Specialist-Winchester AREC: Gregory Peck April 1

Landscape/Green Industry-VA Beach AREC: another interview to be conducted

NIFA Review

The Horticulture Department completed their NIFA (National Institute for Food and Agriculture, formerly CSREES) review. The review team will be writing up a report and submitting it to us this spring. The Department will offer a response later this summer. Overall, it was very positive and Dean Grant was pleased.

MG College: June 21-26. This year's advanced training will be Land Care Stewards.

The Winter edition of *In Season* is now on the web.

VCE restructuring plan was rejected by legislators due to lack of input from stakeholders. Planning has been placed back on VCE.

Dr. Grant is an advocate for Extension.

*Cheri Haggerty can send the link to Friends of Extension to anyone who would like to receive their newsletter.

LUNCH

MG DAY AT VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY-Dawn Lerch-Chesterfield/Cheri Haggerty-Hanover

On Jan. 8, MGs were on hand to staff a display table.

Make it a big event—David Mims, Rockbridge. Proposed having representatives (6 or 7 kids) of school gardening programs accompanying the display to attract more attention.

How to improve visits to the members of the General Assembly

Organize MGs to make a more pronounced presence to the legislators.

Request a specific day designated as MG Day to be there during VESA week. (VESA stands for VA Extension Service Association.)

Begin planning for this in October. Must be coordinated through VCE.

A visit to the legislator's home office is most effective—Bonnie Bernard, Gloucester.

Create an organized committee (perhaps called Government Relations).

Louisa County Extension office provided a dinner for their Board of Supervisors to provide them with information and a show of appreciation.

When speaking with legislators, deliver the message quickly and to the point.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND UPDATE ON MG COORDINATOR ENDOWMENT FUND—Bill Scott, Prince William

A suggestion for raising money for the coordinator endowment fund was presented for discussion:

An organic blend of fertilizer would be sold through nurseries/retailers and a portion of the sales would go to the endowment. This arrangement would be similar to the fundraising done through Food Lion and Botanical Interests. Further research will be done. No manufacturer or retailer has been approached yet.

Questions raised:

Does this conform to VCE policy to not endorse a product? Or a particular retailer?

When/how/by whom would money be received?

What is the analysis of the fertilizer?

How will the sale of this fertilizer be affected by recent concerns over and possible restrictions phosphorus content of fertilizers?

Will MGs be responsible for seeking out retailers willing to carry this fertilizer or will it be the responsibility of VCE (Vernon Meachum)?

Concerns over the name of the product were voiced.

NEW BUSINESS

-MG College Silent Auction—Betty Villers, VA Beach

VA Beach and James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardeners are conducting the auction this year. Money raised from the auction will be donated to the State MG Coordinator Endowment Fund. An email message and form for auction item donations will be sent to VMGA members via email. Items can be brought

-The board was reminded to send Unit Reports to Christy Brennan by the 25th of the month in which the Board meeting is held.

-Christy Brennan is compiling a list of the names of Master Gardeners who have authored gardening articles for magazines. Please send name, email address and topic(s) of expertise to Christy.

-Newsletter: A poll was taken to determine whether unit reports should be included or not included in future issues of the VMGA Report.

Include: 10

Don't include: 7

Suggestions/comments

Inclusion of the unit reports was originally meant to highlight what units are doing: programs and projects that would be of interest to other units.

Spotlight one unit from each planning district, one unit per issue.

Create a uniform format for unit reports.

What do volunteers want in the newsletter?

-Speakers List/Bureau:

Kathryn Debnar has been the contact/clearing house for this. Unit reps should send presentation titles/topics and the contact info of MG volunteers who are willing and able to speak at events.

-Calendar of Events

Unit event announcements should be sent to Frank Reilly, frank@thereillygroup.net. Kathryn Debnar is no longer taking care of this.

-VMGA Website

Professional maintenance of the website will be researched.

-To help raise funds for the MG Coordinator Endowment Fund, order your seeds from Botanical Interests. Go to www.vmganet.net and click on the link. Twenty percent (20%) of the sales from orders placed through this link will be donated to the fund.

Thank you to Henrico MGs for hosting this meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next bi-monthly board meeting:

April 9 in Albemarle County, hosted by Piedmont MGs

Meeting adjourned 1:40pm

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Fox
Secretary

VIRGINIA MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION, INC.

BI-MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

APRIL 9, 2011

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

Attendance:

Anita Smith-Newport News
Barbara Geer-Prince George
Betty Villers-VA Beach
Bill Scott-Prince William
Bonnie Bernard-Gloucester
Carolyn Helmetsie-Nelson
Christy Brennan-Hanover
David Mims-Rockbridge Area
Deborah Straw-Hill City, Amherst, Lynchburg& Campbell
Edna Musser-Louisa
Fran Shelton-VA Beach
George Graine-Fairfax
Gwen Pote-Central Rappahannock
Ira Wallace-Louisa
Janet Scott-Prince William
Jim Kincaid-VA Beach
Jim Scibek-Fauquier
Joan Richards-Green Spring
Joe Kelly-Arlington/Alexandria
Joyce Grunewald-Albemarle/Charlottesville
Larry Burk-Loudoun
Laura Collinsworth-Central Rappahannock
Lynne Foote-Chesterfield
Mary Ann Kincaid-VA Beach
Nelda Purcell-Franklin
Pat Huber-Albemarle/Charlottesville
Pat Waring-Bedford
Pinky Derieux-Chesapeake
Shirley Winn-Prince William
Tina Chaleki-Louisa
Wesley Ford-Central Shenandoah Valley

Call to Order:

President Bill Scott called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

Joyce Grunewald, unit representative for Albemarle/Charlottesville, welcomed everyone to Charlottesville and introduced Dorothy Tompkin, President of the Piedmont Master Gardener Association. Piedmont Master Gardeners are active in several major projects in the community including: rose garden at the senior center, an active 4-H program, a re-entry program at the jail, and a demonstration garden at the Martha Jefferson Hospital.

Introductions:

Officers, committee members and representatives made their introductions.

Minutes:

Peggy Fox, Secretary-Newport News

Not present. Bill Scott asked for any questions, corrections or additions of the February 12 meeting minutes. He indicated there were two corrections to be made:

Treasurer's Report: Bill requested the report be accepted rather than approved and then filed for audit.

Newsletter: change the report to reflect that unit reports have been discontinued in the newsletter but are posted in their entirety on the VMGA website.

Betty Villers, VA Beach, reported those corrections have been completed. The February minutes were accepted with corrections.

Treasurer's Report:

Jim Kincaid-VA Beach

Copies of the treasurer's report were distributed. The second page needed to reflect a change to Miscellaneous Receipts. There are no miscellaneous receipts to date, please delete the figure of \$13,821.68 entered there.

A motion was made to accept the report as presented with the correction and filed for audit. Motion accepted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:**Newsletter:**

Peggy Fox, Newport News, and Dawn Meyerriecks, Hanover

Not present and no report was submitted. Please send all articles for the next newsletter to Peggy by April 20th.

Minutes have not been posted to the website for several months. Bill Scott is trying to get more volunteer help to update the website.

Membership:

Cheri Haggerty

Not present. Bill Scott read the report that was submitted.

As of April 1, 2011, there are a total of 716 VMGA members. Of these,

558 Active members

7 Auxiliary members

151 Life members

Life members consist of 11 Auxiliary and 140 Active. This is an increase in membership of 64 members since the February 2011 report. Forty four are trainees from Northern Shenandoah Master Gardener Association. VMGA Education events resulted in the registration of a number of new members.

There are currently 77 more VMGA members than were reported in April 2010.

Membership renewal time is approaching. There are 397 volunteers whose membership is up for renewal in May 2011.

Cheri distributed a Lifetime Membership information update survey in March. The last update of this category was conducted in 2008. Of the 151 update forms mailed electronically and via USPS, 99 responses have been received.

Unit Support:

Members: Pat Reilly-Prince William, Karen Sacasky-Hill City, Pinky Derieux-Chesapeake, and Frank Reilly-Prince William

The unit support committee kept up a budget issues website page. Two units called with questions but did not respond to phone messages. Three units inquired about tax-exempt status and the collection of sales tax; one unit asked about the relative benefits of incorporation.

The committee has placed information about all these items on the Unit Support web page. The tax collection rules in Virginia changed significantly in December 2010, making it easier to declare for non-collection of sales tax.

Communication Committee:

Frank Reilly-Prince William-Chair

Members: Dawn Meyerriecks-Hanover-webmaster, Cheri Haggerty-Hanover, Kathryn Debnar-Roanoke-calendar page, Shelby Snyder-Roanoke, Tom Bolt- Norfolk, Betty Truax-_____, George Graine-Fairfax,

Since the report for the February scheduled meeting there have been 2,994 unique visitors to www.VMGA.net . They visited a total of 20,563 pages. The web site has been updated on 144 separate occasions.

The most popular pages in the last two months have Calendar, Educational Events, "About VMGA" and Membership; but more than 68% of our page views come in through the front page.

Membership applications are available online at the Membership page.

MG College Scholarship information is available on the site.

The MG College page is up and a list of presentations to be offered will be available when we have some speaker data. There are presentations and FAQs about MG College available for viewing for those who have never attended.

A question from the membership was raised: Has anyone tested the links in the web site to learn if they are still operable? It seems to be difficult to get to the links page from the home page. Several other problems with this were also noted.

Bill reminded members that web site maintenance has had problems staying current with updates. VMGA is actively seeking volunteers to develop a support team. Dawn Meyerriecks and Frank Reilly will interview interested persons. VMGA does not have the funding to have the site professionally maintained. We would like to have an article submitted in the VMGA newsletter to solicit volunteers for updating the web site and to serve on the support team.

A suggestion from a member: Inquire about having a college student or students earn credit for IT studies while updating the site in a professional manner.

Education Committee:

Barbara Geer-Prince George, Betty Jo Hendrix-Western Tidewater

Bill Scott reported he has received notification of resignation from our two co-chairs of the Education Committee. They both have done a phenomenal job upgrading the Education Committee and planning regional educational events which have achieved a more complex and advanced level of training. The programs have been very professional and running like clockwork due to the commitment of the co-chairs. Both Barbara and Betty Jo would like to stay active as a part of the committee.

Barbare Geer reported the committee would not have run as smoothly without the help of Ira Wallace-Louisa County.

Recent EC events include:

February MG Day at VSU. A total of 14 speakers, 2 major theme tracks, 142 registered MGs, 136 attended. We have developed a good rapport with Dean Jewel Hairston of VSU, who wants to continue our partnership and become more involved.

April 1: Held at Afton/Rockfish Community Center. Presentation on Backyard Fruits. 39 registered. 37 attended. Net profit of \$54.79.

Two upcoming programs have been scheduled:

September 24-Harrisonburg.

How MGs Can Play a Role in Food Systems: Supporting a market garden and activities to utilize local produce. Keynote speaker will be the local Commissioner of Agriculture, Matt Lohr. More information will be available as the date approaches and plans are confirmed.

October 22.

Nelda Purcell announced an education event will be held at the 4-H camp at Smith Mountain Lake. The theme will be Good Landscaping Practices for Buffer Zones and Landscaping Practices to Protect Water Quality. Attendees will be offered overnight accommodations used by the 4-H camp.

The education committee is always looking for unit projects which can be showcased and also create a focus for area educational programs. The goals of the committee were to have at least two to four advanced training programs per year and to build programs and resources to have available to units.

To avoid scheduling conflicts, the committee has learned it is important for units to inform the committee of their area training events which occur annually.

Units are encouraged to send a list of speakers and presenters to Kathryn Debnar-Roanoke, in order to build a resource for all units to use. Mary Ann Kincaid-VA Beach, has volunteered to write a small article for the newsletter concerning the development of this list.

State Master Gardener Coordinator Endowment:

Bill Scott-Prince William

The new committee is about to become active. This committee is still in need of a chairman and could use the help of other members. Please let Bill know if you or someone you know is interested in serving on this committee. The committee will be focusing on a plan that will seek out all Master Gardener volunteers to assist in getting the endowment fully funded. The hope is to develop a list of potential corporate sponsors. The current balance of the endowment is \$331,160. This is equal to 30% of the goal of \$1,000,000.

The decision of going forward on the proposal of sales of organic fertilizer for the purpose of raising funds for the endowment was left up to the VMGA executive committee. The main concerns voiced were the current issue of fertilizer use and the health of the Chesapeake Bay and the promotion of the product by Master Gardeners. The proposal has been tabled for now.

An idea presented by an unidentified member.

This year their unit added a request to the annual unit membership dues reminder for members to make a donation to the Coordinator Endowment Fund. Another unit asked for donations to the fund. That unit (unidentified) was pleased to present a donation check in the amount of \$1,000 to the endowment from this activity. **Virginia Green**

Industry Council:

Cheri Haggerty-Hanover

Cheri was not present. No report was submitted.

P. Diane Relf Education Endowment Fund

Leslie Paulsen-Prince William.

Leslie was not present. There will be a team of six judges to determine who will be awarded the six scholarships plus an additional \$150 scholarship given anonymously which was requested to be given to someone with a financial need. The deadline for applications is May 13. Unit representatives should remind their MG Coordinators and Agents to nominate MGs from their unit. This year's judges are: Jack Price-Four County, Jim Kincaid-VA Beach, Margie Bosco- _____, Tom Bolt-Norfolk, and _____.

Finance Committee:

Pat Waring-Prince William, Jim Kincaid-VA Beach, Bill Scott-Prince William
All will be meeting during lunch at this meeting and will also be contacting committee chairs regarding preparation of the 2012 budget.

Audit Committee:

Deb Straw-Hill City
If you are interested in serving on this committee please contact Deb.

Fundraising Committee:

Bill Scott reported that VMGA needs a new chair for this important committee. Bill and Janet have been filling the role of the VMGA Merchandise Sales Coordinator and must release this role in May 2011 due to other commitments. We do not want to shut down this important contributing committee to the State MG Coordinator Endowment Fund. Please contact Bill if you are interested in chairing or co-chairing this function.

State Fair

Christy Brennan-Hanover
This year the State Fair will be held September 28 through October 11. Please contact Christy for more information about your unit volunteering at this event.

State MG Coordinator:

Dave Close, VCE
Dr. Edwin Jones arrived on April 1 to begin as our new VCE Director and Associate Dean. Dave will be meeting with him later this month to discuss the VCE Master Gardener program.

The 2011 version of PMG Home, Grounds and Animals is now available. Individuals may order copies online. If you wish to place a bulk order, your local Extension office should work through Sarah McCoy on campus to process this. Copies for Extension MG Hort Help Desks have been sent out. If your unit has not yet received their copy, they should be in the queue for shipment.

Dave met with the Director for the Institute for Distance and Distributive Learning to discuss making a portion of the MG training class available online. We will be moving

forward with this as an option and hope to have something available by 2012. This will not be designed to replace current models of face-to-face training, but an added option for those who wish to complete a portion of their training online.

Sarah Kelly from the Ag, Human and Natural Resources Information Technology group (AHNR-IT) from our College and Dave conducted a one-day training session in Charlottesville on March 31 for the new Volunteer Management System (VMS). Representatives from eight units who offered to be pilot locations for testing the system and rolling it out to their volunteers participated. They still have much work to do in developing training resources, but these eight units have been given permission to start playing with the system and finding things that need to be modified before it is rolled out statewide. Dave hopes to have the new system fully implemented by the end of calendar year 2012. This may be an ambitious timeline, but it is the target for which we will shoot.

Dave has received emails regarding MG College and details relative to the 2011 conference. The MG College Advisory Team will meet April 11 in Charlottesville to work toward finalizing crucial details. Dave hopes to release at least some preliminary information with respect to keynote speakers and concurrent session topics very soon. He would like to apologize for this information being even later this year than years past, but will have information out soon. Please be patient and please encourage your colleagues to block off the week of June 21-26 on their calendar and join us. Dave assured us, it will be an enjoyable time as always.

Dave was on the road quite a bit this late winter and early spring doing Risk Management trainings. The training has been done a couple of times remotely using Adobe Connect. He will be conducting another training session via Adobe Connect next week. If your unit struggles to have this topic covered, please have your agent or training coordinator contact him. He has also done a number of presentations to local units on the west side of the state to explain to new trainees and interns what it means to be a VCE MG volunteer.

Dave has traveled more and presented more in the last three months (Jan-Mar) than the last year or so combined. It has been good to be out in the local units again to connect with folks at the personal level. He asks that we not hesitate to ask, but be aware he might not be able to accept the invitation or may have to negotiate the time you would like him to visit your unit. His calendar dates between May 1 through June must be protected for MG College planning and preparation. Outside of May and June he is willing to travel where he is needed when available.

Bonnie Bernard, Gloucester, reported the VMS is very user friendly and can do a lot of record keeping for each unit.

President's Report

Bill Scott-Prince William

Most items have been previously discussed. David Mims and Barbara Geer are excited about working with the Dean Jewel Hairston at VSU and strengthening the relationship. Bill thinks this will be a real asset for Virginia Master Gardeners.

New Business:

George Graine-Fairfax

George distributed a handout package to promote MG College which he had developed for Fairfax MGs. Volunteers in his unit who are interested in attending MG College are kept informed of news and information by regular emails.

Silent Auction:

Betty Villers-VA Beach

Betty has developed a cover letter and donation form for auction items. To date, three items have been donated. All units are encouraged to contribute to this fundraiser for the State MG Coordinator Endowment. Last year's auction raised over \$4,000 for the endowment.

Search For Excellence:

Christy Brennan-Hanover

The entry form to be used for this year's competition will be posted on the VMGA website. Feedback from last year's event indicated a need for more time to set up displays on Thursday night.

It is hoped all units will participate in the competition this year.

Please contact Christy to request electrical hookup or special lighting for your display.

Old Business:

Please help recruit volunteers for the position of VMGA Merchandise Sales Coordinator.

Next board meeting will be the Annual Board Meeting to be held on Saturday, June 24, at MG College, Blacksburg, VA.

Meeting adjourned 1:30pm

Minutes recorded by Christy Brennan, VMGA Vice President.

Respectfully submitted:

Peggy Fox
VMGA Secretary

VIRGINIA MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION, INC.
BI-MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
JUNE 24, 2011
BLACKSBURG, VA

ATTENDANCE

Bill Scott, President, Prince William
Christy Brennan, Vice President, Hanover
Barbara Greer, Prince George
Betty Villers, VA Beach
Bill McCaleb, Halifax
Cyndi Bishop, Green Spring
Dave Close, VT/VCE
George Graine, Fairfax
Jim Scibek, Fauquier
Joan Richards, Green Spring
Joe Kelly, Arlington/Alexandria
Pat Waring, Bedford

CALL TO ORDER

Bill Scott called the meeting to order at 5:15pm

It was determined that a quorum was not present to conduct official Association business.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee reports were deferred to the annual VGA meeting to be held on Saturday, June 25, 7:00pm.

The Bi-monthly board meeting will be re-scheduled for approval of the minutes and outstanding business items.

Motion to adjourn. Seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm

Recorded by Christy Brennan, Vice President

VIRGINIA MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION, Inc.

ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 25, 2011 (as amended 11/5/12)

BLACKSBURG, VA

MASTER GARDENER COLLEGE

CALL TO ORDER—Bill Scott, President, Prince William

Meeting called to order at 7:08pm

INTRODUCTIONS

None

ATTENDANCE

Sign in sheet not circulated

SECRETARY'S REPORT—Peggy Fox, Newport News

Corrections to be made to June 2010 Annual Meeting minutes

Strike "board" from heading

The budget attached to the minutes is the draft, not the approved budget

Minutes accepted as corrected.

TREASURER'S REPORT—Jim Kincaid, VA Beach

No report. The Treasurer's Report has been deferred until August due to the hospitalization of the Treasurer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EDUCATION COMMITTEE—Barbara Geer, Prince George; Betty Jo Hendricks, Western Tidewater; Ira Wallace, Central Virginia

Update on members: Ira is doing well with treatments for cancer.

Betty Jo's husband has returned home.

Upcoming Events

Sept 24: Cultivating Community Food systems

Oct 22: Water Wise Landscaping

Feb 25: MG Day at VSU

It was noted that MG Day at VSU is scheduled for the same day as the Greenspring Symposium.

Ideas are needed by the committee for future event planning.

Bill Scott: Educational events are one of the benefits of being a member of VMGA. Quality classes are offered that are on par with MG College.

NEWSLETTER—Peggy Fox, Editor, Newport News; Dawn Meyerriecks, Layout, Loudoun; Tom Bolt, Electronic Distribution, Norfolk

There was a glitch encountered with the layout of the May/June issue of The Report which caused the delay of publication. Please send articles and unit newsletters to Peggy by July 10 for the July/August issue.

Bi-monthly mailing of the newsletter by USPS averages 88 and 725 by email.

MEMBERSHIP—Christy Brennan, Hanover, interim chair

Cheri Haggerty recently stepped down from position of committee chair. This has caused a delay in receipt of membership applications. New or renewed membership apps should be sent to Christy until a new chairperson takes the position.

Membership stats as of May 31, 2011:

733 current members

568 active

9 auxiliary

156 lifetime

Membership as of May 31, 2010: 639

The roster was distributed by email without incident. A hardcopy can be mailed by USPS.

UNIT SUPPORT—Frank Reilly, Chair, Prince William

Members: Pat Reilly (Prince William), Karen Sacasky (Hill City), Pinky Derieux (Chesapeake), Cheri Haggerty (Hanover), and whomever else we need.

Questions about:

501(c)3

Association vs Corporation

Sales tax exemption

Answers are posted on the Unit Support page of VMGA.net

Currently 3 units are incorporated, 9 units are officially 501(c)3.

COMMUNICATION—Frank Reilly, Chair, Prince William

Members: Dawn Meyerriecks (Loudoun), Cheri Haggerty (Hanover), Kathryn Debnar (Roanoke), Tom Bolt (Norfolk), George Graine (Fairfax)

Over 100 inputs for the Calendar of Events were received for FY 2011.

Over 24,000 visitors to the vmga.net website were recorded.

FINANCE

Members: Pat Waring (Bedford), Jim Kincaid (Virginia Beach), Bill Scott (Prince William)

FY2012 Budget Assumptions June 1, 2011 to May 31, 2012

Membership dues are based upon prior year actual collections.

Revenue from education activities is projected on past experience and forecast to offset expenses.

Fundraising revenue represents income from the sale of t-shirts and other merchandise. Silent auction revenue will be given directly to the VT Foundation and will not flow through VMGA records.

The combined line item for Communication/Support expenses is composed of \$225 for Communications and \$50 for the Unit Support Committee.

Education represents the expenses of FY2012 educational activities forecast at a break-even level. Refer to the related income in the revenue section of the budget.

EEF Scholarships are forecast to be paid from operating funds in FY2012. The current VMGA endowment does not generate sufficient revenue to fund the scholarships and growth accumulation.

Election expenses represent the estimated costs of conducting the biennial election of officers using electronic means like the newsletter is done. Approximately 450 ballots were sent by email and 125 by U.S. Postal Service.

Fundraising Gifts to VT Endowment represent the contribution of revenue from the sale of merchandise described above to the endowment for the state coordinator.

Membership & Roster expenses approximate the costs of producing the membership directory and other expenses incurred to acquire new members in FY2012.

Newsletter expenses are composed of printing costs and postage and labels to provide for the mailing of 90 issues. This assumes the remaining 725 copies are provided electronically by email.

VGIC—Cheri Haggerty, Hanover

Bill Scott reported.

VMGA has held membership in the Virginia Green Industry Council since 2007.

VMGA Representatives:

Dawn Lerch, Chesterfield

Cheri Haggerty, Hanover

Met with Dr. Grant multiple times to discuss the future of Extension and to let him know of their support.

Arbor Day, April 29th with VNLA – The Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association (VNLA), representing the Virginia Green Industry Council (VGIC), donated a new landscape garden featuring ‘Plants of Distinction’ from the Beautiful Gardens® Plant Introduction Program. The design and plants were donated by various VGIC members.

Plant More Plants Program

The Plant More Plants program is a VA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) program implemented with a grant from The National Fish and Wildlife Federation. The program is designed to encourage consumers to plant more plants to beautify their yards and or neighborhoods. The VGIC will help promote this program to the green industry.

Recycling of Poly and Plastic Pots

The first stage of the recycling program has been concluded. More than a truckload of material was collected, separated and packed. A donation of \$417.00 was made to the Virginia Master Gardening Program. The entire project was a great success and will be continued in the Richmond area.

5th Annual VA Garden Festival was held at the Science Museum in Richmond. The VMGA staffed a Plant Clinic booth, conducted hands on Strawberry DNA and volunteered in other capacities. 25 MG volunteers, 100 hours and 450 contacts. Attendance was very low around 1000.

2011 GO Green VA Garden Festival

Saturday, September 10th at the Science Museum of Virginia in Richmond.

Ongoing VGIC Concerns 2010-2011

Chesapeake Bay

Storm water runoff

Fertilizer applications on non-Ag land

Recycling of Poly and Plastic Pots

Plant More Plants Program

The future of Extension

To volunteer, contact Dawn Lerch or watch for an email closer to the event.

dhlerch@vt.edu

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE—Christy Brennan, Hanover

2010 SFE Winners

Demonstration Gardens

1st Place – VA Beach MGs

The New Kitchen Garden

2nd Place – Henrico MGs

MGs Help Families

Honorable Mention – York County MGs

MGs at the Market

General Master Gardener Accomplishments

1st Place – Hanover County MG Cheri Haggerty

The History of VMGA: A Work in Progress

Innovative Projects

1st Place – Prince William County MGs

BEST Lawn Projects

Community Service

1st Place – MGs of Arlington & Alexandria

I Can Shine Gardens

2011 SFE Winners

1st Place—Hanover County MGs

Workshops and Presentations

Wormathon

2nd Place—Arlington/Alexandria

Demonstration Gardens

Community Garden

3rd Place—Bedford Area MGs

Special Audiences

Therapeutic Gardens

4th Place—Northern Shenandoah MGs

Frederick County Jr. MG

5th Place—Virginia Beach

Jr. Master Gardener Camp

Brag Board participants

Piedmont

James City County/Williamsburg

This year's judges:

Brian Calhoun, Associate Director, Community Viability, VCE

Bob Meadows, State 4-H Director Emeritus, VCE

STATE FAIR—Christy Brennan, Hanover

2010: Displays included Stream Table, Strawberry DNA, Insects. Our booth and the educational demonstrations were well received by the State Fair Staff, teacher reviews and Master Gardeners. For 2010 we borrowed the Stream table from Hanover Soil and Water. The Stream table gives a hands-on demo of the types and effects of erosion. The Master Gardeners were very enthusiastic about the new demo and we received positive comments from teachers who brought their classes to the Fair and appreciated a modern, hands-on and educational activity in which their students could participate. Several days of downpours threatened the attendance and our table skirting but not our spirits!!

23 Different Counties in VA were represented by the Master Gardener Units and Volunteers.

2007 - 5973 Contacts

2008 - 7962 Contacts

2009 - the first year at The Meadow Event Park; 8000 Contacts

2010 - over 9300 Contacts

2011 State Fair of Virginia

Sept 29-Oct 9

www.statefair.com

Lots of educational opportunities!!

- Composting
- Rain Barrels
- The Insect Cage
- Vermicomposting
- The Stream Table

Contact Christy to reserve a time to provide staff for the booth. ctb47@comcast.net

Christy encouraged everyone to enter items for competition at the fair.

www.statefair.com/competitions

FUNDRAISING—Janet Scott, Prince William

Bill Scott reported.

VMGA has many logo printed items available for sale for the purpose of raising funds for the State MG Coordinator Endowment Fund. Pictures of these items can be viewed on the VMGA website www.vmga.net . Items were not available at this year's College. New chair persons are needed for this committee.

Total sales for FY2011: \$2552.50

SILENT AUCTION—Betty Villers, Chair

2009 - over 150 items donated.

2010 - over 215 Items donated.

This fundraiser has provided annually \$4,000 the past two years.

Thanks to Virginia Beach, JCC/Wmsbg and Suffolk MGs for their help.

STATE MG COORDINATOR'S REPORT—Dave Close, VCE

State Record Keeping system

If your unit is ready to try the new system, contact Dave to let him know. The system was developed by UC-Davis and has been successful there. It will be

implemented here and used across the state. When the system goes “live”, the present system will be archived and its data will be copied, pasted and “dumped” as a lump sum into the new system. Bill Blaire, of Gloucester MGs, commented that the system is easy and user friendly.

New Dean

Dr. Edwin Jones, new Director of VCE, as of April 1, 2011. He plans to stay here at Tech for a long term.

Email address list

The list of volunteer’s email addresses is being updated in order to make sure all receive the quarterly newsletter from Dave.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT—Bill Scott, Prince William

Year in Review

Continuing Education Programs

Coordinator Endowment –Botanical Interests

Money raised through seed sales \$50

VMGA and VCE/CALS

Meeting with: Dr. Edwin Jones, Director; Cathy Sutphin, Associate Director, 4-H Youth Development ; Roger Harris, Professor, Horticulture; Dave Close, VCE; Bill Scott, VMGA; Christy Brennan, VMGA; Peggy Fox, VMGA.

MG Participation – MGCAT, State Fair, VGIC Garden Festival

State Budget Cuts

Thank you to all units who hosted VMGA meetings in 2010/11

August 2010 Newport News

October Galax

December Fluvanna

February 2011 Henrico

April Piedmont

June MG College

Volunteer Opportunities available:

VMGA Merchandise chair

Membership chair

Education Committee

Silent Auction Committee

2011/2012 VMGA Meeting Schedule

August Fairfax/Greenspring

October Roanoke

December Halifax

February Prince William

MG College 2012 25th Anniversary June 21-24, 2012

NEW BUSINESS

Unit reports are due July 10

Newsletter articles due July 10

Barbara Geer, Prince George

It would be helpful to reinstate the bi-monthly President's Question to be discussed at the bi-monthly board meetings.

The winner of the 2011 MG College Raffle: Cheryl Pisani of Suffolk

Meeting adjourned 8:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Fox

VMGA Secretary

Newport News