

**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.

State Fair expenses are forecast at \$400.

**P. DIANE RELF EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND**—Leslie Paulson, Chair, Prince William

Money awarded for MG College Scholarships continues to be drawn from the principal of the endowment.

This year's \$100 scholarship winners:

<u>Small Unit Selectees</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Ext Agt/Coordinator</u>
Pat Coughlin	Halifax	Bill McCaleb
<u>Large Unit Selectees</u>		
Jim Scibek	Fauquier	Tim Ohlwiler
Margaret McGough	Hill City	Pamela Hanse
Maggie Hart	Prince William	Nancy Berlin
Betty Villers	Virginia Beach	Susan French
Jeff Mays	Hanover	Pattie Bland
<u>In Memory of Virginia Craig</u>		
Cathy Smith	Central Rappahannock	Gwen Pote

**BUDGET**—Bill Scott reported  
Proposed FY2012 budget attached.

**STATE MG COORDINATOR ENDOWMENT FUND**—Bill Scott, Prince William

Current Status – May 31, 2011

Cash on hand	\$153,429.68
Outstanding pledges	4,750.00
Dempsey deferred gift	100,000.00
Lerch deferred	50,000.00
Interest	<u>30,350.11</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$338,529.79</b>

We are 1/3 complete at reaching our goal of \$1,000,000. Future plans include soliciting corporate funding. The committee will meet to develop a plan.

**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 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:ctb47@comcast.net)

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

[www.statefair.com/competitions](http://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.vmgga.net](http://www.vmgga.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

Education Committee

Membership chair

Silent Auction Committee

#### 2011/2012 VMGA Meeting Schedule

August Fairfax/Greenspring

October Roanoke

December Halifax

February Prince William

MG College 2012 25<sup>th</sup> 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