**From the President**

**Georgi Hall, Loudoun County**

# President’s Letter May 2023

We had a nice size group join us in Falls Church on April 8th for our Bimonthly VMGA board meeting. I want to thank the Fairfax Master Gardeners for hosting us and Leslie Paulson for coordinating the breakfast finger foods and the lunch. Everything was delicious. Thank you to all who traveled to join us and to Frank Riley for making the Zoom connection.

After our board meeting, we remembered our friend and fellow master gardener, George Graine who passed away August 18th 2022. We recognized George with the “Friend of Master Gardener Award .

Please consider hosting our October or one of 2024 VMGA Bimonthly board meetings. It is great to see people in person from around the state and exchange ideas.

I am looking forward to Master Gardener College June 8 through 11 and hope to see many of you in person this year. EMGs participating in Tree Steward Training in 2023 will start Wednesday, June 7, at 9 AM and spend that day and the next in dedicated classes plus a field trip to the wonderful trees at Historic Smithfield on the Virginia Tech campus. Early registration for Master Gardener College ends May 17 and late registration ends May 31st. Classes are offered on a first come first served basis, so make sure to register early to make sure that you get the classes you want. Switching schedules is not advised unless you trade spots with someone. All the classes with limited enrollment are filled by pre-registrations, and there will not be enough materials for unregistered attendees. Our VMGA Annual Meeting will be Friday, June 10, 4:30pm at Master Gardener College.

We really need to encourage more of our EMG Volunteers to join our state association to take advantage of what VMGA offers. Please consider talking this up as you host events and meetings locally. Imagine our membership roster growing to over 550 members with potential for even more. Direct your volunteers to our website https://vmga.net/wordpress/vmga-membership-applicationrenewal-form/ or contact Tonya Harper at membership@vmga.net. Current VMGA members, be sure you renew your $12 annual membership which will expire on May 31 or consider renewing as a Continuing Member for a one-time payment of $120.

Thank you

Georgi Hall

VMGA President – President@VMGA.net