

Minutes of the April Regularly Scheduled Meeting of The Virginia Master Gardener Association, Inc. April 8, 2006 Norfolk

Attendance

(Bedford) Bob and Patty Gamache; (Chesapeake) Pinky Derieux; (Fairfax) George Graine; (Fauquier) Jim Scibek; (Gloucester) Florace Arnold, Bonnie Bernard, Mary Simpson; (Goochland/Powhatan) Chuck Miller; (Halifax) Bill McCaleb; (Hanover) Cheri Haggerty; (James City County/Williamsburg) Ann DeForest, Anne Odle; (Norfolk) Lynn Adams, Tom Bolt, Jackie Camire, Linder Fox, Paula Griffiths, Marcia Oubre, Don Snipes; (Northern Neck) Bill and Pat Rogers; (North Shenandoah Valley) Bud and Fran Gregory; (Prince George) Cheryl Sebera; (Prince William) Frank and Pat Reilly, Bill and Janet Scott; (Roanoke) Kathryn and Ken Debnar; (Rockbridge/Bath) Ted Jenks; (Suffolk) Betty Freedman; (Virginia Beach) Paul Campbell, Mary Ann Kincaid, Fran Shelton, Betty Villers; (Virginia Tech/VCE) David Close; (Western Tidewater) Betty Jo Hendrix; (York) Jackie Lohr

Call to Order

President Bill McCaleb called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Introductions

Tom Bolt, Norfolk Master Gardener introduced Donald Buma, Executive Director of the Norfolk Botanical Garden, who welcomed us to the Garden and told us some of the projects they are working on, including the new 3-acre Children's Garden, World of Wonders, which is in the construction phase. Everyone was invited to take a tram ride through the Garden after the meeting for a closer view.

Introductions followed around the room.

Treasurer's Report - Pat Reilly

Treasurer Pat Reilly reported:

Overall Balance of Accounts

Checking Account Balance	\$7,499.28
Money Market (including PDR EEF of \$4238.27)	\$7,653.97
CD Balance	\$6,494.29
Total Overall Balance of Accounts	<u>\$21,647.54</u>

Balance as of 11/30/2005	\$8,289.41
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Income

FY 06 dues	\$168.00
Fund Raising	\$45.00
CoordEndow	\$450.00
Total income	\$663.00

Expenses

Membership	-\$194.71
Newsletter	-\$655.09
Elections	-\$361.41
Comm/Unit Support	-\$41.00
State Fair	-\$142.59

President (State Corp Comm)	-\$25.00
Treasurer	-\$33.33
Total expenses	-\$1,453.13

Balance as of 3/31/2006

\$7,499.28

Year to Date Income & Expenses to Budget FY 06

Income YTD

Committee	Budget	Income	Remaining
Membership			
Regular	\$5,640.00	\$3,530.00	\$2,110.00
Lifetime	\$1,560.00	\$1,530.00	\$30.00
subtotal	\$7,200.00	\$5,060.00	\$2,140.00
EEF	\$0.00	\$179.00	
Education	\$3,000.00	\$1,143.59	*
Fundraising	\$3,000.00	\$6,152.00	*
total	<u>\$13,200.00</u>		

Expenses YTD

Committee	Budget	Expense	Remaining
Comm/Support	\$450.00	-\$292.35	\$157.65
EEF	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
Elections	\$360.00	-\$361.41	-\$1.41
Endowment	\$200.00	-\$89.41	\$110.59
Marketing	\$150.00	-\$180.00	-\$30.00
Membership	\$1,600.00	-\$1,321.37	\$278.63
Newsletter	\$3,500.00	-\$2,537.90	\$962.10
State Fair	\$220.00	-\$142.59	\$77.41
Fundraising	\$150.00	-\$6.90	\$143.10
Officers Expense			
President	\$75.00	-\$45.00	\$30.00
Vice President	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
Secretary	\$35.00	-\$10.54	\$24.46
Treasurer	\$35.00	-\$35.75	-\$0.75
subtotal	\$7,200.00	-\$5,023.22	\$2,176.78
Education	\$3,000.00	-\$1,153.10	*
Fundraising	\$3,000.00	-\$2,506.90	*
total	<u>\$13,200.00</u>		

	Budget	Income	Expenses	Remaining
Education	\$3,000.00	\$1,143.59	-\$1,153.10	-\$9.51

Fundraising	\$3,000.00			
Auction		\$3,487.00	-\$6.90	\$3,480.10
Flags		\$2,265.00	-\$2,100.00	\$165.00
		\$5,752.00	-\$2,106.90	\$3,645.10

Report was accepted pending annual audit.

Pat proposed the budget for next year be based on current year budget. Thanks to Virginia Beach MGA for contribution to the Diane Relf Scholarship in memory of Leonard Kaplan, VBMG who passed away this past year.

Minutes - Betty Villers

December minutes were corrected to read "training for Plant Introduction Program was conducted October 19 in Bedford" instead of Lexington.

Extension Liaison - Dave Close, MG Coordinator

President McCaleb gave Dave's report while Dave was home due to the birth of his daughter.

New VCE logos that will complement the new VT logo (Invent the Future) have been approved both by VT and VSU VCE administration. It is expected (assuming no problems with the vendor) that temporary nametags will be available by the end of summer. Dave expects the new nametags for existing volunteers will be made available close to the same time as the temporary tags.

The AAG Committee (Joyce Latimer, Bonnie Appleton, Leanne Dubois, and Dave Close) held a Green Industry Partners meeting on March 29 in Richmond to discuss their continued involvement with AAG. A separate meeting is being planned for May 4, in Williamsburg at the Jamestown Settlement for our Outreach Partners. Cheri Haggerty, VMGA VP and President-elect has been invited to represent VMGA at this meeting. Continuing to add state agency partners to the project – Department of Social Services, VDOT, Scenic Virginia, The Garden Club of Virginia, Historic Garden Week. Four wholesale merchandise items are now in production and available for MG units and associations to purchase and resell at retail rates. The clothing items include t-shirts, baseball style hats, embroidered aprons, and embroidered polo shirts. The updated list and with wholesale prices were forwarded to the VCE-MGC listserv recently. A potential national partner may be the Junior Master Gardener program. If that works out we may have access to more than 3 million elementary students and more than 200,000 teachers across the nation and will develop an AAG garden contest through the Weekly Reader program. This is all still tentative and hinges on the national JMG office receiving a grant to work out all the details.

Draft MOU was approved by VCE Administration and the template has been shared with ANR agents throughout the Commonwealth.

"Extension Master Gardener Help Desk" – Just a reminder to continue working at phasing this in during the year.

State Record Keeping System – Team (Dave; Sarah Kelley, VCE ANRH-IT; Michelle Prysby of the VA Master Naturalist program; Peter Warren VCE agent in Albemarle; Marie Taylor, VCE MG in Albemarle; Amol Kaikini VCE MG in Fairfax) met in mid-March and worked through system requirements for the new SRKS. A data model was produced and a prototype system was developed in real time at our meeting. We will invite a few people to test (and try to break) the new system during MG College. Good progress is being made but ANRH-IT will not yet release a timeline for a final product.

Wildlife Chapter for MG Training Manual - Met with Carol Heiser of DGIF in March to discuss the content and format for a wildlife chapter that will be incorporated into the Master Gardener Training manual. Her agency (not by her choice) is requiring a written agreement or understanding with VT. Best case scenario – chapter will be available this fall; Worst case scenario – the chapter will be available early 2007. Carol and Dave determined the content (with the help of suggestions solicited from the Coordinator listserv) and she is working on a rough draft of the chapter.

Endowment Effort – Met with Max Bales and Vernon Meacham (the corporate development office for CALS) to explore some potential corporate donors/sponsors for the endowment. Have made contact with one corporate group and will be making a second one soon. Max and Vernon each have personal contacts with both corporations. They will certainly keep everyone posted on the progress of this effort. They are also planning a couple more dinner meetings with local MG associations. If your local association would like to have one of these meetings to discuss the endowment please let Dave know and he will arrange it.

MG College – Have met with the team from the Office of Sponsored Programs to walk through this year's process; Have also met with the housing folks to iron out some of last year's problems and plan for this year's attendees. There should not be a problem with linens and have asked for additional personnel to speed up check-in.

Tour of VA – Since February, have met with MG associations/groups in Fredericksburg (Central Rappahannock MG Assoc.), Norfolk, and Chesterfield. Was set to meet with Franklin County and the Henry/Martinsville groups but had to cancel. Scheduled to meet with Wise County MGs in early May.

Pod casting – Mike Goatley and a few folks from the Department of Hort are going to begin producing pod casts on a variety of season-specific topics. A prototype of the website is up and running. New podcasts will be posted on a regular basis beginning in the near future. This will also be a way to disseminate some information regarding the MG program (what it is, what it means to be a VCE MG, how to become a VCE MG, impacts of the program, keynote speakers at MG College, etc.) Dave has spoken to the ANRH-IT staff about recording the keynote speakers at College this year and podcasting those once College is over. He doesn't know if there will be a fee for those or not.

Miscellaneous -

MG College Advisory Team (MGCAT) was scheduled to meet on March 31 but the meeting was cancelled and will either be rescheduled or handled via teleconference.

Spring issue of *In Season* - will be sent out via listserv again. A very limited number will actually be printed since it will be the MG College issue and therefore twice as many pages as a normal issue.

2005 VCE MG Annual Report - will be completed this month; hope to print a few copies and also post to the web. 2005 total volunteer hours, contacts, and program highlights for nearly all 53 MG units will be included. Dave hopes to have copies distributed to all delegates and senators.

Southeast MG Conference - Hope to attend in early June but will not make the Northeast MG Conference.

Chesterfield MG group - has scheduled Horticulture Horizons for April 24, 2007. They have expressed an interest in working with VMGA (regarding publicity and having a table to sign up new VMGA members). The Chesterfield Office should have or will be contacting Fran Shelton and Pinky Derieux about the event and to discuss VMGA's potential involvement.

Dave's report will be sent by email to unit reps after this meeting.

President's Report - Bill McCaleb

President Bill McCaleb reported he put in letters of support for two grant proposals, one letter directed to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the Department of Horticulture, and the other letter directed to the Tobacco Indemnification and Revitalization Board in support for the VA Nursery and Landscape Association/VCE Plant Introduction Program.

America's Anniversary Garden - agents will have forms to record all activities including contacts, locations and special events. There is a proposal for involvement of Ward Burton as spokesman to promote AAG.

MG College -

Registration fee: \$125 (same as last two years); same discounts based on milestone award achievements.

On-campus room and board: \$56.15 plus tax for a single or \$45.65 plus tax for a double.

Meal card with off campus housing: \$20.65/day for all three meals; individual meals are \$4.75 for breakfast, \$7.15 for lunch, and \$8.75 for dinner; you can buy individual meals with cash only, no credit cards.

Inn at VT -- block of rooms set aside at \$99/night.

Other hotels -- the Holiday Inn (across the road from the Inn at VT), AmeriSuites (on Prices Fork just across from the old Red Lion Inn). In Christiansburg (right off 460 and less than 15 minutes from campus there is a Hampton Inn, Microtel Inn & Suites, and a Best Western/Motel 8. Nice B&B's also available.

Schedule includes tours, garden tours, and speakers.

This information and schedule with speakers will be sent by email to unit reps and board members after this meeting.

Plant Introduction Program - Berry Hill Irrigation in Mecklenburg has agreed to put in drip irrigation in all MG evaluation sites. The PIP label means plant was developed, propagated, greenhouse grown or field grown and sold in Virginia. The earliest plants will be released is 2007. Propagation will include cell culture on hellebore from Pine Knot Farms and columbine. Money will be coming back to VCE which will benefit the MGs. Patty Gamache (Bedford) reported they have already put in irrigation there.

Don't forget to send **milestone hours** by April 14 to Dave Close. Awards night at MG College will be Thursday night.

Would like to include Hort agent training during MG College but it won't happen this year. Working to have the training Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday next year. It will be our 20th Anniversary of the MG College in 2007. Are encouraging Hort agents and MG coordinators to attend leadership development training this year Tuesday and Wednesday.

Meeting with Dr. Mark McCann, staff and VMGA executive board, February 20 - we shared our history, where we started, where we've come from, where we're going and talked about the endowment and our programs. with Mark McCann. He reported Virginia has more Hortline people than many states. The VMGA history that Betty Villers gave at the meeting will be included in the next newsletter.

Met with Michael Dirr on March 18th and talked about their MG program in Georgia. March 3rd attended the Virginia Naturalist Program which we will hear more about at MG College.

Vice President - Cheri Haggerty

Our venture with Hanover MGs at Maymont Flower Show in February included thirty three MGs from fourteen units. There were 630 contacts and had more comments on the AAG theme than we could keep track of. In January MGs from Hanover, James City/Williamsburg and Chesterfield attended the state General Assembly to assist the VESA, Virginia Extension Agents group to answer questions. They had about 100 contacts in about six hours in the halls. They will be better prepared next year with numbers to share from Dave Close.

Committee Reports

Education - Fran Shelton and Pinky Derieux, Co-Chairs

Fran Shelton reported the committee will be working with Cheri Haggerty for the fall program at Maymont in Richmond. More information will be provided at MG College.

Newsletter - Florace Arnold, Editor

Florace Arnold thanked Tom Bolt and Mary Ann Kincaid for putting the newsletter online. It has gone very smooth and response has been great. Instead of the usual folding, stapling and stamping 430 plus newsletters, only 142 were folded with the last issue. Thanks to those that have sent articles for the newsletter. Mary Ann reported a savings of \$900 in printing costs and \$315 for postage for the two electronic email newsletter distributions.

Membership - Mary Ann Kincaid, Chair

Mary Ann Kincaid reported we have 554 active members, of those 138 are lifetime members. Renewal notices will be sent in next few weeks to those with expiring membership in May. Most will go by email and about 60 by mail. Letters will be sent to lifetime members for changes in information. Also included is a form stating if circumstances change and the MG can no longer maintain active status, they can sign up for auxiliary status for \$12.00.

Communication/Unit Support - Frank Reilly, Chair

Unit Support

Members: Pat Reilly, Karen Sacasky, Pinky Derieux, Susie McCrea and Frank Reilly and whomever else we need. We have no activity to report for this period

Communication Committee

Members: Cheri Haggerty, Shelby Snyder, Kathryn Debnar and Chair Frank Reilly and whomever else we can get. Since the December regularly scheduled meeting there have been 32861 visitors to VMGA.net.

1. Since the February regularly scheduled meeting, the web page has been updated on 57 separate occasions. Included in the edits is a working On-line Membership application thanks to Jim Villers. Also included are PayPal links to pay dues, and to make donations to both of our endowments.
2. The most popular pages have been Endowment, Minutes, Unit Reports and distressingly enough, the Prince William Page we are incubating on our site. Remember that we can help you host your site for awhile under certain conditions.
3. The page of links to local unit/association websites has been updated. It now contains links to 19 local associations. Not all of these sites are being kept current, and at least one of the links is dead. Please check with your unit to see if they have a site, if it is listed, and if the address we have is correct.
4. A new page to promote MG College is now open. It contains information about scholarships, and soon will have links to a recruiting PowerPoint presentation – much shorter this year, and suitable for on-line viewing, as well as a longer version for those who have not been to MG College before.
5. We are searching for some new committee members. We will have to replace Cheri Haggerty since she is assuming the Presidency. Please contact the chair at webmaster@vmga.net.

President McCaleb reported Frank has provided unit support to Pittsylvania County along with support from Danville, Campbell County, Henry County and Bill's help. Appomattox County has 6 Master Gardeners and Bill will be speaking before their group this fall before they start their second class training.

Finance Committee – Bill Scott, Chair

Members: Pat Reilly, Margaret Van Winkle, Ted Jenks, Al Thompson and Bill Scott. Committee is working on budget for next year and committee chairs will be contacted for budget needs. Budget should be ready by early May.

State Coordinator Endowment Committee – Pat Reilly, Chair

Thanks to Western Tidewater MGs for their donation of \$100 in memory of Pat O'Leary. Pat and her husband, Judd gave generously of their time and spirit to the MG program. We received \$9.95 from the Food Lion Lion's Share program to be added to the endowment. Remember to enroll in the Food Lion program and then use your card. Our endowment account balance is \$67,256.70, with outstanding pledges of \$29,185.00 for a total of \$96,441.70. It doesn't include charitable remains annuity (\$100,000 or more) given to endowment by an anonymous Virginia Beach MG. Looking for \$3,560.30 so we can meet the initial \$50,000 challenge. Looking forward to a benchmark celebration at MG College that will include another wine tasting and silent auction.

Remember to sign up for the Food Lion Rewards Program at www.foodlion.com and use the city of Goldvein as the city where you are signing up.

State Fair - Christy Brennan, Chair

Cheri Haggerty reporting for Christy stated the State Fair will be a week later next year, September 28 - October 8. There will be more information at MG College when Christy will run a one-hour program 'How to volunteer at the State Fair'.

Nominating Committee - Jim Scibek, Chair

Members: Paul Campbell, Jackie Lohr, Karen Sacasky, Pat Reilly, Shelby Snider, Don Saunders and Jim Scibek. Five hundred twenty-five ballots were mailed in January received back 303 ballots. Results - President, Cheri Haggerty; Vice President, Betty Villers; Secretary, Angela Cingale; and Treasurer, Ted Jenks. Motion made by Pat Reilly to make bylaw change to allow voting by email was seconded and carried by the membership present. Committee to change wording in bylaws is composed of Pat Reilly, chair, Fran Shelton, Pinky Derieux, Tom Bolt, and Kathryn Debnar.

Education Endowment Fund (EEF) – Paul Campbell, Chair

Paul Campbell reported the scholarship application is on the VMGA website with all the directions and Dave Close has sent it on his listserv. Applications must be submitted by Extension Agent or MG Coordinator for the \$100 scholarships to MG College. There will be at least six scholarships. Applications must be submitted electronically.

Fund Raising – Cheri Haggerty

Cheri Haggerty announced her resignation as Fund Raising Chairman due to other commitments. Pat Reilly reminded us the silent auction is our biggest money maker for the time involved and that perhaps additional sales are not as important. Will need help at MG College for the Silent Auction. Suggestions for this year include having new books, not used or outdated. Pat Reilly has records from last year, what was donated and what brought in the money, so you can direct your solicitations there. We need volunteers to coordinate this. Bill McCaleb has the breakdown of the counties by districts. Also, need some unit to take on responsibility of goodie bags. Bill already has items donated.

Unit Reports –

Unit reports were given at this time. They can be found in the newsletter and on the VMGA website.

Unfinished Business

Tom Bolt (Norfolk) reported the checks for the Master Gardener license plates will be shredded.

New Business

Tom Bolt will gather information on license plate frames for VMGA to sell. He has found plastic frames as low as 77.3 cents. Looking for white frame with dark green letters and VCE Master Gardener wording at bottom with option for local unit to add name to top of frame.

President McCaleb appointed an audit committee composed of Bill Scott, Jim Scibek and Ted Jenks with Bill as chair to report at MG College.

Another fund raiser opportunity for local units includes AAG items. Contact Bill McCaleb by email for more information on sale of AAG t-shirts, polo and collared shirts, and hats. There are flyers available promoting the AAG with plant lists.

Announcements

Next Board Meeting - June, MG College

The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 p.m.
respectfully submitted,

Betty Villers
VMGA Secretary