

December, 2012

TIMESHEETS ARE DUE December 20th

UPCOMING MEETINGS

All meetings will be the third Sunday of the **month**, and we will meet at 4pm, except January, 2013 will be at 2. All will be pot luck. Each county coordinator will be responsible for providing the eating utensils, plates, coffee/drinks. (Check with hosts of private homes if you have any questions.)

- **December.** No meeting
- **Sunday, January 15, 2pm (not 4pm), Fort Valley Nursery**, in Woodstock. Terry Vogel will be the speaker. Rather than having a pot luck, we will have finger food and light refreshment, while enjoying the wonderful ambience of the Ft. Valley Nursery cafe area.

Directions: From I-81, take exit #283 Woodstock. Go west on Rt. 42 and take left on Hisey Ave. (just past Tractor Supply Company). Fort Valley Nursery will be located on your left 1/4 mile.

OTHER EVENTS

- **Sunday, December 9, 1pm, Virginia Native Plant Society Second Sunday Walk, Front Royal.** Master Naturalist Richard Stromberg will lead a walk on Dickey Ridge Trail from the north entrance of Shenandoah National Park. The focus of the walk will be trees and remnants of summer flowering plants. We will meet at the pull-off parking just past the "You are Southbound on the Skyline Drive" sign, before the Park Entrance Station. For more details, please contact Richard at piedmontvnps@gmail.com.
- **Sunday, January 20, Virginia Native Plant Society Winter Speaker Series.** Janet Davis of Hill House Nursery will speak on "Covering Your Tracks & Climbing the Walls: Using native groundcovers and vines" at Tri-County Feeds in Marshall. Contact piedmontvnps@gmail.com.

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING MINUTES by Suzanne Boag, Secretary

See [Board Meeting Minutes on NSVMGA Website](#)

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NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING by Mary Craig

The November meeting was held at the Warren County Government Center in Front Royal. The budget for 2013 was discussed and voted on and our annual election was held. Let's thank Cy Haley for staying on as President. She's done a fantastic job and we look forward to her leading us through another great year! Helen Lake has stepped up as Vice President and she will be great in that position. Suzanne Boag is staying on as Secretary. She quietly (especially this month) works behind the scenes on the minutes, attendance and in general, keeping us organized. David Freese has volunteered to be Treasurer. He'll be a great addition to the Board.

Thanks to outgoing Board members Angie Hutchinson (although we won't let her get far, she will be Co-Coordinator for Frederick County) and Luann Laundry, who did a wonderful job as Treasurer, even with her very busy schedule.

We had our usual wonderful potluck. If you missed it you missed great food and great fellowship, as always.

2013 PROGRAMS by Helen Lake

I will be looking to (and encouraging) our membership to contact me directly with topics or specific speakers that they would like to hear from. We have a lot of talent and broad experience amongst our membership so heads up- you might be getting a call from me!!

HISTORIAN REPORT by Mary Craig

2013 will be the 20th anniversary of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association!

I think we should do something special. I'm not sure what. There were some great ideas batted around at the meeting. If you have any ideas for how we can celebrate, please let me know. If we can get a committee formed we can really do something special, I'm sure. Please send any and all ideas to mcorneliac@centurylink.net.

CLARKE COUNTY by Mary Craig

The most exciting thing going on in Clarke County is that we will be hosting the 2013 Master Gardener Class! And what better place to hold the class than Blandy! It's a great location, it's easy to get to from any direction and the classroom is a good size. There's plenty of parking, too. We have assembled a great team of Coordinators to run the class and things are moving right along. Now, if you know of anyone who would like to take the class, please get their information to Rich Howell, our "Student Liaison". He will be getting in touch with them to let them know the What, Where, When and Why of the 2013 Class. If you'd like to help with the class in any capacity, let Elizabeth know and she'll give the team your information.

Other than that, there is not much going on in Clarke. We'll all enjoy a break from the weekly farmers' market for the winter. I'm sure, though, by spring we'll all be ready to get back out there and catch up with all our friends in Berryville.

QUIZ OF THE MONTH

Last month's question was, "What does adherent mean? Mary Flagg was the only one to submit an answer: "In botany, something adherent is congenitally united with an organ of another kind....as calyx with ovary or stamens with petals." The question master is on vacation.

EDITORS CORNER by Richard Stromberg

The Northern Shenandoah Valley lost a great gardener last month when Dennis Mitchell died. He was 86. Many of the Warren County Master Gardeners know him from when he was the mainstay of the Front Royal Farmers Market or saw him selling vegetables on the corner by the cattle exchange or some other corner. They also enjoyed his tomatoes at various restaurants. He lived up the hill from me and he and his wife Sue welcomed us here fifteen years ago. Every year he planted a thousand tomato plants (who's counting?), plus potatoes, beans, beets, etc. I remember Master Gardeners complaining at our monthly meetings that farmers markets didn't have beans. Dennis did! He was not an educated man and was not a Master Gardener, but no one could doubt his effort and ability to grow vegetables. When he discovered that I was knowledgeable about gardens, he welcomed me to pick whatever I wanted. He always had plenty to eat, can, give away, sell, and share with the insects and critters.

He enjoyed telling stories about growing up in West Virginia. My favorite was the postman delivering the mail on horseback including bringing Dennis a hundred chicks that Dennis had ordered to make some spending money. After seeing the world in the Navy during WWII, Dennis settled in Winchester, working almost fifty years at a sawmill. He would buy any discounted wood and taught himself to be a carpenter. He built himself three houses, including the one up the hill. His ability to do things declined when he got macular degeneration and Sue and he began to have health problems that required several ambulance trips to the hospital. Five years ago they moved to a house on Route 50 across from the Walmart west of Winchester—and very close to Winchester Hospital. There he had room for "only" 500 tomato plants. He set up a stand in front of the house to sell them. We knew things weren't well with him when we last visited him because he told customers to just take what they wanted because he didn't feel up to staying out there and selling. As his daughter said in the email telling us of his passing, we always figured that he would just keel over in his tomato patch.