

**Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association Meeting
 Sunday January 16, 2011
 Fort Valley Nursery, Shenandoah County**

President John Dickhute brought the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. He began by reminding MGs why we are here, and listed the following reasons: to support Virginia Tech's Horticultural Programs, to provide horticultural information to the public, to provide a meeting place for those with similar horticultural interests, and John added to have fun. John pointed out that there are around 150 MGs and he asked that we volunteer and step up a few hours at a time.

Secretary's Report: John stated that the minutes were posted. Suzanne Boag spoke up and said that the minutes were not posted as Randy Langford had sent them out to the membership by email. Suzanne offered a hard copy should anyone wish to read the minutes. John asked for any corrections. Johan Guss made a motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Philip Wilkinson and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Scott Hinkle presented the report as follows:

**Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardeners Association
 Treasurer's Report
 January 12, 2011
 Financial Position**

Checking Balance-November 21, 2010		\$4,229.38
INCOME: Membership Dues (4)	+	40.00
MG 2011 Class Tuition	+	4,854.50
EXPENSES: Gifts for two county coordinators	-	100.00
2011 Class expense	-	131.51
Administrative supplies	-	21.08
		-252.49
Checking Balance – January 12, 2011		<u>\$8,871.29</u>
CD balance with interest, 12 mo, 1%, 05/04/2011 maturity		\$5,113.24
CD balance with interest, 18 mo, 1%, 01/21/2012 maturity		<u>\$5,012.60</u>
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE		<u>\$18,997.13</u>

OTHER NSVMGA TREASURY ITEMS

1. NSVMGA is now registered with the IRS as a 501c(3), not for profit organization.
2. NSVMGA EXPENSE OUTSTANDING-Upon receipt of 2011 class manuals, a payment of \$3,480.00 will be paid.

Respectfully,
 Scott Hinkle
 Treasurer NSVMGA
 scotthinklemg@yahoo.com

Committee Reports

Communication/Publicity: Lennie Mather said she needs input from MGs regarding where to advertise in each county and what events are taking place.

Education: Vacant. John asked for volunteers for this committee.

Class of 2011: Class Co-coordinator Mary Stickley reported that 37 people had registered for the class, which begins February 1. All MGs are invited to attend the classes and will receive education hours for each class attended except for the very first class, which will be primarily administrative. An abbreviated syllabus will be sent out to the membership. The cut off for registration is next Thursday, Jan 20. A reporter will be invited to attend a class as the basis for an article about the training. Mary said that role playing will be part of the class training and will involve common questions MGs encounter on green lines or at farmers markets. Volunteers are needed for the role playing exercises, which will take about 30 minutes of your time. Cy Haley has already volunteered, but more volunteers are needed. A short version of the syllabus will be posted on the website. The MG class runs from February 1 to May 6 from 9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the EPS facility near Gander Mountain in Winchester.

Finance: No report.

Membership: Mary Craig has updated the membership list, which is located on the webpage under membership. Mary also brought with her Master Gardener Directory Information Sheets if anyone would like to complete one for our webpage.

Programs: Cy Haley, Pat Burslem, and Marianne Pagington comprise the committee. February's meeting program is set and they are working on March, April and May. Future meeting programs will be posted on the webpage as well as in the newsletter.

Newsletter: Richard Stromberg was not present.

VA MG Liaison: Fran Gregory said Master Gardeners are having a tough time convincing legislators that MGs are needed. Dave Close's position is in jeopardy. Fran will update us on MG College soon. Fran added that all MGs should consider joining VMGA. For more information please contact Fran at: fgregory@directv.net. John added that the cost of MG College is reduced by volunteer hours. Mary Stickley commented that MGs need to have completed 50 hours to be eligible to attend.

International MG Conference: The conference will be held in Charleston, WV from October 11 through 15. The website for the conference is: <http://imgc.ext.wvu.edu>. John encouraged all MGs to consider going to the conference. There will be a contest for recognition of exceptional projects. GardenFest and Junior Master Gardeners are possibilities.

County Reports

Clarke: John announced that Mary Craig is the new coordinator for Clarke and Susan Garrett will be the co-coordinator.

Frederick: John announced that Teri Merrill is the new coordinator for Frederick and she is in need of an assistant.

Page: Shelby Hadelor gave the report for her husband, George, who is the county coordinator. She reported that Page County has 9 active MGs. They operate a green line that receives about 10 calls per month and they conduct home visits as well. John asked Shelby to meet with him and Randy after the meeting regarding some help they would like to offer to Page County.

Warren: Marsha Burd announced that there will be a meeting about the Belle Boyd Cottage Garden on January 20 from 10 -12 at the Samuels Library, Conference Room A. All Warren County MGs will meet on February 1 at the Samuels Library in Conference Room B. Warren County has submitted 5 project applications so far for 2011. Frank Baxter said the lecture series will be held at the Samuels Library the first Saturday of every month at 1:00 p.m. February 5th the topic will be, "Chase Away Winter Blues with Green Plants." Marsha will email the details to the membership.

Shenandoah: Carolyn Wilson, Johan Guss, and Luann Laundry are all co-coordinators and met last week to discuss county projects. Shenandoah will have a full county MG meeting the second Saturday in March. Shenandoah's green line operates 24/7 via computer.

Volunteer Coordinator: Randy Langford introduced a new transfer MG, Elaine Harshman. Randy urged MGs to get MG Project Applications turned into their respective county coordinators. Randy added that Teri Merrill, Frederick's County Coordinator, needs someone to help her. Randy had ready certificates to be awarded to MGs for milestone volunteer hours, but none of the recipients were present to receive their rewards. The certificate recipients were:

Robert Danko	50 Volunteer Hours
Adele Skolits	50 Volunteer Hours
Barbara Thompson	50 Volunteer Hours
Georgeanna DuBois	250 Volunteer Hours
Randy Robinson	250 Volunteer Hours
Elke Thomas	250 Volunteer Hours
Tom Mack	1000 Volunteer Hours
Marilyn Thuss	1000 Volunteer Hours

Old Business: There was a request from the floor for any old business carried over from last year. John stated that we had a nice party at the end of the year and don't have anything carried over.

New Business: John said that timesheets need to be turned in. He asked that MGs please send their timesheets to his home address, P.O. Box 87, Mt. Jackson, 22482, if they do not have a computer. John asked that MGs pay their dues by the end of February. MG dues should be sent to Treasurer Scott Hinkle. John advised that Scott was present at today's meeting and available to collect dues today.

GardenFest: Lynn Hoffman and Carolyn Wilson will be chairing GardenFest, which will be held June 4, the first weekend in June. They will send out an email to all MGs asking for volunteers.

Facebook Page: John announced that we are now on Facebook. Our schedule of activities will be posted there and it will tie into other Facebook pages.

Project Approval Process: John explained the new project approval process. The forms are available on our website. Project leaders will send applications to their county coordinators. County coordinators will review/approve and send on to Volunteer Coordinator Randy Langford. He will review and present project applications to the Board for review/approval. The Board will vote to approve/disapprove each project application submitted. The Board approved project applications will then be sent by the Volunteer Coordinator to our VCE Agent, Bobby Clark.

Organizational Chart: John asked those present how many were aware we had an organizational chart on our webpage. He explained that the positions of VA MG Liaison and Class Coordinator were not on the chart and the Board had voted to add these positions to the organizational chart. John Dickhute, Bob Carlton and a couple of other people will comprise the Bylaws committee and will work on changes to include these new positions in the bylaws and guidelines.

Treasurer's Laptop: John announced that our Treasurer had a computer and it flat lined. He continued to say, so we have to spend some money to get him a new computer. Of all the people, the Treasurer has some important information he needs as we are registered with IRS we have some legal things we have to do. John said we have a need for about \$800 and presented three estimates ranging from \$699 to \$850 that he said would suffice. He said the requirement include something big with a 17" screen to read spreadsheets and a side key pad. He added that because it is over \$250 he understood that we have to go to you all, and asked for a motion. Bob Carlton made a motion to purchase the Treasurer a laptop to not exceed a cost of \$850, which was seconded by Cy Haley. John asked for all those opposed. Pat Burslem requested a discussion prior to the vote. Pat expressed concern that this would set a precedent for buying computers for other Board members or MGs who feel they need a computer for MG business. John offered a counter to her argument explaining the Treasurer had some very important information he needs to keep on the computer and asking him to use a personal computer is not appropriate because it is official business. A spirited discussion took place among the membership. Some were concerned about insuring an expensive piece of equipment like a laptop, while others worried that a lot of MG equipment has been lost. Susan Garrett pointed out that we had the money. Mary Stickley added that we don't want the computer with our financial reports to be shared. Suzanne Boag said she spends hours working on the minutes as Secretary and knew she would need a computer when she took the position. She said she felt volunteers should understand volunteer positions and requirements of those positions before they volunteer and should not expect a volunteer organization to pay for a laptop for their personal use. John countered that Suzanne did not have to report to the IRS as the Treasurer does. Phil Wilkinson said he felt that any officer who needs a computer to do MG business should get one. John then closed the discussion and called for a show of hands for and against the purchase of a laptop for the Treasurer. He then announced that the motion had carried.

Agendas: John promised that the week prior to meetings, Agendas will be available to the membership.

Teleconference: John informed the membership that as part of our technology advancement, the next Board meeting will be a teleconference. John said we're going to try some new things this year.

MG Speakers: John said there is a list on the website. Paula Brownlee is giving a talk on January 18 and is asking for those interested in learning to speak publicly to come along with her. John asked that MGs see Paula if interested.

Next MG Meeting: Our February meeting will be held at the Warren County Government Center. Sandy Wilson, President of the Front Royal Tree Stewards will be our guest speaker.

Bob Carlton made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Anna Mae Ortgies seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Immediately following the meeting, MGs were treated to two Fort Valley Nursery speakers, Terry Fogle and Chris Schmidt. The topic revolved around gardening activities to do now. Their talks were followed by another plentiful MG feast.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Boag
NSVMGA Secretary

January 16 2011 MG Meeting Attendance				
Loretta	Allison		Randy	Langford
Frank	Baxter		Luann	Laundry
Suzanne	Boag		Ellen	Markel
Skip	Bowling		Lennie	Mather
Debbie	Boyd		Teri	Merrill
Paula	Brownlee		Esther	Miller
Marsha	Burd		Martha	Mitchell
Pat	Burslem		Anna Mae	Ortgies
Bob	Carlton		Marianne	Pagington
Mary	Carlton		Belinda	Palmer
Laurie	Cocina		Ernie	Polanskas
Mary	Craig		Katherine	Rhindt
John	Dickhute		Joan	Sarna
Shelley	Duffus		Mal	Sarna
Susan	Garrett		Mary	Stickley
Fran	Gregory		Sandra Dee	Thompson
Johan	Guss		Liz	Valiulis
Ron	Guss		Chuck	Walters
Shelby	Hadeler		Sally	Walters
Cy	Haley		Phillip	Wilkinson
Elaine	Harshman		Carolyn	Wilson
Scott	Hinkle			
Lynn	Hoffman		Guests	
Roberta	Johnson		Tom	Brownlee
Theresa	Krause		Larry	Miller