

## NORTHERN SHENANDOAH VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWS

November, 2012

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

All meetings will be the third Sunday of the **month**, and we will meet at 4pm. 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.)

- **Sunday, November 18, 4pm, Warren County Government Center, Front Royal.** Annual business meeting and elections

**Directions** From the north end of Front Royal (I-66 exit 6 or Virginia Route 55 from Strasburg), take US Route 522 south. After you cross the second bridge (South Fork of The Shenandoah River), turn left at the stop light. Follow until you come to the next stop light and turn left onto Commerce Avenue. Proceed through the 6th Street light and come three more blocks (Post Office sign will be at the corner of 3rd & Commerce Avenue). Turn right onto 3rd Street, and the County Government Building is on the left. From the south end of Front Royal, take US 340 north through town. Turn right onto 2nd Street at Autozone. Go 2 blocks and turn left after you pass Warren Avenue into the Government Center parking lot (just before you get to the stop sign at Commerce Street).

- **December.** No meeting

### OTHER EVENTS

- **Sunday, November 18, 2:30pm, GardenFest Planning Meeting, Warren County Government Center, Front Royal** (before the monthly meeting). If interested in helping with coordination, events, advertising, or logistics, please plan to attend.
- **Tuesday, December 25, all day, everywhere.** Christmas

**SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING MINUTES** by Suzanne Boag, Secretary

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

**SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES** by Suzanne Boag, Secretary

See [Meeting Minutes on NSVMGA Website](#)

**OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING** by Mary Craig



Our October meeting was held at the Shenandoah County Government Center in Woodstock. This month we did things a little differently and the speaker was first on the agenda.

Gary Deoms was the speaker and he gave us wonderful information on Home Orchid Culture and Problems. He had examples of the different types of orchids to show us including these. He was very informative

and covered everything from potting them to the pests to watch out for, such as scale and mealy bugs.



We then had our business meeting followed by a great potluck. If you possibly can, you should try to get to the meetings. It's a wonderful way to meet your fellow MGs and keep up with what's going on in the Organization. We hope as many of you as possible will be at the November meeting, as it is our election, and we set the budget for the coming year.

#### **MG PROJECTS** by Cy Haley

Below is a recap of the meeting we had covering the 2012 Projects. A list of the 2012 Unit Projects and a breakdown of the County projects can be found at [2012 NSVMGA Projects](#). A similar list for 2013 can be found at [2013 NSVMGA Proposed Projects](#). The 2013 projects have not had project applications submitted for them yet and are only proposed.

- Discussed the need for more accurate reporting of contacts. Determined that large projects/events, i.e. Farmer's Markets, Garden Fest, etc., will report contacts for the whole event and these are not to be reported on timesheets. The County Coordinator will need to make sure that the project/event leader does this. Individual volunteers will need to report contacts on their time sheets for projects that they do exclusively, i.e. speaking to garden clubs, lectures, etc. It will be the volunteer coordinator's and county coordinator's responsibilities to reiterate this to the volunteers.
- Cleaned up project list to be posted on the web site. (see attachment)
- All project applications are to be turned in to County Coordinators, who will evaluate them and if approved will forward them to VC Elizabeth Bevan. Elizabeth will further evaluate the application prior to sending to Dave Sutphin for his final OK before being submitted to VCE.
- Asked all County Coordinators to go over the procedures for reporting contacts and submitting project applications with the volunteers in their counties at the first meeting of the year.
- For the Unit projects, the County Coordinator for the county the event is to be held will be responsible for making sure the project application for that event has been submitted. This does not automatically make them responsible for the event, just for verifying the project application has been approved.
- Volunteers who will be doing individual projects (speakers, lectures, etc) are responsible for getting their project applications to the County Coordinator.
- Quarterly, Elizabeth will forward to Time Keeper Susan Garrett an updated project list for verification of projects listed on time sheets. If project applications have not been submitted the member will need to see that it is.

- A list of speakers in the Unit will be posted on the website and will be updated as more speakers are added.
- We will list the hours for Greenlines on the website for those counties that man desks at Extension Offices.
- Links to Monthly Tip sheets will be posted on the website for the public to access.
- Went over the procedure for possible Intern applications. They will go to Elizabeth who will confer with Mark Sutphin on the candidate's qualifications prior to the candidate being accepted.
- Interns will be instructed on information and use of the website with visual aids and hands on training (if available).
- Discussed recertification for 2013 and determined to post on member roster those who have recertified starting in 2013.

### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE** by Mary Craig

I won't be updating the list again until after the election when we have our new officers in place. There have been a few minor changes, but nothing that can't wait until then. Please make a note of Elizabeth's new e-mail and if you have a mass e-mail list, please review it against the latest posted list of members. We don't want to be sending things to people who asked to be removed. As always, if you have any corrections or additions to your information, please let Mary Craig know at [mcorneliac@centurylink.net](mailto:mcorneliac@centurylink.net).

At the October meeting our newest official Master Gardener, Robert Vazquez was awarded his certificate by Volunteer Coordinator Elizabeth Bevans. Robert has been one of those interns we love - he jumped in with both feet and has helped with many different projects. We're glad to have him as a Master Gardener. We should also give Elizabeth a big thanks for taking on this position. It is no small task with an organization our size, in numbers and in area.



### **CLARKE COUNTY** by Mary Craig



We have wrapped up our Farmers' Market for the year. I want to thank everyone who helped out this year. We had wonderful volunteers, and many interns worked with us and learned the ropes. Next year they will be the veterans helping the new interns.

We had one last rain barrel build on Tuesday, Oct. 23rd. Thanks to Suzanne

Boag, Robert Vazquez, Nancy Specht and Mary Craig, we helped Alison complete 15 more rain barrels. The weather was much nicer than the build we did in the spring. We're not sure if we will be building any next year or skipping a year, so, if you didn't get to help, you missed your chance to see how they are assembled.

Mary Flagg had one last session to get the Millwood Community Garden ready for the winter. It was a very productive year for the garden, and the members of the community learned a lot about planting, caring for and harvesting a garden.

The greenline will continue all year and thanks go out to Susan Garrett for fielding the questions that come in to the extension office.

### **WARREN COUNTY** by Richard Stromberg

On Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup>, Frank Baxter, Skip Bowling, Sybille and Richard Stromberg, Katherine Rindt, Sue Rogers, and John Hunter spent several hours at the library planting shrubs that had been purchased and surrounding them with donated perennials. Local government crew had removed sod and put in top soil in the planting areas. One place where they had run out of top soil, the workers struggled to dig holes in the clay. The following Monday David Freese found places to plant the remaining perennials while the government put down mulch. It will be spectacular next year.

### **EDITORS CORNER** by Richard Stromberg

I had some nice surprises in my garden this fall (not including surviving Frankenstorm). First some Sweet Everlasting (*Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium*) appeared in the crummy, builders' soil next to the driveway. Sweet Everlasting is one of those Composites that has only disk flowers and never really opens, just pokes out some stamens. It is called "sweet" because it has a maple syrup smell when crushed. It is also called Rabbit Tobacco because the leaves can be smoked to help with respiratory problems. I have not crushed it nor smoked it. I was delighted to have a native plant appear. Another native appeared at the bottom of my driveway, Common Evening Primrose (*Oenothera biennis*). The yellow flowers come out at night and fade over the next day, but they keep coming, for over a month now. Below the Sweet Everlasting I noticed a Crocus blooming, a Saffron Crocus (*Crocus sativa*), not a native, but not invasive. I remember getting some bulbs at a MG monthly meeting a few years ago, but did not remember planting them where I saw them this year. Two years ago a friend brought my wife a vase with cuttings from her garden. Gradually they died away, but we nursed a Wandering Jew through two winters, putting the pot outside in the shade during the summer. This summer it put out the long, purple-leaved stem this house plant is known for. This fall it flowered, and the three-petaled flower reminded me that I had seen it a few years ago flowering in Gutamala, in Quirigua, one of the ancient Mayan sites. The color and form of the flower said to me, "Spiderwort", and indeed it is—*Tradescantia pallida*.

### **QUIZ OF THE MONTH**

Last month's question was, "What is the blue flower in the picture? After a few suggestions from various people, Mary Flagg came up with the answer: Princess Flower (*Tibouchina semidecandra*). When I asked how she figured out, she answered, "I have been looking for large blue/purple vines to plant.....this one was on my list."

This month's question is what does adherent mean? Send your answers and questions for future months to Richard Stromberg at [risy@embarqmail.com](mailto:risy@embarqmail.com).