

**Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener's Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Strasburg Community Center, Strasburg
April 15, 2015**

Attendees:

Susan Garrett, President Karen Brill, Vice President
Kris Behrends, Secretary Lee Demko, Treasurer
Bob Carlton, Past President

Mary Flagg, Volunteer Coordinator
Ginny Smith, Clarke Co. Coordinator
Sharon Bradshaw, Shenandoah Co. Coordinator
Katherine Rindt, Warren Co. Coordinator
Stacey Smith, Communications and Publicity Chair

Anne Dewey-Balzhiser, MG
Elena Lycas, MG
Mark Sutphin, VCE

March Board Minutes: Susan Garrett noted that the minutes were distributed to the Advisory Board. Bob Carlton moved to accept the minutes, Karen Brill seconded, and it was approved by the voting Board members.

Correspondence: None

Treasurer's Report: Lee Demko presented the report that follows:

Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association

Financial Statement for Period Ending April 14, 2015

Outstanding Checks

1544	Dr T Roulston	\$50.00	
1545	F Frenzel	\$50.00	
1546	M Stickley-Godinez	\$50.00	
1560	VCE – Frederick	\$17.05	
Total Outstanding Checks as of 4/14/2015			\$167.05

Current Checking Balance as of 4/14/2015 **\$6337.20**

Investments:

CD United Bank	\$5172.24
CD United Bank	\$5103.36

Total Cash on Hand **\$16,612.80**

Submitted by Sandra Lee Demko, Treasurer

Vice President's Report: The revised 2015 meeting schedule was presented.

- ❖ The February meeting (Proper Pruning Practices) has been rescheduled to the April meeting.
- ❖ The May meeting will be at Belle Grove, and the presentation will be given by Claire DeMasi and Elena Lycas.
- ❖ June meeting will be at the Belle Boyd Garden.
- ❖ July meeting—Susan will work on finding a site in Clarke County.
- ❖ The August 15 meeting will be replaced by a Saturday educational event possibly 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
- ❖ The September meeting will hopefully be at White House Farms.
- ❖ The October meeting will be at the Shenandoah Vineyard, Edinburg, VA.

Strategic Plan: Forty-seven members responded to the survey that was distributed. Susan noted that a good response was received. Mark Sutphin clarified the scoring of the responses. Sunday

afternoon rated high for day of the week for MG meetings. Monthly meetings ranked highest for frequency of the meetings. Members value the educational part of the monthly meetings. Field trips were suggested. An educational topic suggested to be covered could be plant identification. Susan would like to start each meeting with strategic plan questions

County Coordinators' Reports:

Clarke County: Ginny Smith reported that a meeting was held for GardenFair which is held Mother's Day weekend. The Clarke County Farmers Market is starting May 2.

Frederick County: Emily Wickham has submitted her resignation. John Kummer was proposed to replace her. Bob Carlton moved to accept his nomination, Karen Brill seconded it, and it was approved. The GreenLine has started which is led by Elizabeth Bevan. Enid McConnell is lead for the Lowe's Help Desk project and is looking for volunteers.

Page County: Elke Thomas and her husband have officially moved out of their home here in Page County and are living in Florida.

Shenandoah County: The Green Help Line monitoring is conducted on the 1st and 3rd Friday mornings. An operational manual has been created and is available for reference. There are two Farmers' Markets this year: One in Woodstock at Fort Valley Nursery and one in Strasburg at Pot Town Organics, will be the 2nd and 4th Saturday mornings from 9 AM to Noon. On March 27 a GreenLine workshop was held from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and was open to all counties. There were two project requests presented, but they were declined due to lack of interest. There will be participation in the Artisan's Trail on April 25 with a table at Natural Art Landscaping, Toms Brook.

Warren County: Help line has started. Frank Baxter will have a training session on April 18 for the garden tour. They have been trying to get started at Belle Boyd Gardens but it keeps raining.

Volunteer Coordinator: Mary Flagg provided the following information:

- Public speaking workshops are posted on VMS as are available webinars.
- Projects have been turned in with a few exceptions.
- Membership update:
 - Kristen Goff has applied for Adjunct status. Bob Carlton moved to approve this pending completion of hours. Lee Demko seconded it, and it was approved.
 - The motion was to award Adjunct status to Virginia Hisghman until she clarifies her hours.
 - Most recertification forms were turned in with dues, and six members will be receiving a 30-day notice of removal because of noncompliance.
- Mary Craig has asked for \$400 for the Bland Community Garden project. Bob Carlton moved to approve, Lee Demko seconded it, and it was approved.
- Ginny Reed has achieved her 50 hours.
- Mary Flagg reported that almost all the recertification forms and dues have been received. Thirty-day notices have been sent to the few who have not turned in their dues.

VCE Agent: Mark Sutphin reported on the following.

- Background checks will be conducted on all MG members April through June 2015. The association voted to pay the fee of \$9.95/person for the members. Mark will send out a notification prior to the background check. He advised that, background checks are a requirement to be a VCE volunteer, thus a VCE-MG. Since it is a requirement of the NSVMGA membership to be a VCE-MG, individuals failing to comply with background screenings would not be able to be VCE-MG volunteers nor NSVMGA members. The check will be done every three years, and each new class will undergo the check. This will be discussed at the next association meeting.
- The subject for the MG College this year will be trees. Registration will be the end of April or beginning of May.
- The MG Coordinator Handbook for Fall, 2015 is under review.
- The MG manual will be revised and available for distribution in the Fall of 2015.
- There have been numerous transfers into our association during the past months. Members are encouraged to stay in communication with them.
- An educational opportunity will be available late May/June: A trip to VCE-Fairfax diagnostic lab and to Wetlands Studies and Solutions office in Gainesville.
- With the final weeks of the 2015 class approaching, we need to think about the class of 2016. He's recommending Frederick County be the site of the class since it has been 2011 since that county hosted it. He's also suggesting that the class be conducted during the day with the focus on youth hort programs and urban nutrient management.

Master Gardener, Elena Lycas, talked about the different clothing now available for purchase by members (including baseball caps). Interns are going with blue for their class shirt. Transferred members will be ordering shirts. She'll work on getting a committee together to decide this Fall about possible different colors for clothing.

Standing Committees:

Communications and Publicity: Mark will check on the table cloth order. Stacey Smith reported the following:

- Press has been wrapped up for both the high school scholarships and Jr. MG Homeschoolers program.
- She's asking for action pictures of members to include with a possible news article in The Winchester Star.
- She's publishing monthly meetings in the Shenandoah Valley Herald and trying to get information into the Northern Virginia Daily.
- Each official project will be given a dedicated page on the MG website with regular updates and photos.
- Since Stacey is focusing on plant sales for GardenFest, Sharon Bradshaw is coordinating publicity.

Education: Karen Brill asked for input on next year's symposium. They're also considering adding 3 ½ hours of educational opportunities—one evening in Winchester and one in Warren County. The topic might be food preservation.

Finance: No report

Newsletter: Susan offered apologies for the last newsletter: three articles got in the wrong electronic file, but a correction was made after the error was discovered

Special Committees:

2015 MG Class Update: The class is going well. The number of students is now at 19. The class will be planning and planting two-thirds of the Blandy Community Garden.

Scholarship: Lynn Hoffman sent out applications to all high schools. It was suggested that the scholarship dollars be shared among recipients. Westminster Canterbury is interested in offering parallel scholarships with MG.

GardenFest: All leadership positions have been filled for the event.

Old Business:

Inventory List: County coordinators are asked to send their inventory list to Mary Flagg.

Carolyn Wilson will be asked to contact Johan Guss regarding a tree as a memorial gift for Ron Guss.

New Business:

Bob Carlton moved to admit Mark Sutphin as an Associate NSVMGA member. Karen Brill seconded the motion, and it passed.

Susan named Anne Dewey-Balzhiser to the office of Parliamentarian.

Bob Carlton moved to adjourn the meeting, Lee Demko seconded it, and the motion was approved.

The next meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on May 12 at Strasburg Community Center.

Respectfully submitted by

Kris Behrends
NSVMGA Secretary