

**Minutes for The Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association
Association Meeting Held March 19, 2017**

Call to Order_____

The Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association held an Association meeting March 19, 2017, at 600 North Main Street, Woodstock, VA 22664. Cy Haley, president, presided over the meeting and called it to order at 4:01 PM. Stacey Smith served as secretary.

Attendees_____

50 Master Gardener Volunteers, Interns, and Trainees were in attendance, along with 1 guest. *With 41 active members in attendance, a quorum was present.*

Opening Remarks_____

Opening remarks included an agenda review.

Vice President's Report_____

Suzanne Boag reported Alison Sloop will be our guest speaker today. She is a Conservation Specialist with the Lord Fairfax Soil and Water Conservation District and is working with agricultural and urban landowners to increase soil health and water quality throughout Clarke, Frederick, Shenandoah, and Warren counties and the City of Winchester. Before working with the district, Alison spent three and a half years as a Biologist with the National Park Service, stationed on Fire Island National Seashore and Manassas National Battlefield Park. Her work with the park service was diverse, ranging from grassland bird surveys to stream-bank stabilization to tick surveys. She is a novice birder and enjoys wildlife photography and hiking with her husband and two pups. One of her favorite plants is a mint variety from her grandmother, and she makes a delicious tea with it in the summer. Check out the Lord Fairfax Soil & Water Conservation District Website at <http://lfsxcd.org/>.

April's Association Meeting is Sunday, April 23, at 4:00 p.m., at the Corhaven Graveyard, 2883 Quicksburg Rd., VA 22847, located in Shenandoah County. Sarah Kohrs, MG & Project Leader for the Corhaven Graveyard Tribute Garden, will be our guest speaker.

Secretary's Report_____

Stacey Smith reported the minutes for the February Association meeting were emailed for review. One edit was received, which updated the Frederick County Report for clarity to read: "The Fremont Nursery/Timbrook Garden project is open to new volunteers to help in their after-school and summer-camp project for children ages 4 through 12."

Motion: Bob Gail moved to approve the minutes of the February Association meeting as edited. Lynn Hoffmann seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor and none against.

Correspondence: None received.

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Stacey requested that when sign-in sheets are used at Association events, members send her a copy to add to the Association archives.

Treasurer's Report

Bob Gail presented the following report:

**Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardner Association
Treasurer's Report
YTD February 28, 2017**

FINANCIAL POSITION

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Checking Balance - January 31, 2016 **\$13,125.47**

<u>DEPOSITS</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	28-Feb	Member Dues	\$280.00
	28-Feb	Symposium GardenFest	\$1,557.70
	28-Feb	Vendors	<u>\$240.00</u>

Total February 2017 Deposits **\$2,077.70**

<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Check #</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>
	1-Feb	Bank Charges	\$(60.21)	Checks & Deposit Tickets
	6-Feb	1729	\$(64.72)	Seed Exchange Expenses
	9-Feb	1730	\$(29.75)	GardenFest Expenses
	16-Feb	1733	\$(149.25)	MG Class Background Search MG Class Alternate
	21-Feb	1748	\$(450.00)	Reimbursement MG Class Alternate
	22-Feb	1749	\$(225.00)	Reimbursement
	28-Feb	1750	\$(1,360.00)	16 - MG Class Handbooks 5 - County Coordinator
	21-Feb	1751	<u>\$(250.00)</u>	Handbooks

Total February 2017 Expenses **\$(2,588.93)**

Checking Balance - February 28, 2017 **\$12,614.24**

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SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Scholarship Fund Balance - January 31, 2017 \$9,048.06

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	22-Feb	L. Hoffman	\$25.00
	27-Feb	A. Hutchinson	\$25.00
	28-Feb	Earned Interest	<u>\$0.70</u>

Total February 2017 Activity \$50.70

Scholarship Fund Balance - February 28, 2017 \$9,098.76

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RESERVE FUND

Reserve Fund Balance - January 31, 2016 \$5,214.79

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	28-Feb	Earned Interest	\$0.40

Total February 2017 Activity \$0.40

Reserve Fund Balance - February 28, 2017 \$5,215.19

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TOTAL CASH ON HAND - FEBRUARY 28, 2017 \$26,928.19

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert A. Gail
Treasurer

Old Business _____

1. **Seed Exchange.** Elaine Specht brought seeds leftover from January's seed exchange. Members may pick up at the back of the room.

New Business _____

None.

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VCE Agent Report_____

No report.

Volunteer Coordinator Report_____

Bob Carlton reported he attended the Warren and Clarke county spring meetings, though he regrettably could not attend Page's meeting. He will go to the Shenandoah and Frederick meetings in March and April. The coordinators will meet again in April.

County Coordinator Reports_____

Clarke: Ginny Smith reported the county held a review meeting March 8th, which five members and Bob Carlton attended. After discussion on projects, the following were chosen for this year: Clarke County Fair, Greenline, Home Consultations, and the Xeriscape garden. Due to declining vendor and visitor participation, the Farmer's Market was put on hold for review next year. Those attending expressed that Saturday is not a good day to volunteer due to family obligations.

The "Gathering Event," a Unit project, will be held in October and county members will be asked to help, with details to follow later. Frederick and Clarke will coordinate Blandy Garden Fair, another Unit project, this year. Details will follow later.

The following projects were inactivated: Millwood Garden, Clarke High School, Clarke High School Tree Planting, VDOT Pollinator Planning.

Frederick: Helen Lake reported the County Planning meeting will be April 5th at 6:30 pm at Westminster Canterbury Retirement community in their activity room in main wing on the second floor. Directions to the facility and instructions in parking, signing in, and finding the room will be provided to everyone a week prior to the meeting via VMS. An agenda for the meeting was attached to a VMS email sent to county Master Gardeners on the 15th of March. Please advise Helen if you did not receive the email and or attachment.

Sign up via VMS to man the Greenline at the Extension office in Winchester for the month of April will become available on Monday, March 20th. It will also include all the last Fridays of each month through the fall. Those days will be dedicated to being available to walk ins by the public with problem plants and traditional phone calls or emails from the community.

Project leader for the MG Table at Old Town Winchester Farmer will be Shan Kilby. The county needs project leaders for the Lowe's help table, who will coordinate with each other in setting up the Saturday morning schedules. Sign ups will be either at the 5th of April meeting or via VMS.

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Helen will be project leader for the Greenline at the Extension office for time being. County Training on Greenline is tentatively being scheduled for May 8th during the afternoon with Stacey Smith and Mark Sutphin providing us refreshers on the how, what, and whys in responding to questions from the public in accordance to research-based information. She is reserving the 'purple conference room' in the Admin Building in Winchester, on ground floor below the extension office.

Several project leaders for county programs have begun to move forward in meeting with their collaborative community partners or actively working their sites (mother nature held up some more than others).

At the request of staff at Village at Orchard Ridge memory care unit, the Sensory Program will not continue, Sari Carp, project leader, has reported.

Any Frederick County Master Gardeners interested in beginning or initiating a new project needs to submit a project application to Helen, as county coordinator, for initial review and approval.

Frederick County and Clarke County will be teaming up in manning the MG booth this year at Blandy's GardenFair. Ginny Smith has submitted the project application to make it official. Will hear more about sign ups and prep for the event in near future via VMS.

Page: Lesley Mack reported the county is glad to have three new folks from Page County taking the MG training classes. They've received a couple of homeowner questions, mostly about trees and winter pruning. The county meeting was March 12th.

Shenandoah: Sharon Bradshaw reported Shenandoah County's projects are preparing to move into full action with anticipation of warm weather. The Woodstock Community Garden is the newest activity, and presentations are scheduled to run during April. The series is named "Growing Groceries" and flyers are printed in both English and Spanish. The county will report on successes next month.

The county planning meeting is tomorrow evening. Members will discuss the county's demographics along with our project efforts to meet the needs of our population.

The county welcomes a new member who started her Master Gardener career in Gloucester County. Jaan White, who lives in Woodstock, has joined as an intern.

Warren: Katherine Rindt reported via email a date correction to the email sent out Friday looking for a speaker for the Red Hatters. They are looking for a speaker on Tuesday, April 18 on

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patio gardening, not March 21 at 10:00 at the Front Royal Diner. If anyone is would like to do this, please contact Katherine Rindt.

The Warren Help Line schedule for April through June has been distributed and added to the VMS calendar. Trainees are welcome to sign up to get in some hours. Because of space constraints each shift is limited to 2 volunteers, so be sure to check the calendar to make sure no one else has signed up for the other slot.

Standing Committee Reports

Communications & Publicity: Lynn Hoffmann reported publicity has sent press releases to the area papers on the Symposium. One article in the Winchester Star appeared about the symposium.

The Garden Fest flyer has been done by Elena Lycas and is great. Flyers will be handed out to county coordinators and to members at the meetings. Lynn will email a copy of the flyer to all members and it will be put up on the Web page and Suzanne Boag has a copy for Facebook. An ad has been taken for the Winchester Star Home and Garden section due to come out March 26. They said they would also run an article about Garden Fest. Another ad will run in May. An ad in the Revue will also go in May.

Lynn sent a request to the "Virginia Gardener" to be included into their calendar. Press release and flyers will be sent to the local list of papers the first week in April. Belle Grove has linked Garden Fest on their site.

Web page email contacts have been steady at about two enquiries per week. Lynn has either forwarded requests or answered directly. Web page updates have been forwarded to Donna Funk-Smith. Any items that need to be updated should go to Lynn. The event info page and member roster and scholarship page has been sent in. The symposium info will be removed in April.

The Barn Series info flyer is ready to go, and Donna Funk-Smith is working on the brochure. Belle Grove has listed us on their calendar and has linked to our site.

The Circle of Life Program is scheduled for Wednesday at Hilda J Barbour elementary school with 88 children and 20 Master Gardeners participating.

Education: Kris Behrends and Sari Carp reported Saturday, March 11, was the first Library Series talk and were held at Handley Library, Winchester. Pat Casey gave an interesting, historical talk on the potato. Thirty-one people attended, of which eight were Master Gardeners and two were trainees. It was a great kick-off to the Library Series. The next talk is Sari Carp on Companion Planting on April 1 at the Edinburg library.

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The pruning workshop was held at Hilda J. Barbour School in Front Royal. David Means and Vinnie Resch, Tree Stewards, presented a very good talk and hands-on training on pruning. They also covered tool sharpening.

Kris Behrends is now co-chair of the Education committee and will be submitting articles to the newsletter. She also gave a presentation on how to sign up for MG workshops via VMS at both the association meeting and for the 2017 trainee class.

Finance: Bob Gail reported that all members paid dues except one, who has been dropped from the membership.

Membership: Mary Craig reported all members have turned in hours for 2016 and dues for 2017.

Newsletter: No report.

Special Committee Reports

Class of 2017 (Special Committee): Sharon Bradshaw reported the class is in full swing, even though flu symptoms have caused occasional absences. The class is using Mark Sutphin's laptop, which has the program Camtasia installed. This program copies any Power Point and records the presenter's voice at the same time, making it convenient for trainees to 'make-up' classes. Presenters have been excellent; unfortunately this past Tuesday, class had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. The coordinators are in the process of shuffling a couple of presentations to re-incorporate two speakers.

The Class Project is to create an annotated map of the New Market Rain Gardens to have available as flyers to those who visit the gardens. The class met last Sunday afternoon to see the gardens as a group for the first time, with Carolyn Wilson and Elena Lycas there to lead the tour of the three sites. This past week, Trainee John Stanton has a preliminary CAD to circulate and a place for Trainees to make comments and suggestions.

2017 Symposium: Bob Gail reported there are 105 registered attendees, and all but four have paid.

2017 Garden Fest: Cy Haley reported there are no issues from the leaders, and everything is on an even keel. They do need more people with tool sharpening. Sharon Bradshaw will talk to the trainees after they receive instruction on sharpening.

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Vendors: Suzanne Boag reported so far there are a total of 22 vendors and non-profits, not counting booths for NSVMGA & Belle Grove: 14 are retail, 8 are non-profits. GardenFest

Vendors include:

A Welders Wife Creates	KPhillips Ent LLC.
Blue Ridge Educational Center	Left Field Clock Company
Birdhouse Engineering	North Mountain Wildlife Rescue
C & C Frozen Treats	Olive Oil Soap Company
Catherine's Clay Creations	Ornametal Welding
Claylick Brooms	Spring Thyme Nursery,
Eggs & Ears 4-H Frederick County	USBCHA Natl Sheep dog Finals
Front Royal Tree Stewards	Valley Wildlife Care of VA
Glass Reflections	Virginia Lovers Gourd Society
Hill House Farm & Nursery	VA Master Naturalists Shen. Ch., and
Iris Hills Farm	Young Living Essential Oils.

Seventeen of the vendors/non-profits have attended GardenFest before and six are new to GardenFest which includes: Blue Ridge Educational Center, C&C Frozen Treats, Catherine's Clay Creations, Claylick Brooms, Glass Reflections and Left Field Clock Company. We have two food vendors this year: the Eggs & Ears 4-H have done our breakfast and lunch foods for several years now, and I am happy to say that we have added C&C Frozen Treats this year, so we can all treat ourselves to ice cream and Italian ice as will hopefully the many children who will be participating in Children's Activities & Workshops!

Plants: Stacey Smith reported that, to those new to the organization, the Garden Fest plant sale is our main source of funds outside of member dues. The Association sells plants to the public that we have raised, mostly perennials, some annuals, herbs, and veggies. Members dig and divide most of those from their own gardens. They pot them up and take care of them till the first Saturday of June, when the Association hopefully sell them all! Folks line up outside the gate to get in, so it's a popular event.

In January most members received the "what to do each month calendar" by email. To save paper for those who don't need it, Stacey will resend it by email this week. Because of the strange weather members may also want to look at April. Some highlights for the two months: now is a good time to pick up summer-blooming bulbs, corms, and bare-root plants at garden centers. If members don't have mature perennials in their garden to divide, one can pick up a bag or two of 15 liatris for about \$5 per bag, pot them up 3-5 to a pot, and they've just donated 3 - 5 plants to the plant sale. (Members should keep receipts and talk to their CPA at tax time.)

Now is also a good time to collect pictures of what plants members will bring. If bringing daylilies, irises, or anything with unusual blooms, send Stacey a picture, either one taken by the member, one snipped from an online catalog, or a link to an online catalog. Last year the plant committee made colored-photo signs and it really helped customers know what they were

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buying. Speaking of which, paint stirrers for the signs were donated by Lowes last year. Something 1.5 - 2 feet tall is needed for for this year, maybe lath or yardsticks, or other very thin wood, and about 50 - 100 of them if anybody can help, please see Stacey. Plant committee members will also have a laminating party in late May to make these signs, so if anyone has a laminator and wants to join, they are welcome.

Members should start marking off what they want to dig. Anything that blooms in June will sell! Japanese or Louisiana Iris, Clustered Bellflower, Blanket Flower, Sundrop or Yellow Primrose, Spiderwort, Red Hot Poker or Torch Lily, Echinaceas, Sunflowers, Bleeding Heart could all be in bloom.

The sale also needs fancy grasses, native plants, shade plants, sun-loving plants, drought-tolerant plants, moisture-loving plants, and house plants!

Read April's "to dos" for more details on how members should pot up the plants, with 3 or more growing tips so the plant grows nice and full by June.

If anyone needs help getting perennials in pots or wants to earn project hours by helping others with their plants, please let me know. This is a great way to earn project hours Stacey has started planning the potting parties with the hosts and volunteers are needed. Party hosts usually have drinks and snacks for a break, and members get the opportunity to visit some amazing gardens. If members haven't divided plants before and are worried, each potting party will be an educational opportunity as well, covering the hows and whys of each step.

Stacey thanked everyone in advance for their help. Members are all working on other parts of Garden Fest and other aspects of making NSVMGA the organization it is. By donating their extra plant divisions to the Association, they improve their own plants' health by giving it more room, but they also make it possible for the Association to offer some amazing programs to the public and to Association membership.

Yesterday's Rose: Angie Hutchinson reported magazines are needed that are less than two years old.

2017 Junior Master Gardener Program: Lynn Hoffmann reported the first class of the Home school program went very well, with 21 students enrolled. Classes will end in late May, and the schedule is on the website.

2017 Scholarship Committee: Lynn Hoffmann reported 5 applications are being reviewed. The committee will forward the final results once all members have completed their scoring.

Sunshine Committee: Terry Hanahan requested county coordinators contact her with anyone who should receive a card from the Association.

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Closing Remarks _____

None.

Adjournment _____

Motion: Bob Gail moved to adjourn the meeting. James Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor and none against, and the meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: *Stacey M. Smith*

04/19/17

Stacey Smith, Secretary

Date Approved by the Association

Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association