

Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association Meeting
Sunday March 20, 2011
Horton's Nursery, Frederick County

President Cy Haley brought the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m.

John Dickhute Issue: Cy explained that John Dickhute was removed from the Master Gardener Program by VCE, and as such he is no longer eligible to be a member of NSVMGA or an officer. She asked the members present for any questions regarding this issue.

Reports of Board

Secretary's Report: Cy stated that the minutes of the 20 February Association meeting were posted to the web site and asked if there were any corrections or changes. *Bob Carlton made a motion to accept the minutes and Lee Ruddle seconded it. The motion was passed with no objections.*

Treasurer: Cy reported that Anita Harris had volunteered to be our Treasurer. *Bob C. made a motion to elect Anita Harris to the office of Treasurer and Suzanne Boag seconded it. The motion carried without any objections.*

Vice President: Cy explained that Angie Hutchinson had agreed to serve as our Vice President. *Bob C. made a motion to elect Angie Hutchinson to the office of Vice President and Fran Gregory seconded it. The motion carried without any objections.*

Standing Committees

Communication and Publicity: Lennie Mather asked that MGs email her when in need of publicity for county events or meetings. Her email address is lennie@mris.com

Education: Lynn Hoffmann announced that we will have an educational symposium sometime in September. She noted that Carolyn Wilson will be offering a half day rain garden workshop in August as well.

Finance: No report.

Membership: Suzanne reported that Mary Craig could not attend today, but said she will update the membership list on the webpage with the newly elected officers and will send out an email asking members to check their information.

Newsletter: No report.

Program: Angie Hutchinson stated that we have programs set up for our Association meetings through June, and asked if any MGs had any ideas about program to please see her. Cy asked if any MGs would like to offer their homes/gardens as a meeting place for July, August or September. Later during the meeting, Lee Ruddle graciously offered his home for the July or August Association meeting.

County Coordinators' Reports:

Clarke: Suzanne gave the report for Clarke. Mary Craig held a county meeting on March 12 and 6 MGs attended. The farmer's market will start up the second Saturday in May and a sign up list for volunteers is being circulated. Garden Fair will be held May 6, 7, and 8 and a sign up list for volunteers will be circulated. A rain barrel will be raffled off at Garden Fair and tickets will be sold at the farmer's market as well as Garden Fair. The Xeriscape Demo Garden clean up is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, at 9:00. Parks and Rec will provide mulch. So far, 5 MGs have volunteered to help, which is a great response.

Frederick: Teri Merrill said they had a county meeting last Monday. She needs emails for all Frederick County MGs. Teri asked for help with a correctional facility project. The project requires MG consultation only. Another project for the Department of Health also requires consultation only. Please contact Teri if you are interested in either of these projects. Teri asked for volunteers for the green line as well.

Page: Shelby Hadelor gave the report for Page. She said eight MGs attended their county meeting last Wednesday. May 14 is the date set for Spring Fest, which is the Saturday after Mother's Day. MGs will set up a booth for that event. May 21 an MG booth will be set up on the greenway from 9 to 1 for a local walk event for the hospital. Shelby added that Page is very small and they do not get a lot of calls, which enables the Page MGs to go out and visit on active calls. She said the green line is working very well.

Shenandoah: Carolyn Wilson announced that the county meeting will be held 27 March at 2:00 p.m. She said the green line is currently active 24/7 online.

Warren: Marsha reported that Warren County had their meeting last month and a lot of MGs signed up and they had a lot of participation. She said that the Belle Boyd Garden will be evaluated on March 21 for what needs to be done. MGs are welcome to participate in a "Nursery Crawl", to begin at CVS at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 23. The help desk will be open for business next week. Frank Baxter is continuing his talks at the Samuels Library every month. MGs will begin work on the Calvary Episcopal Church garden soon and Frank Baxter is the project leader. The farmer's market will begin the first week in June. Marsha asked for volunteers for the butterfly garden in the Front Royal Arboretum.

Volunteer Coordinator

GardenFest: Randy Langford asked Carolyn W. to report on GardenFest. Carolyn explained that GardenFest is our primary fundraiser and also includes many educational activities. She said that we really need plants to sell at GardenFest. She asked that MGs dig plants for the plant sale when they are ready to be divided. Carolyn added that she had brought pots for those who need them. Carolyn asked MGs to let her know if they need special sizes of pots for trees, shrubs, or seedlings.

MG Nametags: Randy asked that MGs send him an email if they don't have a nametag or if their current one has a misspelling. Randy can be reached at: shortmountainfarm@gmail.com.

Timesheets: Randy reminded everyone to turn in their timesheets, which are due at the end of March, to Carolyn Stonesifer at: cjstone@shentel.net. Randy added that hard copies of the time sheet are available to MGs without internet access and to see him if in need of one.

MG Volunteer Service Awards: Randy presented Randie Robinson with a certificate she earned for 250 Master Gardener volunteer hours. The following MGs also earned certificates, but were not present to receive them: Barbara Thompson, Robert Danko, Adele Skolits, Georgeanna Dubois and Marilyn Thuss.

MG Shirt Orders: Randy asked that MGs email Cy at cdh@brs.org to order the newly available button down MG shirts. Cy offered to email the order form to MGs who are interested. Carolyn W. continues to take orders for the MG tees, polos, and sweatshirts and can be emailed at cmwilson22842@gmail.com. She stated that the Interns will receive their MG shirts soon. The Interns will receive the traditional MG shirts rather than the newer, more expensive, button down ones.

MG Intern Class: Helen Lake said the class was going great and noted that several Interns were present at the meeting. Cy asked the Interns to stand up and the group applauded them.

Unfinished Business

GardenFest Update: Lynn reported that she needs volunteers for children's activities. Mary Stickley is coordinating educational activities which will involve MGS teaching something. We will probably use tables and displays as we did last year. Anita Harris has volunteered to be the cashier and Randy will coordinate the set up and take down. David Freese has volunteered to man the information booth, but will need some help. Lynn will send out an email about the next GardenFest planning meeting.

Standing Committees: Cy asked for volunteers for the standing committees and circulated a sign-up sheet. She added that MGs could sign up for special committees as well, but those committees would not be called upon until needed.

Proposed Amendments 1,2,4,5 and 6: Cy stated that five amendments had been circulated to the membership for consideration. She asked if anyone had any questions about the amendments, and then called for a vote. *Bob C. made a motion to adopt amendments 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 as circulated to the membership. Josie Engle seconded the motion and the motion passed with no objections.*

Cold frame windows offered: Lennie Mather mentioned that she had a number of windows and a patio door available to MGs who might want to use them for a cold frame. Lennie can be contacted at lennie@mris.com.

New Business

Introduction of Cyndi Marston: Lynn introduced Cyndi Marston, who is our District Master Gardener Coordinator. Cyndi said the VCE appreciated what Master Gardeners do and that she is a phone call away.

New Member Web Page Password: Cy reminded the group that our web page password has been changed to, “leaf2011”. The userid remains, “nsvmga” and both userid and password are lower case.

Bob Carlton addressed NSVMGA rumors: Bob emphasized that no one from the Association had approached VCE regarding John Dickhute, and that all contact with VCE was initiated by John Dickhute. VCE notified John Dickhute that he was no longer a Master Gardener, which meant he could not serve as an officer or member of NSVMGA. Bob clarified that at no time did the Board contact VCE regarding John Dickhute. Bob continued to say that Bobby Clark had been approached by Virginia Tech legal counsel, Steve Capaldo, regarding NSVMGA’s status as a 501c3 private entity and he in turn contacted Bob about this. Steve Capaldo had explained to Bobby that as a 501c3, NSVMGA was not required under state or federal law to respond to John Dickhute’s recent FOIA request. Bob further explained that Virginia Tech had not divulged to NSVMGA their reasons for removing John Dickhute from the Master Gardener Program. Bob stated that according to our bylaws, in order to be a member of NSVMGA, an individual must be a Master Gardener in good standing. Bob pointed out that nominations for office were open to all members, and only John Dickhute, Scott Hinkle, and Cy Haley stepped up for the offices of President, Vice President, and Treasurer. Suzanne Boag had agreed to continue on as Secretary. Bob reminded the membership that if they were unhappy with the lack of experience of any MG nominated for office, it was up to the veteran MGs to step up and volunteer for that office rather than complain about it. Cy added that an amendment could be considered by the

Bylaws Committee to modify the requirements for the offices of President and Vice President. One MG commented that this whole ongoing issue had been very distressing and she had even considered quitting, but she has decided not to quit and would like to put it behind us now. There was consensus among the group on this point, that is, that no one would quit and we would all put this behind us.

Adjournment: Cy asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 p.m. Bob C. made the motion, Suzanne seconded it, and the meeting was adjourned.

Program: Rhonda Bradfield presented a delightful program on new plants and gardening products available at Horton's, a family run nursery. At the conclusion of the program, MGs enjoyed another delicious potluck.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Boag
Secretary, NSVMGA

**NSVMGA Attendance
March 20, 2011**

Loretta	Allison		Ellen	Markel	
Frank	Baxter		Lennie	Mather	
Suzanne	Boag		Teri	Merrill	
Skip	Bowling		Esther	Miller	
Debbie	Boyd		Kathy	Nies-Hepner	
Paula	Brownlee		Anna Mae	Ortgies	
Marsha	Burd		Belinda	Palmer	
Bob	Carlton		Paul	Poston	
Mary	Carlton		Mary	Price	
Laurie	Cocina		Katherine	Rhindt	
Kara	Dean		Randie	Robinson	
Beth	Drumheller		Lee	Ruddle	
Shelley	Duffus		Joan	Sarna	
David	Duke		Malcolm	Sarna	
Josie	Engle		Elke	Thomas	
David	Freese		Sandra Dee	Thompson	
Susan	Garrett		Phillip	Wilkinson	
Fran	Gregory		Carolyn	Wilson	
Shelby	Hadeler		Luann	Woodard	
Cy	Haley				
Anita	Harris		<u>Guests</u>		
Elaine	Harshman		Jim	Hepner	
Scott	Hinkle		Cindy	Marston	
Lynn	Hoffmann				
Angie	Hutchinson				
Roberta	Johnson				
Janet	Keithly				
Shan	Kilby				
Ann	Klotz				
Helen	Lake				
Randy	Langford				