

Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association

Fort Valley Nursery, Woodstock Shenandoah County

January 18, 2015

President Susan Garrett brought the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. She welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Terry Fogle, Fort Valley Nursery, for hosting our January meeting. He announced that the cash register would be open at break and afterwards with discounts of 20% on items purchased. It is also the last day for Christmas items on sale, and he's offering 50% (or more) discount!

**Strategic Plan Update:** One of the questions presented at the Strategic Plan meeting is what are the jobs and responsibilities of officers for the organization. Therefore, officers will give a short talk about this at this and future meetings. Also, index cards were passed around to enable members to write down any questions they may have about the organization.

**November Meeting Minutes:** Susan Garrett noted that the November Association Meeting Minutes had been circulated to the membership, and she asked for any changes or corrections. **Mary Craig made a motion to accept the minutes as circulated, and Rich Howell seconded it. The membership voted to accept the minutes as circulated with no objections.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Membership dues are to be turned in by the end of February. Lee Demko will be collecting dues at today's meeting. She presented the report as follows:

Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association

Financial Statement for Period Ending Jan. 7, 2015

Outstanding Checks:

1498	Treasurer Warren County	\$100.00
1535	Audra L Gollenberg, PhD	\$250.00
<b>Total Checks Outstanding as of 1/7/2015</b>		<b>\$350.00</b>

Current Checking Balance as of 1/7/2015 **\$ 3898.71**

Investments:

Certificate of Deposit, United Bank	\$ 5172.24
Savings Deposit, United Bank	\$ 5103.36
<b>Total Cash on Hand</b>	<b>\$14,174.31</b>

Submitted by Saundra Lee Demko, Treasurer

**Vice President's Report:** Karen Brill reported on the responsibilities of the Vice President's office which includes arranging the programs for the meetings. She distributed a list of the programs slated for 2015 and reviewed it with the attendees.

### **Committee Reports**

**Communications and Publicity:** Stacey Smith reported that the committee submitted publicity for the Class of 2015. They are also aiming to post more in the newspapers for public information. She welcomes input and volunteers to get the word out.

**Education:** Brenda Powell announced that the Symposium will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on March 14 at the Hester Auditorium at Shenandoah University, Winchester. She thanked John Stevens for providing this facility for the Symposium. Topics have been finalized using suggestions that were offered at last year's symposium. She is asking for volunteers.

**Finance:** No report.

**Membership:** Mary Craig reported there are 86 active members. Three new transfers have joined our organization.

**Newsletter:** No report. If you have a project or article of interest that you would like included in the newsletter, please contact Richard Stromberg.

**Master Gardener 2015 Class:** Cy Haley reported that some students of this class are in attendance at the meeting and introduced them. There are 12 students enrolled as of this date. There are another 10 applications to review.

**Scholarship:** Susan Garrett reported that Lynn Hoffmann has requested that scholarships will be presented to recipients in person this year. If anyone is interested in helping with the presentation in their county, please contact Lynn.

### **County Coordinators' Reports**

**Clarke:** Ginny Smith reported that Clarke County will be hosting Garden Fair at Blandy on Mother's Day weekend.

**Frederick:** Emily Wickham presented a talk on the responsibilities of the Frederick County Coordinator. She acknowledged the coordinators of each county. This position works under the Volunteer Coordinator as a unit coordinating projects, it is a non-voting member of the Board, is a coordinator to assist with development and implementation of projects, responsible for county budget, and conducts county meetings. This is the first approval authority for county projects. The approval is then submitted to the Volunteer Coordinator and then to Mark Sutphin, VCE Agent.

Their holiday dinner was attended by 28 people. The Greenline is ongoing—Elizabeth Bevan is the coordinator of this. On April 19 they will be participating in a Girl Scout badge meeting. They are working with the educational representative at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley. Anyone from any county interested in teach should contact Emily.

The first Golden Wheel award was presented to Helen Lake who drove 5,000 miles in 2014 for the Master Gardeners organization. Lynn Hoffman drove 2,300 miles in the same time period.

**Page:** Lesley Mack reported that even though Page County is small, it's big in heart. They are meeting with Chris Riley at the Middle School on January 30 to create a garden club. All project forms have been turned in which includes a picnic on the Greenway. She offered a web site that has videos, information, and statistics on how to treat your body, [nutritionfacts.org](http://nutritionfacts.org).

**Shenandoah:** Sharon Bradshaw reported that the Greenline is ongoing. A planning meeting for the county is scheduled at the end of February. There's been a growth spurt in this county: Sharon Bradshaw introduced three transfers.

**Warren:** Katherine Rindt advised the schedule for the help line will be e-mailed. It was announced that a \$50,000 grant has been received to create a children's garden at the Samuels Public Library in Front Royal. The members were requested to think about who will work with the librarian to develop programs for kids. Volunteers are asked to help identify houseplants at the Library. The Memorial Garden will be on the Virginia Garden Tour. There is one MG transfer for this county. Frank Baxter announced there will be a program at the Library on February 4 regarding the Shenandoah River.

### **Volunteer Coordinator's Report**

#### **Milestone Awards:**

- ❖ 250 Hours - Lisa Bakos, Kris Behrends, Elizabeth Bevan, Lee Demko, Barb Hallar, Denise Howe, Siobhan O'Brien, Ginny Smith, Stacey Smith, and Emily Wickham
- ❖ 500 Hours - Sharon Bradshaw, Laurie Cocina, and Mary Flagg
- ❖ 1,000 Hours - Larry Haun, Richard Howell, and Emily Huttar
- ❖ 2,000 Hours - Frank Baxter, Mary Craig, and Helen Lake

**Certificates for New MGs:** Joy Brunk, Diane Costello, Charles Layton, and Mike Marx are now officially members of Master Gardeners.

Mary Flagg works with Sarah Kohrs and Mary Craig in encouraging members to enter their hours on the VMS Web site. If members would like another PC class offered to help them learn how to enter hours in VMS, please contact Emily Wickham.

**VCE Liaison:** Mark Sutphin asked members to see him if they haven't received the recertification and dues forms.

### **Old Business**

In accordance with suggestions from the Strategic Plan Susan will send Bylaws, Guidelines, and the Strategic Plan to all members.

Donna Downing reminded all that the Seed Exchange will held on Saturday, January 24, and it's a free event! She encouraged members to bring seeds and to volunteer at the event. There will be a book and magazine exchange as well as door prizes.

Mary Craig announced that Garden Fair will be May 8 - 10 and Arbor Fest will be October 10 - 11.

Carolyn Wilson thanked everyone who helped with the Belle Grove Christmas decorating. There are some items there that need to be picked up.

Elena Lycas reported that T-shirts are in for the 2014 class.

Cy Haley reported that a Garden Fest meeting will be at 10 a.m. on January 30 at Belle Grove. For any transferred members, directions to Belle Grove will be provided.

### **New Business**

**Strategic Plan Survey:** Susan Garrett announced that Mark Sutphin will be sending a link for an electronic survey to all members to provide feedback on meetings, activities, etc. If someone needs a hard copy of the survey, please contact Mark.

Tom Mack told the group about the Shenandoah Valley Dancers. It's a good physical workout with great music as well as provides a social outlet. The group meets the second Thursday of every month at the Samuels Library in Front Royal from 6 to 7:30 p.m. It's free and no experience is necessary! The Shenandoah Valley Dancers were also in a Civil War movie, *Field of Lost Shoes*, the DVD of which he had with him.

The Philadelphia Flower Show is coming up, and Mary Flagg provided a sign-up sheet for the trip which will cost \$27 per person. She advised that there are already two buses from the area going to the show: One from Woodstock and one from Blandy (the cost of these trips will be \$100 each).

Susan Garrett encouraged the members to talk to someone at the meeting who they've never talked with.

**Adjournment:** Mary Craig made a motion to adjourn, Rich Howell seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 3 p.m. Following a 15-minute break, Mark Sutphin educated the members on the Virginia Cooperative Extension and its history. He distributed the Mission Statement to attendees. Terry Fogle then presented an interesting talk on plants with year-round interest.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Behrends

Secretary, NSVMGA

## NSVMGA ATTENDANCE

January 18, 2015

Total Active Members = 87

Active Members Present = 57

Quorum = 21

Mary Craig	Kris Behrends
Sandra Norman	Helen Lake
Ginny Smith	Cy Haley
Rich Howell	Pam Hough
Elizabeth Bevan & guest, Garry	Michael Marx
Sharon Bradshaw	Stacey Smith
Karen Brill	Sandra Ward
Diane Costello	Marlyne McCullogh
Mary Flagg	Carolyn Wilson
Katherine Rindt	Enid McConnell
Barb Hallar	Tom Mack
Lesley Mack	Belinda Palmer
Joy Brunk	Fred Baxter
Emily Huttar	Carol Pittillo
Brenda Powell	Ginny Reed
Sarah Kohrs	James Patrick Jones
Donna Griffin	June Newcomb
Lee Demko	Emily Wickham
Charles Layton	Randy Embrey
Elaine Harshman	Deborah Byrd
Donna Downing	Kelly Kunkel
John Kummer	Elena Lycas
Glen Martin	Angie Hutchinson
Ellen Markel	Janet Keithley
Rozalynn McIntosh	Patricia Boyd
Elaine Specht	Susan Garrett
Russ Watkins	Mark Sutphin
Kathy Doyle	Cyndi Walsh
Fran Gregory	Shelby Hadeler
Anna Mea Ortigies	