

Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association

Blandy Experimental Farm, Clarke County

March 15, 2015

President Susan Garrett brought the meeting to order at 4 p.m. She welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Dr. Steve Carroll, Blandy Farm, for hosting our March meeting. He then presented a fine program about the gardens at Blandy Farm.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** The revised membership dues date is now March 31 due to the winter weather conditions in February. She presented the report as follows:

**NORTHERN SHENANDOAH VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION**

Financial statement for Period Ending March 6, 2015

**Outstanding Checks**

1498	Treas/Warren County	\$100.00	
1536	Dr S Carroll	\$ 50.00	
1537	Dr S Carroll	\$ 50.00	
1538	J Messeck	\$ 50.00	
1539	Dr M Goatley	\$ 50.00	
1540	C Whitacre	\$ 50.00	
1541	B Mackintosh	\$ 50.00	
1542	M Stickley-Godinez	\$ 50.00	
1543	D Dillon	\$ 50.00	
1544	Dr R Roulston	\$ 50.00	
1545	F Frenzel	\$ 50.00	
1546	M Stickley-Godinez	\$ 50.00	
1549	B Rose	\$ 50.00	
1550	S Bradshaw	\$ 24.66	
Total Outstanding checks as of 3/6/2015			\$724.66
Current checking Balance as of 3/6/2015			\$9,420.52
Investments:	CD – United Bank		\$ 5172.24
	CD – United Bank		\$ 5103.36
Total Cash on Hand			\$19,696.12

Submitted by Sandra Lee Demko, Treas.

**Vice President's Report:** Karen Brill reported that the April program will be held at the White House Farm in Page County. The program will include a tour of the home for \$6 for anyone interested.

**Committee Reports**

**Communications and Publicity:** Elaine Specht and Stacey Smith had their first meeting. Press releases for Jr. Master Gardeners and high school scholarships have been sent out. Stacey will be in touch with the county coordinators regarding the farm markets in their location.

**Education:** Karen Brill and Sandy Ward have volunteered to be co-chairs of this committee. They are working on ideas for members to obtain educational hours this year. Because of members' different schedules, they will try to provide week-night and weekend opportunities. They will start working on next year's symposium and are asking for input from the members.

**Finance:** No report.

**Membership:** Mary Craig will contact county coordinators regarding members who still need to report hours.

**Newsletter:** If members are enjoying the newsletter, they are encouraged to contact Richard Stromberg and/or let contributors know.

**Master Gardener 2015 Class:** Cy Haley reported that the 2015 class consists of 20 students. Claire DeMasi and she will be taking the students to see what area in the community garden they will have for their class project. The class enjoyed a class on lawns—it was a very good presentation!

**Scholarship:** Information is being sent to the high schools.

**GardenFest Update:** Cy Haley, project leader, advised that a planning meeting was held in January. As of today, all leadership positions have been filled. E-mail sent to members stating who the leaders are and to ask them to let those leaders know if they want to volunteer for a committee. This can also be accomplished by using the VMS system. Setup for GardenFest is on Friday, June 5. GardenFest needs to be ready for opening at 7:45 a.m. on June 6 and will last until 3 p.m. Graduation will take place at 3 p.m.

Carolyn Wilson has been thinking of ways to get more plants contributed for the plant sale. Some suggestions: A potting party, would neighbors be willing to donate plants to GardenFest (the labor would be provided by MG volunteers), some members have offered their gardens for gathering plants for the plant sale, pot three bulbs in pot and place in a sunny window (for those members who do not have gardens). On April 11 and 18 Carolyn will be hosting the 2015 class to teach students how to divide plants. There should be room for eight veterans to attend each session. She brought in pots for distribution to members, the most popular for perennials are the 6" and 8" pots. Start seeds by first of April. She requested that some of the old dirt be teased off the plants that have been divided and then add some potting soil.

The plant crew will price the plants for GardenFest. Remember to fertilize plants prior to sale. Drought-tolerant plants are popular. Write labels in waterproof ink as plants are watered Friday. Stacey will create and distribute a handout with these guidelines.

Angie Hutchinson spoke about Second Hand Rose: Old gardening items are recommended for donation by members to this event. Any leftover items will be donated to the Salvation Army or CCAP. Items can be brought to the meeting or she can pick up items. The items are needed before the Friday of GardenFest. They can be kept in the storage building at Belle Grove. Members can price their own items.

### County Coordinators' Reports

**Clarke:** Ginny Smith reported that the Clarke County meeting will be Wednesday at 7 p.m. There's a sign-up sheet available for Garden Fair at Blandy. The Berryville Farm Market will be 9 a.m. to 12 noon May through October.

**Frederick:** Emily Wickham advised that their county meeting will be at 6:45 p.m. at her house. She also discussed community garden talks, GreenLine, Virginia Ave. Elementary School gardens, Lowe's help desk, and the offer of presenting another computer class. She is also looking for a co-coordinator.

**Page:** Tom Mack brought Ron Guss' memorial for anyone interested in reading it. They care for the Luray Chinquapin Oak (it's a 250-year old tree and is third largest in the state and is re-measured every five years). Page County will be starting an Artisan Trail. Their three-acre garden, Birdsong Pleasure Garden, will be on the tour. Elke Thomas, co-county coordinator, is moving to Florida.

**Shenandoah:** Sharon Bradshaw reported 21 members attended the March county meeting. Project applications have been submitted. GreenLine office hours will begin the first of April on the first and third Friday mornings of the month. A project leader is being sought out for the Woodstock Farmers Market. Sharon and Rich Howell will be hosting a Greenline workshop on March 27 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon which will include training on how to research the public's questions on the computer.

**Warren:** Frank Baxter reported that the Episcopal Church garden will be included on the State Garden tour on April 25. Volunteers are requested to help with this event. On April 18 at 10 a.m. will be a training session. They're also looking for a volunteer to work with the librarian for the children's garden as they develop the space. For the memorial garden, they're looking for a volunteer with architectural design experience.

### Volunteer Coordinator's Report

Susan Chiccehitto received her membership certificate. Cheryl McDonald has transferred from Fairfax County to Page County. Cecelia Latham has transferred to Shenandoah County. Approved projects have been posted on VMS, and members can check the projects by county. The Blandy program list is available, and some will qualify for education hours. Helen Lake talked about the tomato program she attended at Blandy. Mary Flagg reminded all that only certain programs are approved for educational hours. A webinar is being offered on the first Friday of the month on good and bad bugs. If you miss a webinar, you can view it at any time as they're recorded. The MG students can participate in webinars.

**VCE Liaison:** No report.

### Old Business

Mary Craig presented information on the Blandy garden plot that is available for our MG association. A tour was taken prior to the meeting of the garden plot at Blandy, one third of which will be reserved for the 2015 MG class project. Leaders have been identified for each county.

### New Business

A new office called the Sunshine chair has been created, and Suzanne Boag has agreed to help us pay attention to our members. She will send out cards to members. Please contact county coordinators with any news about members.

The 2015 MG class was recognized.

Meeting cancellation protocol: Susan apologized for the February meeting cancellation. Some proposals offered: The notification be out by 9 a.m. the morning of the meeting. If any weather warnings have been issued for our area, please check e-mail before going to the meeting. She asked the county coordinators to find out who doesn't have e-mail and who would need to be called. We'll make sure that the county coordinators know of a meeting cancellation.

**Adjournment:** Bob Carlton made a motion to adjourn, it was seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Behrends

Secretary, NSVMGA