

**Minutes for The Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association
Board of Directors Meeting Held June 1, 2016**

Call to Order

The Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association held a board of directors meeting June 1, 2016, at the Strasburg Community Center, 726 E Queen Street, Strasburg, VA, 22657.

Susan Garrett, president, presided over the meeting and called it to order at 6:00 PM. Stacey Smith served as secretary.

Attendees

The following attended:

Voting Board of Directors:

Susan Garrett, president
Karen Brill, vice president
Lee Demko, treasurer
Stacey Smith, secretary
Bob Carlton, past president

A quorum was present

Advisory Board Members:

John Kummer, Frederick county coordinator
Sharon Bradshaw, Shenandoah county coordinator
Mary Flagg, volunteer coordinator
Mark Sutphin, VCE Agent
Kris Behrends, timekeeper
Ann Levi, guidelines chair
Sandy Ward, education co-chair

Opening Remarks

Opening remarks included an agenda review and a reminder that Garden Fest is this weekend.

Officers' Reports

Secretary:

Susan Garrett reported that the minutes for the previous month's board of directors meeting were distributed via email.

Motion: Bob Carlton made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous month's board of directors meeting as emailed. Lee Demko seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor and none against.

Stacey Smith reported no correspondence was received.

Treasurer:

Lee Demko reported that the monthly bank statements are not yet available, so no financial report could be prepared. \$2,350.00 was deposited to the scholarship fund from the symposium, leaving a balance of \$7,655.98 in the scholarship fund. Some monies have come in from the barn series.

Vice President:

Karen Brill presented the vice president's report. The June 12th meeting is at the Brick House Nursery in Page County. The July 19th meeting is at the Shenandoah County Government Center

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in Woodstock. John Eckman of Friends of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River will present a program on what Master Gardeners need to know as we interact with the public.

Advisory Board Reports

Clarke County Coordinator:

Ginny Smith presented the Clarke County report via email. Tree planting and mulching at Clarke County High School went very well. Mark Sutphin has asked Suzanne Boag to put pictures and an article in the newsletter. The gardens and greenhouse at Johnson Williams are completed. Will add it to the newsletter. The Farmer's Market is being held twice a month. The project leader for the Clarke County Fair, Cathy Dickey, will schedule a meeting to coordinate the booth to make it more interesting.

Frederick County Coordinator:

John Kummer presented the Frederick County report. May was busy. Greenline is going fine. The garden club at Greenwood Mills finished their project on May 17th. Four members had an info table at a health fair and handed out Garden Fest flyers. On the 19th, members held a presentation at a Clearbrook daycare center. Bob Gail has crossed the 50-hour point. Mary Turner has taken over the Timbrook Community Garden, which looks nice, and every plot is claimed.

Page County Coordinator:

Lesley Mack presented the Page County report via email. She, Tom Mack, and Cheryl McDonald met to plan an educational exhibit for the 9' x 7' cases. Lesley met with Genna of the Valley Health Internship Program. They toured the work sites for the June 30th "day of service" with 24 teenagers and adults from the Front Royal area. The group will clean around the Chinquapin Oak and at the Ralph Dean Park at the Memorial Trees. Later, all will have lunch at Reservoir Park. Genna is still making some final plans. Rain has delayed the first Page Co. MG Farmers' Market participation. Karen Brill and Lesley met with Sam and Denie Smith, of Brick House Nursery, to plan for the June 12th MG meeting in Page County. Charlie Newton planned to meet with Luray Middle School students to show them how to prune a tree, but she has not heard if that happened or how it went.

Shenandoah County Coordinator:

Sharon Bradshaw presented the Shenandoah County report. All projects are moving forward smoothly. It was a busy day at the South Street Barn Market with "Kids ROC" activities featured. Many parents and little ones came to participate. The Green Help Line volunteer rotation is working well. We continue to get questions about Leyland cypress, among other topics. The awards ceremony for Strasburg High School is this Friday, and we'll be there to publicly recognize our scholarship recipient.

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Warren County Coordinator:

Katherine Rindt presented the Warren County report via email, subsequent to the meeting. The schedule for July – September for the Warren County Help Line had been distributed. The name of the Master Gardener scheduled each week will be put on the VMS calendar soon. She received Susan Garrett’s email requesting information about questions coming in for a Greenline newsletter and will be sending it to her.

Another presentation in the Master Gardener Speaker Series at the Samuels Library will take place Saturday, June 25, at 1:00 pm. Theo Smith, the winemaker and vineyard manager at Rappahannock Cellars, will speak on the topic “Growing Wine Grapes.” The talk will include key fundamentals of vineyard site selection, grape varieties that produce well in our immediate area, and a snapshot of the current Virginia wine industry.

Katherine, Terry Bowman, Pat Casey, and Sue Rogers met with the minister at Front Royal Presbyterian Church last week to look at the current raised beds, the church property, and to discuss what his vision was for the expansion of the gardens there. For now, he is looking for ideas that he can take to his church members to get their support and to use to raise funds for the work. We will begin working on general plans for the expansion of the raised bed gardens and landscaping to assist him.

Volunteer Coordinator:

Mary Flagg presented the volunteer coordinator report. One member has not paid dues and will receive a termination letter if not paid by the due date. One intern from 2015 hasn’t paid dues. Bob Gail will become a Master Gardener at the Garden Fest graduation ceremony. County projects are ongoing. She talked with Blandy, and Garden Fair was very successful. They anticipate Arbor Fest being successful, as well.

At this time, Susan Garrett reported that “The Gathering” will not be held this fall in Clarke County. In light of this, we could participate in Arbor Fest at Blandy. Warren County would lead.

Motion: Bob Carlton made a motion to participate in the 2016 Arbor Fest at Blandy. Karen Brill seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor and none against.

VCE Agent:

Mark Sutphin presented the VCE Agent report. He is still working on 2 or 3 transfers.

Standing Committee Reports

Communications and Publicity:

Kris Behrends presented the Communications and Publicity report. The next Barn Series event is June 15th from 2 – 4 at Belle Grove.

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Education:

Sandy Ward presented the Education report. She and co-chair Bob Gail have started working on the 2017 Symposium. They already have a few volunteers signed up, and they are currently looking at location options. After the location is decided, they will work on speakers and sessions. They hope to follow a keynote speaker/breakout session structure.

Karen Brill reported that four Master Gardeners visited Iris Hills Farm in the rain on Saturday May 21.

Susan Garrett reported that she received an email suggestion for a class on photography of the natural world.

Finance:

Susan Garrett reported she is picking up the printed materials. The rulers were cheaper than planned.

Membership:

Susan Garrett reported that adjunct members will be designated as "Adjunct 1," "Adjunct 2," or "Adjunct 3" based on how many years they have had the status. She asked if we would want to designate members as such on the membership list posted on the website. After discussion, it was agreed that doing so would help the Association and adjunct members with tracking each adjunct member's status.

Newsletter:

Susan Garrett asked that newsletter articles be sent to Richard Stromberg.

Special Committee Reports

Guidelines:

Ann Levi presented the Guidelines committee report. The committee has made good progress. They are meeting June 8th with the scholarship committee and to do a final draft of the guidelines in hopes of presenting at the next board meeting.

Junior Master Gardeners:

Lynn Hoffman presented the Junior Master Gardener report via email. The Junior MGs planted their garden on Tuesday with help from 5 Master Gardeners. Blandy donated the plants this year, and we planted potatoes, which is a new crop for the kids. The herb bed is being established, and Rodney Dowty made all the trellis and work parts for the bed. Billie Clifton of Sunflower Cottage donated plants, which were picked up by Larry Haun. Billie has been a great supporter of the Master Gardeners and has given plants for use at Belle Grove and the Junior Master Gardener program for over 5 years. She should be included in the list of nurseries that support the MG program. Tammy Epperson is picking up some plants from Webers. They are also very supportive of our programs.

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Barn Series:

Lynn Hoffman presented the Barn Series report via email. The Small Gardens class went very well on Sunday May 22. Helen Lake, Ginny Smith, and Laurie Cocina presented the class and had wonderful information and great plants and resources to give to the students. 11 people attended the class. Kristin Laise at Belle Grove is helping with registration and collecting the fees. She sent a check to Lee Demko with the breakdown of costs and fees. The next class will be held on June 15, which is Thyme for Herbs taught by Larry Haun.

Helen Lake made contact with the Winchester Star and was able to get a nice article about the Barn Series published. Kristen Laise said that the Star will be covering Larry's class and will have a write up in the Food Section on June 22.

Old Business

- 1) NRVMGGA: Susan Garrett reported the trip has been cancelled.

- 2): Master Gardener College: Susan Garrett reported 8 people have shared that they have signed up.

New Business

- 1) Rain Garden: Susan Garrett reported that Teresa Krauss is no longer able to maintain the Rutgers's grant garden that is located on private property in Frederick County. She reported that research of the grant shows NSVMGA does not have an obligation to maintain the garden. After discussion, John Kummer will investigate the location and determine if the Association should work in the garden.

- 2) Plant ID Class: Kris Behrends reported that she and Anne Dewey-Balzhiser would like the Association to hold a Plant ID class/classes. After discussion, Kris will gauge Association interest.

- 3) Honoring Nurseries: Susan Garrett reported we will postpone this discussion until July.

Adjournment

Motion: Bob Carlton a motion to adjourn the meeting. Karen Brill seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor and none against, and the meeting was adjourned 7:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stacey M. Smith

Stacey Smith, Secretary
Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association

July 12, 2016

Date Approved by the Board